

Russian Federation

February 2023

Presence: The UN Refugee Agency has been working in the Russian Federation since 1992. It currently operates through a Country Office located in Moscow.

Legal Framework: The Russian Federation is party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The national refugee law was adopted in 1993.

As of 31 December 2022, **277 refugees, 67,496 temporary asylum status holders** and **100,995 asylum-seekers** from 75 countries were registered by the Russian Ministry of the Interior (Mol).

Latest figures to date are provided by the Mol

KEY FIGURES

2,852,395*

refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine arrived in Russia from 24 February to 4 October 2022

**Latest figures to date are provided by EMERCOM of Russia - pending update*

17,370

refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine were provided with counselling by UNHCR and its partners, either in person or over the phone since January 2023

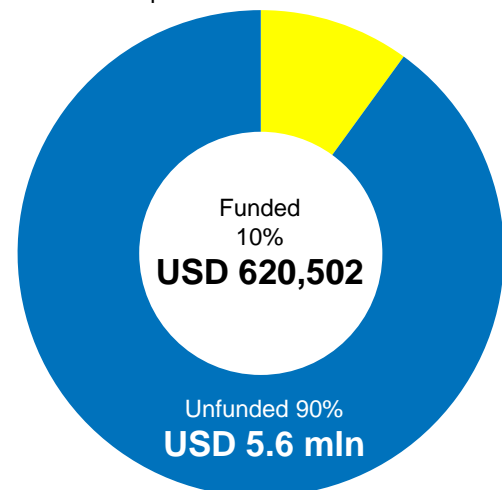
2,084

refugees from Ukraine were provided with psychosocial support by UNHCR partner Russian Red Cross in Belgorod, Vladimir, Volgograd, Voronezh, Kursk, Lipetsk, Rostov and Moscow regions and Republic of Tatarstan since January 2023

FUNDING (AS OF 28 FEBRUARY 2023)

USD 6.2 million

requested for the operation in Russia in 2023



UNHCR Russia staff and representatives of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Russia during a visit to a TAP in Tikhvin, Leningrad region.
© Press Office of the Ombudsman



UNHCR Russia staff and representatives of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Russia during a visit to a TAP in Volokolamsk, Moscow region.
© Press Office of the Ombudsman

Highlights

- **Missions to Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs).** During February 2023, UNHCR Russia visited TAPs hosting Ukrainian refugees in the following regions:
 - On February 2, UNHCR Russia undertook a mission to the municipality of Volokolamsk in the Moscow region together with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation. They visited a TAP which accommodates 108 Ukrainian refugees (64 adults and 44 children). All children of school age attend school, children of preschool age have the option to attend kindergarten. Representatives of the administration of the region reported a pilot project of the Government of the Moscow region which offers refugees the opportunity to move from TAPs to rented housing. The regional authorities are expected to cover the rental costs for the first six months. As part of this project, 28 people left the TAP in Volokolamsk during the month of January 2023.
 - UNHCR Russia undertook a mission to Samara on February 6-9 and visited three TAPs hosting 232 refugees from Ukraine. TAP premises seen by UNHCR had decent living conditions while each facility had all commodities, including medical and psychological support. Refugees enjoy freedom of movement and children have access to kindergarten and education, including higher education. Adults have access to skills training courses and employment. Older people attend art workshops. Most refugees interviewed had applied and, for some, already received Russian citizenship. UNHCR also met with a few refugees living outside the TAPs. All had applied for Russian citizenship and were studying or working.
 - During the mission to Samara, one childcare institution hosting children from Ukraine was visited. The children study in the local school and participate in extracurricular activities, including sports, music, dancing, sewing, hairdressing, cooking classes, etc.
 - On February 15-16, UNHCR visited two additional TAPs in Tikhvin and Volkhov (Leningrad region). The TAP in Tikhvin accommodates 269 refugees (including 64 children with their families) and the TAP in Volkhov accommodates 33 refugees (including 8 children with their families). The delegation also had a meeting with regional authorities who provided a briefing about refugees from Ukraine and access to various services.
- **Model UN at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.** On February 6, the UNHCR Russia Representative attended the opening ceremony of the Model UN at the Diplomatic Academy of the MFA of the Russian Federation. He delivered a short presentation for students to provide them with guidance. This edition of the Model UN gathered more than 300 delegates from 25 countries and its work was carried out in the 6 official languages of the United Nations. The participants were also invited to join the UNHCR-promoted [MUN Refugee Challenge](#).
- **Meeting with diplomats from the political, human rights and migration/refugee divisions of Embassies in Russia.** On February 14, the UNHCR Deputy Representative met diplomats from Embassies in Russia, providing information on recent activities of UNHCR in relation to the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Russia and its visits to TAPs and childcare facilities. During the meeting UNHCR reiterated that during an international armed conflict decisions altering the civil status of children in emergency situations should be precluded and family tracing of unaccompanied children should be initiated. The meeting was attended by embassy officials from Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, US and the European Union.
- **Refugee focus group discussions in Saint Petersburg.** On February 17, UNHCR Russia participated in a focus group and individual discussions with refugees in Saint Petersburg. Women and men of various ages originating from Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan attended the discussions. Among the main concerns were difficulties accessing asylum procedures and results of the asylum process. They also shared their difficulties in accessing formal employment as foreigners, the need to improve command of the Russian language and the lack of migration registration that also negatively affects access to legal residency and national services. One refugee woman from Yemen noted however that the public attitude had improved in general towards foreigners.



Students attending the opening ceremony of the UN Model at the Diplomatic Academy of the MFA.
© Diplomatic Academy

- **Monthly partners' meeting.** On February 27, UNHCR held its regular monthly meeting with Russian NGO partners and the Ombudsman's Office. Partner NGOs provided an overview of their activities, noting that their workload has increased dramatically since the start of the international armed conflict in Ukraine, and that they were facing pressing staffing needs.

CONTACTS:

Magdalena Aguilar Pulido, UNHCR Russia External Relations Officer
Email: aguilarp@unhcr.org

Ararat Babayan, UNHCR Russia Senior External Relations Assistant
Email: babayan@unhcr.org

