

Russian Federation

April 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 March 2023, **276 refugees**, **53,719 temporary asylum status holders** and **2,894 asylum-seekers** from 71 countries are registered by the Russian Ministry of the Interior (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*

35,795

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

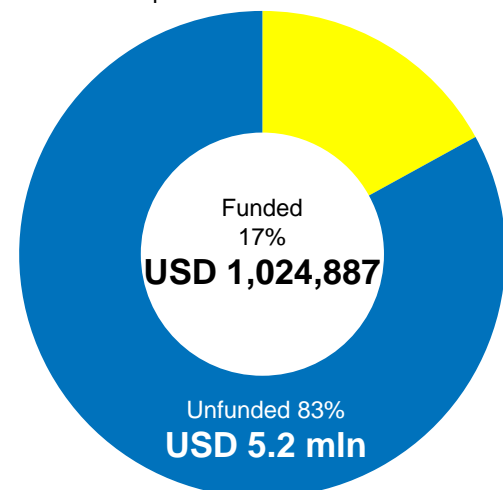
7,386

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 30 APRIL 2023)

USD 6.2 million

requested for the operation in Russia in 2023



Russian language lesson for refugees from Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan, organized as part of a joint RRC-UNHCR project © Russian Red Cross | St. Petersburg



Refugees collecting humanitarian aid from the warehouse of Civic Assistance Committee NGO © Civic Assistance/Vadim Kantor

Highlights

- **Individual and group discussions with Ukrainian refugees living outside of Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs) in Vladimir and Voronezh.**
 - On April 7, UNHCR Russia met with Ukrainian refugees living outside of TAPs in the town of Vladimir, either with relatives or on their own. The meetings were organized with the support of the regional branch of the Russian Red Cross (RRC) and hosted in its premises. UNHCR spoke with 10 refugees to learn about their conditions of stay, needs and concerns. All had arrived from Donetsk and Luhansk regions and came to Vladimir mainly to join relatives. Among the main concerns raised were access to pension payments, confirmation of employment history, restoration of housing documents and access to employment. Counselling was provided and information on how to access further assistance locally was shared.
 - On April 13, UNHCR Russia visited the regional branch of the Russian Red Cross (RRC) in Voronezh to meet with Ukrainian refugees living outside of TAPs. Individual and group discussions were held with 18 adults (11 women / 7 men; 8 of them were over 60 years old). The refugees arrived in Russia from Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv regions. Their main concerns included: challenges with residence registration; access to pensions and adequate allowances (some people have been receiving minimum pension due to lack of documentation confirming their employment history); access to compensation for loss of property; access to social benefits; possibility to return home once security is established (desire especially expressed by older people). Counselling was provided and contacts of the partner lawyer in Voronezh and Ombudsman's office were shared.
- **Visits to TAPs hosting Ukrainian refugees.** During April 2023, UNHCR Russia visited 5 TAPs in Tambov and Saratov regions:
 - On April 11-13, UNHCR Russia visited 3 TAPs located in Tambov region hosting a total of 270 refugees. The majority of those UNHCR spoke with arrived from Mariupol and other locations in Donetsk. Separate meetings were held with the local authorities. UNHCR discussed the ways to ensure better and constant communication between the authorities, the TAP administrators and the refugees, and explained the importance of involving refugees in addressing issues arising at the TAPs. Another meeting with 8 Ukrainian refugee women living outside of TAPs was organized at the RRC. The refugees shared impressions about their life in Tambov, where some of them were already working and children were attending schools. Thanks to RRC's support, the women and their families had access to humanitarian assistance, clothes, specialized medical attention and medicines through vouchers provided by the RRC with the support of IFRC.
 - On April 17-20, UNHCR Russia undertook a mission to the Saratov region to meet with Ukrainian refugees. Currently, Saratov region has 6 TAPs hosting 709 Ukrainian refugees. During the mission, UNHCR visited 2 TAPs. A total of 435 persons are accommodated in these 2 TAPs, most of them originating from Donetsk and Luhansk, from where they arrived in 2022. UNHCR spoke with refugees to hear about their conditions of stay, needs and concerns.
- **Mission to Primorskiy Krai.** On April 24-27, UNHCR carried out a further mission to Primorskiy Krai. Since February 24, 882 Ukrainians arrived there. UNHCR spoke with refugees in two TAPs (hosting a total of 83 refugees), as well as with refugees residing outside of TAPs. These meetings were held in one of the colleges in Vladivostok, and in the town of Bolshoi Kamen. The visit revealed that most refugees were employed or engaged in studies. UNHCR and the authorities discussed the ongoing need for psychological support and information sharing with refugees.
- **Engagement with students from the Russian Far East.** On April 13, UNHCR Russia received a 9-member delegation of the Model United Nations in the Russian Far East (MUNRFE). A general briefing on the asylum system and UNHCR activities was held at the UN House in Moscow. UNHCR Russia Representative highlighted the role of youth and youth-led organizations in the solution to refugee issues. Members of MUNRFE presented the Refugee Week project, which has been organized in the Far East since 2021. The students also spoke about the inclusion of asylum-seeker and refugee topics in the agenda of their Model UN by participating in the UNHCR-promoted MUN Refugee Challenge.
- **Participation in academic event "Blishchenko Readings."** On April 15, UNHCR Russia took part in the XIX International Congress "Blishchenko Readings," organized by the Department of



MUNRFE delegation attends UNHCR Russia briefing at the UN House in Moscow. © UNHCR/Dinara Galakhova

International Law of the Law Institute of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia. UNHCR Russia Representative addressed a welcoming message to the participants of the event, while UNHCR made a separate presentation devoted to modern challenges in the field of forced displacement. This event was a platform for discussing current contemporary subjects related to international law, held in memory of Professor Igor Blishchenko, a renowned scientist, international lawyer, and practitioner.

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