

Russian Federation

June 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 30 June 2023, **248 refugees, 36,524 temporary asylum status holders** and **4,851 asylum-seekers** from 76 countries are registered by the Russian Ministry of the Interior (Mol).

KEY FIGURES

1,275,315*

refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine recorded in Russia as of 31 December 2022

2,852,395*

border crossings from Ukraine to Russia through Russia-Ukraine border from 24 February to 4 October 2022

43,171

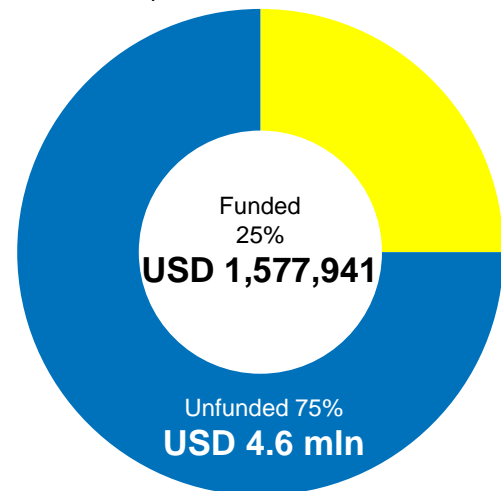
refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine were provided with counselling by UNHCR and its partners, either in person or over the phone since January 2023

**Data sources: UNHCR collation of statistics made available by the authorities*

FUNDING (AS OF 30 JUNE 2023)

USD 6.2 million

requested for the operation in Russia in 2023



Event at the "Point of Displacement" festival for World Refugee Day, dedicated to refugee children © UNHCR/Ruslan Altimirov



Presilia, a DAFI scholar, prepared a traditional Angolan dish for the culinary and refugee integration workshop at Garage Museum © UNHCR/Evgeniy Sunozov

- **Mission to Stavropol Krai.** On June 14-16, UNHCR visited Stavropol Krai jointly with the Office of the Ombudsman of the Russian Federation. UNHCR visited 3 Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs) in the city of Stavropol, each hosting between 20 to 50 refugees from Ukraine. Refugees came to Stavropol from Kherson, Kharkov, Luhansk and Donetsk regions. Employment opportunities, school, pre-school and higher education as well as healthcare are available to these refugees. The main problems reportedly encountered were related to restoration of documents and access to social benefits. From 24 February 2022 to 15 June 2023, 11,080 refugees have arrived in Stavropol Krai from Ukraine.
- **Refugees from Kherson have received housing certificates and compensation for the loss of property.** Refugees who left Kherson, have received a “social payment” for the purchase of new residential premises. Some families have already acquired a new property. This payment is provided in the form of a document indicating the amount that certificate holders use purchasing residential premises. One certificate is issued per family depending on its size (number of persons equals a specific number of square meters). Refugees have expressed their satisfaction with this and indicated that it is a step towards regaining a sense of normalcy.
- **Seminar for the Ombudsmen of the North-Caucasus and Southern Federal Okrugs.** On June 15, UNHCR brought together Ombudsmen from 12 regions, representatives of the Federal Ombudsman’s Office, as well as the head of the Russian Red Cross Branch in Stavropol. A number of issues were reviewed during this seminar, particularly UNHCR’s work and mandate as well as the humanitarian principles and standards applicable to work with refugees and displaced persons, including those with specific needs and in situations of the heightened risk. The Ombudsmen exposed the nature of their activities related to reception of refugees from Ukraine, both those living inside and outside the TAPs. The Russian Red Cross presented its practices on psycho-social support and other activities.
- **Participatory Assessment with refugee children.** On June 2 and 9, UNHCR partners Health and Life Foundation and Civic Assistance organized meetings with refugee children in Moscow and Noginsk (Moscow region). 47 refugee children and adolescents from Afghanistan and Syria participated in the exercise. Access to education, children’s psychosocial well-being, support networks available in their communities and employment status of parents were discussed. All children who were out of school expressed their desire to go to school and learn Russian. None of the children indicated being engaged in child labour, but they do help their parents by looking after their siblings, go shopping, etc. Russian language courses were identified as a need for children and their mothers. UNHCR and partners are exploring other actions and activities to support children’s access to school.
- **New UNHCR partnership focused on refugee youth.** A new partnership has been established with “Home is nearby” (‘Ryadom dom’). The first project will focus on online courses to support students preparing for basic state exams. Among the topics taught are Russian, literature, chemistry, biology, math and social sciences. This will help increase the possibilities of refugee students for future enrolment to colleges and higher education institutions.
- **Awareness-raising event for students.** On June 28, UNHCR hosted an awareness-raising event for students of legal faculties of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. UNHCR explained its mandate and presented the situation of refugees worldwide, as well as the national asylum system and activities in Russia. The students expressed appreciation for the event and indicated that it changed their attitude towards displacement. Many expressed their willingness to engage more on the issue and become volunteers to help people forced to flee.
- **World Refugee Day (WRD) activities in Russia.** This year, UNHCR Russia implemented most of the WRD events within the framework of the “[Point of Displacement](#)” festival, with the support of the three leading Moscow museums – the Tretyakov Gallery, the Museum of Moscow and Garage Museum of Contemporary Art – two NGOs, the Russian Red Cross and eight cultural institutions in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Vladivostok, Orenburg, and Tyumen. This year’s programme included more than 45 events: workshops, lectures, excursions, theater performances, discussions etc. All activities were free of charge. The main events included the following activities:
 - **Culinary workshop to reflect on integration of refugees.** On June 23, UNHCR Russia and Garage Museum of Contemporary Art organized a culinary workshop involving two refugee chefs from “[Kitchen Stories](#)” cookbook project, from Tajikistan and Cuba – and a DAFI student from Angola. The workshop featured preparation of traditional dishes from the refugees’ countries of origin, followed by a discussion on displacement experiences and integration in the Russian Federation. The main goal of the event was to familiarize Moscow citizens with the culture of refugees through a shared meal and discussions reflecting their experiences and to tackle common myths and misconceptions about refugees. The event was attended by 45 participants.
 - **Programme for refugee children in the Museum of Moscow.** On June 24, UNHCR Russia and the Museum of Moscow organized an entertainment programme for refugee children. The programme included different opportunities to explore the museum space and obtain new experiences based on various sensations:

movement, music and percussion, colours, and paints. The event was attended by about 40 children from refugee families living in Moscow and the Moscow region.

- **Presentation of the methodological guide “Museum of sensations.”** The Garage Museum of Contemporary Art arranged a [presentation](#) of the methodological guide, dubbed “Museum of sensations,” about working with people with migrant/refugee experiences. The presentation also featured a demonstration of an art magazine prepared by teenagers who attend the [Ilkhom](#) course aimed at integration of youth with migrant/refugee backgrounds into the cultural life of Moscow.
- **Refugee Week by Russia’s Far Eastern University.** The students of Russia’s Far Eastern University in Vladivostok organized events for Refugee Week at their campus with guidance from UNHCR Russia. Their programme included exhibitions, music performances, quizzes, and workshops.
- **Project with Lampa Film Festival.** For WRD, [Lampa Film Festival](#) organizers prepared a list of movies linked to displacement and refugee-related situations from the previous years of the festival. The links to movies on RuTube platform was published on Lampa’s [website](#) as well as the [website](#) of the PoD festival.
- **Art project based on comic book “Run Cannot Stay.”** A youth centre in Tyumen and theatre “Akt” from Kazan created an [installation](#) based on the comic book “Run cannot stay” released by UNHCR Russia. The installation was open to the public from June 27-30. The installation consisted of a theatre performance that focuses on visual perceptions and emotions by using light, cubes, and information about seven countries of origin of asylum-seekers and refugees (Afghanistan, South Sudan, Syria, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Yemen, Palestine). The comic books were also disseminated among the audience and 70 people visited the project.

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