

# Russian Federation

August 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

**64,512**

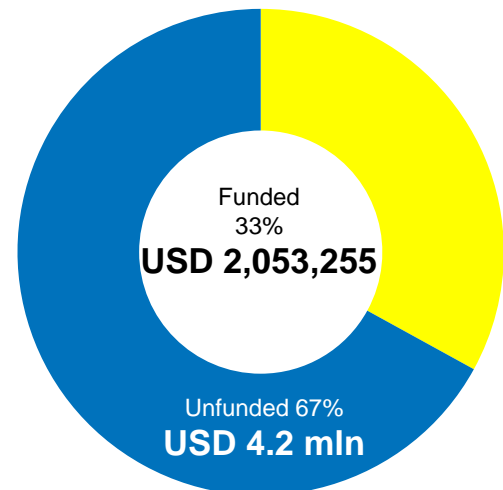
refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine were provided with counselling by UNHCR and its partners, either in person or over the phone since January 2023

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

## FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2023)

**USD 6.2 million**

requested for the operation in Russia in 2023



UNHCR and partners visit a Temporary Accommodation Point in Klin © UNHCR



UNHCR and the Russian Red Cross visiting Ukrainian refugees hosted at a TAP in Ivanovo © UNHCR

- **Mission to Klin.** On August 3, UNHCR together with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation visited the city of Klin (Moscow region) to meet with refugees and be briefed on the conditions in the Temporary Accommodation Point (TAP) established in a children's health resort. The TAP hosts 206 children and 105 adults who came, primarily, from Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- **Mission to Oryol.** On August 23-25, UNHCR and the Russian Red Cross (RRC) visited the city of Oryol to meet with refugees who live outside of the TAPs and receive assistance through the RRC. 40 refugees and displaced persons took part in four focus group sessions. Some of the issues raised concerned temporary registration of refugees at the place of residence; lack of documents to confirm their work history for calculating pensions; the requirement to confirm life-long disability from Ukraine in Russia; lack of free or reduced fares for public transportation for older persons. The RRC will follow-up on specific cases.
- **Mission to Ivanovo.** On August 29-30, UNHCR and the RRC visited 2 TAPs in the city of Ivanovo and held 3 focus group discussions with refugees. The refugees voiced difficulties in obtaining copies/originals of relevant documentation such as passports, marriage certificates, etc. Other concerns were linked to lack of accurate pension benefits and lack of documentation on civil status. Some expressed their interest in eventually returning to their homes, but stated the need to continue with their lives in Russia until the security situation has stabilized. All refugees appreciated the access they have to medical services, though some need assistance with specific medicines or specific medical devices (e.g., blood pressure monitors). Several people obtained information on legal assistance which can be supported by UNHCR's partners in the region.
- **Preparation of refugee children for school.** On August 28, a group of 15 refugee children from Afghanistan completed the school preparation course in Moscow. They successfully passed the basic language skills test in reading, vocabulary, listening, grammar, and speech development. At the end of the event, all participants received backpacks with stationery, certificates, and essay collections. The courses were organized by UNHCR, the Health and Life Foundation, and the Ethnosfera Center for Assistance to Interethnic Education. The classes were held at the Afghan Diaspora Center.
- **UNHCR seminar for Ombudspersons of North-Western Federal Okrug in Saint Petersburg.** On August 28, UNHCR held a seminar for the Ombudspersons of North-Western Federal Okrug in Saint Petersburg. The event was attended by 10 Regional Human Rights Commissioners as well as two representatives of the Office of the Federal Ombudsman and two colleagues from the Saint Petersburg regional branch of the RRC. UNHCR made presentations related to its mandate and activities, principles of humanitarian work and specific approaches to the identification of and assistance of people at heightened risk and with specific needs.
- **Selection process for DAFI scholarship in 2023-2024.** Two applicants from Afghanistan were awarded the scholarships for secondary vocational education. The scholarships will support their studies in the field of linguistics (bachelor's degree, duration of studies – 4 years) and banking (college, duration of studies – 2 years). The scholarships will be renewed each year based on available funding and academic performance.
- **VII Summer School on Migration in Saint Petersburg.** On August 21, the VII Summer School on Migration started at the Saint Petersburg branch of the RRC. UNHCR made presentations on the mandate of the agency and international refugee law, while RRC representatives spoke about national asylum legislation.
- **Local Integration.** Through the intervention of UNHCR, 12 Afghan refugees were granted Russian citizenship.
- **World Humanitarian Day event for volunteers of partner NGOs.** On August 17, in the run-up to World Humanitarian Day, UNHCR Russia organized a session on humanitarian principles for volunteers of UNHCR's partners. A total of 20 volunteers from the Civic Assistance Committee and regional branches of RRC attended the event. The session covered UNHCR activities and refugee protection mechanisms, as well as practical aspects in implementing humanitarian principles. All volunteers were actively involved in the discussion, raised issues of interest, and shared their personal experiences.
- **New video on UNHCR Russia World Refugee Day activities.** On August 1-2, UNHCR Russia [summed up](#) the results of its 5<sup>th</sup> "Point of Displacement" festival devoted to World Refugee Day and released a [new video](#) showing activities from this year's edition of the annual project. The



Final lesson of the school preparation course for refugee children in Moscow © Health and Life Foundation



Volunteers from partner NGOs attending World Humanitarian Day event at the UN House in Moscow © UNHCR/Ruslan Altimirov

video also features comments from the festival's key organizers and feedback from the attendees.

- **Playlist of songs about forced displacement.** UNHCR Russia published a [playlist](#) with videos clips of famous musicians singing about forced displacement and the plight of refugees all over the world. The playlist includes, *inter alia*, the song of UNHCR Russia Goodwill Ambassador Manizha “The City of Sun” about her own experience of fleeing her country of origin. The videos were accompanied by a short description about the motivation behind the creation of such songs.

**CONTACTS:**

**Magdalena Aguilar Pulido**, UNHCR Russia External Relations Officer  
Email: [aguilarp@unhcr.org](mailto:aguilarp@unhcr.org)

**Ararat Babayan**, UNHCR Russia Senior External Relations Assistant  
Email: [babayan@unhcr.org](mailto:babayan@unhcr.org)

