

Russian Federation

November 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

1,212,585*

refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine recorded in Russia as of 30 June 2023

2,852,395*

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

83,650

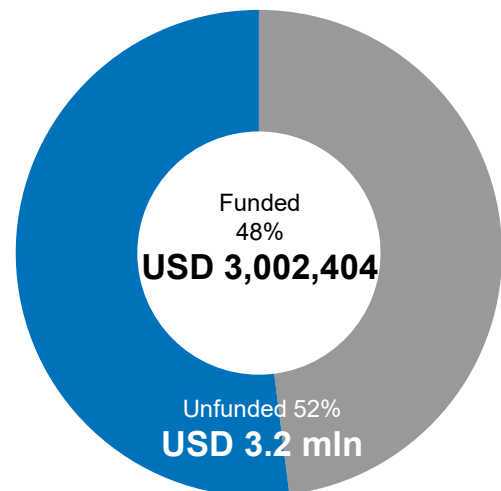
refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine were provided with counselling by UNHCR and its partners, either in person or over the phone since January 2023

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

FUNDING (AS OF 31 OCTOBER 2023)

USD 6.2 million

requested for the operation in Russia in 2023



Event for refugees within '16 days of activism against GBV' campaign at UNHCR's partner NGO © UNHCR/Maria Vediakova



Meeting with refugees from Ukraine at the office of the Russian Red Cross branch in Yaroslavl © UNHCR/Maria Vediakova

- **Training on statelessness and forced displacement for legal clinics.** On 17-20 November, UNHCR jointly with the “Center for the Development of Legal Clinics” held the first pilot training on the issues of forced displacement and statelessness for law school professors and managers supervising the work of legal clinics. The event took place in the Moscow Region and hosted 31 participants managing the work of legal clinics in 12 universities located in 9 regions of Russia. Following the training, the participants elaborated learning courses for their students as well as a scenario for the next school for legal clinics focused on asylum and statelessness matters.
- **Selection of DAFI candidates.** The second selection round to award DAFI scholarships was finalized in November with two male applicants from Afghanistan and one female applicant from Egypt being selected. The scholarships will support their secondary vocational education studies in the fields of banking, logistics operations and nursing care.
- **Events/activities within global “16 days of activism against GBV” campaign.**
 - On 24 November, UNHCR’s partner, Health and Life Foundation, [hosted](#) the first event in the framework of a global campaign aimed at preventing gender-based violence (GBV) “16 days of activism against GBV.” The event in Moscow featured an introduction by Health and Life social worker, a lecture about gaslighting and a presentation on domestic violence.
 - On 25 November, UNHCR and Vtoroye Dyhanie Foundation [partnered](#) to arrange a workshop on the creation of accessories from recycled materials for refugee women and their children. In addition to the workshop, refugee women were informed of the possibilities of attending other workshops and provided with free-of-charge use of sewing machines.
 - On 28 November, UNHCR participated in an annual session of the Thematic Group on Gender Issues at the UN House in Moscow outlining UNHCR’s position and activities aimed at GBV prevention. Also, UNHCR invited a new partner, the platform of social change “todogood,” to make an overview of their [online career development programs](#) for refugee women, women in difficult situations and other vulnerable groups.
 - On 30 November, UNHCR’s partner, Civic Assistance NGO, organized lectures in Moscow on women’s reproductive health for female and male refugees. The attendees were able to ask health-related questions, plan individual medical consultations and check-ups.
 - UNHCR and the Russian Red Cross (RRC) [prepared](#) and [published](#) explainers in the form of cards for social media about gender-based discrimination and violence, accompanied by statistics and actions to be taken to prevent these phenomena.
- **Russia/Finland border situation:** In November, Finland reported an increase in the numbers of arrivals – mainly from Syria, Somalia, and Yemen – across the Russian border. UNHCR Russia discussed this matter with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **Mission to Novosibirsk.** From 30 October to 2 November, UNHCR, in cooperation with the Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM), visited Novosibirsk region to meet with refugees from Ukraine residing in Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs) as well as those who have established independent living arrangements. UNHCR visited two out of the four TAPs in Novosibirsk. Together with the RRC, UNHCR also met with 38 refugees living outside the TAPs. In Novosibirsk, refugees with specific needs are registered via the Multifunctional Centre for Social Adaptation. Refugees expressed concern over the allocation of pensions. As a follow-up, an information session for refugees on addressing legal needs and concerns was held by the RRC in late November, in which over 40 refugees participated, and which was also attended by the regional Ombudsman for Human Rights and the Social Fund.
- **Mission to Stavropol.** On 7-10 November, UNHCR and EMERCOM visited the Stavropol Region to meet with refugees from Ukraine. A total of 32 TAPs are operating in the region. UNHCR visited two TAPs in the town of Nevinnomyssk. The main concerns raised related to receiving pensions, due to a lack of documents confirming the length of service. UNHCR and the RRC also met with 27 refugees in Stavropol. They expressed concern about accessible housing, as since they retain permanent registration in their home regions, banks in Stavropol refuse to provide mortgages to them. There is a strong cooperation among Stavropol’s governmental institutions and the RRC which enhances decent access to services for refugees. Since all newly arrived refugees approach the RRC office, they are directly assessed and referred to responsible governmental offices and can gain access to services without delays.
- **Mission to Yaroslavl.** On 13-15 November, UNHCR and the RRC visited two out of seven TAPs in the Yaroslavl Region, one of which is a residence (boarding house) for older people, and also met with 10 refugees at the local RRC office. Refugees who had special recognition as “labour veterans” in Ukraine, which guarantees a higher pension, have not received a similar status in Russia. In Yaroslavl, young families have been able to access housing and financial support for belonging to the category of a ‘family with many children’. Refugees also stated that medical care, free of charge medicines and in some cases, free of charge surgeries were provided.
- **Mission to Kostroma.** On 16 November, UNHCR and the RRC visited the Kostroma Region, where there is one remaining TAP with 134 refugees. Several families received maternity grants and positive decisions on their mortgages from banks in Kostroma. Some refugees indicated that the role of teachers and the student community was crucial for the inclusion of children and adolescents into regular classes and sport activities. Some expressed

concern as to what will happen to them if the government decides to close the TAP. Regional authorities said that this was not planned.

- **Mission to Khabarovsk.** On 20-24 November, UNHCR and EMERCOM visited the Khabarovsk Region and visited two TAPs out of the 12 in the region and also met with 18 refugees in the local RRC office. Access to housing in the region differs from that in the central parts of Russia as Khabarovsk benefits from a specific State Programme allowing refugees from Ukraine to receive housing certificates and mortgages at 2% rate. Almost all TAP and non-TAP residents are enrolled in the State Programme. Most refugees were able to arrange their pensions based on the length of service, and were satisfied with state medical care, including dental care.
- **Mission to Lipetsk.** On 28 November, UNHCR, accompanied by the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation, visited two TAPs in the Lipetsk Region and held participatory assessment sessions organized by the RRC. A total of 16 TAPs are operational in the Lipetsk Region where 873 Ukrainian refugees live. In Lipetsk there is a significant number of people with special needs (55) who are, mostly, persons with disabilities. The regional Department for Social Policy funds apartment-based TAPs for refugees and covers rent and utilities' costs and provides groceries. This is available both for refugees who reside in TAPs and those living independently.

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