

Russian Federation

October 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

76,572

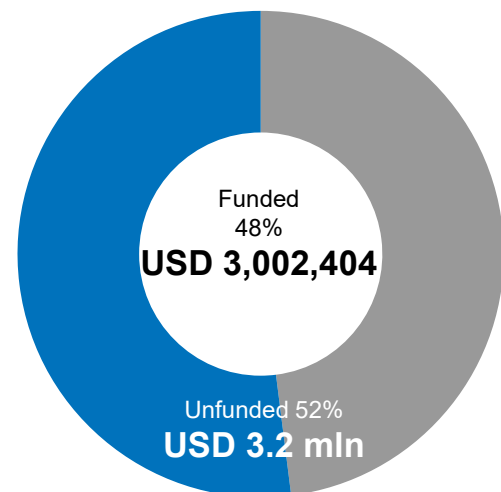
refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine were provided with counselling by UNHCR and its partners, either in person or over the phone since January 2023

**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



UNHCR and the Russian Red Cross meeting with Ukrainian refugees in Ulyanovsk © Russian Red Cross



Lecture on refugee protection principles for students of the Diplomatic Academy © UNHCR/Dinara Galakhova

- **Mission to Ulyanovsk.** From 2-5 October, UNHCR together with the Russian Red Cross (RRC) visited the Ulyanovsk region to meet refugees from Ukraine. UNHCR saw the two Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs) operating in the region, where 48 refugees are hosted. UNHCR also discussed with 15 Ukrainian refugees living in their own accommodation. Most refugees were from Donetsk, Luhansk, and Kharkiv regions. UNHCR and the RRC conducted 3 group discussions with refugees. Refugees shared that they had experienced problems with calculation of pensions. At the initiative of the regional government, some pensions were reviewed, and pensioners have received the proper payments. All participants expressed appreciation for the humanitarian, financial, and psychological support provided by the RRC. Many refugees previously living in TAPs found jobs (75 in 2022, 31 in 2023), and are moving out of TAPs into apartments provided by their employers. This is done with the support of Regional State Government Institution for Social Protection of the Population of Ulyanovsk region, contributing to local integration, and possibly setting a positive precedent for other provinces.
- **Mission to Tver.** On 24 October, UNHCR and the RRC conducted a mission to Tver, where they met with 39 Ukrainian refugees, residing both inside and outside of the TAPs. Refugees voiced challenges such as the unavailability of affordable housing, particularly problematic for older people. Other difficulties include obtaining documentation confirming employment history from Ukraine needed for pension allocation. Migration registration/temporary registration at the place of residence remains a problem for many. Some families could not obtain the status of “a family with many children” without the registration at place of residence. All legal issues raised were referred to UNHCR’s partner lawyer in Tver and will be followed up in cooperation with the RRC.
- **International Conference on Human Rights Protection and Exchange of Best Practices of Ombudsmen.** On 18 October, UNHCR attended the International Conference on Human Rights Protection and Exchange of Best Practices of Ombudsmen organized by the Commissioner for Human Rights. The Conference gathered 205 participants from 47 countries, including ombudspersons from the CIS, Europe, Middle East, Asia and Pacific, Africa and Latin America, international organizations, such as IOM, ICRC, OHCHR, Russian officials and some diplomatic missions. The Human Rights Commissioner of Russia highlighted the importance of interaction between the Ombudsmen and the international organizations, mentioning daily cooperation with UNHCR on issues of protection and assistance to the forcibly displaced and joint missions to TAPs hosting refugees from Ukraine. UNHCR Russia Representative noted the importance of collaboration with the Ombudsman’s Office in the framework of the 2022 MoU which facilitates protection of the rights of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in the Russian Federation.
- **Local Integration.** Through the intervention of UNHCR legal partners, 6 Afghan refugees and 1 Syrian refugee were granted Russian citizenship. Another 3 Afghans received residence permits. Additionally, 6 Afghan nationals have been granted temporary asylum.
- **MUN Refugee Challenge at the State Academic University of Humanities.** From 6-8 October, the State Academic University of Humanities in Moscow organized a Model United Nations (MUN) that focused on the discussion of a MUN Refugee Challenge topic – Ensuring the Safety of Asylum-Seekers. UNHCR presented at the event, focusing on the Agency’s mandate and core principles. All the participants of the Model UN received copies of the “Run Cannot Stay” comic book produced by UNHCR Russia.
- **Two films received prizes in a special UNHCR nomination at the “LAMPA” festival in Perm.** From 5-8 October, the 10th International Impact Film Festival “LAMPA” was held in Perm, as part of a program of activities to mark the 300th anniversary of the city. Two movies – “Waiting Room” (dir. Osip Bogdanov) and “Umut (Hope)” (dir. Saule Mukanbetova) – received awards in the special nomination “The Road to Home” which was announced in partnership with UNHCR Russia. Directors, actors, jury members, film festival ambassadors and guests took part in the festival screenings. After watching the films, the audience had the opportunity to take part in discussions, while the directors shared the stories of the films’ creation and their main themes.
- **“Run Cannot Stay” theatrical performance included in the list of the most notable performances of 2022-2023 season.** On 20 October, the expert council of the Russian National Theatre Award and the Golden Mask Festival [included](#) the performance of the Tyumen Youth Theatre Centre “Cosmos” based on the comic book published by UNHCR Russia, in the list of the most notable performances of the current season. The Golden Mask is a professional award for the best works of the season in all types of theatrical art.
- **Lecture for students of the Diplomatic Academy.** On 9 October, as part of the university Discussion Club “[Bona Fide](#)”, 20 students of the Diplomatic Academy of the MFA studying international relations, political science and law attended a lecture on the legal framework of refugee protection at UN House in Moscow, followed by a Q&A session. Students expressed their motivation to learn more about refugees, asylum-seekers and UNHCR’s work.

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