

Russian Federation

February 2024

UNHCR has maintained a [presence](#) in the Russian Federation since 1992, and currently operates through its Country Office in Moscow.

UNHCR works to ensure forcibly displaced and stateless people are informed of their rights, while advocating for improved national [asylum legislation](#).

The Russian Federation is a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The [national refugee law](#) was adopted in 1993.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023)*

Refugees **1,249,342**
Asylum-seekers **773**
Stateless people **93,802**

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	1,246,851	Afghanistan	346
Afghanistan	1,314	Ukraine	297
Syrian Arab Rep.	162	Syrian Arab Rep.	39

*UNHCR mid-2023 Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

Protection: Refugees from Ukraine have access to asylum/temporary asylum, residence permits and have the right to work. They can stay either in Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs) or in private accommodation.

Supporting the most vulnerable: UNHCR and its partners are supporting persons at heightened risk, including single women, older people, people with disabilities and others.

Counselling: UNHCR and NGO partners have expanded their counselling services. In 2023, [35,619 refugees](#) from Ukraine were assisted [with in-person counselling](#); and [53,787 refugees](#) through hotlines.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS): In 2023, [28,910 refugees](#) were provided with MHPSS.

Coordination: UNHCR exchanges on a monthly basis with the NGO partners and the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner on refugee needs and concerns

HIGHLIGHTS

Protection missions

In 2023, UNHCR visited 26 regions of the Russian Federation, meeting refugees from Ukraine hosted in 48 Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs) as well as those staying in private accommodation.

Seminars with Human Rights Commissioners in the Russian Federation

In 2023, UNHCR organized four seminars on the principles and standards of working with refugees and risk identification/prevention measures.

Over 80 participants took part, including staff of the Human Rights Commissioners, local NGOs, and others representing 39 regions of the Russia Federation.



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16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

In November 2023, UNHCR and its partner Health and Life Foundation organized an [event](#) in Moscow on preventing gender-based violence. The seminar was attended by 15 refugees and was organized within the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

To learn more about the event, see [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Advocacy:** Through regular discussions with government counterparts, UNHCR advocates for improvement of access to asylum in line with international protection standards.
- **Protection:** UNHCR, its NGO partners, as well as a network of 67 lawyers and advocates in 33 regions of the Russia Federation provide legal and social counselling, including on the asylum procedure, as well as access to rights and services.
- **Capacity-building:** UNHCR conducts trainings and knowledge-sharing sessions for first-line responders to meet the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people. Training is also provided to partners and legal practitioners regarding forced displacement and statelessness, identification of people at heightened risk, data protection, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and the legal framework.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR maintains regular contact with refugee communities to learn about their needs and tailor UNHCR's and its NGO partners response.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Emergency Situation, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in the Russian Federation and regional ombudspersons, academia, media, and civil society.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR works to preserve the protection space by fostering public awareness of international protection and understanding of UNHCR's mandate, global activities, and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). UNHCR also strives

to raise awareness and promote tolerance towards refugees and stateless people through awareness-raising activities. These include exhibitions, roundtables, sporting and dedicated events on World Refugee Day and World Humanitarian Day.

Statelessness

- UNHCR supports government efforts in implementing policies and procedures aimed at eradicating statelessness, which have advanced significantly in recent years. Russia is not a party to the 1954 or 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness
- In July 2023, 54 law students participated in the VIII International Olympics for Legal Clinics in Nizhny Novgorod on statelessness, organized by UNHCR. In December 2023, through the XI Student Contest on Human Rights in Saint Petersburg, one student received an award for a legal essay on statelessness and five students received participation certificates. The event was co-organized by UNHCR and the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner to mark the anniversary of the global #IBelong campaign.

UNHCR Presence in the Russian Federation

Staff:

18 National Staff
6 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Moscow

Affiliate workforce:

3 UNVs

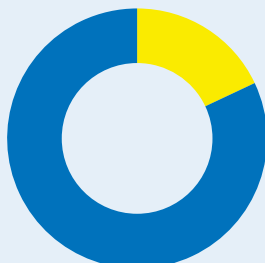
Financial information (31 January 2024)

Financial requirements for 2024

\$ 7 M

Funded 18%
\$ 1.2 M

Funding gap
82%
\$ 5.7 M



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UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.