

Russian Federation

September 2023

UNHCR has maintained a [presence](#) in the Russian Federation (RF) 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 June 2023)*

Refugees	1,249,356
Asylum-seekers	807
Stateless people	93,804

Top three countries of origin*

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

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

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

Protection: Refugees from Ukraine without private accommodation stay in temporary accommodation. They have access to asylum/temporary asylum, residence permits and have the right to work.

Supporting the most vulnerable: UNHCR and its NGO partners provide advice and referrals through in-person counselling and hotlines, as well as supporting persons at heightened risk, including single women, older people and persons with disabilities or serious medical conditions.

In-person counselling: So far in 2023, 9,429 refugees from Ukraine received legal, psychosocial, humanitarian, and medical assistance in border regions, 12,980 in other regions, 40,523 persons were counselled via the [hotline](#), while 17,469 refugees were provided with [psychosocial support](#).

Coordination: UNHCR exchanges on a monthly basis with the Ombudsperson's Office and NGOs on refugee needs and concerns identified directly or through partners.

HIGHLIGHTS

Protection monitoring missions

So far in 2023, UNHCR has visited 23 temporary accommodation points hosting refugees from Ukraine, and met with urban refugees in 10 regions of Russia.

Seminars on the standards of working with refugees

As part of its Protection Strategy, UNHCR facilitated seminars on the standards of working with refugees and risk identification/prevention measures. In 2022-2023, UNHCR trained Ombudspersons from the Central, Far Eastern, Northwestern, North Caucasian and Southern Federal and Volga Okrugs as well as representatives of the Russian Red Cross.



UNHCR supports art project based on comic book

Two theatres from the cities of Tyumen and Kazan joined efforts to create an art installation-performance based on the comic "Run cannot stay" published by UNHCR Russia. The show took place in June 2023 and consisted of a theatre performance that focused on visual perceptions and emotions by using light, cubes, and information about seven countries of origin of asylum-seekers and refugees.

Read more about the World Refugee Day 2023 events in Russia and watch the video via the [link](#).

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Key Priorities

- **Advocacy:** Through regular discussions with government counterparts, UNHCR advocates for access to asylum in line with international protection standards.
- **Protection:** UNHCR, its NGO partners, as well as a network of lawyers and advocates in 41 regions of Russia 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 the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless. Training is also provided to partners and legal practitioners regarding forced displacement and statelessness, identification of persons at heightened risk, data protection, and the legal framework.

Community empowerment and self-reliance: UNHCR maintains regular contact with refugee communities to learn about their needs and inform UNHCR's response.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, EMERCOM, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Community of Independent States, the office of Human Rights Commissioner in the Russian Federation and regional ombudspersons, academia, media, and civil society.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR works to preserve protection space by fostering public awareness of refugee 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 forcibly displaced and stateless persons through information campaigns and awareness-raising activities. These include exhibitions, roundtables, sporting events and dedicated events on World Refugee Day and World Humanitarian Day.

Statelessness

- Russia is not a party to the 1954 or 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. UNHCR supports government's efforts in implementing policies and procedures aimed at eradicating statelessness, which have advanced substantially in recent years.
- In July 2023, UNHCR and the Centre for the Development of Legal Clinics **organized** in Nizhny Novgorod the VIII International Olympics of Legal Clinicians. This year's Olympics focused on the topic of statelessness to promote the **#IBELONG** campaign to end statelessness by 2024. A total of 54 law students from 27 cities and 4 countries (Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Moldova) took part.

UNHCR Presence in the Russia Federation

Staff:

19 National Staff
6 International Staff

Offices:

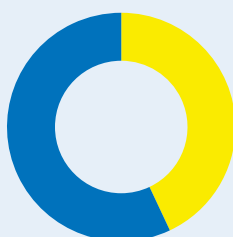
1 Country Office in Moscow

Financial information (September 2023)

Financial requirements

\$ 6.2 M

Funding gap
57%
\$ 3.6 M



Funded 43%
\$ 2.6 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked funding:

Belgium | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom

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