

Russian Federation

May 2024

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 31 March 2024, **247 refugees**, **15,378 temporary asylum status holders** and **1,694 asylum-seekers** were registered by the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) of the Russian Federation.

KEY FIGURES ON UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

1,212,585*

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

UNHCR missions in 2024: 10 missions carried out to 10 regions (Tatarstan, Bryansk, Vladimir, Rostov, Tver, North Ossetia-Alania, Kaluga, Krasnoyarsk, Novgorod, Arkhangelsk)

UNHCR and partners response in 2024:

19,099 refugees provided with information through telephone counselling/hotline of UNHCR and Partner NGOs

17,094 refugees provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

11,328 refugees received protection services in border regions (Kursk, Belgorod, Voronezh, Rostov)

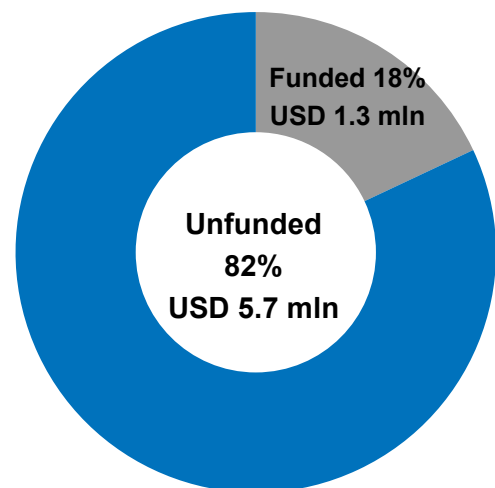
5,776 refugees received protection services in other Russian regions (including Moscow and Saint Petersburg)

UNHCR missions from 2022-2024: 57 missions in 37 regions

FUNDING (AS OF 31 MAY 2024)

USD 7.0 million

requested for the operation in Russia in 2024



Award ceremony of the winners of student research contest on refugee topics at RUDN University © RUDN press service



UNHCR and its partners' participatory assessment meeting with forcibly displaced persons from Karabakh in Pyatigorsk, Stavropol Krai © "Faith, Hope, Love" non-governmental organization

- **Engagement with university students.** On 17 May, UNHCR, its legal partners and the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN) selected the best student research papers on topics related to refugee protection, access to asylum and territory etc. The winner was a student of the International Law Department of the RUDN Law Institute; his work analyses the correlation between refugee protection and national security. The winner will attend the UNHCR-sponsored Summer School on Migration in Saint Petersburg in August.
- **Participatory assessment for forcibly displaced persons from the Karabakh region.** From 21 to 22 May, UNHCR, jointly with partners, conducted participatory assessments with 71 forcibly displaced persons from the Karabakh region in Pyatigorsk, Stavropol Krai. From October 2023, the local Armenian diaspora and "Faith, Hope, Love", UNHCR's NGO partner, have supported over 350 families (around 2,000 people) who are living with relatives or renting private accommodation. The group reported complications with receiving pensions from Armenia, the high cost of living (rent, mandatory medical checks, no free medical aid, low salaries), issues with personal documents, driving licences, and need for material support. All children are enrolled in schools and kindergartens. To respond to the needs of the displaced from Karabakh, UNHCR increased legal support through qualified lawyers of "Faith, Hope, Love", will extend back-to-school assistance programme to the school-age children and will discuss with other partners how they could support this population.
- **Mission to Arkhangelsk.** From 27 to 30 May, UNHCR visited the Arkhangelsk region to meet Ukrainian refugees living in and outside of Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs). UNHCR visited the "Rodnik" Rehabilitation Center, the only TAP operating in the region, and met with 17 residents. Most of them expressed satisfaction with the living conditions and food. All refugees have medical insurance and access to medical assistance. UNHCR also met 11 Ukrainian refugees living in private accommodation. The rent costs and obtaining their own housing is a major challenge for refugees. In Arkhangelsk, refugees who qualify can be recognized as "labour veterans" (an honorary title that is awarded for many years of work) and become eligible for other types of social assistance, such as priority medical care, access to special rehabilitation treatments and discounts in utility payments.
- **Mission to Krasnoyarsk.** From 13 to 16 May, UNHCR and partners visited the Krasnoyarsk region to meet with Ukrainian refugees. During UNHCR's visit to "Rodnik", a center for social support hosting refugees and funded by the region under the Ministry of Social Protection, the residents expressed satisfaction with the living conditions. All children are enrolled in school and most retirees receive pensions based on their work history and health status. UNHCR also conducted a participatory assessment session with refugees living on their own. Some families reported being able to buy housing through mortgages from local banks. UNHCR discussed the issues raised by refugees with the Office of the regional Human Rights Commissioner, including on resolving pending issues related to pensions and access to employment.
- **Mission to Veliky Novgorod.** From 20 to 23 May, UNHCR visited Veliky Novgorod, where meetings with 23 Ukrainian refugees living in their own accommodation were organized by our partner. Temporary registration at their place of stay remains a challenge, as only a few were able to obtain it with the assistance of their relatives. Many people are employed officially. Most refugees receive just a minimum pension as work-related documents are missing, which remains an unresolved problem. UNHCR met with the representatives of the Office of the regional Human Rights Commissioner and the regional Ministry of Labor and Social Protection to discuss this, while local officials expressed readiness to follow up on the issue.

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