UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

BELARUS FACT SHEET

Belarus

February 2026

Access to asylum: UNHCR works towards enhancing the asylum space and standardization of the state refugee status determination procedure (SRSDP) through capacity building and liaison with asylum authorities at country and regional levels.

Self-reliance and inclusion: UNHCR promotes inclusive and sustainable integration aligned with the UN Country Framework 2026–2030, aiming to expand the access of forcibly displaced and stateless people to national social protection systems.

Since 1 January 2026, UNHCR's operations in Belarus and the Russian Federation have been consolidated under a newly established Multi-Country Office (MCO).

POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2025)*

Refugees**	**41,807**
Asylum-seekers	**1,284**
Stateless people***	**5,550**

***Figures include people in refugee-like situation*

****Figures include both displaced & non-displaced stateless people*

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	41,557	Ukraine	1,255
Afghanistan	91	Latvia	9
Georgia	39	Ethiopia	5

**UNHCR Refugee Data Finder*

HIGHLIGHTS

Protection Monitoring and Profiling

In 2025, UNHCR conducted its protection profiling and monitoring (PPM) exercise with displaced families from Ukraine. From February to April 2025, the first round of this initiative was conducted, surveying 274 refugee households, which included a total of 722 individuals. From August to October 2025, the second round was carried out, surveying 282 refugee households, which included a total of 799 individuals.

Participatory Assessment

UNHCR and its partner arranged a Participatory Assessment (PA) in the second half of 2025. Seven focus groups discussions were carried out, covering 37 households, representing 103 asylum-seekers and people granted protection. The aim of the Participatory Assessment was to gain an in-depth understanding of the levels of local integration and inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in Belarus.

Ukraine Refugee Situation Response

Coordination: UNHCR continues to lead the refugee response in close collaboration with government counterparts, UN agencies (IOM/UNICEF and others) and NGOs, while also working to strengthen referral systems.

Legal Assistance and documentation: In 2025, a total of 3,337 refugees from Ukraine received legal counselling from UNHCR and partner Refugee Counselling Service (RCS).

Support to the most vulnerable: In 2025, UNHCR provided multipurpose cash assistance to 823 refugees from Ukraine in Belarus and supported 53 Ukrainian families in urgent need of clothing and other essential items through a charity initiative, covering a total of 158 individuals.

Self-reliance and Inclusion: UNHCR continues to identify gaps and advocate for inclusion of refugees in national services and development plans, while promoting effective access to social protection systems.



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A FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION CONDUCTED WITH UKRAINIANS IN BREST

One of the Participatory Assessment sessions was organized in Brest as it is the second largest location with a refugee population in Belarus after its capital, Minsk.

The focus group discussions aimed to understand barriers for integration and the opportunities to overcome them, as identified by the affected communities themselves.

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR works to strengthen the Belarusian asylum system and improve the quality of the State Refugee Status Determination Procedure (SRSDP) through capacity-building efforts and close liaison with asylum authorities at both the national and regional levels.
- **Improvement of reception conditions:** On 1 October 2025, the temporary accommodation centre (TAC) for asylum-seekers in Vitebsk, managed by the Ministry of the Interior, was reopened. While the reconstruction was primarily funded through the state programme, UNHCR contributed to enhancing the facility by financing the creation of a children's playground accessible to both TAC residents and the local community.
- **Cooperation with the State Border Committee (SBC):** In September 2025, UNHCR and the SBC signed a Protocol of Cooperation outlining joint efforts in several key areas. These include strengthening the capacity of SBC personnel; monitoring the situation along the border through regular visits to border areas and SBC detention facilities; providing emergency and other forms of humanitarian assistance; and facilitating information exchange on people in need of assistance, their specific vulnerabilities and individuals apprehended by the SBC, along with related statistics. The protocol also provides for referrals to relevant organizations and entities to ensure targeted support for those requiring additional assistance.
- **Cash assistance:** In 2025, UNHCR provided cash assistance to 393 households (899 individuals) across the country. Priority was given to the most vulnerable individuals and families, including older people. Cash distribution was carried out in collaboration with the Belarusian Post Office (Belpost), ensuring that asylum-seekers and refugees could receive cash-based assistance (CBI) in any part of Belarus.
- **Summer School on Refugee Law and Statelessness:** UNHCR conducted the VIIIth Summer School, bringing together 19 law students from a range of Belarusian higher education institutions. The programme included lectures delivered by experts from UNHCR, the state asylum authority, IOM, UNICEF, IFRC and UNHCR's partner organization. In addition to the presentations, participants took part in a moot court exercise that simulated the review of selected refugee cases from the perspectives of both legal representatives of forcibly displaced people and the state asylum authority. A discussion session with two refugees also generated significant interest and engagement among the students.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR currently partners with NGOs, such as the Refugee Counselling Service and maintains partnerships with the Government, UN development agencies. Through its engagement in the UN Country Team, UNHCR places particular emphasis on advancing the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and other people under its mandate.

Statelessness

- Belarus is not a party to the 1954 and 1961 UN Statelessness Conventions. UNHCR continues to prioritize awareness-raising and advocacy for the country's accession to these conventions, as well as the socio-economic inclusion of stateless people.
- Of the 5,550 stateless people residing in Belarus, 95.7% hold permanent residence permits and 99.3% are former citizens of the USSR.
- UNHCR supports vulnerable stateless individuals on a case-by-case basis in applying for citizenship or obtaining permanent residence as a pathway to naturalization. In 2025, assistance was provided in 10 cases involving 12 individuals.

UNHCR Presence in Belarus

Since 1 January 2026, UNHCR's operations in Belarus and the Russian Federation have been consolidated under a newly established Multi-Country Office (MCO), reflecting the transition to a regional management structure.

Staff:	**Offices:**
5 National Staff	1 Country Office in Minsk
1 International Staff	

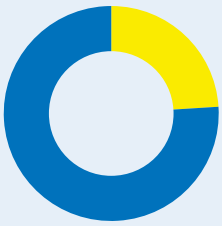
**UNHCR's presence in all regions is ensured through its partnership project Refugee Counselling Services.*

Financial information* (as of 28 February 2026)

**Information relates to UNHCR's Russian Federation Multi-Country Office, which covers Belarus and the Russian Federation.*

Financial requirements for 2026

$ 7.8 M



Funded 24%
$ 1.9 M

Funding gap 76%
$ 5.9 M

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