

Russian Federation

April 2025

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 March 2025, **217 refugees**, **9,914 temporary asylum status holders** and **1,913 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 2025: 7 missions carried out to 6 regions (Kaliningrad, Karelia, Saratov, Leningrad, Moscow and Kaluga regions)

UNHCR and partners response in 2025:

14,292 refugees provided with information through telephone counselling/hotline of UNHCR and Partner NGOs

10,285 refugees provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

5,919 refugees received protection services in border regions (Kursk, Belgorod, Voronezh, Rostov)

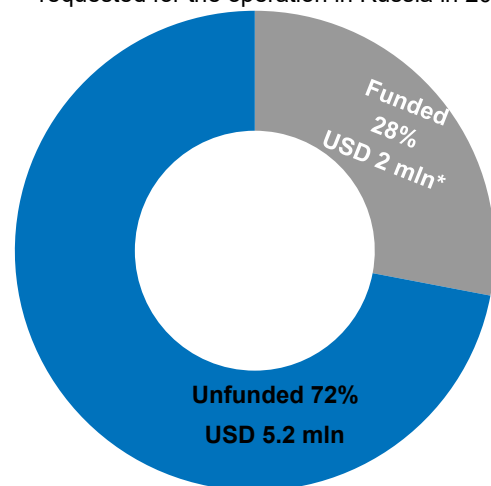
4,384 refugees received protection services in other Russian regions (including Moscow and Saint Petersburg)

UNHCR missions in 2022-2025: 84 missions in 48 regions

FUNDING (AS OF 30 APRIL 2025)

USD 7.2 million

requested for the operation in Russia in 2025



* funding allocated from unearmarked contributions



UNHCR meeting with refugees from Ukraine in a Temporary Accommodation Point in Kaluga region © UNHCR



Participants of "Blischenko Readings" Congress at RUDN University attending a UNHCR-led roundtable © Press-service of the University

- **Sessions of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS).** On 2 April, UNHCR Representative took part in the Session of the IPA-CIS Permanent Commission on Social Policy and Human Rights in Saint Petersburg. The Commission discussed a number of initiatives, including a draft Model Law “On the Status of Ombudsman on Human Rights” and a draft Model Law “On the status of the Children’s Rights Commissioner”, strategies in the sphere of healthcare and employment, and draft Recommendations on Protection and Social Rehabilitation of Victims of Trafficking in Person, which included UNHCR comments. The Representative also participated in the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on elaborating a new draft Concept of the Common Migration Space of CIS member states. The meeting was attended by ICRC, IOM, IFRC, Ombudsman’s Office, Russia’s Ministry of the Interior as well as academia and representatives of the CIS member-states.
- **Annual Congress for experts, legal practitioners and students at RUDN University.** On 12 April, UNHCR participated in the XXI International Congress “Blischenko Readings”, an annual gathering of academia and legal practitioners, scholars and students. The conference was held at the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University) in Moscow. During the plenary session, the Representative delivered a welcoming speech, while Senior Protection Officer spoke at a roundtable about UNHCR’s activities in Russia and around the globe in the run-up to the 75th anniversary of UNHCR’s establishment.
- **Mission to Kaluga region.** On April 14-16, UNHCR in cooperation with the Federal and Regional Offices of the Commissioner for Human Rights visited Kaluga region. There are 11 operational TAPs in the region providing shelter to about 1,000 residents. At meetings with residents in 2 TAPs visited by UNHCR, housing issues dominated discussions: some refugees are looking for a permanent place to stay in Kaluga region, others informed that they would like to return to their places of origin but face obstacles in obtaining compensation for lost housing. Regional authorities support with access to employment. Overall, 919 refugees were employed with local employers, which provide transportation from TAPs.
- **Access to education for refugee and asylum-seeking children.** On 15 April, UNHCR convened a coordination meeting with partners to discuss the progress of the ongoing support to children with school enrolment. It was reported that there are currently 40 families from Moscow and Moscow region who are being supported by partner NGOs with school enrolment-related assistance for their children, including legal assistance. The majority are from Afghanistan, and others include refugees and asylum-seekers from Cameroon, DR Congo and Cote d'Ivoire. Families are being assisted with the compilation of a new package of application documents for school enrolment and their actual submission.
- **Meeting of the CIS Commission on Human Rights.** On 16 April, UNHCR Representative attended, as an observer, the IV Session of the CIS Commission on Human Rights. The Commission is headed by the federal Ombudsman, Tatyana Moskalkova, who revived the activities of this institution in 2023. Members of the Commission from Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in the session. The event was also observed by other international organizations: ICRC, OHCHR and the head of the UN Information Centre in Moscow.
- **II Russian-Arabic student film festival.** On 12 April, UNHCR supported the second Russian-Arabic student film festival, in which a movie about refugees was featured. The event was held at the State Academic University for the Humanities (GAUGN). Twelve teams from Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Kazan and Minsk universities competed for the title of the winner in two categories: translation of short films from Russian into Arabic and translation from Arabic into Russian.
- **Session for Diplomatic Academy students.** On 18 April, UNHCR hosted the students-participants of the Bona Fide Discussion Club of the Diplomatic Academy, which was arranged in cooperation with the University’s Department of International and National Security. The students of the Academy prepared reports on refugee-related topics, and UNHCR Senior Protection Officer made a presentation on emergencies affecting refugees and shared experiences of working with UNHCR in different parts of the world.
- **New UNHCR video on refugee teenagers supported by host community.** On 21 April, UNHCR [released](#) a video about refugee teenagers whose talent was discovered and developed thanks to the support of the host community. The video demonstrates that when refugees are given opportunities for development and self-actualization, they are better positioned to become self-reliant and improve their quality of life. The video also highlights beyond the personal benefits for these refugees as recipients of the support of the host community, their gratitude for the chances that they are offered as well as their readiness to give back.

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