

Russian Federation

March 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: 6 missions carried out to 5 regions (Kaliningrad, Karelia, Saratov, Leningrad and Moscow regions)

UNHCR and partners response in 2025:

10,393 refugees provided with information through telephone counselling/hotline of UNHCR and Partner NGOs

8,005 refugees provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

4,822 refugees received protection services in border regions (Kursk, Belgorod, Voronezh, Rostov)

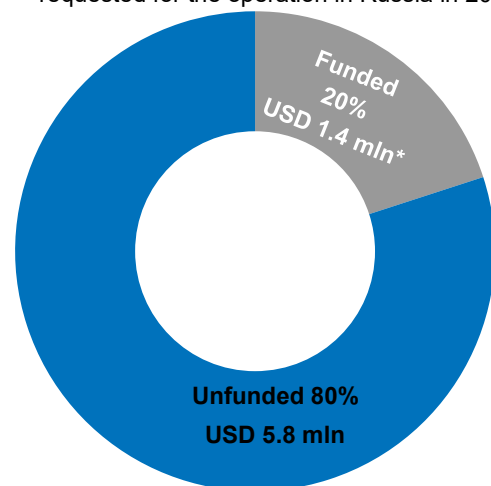
3,130 refugees received protection services in other Russian regions (including Moscow and Saint Petersburg)

UNHCR missions in 2022-2025: 83 missions in 48 regions

FUNDING (AS OF 31 MARCH 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 TAP in Tikhvin (Leningrad region)
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UNHCR meeting with refugees from Ukraine in TAP in Podolsk (Moscow region)
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- **Meeting with Human Rights Commissioner in the RF.** On March 10, UNHCR Representative met with Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation Tatyana Moskalkova. The Representative highlighted the importance of joint visits to the regions for monitoring the situation of refugees from Ukraine. Mrs. Moskalkova emphasised the importance of continued cooperation and asked UNHCR to share best practices from other countries of reception of Ukrainian refugees.

- **UNHCR missions to Moscow region (Klin and Podolsk).** On March 12, UNHCR visited TAP “Zvonkie golosa” in the city of Klin. Refugees have access to social housing if they are officially employed within the region. On March 18, UNHCR visited TAP “Mechta” located about 15 km west of Podol’sk. The regional Ombudsperson specified that 49 TAP residents moved to their own homes using monthly allowances provided by the Moscow regional administration. During a meeting with TAP residents, the issue of transportation came out as the most important one as it affects various aspects of refugee life. The representatives of the local administration acknowledged this problem and informed that a regular bus service will be available to TAP residents.

- **Mission to Leningrad region.** On March 24-27, UNHCR visited two TAPs located in the town of Volkhov and the Tikhvin district of Leningrad region, hosting refugees from Ukraine. Local authorities as well as medical and social services joined UNHCR during the TAP visits, actively engaging in addressing refugee concerns. This approach allowed for a quick resolution of issues, such as accessing specialized medical services. Among the concerns were requests for compensation for lost housing and assistance with restoring documents confirming work history. Retirees within the refugee population in the region receive such benefits as free public transportation cards, and discounted tickets for commuter trains.

- **Participatory assessment sessions in St. Petersburg.** On March 17, UNHCR and the regional branch of the Russian Red Cross in St. Petersburg held focus group discussions with refugees from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Iraq and internally displaced persons from Kursk and Belgorod regions of Russia. Refugees from Ukraine raised concerns about access to housing and receiving reimbursement for lost and damaged property, disability confirmation, access to education when they have not registered at their place of residence, and formal employment. Older people from Ukraine raised issues related to recalculation of pensions, housing, the high rents, no access to social benefits due to the lack of residence registration. Refugees from other countries raised concerns about the non-extension of legal status, access to legal and socio-economic integration, difficulties in obtaining migration registration, needs for Russian language classes, support in education, school bullying, etc. Follow-up on some individual cases, legal aid, Russian language support, targeted individual assistance will be provided.

- **Participatory assessment sessions in Moscow.** On 24-27 March, UNHCR and its partner NGO, Faith Hope Love (FHL), facilitated focus group discussions with refugees from Afghanistan, Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Cameroon, DR Congo, as well as with stateless people from the former Soviet Union. The issues related to obtaining legal status, migration registration, access to legal integration, i.e. allocation of quota for temporary residence permit, education, employment, medical and economic problems were mentioned by refugees from the far abroad countries. Some refugees need to improve their knowledge of Russian and receive skills training. Refugees from Ukraine mentioned concerns related to pension recalculation, access to specialized care for an older and sick relative, and housing. The partner shared information leaflets they had prepared on the changes in migration legislation. Counselling on the services of employment centres was provided. The partner lawyers will follow up on individual issues raised by refugees.

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