RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Russian Federation
February 2021

Presence: The UN Refugee Agency has been working in the Russian Federation since 1992. It is currently operating through a Country Office in Moscow.

Legal framework: The 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol were acceded to in 1992. The 1993 national refugee law was amended in 1997. The State Migration Policy Concept was endorsed in 2018.

Strategy: UNHCR’s work is guided by a Multi-Year Protection Strategy 2021-2023 and Communications Strategy from 2019 to 2023.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refugees</td>
<td>28,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum-seekers</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stateless people</td>
<td>63,966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>93,495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Refugees</th>
<th>Asylum-seekers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>27,028</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>784</td>
<td>142</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HIGHLIGHTS 2020

656,347 people were naturalized in 2020, of which 409,549 were from Ukraine. 8,086 stateless persons also acquired RF citizenship.

14,308 legal consultations were provided to 4,068 persons of concern in 52 regions of Russia by UNHCR and partners.

1,559 stateless persons received legal assistance from UNHCR and partners.

351 households (989 persons) were given one-time COVID-19 CBI assistance to mitigate risks of homelessness and malnutrition.

85 cases at risk of refoulement were prevented by UNHCR and partners.

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Inclusion: Persons of concern to UNHCR, irrespective of their status, can avail themselves of basic medical assistance if they have symptoms or were diagnosed with COVID-19.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR Moscow has created a dedicated section of the HELP web page to ensure that refugees have access to up-to-date information on COVID-19 prevention measures. Partner NGOs were conducting counselling by phone, hotlines, and ad-hoc WhatsApp chats. All persons of concern could access legal, financial, social, medical and psychological assistance online.

Health: UNHCR distributed PPEs to partners, enabling them to continue their activities, while switching to online modalities for capacity development and protection monitoring purposes.

COVID-19: Refugee in Action

Svita isn’t quite a doctor yet, but she’s doing her part in the fight against COVID-19. She was born in Afghanistan and raised in Russia, where her family sought safety. The 22-year-old is now studying at the Volgograd State University and dreams of becoming a doctor. As a volunteer, she has produced brochures about COVID-19 prophylaxis. Svita also works at a call center and answers people’s questions about the coronavirus pandemic. Click here for the story.
Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR is supporting authorities in creating a more favourable protection and asylum space.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR is complementing the efforts of the Government to develop a fair and effective asylum system in accordance with international standards.
- **Durable Solutions:** UNHCR assists refugees in Russia to find sustainable solutions by facilitating their local integration, voluntary repatriation and resettlement to a third country.
- **Integration:** To facilitate the integration of refugees, CO Moscow works through its partner NGOs on legal, economic, and social inclusion through assistance in obtaining residence permits, temporary residence permits, citizenship, gaining employment and access to education.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR strives to raise awareness and promote tolerance towards refugees and stateless persons through various public information and awareness-raising activities. These include contests, exhibitions and special events dedicated to the World Refugee Day. UNHCR supports a human rights film festival and conducts workshops for journalists.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with state and non-state stakeholders, including the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, EMERCOM, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization, CIS Border Guards, the judiciary, ombudsmen, academia, civil society, and mass media.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR seeks to preserve protection space by fostering public awareness of refugee protection and understanding of UNHCR’s mandate, global activities, Global Compact on Refugees.

Statelessness

- The Russian Federation did not accede to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. Recently, the amendments to the law “On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation”, according to which stateless persons in the Russian Federation will be able to obtain temporary identity cards, have been endorsed by the President.
- UNHCR continues to work with authorities to ascertain the number of persons who remain stateless.
- In promotion of the #IBELONG campaign to end statelessness by 2024, UNHCR supports Government’s efforts in statelessness-related policies and procedures.
- An article and video about Linda, a former stateless person, was published in English, French and Spanish on UNHCR global website.

UNHCR Presence in Russia

**Staff:**
- 17 National Staff
- 3 International Staff

**Offices:**
- 1 Country Office in Moscow

Financial information (28 February 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial requirements</th>
<th>USD 5.7 m</th>
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<tr>
<td>Funded</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>142,246</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding gap</td>
<td>98%</td>
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<td>5.6 M</td>
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UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions* to the 2021 global programmes:

- Norway 80 M
- Sweden 66.9 M
- Netherlands 36.1 M
- Denmark 34.6 M
- Germany 22.1 M
- Switzerland 16.4 M
- Ireland 12.5 M
- Belgium 11.9 M

*Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more.