

Czechia

May 2024

Czechia remains among the **main destinations for refugees from Ukraine**, hosting the third highest number of Ukrainian refugees. While new arrivals continue, the response is increasingly shifting towards inclusion. Czechia has adopted a **whole-of-society approach**,

with collaboration between the government, local authorities, international organizations, civil society partners, the private sector and refugees themselves. In **support of the Czech government's response**, UNHCR protection interventions are aimed at

supporting the Czech government strategy for integration and protection of Ukrainian temporary protection holders, and promoting a favourable protection space for Ukrainian refugees as well as for refugees from other countries.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of Dec 2023)

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Refugees	376,221
Asylum-seekers	612
Stateless people	1,413

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	373, 745	Russia	113
Syrian Arab Republic	317**	Ukraine	100
Afghanistan	253**	Turkey	59

*UNHCR year-end 2023 Trends as reported in the [Annual Statistics Report](#)

**Statistics include both refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection.

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 01 May, **339,305** Temporary Protection holders from Ukraine were recorded in the Czechia by the Ministry of Interior, after the re-registration process concluded in March 2024.

Legal monitoring: UNHCR monitors legislative and policy amendments which impact refugees' ability to access protection and rights. Amendments to temporary protection procedures and entitlements were introduced in July 2023 and in January 2024. UNHCR informs Ukrainian refugees about the related changes through its Czechia Help webpage.

Protection response: Between January and March 2024, UNHCR and its partners provided protection services (information and free legal aid, integration-related support) to 1,994 refugees from Ukraine. In addition, 442 refugees from Ukraine received Mental Health and Psychosocial support (MHPSS) and psychological first aid.

Support to the most vulnerable: UNHCR has expanded its outreach and engagement with refugee communities, including community-level mental health and psychosocial support, resilience-building, education programs, and tailored legal aid. Special attention is paid to groups at heightened risk, including children, youth and women.

HIGHLIGHTS

Report on refugees in collective accommodation facilities and approached to solutions

UNHCR submitted a joint report with IOM on the situation of Ukrainian refugees in collective accommodation facilities. The report identifies solutions and recommendations to inform the design of social support and other assistance for safe and dignified relocation of Ukrainian refugees from collective accommodation facilities to standard housing. UNHCR shared the report with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Amendment to Lex Ukraine VI

UNHCR submitted its comments on the proposed amendments to Lex Ukraine, the set of laws providing the legislative framework for the assistance to people displaced from Ukraine in Czechia. The draft Act (Lex Ukraine VII) foresees the possibility to obtain a five-year special residence permit under specific eligibility criteria. UNHCR comments focus on the conditions and protection safeguards for individuals who transition from temporary protection to a special long-term residence permit, and on eligibility for temporary protection and access to effective remedy.



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The Kroky dobra choir is composed of Ukrainian children that fled to Czechia. Kroky dobra performed at the launch of the Refugee Response Plan 2024 on 8 March, bringing together the Government Commissioner for Human Rights, UN and NGO partners. Thirty partners that joined the Czech chapter of the 2024 Refugee Response Plan to support the over 380,000 Ukrainian refugees in the country.

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR collaborates with government, local authorities, and partners to ensure all refugees and asylum-seekers have the information they need to realize their rights, that national systems are equipped to receive them, and that the most vulnerable can receive additional support depending on their specific needs through legal and social counselling activities.
- **Access to territory and asylum procedures:** UNHCR works with partners to ensure that persons of all nationalities seeking international protection in Czechia have access to the territory and to asylum procedures, providing information and free legal aid to asylum-seekers, including at Prague Airport, and to prevent instances of refoulement.
- **Gender-based violence (GBV):** UNHCR and partners continue with efforts to promote effective protection and targeted assistance for individuals at heightened risk — particularly for survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation — through the provision of information, counselling, referrals and trainings. GBV referral pathways have been developed for Prague to support response mechanisms.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR supports greater local-level support for refugee inclusion and peaceful co-existence with the hosting community. Grants for some 60 integration activities to targeted municipalities in all 14 regions in Czechia to facilitate this process outside Prague.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR ensures the participation and inclusion of refugee communities, organizations, and volunteers in the refugee response, through regular focus group discussions and other participatory engagements.

Working with Partners

- To respond to the needs of people fleeing Ukraine, as well as other refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR works with seven NGO partners: Agency for Migration and Adaptation, Association for Integration and Migration, La Strada, Organization for Aid to Refugees, proFem, Romodrom, and Slovo 21. UNHCR also provides direct grant funding to seven Refugee-Led Organizations and contributes to their capacity development.
- UNHCR collaborates with governmental partners, including the Ministry of Interior through co-funding the grant program for integration at the municipal level, as well as with the Refugee Facilities Administration and the Office of the Ombudsperson to ensure that people in need of international protection can benefit from a favourable protection environment in Czechia.

Statelessness

- Czechia has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions; with reservations to articles 27 and 28 of the 1954 Convention.
- An amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals regulating statelessness determination procedures (SDPs) came into force in July 2023. UNHCR provides information on the procedures and free legal aid services through a specialized NGO partner.
- There is no reliable and complete statistical data regarding the number of stateless persons in Czechia. The reported number of registered stateless persons in Czechia is around 1,500.

UNHCR Presence in Czechia

Staff:

12 National Staff
 4 International Staff
 2 UN Refugee Volunteers

Offices:

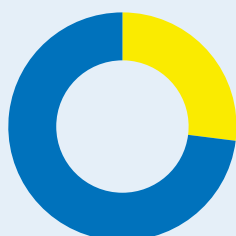
1 Country Office in Prague

Financial information (May 2024)

* Information relates to UNHCR's Representation for Central Europe, which covers Czechia, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

Financial requirements

\$ 48 M



Funded 12%
 \$ 1 M

Funding gap 88%
 \$ 42.3 M

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