

# Czech Republic

September 2021

The Czech Republic has a well-established **asylum framework**. Reception conditions are of a good standard and the State Integration Programme is well developed.

While not all asylum-seekers ultimately choose to stay in the Czech Republic, for some, such as those from the former Soviet-Union, the country is their **destination**.

The Czech Republic is a **donor country** and has steadily increased its contributions to UNHCR over the years.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN\*

Refugees	<b>1,922</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>1,554</b>
Stateless persons	<b>1,502</b>
Total population of concern	<b>4,978</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Syria	<b>386</b>	Ukraine	<b>242</b>
Ukraine	<b>284</b>	Georgia	<b>86</b>
Russia	<b>177</b>	Belarus	<b>58</b>

\*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

**Advocacy:** UNHCR shared recommendations with governmental counterparts regarding the provision of COVID-19 related information and inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees in the roll-out of the national vaccination scheme.

**Inclusion of persons of concern:** Asylum-seekers and refugees are included in national COVID response plans, both in terms of rights and duties. They have full access to medical services as well as to vaccination and must comply with the limitations and restrictions imposed on all residents.

**Communication with Communities:** The Government has set up an information [page](#) and a hotline. UNHCR developed information materials on labour arrangements during the pandemic.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### The Best Refugee Student Awards

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, UNHCR with partners awarded refugee students for their achievements and promoted education in refugee communities.

### iVolunteer Programme

UNHCR used the iVolunteer Programme during the COVID-19 pandemic to reach out to asylum-seekers and refugees and ensure two-way communication.

### Women Self-Help Group

A women self-help group was established, originally to counter social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Contributions to UNHCR

In 2021, the Czech Government has made contributions to UNHCR refugee programmes in Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

#### UNHCR AWARDS REFUGEE STUDENTS



UNHCR with partners awarding the best refugee students.

## Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** UNHCR monitors asylum-seekers' access to territory at airports, the only external Schengen borders, where UNHCR information materials for people in need of international protection are on display.
- **Asylum procedure:** The asylum procedure is grounded in the EU *acquis*. To further strengthen the system, UNHCR advocates for streamlining legislation related to access to and quality of asylum procedures and its compliance with European and international standards, namely regarding vulnerability and credibility considerations.
- **Reception and accommodation conditions** for asylum-seekers are generally of good standard. UNHCR monitors conditions and advocates for maintaining standards with respect to age, gender, diversity and special needs.
- **Integration:** UNHCR advocates for local integration of refugees and supports authorities in enhancing the State Integration Programme, mainly by assisting in standardization of integration-related services.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR and partners promote a positive attitude towards refugees, combat xenophobia and racism and foster positive interaction between refugees and the host society. Through its iVolunteer project, UNHCR mobilizes voluntary support for asylum-seekers and refugees.
- **Alternatives to detention:** In general, asylum-seekers are not detained. However, authorities do resort to detention of asylum-seekers in certain instances, such as for the purpose of Dublin transfers. UNHCR monitors detention conditions, and advocates for the establishment of suitable alternatives to detention.
- **Education:** Teachers, children, and parents face challenges during the process of integrating refugee children in schools. UNHCR promotes a safe environment at schools through the campaign Hello

Czech Republic and dissemination of materials developed through the Teaching about Refugees learning programme.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with the government to facilitate contributions to UNHCR's global operations.
- UNHCR works with governmental partners, primarily with the Ministry of the Interior, the Refugee Facilities Administration and the Office of the Ombudsman. UNHCR is engaged in a strategic dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- UNHCR has a project partnership agreement with the NGO **Organisation for Aid to Refugees**. This NGO manages the UNHCR iVolunteer programme and provides legal assistance to asylum-seekers through AMIF funds.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR fosters public awareness of refugee protection by engaging with film and cultural festivals, photographers, and selected media. UNHCR amplifies refugees' voices by telling their stories.

## Statelessness

- The Czech Republic is a party to both Statelessness Conventions, albeit with several reservations. The country has no statelessness determination procedure. Stateless persons are considered as other foreign nationals in immigration statistics.
- UNHCR published a [study on statelessness in the Czech Republic](#), based on in-depth interviews with stateless persons. UNHCR advocates for the lifting of the reservations to the 1954 Statelessness Convention and for the establishment of a dedicated statelessness determination procedure.

## UNHCR Presence in the Czech Republic

### Staff:

4 National Staff

### Offices:

1 National Office in Prague

## Financial information (28 September 2021)

Information relates to the Representation for Central Europe, which covers the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia

### Financial requirements

**USD 5.1 M**

**Funding gap**  
41%

**2.1 M**



**Funded**  
59%  
**3 M**

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