



# CZECH REPUBLIC

January – March 2023

The Czech Republic hosts the third-largest population of Ukrainian refugees in the European Union, with over 500,000 Temporary Protection status granted until March 2023. The Czech Republic continues to accept new requests for temporary protection at an average rate of around 8,000 per month. In view of the fact that a large percentage of the Ukrainian refugee population are women and children, they are at a heightened risk of exploitation and abuse, including labor and sexual exploitation. Therefore, continued protection, resilience, and self-reliance promotion are necessary.

On March 14, the 2023 Czech Refugee Response Plan (RRP) was launched in Prague with the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The appeal includes four UN agencies and NGOs, supporting the national response to establish a safe environment for refugees, prioritizes vulnerable groups, and promotes self-reliance and resilience while ensuring that the humanitarian benefits system remains accessible to all refugees who are unable to achieve self-sustainability.

The Czech Government aims to promote self-reliance and independence while prioritizing the needs of vulnerable individuals requiring additional protection and assistance. The focus is on the successful adaptation and inclusion of refugees into Czech society, noting that around half of refugee families have no family member employed. It is important to monitor and address the barriers that vulnerable refugees face in accessing services and provide them with equal opportunities for education, employment, and social protection.

## KEY FIGURES\*

**8.2 M**

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe  
(as of 4 April)

**504 K**

Total number of TP granted in the Czech Republic  
(24 February 2022 - 31 March 2023)

**325 K**

Active TP holders in the Czech Republic  
(as of 31 March)

**47%**

of TP holders in the Czech Republic are women  
(as of 31 March)

**28%**

of TP holders in the Czech Republic are children  
(as of 31 March)

## 2023 REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION\*\*

**USD 1.69 B**

Overall financial requirements

**10%**

Overall percent funded

**USD 82 M**

Czech Republic financial requirements

**6 %**

Czech Republic percent funded

**4**

Partners involved in the Czech Republic response

\*See the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Situation](#) and the [Czech Republic portal page](#) for more details on refugee population figures and information resources. \*\*See the [Ukraine Situation Regional Response Plan](#) for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities and requirements and the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) for RRP funding information.

## Operational context

The Czech Republic has granted Temporary Protection (TP) status to over 500,000 refugees from Ukraine, with 44% granted to women and 37% to children. In 2023, the government initiated a process to re-register TP holders, requiring refugees to present themselves at Ministry of Interior registration centers in person after an initial online scheduling component. As of March, 297,000 individuals were scheduled for re-registration; the exercise will take place from April to September 2023.

The [fifth amendment to Lex Ukraine](#), the laws governing assistance to refugees from Ukraine in the Czech Republic, came into effect on April 1, 2023. The amendment introduces changes to refugee accommodation and humanitarian benefits for those who have fled Ukraine. Financial support for refugees' housing will be based on eligible housing costs, which will be set by government regulation. Emergency accommodation will be provided free of charge for a maximum of 150 days, and vulnerable groups will not be subject to this limit. Humanitarian benefits will be newly conceived as both a living allowance and a housing allowance, based on the subsistence minimum, with vulnerable persons receiving higher levels of support. Finally, employers must report the employment of refugees and any other relevant changes to update the register maintained by the Czech Social Security Administration.

The [Czech country chapter of the Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#) was launched on March 14 in Prague. The event was attended by over 90 guests, including ambassadors and representatives from the UN organizations involved in the plan, as well as various government departments and the media. The launch featured speeches from several officials, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, the Ambassadors of Japan, Sweden and USA, UNHCR Head of National Office/UN Refugee Coordinator, as well as a children's performance by the refugee support organization, MRIYA.



Prague, March 14 RRP Launch with the participation of Mr. Jan Lipavský, Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, UN agencies, NGOs, embassies. @UNHCR/2023.

### Global Compact on Refugees and Partnerships with Municipalities in the Czech Republic

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) emphasizes the importance of partnership and collaboration with local authorities, including municipalities, in addressing the needs of refugees. Municipalities in the Czech Republic are key actors in supporting the integration of refugees into host communities, ensuring that their voices are heard, and creating economic opportunities that will help refugees rebuild their lives.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Municipality of Prague, has established the Follow-Up Center for Support to Ukrainian Refugees. The center provides sustainable long-term support to refugees through comprehensive services in housing, health, education, social protection, and early childhood development. It has reached over 100,000 refugees through media outlets and organizations and provided services to 949 refugees, conducting co-creation workshops to design social cohesion programs. The center also held a coordination meeting with over 100 Civil Society Organizations and partners to strengthen support for refugee children and their families.

WHO's local partners collaborate closely with local municipalities, as is the case of the Trigon Association and Association of the Centers of Mental Health which work in Prague, Beroun, Mladá Boleslav, Nymburk, Plzeň, Ústí nad Labem, Karlovy Vary, Písek and Ostrava region. Through their partnership with municipalities, they manage to provide comprehensive psycho-social support to Ukrainian refugees which goes beyond pure mental health support. The municipalities also often provide free accommodation for psychological counseling.

IOM is holding regular round tables and info sessions with local authorities in municipalities outside of Prague, with a focus on assisting Ukrainian refugees. In 2023, these events took place in Karlovy Vary, Pilsen, Ústí nad Labem, Liberec, Cheb, Znojmo, Tachov, Jihlava, Vlašim, Ostrava, Olomouc, and Brno. The aim is to provide relevant information to Ukrainian refugees on referral pathways, counseling services, and networking opportunities for entities directly assisting refugees.

## Sectoral Achievements



### Protection, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence

#### Achievements and Impact

- RRP partners provided protection services, including legal assistance, protection assistance for vulnerable individuals, and protection counseling in relevant languages to more than 7,600 refugees. Over 11,800 refugees, including 3,240 children, were engaged through community outreach and prevention activities on gender-based violence risks. Additionally, nearly 3,000 children received child protection services, such as family reunification and alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children, referrals to specialized services, and individual case management. Community-based and recreational child protection services were also provided, along with a dedicated communication campaign.
- Examples of RRP partners' activities:
  - UNHCR's partners assisted 4,145 refugees in the areas of inclusion, legal aid, social protection etc. In addition, 1,110 refugees were provided with psychosocial support, while 389 aid workers were trained on core protection principles.
  - UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to address the needs of Ukrainian refugee children with disabilities through cash transfers, case management, and access to social services, aiming to support 4,000 refugee children with disabilities. Through UNICEF partnerships, 3,958 children and caregivers accessed community-based mental health and psychosocial support. 3,065 refugees were provided with access to safe spaces, protection, and support hubs. UNICEF supported 1,955 women and children to access GBV risk mitigation and prevention interventions. Additionally, 2,118 children and adults were provided access to safe and accessible channels for reporting sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers.
  - IOM supported 1,032 refugees in accessing protection services through its protection staff and in partnerships with local organizations. Additionally, IOM ensured regular protection services for 234 Ukrainian Roma refugees with particular needs and provided direct humanitarian assistance to 124 people with disabilities. IOM also conducted research on refugee populations living in collective accommodations in Pilsen and Karlovy Vary regions to assess their living conditions and needs.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The adoption of the Lex Ukraine V introduces changes to the system of humanitarian benefits, including housing assistance, which will only be available to vulnerable refugees based on set criteria by the government. Humanitarian benefits for the first 150 days will be aligned with the living minimum (4,860 CZK per month for a single-person household, approximately € 206). After the initial period of support, benefits will be assessed based on the refugee's income, except for vulnerable persons. The new measures aim to stimulate self-reliance of refugees and foster social cohesion, while humanitarian partners monitor implementation and assist the most vulnerable. Refugees in the Czech Republic should continue to enjoy clear access to state social protection and changes to the current legislative scheme need to be communicated to refugees in clear and concise ways. RRP partners will continue prioritizing identification and supporting the most vulnerable, who need continuing support.
- Refugees who have visas or TP in other EU member states and have family members in the Czech Republic are encountering problems obtaining TP in the Czech Republic. These refugees risk being left without residence permits and without access to essential services such as education.



## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports reported that 51,281 refugee children are currently enrolled in the formal education system in the Czech Republic. Of these, 7,668 are in kindergartens, 473 in pre-schools, 39,680 in primary schools, and 3,460 in secondary schools and conservatories.
- RRP partners facilitated non-formal education programs for almost 1,600 children, which included Czech language courses, children's groups, and other learning activities outside of the formal education system.
- UNICEF supported the enrollment and learning of 19,063 refugee children and adolescents in Czech schools and supported the strengthening of the capacities of 4,403 teachers and teaching assistants to facilitate quality learning for refugee children in school. Under a special grant scheme to improve early learning opportunities, 240 children under age 6 (including 205 refugees) were reached with Early Childhood Development (ECD) services, and an additional 283 were supported through their caregivers.



: "We are connectors and build bridges for children who need it" Ukrainian teaching assistants play a vital role in Czech schools. @UNICEF/2023

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Municipalities that host a large number of Ukrainian refugees face a shortage of school spaces, especially in kindergartens and children's groups. To meet the educational needs of refugee children, there is a pressing need to increase the number of Ukrainian teaching assistants and psychologists who can provide the necessary services at scale.
- Families require more information about schools and improved communication to encourage enrolment and facilitate learning, while additional access to Czech language classes, and the improvement of language skills among students needs to be accelerated.
- Additionally, teachers and school staff require training to effectively manage classrooms with students with different mother tongues, varying skill levels, or those in need of specialized mental health support.
- There are also critical data gaps in mapping non-formal education and learning programs organized by Ukrainian community organizations or groups, which can help accelerate further inclusion and social cohesion.



## Health, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

### Achievements and Impact

- Over 17.500 refugees were supported in accessing health services by RRP partners.
- The National Institute of Mental Health (NUDZ) in partnership with WHO mapped psychosocial services for Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic and organized a campaign to encourage help-seeking, promoted widely online. The map is accessible in both Czech and Ukrainian versions, with monthly updates and 370 contact places. The map allows filtering by target group, language, and location.. Additionally, an online/offline communication campaign is being finalized, including MHPSS promotion in schools through a joint WHO and UNICEF initiative, with press releases, a promo video, increasing avenues for recruitment for program participation, training of translators, and translating supplemental materials and guidelines into multiple languages.
- Through IOM's Czech-Ukrainian team of psychologists, 153 refugees were provided with professional MHPSS assistance in the form of individual and group consultations during the monitored period.
- 4,568 children and women accessed primary health care services and 320 children were vaccinated through five UNICEF-supported outpatient centers established within university hospitals in partnership with the Ministry of Health. Over 200 Ukrainian health professionals were engaged in capacity-building programs to obtain accreditation and work in the Czech healthcare sector.



*Delivery of additional hospital beds to Bulovka Hospital, Prague @WHO/2023*

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Access to general physicians and pediatric services is challenging, especially outside of urban centers due to a lack of pediatricians.
- Language barriers also hinder access to healthcare and quality service provision.
- Stigma remains among refugees when it comes to accessing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services.





## Basic Needs, Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

### Achievements and Impact

- Progress has been made in meeting the basic needs of Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic through humanitarian assistance. Through IOM's partnerships, 1,920 refugees were targeted with cash-based interventions to cover their basic needs while ensuring decent and safe accommodation to 118 refugees.
- Over 2,600 refugees received support in livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion services and development programs in Prague and across the country. This includes technical and vocational trainings, language training, access to childcare and kindergarten (to enable parents to work during the daytime), and general support in accessing employment such as counselling, job-matching, coaching and mentoring.
- According to recent research by [PAQ Research company](#), over half of the economically active refugees in the Czech Republic are currently employed, and employment opportunities are steadily increasing for those who have arrived within the past 10 months.
- UNHCR's partner OPU launched a social media campaign for volunteer recruitment. Together with social workers, they will assist refugees in organizing integration activities (tutoring, one-to-one mentoring with volunteers, support groups, group outdoor and indoor trips to locations of interest et al.), especially for refugee women and children.
- Within the partnership with the Municipality of Prague, a Follow-Up Centre to support Ukrainian refugees was established by UNICEF, providing comprehensive services to 949 Ukrainian refugees in housing, health, education, social protection, and ECD, and fostering their integration into Czech society. In addition, through partnerships with Civil Society Organizations, 967 Ukrainian and Czech youth and children were reached through a buddy program and entrepreneurship activities.
- IOM collaborated with the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic to create longer-term accommodation solutions for refugees. Furthermore, IOM has developed an e-tool called ABCD to assist Ukrainian refugees, while also providing rental contract templates with Ukrainian translations to facilitate assistance. Finally, IOM provided support to 1,153 Ukrainian refugees, including counseling, language and upskilling courses, and other services aimed at improving their employment prospects and integration. Additionally, 39,784 people were reached through awareness-raising campaigns on socio-economic inclusion issues, including education for employers on the ethical employment of refugees.



Above: @IOM Czechia – Language courses are welcomed by both people from Ukraine and their Czech employers. IOM Czechia – courses

Below: @IOM Czechia – Supporting upskilling and reskilling courses even during working hours.



### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is limited accommodation capacity outside hostels belonging to companies and employment agencies and refugees hosted in accommodations provided by employers can face issues if they wish to leave the accommodation and find alternatives, as work and accommodation are linked.
- In 2023, there is a likelihood that organizations helping refugees will encounter funding challenges in executing their planned activities under the RRP. Additionally, some assisting organizations are increasingly having to withdraw specific forms of support, such as CBI, and phase out emergency or general support to Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic. The cessation of such support can adversely affect the social and economic living conditions of the refugees and limit their access to necessary support services including for the most vulnerable.



## Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

- The Inter-agency PSEA coordinator (UNHCR) conducted discussions with the Czech government (Office of the Coordinator of Integration and Adaptation of Refugees from Ukraine, and Ministry of the Interior), UN agencies, and partners to strengthen collaboration on preventing and responding to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) for refugee communities..
- RRP partners trained 124 humanitarian workers and partner personnel on SEA risk mitigation, prevention, and response, and a few agencies (UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF) have been providing technical support to their partners as part of PSEA partner assessment and capacity-strengthening implementation plans. 5,580 people were reached with information on GBV and related services via IOM online campaign.

### Working in partnership

RRP partners work in close coordination with the Czech Republic government to provide comprehensive humanitarian assistance to refugees, prioritizing their well-being, protection, and integration into the community. This partnership aims to promote the rights and dignity of refugees and their successful inclusion into protection schemes.

The key achievements for Quarter 1 were collected through a joint RRP monitoring framework, which provides a structured approach to tracking and evaluating the implementation of the RRP plan's objectives and activities across all RRP countries. On February 21 the RRP reporting focal points received training on reporting against 14 indicators related to various aspects of refugee welfare, and the framework helps ensure accountability, identify areas for improvement, and make evidence-based decisions to adjust the response plan as needed.



*RRP partners gather to discuss key strategies and assistance targets for 2023.  
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Many organizations have contributed to these achievements, in partnership with the 4 RRP agencies: ADRA Czech Republic | Agency for Migration and Adaptation | Alliance of Community Mental Health Centers | Association for Integration and Migration | Association of Pediatricians | Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Crafts of the Czech Republic | Bulovka University Hospital | Center for Foreigners of the South Moravian Region | Chamber of Commerce of the Region of Karlovy Vary | Consortium of Migrants Assisting Organizations in the Czech Republic | Czech AIDS Help Society | Czech Expert Society for Inclusive Education | Dobrá Rodina | Educational Institute of the Central Bohemian Region | General University Hospital in Prague | Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education | Integration Centre Prague | Klubičko Cheb | Kolín Regional Hospital | La Strada Czech Republic | Laxus | LOCIKA Center | MAS Brdy-Vltava | MAS Vladař | META – Society for Young Migrants | Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports | Ministry of Health | Ministry of Interior | Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs | MRIYA UA | Municipality of Prague | NADĚJE | National Association of Patient Organizations | National Centre of Nursing and Other Health Professions | National Institute of Mental Health | National Institute of Public Health | National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic | Organization for Aid to Refugees | PAQ Research | Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior | Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs | Romodrom | Sít' pro Rodinu | Slovo 21 | SOFA – Society for All | Stod Hospital | Trigon Association | Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic | University Hospital Olomouc | University Hospital Ostrava | Via Foundation | Women for Women

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**LINKS:** [Regional data portal](#) – [Czech Country Portal](#) – [Ukraine Situation RRP](#) – [Refugee Funding Tracker](#)