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Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan

Summary and Inter-Agency Funding Requirements for the Czech Republic March-December 2022

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APPEALING
INTER-AGENCY
PARTNERS IN A
COORDINATED
RESPONSE PLAN

TO ASSIST UP TO

500,000

INDIVIDUALS IN
NEED OF
HUMANITARIAN
AID



WITH A TOTAL

\$41.2 M

OF INTER-AGENCY
REQUIREMENTS



Overview

The Regional RRP

The **Inter-Agency Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)** outlines the comprehensive response and activities to support countries' efforts to protect and assist refugees, and other persons in need of humanitarian aid, coming from Ukraine. It includes the financial requirements of partners—including UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society actors—in all countries involved, covering the period from March to December 2022 and working in tandem with concerned host Governments.

Czech Republic

It is estimated that as of 02 May 2022, over 322,000 refugees arrived in the Czech Republic (equivalent to 3% of the country's population of 10.2 million) since the Russian military invasion of Ukraine began. More refugees are expected to arrive if the hostilities continue. While the Czech Republic is not a neighboring country to Ukraine, it is one of the key destinations given the large Ukrainian diaspora (estimated at 200,000 prior to the Russian invasion to Ukraine) as well as the favorable job market. Amongst the current refugee population, almost half are children, and four-fifths of adults are women. Most refugees register in the capital city of Prague, placing a significant strain on existing services, in particular health and education.

In the **Czech Republic**, RRP partners will support government-led efforts through a multisectoral approach focusing, among others, on protection, reception/accommodation and distribution of material assistance for the most vulnerable groups and for individuals with specific needs. The response will identify and address refugees' needs, taking into account considerations related to age, gender and diversity, particularly given the high numbers of women and children.

This summary of the Inter-Agency RRP in the **Czech Republic** presents the needs analysis and response priorities, as well as the financial requirements of partners, which are an integral part of the Regional RRP under the "Other Countries Summary" chapter.

Country Context

As of 02 May 2022, a total of 322,822 Ukrainian refugees have received temporary protection status under the European Union's (EU) Temporary Protection Directive (TPD), making the Czech Republic the EU country with the highest number of TPD holders per capita. TPD holders can stay in the Czech Republic for up to one year and benefit from access to public health insurance, education, the labour market and additional assistance, such as social benefits.

The generosity shown by the Government and the immediate wave of solidarity from the Czech society towards refugees from Ukraine has been extensive; the majority of Ukrainian refugees are accommodated by the local population. These efforts are complemented by Inter-Agency initiatives of UN agencies present in the country (thereafter 'RRP partners'), as well as national and international NGOs and civil society actors.

The Government activated a contingency plan and a state of emergency has been extended until the end of May 2022 to facilitate the reception of the refugees. The Government also set up the National Centre for Help and Assistance to Ukraine (NACPU) to oversee the activities and coordinate the work of all the relevant authorities. Moreover, a robust network of 16 Regional Centers for Help and Assistance to Ukraine (KACPU) across all the regions in the country facilitate the registration and assistance process. Access to registration for temporary protection, health and security screening is provided, as are accommodation and social benefits in the form of health insurance and cash assistance for up to 6 months. KACPU also include rest areas and play spaces for children. Trained psychologists and translators provide assistance where needed.

Despite this initial response, the ability of the current social and economic structures to absorb and integrate the sizeable Ukrainian refugee population in the longer-term is expected to be strained. Furthermore, given the volatile situation in Ukraine, contingency planning is needed to prepare for potential additional refugee arrivals to the country. As a result, the Government is closely working with different actors, including UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations, to better address the current and future needs of refugees. Inter-Agency partners are already providing social and legal counselling to refugees and have set up information desks at the main bus and train stations in Prague. In addition, a total of 500 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs), or modular temporary shelters, have been provided upon request of the Government should accommodation capacity be stretched.

Needs Analysis

The **urgent needs** identified to date include strengthening and supporting access to shelter and accommodation; provision of basic and domestic items including core relief items; protection, information dissemination, education and health services. Expanding the availability of emergency shelter and accommodation options and relieving the pressure on major urban centres in the country are seen as a priority.

Protection needs include identifying and referring refugees at heightened risk to the appropriate services, in particular survivors of violence and trafficking, unaccompanied and separated children, older persons, single women and female-headed households, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and LGBTIQ+ persons. With women and children constituting about 90 percent of refugees from Ukraine, risks of gender-based violence, human trafficking and exploitation remain high. National actors including Inter-agency partners are currently enhancing their capacity to respond to refugees at heightened risks. Psychosocial needs are also significant amongst children and their caregivers. While the country is registering unaccompanied children, many more are accompanied by distant relatives or non-related persons, thus separated from their nuclear family. Monitoring of these children's situation and supporting child protection response is critical given the significant protection risks.

The efforts of the Government, civil society, NGOs, and private sector to provide emergency **accommodation** upon arrival are well coordinated and largely effective, despite the scale of the influx. It is estimated that 85 percent of refugees are staying in private accommodation, including private homes, hotels and guest houses. This is further boosted by a government subsidy. However, as the conflict continues, this initial capacity and support is starting to wane, and longer-term accommodation solutions are needed. Authorities have alerted the RRP partners that they may seek further support to establish additional accommodation sites, as well as to ensure the identification and referral of persons at heightened risk, such as persons with specific needs and persons with disabilities.

Access to relevant, timely and targeted **information**, including appropriate feedback mechanisms, is another priority to not only enhance the protection of refugees, but also to ensure efficient planning and response by all actors. Drawing on refugees' own capacities and skills will be key in enhancing their protection and laying the foundation for solutions.

One month after the Ukraine crisis broke out, the Czech Republic issued health insurance to more than 286,000 refugees free of charge, of which 113,392 are children and 131,140 are women. As the country is likely to continue receiving large numbers of refugees, this is expected to place significant strain on the national health system, particularly paediatric and maternal **health services** as well as vaccination services.

Despite the national framework to integrate Ukrainian refugee children into the national **education system**, there is significant pressure on existing schools, including kindergartens. The absorption capacity is close to its limit, with the strain placed unevenly on schools across the country. Acquisition of the Czech language, a shortage of teachers and the psychosocial support needs of children further add to the challenges.

Response strategy and sector priorities

The UN agencies in the Czech Republic (UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, WHO and UNIC) are working closely with the Government and civil society actors to respond to the current crisis, by leveraging sectoral expertise and global experience which can be used to better address the specific needs of refugees.

In particular, this Inter-Agency response plan (RRP) aims to support the national authorities to:

1. Ensure that every refugee from Ukraine has access to safety, life-saving humanitarian assistance and international protection, as well as to health care, education, housing and social services.
2. Conduct protection monitoring to rapidly identify emerging protection risks and gaps in the response and engage with authorities at the national level to address them, conduct evidence-based protection advocacy, and increase outreach in communities to identify persons with specific needs and ensure they are referred to the specific services. Due to the demographic profile of the population, specific attention will be given to single women, female-headed households, unaccompanied and separated children, but also older persons, LGBTIQ+ persons, people with serious medical conditions and persons living with disabilities. Efforts will be made to provide technical support and capacity building to national protection mechanisms in the identification and provision of services to persons with specific needs. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse will also form a key part of the response.
3. Reinforce accountability to affected people (AAP) through communication with communities, increasing access to information and awareness-raising for refugees and third-country nationals (TCNs). Additionally, a light Blue Dot approach is being explored. This will complement information content and channels already established by the Government, NGOs and civil society so as to prevent any duplication.
4. Monitor accommodation facilities and support national authorities and civil society actors to provide safe and accessible accommodation, provide support and advice as needed.
5. Promote dialogue, mutual understanding, and social cohesion among refugees and host communities as a means of facilitating peaceful coexistence and promote solutions including long-term socio-economic inclusion.
6. Enhance close cooperation with government counterparts and with partner agencies to ensure robust coordination and timely information-sharing during the implementation of all proposed activities, including international and local organizations, civil society and the general public.

Coordination

RRP partners will support the Czech Republic's efforts to respond to the refugee influx from Ukraine. UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the RRP in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) and in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts, and with the support of Inter-Agency partners and other stakeholders.

Within the framework of this RRP and building on existing country-level UN structures, an Inter-Agency Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF), composed of all partners involved in the response, has been established at country level, in support of the government-led strategy. This will enable RRP partners to work efficiently together to maximize the response and avoid duplications and parallel systems. It will also aim at guiding joint advocacy initiatives and resource mobilization efforts in support of the country-level response plans. This RRP chapter will be revised to ensure that, as needs evolve, all relevant activities are being captured and reflected, along with their revised budgets. This revision will also enable additional partners, particularly NGOs and civil society organisations, to be included in this coordination, advocacy and fund-raising instrument.

Financial requirements March-December 2022 | USD

RRP partners are appealing for approximately \$ 41.2 million covering the period from March to December 2022.

The below table presents the financial requirements of partners in **Czech Republic**. The RRP will be revised as the situation evolves.

Financial Requirements per appealing Inter-Agency partners & sector

Organization	Protection (incl. GBV and CP) *	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods & Resilience	Logistics, Telecoms & Operational Support	Education	Basic Needs (Accommodation / Shelter, CRIs, Transportation, CBI)	WASH	Total
UNHCR	11,175,000					2,125,000		13,300,000
WHO		1,600,000						1,600,000
UNICEF	16,843,200	2,262,000			5,568,000		325,380	24,998,580
IOM	380,000	80,000	250,000	100,000		450,000	90,000	1,350,000
Total (USD)	28,398,200	3,942,000	250,000	100,000	5,568,000	2,575,000	415,380	41,258,580

*Breakdown of Protection requirements

Organization	Protection	GBV	Child Protection	Total Protection
UNHCR	10,310,000	342,000	522,000	11,175,000
UNICEF	8,613,000	800,000	7,430,200	16,843,200
IOM	290,000	30,000	60,000	380,000
Total (USD)	19,213,000	1,172,000	8,012,700	28,398,200

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