

CZECH REPUBLIC

Progress against the strategic objectives

The response to the needs of refugees from Ukraine has seen significant achievements across multiple sectors, driven by the collaborative efforts of various partners. These efforts have primarily focused on vulnerable groups such as adolescents, older refugees, single parents, and members of the LGBTIQ+ community, extending beyond urban centres to ensure comprehensive support. Notably, 110,000 individuals were reached under the RRP.

Partners focused efforts on supporting TP holders access decent housing and legal employment, as well as on preventing labour exploitation. More than 85,000 TP holders were supported in accessing protection services. Social and intercultural workers facilitated access to safe housing for vulnerable groups, including survivors of domestic violence and families with children. Research on the needs of older TP holders and barriers to transitioning from collective accommodation to standard housing identified specific challenges, which may lead to improved targeted support. Social, legal counselling and employment counselling programs have seen high engagement, helping TP holders access the labour market and integrate into the local economy. Partners have also engaged private companies to provide employment opportunities to TP holders.

RRP partners have been pivotal in providing health services and mental health support. More than 13,100 individuals participated in MHPSS services and activities, with over 4,600 TP holders receiving information on health topics, available services, and how to access healthcare through individual counselling sessions. Mental health initiatives included specialized support for TP holders with disabilities and those with cancer, as well as broader community mental health services. Partners support also included expanding primary healthcare centres, addressing multi-drug resistant tuberculosis and enhancing public health data management systems. Collaboration with the Institute for Post Graduate Medical Education facilitated the integration of Ukrainian healthcare professionals into the Czech health system.

Over 11,600 refugee children participated in non-formal education. The capacity of over 6,000 teachers and caregivers was strengthened through training on the academic and social inclusion of refugee children. Additionally, 435 Ukrainian and Czech teaching assistants passed the final exams of the qualification course. Mobile teams provided support and consultations on inclusive education approaches to 32 schools and/or their founders (municipalities). Projects such as “STRONG” and “e-Elektra” programs focused on the mental well-being and trauma-informed education for children and educators.¹ Further projects engaging young TP holders helped combat social isolation and foster self-development by inviting them to identify and pursue their interests, with digital skills courses being particularly popular.

¹ Online module on trauma-informed practices for professionals working with children is accessible at [e-Lektra - Society for all](#).

Projects on social cohesion included information campaigns that highlighted stories of successful refugee inclusion, showcasing personal narratives of resilience and achievement. These campaigns aimed to raise a positive outlook on the Ukrainian community, fostering empathy and understanding among local residents. Several partners also provided Czech language courses of different levels.

Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Housing has emerged as one of the most pressing issues. The demand for stable and affordable housing far exceeds available capacity, especially as the cost-free housing provision will be limited to 90 days after arrival from September 2024. Vulnerable groups, including older people and families with children, face the risk of losing their accommodation, underscoring the urgent need for sustainable housing solutions. Despite efforts to secure housing, the capacity remains insufficient to meet the growing demand, particularly for those who will lose access to free accommodation.

Employment barriers are another major challenge. Many refugees face difficulties in having their qualifications recognized, forcing them into lower-skilled jobs that do not utilize their full potential. Limited capacity at Labour Offices and language barriers further complicate access to employment support services. Efforts to engage private companies in providing employment to TP holders have been made, but challenges persist.

Legal challenges have also been noteworthy. While the TP Directive has been largely implemented, refugees from Ukraine who have previously applied for or were granted TP in another EU Member State are facing administrative barriers to accessing TP status in the Czech Republic. RRP partners have been supporting refugees facing this situation through legal assistance and by bringing individual cases before national courts, seeking compliance with relevant provisions of the TP Directive. The practice of national authorities will be reviewed by the EU Court of Justice of the EU as national courts initiated the preliminary ruling procedure.

Access to health services has been facilitated by intercultural workers who provide interpretation and communication assistance with healthcare providers. Without this support, many TP holders would struggle to access necessary health services. However, the shortage of general practitioners and paediatricians continues to hinder timely access to primary healthcare for children and adolescents, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to address this gap.

The integration of refugee children into the education system also presents difficulties. Efforts are needed to desegregate occasional segregated classes, with around 1,000 children still educated in Ukrainian-only classes. Barriers to integration include predominantly a lack of infrastructure. Additionally, many refugee youth face financial challenges, often working in the grey economy to support their families, which detracts from their education and skill-building opportunities.

Frequent changes to laws regarding rights of TP holders and widespread disinformation campaigns have created a challenging environment, complicating integration efforts. Moreover, securing sustainable funding

for ongoing projects remains a significant challenge, particularly for specialized programs for refugees with disabilities and older refugees, as well as MHPSS activities.

These challenges require coordinated, strategic, and sustained efforts from all partners involved to ensure effective support and integration of TP holders into the Czech society.

Advocacy message

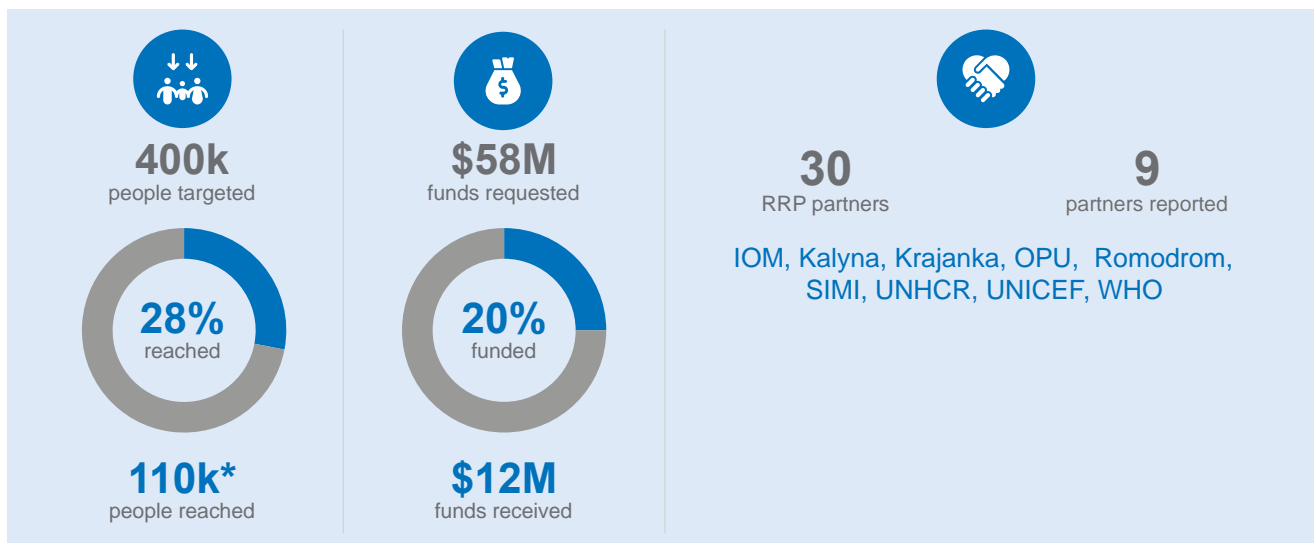
Vulnerable TP holders, such as older people, single parents, and individuals with disabilities, need targeted support to overcome systemic barriers. Investing in specialized services and comprehensive support systems will ensure their needs are met and promote their successful integration into society.

Ensuring stable and affordable housing for TP holders is essential for their successful integration. As increasing focus is placed on self-reliance, it is important to develop sustainable housing solutions. Supporting vulnerable groups, such as families with children and older people, is key to preventing TP holders from falling into income poverty and fostering social cohesion.

TP holders face barriers in entering the labour market, including challenges with qualifications recognition and limited language skills. To unlock their potential and foster economic integration, it's crucial to provide tailored employment support and improve recognition of foreign qualifications.



Refugee children playing in an early development childhood centre in Prague. ©UNICEF/Anton Filonenko



Sector		People reached
Protection	Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services	86k
	Children provided with child protection services	24k
	Participants trained on child protection and children's rights	150
	Individuals who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	27k
	Trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV Knowledge on Prevention, Response, and Risk Mitigation Measures	12
Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	2k
Health & Nutrition	Health consultations provided to refugees	2k
	Health care providers trained to provide health services to refugees	1k
	Individuals reached through counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services, and how to access health care	5k
Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)	Focused and specialized services MHPSS consultations provided	6k
	Individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	13k
Education	Children enrolled in formal education in host countries	48k
	Children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	12k
Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)	PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	51
Basic Needs	Individuals who received assistance for basic needs	4k

*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.