



CZECH REPUBLIC

April – June 2023

The Czech Republic remains one of the key destination countries for refugees from Ukraine. In total, over 530,000 Ukrainians were granted Temporary Protection status in the country by the end of June 2023, and almost 350,000 had an active status by that time. While new arrivals continue to be registered at an average rate of around 2,000 per week and emergency needs remain, the response is increasingly shifting to inclusion efforts and longer-term support while prioritizing the needs of vulnerable individuals requiring additional protection and assistance.

In the second quarter of 2023, changes to the legislative framework for Ukrainian refugees were implemented in the response. The amendments, effective from April 1 and July 1, 2023, aligned refugee assistance with national levels, resulting in time limitations for free emergency accommodation and reduced humanitarian benefits covering basic living costs. Additionally, allowances for refugees staying with homeowners were directly transferred to refugees themselves.

RRP partners, along with the National Coordinator for Adaptation and Integration of Refugees from Ukraine, who assumed the co-chair position in the Refugee Coordination Forum, engaged in a collaborative effort with UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, and government departments to identify and address the impact of changes to the humanitarian benefits, in particular for the most vulnerable categories of refugees, to promote further the support to socio-economic inclusion of refugees in the Czech Republic.

KEY FIGURES*

5.91 M

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe
(as of 30 June)

530 K

Total number of TP granted in the Czech Republic
(24 February 2022 - 25 June 2023)

348 K

Active TP holders in the Czech Republic
(as of 25 June)

47%

of TP holders in the Czech Republic are women
(as of 25 June)

27%

of TP holders in the Czech Republic are children
(as of 25 June)

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

USD 1.69 B

Overall financial requirements

25%

Overall percent funded

USD 82 M

Czech Republic financial requirements

15%

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

From April to June 2023, the Czech Republic continued the second phase of re-registering refugees from Ukraine with Temporary Protection, lasting until September and requiring refugees to visit the Ministry of Interior's centers in person to maintain their status.. The first phase, an electronic application for TP extension, was completed in March, providing a more accurate estimate of refugees in the country, considering some had returned to Ukraine or moved elsewhere since the conflict escalated in February 2022. As of 25 June, the total number of TP holders in the Czech Republic was 347,750 out of which 253,729 applied for the TP extension online and also attended a physical appointment for verification. The remainder either needs to go through the verification process or has arrived recently and therefore does not need to apply for an extension.

The fifth amendment to Lex Ukraine in the Czech Republic, governing assistance to refugees, introduced important changes in the humanitarian benefits of refugees from the Government side. Free emergency accommodation is now limited to 150 days, except for vulnerable individuals. The allowance for housing refugees in private properties has been discontinued, with the state compensating housing costs directly for refugees with no or very low income (ranging from \$111 to \$139 per month). The humanitarian benefit, covering basic living needs, now stands at the Living Minimum (\$225) for the first 150 days after granting temporary protection. After this period, the benefit will be assessed based on the refugee's income and may be tied to the Subsistence Minimum (\$145), except for vulnerable refugees.

On June 20, World Refugee Day was observed in Prague with the Young Refugee Awards, under the personal patronage of Mr. Mikuláš Bek, the Minister of Education, Youth, and Sports. A total of 20 refugee children from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Myanmar, Syria, and Ukraine, actively engaged in local schools and communities in the Czech Republic, were recognized and honored. The Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports hosted the ceremony, attended by the awardees' families, and representatives from institutions and organizations supporting refugees in the country. The event also saw the participation of officials from the Ministry of the Interior, the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of Interior, and UN agencies.



Prague, 20 June. Twenty young refugees between the ages of 9 and 19 received the UNHCR award on World Refugee Day. @UNHCR/Petr Vrabec.

Sectoral Achievements



Protection, Child Protection, and Gender-Based Violence

Achievements and Impact

- RRP partners provided protection services, including information on services and refugees' rights, integrated protection case management, legal assistance, and protection assistance for vulnerable individuals and refugees at risk to more than 107,000 refugees, since the beginning of the year.
- Additionally, nearly 91,000 children received child protection services, such as family reunification and alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children, referrals to specialized services, and individual child protection case management. Community-based and recreational child protection services were also provided, along with a dedicated communication campaign. Over 1,000 humanitarian and government staff were trained on child protection and children's rights.
- Nearly 18,000 refugees were engaged through community outreach and prevention activities on gender-based violence risks.

- Examples of RRP partners' activities:
 - UNHCR conducted extensive protection monitoring, focus group discussions, and social media monitoring among refugees. The findings indicated that accessing Temporary Protection (TP) and mainstream integration services presented fewer challenges. However, there was an increased demand for counseling, specifically regarding humanitarian assistance, public services, and protection from exploitation and abuse. Addressing misinformation and trafficking concerns became a major area of concern. Consequently, UNHCR took measures to enhance communication with refugees, provided information through trusted channels, and collaborated with NGOs to identify and assist individuals with specific needs, addressing legal status and rights barriers through outreach and community activities. UNHCR, along with its partners, offered protection services in the areas of inclusion, social protection, and legal aid to refugees from Ukraine to over 7,300 refugees. Additionally, 3,751 refugees received psychosocial support, and 224 aid workers underwent training on core protection principles.
 - IOM rolled out an awareness campaign in collaboration with partner organizations to inform refugees about the TP legal aspects and available services. They also emphasized potential risks such as trafficking, abuse, and violence, offering prevention measures and referral contacts. Through various communication channels, the campaign reached 94,353 individuals by June 30. IOM also provided personalized legal and socio-economic/protection consultations to 1,056 individuals through offline and online channels over three months. To address the impact of Lex Ukraine V, the infoline's operating hours were extended. A [report](#) was released on the refugees' needs to enhance the analysis of the needs and risks of refugees in the Pilsen and Karlovy Vary regions.
 - UNICEF supported over 1,200 refugee children with individual case management. 319 unaccompanied and separated children were identified, and 194 Ukrainian Roma refugees were provided with social services and mental health and psychosocial support. Over 4,100 refugee women and children were provided with access to gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response interventions, and 1,039 professionals were trained in child's rights. Over 8,500 refugees benefited from services in education, health, housing, child and social protection in the City of Prague and coordination mechanisms in 6 regions were strengthened through the engagement of regional coordinators. UNICEF also supported over 111,000 refugee children and caregivers with community-based psychosocial support.



@UNICEF Czechia.



@IOM Czechia. Ukrainian refugees at the community support center.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The changes to the accommodation and benefits system for TP beneficiaries in the Czech Republic introduced through the lex Ukraine V, aimed to foster refugees' self-sufficiency by encouraging labor market participation and freeing up accommodation for potential new arrivals, could nonetheless lead to challenges like housing shortages, increased vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking, and strains on services and infrastructure in urban centers, particularly Prague. Additionally, terminating free emergency accommodation might impact mixed families with vulnerable members. Some TP holders may consider returning to Ukraine or seeking onward movements in response to these changes.
- Refugees with visas or temporary protection in another EU country and family in Czechia may struggle to obtain temporary protection or tolerated status. This can leave them without valid residence permits, hindering access to essential services like education.
- Supporting vulnerable children and families, including unaccompanied and separated refugee children and Ukrainian Romani refugees, poses challenges due to a fragmented child protection system and numerous actors involved at central and local levels.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports reported that 51,281 refugee children were enrolled in the formal education system in the Czech Republic (data as of April). 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 over 5,200 children, which included Czech language courses, children's groups, and other learning activities in support of school participation of refugee children.
- Exemple of partners' activities: with UNICEF's support, over 48,400 refugee children accessed formal/non-formal education, including early learning, and 1,453 children received learning materials. The capacity of 2,028 teachers, teaching assistants, caregivers, and other staff was strengthened through various trainings aimed at both academic and social integration of refugee children, including classroom management and assessment of children with different mother tongues, communication with parents, and enhanced teaching of Czech language as a foreign language. The training also covered MHPSS and trauma-informed practices.



@UNICEF/2023

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Despite increased school enrollment among refugees, many Ukrainian refugee children still lack learning opportunities, particularly at kindergarten and secondary school levels.
- Limited Czech language classes and materials hinder integration, especially for adolescents and refugees in collective sites. School bullying remains a concerning issue, impacting well-being and integration, with few but publicly reported incidents adding to community tensions.



Health and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Over 43,000 refugees were supported in accessing health services by RRP partners.
- In partnership with the Czech AIDS Help Society (CSAP), WHO provided comprehensive support to Ukrainian refugees with HIV and at risk for it. Educational materials were distributed, and street work is conducted in high-risk communities. Over 200 general practitioners were offered to initiate HIV self-testing, and 187 agreed to participate. Preventive and counseling services reached 5,000 refugees, including 900 who received counseling through mobile teams. Access to HIV treatment was facilitated for 25 refugees, including some without insurance.
- WHO partnered with the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic (UZIS) to implement immunization indicators in the e-Surveillance System, with a focus on improving reporting of Acute Respiratory Infections and Influenza-like Illness (ARI/ILI) by General Practitioners (GPs) and on enhancing the surveillance system for ARI, ILI, and COVID-19 at the National Public Health Institute (SZU). These efforts enable close monitoring of disaggregated information, including the status of Ukrainian refugees with temporary protection, and aid in preventing potential outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- UNICEF supported access to primary health care services to 34,855 women and children, including over 26,000 refugees, and vaccination to 5,016 children up to 15 years. 50 Ukrainian and 29 Romani health mediators were trained and implemented health programs for Ukrainian and Roma refugees in 14 regions. 800 Ukrainian doctors and nurses were supported with the accreditation process through intensive preparation courses on the Czech health system and Czech language courses.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WHO and National Association of Patient Organizations (NAPO) are collaborating to improve health awareness for Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic. An analysis of communication channels used by UA refugees revealed health information gaps. Only 14% Ukrainian refugees reported no healthcare system difficulties. Targeted communication and support for finding healthcare providers are needed to enhance healthcare access.
- The shortage of general practitioners (GPs) and pediatricians is a persistent problem for Ukrainian refugees and the host population. This requires a systematic approach involving multiple partners. Long waiting times for healthcare access and the lack of coverage for medical costs are also challenges, particularly for adults with temporary protection.
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Basic Needs, Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Achievements and Impact

- Over 5,000 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.
- UNHCR signed a cooperation agreement with the Czech Ministry of the Interior to support local municipalities and enhance their activities in inclusion and social cohesion. Through this channel, UNHCR supports 19 municipalities covering regions with a higher number of refugees and/or with specific integration challenges and provides a broad range of integration activities will be implemented including language lessons, after-school clubs, and summer camps for refugee children, public events, social counseling, information provision and awareness rising socio-cultural courses, or community activities. Furthermore, UNHCR provided the Czech Refugee Facilities Administration with 3,186 hygiene kits for refugees' basic sanitation to support the national response.
- UNICEF: 18 regional integration centers and one community center participated in a co-creation workshop with youth to design a standard model for youth-friendly spaces for roll-out across the country. 5,100 youth participated in buddy programs, non-formal education, MHPSS and co-creation activities.
- In April, IOM launched a project to boost the capabilities of organizations and individuals supporting Ukrainian refugees outside Prague. An 8-day training covered housing, interpretation, adaptation, integration, intercultural work, security, and sexual exploitation and abuse prevention. At least 80 organizations will be engaged, serving over 8,000 beneficiaries by year-end. During the monitored period, 1,327 beneficiaries (1,040 women) received professional social and intercultural services. Above this, social cohesion events were organized in Pilsen and Hradec Králové regions, with 152 Ukrainian refugees engaged.



@IOM Czechia – Info session.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Organizations assisting refugees may face funding difficulties in implementing planned inclusion activities under the RRP. Some partners are having to reduce or discontinue Cash-Based Interventions (CBI), and phase out emergency or general support to Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic. This reduction in support may negatively impact the social and economic well-being of refugees, limiting their access to essential services, particularly for the most vulnerable.
- Furthermore, many refugees are hesitant to actively engage in inclusion activities designed for them, as they hold optimistic hopes of returning to Ukraine in the near future.
- Limited accommodation options exist outside of hostels provided by companies and employment agencies, which can create challenges for refugees who want to find alternative housing since their work and accommodation are interconnected.



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

- Under the auspices of the RCF, an interagency PSEA Task Force (TF) was formally established in May, with agreed-upon terms of reference. Capacity building of humanitarian personnel and actors involved in the response, strengthened community engagement around key messaging and support to partners in the context of PSEA assessment processes remain the main interagency priorities. The TF convened a discussion to brainstorm around context-appropriate targeted PSEA community messaging -common messages will now be developed. UNHCR developed Multilanguage PSEA awareness material (posters and flyers) which was disseminated and made available online and to its partners. In May, the TF organized a meeting focusing on SEA-sensitive HR vetting and recruitment practices was held in May and a legal assessment on pre-employment background checks in the Czech context was finalized by a legal firm and presented to partners by the Task Force. As of mid-2023, over 500 PSEA TF members and partner personnel was trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention, and response.



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

- RRP partners are integrating Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) into protection and child protection activities as a crosscutting priority in the refugee response in the Czech Republic. MHPSS support includes focused counseling and community-based psychosocial activities.
- Additionally, WHO and partners offered 1,600+ direct MHPSS services to Ukrainian refugees in Czechia. This included counseling, case management, and community-based support through social activities, aided by multidisciplinary teams and Ukrainian specialists. Furthermore, UNICEF facilitated cross-sectoral MHPSS interventions for vulnerable refugee children, fostering cooperation among professionals from various sectors in partnership with ministries, municipalities, and NGOs nationwide
- In partnership with WHO, the Society for All (SOFA) created an online child trauma care course to raise awareness and offer a sensitive approach to traumatized children, scheduled for completion by the end of 2023. Collaborating with UNICEF, SOFA further reinforced MHPSS interventions and community-based support for at-risk refugee children and through training, webinars, events, and interdisciplinary discussions, 168 professionals enhanced their expertise in integrated MHPSS services.



@WHO. TRIGON Association in Ostrava regions: providing mental health support to UA refugees: celebration of children's day; speech therapy session, self-help support activities.

- WHO, in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health (NUDZ), maintains a GIS map of psychosocial services for Ukrainian refugees in Czechia (<https://mapa.nudz.cz>), encompassing 389 locations. A campaign promoting help-seeking behavior among Ukrainians has led to 15,000 views and up to 60 daily visitors for the Ukrainian version of the map. This resource significantly aids in delivering mental health support to Ukrainian refugees. UNICEF and NUDZ supported the development and implementation of an MHPSS training program for Ukrainian teachers and parents. This initiative is currently being progressively introduced nationwide, positively impacting 462 professionals.
- The provision of support and treatment for psychiatric and psychological care faces challenges due to stigmatization. Including Ukrainian specialists in the teams approaching communities in their residential settings and targeting areas with higher Ukrainian population concentrations have been effective. Improving communication through social media channels is recommended, as demand-creation campaigns are essential to encourage health-seeking behavior and enhance Ukrainian refugees' access to and understanding of the Czech healthcare system.



@UNHCR Zolt Balla. Neurogymnastics session for older refugees in Prague, implemented by Amiga.

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 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. 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. 52 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 | Klubíčko 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](#)