

# Czech Republic

September 2023

The Czech Republic remains among the **primary destinations for refugees from Ukraine**, with one of the largest populations per capita. The Czech Republic has adopted a whole-of-society approach.

While new arrivals continue and urgent needs remain, the response is increasingly shifting towards **inclusion and longer-term support**, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable individuals.

UNHCR works with partners to ensure that persons of all nationalities seeking international protection in the country have full **access to territory and to asylum procedures**.

## UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023)\*

Refugees	<b>351,354</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>1,046</b>
Stateless people	<b>1,579</b>
Others of concern	<b>537</b>

### Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	<b>348,710</b>	Unknown	<b>316</b>
Russian Federation	<b>533</b>	Ukraine	<b>140</b>
Syrian Arab Republic	<b>346</b>	Russian Federation	<b>100</b>

\*UNHCR 2023 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 26 September, **371,980** refugees from Ukraine were recorded in the Czech Republic.

**Protection assistance:** With amendments to the entitlements for Ukrainian refugees introduced in the second quarter of 2023, including free accommodation, UNHCR and partners scaled up legal and social counselling outreach, particularly for those requiring additional protection support. UNHCR also advocates for decisions to return to Ukraine to be well-informed and made without inducement for premature returns.

**Support to the most vulnerable:** UNHCR has expanded its outreach and engagement with refugee communities, including community-level mental health and psychosocial support, resilience-building, education programs, and tailored legal aid. Special attention is paid to groups at heightened risk, including children, youth and women. An inter-agency Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was also established.

**Coordination:** Along with the Office of the Government, UNHCR co-chairs the Refugee Coordination Forum, bringing together stakeholders supporting the national refugee response, including sectoral ministries, institutions and UN agencies).

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Partnership with the Ministry of Interior

In partnership with the Czech Ministry of Interior, established in the second quarter of 2023, UNHCR supports 19 municipalities in regions with high refugee populations and/or specific integration programmes. The projects focus on strengthening inclusion and fostering peaceful coexistence with host communities, through activities such as language courses, community activities or public events.

### Refugees provided with protection services and psychosocial support

Between January - July 2023, UNHCR and partners provided protection services (integration, legal support, social protection, awareness-raising sessions) to 8,482 refugees from Ukraine and 944 from other countries. In addition, 4,874 refugees from Ukraine received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and psychological first aid.



### YOUNG REFUGEE AWARDS

They fled from conflict and persecution in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Myanmar, Syria and Ukraine. Now they are actively involved in schools and local communities in the Czech Republic. On World Refugee Day 2023, **20 young refugees received awards from UNHCR** for their exceptional achievements at school and in extracurricular activities, and for their dedication to helping others. To commemorate these young refugees, an event was held in Prague on 20 June under the auspices of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Mikuláš Bek, where 20 young refugees aged 9 to 19 received awards.

## Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR collaborates with the government, local authorities, and partners to ensure all refugees and asylum-seekers have the information they need to realize their rights, that national systems are equipped to receive them, and that the most vulnerable can receive additional support depending on their specific needs.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR works with partners to ensure that persons of all nationalities seeking international protection in the Czech Republic have full access to the territory, including monitoring at Prague Airport.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR works with partners to ensure that persons of all nationalities seeking international protection in the Czech Republic are provided with legal assistance, including information, counselling and representation, and to prevent instances of refoulement.
- **Gender-based violence (GBV):** UNHCR and partners continue with efforts to promote effective protection and targeted assistance for individuals at heightened risk — particularly for survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation — through provision of information, counselling, referrals and trainings. GBV referral pathways are also being developed to support response mechanisms.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR supports greater local-level support for refugee inclusion and peaceful co-existence with the hosting community. Grants for integration activities to targeted municipalities facilitate this process outside Prague.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR encourages the participation and inclusion of refugee communities, organizations, and volunteers in the refugee response, including through small grants provided to refugee-led organizations.

## Working with Partners

- To respond to the needs of people fleeing Ukraine, as well as other refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR works with six partners, namely: the Agency for Migration and Adaptation, La Strada, Organization for Aid to Refugees, Romodrom, Association for Integration and Migration, and Slovo 21.
- UNHCR collaborates with governmental partners, including the Ministry of Interior through co-funding the grant program for integration at the municipal level, as well as with the Refugee Facilities Administration and the Office of the Ombudsperson to ensure that people in need of international protection can benefit from a favourable protection environment in the Czech Republic.

## Statelessness

- The Czech Republic has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness.
- An amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals, aiming to improve the statelessness procedure and several additional procedural guarantees, was approved by the Czech Parliament in June 2023, and came into force in July.
- As of 31 July 2023, according to the Czech Ministry of the Interior, there were 388 stateless persons permanently residing in the country, with an additional 84 stateless persons on temporary stay.

## UNHCR Presence in the Czech Republic

### Staff:

8 National Staff  
3 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Country Office in Prague

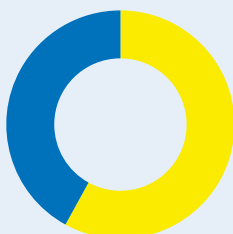
## Financial information (September 2023)\*

\* Information relates to UNHCR's Representation for Central Europe, which covers the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

### Financial requirements

\$ 55.4 M

Funding gap 42%  
\$ 23.4 M



Funded 58%  
\$ 32 M

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