

Czech Republic

February 2024

The Czech Republic remains among the **main destinations for refugees from Ukraine**, hosting the highest number per capita among EU countries. While new arrivals continue, the response is increasingly shifting towards inclusion.

The Czech Republic has adopted a **whole-of-society approach**, with collaboration between the government, local authorities, international organizations, civil society partners, the private sector, and refugee communities.

In **support of the Czech government's response**, UNHCR protection interventions have ensured information and legal aid, support for integration, MHPSS, and psychological first aids

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023)*

Refugees	351,338
Asylum-seekers	1,046
Stateless people	1,577
Others of concern	537

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	348,710	Ukraine	140
Russian Federation	533	Russian Federation	100
Syrian Arab Rep.	346	Afghanistan	50

*UNHCR mid-2023 Trends and UNHCR data finder

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 15 February 2024, **381,400** refugees from Ukraine were recorded in the Czech Republic.

Legal monitoring: UNHCR monitors legislative and policy amendments which impact refugees' ability to access protection and rights. Amendments to temporary protection procedures and entitlements were introduced in July 2023 and in January 2024. UNHCR informs Ukrainian refugees about the related changes through its Help [webpage](#).

Protection response: In the period August - December 2023, UNHCR and partners provided protection services (information and free legal aid, integration-related support) to 10,829 refugees from Ukraine. In addition, 3,916 received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and psychological first aid.

Support to the most vulnerable: UNHCR has expanded its outreach with refugee communities, including community-level MHPSS, resilience-building, education programs, and tailored legal aid. Special attention is paid to groups at heightened risk, including women and children.

HIGHLIGHTS

Conference with Municipalities

In partnership with the Ministry of Interior, UNHCR organized a thematic conference in November 2023 bringing together over 100 participants from municipalities and state authorities, providing a platform to exchange good practices on inclusive and participatory approaches, and identify opportunities for improvements in the way refugees are assisted by municipalities, while contributing to local development and social cohesion.

Cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsperson

In collaboration with the Office of the Ombudsperson, UNHCR organized two seminars for frontline workers as part of the Ukraine situation response. In 2024, UNHCR will continue joint activities with the Ombudsman's Office in the area of protection and promotion of human rights, collaborating in training activities on the exercise of human rights by asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless persons.

Refugee Facilities Administration collaboration

In January 2024, expanded cooperation with the Czech Analytical Unit of the Refugee Facilities Administration (RFA) on quantitative and qualitative data collection was agreed.



© Jana Plavec/Cena UNHCR, Czech Press Photo

The Czech Press Photo Awards

Among hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians forced to flee their homes and searching for a safe haven in the Czech Republic, several dozen **Ukrainian foster families found refuge in the city of Havířov**. A series of pictures by photographer Jana Plavec, depicting these families with children won the UNHCR Prize in the Czech Press Photo 2023 competition. The prize is awarded annually as part of the Czech Press Photo competition by UNHCR.

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR collaborates with 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 in line with their specific needs.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR works with partners to ensure that people of all nationalities seeking international protection in the Czech Republic have access to the territory, providing information and legal aid to asylum-seekers including at Prague Airport, while working to prevent instances of refoulement.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR works with partners to ensure that persons of all nationalities seeking international protection in the Czech Republic are provided with assistance, including information, counselling and representation during asylum procedures.
- **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 host communities. 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 seven partners: the Agency for Migration and Adaptation, Association for Integration and Migration, La Strada, Organization for Aid to Refugees, proFem, Romodrom, 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 was approved by the Czech Parliament in June 2023 and came into force in July, to regulate statelessness determination procedures.
- As of 31 December 2023, there were 383 stateless persons permanently residing in the country, with an additional 78 stateless persons on temporary stay (source: Ministry of Interior).

UNHCR Presence in the Czech Republic

Staff:

14 National Staff
4 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Prague

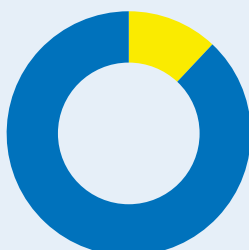
Financial information* (31 January 2024)

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

Financial requirements for 2024

\$ 48 M

Funding gap 88%
\$ 42.3 M



Funded 12%
\$ 5.6 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors:

Australia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United States of America

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.