

PROTECTION BRIEF

CZECHIA

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2024

Operational Context

Based on the number of Ukrainian refugees who applied for an extension of Temporary Protection in 2024 and new arrivals registered during the year, the figures of active Temporary Protection holders registered in Czechia were updated to **389,263** people as of **31 December 2024** (71% are women and children), compared to 373,745 at the end of 2023 (source: Ministry of the Interior).

As part of a regional Protection Profiling and Monitoring exercise, UNHCR collects and analyses on a quarterly basis data about the profiles, protection risks, and needs of refugees from Ukraine, through individual interviews and focus group discussions with diverse groups.

This report is based on the analysis of **432 Protection Monitoring interviews** conducted in 14 regions in Czechia and findings from focus group discussions conducted by UNHCR with refugees from Ukraine between October and December 2024.



432

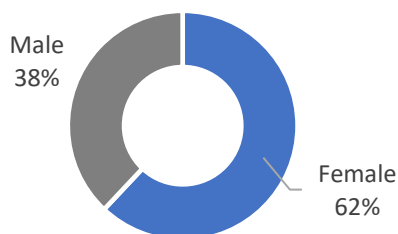
of respondents



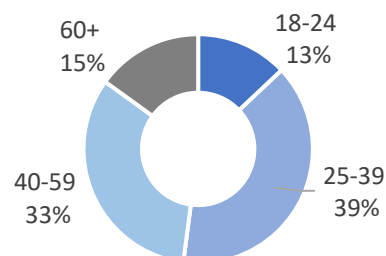
1,100

of household members

Respondents' gender



Respondents' age groups



Data from Protection Monitoring interviews is complemented by findings from 44 Participatory Assessments with Ukrainian refugees conducted by UNHCR, with the support of partners, between January and December 2024.

Key Figures

389,263

Temporary Protection holders registered in
Czechia

71%

are women and children

97%

of respondents are Temporary Protection
holders

26%

identified information about legal status as
the most urgent information need

63%

of working age respondents are employed
in Czechia (59% are employed in person and
4% remotely)

34%

consider employment as their highest priority
need

29%

consider accommodation as their second
highest priority need

10%

of households have at least one child who is
not registered for education

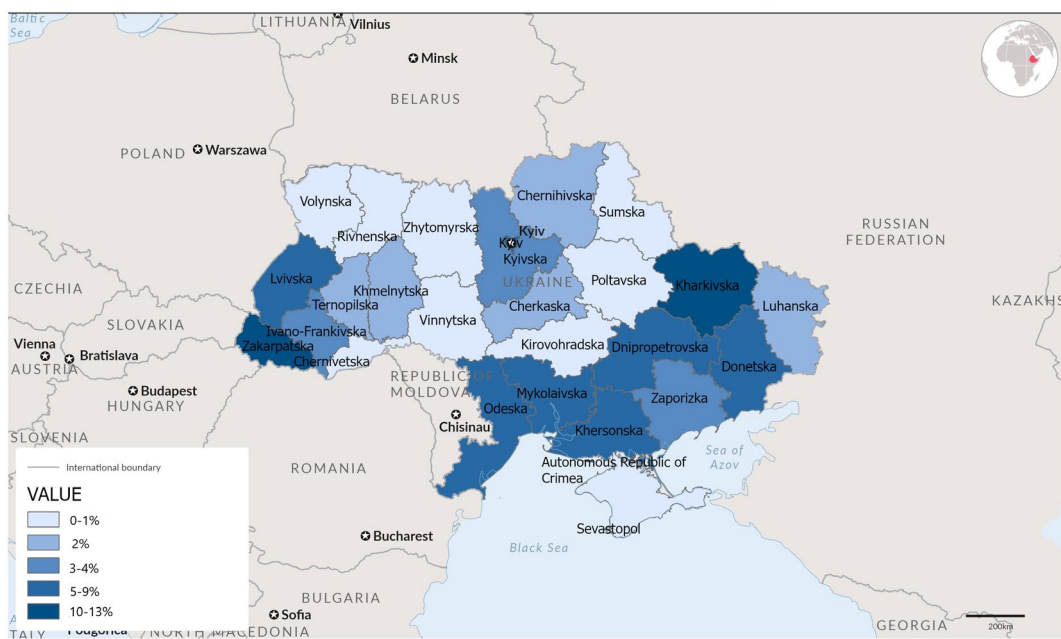
Profiles of respondents

Out of 432 respondents, 12% of them are new arrivals who left Ukraine in 2024, 53% are female and 47% are male, as compared to 38% of respondents being male overall. Among male new arrivals, 44% are single adults. The average age of respondents arrived in 2024 was 35 (specifically, 36 for men, 34 for women), as compared to 41 for respondents overall (41 being the average age for both men and women).

21% of respondents arrived during 2024 originate from Zakarpatska oblast in Western Ukraine, followed by respondents coming from Eastern Ukraine, respectively 13% from Kharkivska and 11% from Dnipropetrovska oblasts, both some of the most war-affected regions.



Oblasts of origin of Protection Monitoring respondents in Q4



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
 Printing date: 16 Jan 2025 Sources: UNCS, UNHCR Author: UNHCR

Access to Temporary Protection for new arrivals (2024) was higher for female respondents (96% were granted TP), than for male respondents (88%). In addition, 50% of male arrivals reported facing difficulties during the Temporary Protection application, compared to 33% for female respondents. For male new arrivals, difficulties faced were related to lack of documents (58%), lack of information (42%), and other difficulties including denies access (17%), difficulties accessing procedures (17%), difficulties accessing registration points (17%), long wait (17%), registration in another EU Member State (8%), and other reasons (8%).¹ In addition, information needs on legal status among respondents were higher for male new arrivals (28%) than for female (7%).

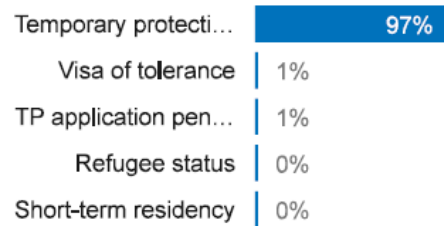
¹ Multiple responses were possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added.

Protection Risks and Needs

As part of a regional Protection Profiling and Monitoring exercise, UNHCR collects and analyses on a quarterly basis data about the profiles, protection risks, and needs of refugees from Ukraine in Czechia, through individual interviews and focus group discussions with diverse groups. The key findings are highlighted below.

Protection Risk I

Access to Temporary Protection (TP): 97% of the respondents (421 individuals) are holders of Temporary Protection in Czechia. Only less than 1% (three individuals) were waiting for a decision to their Temporary Protection application, while 1% had a 'visa of tolerance' (5 individuals).

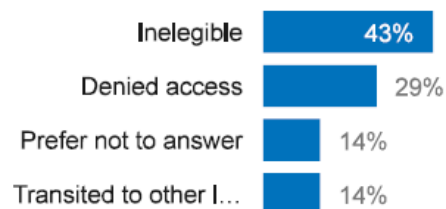


26% of respondents identified **information about legal status** as the most urgent information need.

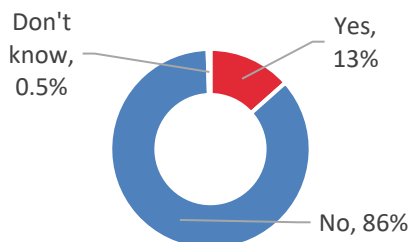
This is most likely explained by the fact that the new amendment to Lex Ukraine (*Lex Ukraine VII*) is pending approval, raising uncertainty in relation to the extension of Temporary Protection for refugees from Ukraine, which is currently due to end in March 2025. It is expected that *Lex Ukraine VII* will be adopted by the end of January 2025, allowing for extension procedures to be launched prolonging the validity of Temporary Protection until March 2026.

Among those who did not apply for Temporary Protection (8 individuals), three were not eligible, two were denied access to the procedure, one transitioned to another legal status, while one preferred not to answer. The legislation in Czechia does not allow Ukrainian nationals who were applicants or holders of Temporary Protection in another EU Member State to obtain Temporary Protection in Czechia.

Top reasons for not applying for temporary protection**



Are you or any of your household members missing any documents, which have been needed since your departure from Ukraine?

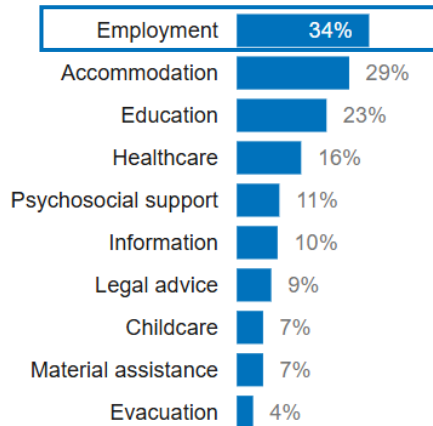


Access to documentation: With respect to identity documents, there has been a decrease of 10% in respondents since September who have reported at least one household member not having documentation or holding expired documents (from 24% to 14%). The main type of missing document was an international passport (64%) and the most common reason for the inability to renew or replace the missing or expired document was the inability to update military registration data (60%) or unavailability of service in Czechia (30%). 48% of households with missing documents indicated being impacted by this, most often by not being able to move freely or to access basic services.

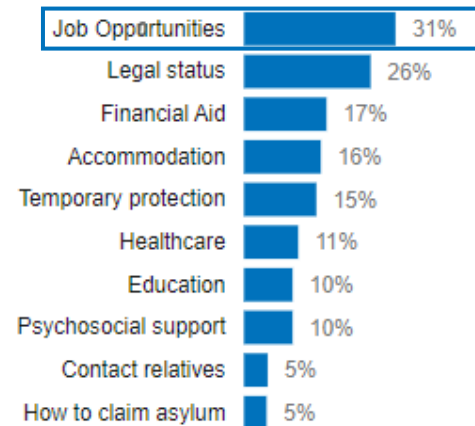
Protection Risk II

Access to decent work: Employment continued to be mentioned as the top priority (34% of respondents). Moreover, in terms of information, 31% of respondents indicated a need for more information about job opportunities; this continued to be the highest reported information need.²

Most urgent needs

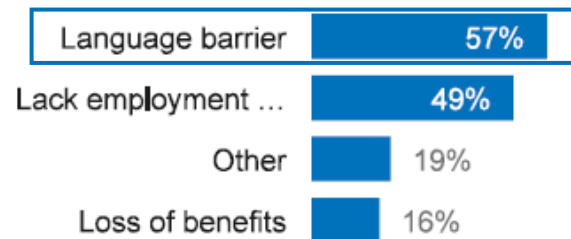


Information needs *



The key barriers to accessing work, according to respondents who are unemployed (9%), is a lack of knowledge of the Czech language (57%), followed by a lack of employment opportunities (49%).³ More than half of respondents (56%) consider themselves overqualified for their current job position highlighting a common issue amongst Ukrainian refugees. This figure rises to 62% in the case of female respondents.

Barriers to accessing employment *



Data from Protection Monitoring shows that :

- **21%** of respondents reported working excessively long hours;
- **10%** reported not having a formal contract with their employer;
- **9%** reported not having regular access or only partial access to their earnings;
- **3%** reported their identity documents have been collected and kept by their employer.

In addition, 9% reported living in employer-provided housing. To mitigate risks of trafficking and exploitation facing refugees from Ukraine, UNHCR in collaboration with partners organise targeted awareness raising activities and outreach, including information on access to the anti-trafficking SOS Line managed by UNHCR's partner La Strada, provide information and counselling on employment and labour rights, to support national efforts.

² Multiple responses were possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added.

³ Multiple responses were possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added.

Out of the working age respondents, 6% are identified as students. Concerning school age students, **10% of households had at least one child not registered for education in Czechia**; the reasons being that 50% prefer online education, 33% do not have school places available, 17% experience language barriers, 17% are not planning to stay, and 17% for other reasons. Findings from Protection Monitoring interviews highlighted education as the third highest priority need (23%).

UNHCR is providing free access to complementary skills development training and higher education courses through the **Coursera platform**, which is available to Ukrainian refugees in Czechia amongst others.

As of December 2024, over 560 Ukrainian learners have joined Coursera with over 400 actively enrolled in courses. Courses are available in a wide range of disciplines, including supporting upskilling and re-training to increase employability.

This initiative complements other ongoing activities aimed at building the self-reliance of Ukrainian refugees, including the UNICEF-led Cesty programme.

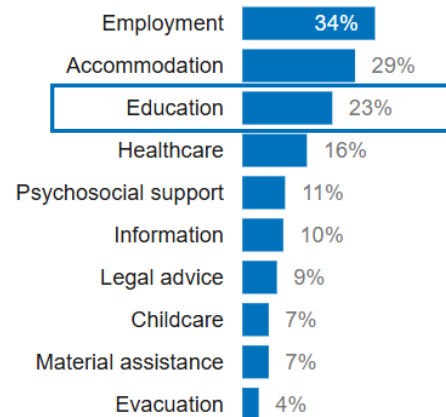


Protection Risk III

Access to adequate housing: Findings highlighted accommodation as the second highest priority need (29%).⁴

Among respondents living in collective accommodation facilities, this figure rose to 44% and is reported to be the top priority. Some 12% of respondents living in collective facilities accommodation provided that they had to leave their accommodation within three months. Two-thirds indicated that their departure was due to their accommodation being closed, while one-third reporting not being able to afford paying rent to remain. 31% do not know how long they can stay in their collective accommodation, highlighting the ongoing challenge of housing instability. In line with the recommendations from the [UNHCR-IOM assessment](#) with Ukrainian refugees in collective accommodation facilities, UNHCR's partners continued to provide counselling and social support to affected residents.

Most urgent needs



Around 62% of respondents live in rented accommodation with 91% possessing a rental contract. The information and awareness-raising sessions organised by UNHCR's partners have highlighted the importance of rental contracts and associated rights, while guidance developed by partners on renting accommodation in Czechia seeks to support refugees in finding safe accommodation. In 2024, UNHCR's partners have conducted 2,069 individual counselling sessions with Ukrainian refugees, including on housing.

⁴ Multiple responses were possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added.

Advocacy & Action Points

UNHCR and partners will continue to share identified needs and to support the national response:

- Continue to provide tailor-made and targeted information and counselling for Ukrainian refugees on registering for Temporary Protection and the criteria delimiting eligibility in Czechia, as well as on finding accommodation, accessing the labour market, and attending school.
- Continue to provide information for refugees on employment rights including the availability of individual legal counselling provided by UNHCR partners, refugee-led organizations and other actors to prevent and mitigate the risks of labour exploitation and trafficking, in support of national efforts. Continue to share information on accessing complaint and/or reporting mechanisms.
- Continue to provide targeted support to refugees residing in employer-provided housing. This support may include monitoring employment and housing conditions, assessing needs, and providing information on rights.
- Continue to provide counselling and social support to refugees residing in collective accommodation facilities, including those transitioning to private housing. Support, in particular to vulnerable refugees, could include the provision of information by facilities to residents on their possibilities to continue to reside in the facilities, enabling the making of informed decisions on housing and needs for tailored social support.
- Continue to advocate with refugee communities on the importance of children enrolling in the national education system.

Previous Briefs and UNHCR Dashboard

PROTECTION BRIEF CZECHIA
Operational Context

Based on the number of refugees who applied for an extension of Temporary Protection in 2024 (320,000), the figures of Temporary Protection holders in Czechia, including new arrivals, were updated to **338,736** people as of 31 March 2024, compared to 370,743 at the end of Q3 2023 (source: Ministry of the Interior).

In January 2024, the UNHCR was awarded to extend Temporary Protection until March 2025. Changes introduced include an adjustment of the initial level of humanitarian benefits, maintaining support for the most vulnerable individuals, and the reduction of cost-free accommodation for all new arrivals from 102 to 90 days.

This report presents an overview of refugees' demographic profiles and displacement patterns, as well as main findings regarding protection risks, priority needs and intentions of refugees from Ukraine in Czechia. The analysis is based on 487 Protection Monitoring Interviews and findings from focus group discussions with refugees from Ukraine across the country in the first quarter of 2024.

Key Figures

338,736	320,000
Temporary Protection holders in Czechia	among whom have registered for an extension
92%	75%
of Protection Monitoring respondents are Temporary Protection holders	of respondents are women and children
32%	39%
of respondents have at least one household member meeting accommodation or welfare difficulties (have requests)	Consider accommodation an urgent need

Czechia Protection Monitoring Brief #1 (January - March 2024)

PROTECTION BRIEF CZECHIA
APRIL - JUNE 2024
Operational Context

Based on the number of Ukrainian refugees who applied for an extension of Temporary Protection in 2024 (320,000), the figures of Temporary Protection holders in Czechia, including new arrivals, were updated to **360,524** people as of 30 June 2024, compared to 373,743 at the end of 2023 (source: Ministry of the Interior).

This report presents an overview of refugees' demographic profiles, as well as main findings regarding protection risks and priority needs of refugees from Ukraine in Czechia. The brief is based on the analysis of 1,213 Protection Monitoring Interviews and findings from focus group discussions conducted by UNHCR with refugees from Ukraine across the country in the second quarter of 2024.

Key Figures

360,524	96%
Temporary Protection holders in Czechia	of Protection Monitoring respondents are Temporary Protection holders
72%	29%
of respondents and their household members are women and children	consider accommodation as their highest priority need
66%	35%
mentioned difficulties finding work in Czechia	need more information about job opportunities

Czechia Protection Monitoring Brief #2 (April - June 2024)

PROTECTION BRIEF CZECHIA
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024
Operational Context

Based on the number of Ukrainian refugees who applied for an extension of Temporary Protection in 2024 (320,000), the figures of Temporary Protection holders in Czechia, including new arrivals, were updated to **384,558** people as of 29 September 2024, compared to 373,743 at the end of 2023 (source: Ministry of the Interior).

This report presents an overview of refugees' profiles, as well as main findings regarding protection risks and priority needs of refugees from Ukraine in Czechia. The brief is based on the analysis of 438 Protection Monitoring Interviews conducted with refugees from Ukraine in all 14 regions as well as findings from focus group discussions in the third quarter of 2024.

Key Figures

384,558	71%
Temporary Protection holders in Czechia as of 29 September 2024	of Temporary Protection holders are women and children*
98%	34%
of Protection Monitoring respondents are Temporary Protection holders	of respondents consider accommodation as their highest priority need
67%	29%
of working-age respondents are employed in Czechia	of respondents need more information about job opportunities

Czechia Protection Monitoring Brief #3 (July - September 2024)

NEW BEGINNINGS:
SUPPORTING THE DIGNIFIED RELOCATION OF UKRAINIAN TEMPORARY PROTECTION HOLDERS TO STANDARD HOUSING

Report on the Relocation of Ukrainian Temporary Protection Holders from Collective Accommodation Facilities to Standard Housing

April 2024
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration

UNHCR-IOM assessment

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

CZECH REPUBLIC PROTECTION PROFILING & MONITORING
Protection Risks and Needs of Refugees from Ukraine

Data as of 18-Nov-2024

Key findings | Refugee profiles | Displacement patterns | Access to rights #1 | Access to rights #2 | Access to rights #3

Country: Czech Republic | Interview Month: Multiple selections | Arrival: All | Oblast: All | Household type: All

To strengthen and promote an evidence-based protection response, UNHCR and its partners in Czech Republic have been implementing a Protection Profiling and Monitoring exercise to regularly collect and analyze data about the profiles, protection risks and needs of refugees from Ukraine and monitor changes over time. In October 2023 a revised questionnaire was rolled out. This dashboard presents the main findings based on 438 interviews conducted between Sep 2024 and Oct 2024

438 # of respondents
1,088 # of household members

Sample by country: Czech Republic 438

Methodology

Individual interviews are conducted in different locations, including transit centers, reception centers, and UNHCR office premises. Trained enumerators collect data digitally using the Kobo Toolbox, which is then safely stored in UNHCR's server.

While respondents are randomly selected to reduce bias, non-probability sampling is used. Results cannot necessarily be extrapolated to all refugees from Ukraine. The data for this dashboard has not been weighted.

UNHCR Czechia Protection Monitoring Dashboard

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors, the private sector and individuals to Czechia and the Ukraine situation:



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