

CZECH REPUBLIC

7 June 2022

Since the war in Ukraine began in February 2022, the Czech Republic has seen the arrival of over **366,500 refugees from neighbouring countries** (estimated), the majority women, children, and among them older people and those with underlying vulnerabilities. Many require urgent medical assistance and support, including persons with chronic illnesses and those with mental and physical disabilities.

To ensure a favourable protection environment, UNHCR is supporting government-led efforts through a multisectoral response focusing on **protection, reception and shelter** and **material assistance** for most vulnerable groups and those with specific needs.

UNHCR and partners are present in urban areas in the Czech Republic where the majority of refugees are located to **provide information on rights and available services, identify vulnerabilities and refer them to relevant services, and to monitor and reinforce reception conditions**, while ensuring basic needs are met.

KEY FIGURES IN CZECH REPUBLIC:

(Since 24 Feb 2022)

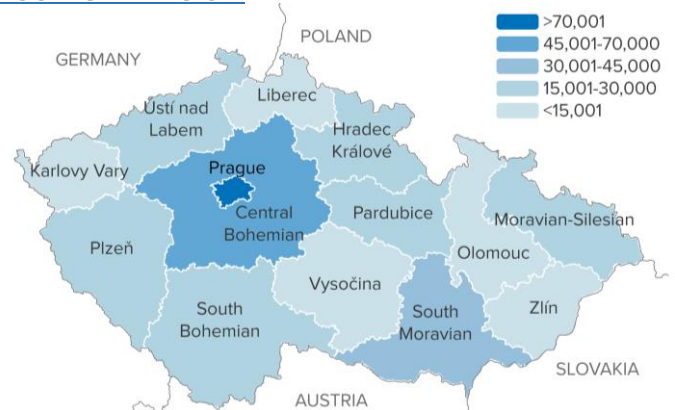
366,500 total individuals granted temporary protection status (as of 6 June 2022)

141 Ukrainian asylum applications (as of 6 June 2022)

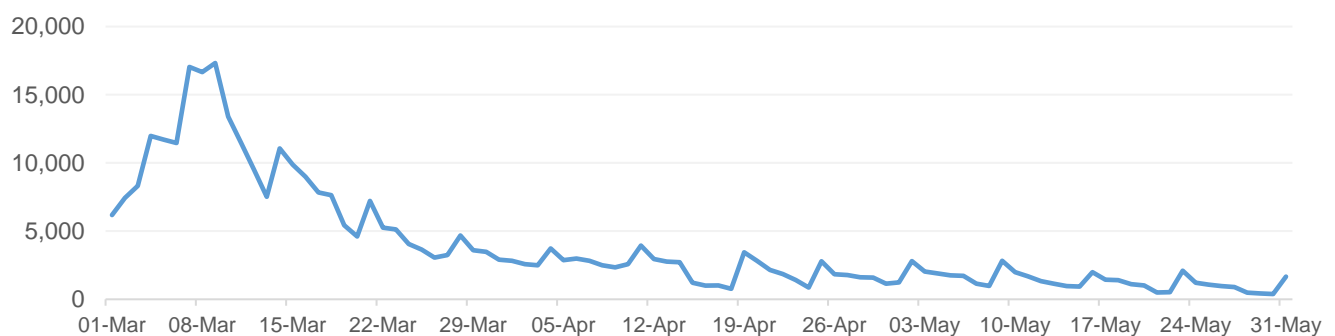
UNHCR PRESENCE: 7 total staff

- **4** Staff based in the Czech Republic
- **3** Staff on emergency deployment / mission

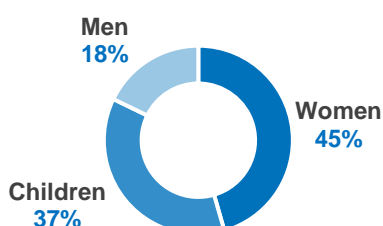
REFUGEES BY REGION:



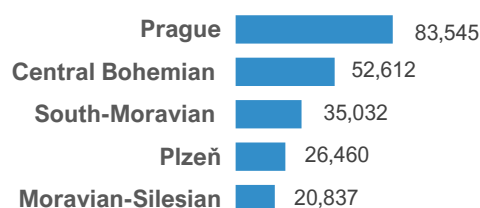
PERSONS GRANTED TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC (PER DAY):



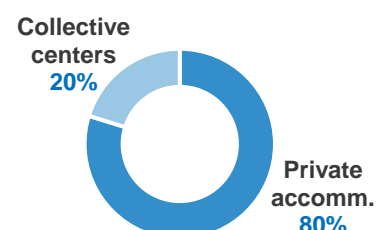
AGE/GENDER BREAKDOWN:



TOP 5 REGIONS HOSTING REFUGEES:



TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION:



Operational Context

Since 24 February 2022, the Czech Republic has witnessed an unprecedented [high influx of refugees arriving](#) from Ukraine, the majority transiting through Poland, Slovakia as well as other countries. Most of those arriving include [women and children](#), as well as [older people](#). Many have urgent protection needs and underlying vulnerabilities, including [persons with disabilities](#). To respond to the scale, pace and complexity of the situation, UNHCR has declared the Czech Republic a [Level 2 Emergency](#), the second highest possible designation.

From the onset, the Government of the Czech Republic has mobilized a rapid response to meet the urgent and immediate needs of those arriving, including access to [health, education, temporary accommodation, and other social services](#). Humanitarian actors and volunteers are supporting refugees in urban areas, including providing advice on temporary housing, transportation, and legal counselling. Civil society has also extended a welcoming approach to those arriving through significant volunteer and fundraising initiatives, as well as generous in-kind support.

While authorities and local communities in the Czech Republic have generously committed to receiving refugees fleeing hostilities in Ukraine, the unprecedented scale and rate of arrivals has strained existing capacities, making information provision, registration, accommodation and identification of vulnerable profiles more challenging. UNHCR and partners are reinforcing [communication and legal counselling](#) to ensure those arriving remain fully informed about procedures for applying for temporary protection and asylum, as well as the rights attached to different legal statuses. UNHCR is strengthening screening and identification of those with [specific vulnerabilities](#)—notably older people and those with limited mobility or physical impairments—while identification and referral of [unaccompanied and separated children \(UASC\)](#) continues to be prioritized.

[Protection from sexual abuse and exploitation \(PSEA\)](#) remains a critical priority, particularly for women at risk. Ensuring that people of concern understand their rights, can access assistance, and can communicate any risks or report instances of sexual abuse and exploitation to humanitarian actors is crucial. Further capacity is needed to prevent the threat of illegal activity targeting displaced people, including trafficking and exploitation – particularly given the arriving population is primarily comprised of women and children.



A mother and her son arrive at Prague's main train station after fleeing hostilities in Ukraine. The majority of those arriving to the Czech Republic comprise of women and children (some 77 per cent), many of whom require support with accessing temporary shelter and accommodation, education, health services, and employment.

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Working with Partners

UNHCR's Representation for Central Europe based in Budapest oversees activities in the [Czech Republic](#), [Hungary](#), [Slovakia](#), and [Slovenia](#). UNHCR has one National Office located in Prague, and has been present in the Czech Republic since 1992.

UNHCR maintains positive collaboration with state entities including local and municipal authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, humanitarian partners, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders to provide protection and assistance to persons fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. UNHCR works in close coordination with Czech Government counterparts—notably the Ministry of Interior (including the Refugee Facilities Administration section), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs—to enable refugees and asylum-seekers to [enjoy essential rights and access to basic services](#).

As part of the Ukraine Situation response, UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the [Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#), in line with the [Refugee Coordination Model \(RCM\)](#) and in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts, and with the support of inter-agency partners and other stakeholders. UNHCR also leads the [Refugee Coordination Forum \(RCF\)](#) at country-level to ensure harmonized response within existing government structures and among inter-agency partners, NGOs, volunteers and other stakeholders.

UNHCR is in the process of formally expanding its partnerships in the Czech Republic to ensure availability of comprehensive assistance and services for people seeking protection, including those with specific needs. UNHCR's main implementing partner in the Czech Republic is [Organization for Aid to Refugees \(OPU\)](#), who undertakes regular monitoring at refugee-hosting sites and facilities, legal and social counselling, targeted assistance to UASC, and initiatives for refugee and host communities to foster peaceful coexistence. Throughout May 2022, OPU provided legal and social counselling to over 420 individuals, including 122 children.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR's response in the Czech Republic is focused on provision of [information on rights and available services](#) for accessing temporary protection and asylum, [identifying persons with vulnerabilities for referral to specialized services](#), as well as [monitoring and strengthening of reception conditions](#).
- To coordinate the emergency protection response, the [Inter-Agency Protection Working Group \(WG\)](#) was launched on 25 April as part of the [Refugee Coordination Forum \(RCF\)](#) for the Czech Republic. Chaired by UNHCR, the Protection WG meets twice a month as a key entry point to identify common challenges and avoid duplication at country-level, while ensuring harmonized response within existing government structures and among Inter-Agency partners. The Protection WG also covers activities related to Child Protection and GBV, and is being broadened to include the participation of civil society and volunteer groups.
- UNHCR and partners are conducting regular [protection profiling](#) with refugees arriving from Ukraine to map their information needs and protection risks, and identify any existing gaps. Regular protection monitoring is being carried out at accommodation centres as well as train/bus stations to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities of those arriving to the Czech Republic, provide information on temporary protection and asylum procedures, and refer those with specific protection needs to specialized services – while allowing affected individuals to provide feedback through reinforced [two-way communication channels](#).
- In coordination with national authorities, UNHCR is working to [reinforce reception conditions](#), including through strengthening reception capacities and monitoring of arrivals to ensure access to rights and services on a non-discriminatory basis. UNHCR is supporting authorities in scaling up accommodation capacity, including for temporary shelter, to accommodate those with both immediate and longer-term needs. Following a request by local authorities to provide material assistance with regard to [emergency accommodation](#), in April UNHCR provided 500 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) and is preparing a further delivery of sleeping mats, blankets and

hygiene kits to reinforce the response of the Czech Fire Brigade and Rescue Services to the high influx of refugees.

- UNHCR is preparing to launch [Blue Dots](#) at key arrival points in the Czech Republic, which will deliver services for refugees to [access information](#), [seek referrals to specialised services](#), and [allow UNHCR and partners to identify persons at-risk](#). As national reception procedures are already comprehensive in the Czech Republic, a light approach is being explored in this regard, with identification and referral of children and other persons at risk among the key services offered. Mapping of the municipality registration points and two primary entry points is underway, with additional monitoring visits to regional registration sites planned.
- In coordination with local authorities, [referral pathways](#) are being developed to ensure refugees can access necessary services, in accordance with their needs and preferences.
- Since April 2022, UNHCR is taking part in regular working groups on UASC with national authorities and members of the local NGO sector; UNHCR will continue to participate in regular meetings and monitor any needs and protection gaps as they arise in this regard.
- Through the increased capacity of implementing partner OPU, UNHCR is maintaining a regular field presence in areas where refugees are present to [monitor protection risks](#). Protection monitoring is also ongoing at primary entry points (i.e. bus/train stations), with OPU maintaining an on-site presence to provide information on temporary protection and available services, undertake screening of vulnerable profiles and referral to specialized services, where needed.

Communication and Provision of Information

- Given the unprecedented rate of arrivals to the Czech Republic from Ukraine, provision of information remains key to ensuring refugees are able to access specialized services, make informed decisions, and undertaking planning in relation to their displacement. UNHCR and partners are working to ensure those arriving from Ukraine have [access to information](#) through preferred channels, feedback mechanisms, community networks, and are able to participate in all stages of the response.
- UNHCR's dedicated [Help Site](#) provides information on temporary protection and asylum, as well as links to key government and humanitarian services, including legal advice and counselling through partner OPU.
- UNHCR is coordinating with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to prepare updated brochures in Ukrainian to inform refugees about [access to education](#) in the Czech Republic. UNHCR is also sharing updates related to MoE assessments and planning, as well as population statistics.
- Partner OPU operates an [emergency hotline](#) to provide refugees with information on temporary protection procedures, available services, and urgent support and advice.
- UNHCR is also supporting humanitarian actors and volunteers' [mobile outreach teams](#) to ensure provision of accurate and up-to-date information and access to services for refugees arriving to the Czech Republic from Ukraine.

Training and Capacity Building

- [Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse \(PSEA\)](#) and prevention of [gender-based violence \(GBV\)](#) is being prioritized through reinforced inter-agency networks and PSEA mechanisms and systems, including referrals at the national level. In this regard, UNHCR is conducting trainings for humanitarian partners and volunteer networks focusing on PSEA and core humanitarian principles.
- Since 24 February, UNHCR and partners are delivering [capacity development trainings](#) and initiatives on topics including child protection, GBV, PSEA, and the legal framework for temporary protection. Between 18 – 19 May, UNHCR trained over 31 partner staff, NGOs, volunteers, and local authorities on PSEA core principles and standards to enhance the capacities of all service-providers working with refugees in Prague and other areas of the country where refugees are arriving. The trainings also targeted future trainers, to inform them on key protection principles and build their capacities to undertake future trainings on these issues.

Special Thanks to Donors

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the Ukraine situation. Unearmarked contributions provide UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest need or at the greatest risk.

Donors of USD 10 million or more are (as of 7 June 2022):

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* Financial information covers countries under UNHCR's Representation for Central Europe (Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia), in addition to Belarus and Republic of Moldova.

For more information, please visit the [Global Focus page for the Ukraine Situation](#).

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Links

For further information, please visit the [Ukraine Situation Operational Data Portal](#)

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