

# Czech Republic

December 2022

The Czech Republic has a well-established **asylum framework**. Reception conditions are of a good standard with a functioning State Integration Programme which has expanded with the Ukraine crisis.

Czechia has the largest number of refugees per capita in Europe. **465,058 refugees have applied for Temporary Protection status** or similar national protection schemes as of 6 December.

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**.

## KEY FIGURES IN CZECH REPUBLIC:

(Since 24 Feb 2022)

**465,058** cumulative total of individuals that have applied for temporary protection status

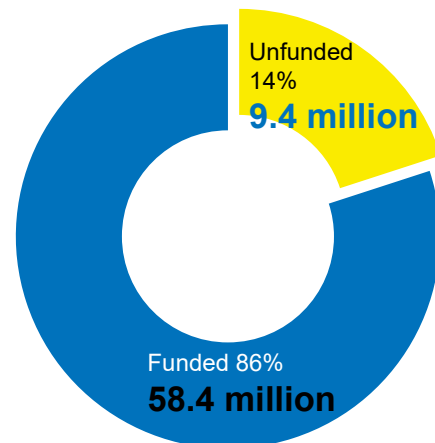
**424,909** total individuals with current temporary protection status

**162** Ukrainian asylum applications (as of September 2022)

## FUNDING (AS OF NOVEMBER)

**USD 67.8 million**

requested for the Representation of Central Europe \*



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

6 National Staff

2 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Branch Office in Prague, Czech Republic



## 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 in the Czech Republic 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 and Fire Rescue Service, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to enable refugees and asylum-seekers to [enjoy essential rights and access 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 expanding its partnership agreements with NGOs to ensure availability of comprehensive assistance and services for people seeking protection, including those with specific needs. UNHCR currently has [partnership agreements](#) with La Strada, AMIGA, Slovo21, Romodorm, NGO Consortium, and Organization for Aid to Refugees (OPU). In addition, UNHCR has five grant agreements with the following [Refugee-led Organizations \(RLOs\)](#): Ukrainian cultural educational centre, Mriya UA, Svitlo, Ukrainian Initiative in southern Moravia, Regional Ukrainian Union of the Eastern Czech Republic.

## 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 2022 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 has been 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 entry points 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](#).
- UNHCR is supporting authorities [in scaling up of accommodation capacity](#) 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](#), UNHCR provided 500 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) and delivered furniture, sleeping mats, folding beds, blankets and hygiene kits to reinforce the response of the Czech Fire Rescue Service to the high influx of refugees.
- UNHCR through its partners [expanded the scope of social services](#) that are now available to the most vulnerable.
- In coordination with local authorities, [referral pathways](#) are being developed to ensure that refugees can access necessary services, in accordance with their needs and preferences.
- UNHCR participates in regular working groups on UASC with national authorities and members of the local NGO sector to monitor needs and protection gaps as they arise.
- Through the increased capacities of implementing partner OPU, UNHCR is maintaining a regular field presence in areas where refugees are present to [monitor protection risks](#).
- UNHCR reinforced the capacity of La Strada to facilitate [access to services, support, and assistance to trafficked and exploited persons](#) among the Ukrainian refugee population through highly targeted in person outreach work, online outreach, and training of relevant first responders. UNHCR also supports La Strada in managing a safe shelter and provision of social, psycho-social services, as well as legal and reintegration supports for victims of exploitation and trafficking.
- UNHCR, either directly through UN protection staff or in collaboration with NGOs such as OPU, Romodrom, Slovo21 or AMIGA, reaches out to refugee communities to enhance the [identification of individuals with specific needs](#).
- UNHCR in cooperation with UNICEF and the NGO Romodrom tailored protection monitoring approaches targeting the Roma refugees across the country. The follow-up interventions also [strengthen field work capacity both for outreach and individual/family support](#).

### Communication and Provision of Information

- UNHCR works with partners to ensure those arriving from Ukraine have [access to information](#) through preferred channels, feedback mechanisms, community networks, and can make informed decisions and 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 partners.
- UNHCR in coordination with the Ministry of Education prepared updated [brochures](#) in Ukrainian to inform refugees about access to education in the Czech Republic.
- 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.

### 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 2022, over 464 individuals have been reached through [capacity development trainings](#) and initiatives by UNHCR and partners, on topics including child protection, GBV, PSEA, and the legal framework for temporary protection. UNHCR has trained over 31 partner staff, NGOs, volunteers as well as government counterparts on PSEA core principles and standards to enhance the capacities of all service-providers working with refugees in Prague and areas of the country where refugees are arriving.

## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

### **UNHCR is especially thankful for the contributions to Hungary**

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### **Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2022**

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## Links

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

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