

Czech Republic

February 2022

The Czech Republic has a well-established **asylum framework**. Reception conditions are of a good standard and the State Integration Programme is well developed.

While not all asylum-seekers ultimately choose to stay in the Czech Republic, for some, such as those from the former Soviet-Union, the country is their **destination**.

The Czech Republic is a **donor country** and has steadily increased its contributions to UNHCR over the years.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	2,052
Asylum-seekers	1,014
Stateless persons	1,498

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Republic	398	Ukraine	57
Ukraine	289	Georgia	22
Russian Federation	182	Belarus	19

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Inclusion of persons of concern: Asylum-seekers and refugees are included in national COVID-19 response plans, both in term of rights and duties. They have full access to medical services and vaccination and must comply with limitations and restrictions imposed on all residents.

Communication with Communities: The Government has set up an information page and hotline. UNHCR developed information materials on labour arrangements during the pandemic.

Advocacy: UNHCR facilitated introduction of remote legal counselling at the refugee facilities to ensure that no disruptions in legal services occur during mandatory quarantines and periods with limited access.

HIGHLIGHTS

EU Presidency

UNHCR's Recommendations for the French and Czech Presidencies of the Council of the European Union were shared with the Czech authorities.

iVolunteer Programme

UNHCR used the iVolunteer Programme during the COVID-19 pandemic to reach out to asylum-seekers and refugees and ensure two-way communication.

Czech Help Site

UNHCR in the Czech Republic launched its [Help Site](#) to ensure access to relevant and up-to-date information on protection and integration services.

Contributions to UNHCR

In 2021, the Czech Government has made contributions to UNHCR refugee programmes in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

LUCAS AND MARTINA BRIDGE CHASM BETWEEN CONTRASTING WORLDS



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As a volunteer, Martina has helped her Bolivian friend Lucas to go from being an asylum-seeker uncertain about his future to a confident resident of Prague.

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** UNHCR monitors asylum-seekers' access to territory at airports, the only external Schengen borders, where UNHCR informational materials for people in need of international protection are on display.
- **Asylum procedure:** The asylum-procedure is grounded in the EU *acquis*. To further strengthen the system, UNHCR advocates for streamlining legislation related to access and quality of asylum procedures and its compliance with European and international standards, namely regarding vulnerability and credibility considerations.
- **Reception and accommodation conditions** for asylum-seekers are generally of a good standard. UNHCR monitors conditions and advocates for maintaining standards with respect to age, gender, diversity and special needs.
- **Integration:** UNHCR advocates for local integration of refugees and supports authorities in enhancing the State Integration Programme, mainly by assisting in standardization of integration services.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR and partners promote a positive attitude towards refugees, combat xenophobia and racism and foster positive interaction between refugees and the host society. Through its iVolunteer project, UNHCR mobilizes voluntary support for asylum-seekers and refugees.
- **Alternatives to detention:** In general, asylum-seekers are not detained. However, authorities do resort to detention of asylum-seekers in certain instances, such as for the purpose of Dublin transfers. UNHCR monitors detention conditions, and advocates for the establishment of suitable alternatives to detention.
- **Education:** Teachers, children and parents face challenges during the process of integrating refugee children in schools. UNHCR promotes a safe

environment at schools through the campaign *Hello Czech Republic* and dissemination of materials developed through the Teaching about Refugees learning programme.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with the Government to facilitate contributions to UNHCR's global operations.
- UNHCR works with governmental partners, primarily with the Ministry of the Interior, the Refugee Facilities Administration and the Office of the Ombudsperson. UNHCR is engaged in a strategic dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- UNHCR has a project partnership agreement with the NGO **Organisation for Aid to Refugees**. This NGO manages the UNHCR iVolunteer programme and provides legal assistance to asylum-seekers.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR fosters public awareness of refugee protection by engaging with film and cultural festivals, photographers and selected media. UNHCR amplifies refugees' voices by telling their stories.

Statelessness

- The Czech Republic is a party to both Statelessness Conventions, albeit with several reservations. The country has no effective statelessness determination procedure. Stateless persons are considered as other foreign nationals in immigration statistics.
- UNHCR published a study on statelessness in the Czech Republic, based on in-depth interviews with stateless persons. UNHCR advocates for the lifting of reservations to the 1954 Statelessness Convention and for the establishment of a dedicated statelessness determination procedure.

UNHCR Presence in Czech Republic

4 National Staff

1 Branch Office in Prague

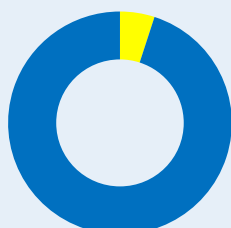
Financial information (22 February 2022)

Information relates to the Representation for Central Europe, which covers Belarus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia

Financial requirements

USD 5.1 M

Funding gap
93%
4.7 M



Funded
7%
0.4 M

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland

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.