

Czech Republic

February 2021

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	2,126
Asylum-seekers	1,354
Stateless people	1,502

MAIN THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

	Refugees		Asylum applications
Syria	423	Ukraine	101
Ukraine	310	Georgia	70
Russia	184	Vietnam	30

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR shared recommendations with governmental counterparts regarding the provision of COVID-19 related information and inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees in the roll-out of the national vaccination scheme.

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020

Guide for Young Refugees

UNHCR published a foldable information brochure that is both a poster and booklet available [here](#).

Faces of Statelessness

UNHCR finalized a study on statelessness in the Czech Republic available [here](#).

iVolunteer Programme

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

Contributions to UNHCR

The Czech Government has made contributions to UNHCR for refugee programmes in Serbia, Lebanon and Jordan, as well as for assistance to people displaced due to the current conflicts in Ethiopia and Sudan.



UNHCR during the Hello Czech Republic campaign, raising awareness about refugees among students.

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** The Czech Republic's only external Schengen borders are at international airports. UNHCR regularly monitors asylum-seekers' access to territory at airports, and has developed various information materials, on display at these airports, for people in need of international protection.
- **Asylum procedure:** The Czech asylum procedure is grounded in the EU *acquis*. To further strengthen the system, UNHCR advocates for streamlining existing legislation related to access to and quality of asylum procedures and its compliance with European and international standards, namely regarding vulnerability and credibility considerations.
- **Reception conditions:** Reception and accommodation facilities where asylum-seekers are hosted, are generally of good standards. UNHCR monitors the conditions at these facilities and advocates for maintaining adequate standards with respect to age, gender, diversity and special needs.
- **Integration:** UNHCR advocates for effective local integration of refugees and supports state authorities in enhancing the State Integration Programme, mainly by assisting in standardization of integration-related services.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR works with partners to 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 in the Czech Republic are not detained. However, the 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 education campaign *Hello Czech Republic* and dissemination of tailored 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 closely with governmental partners, primarily with the Ministry of the Interior, the Refugee Facilities Administration and the Office of the Ombudsman.
- 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 through AMIF funds.
- **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 to the public.

Statelessness

- The Czech Republic is a party to both Statelessness Conventions, albeit with several reservations. The country does not have a dedicated 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 among other things on in-depth interviews with stateless people.
- UNHCR advocates for the lifting of the reservations to the 1954 Statelessness Convention and for the establishment of a dedicated statelessness determination procedure.

UNHCR Presence in (country name)

Staff:

4 National Staff

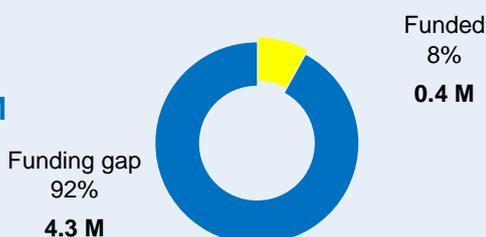
Offices:

1 National Office in Prague

Financial information* (28 February 2021)

*Information relates to the Representation for the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia

Financial requirements:
USD 4.7 M



UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions* to the 2021 global programmes (USD, as of 28 February):

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

*Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more.