

Schools Still Recovering a Year After Devastating Floods in the Czech Republic

PRAGUE – September 1, 2025 – As the new school year begins, many children and teachers are returning to school buildings still visibly scarred by last year's destructive floods. The humanitarian organization **CARE**, which is financially supporting the reconstruction of several kindergartens and schools in the Jeseník and Bruntál regions, warns that help is still needed and despite all efforts, the situation in many municipalities remains difficult.

Today, children all over the Czech Republic are heading to festively prepared kindergartens and schools. However, in the Moravian municipalities affected by the catastrophic floods last year, school principals and teachers are still dealing with challenging conditions. For example, in Jeseník, this school year will begin in temporary container classrooms.

Shortly after the floods, CARE received a financial donation for school reconstruction from small Czech donors and foreign partner organizations Aktion Deutschland Hilft and USA Vertex Foundation.

"In total, we have supported six schools and kindergartens. We are happy that in places like Česká Ves, Mikulovice, and Brantice, children can already attend kindergarten. But many schools are still undergoing major repairs, and conditions are temporary," says Ludmila Kucer, Program Director of **CARE Czech Republic**.

Asbestos Complicates the Situation

The situation is particularly difficult at the school in Jeseník, where children are unfortunately returning to temporary container spaces this September. The water flooded the entire ground floor, completely destroying the changing rooms, cafeteria, and playground.

"Unfortunately, we discovered that the building also contains asbestos and partitions that no longer meet health standards and are toxic to children. The total reconstruction will therefore cost several tens of millions of crowns and will take longer than we expected," explains Dominik Liberda, the school's principal.

Even in other schools and kindergartens, the journey is only halfway. For example, at ZŠ Karlovice, the basement, which was most affected by the floods, was repaired during the holidays, including the classroom for practical activities and facilities for the janitor and cleaning staff. On the other hand, the local kindergarten has a new garden, but the main repairs are still ahead.

Help is Still Needed

"The great news is that we have a promise of another more than one million crowns from our German partners. We would like to provide it to schools this school year to restore spaces for which state subsidies and other previous contributions were not enough," explains Ludmila Kucer from CARE, adding that this includes, for example, the construction of environmental classrooms. She adds that many school principals have gone through

enormous stress and strain, but the solidarity of the public and donors is a certain encouragement.

CARE was founded in the USA 80 years ago in response to the humanitarian crisis in Europe after World War II. At that time, it also distributed food packages in Czechoslovakia. However, it had to leave in 1948 and only returned in 2007. Now, the Czech branch of CARE focuses mainly on helping in developing countries, but last year almost a third of CARE Czech Republic's funds went to projects in the Czech Republic, including the floods.

"CARE functions as a global solidarity network. We try to inspire Czech people to help us where there is war, hunger, or another crisis. But in difficult times, our partners from abroad help us in turn, which was shown during the floods," concludes Ludmila Kucer.

Czech citizens can continue to contribute to the CARE Czech Republic collection account for flood-affected municipalities via the Darujme.cz portal. The funds will be used for the repair of schools and kindergartens. Every additional support helps children return to their classrooms as soon as possible.