

Development cooperation and humanitarian aid of the Czech Republic in 2023



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Czech Republic**

Loretánské náměstí 5

118 00 Prague 1 – Hradčany

mzv.gov.cz/aid

Looking back at 2023

- Over 400 projects implemented in over 80 countries
- According to final data, the Czech Republic provided official development assistance (ODA) worth USD 810.28 million (CZK 17.99 billion) in 2023. This amounted to 0.24% of the gross national income (GNI).
- The implementation of development projects and humanitarian aid in 2023 continued to be significantly affected by the war in Ukraine, namely by its global impact on food security, energy availability and cyber security.
- From January to October, the second comprehensive peer review of Czech foreign development cooperation (FDC) was conducted by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC) with the participation of representatives of Ireland and Italy. The findings of the evaluation resulted in ten recommendations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic (MFA), in coordination with the FDC Council, continues to work with these recommendations and reflect them in the ongoing evaluation of the Czech FDC Strategy and new bilateral FDC programmes with priority countries.
- One of the main challenges pointed out by the peer review is the financial support for the Czech FDC. The commitment to provide a minimum of 0.33% of GNI for ODA was fulfilled only in 2022. This, however, was due to the one-time cost increase related to receiving Ukrainian refugees. These costs dropped significantly in 2023 and the Czech Republic's ODA to GNI ratio consequently reached only 0.24%. After adjusting for refugee costs, this would be even lower, around 0.12%. Therefore, it is essential for the Czech Republic to try and follow the recommendations of the OECD/DAC peer review and compensate for the gradual reduction of the eligible costs related to refugees on its territory by at least an equivalent increase (transfer) of funds to development, humanitarian, climate and migration objectives abroad.



“Implementation of development projects and humanitarian aid continued to be significantly affected by the war in Ukraine in 2023, namely by its global impact on food security, energy availability and cyber security.”

Activities coordinated by the Czech Development Agency (CZDA)

Bilateral projects of the Czech Development Agency in priority countries

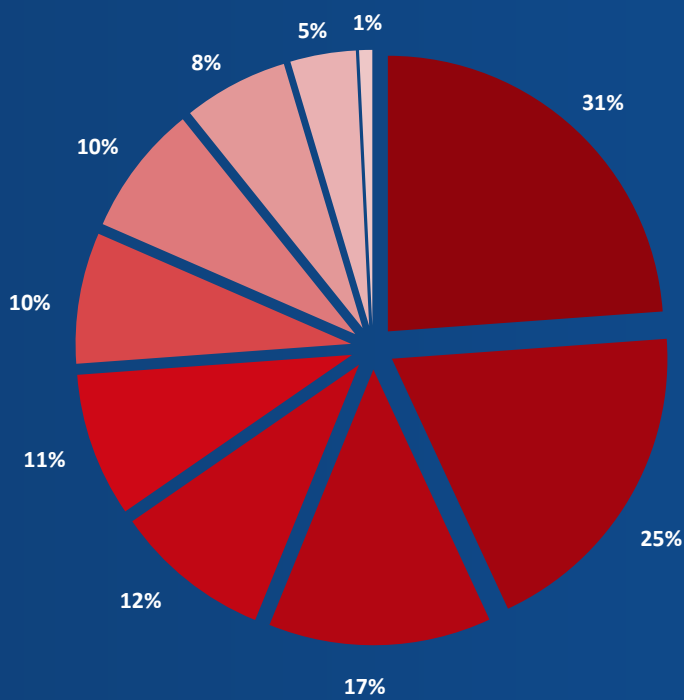
Country	Amount drawn
Bosnia and Herzegovina	CZK 42.6 mil.
Ethiopia	CZK 74.2 mil.
Georgia	CZK 55 mil.
Cambodia	CZK 32.2 mil.
Moldavia	CZK 51.5 mil.
Zambia	CZK 35.6 mil.

- The Czech Development Agency implements, in the first place, bilateral development projects in six priority countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Moldavia and Zambia.
- The Czech Development Agency implements also other programmes, such as the Development Partnership Programme for the Private Sector or the Trilateral Programme, which are open to other countries as well (e.g. Albania, Gambia, India, Myanmar).
- The bilateral development projects focused on specific thematic priorities: sustainable management of natural resources, agriculture and rural development, inclusive social development, good (democratic) governance, economic growth. They were also linked to selected goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Instruments used by CZDA

- **Bilateral projects**
 - Bilateral grants, public procurement, budget measures and monetary donations to meet the development objectives of partner countries / 87 projects worth CZK 297.4 million
- **B2B programme**
 - Involving private sector in development cooperation / 10 projects worth CZK 6.2 million
- **Trilateral projects**
 - Support for trilateral projects of Czech entities with the involvement of international partners / 10 projects worth CZK 26.3 million
- **Global education and public awareness**
 - Support for projects informing and educating children and youth, teachers and the general public on global challenges and their contexts / 11 projects worth CZK 11.6 million
- **Capacity building of the implementation partners**
 - Support for relevant entities, including platforms, actively involved in Czech FDC with the aim to develop their professional capacities as well as to improve Czechia's FDC and make it more effective / 8 projects worth CZK 6.2 million
- **Delegated cooperation**
 - Implementation of projects with EU participation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia / 4 projects worth CZK 19.7 million

CDA projects by sector



- Agriculture and forestry
- Water and sanitation
- Government and civil society
- Other social infrastructure and services
- Awareness activities
- Health
- B2B
- NGO capacities
- Education
- Energy generation and supply

Activities coordinated by the MFA

The MFA provides overall direction and coordination for Czech FDC, prepares strategies and policy concepts, maintains cooperation with a number of international partners and institutions, and provides evaluations of the Czech FDC programmes and projects. At the same time, it implements directly a number of the FDC programmes: small local projects, capacity building for universities in developing countries, transformation cooperation activities, humanitarian aid, stabilisation programmes for Africa and the Middle East, and humanitarian, stabilisation, reconstruction and economic assistance to Ukraine.

Humanitarian aid

- The Czech Republic helped deal with:
 - disasters (e.g. earthquakes in Morocco, Syria and Turkey, or fires in Chile and Greece)
 - conflicts and forced displacement (e.g. Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen)
 - complex humanitarian crises (e.g. Ethiopia, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sahel, Syria)
 - disaster risk reduction and resilience building in vulnerable countries (e.g. Cambodia, Ethiopia, Zambia)
- **As part of the Czech Republic's humanitarian aid, the MFA implemented 41 humanitarian activities worth CZK 162.6 million in 21 countries.**

Ukraine

- In October 2022, in the context of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the Czech Government endorsed the **Humanitarian, Stabilization, Reconstruction and Economic Assistance Programme for Ukraine 2023-2025**. The programme intends to involve Czech expertise and Czech solutions to the maximum extent possible, in particular in the context of Ukraine's reform efforts and approximation to the EU.
- The MFA was responsible for humanitarian, stabilisation and development assistance projects focusing on, for example, the provision of health care, emergency accommodation, humanitarian demining, access to food, energy and livelihoods, and support for public universities.
- **As part of this programme, the MFA implemented in Ukraine 53 humanitarian and stabilisation projects and 14 transformation cooperation projects in different sectors worth CZK 398.8 million.**

Cooperation programme with Africa

- 2023 was the first year of the three-year cycle of the Africa Programme (Programme for the implementation of the Czech Republic's objectives in Africa for 2023-2025). In 2023, the programme focused mainly on the promotion of democracy, media and free access to information. Czech embassies in Africa supported independent media and freedom of speech through university lectures and seminars; 19 young African leaders visited government and public institutions in Prague and Telč as part of the "Cool Czechia 2023" programme. The funds were also used to support community radio broadcasting in the Sahel.
- **As part of this programme, the MFA implemented in Africa 12 projects worth CZK 31.1 million reaching 15 countries.**

Czech Republic's reconstruction programme in the Middle East

- The programme provides support in the process of transition from humanitarian activities to stabilisation projects and subsequent post-conflict reconstruction in the target countries, and it also responds to emerging security and migration situations. The programme for example help people affected by floods in Libya, to assist Czech entities with equipping a burn centre in Iraq, to purchase medical equipment for hospitals in Libya and Palestine, and to help international organisations fight the spread of cholera in Syria.
- **As part of this programme, the MFA implemented in the Middle East 31 projects worth CZK 79.9 million in 7 countries.**



Medical equipment for the neonatal intensive care unit in Tripoli, Lebanon

Small local projects

- The small local projects aim to support small-scale development activities (worth up to CZK 500 thousand) implemented by local actors in target developing countries. Thanks to close interaction with local actors, the projects respond to current needs and help local communities in a range of areas such as health, education, agriculture, water and sanitation, and energy.
- **As part of this programme, the MFA implemented 62 projects worth CZK 23.2 million in 46 countries.**



Improving food and nutrition security in the Mercedes Umaña community, El Salvador

Capacity building for public universities in developing countries

- The programme aims to build capacities of public universities, especially in the priority countries of bilateral FDC, in areas such as teaching, research and management, including support for the involvement of public universities in international cooperation.
- **As part of this programme, the MFA implemented 9 projects worth CZK 9 million in 6 countries.**

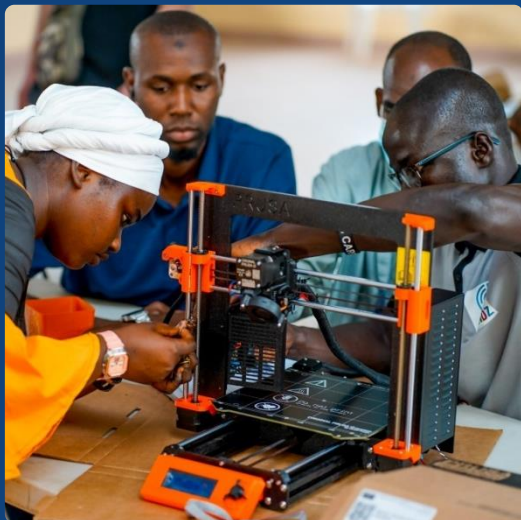
Transformation Cooperation Programme

- The programme aims to help create and strengthen democratic institutions for the protection of human rights, the rule of law, civil society and good governance in countries such as Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.
- **As part of this programme, the MFA implemented 83 projects worth CZK 80.5 million in 30 countries.**

Supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals

- Projects implemented by Czech embassies under this programme focus on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. The aim is to contribute to the 2030 Agenda as well as to raise the Czech Republic's profile and increase the awareness of Czech solutions and know-how, and present the Czech Republic as a country with valuable and transferable experience with implementation of the Agenda. The projects are implemented across the world, mostly through workshops and presentations delivered by Czech experts.
- **As part of this programme, the MFA implemented 17 projects worth CZK 715,486 in 16 countries.**

Czech development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects



MFA activities in cooperation with other Czech ministries

The MFA cooperated with other ministries on the following programmes and activities

- Transformation Financial and Economic Cooperation Programme (Ministry of Finance)
- Aid for Trade (Ministry of Industry and Trade)
- Security Development Cooperation Programme (Ministry of the Interior)
- Aid in Place (Ministry of the Interior)
Monetary donations abroad to assist refugees in the first host countries and to support the asylum and migration infrastructure of countries hosting large refugee populations.
- MEDEVAC - permanent medical humanitarian programme (Ministry of the Interior)
Sending medical teams to target countries, building capacities of medical staff, providing material and equipment and, if necessary, transporting patients to the Czech Republic for treatment.
- Cybervac - cyber capacity building programme (Ministry of Justice)
- Government scholarships for students from developing countries and educational cooperation (Ministry of Education Youth and Sports); health services (Ministry of Health)

International cooperation

United Nations

- In 2023, as part of its participation in the UN development system, the Czech Republic held a seat on **the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**. In spring 2023, the Czech Republic again took a seat on **the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi.
- Young people continued to be sent to developing countries **under the United Nations Young Volunteers (UNV) programme**; the Czech Republic maintained its comprehensive cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the long-term **Czech-UNDP Partnership for Sustainable Development Goals**; and the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** again carried out technical workshops and longer-term projects in the fields of agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, focusing on the regions of the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

European Union

- In the first half of 2023, **the Czech Republic continued its work in the Presidency Troika with France and Sweden** (Sweden held the Presidency of the EU Council from January to June 2023). The Czech Republic advanced the reflection on its own EU Presidency priorities in the development area, especially comprehensive support for Ukraine, climate security, and the issue of private sector involvement in EU development cooperation.
- The MFA also continued inter-ministerial coordination towards the alignment of Czech FDC with the **NDICI-Global Europe** instrument (geographic and thematic windows) bringing together several former EU external funding instruments, and also towards the implementation of the **Global Gateway** strategy.

OECD Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC)

- The OECD/DAC brings together the world's most advanced donor countries and is considered the main international forum for coordinating development cooperation. The Czech Republic became a member of the OECD/DAC on 14 May 2013. The Czech Republic has since been working closely with it, using its expertise, strategic and statistical outputs, or sharing know-how with other members to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of Czech FDC and humanitarian aid.
- The Czech Republic is active in a number of working groups and associations: DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (**WP-STAT**) collecting and publishing ODA statistics; **EvalNet** evaluating development activities; or the **INCAF** group bringing together OECD/DAC members active in fragile and conflict-affected areas with the key multilateral agencies that provide support for these activities.
- The most important event was the second **peer review of the Czech FDC**, which resulted in ten recommendations. The MFA, in coordination with the FDC Council, continues to work on these recommendations and reflect them in the ongoing evaluation of the Czech FDC Strategy and new bilateral FDC programmes with priority countries. In turn, the Czech Republic was confirmed (together with Austria) at the end of 2023 as an evaluator for the peer review of Finland's FDC taking place in 2024.

UN, EU and OSCE civilian missions

- These missions serve as a tool for prevention, stabilisation and development in crisis-affected regions.
- Czech experts served on the UN civilian mission to South Sudan, the OSCE mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, and the EU missions to Moldova, Iraq, Libya and Somalia.

Development cooperation and humanitarian aid

Links



FDC and humanitarian aid
on the MFA website



FDC, humanitarian aid and
TRANS plans



Information on FDC,
humanitarian aid, TRANS
and ODA



Current humanitarian aid



Czech Development
Agency



Forum for Development
Cooperation



OECD Development
Assistance Committee



EU FDC and humanitarian
aid



Team Europe Initiatives



Global Gateway info



Czechia – UNDP
cooperation



Interactive map of Czech
FDC and humanitarian aid