



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Czech Republic

# Czech Development Cooperation in 2013



**CZECH REPUBLIC**  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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## 1. Main principles of the development cooperation of the Czech Republic

Development cooperation is an integral part of the foreign policy of the Czech Republic and contributes to the achievement of its objectives. Through its activities in 2013 the Czech Republic contributed to the eradication of poverty and to the improvement of the lives of the inhabitants of the developing and transitioning countries, while using its specific experience and acting in accordance with its international obligations.

Since 1995 the Czech Republic shows its solidarity with the people in underdeveloped countries and accepts its share of responsibility for solving global problems, which are, to a large extent, linked to poverty. The Czech development policy is based on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The major stimuli for development include the democratic forms of governance, sustainable socio-economic development, and involvement of developing countries in international trade, human rights, equality between men and women and protection of the environment.

By its engagement in development cooperation the Czech Republic contributes to security and stability at the global level, as well as to the prevention of conflicts at regional and local level, reduction of illegal migration, environmental security, promotion of democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the strengthening of the rule of law.

The basic principles of the Czech development cooperation are based on the European Consensus on Development (2005), the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) and the final document on the Global Partnership for Effective Development from Busan (2011):

- The Czech development cooperation is based on a **partnership with the beneficiary countries** and is guided by the demand in partner countries and by their needs. The Czech Republic emphasizes involvement of the local inhabitants (governments, elected representatives, civil society organisations) at all stages of the project cycle in order to strengthen ownership, and hence the effectiveness of cooperation.
- The Czech Republic supports **the strengthening of systems and increasing the capacity of the partner countries**. The objective is for them to play a more active role in the formulation and implementation of their own development policies.
- The principle of partnership is also related to **mutual accountability**. The Czech Republic as a donor, as well as the partner countries, are responsible for the results and impact of the development programs to their citizens and to each other.
- The Czech Republic joined the efforts of the donor community **to coordinate** its development policy, and **to harmonize** the development activities by territory and sector. It supports the implementation of the EU Council Conclusions to the Agenda for Change, including the projects for joint programming of EU development cooperation.<sup>1</sup>

The Czech development policy is **transparent and open to public debate**. In addition to the Government and the Parliament of the Czech Republic, the non-governmental organizations, the business sector, academia and other elements of civil

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<sup>1</sup>The EU Council's conclusions on the future of EU development policy from May 14, 2012 (so-called Agenda for Change).

society are also involved in the debate. Keeping the public informed about plans, projects and results of development cooperation helps to strengthen general public support.

## **2. Legislative, conceptual and organizational framework**

The basic legislative and conceptual framework of the Czech development cooperation consists of the **Act on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid**<sup>2</sup>, effective from 2010, and the **Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2010-2017**<sup>3</sup> approved in 2010. The strategy, inter alia, summarizes the objectives of the Czech development cooperation, as well as principles of its provision, and establishes the priority countries and sectors.

In 2013 a mid-term evaluation of the Strategy was initiated in order to assess, whether the priorities and principles laid down in the Strategy are still relevant and meet the global challenges, or whether it is necessary to update the fundamental objectives, instruments of its provision or to adjust its priority countries and sectors (also with regard to the current situation in Ukraine). This process was completed in spring 2014. As a result, the Czech development cooperation in Mongolia and Serbia will be concluded by 2017, the Czech Republic will be phasing out development cooperation in Afghanistan and, with regard to the recent events in Ukraine, the volume of development cooperation in Georgia will be increased. There may also be further increase in development cooperation with Moldova, which may lead to synergies within the region, with activities implemented as part of the assistance to Ukraine (for reconstruction and support of its democratic transformation in 2014-2016, according to the Czech government resolution No. 167/2014).

### **2.1 Approval and implementation of the Multilateral Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic**

In 2013 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs completed the Multilateral Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2013-2017 and submitted it for approval to the Czech Government. The strategy, based on the Act No. 151/2010 Coll. on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, builds on the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2010-2017 and was approved by the government resolution No. 90/2013.

The Multilateral Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic is a part of efforts to achieve greater effectiveness and sustainable results of development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The Strategy was preceded by an analysis, which summarised the development activities of the Czech Republic at the multilateral level and assessed particular international organizations in terms of their efficiency, transparency and compliance with the interests of the Czech Republic. The Strategy identifies objectives and priorities of multilateral development cooperation and determines the future direction for Czech cooperation with multilateral partners in the development and humanitarian areas for 2013-2017.

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<sup>2</sup> Act No. 151/2010 Coll., on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid and amending related laws

<sup>3</sup> The Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2010-2017 (Resolution of the Government No. 366 of May 24, 2010)

The purpose of the Strategy is to determine the thematic and territorial priorities of Czech multilateral development cooperation, and also to set the level of involvement of the Czech Republic in the decision-making and executive structures of particular organizations. Another objective of the Strategy is to increase involvement of Czech actors (from the government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and scientific institutions) in the development projects of international organizations.

As a follow up to the Multilateral Strategy resulted the preparation of the Strategy for involvement of Czech entities in projects funded under EDF. The draft of this strategy was presented to the members of the Council for Czech Development Cooperation for comments at the end of 2013.

## **2.2 Bilateral development cooperation of the Czech Republic in 2013**

Throughout 2013 implementation of bilateral development cooperation continued in accordance with the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2010-2017.

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)** prepared strategic documents and annual Plan of Bilateral Development Cooperation, commissioned evaluations of bilateral development projects and programs and methodically managed the Czech Development Agency. It also implemented transition cooperation, humanitarian aid and conceptual documents in the area of scholarships and multilateral cooperation.

**The Czech Development Agency (CzDA)** was responsible for the implementation of bilateral development projects, particularly identification of suitable topics, formulation of projects, calls for tenders for implementers or suppliers, as well as monitoring of ongoing projects. When conducting these activities it followed the Project Cycle Methodology for Bilateral Development Projects. In 2013 the CzDA implemented projects in all priority countries of the Czech development cooperation. Implementation of the projects was commissioned in the form of public tenders, as well as subsidies to non-governmental organisations and other entities. In addition, the CzDA continued to support Czech entities seeking involvement in the projects of other donors, in particular the European Commission (so-called trilateral cooperation), contributed to strengthening the capacities of the Czech development constituency and engaged in promotion of the results of the Czech development cooperation domestically and abroad.

**The Council for Development Cooperation**, an interdepartmental coordination body bringing together representatives of all ministries and other public administration central bodies, as well as representatives of the non-governmental organizations platforms and the business sector, continued its regular activities. Five meetings were held in 2013, which contributed to strengthening transparency, mutual awareness and coordination of development activities. The thematic working groups for evaluation and conceptual issues, including policy coherence for development, continued their activities in the framework of the Council.

## **2.3 Evaluations**

Evaluation of development projects and programmes forms an integral part of best practices of the developed donor countries. Using qualified independent experts, the aim of evaluations is to assess **relevance** of the completed projects and development cooperation programmes in terms of the needs of partner countries, **impacts** of individual development activities on relevant target groups, **efficiency and effectiveness** of project implementation and **sustainability** of the positive outcomes

following their completion. Conclusions and recommendations arising from external evaluations are instrumental in the effective targeting of subsequent activities by the donor country. Evaluations are thus necessary to ensure the quality of development assistance provided by the Czech Republic, funding for official development assistance (ODA), and to present the results of development cooperation to the public.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for evaluations. Individual projects or groups of sector-specific projects may be assessed, just as programs, modalities or sectors of development cooperation.

In the course of 2013 six external evaluations of 14 bilateral projects in five partner countries were carried out, as well as three projects in the Czech Republic. In **Ethiopia** two projects in the agricultural sector were evaluated, in **Georgia, Cambodia** and **Zambia** a total of five projects in health sector were assessed. In **Kosovo** three projects supporting integration of visually and hearing impaired persons into the society were evaluated. **For the first time** four projects were evaluated **in the area of humanitarian aid** provided by the Czech Republic in 2013 in the wake of Cyclone Nargis in **Burma/Myanmar**. The last evaluation focused on projects implemented in the Czech Republic in the area of **strengthening capacities of the non-governmental entities**.

To summarize the 2013 evaluations of the development projects of the Czech Republic,<sup>4</sup> while the relevance of the project themes consistently received positive evaluation, the assessment of effectiveness (in terms of meeting the objectives) and efficiency (in terms of meeting the budget) varied considerably. The evaluation teams reported the most notable problems in the sustainability of results and subsequently in long-term impacts.

In accordance with best practices, the evaluation reports were discussed and consequently published on the MFA website. Recommendations from evaluations were used by the MFA and CzDA in defining future development cooperation with the relevant countries. Thematic group on evaluations under the Council for Development Cooperation received complete information on how the recommendations were going to be incorporated into practice.

In response to the evaluation, the issue of sustainability of the development project results received increased attention from the CzDA, which adopted internal measures for this purpose. In addition, the CzDA financed the document entitled Sustainability of the Czech Development Cooperation Projects, which was published by FoRs, and jointly organized a round table for its presentation and discussion on the possible steps to improve the sustainability of projects at all stages of the project cycle and on the possible adjustments to the project cycle methodology. Total expenditure on evaluation in 2013 amounted to 0.11 million (m) USD.

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<sup>4</sup>A detailed summary of the benefits and problems in the evaluated projects was included in the Report on Evaluation of Development Cooperation Projects in 2013, which was sent to the members of the Council on Development Cooperation, along with the minutes of its meeting on February 6, 2014. The evaluation reports are available in full on the website [www.mzv.cz/aid](http://www.mzv.cz/aid).

### 3. Volume of the official development assistance provided by the Czech Republic in 2013

The total official development assistance<sup>5</sup> provided by the Czech Republic in 2013 reached **USD 210.16 million**<sup>6</sup>. In absolute terms, this represents a year-on-year decrease of 4.2% (see table 1). The internationally monitored ratio of ODA to gross national income (GNI) is lower by 0.01% compared to the previous year, and equals **0.11%**.<sup>7</sup>

**Table 1 The Czech Republic's Official Development Assistance (ODA) 2008-2013 (USD million, current prices)**

Year	ODA (USD mil.)	ODA/GNI
2008	249.21	0.12%
2009	214.72	0.12%
2010	227.56	0.13%
2011	250.46	0.12%
<b>2012</b>	<b>219.63</b>	<b>0,12 %</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>210.16</b>	<b>0.11%</b>

Source: ORS MFA CR

Bilateral and multilateral development activities of the Czech Republic in 2013, aimed to contribute to the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals. At the same time, the Czech Republic strived to meet its obligations arising from its membership in the European Union (EU), the United Nations (UN) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In 2013 the Czech Republic provided bilateral development assistance in the amount of 56.8m USD, which is 8.7m USD less than in 2012. On a multilateral basis (through international organizations) the Czech Republic provided 153.3m USD, which represents an increase of 2.8m USD in comparison to 2012.

**Table 2 Basic distribution of the Czech Republic's Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2013**

	Volume (mil. USD)	Share of the total ODA expenditure
<b>Bilateral cooperation</b>	<b>56.8</b>	<b>27.00%</b>
<b>Multilateral cooperation</b>	<b>153.3</b>	<b>73,00%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>210.16</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: ORS MFA CZ

<sup>5</sup> Official development assistance (ODA) includes all provable expenditures from the national and other public budgets in the Czech Republic that have been used to support the social and economic development of partner countries, in accordance with OECD/DAC methodology.

<sup>6</sup> Data as of June 1, 2014, which may be modified further based on the OECD/DAC assessment. For the conversion to USD, the average exchange rate for 2013 of 1 USD = 19.5585 CZK was used according to the OECD/DAC methodology.

<sup>7</sup> According to the 2005 conclusions of the European Council the Czech Republic should seek to achieve the ODA/GNI ratio of 0.33% by 2015.

In the long term multilateral assistance outweighs the bilateral (in 2013 at a ratio of 73% to 27%). The reason is its mandatory character (the Czech Republic committed itself to payments, which cannot be abolished ad-hoc) and the growing Czech contribution to the EU budget (including the part intended for development purposes), which represents the most significant part of the Czech multilateral ODA.

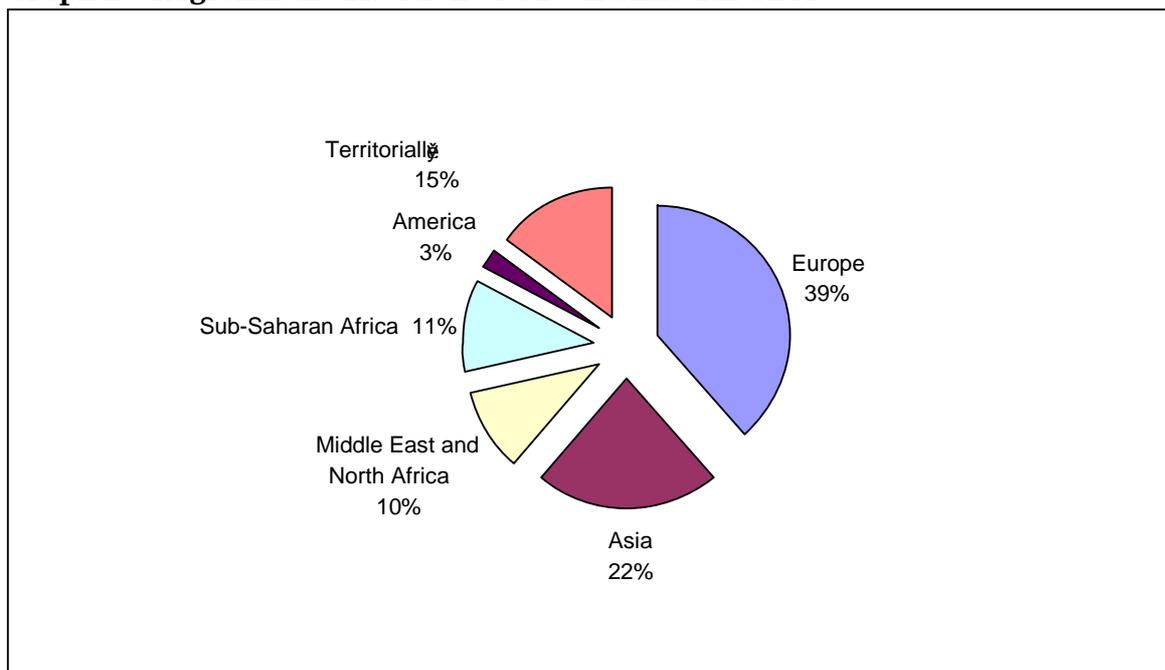
In terms of the **sector priorities** of the bilateral ODA, in 2013 the Czech Republic, dedicated its efforts to strengthening the capacity of governments and the support of civil societies worldwide. The main objective is to create a stable, peaceful and democratic civil society, as the foundation of economic prosperity and a dignified human existence. A natural part of this effort is a long-term priority of the Czech Republic - and one of the primary Millennium Development Goals - education. These sectors received approximately 29% of Czech bilateral ODA.

The Czech Republic also focused on the traditional priorities of reducing extreme poverty and hunger. , as it is essential to ensure access to quality (often just basic) food and drinking water to as many people as possible. The Czech Republic therefore allocated 16% of its bilateral ODA to the sectors of water supply and sanitation and agriculture. Throughout 2013 cooperation also continued in other traditional sectors of Czech assistance, such as production and supply of energy and social infrastructure and services.

In 2013 the Czech Republic allocated approximately 8% of bilateral ODA to humanitarian aid, as an expression of solidarity, willingness and ability to help.

In terms of the **territorial structure** of the Czech ODA, the largest beneficiaries were countries in the region of Eastern and Southeastern Europe, which amounted to 39% of total bilateral assistance. This region is a priority Czech foreign policy. The Czech development cooperation is concentrated in Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia.

**Graph 1 – Regional distribution of Czech bilateral ODA**



Other major beneficiaries of the Czech ODA included countries in Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia in particular.

There has been a trend of gradual increase in ODA in Sub-Saharan Africa, Despite this growth, Sub-Saharan Africa only receives 11% of the total bilateral ODA provided by the Czech Republic.

In 2013, the Czech Republic provided a total of 11.83m USD, i.e. approximately 21% of the total bilateral ODA, to the least developed countries (LDCs). Compared to the previous year there is an apparent decrease, which is a direct result of ending the assistance provided through the Provincial Reconstruction Team Logar in Afghanistan.

The largest Czech ODA recipients in 2013 included Moldova, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia and Georgia. (For a more detailed list of countries, see table 5).

**Table 3 Regional distribution of Czech bilateral ODA in 2013**

Region	Volume of Aid (USD mil.)	% of Czech bilateral ODA
Europe (total)	21.96	38.7%
Western Balkans	8.20	14.5%
Eastern Europe	12.68	22.4%
Other	1.08	1.9%
Africa (total)	7.09	12.34%
North Africa	0.67	1.2%
Sub-Saharan Africa	6.42	11.3%
America (total)	1.44	2.5%
North and Central America	0.94	1.7%
South America	0.50	0.9%
Asia and the Middle East (total)	17.81	31.4%
Middle East <sup>8</sup>	5.14	9.1%
Asia	12.67	22.4%
Oceania (total)	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous (territorially non-specific)	8.51	14.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56.81</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: ORS MFA CZ

### Comparison to other OECD member countries

In 2013 the official development assistance of donors, members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), according to preliminary data reached USD 134 838 million, which on average represents 0.30% of their GNI. Relatively smallest donors among DAC members are Poland and Slovakia (0.10 and 0.9%), followed by the Czech Republic (0.11%), Greece and Slovenia (0.13%), Korea (0.13%), Italy and Spain (0.16%). Among emerging donors - non-members of DAC until 2013 - the U.A.E. (1.25%) and Turkey (0.42%) significantly exceed this level. Table 4 illustrates further comparisons.

<sup>8</sup> Without the North African countries  
www.mzv.cz/aid

**Table 4** Comparison of developed and emerging donors' ODA, including the Czech Republic - preliminary data,<sup>9</sup> in case of the Czech Republic final data, for 2013 (in USD mil.)

DAC Member Countries	Total ODA Volume (USD mil.)	ODA/GNI (%)
Norway	5 581	1,07
Sweden	5 831	1,02
Luxembourg	431	1,00
Denmark	2 928	0,85
United Kingdom	17 881	0,72
Netherlands	5 435	0,67
Finland	1 435	0,55
Switzerland	3 198	0,47
Belgium	2 281	0,45
Ireland	822	0,45
France	11 376	0,41
Germany	14 059	0,38
Australia	4 851	0,34
Austria	1 172	0,28
Canada	4 911	0,27
New Zealand	461	0,26
Iceland	35	0,26
Japan	11 786	0,23
Portugal	484	0,23
United States	31 545	0,19
Spain	2 199	0,16
Italy	3 253	0,16
Korea	1 744	0,13
Slovenia	60	0,13
Greece	305	0,13
Czech Republic	212	0,11
Poland	474	0,10
Slovakia	85	0,09
<b>Total/average percentage</b>	<b>134 838</b>	<b>0,30%</b>

Selected DAC Non-member Countries	Total ODA Volume (USD mil.)	ODA/GNI (%)
U.A.E	5091	1,25
Turkey	3276	0,42
Estonia	31	0,13
Hungary	120	0,10

Source: ORS MFA CZ

<sup>9</sup> OECD-DAC report published on April 8, 2014

#### **4. Bilateral development cooperation of the Czech Republic in 2013**

The implementation of priorities defined by the Development Cooperation Strategy 2010-2017 continued as part of Czech bilateral cooperation. Bilateral development cooperation of the Czech Republic in 2013 focused on projects mostly carried out by Czech entities, however, increasingly by entities from partner developing countries, or by international organizations as well.

Besides bilateral and trilateral projects, the Czech Republic in 2013 continued to provide scholarships to students from developing countries, humanitarian aid, and other development assistance activities. Other forms of bilateral ODA (however, funded from other sections of public budgets, different from those under development cooperation planned by the government in its annual resolution) were also implemented; these included assistance to refugees in the Czech Republic, as well as development and humanitarian activities implemented by municipalities, regions and public universities.

##### **4.1 Bilateral development cooperation by territory**

In 2013, bilateral development cooperation was implemented most notably in five partner countries under programmes that define sectors and other priorities of Czech development cooperation in the country (Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Moldova and Mongolia).

Project countries (Georgia, Cambodia, Kosovo, the Palestinian Autonomous Territories and Serbia) form another group of priority partners for the period 2010-2017. While development assistance in these countries is necessary and desirable in terms of Czech foreign policy, it is not strictly defined by a cooperation programme.

A development cooperation agreement between the governments of the Czech Republic and Serbia was signed in Belgrade on July 24, 2013 and entered into force the same day. On April 18, 2013 a similar agreement with Moldova, which was signed in November 2012, entered into force. Their main goal is to adjust the contracts aimed at liberating Czech development projects from import duties, taxes (including VAT), visas and other bureaucratic expenses in partner countries.

Activities in three other countries (Yemen, Vietnam and Zambia) were a limited continuation of development interventions from the previous programme period. Activities of the Transition Promotion Program and other ministries, were carried out in several other countries.

The major Czech ODA recipients in 2013 included Moldova, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Georgia and Ukraine. The top ten included most of the existing priority countries for Czech development cooperation; in addition to those mentioned above, also Serbia, Vietnam and Syria.

The ranking of recipients was clearly affected by a shift to an updated list of priority countries.<sup>10</sup> The significant share of Czech ODA to Afghanistan is due not only to the number and scope of projects, but also by higher costs of project implementation and related activities of the Provincial Reconstruction Team, whose work was completed in 2013.

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<sup>10</sup>The exception is Syria, where most of the expenditure, i.e. over CZK 29 million are costs related to Syrian refugees in the Czech Republic.

**Table 5 Major recipients of bilateral official development assistance (ODA) provided by the Czech Republic in 2013**

Country	Volume (USD mil.)	% of Czech bilateral ODA
Moldova	4.28	7,53
Afghanistan	3.79	6,66
Mongolia	3.57	6,29
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3.56	6,26
Ethiopia	3.44	6,05
Georgia	3.02	5,32
Ukraine <sup>11</sup>	2.78	4,90
Syria <sup>12</sup>	1.68	2,96
Serbia	1.59	2,80
Vietnam	1.45	2,56
Kosovo	1.34	2,37
Belorussia	1.29	2,28
Cambodia	1.16	2,04
Armenia	1.14	2,02
Europe	1.08	1,91
Myanmar	0.86	1,52
Turkey	0.86	1,51
Jordan	0.86	1,51
Palestinian Autonomous Territories	0.81	1,43
Zambia	0.79	1,40
Cuba	0.65	1,14
Iraq	0.61	1,08
Yemen	0.61	1,08
Lebanon	0.56	0,99
Egypt	0.48	0,85
Nigeria	0.36	0,63
Philippines	0.32	0,57
Kazakhstan	0.30	0,53
Kyrgyzstan	0.25	0,44
Albania	0.24	0,42
Sudan	0.23	0,40
Montenegro	0.23	0,40
Peru	0.22	0,38
Zimbabwe	0.21	0,38
Iran	0.21	0,37
Macedonia (FYROM)	0.20	0,36

<sup>11</sup> The amount includes 1.8m USD, which are costs related to the refugees from Ukraine in the Czech Republic by 2013.

<sup>12</sup>The figure includes primarily humanitarian aid and costs related to the Syrian refugees in the Czech Republic.

#### 4.1.1 Priority countries with a cooperation programme

##### Afghanistan

Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world. More than three decades of armed conflict has caused political instability and an adverse security situation. Furthermore, the country lags behind in technology standards, has poor infrastructure and suffers from high illiteracy rates and insufficient educational facilities. The situation is even worse in rural areas, where 75% of the population lives (despite the low percentage of arable land, agriculture provides approximately for 50% of Afghan GDP). Afghanistan ranked 175th out of 187 countries in the 2013 Human Development Index.

The former Czechoslovakia provided substantial assistance to Afghanistan in the 1980s but these ties were broken following the Taliban's rise to power. It was not until 2001 that development cooperation could be re-established. Czech nongovernmental organizations arrived in the region and, since 2008 until January 2013, assistance revolved around the **Provincial Reconstruction Team in Logar (PRT Logar)**. In recent years, the Czech Republic has taken an active role in the country's reconstruction and in the strengthening of Afghan security and institutional capacities, as well as in agriculture.

In April 2013, the Afghan Ministry of Finance, responsible for the coordination of development cooperation, received the mutually agreed **Development Cooperation Programme for Afghanistan for the period 2013-2017**. The identified priorities of the development cooperation between the Czech Republic and Afghanistan include agriculture, water supply and sanitation and education. The cross-sectional themes include, among others, support of Afghan institution capacity-building, support for the reintegration of Afghan refugees, equal opportunities for women and prevention of drug addiction and the drug-related phenomena. In connection with the termination of the PRT activities there was an increase of funds available for standard development cooperation under the Plan of Development Cooperation. Development cooperation projects continued to support agricultural education, breeding, cultivation and processing of agricultural production.

In 2013, following the recommendations of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kabul, **six small scale projects** targeting reconstruction of agricultural secondary schools and purchase of equipment for the Afghan National Archive and Afghan National Museum were implemented. In collaboration with a local NGO a small scale project was used to provide support to small businesses operated by several dozen women in the form of microcredits. The government resolution No. 800/2013 provided for a donation to the Afghan archaeologists through the Afghan Ministry of Culture for further research on the Mes Aynak site and processing of the findings.

The Czech Republic ensures the continuity of development and humanitarian activities with the aim of reducing the vulnerability of the population and strengthening its resilience to disasters. In 2013, for example, a Caritas CZ project aimed to increase food security (0,1m USD) received support.

In addition to the implementation of its own development projects, the Czech Republic fulfills its international obligations and contributes to the National Solidarity Program (NSP) - an Afghan national programme for the development of local communities administered by the Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. In 2013 it amounted to 0.043m USD. In addition, 0.051m USD was used to

support the *Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA)* under the leadership of UNDP.

Six students began their studies in the academic year 2013/14, while there were 13 Afghan students with a government scholarship in the Czech Republic. In the course of the year two scholarship recipients completed their studies.

In 2013, six bilateral projects and six small scale projects totalling to the amount of 1.1m USD was implemented in Afghanistan. Official development assistance provided to Afghanistan by the Czech Republic in 2013 totalled to **3.79m USD**.

## **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the long-term priority countries of Czech development cooperation. The country is still struggling with the consequences of the war in 1992-1995 and the complex government structure, which complicates the internal decision-making processes. Bosnia and Herzegovina also significantly lags behind other countries in the region in the process of European integration. In the 2013 Human Development Index, Bosnia and Herzegovina ranked 81<sup>st</sup> out of 187 countries.

Implementation of development projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2013 focused on 4 main sectors: agriculture, energy, water supply and sanitation, and health care. Throughout the year the Czech Republic continued its cooperation with other donors active in the country, which contributed to increasing effectiveness of the development cooperation impact and spreading the good reputation of the Czech Republic as a reliable partner for cooperation in donor activities.

In the **agriculture sector** the project "Increase of milk production in North-East Bosnia", was implemented with a contribution of experts from the US-Swedish project FARMA. In addition to supplying pregnant heifers and agricultural machinery, the project also included a study tour for a group of Bosnian farmers to the Czech Republic. Further cooperation with the FARMA project experts included strengthening the capacity of veterinary laboratories and inspection services, as well as project preparation in the area of certification of plant material. A new project "Development of a System for Breeding Beef Cattle in Bosnia and Herzegovina" was launched in April 2013. Its objective is to strengthen the legislative framework related to animal husbandry and to develop breeding centers. The Ministries of Agriculture of the Czech Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina are both involved in the project.

Strategic cooperation with UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina was established in 2013 in the sector of **energy generation and supply**, where the Czech development cooperation focuses primarily on renewable energy sources. Czech experts were therefore able to participate in the UNDP-GEF (*Global Environmental Facility*) project in the area of biomass utilization in the region of Srebrenica. With the support of UNDP, the Czech Republic also participated in the delivery of medical equipment to the cantonal hospital in Bihac, which was largely destroyed by fire. The plan is to continue to develop a partnership with UNDP, when preparing the next project on the use of renewable energy sources in the hospital. In 2013, the project "Usage of renewable sources of energy for district heating system in Nemila" was completed and was ceremonially handed over to the beneficiaries in the presence of both local and national media.

Equal involvement of both Bosnian ethnic groups is an important aspect of the Czech development projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina. With this principle in mind, an inter-ethnic cooperation project in the Dobož - Maglaj region in the **waste management sector** was completed in 2013. Its main objective was to prepare documentation

necessary for the construction of the regional landfill. The project significantly contributed to improving the situation of waste management in the broader region, and other local municipalities expressed interest in participating in the project.

Projects in the **health** sector continued throughout 2013 targeting capacity building in the area of vascular surgery in selected health facilities.

Due to increasing demand for transition experience and capacity-building of national institutions, several projects in the sector of **government and civil society** were identified and developed in 2013. The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic oversaw the implementation of the security cooperation project of the Czech and Bosnia and Herzegovina police, which was instrumental in clearing a portion of the Sava River bed from unexploded ordnance. Subsequent cooperation focused on equipping and training the Bosnian diving unit to be able to perform basic forensic work under water. Preparation of a project on streamlining the work of the Bosnian courts was intensified in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic. Close cooperation with the Norwegian development organizations NORAD and Swedish SIDA is expected on this project.

A project of MFA Transition Promotion Program, focused on a dialogue to improve mutual understanding and greater civic engagement of young people, was implemented.

During the course of 2013 ten **small scale projects were implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina**. All were implemented by local entities and their aim was to improve conditions in the areas of social care and education.

**The Czech - UNDP Trust Fund** partially supported the pilot project for development of the hydroponic production system for Bosnian farmers.

In the academic year 2013/14 **government scholarships** were newly granted to 10 students, while a total of 26 scholarship students from Bosnia and Herzegovina were enrolled in the Czech Republic. In the course of the year eight scholarship recipients completed their studies. The program of **sending Czech university teachers to partner countries** continued in 2013 with the goal to expand the offer of available courses and improve quality of the existing ones. Internship programs for university employees between partner universities in the Czech Republic and in Bosnia and Herzegovina took place in 2013.

In 2013, the Czech Republic used bilateral development cooperation funds to implement a total of 46 projects (32 bilateral, 12 small scale projects, one Transition Promotion project and one security project under the administration of the Ministry of the Interior) totalling to the amount of 3.08m USD. Official development assistance provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Czech Republic in 2013 totalled to **3.56m USD**.

## **Ethiopia**

Despite rapid economic growth in the last few years, Ethiopia still ranks amongst the poorest countries in the world. In the 2013 Human Development Index, Ethiopia ranked 173rd out of 187 countries.

Based on the Development Cooperation Programme between Ethiopia and the Czech Republic for the period 2012-2017, Czech assistance in the country focuses on the following sectors: agriculture, water supply and sanitation, education, health care and environmental protection. Geographically, the Czech Republic targets the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), as well as the vicinity of the capital

city, Addis Ababa. In the Somali region, that belongs to the Ethiopian government development priorities, the Czech Republic implements humanitarian projects dealing with protracted crises.

The greatest amount of funding in 2013 was allocated to the **agriculture sector**, where projects focused on supporting agricultural education and protecting natural resources continued. A total of five projects were implemented in the sector. A new four-year project "Support of agricultural consultancy development in Ethiopia" was launched and a tender for the protection of soil and water sources in the SNNPR was called at the end of the year.

In the sector of **water supply and sanitation** a total of three projects were implemented in 2013. A new project "Establishment of a sustainable system of drinking water supply in small towns of Sidama Zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia, II", which builds on the previous activities of the Czech development cooperation in the region, was launched. New project themes for 2014 were also identified.

A total of five projects were implemented in the **education** sector. A new project aimed at promoting vocational training in leather production and tannery. It builds on the previous activities of Czech development cooperation. In the **health sector** two new projects were launched with the goal of developing health services and providing training to physicians in the SNNPR. Specifically, the projects dealt with support for hospitals in the cities of Leku (including a secondary nursing school in Yirga Alem) and Konsu.

In 2013, one project under the Development Cooperation Partnership Program aimed at modernising the water supply network.

As regards **humanitarian assistance**, in 2013 the Czech Republic supported projects to ensure access to sources of drinking water as part of support for countries facing complex humanitarian problems.

Within the **Aid for Trade** programme of the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade supported three projects focused on the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in food processing, trade with machinery products and information management in the area of the environment.

In 2013, eight representatives of the Ethiopian Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Trade and Investment Agency visited the Czech Republic as part of the technical assistance programme coordinated by the Czech Ministry of Finance.

Six **small scale projects** managed by the Czech Embassy in Addis Ababa were implemented in 2013, focused on supporting production of teaching materials and improving schooling for children with vision and other disabilities, providing support to orphans and children from socially disadvantaged families, as well as supporting the purchase of medical instruments and computer classroom equipment.

In 2013, four **trilateral projects** were implemented in Ethiopia in the areas of social development and education. The partners of the Czech non-governmental organisations included, for example, the European Commission and the Austrian non-governmental organisation *Light for the World Austria*.

As part of the Czech development cooperation Ethiopia regularly receives **government scholarships**. For the academic year 2013/2014 nine new Ethiopian students were admitted. At present a total of 21 Ethiopian students are enrolled in the Czech Republic, primarily in the fields of medicine, economics, computer science, and agriculture. In the course of the year three scholarship recipients completed their

studies. Furthermore, new projects were launched that promoted sending Czech university teachers to Ethiopia and provided support for strengthening the quality of higher education.

In 2013, the Czech Republic used bilateral development cooperation funds to implement a total of 33 projects in Ethiopia (17 bilateral, 5 trilateral, 6 small scale projects, 3 projects under the programme *Aid for Trade*, 1 project under the Development Cooperation Partnership Programme *B2B* and 1 project under the technical assistance of the Czech Ministry of Finance) totalling to the amount of 3.19 USD. Official development assistance provided to Ethiopia by the Czech Republic in 2013 amounted **3.44m USD**.

## **Moldova**

Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe. Almost half of the population lives below the poverty line. In the 2013 Human Development Index, Moldova ranked 113th out of 187 countries. The economic and social situation in Moldova has been marked by the long-term decline in industrial production, unemployment and the departure of a significant part of the workforce to other countries.

The Czech Republic has been supporting development cooperation projects in Moldova since the mid-1990s. Currently, Moldova is one of the Czech priority countries for development cooperation, with a cooperation programme for 2011 - 2017. Moldova is also the largest beneficiary of Czech development cooperation of all the priority countries in terms of volume of bilateral projects.

Czech development cooperation in Moldova in 2013 focused primarily on these sectors of water supply and sanitation, environment protection, agriculture, other social infrastructure and services and education.

The Czech Republic is one of the most significant donors in the **water supply and sanitation** sector in Moldova. In 2013, implementation of the international project "Rehabilitation of the water supply system in the Municipalities of Nisporeni, Vărzarești and Grozești" continued with participation from the Austrian Development Agency, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the European Commission. Similar projects continued in the municipalities of Vulcanești and Cimișlia. The project "Remediation of Environmental Burdens Caused by Pesticides in Clocușna, Gradinița and Ciobalaccia" also continued.

In the **environmental protection** sector, the project "Flood warning and monitoring system on the Prut River", implemented in cooperation with the hydro meteorological service of Moldova, was completed in 2013.

In the **agriculture** sector, two projects focused on organic farming and one project aimed at strengthening the business skills of small farmers through a television program for the rural population of Moldova were finalized. At the end of 2013, the CzDA completed the formulation of a new project, to increase the added value of the agricultural production of small farmers. The project will include both, support for the technological base of the agricultural cooperatives, as well as capacity-building in the area of marketing.

In 2013, in the **other social infrastructure and services** sector, projects "National approach for identification and support of children left behind as a consequence of migration", as well as two projects aimed at improving the quality and availability of health and social home care services, were implemented. Also, two home care centres were built and began their activities.

After a previous successful project in the **education** sector, a follow-up project targeting the integration of children with disabilities or special needs in the education system at the preschool level was implemented in 2013. In addition to the pilot-kindergarten in Orhei, Moldova gained two more inclusive kindergartens.

In the **government and civil society** sector, the Czech Republic improved the fighting power and professional competence of the Moldovan fire-fighters, due to the involvement of the Directorate-General of the Czech Fire Rescue Service. Under the newly launched project "Increasing efficiency and enhancing transparency of processes within the National Employment Agency of Moldova," the Czech Republic provided the National Employment Agency of Moldova with filing software. Among other goals the projects aims to strengthen the public employment services and mitigate the negative impact of high labour migration from Moldova.

Moldova is also one of the priority countries of **Transition Promotion Program of the MFA**. In 2013, projects to support small NGOs in Transnistria, to promote new media and to support civic initiatives in Sahul were implemented.

Two **trilateral projects** co-financed by the European Commission aimed at promoting employment and social services continued in Moldova in 2013.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Chisinau managed six **small scale projects**, primarily targeting the supply of medical aids to socially disadvantaged patients.

The funds of the **Czech - UNDP Trust Fund** supported a project aiming to provide recommendations for the introduction of effective financial incentives to promote and implement energy-saving measures in public schools in Macedonia, Moldova and Kosovo. Experts provided the participants with Czech and international examples to streamline financial flows and tax incentives on the local level.

The largest the number of Czech **government scholarships** for citizens from developing countries to study at Czech universities goes to Moldovan students. In the academic year 2013/14 13 new recipients of government scholarships from Moldova began their studies. Currently there are 38 students enrolled in various study programmes. In 2013 10 scholarship recipients completed their studies. In 2013 the program of **sending Czech university teachers** to partner countries was applied in Moldova. Specifically, the Czech University of Life Sciences is helping to improve the quality of teaching and research at the State Agrarian University of Moldova; Palacký University was engaged in a similar project.

In 2013, the Czech Republic used bilateral development cooperation funds to implement a total of 40 projects in Moldova (29 bilateral, 2 trilateral, 6 small scale projects and 3 projects of Transition Promotion Program) totalling to the amount of 3.5m USD. Official development assistance provided to Moldova by the Czech Republic in 2013 totalled to **4.28m USD**.

## **Mongolia**

In spite of recent positive economic results, Mongolia is ranked as a country with a relatively high percentage of poverty. This is due to limited infrastructure, and a high dependence on the traditional way of life (two fifths of its inhabitants work as herdsmen). In the 2013 Human Development Index, Mongolia ranked 108<sup>th</sup> out of 187 countries, with one third of its population still living below the poverty line.

In 2013 Czech development cooperation in Mongolia was marked by the completion of nine large bilateral development projects in the sectors of health, education, water supply and sanitation, energy generation and supply and agriculture.

The cooperation is geographically focused on the central region (including the capital city of Ulan Bator, the southern province of Dornogobi and some of the northern and western provinces).

In the **education sector** two projects under the programme "Support for vocational training system in Mongolia" were finalized.

In **water supply and sanitation** a project, aimed at elimination of water shortage by improving the yield of wells and proposing a plan for sustainable utilization of water in the future, was completed. Three new projects were launched in this sector in the city of Murun and the Zavkhan province.

In **energy generation and supply** sector one of the most expensive projects was successfully completed, specifically aimed at modernising the control room and guild of the chemical water treatment plant at the Number 4 Power Plant in Ulaanbaatar, which is the key supplier of energy to the capital city, as well as a large part of the country.

**Agricultural projects** in Mongolia in 2013 focused on supporting the agricultural production in the Dornogobi desert area. In addition, a project aimed at returning the Przewalski horses to their original habitat in western Mongolia was also implemented. A new project, focused on the development of artificial insemination to increase the productivity of cattle, was launched.

In **health sector** two projects aimed at providing basic health care in remote areas of Mongolia were successfully completed.

As part of the Czech development cooperation, five **trilateral grant projects** co-financed by the European Commission received support. In the context of deepening cooperation with other donors, contacts were strengthened with the World Health Organisation, which intends to build on the successful health projects of the Czech development cooperation.

In Mongolia, five **small scale projects** primarily focused on education, health care and social services were implemented in 2013.

In the academic year 2013/14 the **government scholarship** was newly granted to 6 Mongolian students. A total of 17 scholarship recipients from Mongolia were enrolled in the Czech Republic. In the course of the year 11 scholarship recipients completed their studies. The project of deploying Czech university teachers to developing countries continued in cooperation with the Mongolian State Agricultural University and the Mongolian State University of Science and Technology.

In 2013, the Czech Republic used bilateral development cooperation funds to implement a total of 30 projects in Mongolia (19 bilateral, 4 trilateral, 5 small scale projects and 2 *Aid for Trade* projects) totalling to the amount of 3.27m USD. Official development assistance provided to Mongolia by the Czech Republic in 2013 totalled to **3.57m USD**.

#### 4.1.2 Project countries

##### Georgia

In the economic and political sphere the country is dealing with the consequences of the collapse of the USSR, further worsened by the Russian military

invasion in 2008. Georgia remains economically dependent on agriculture, which weakens its economic stability. Georgia is also a strategically located country, and its stability is of general concern to the international community. In the 2013 Human Development Index, Georgia ranked 72nd out of 187 countries.

Within the Czech development cooperation Georgia is considered one of the priority countries without a cooperation programme. Since 2008, the Czech Republic development cooperation has been influenced by the conflict between Russia and Georgia. In 2008 - 2010 the Czech government allocated special funds to the amount of 7,7m USD for reconstruction and development assistance of Georgia. More than 50 projects were implemented, with the majority of funds concentrated in the sectors of agriculture, health, water supply and sanitation. Current Czech development activities in Georgia follow up on this emergency assistance.

In 2013, the Czech Republic implemented projects in the sectors of health, general environmental protection, agriculture, government and civil society, and other social infrastructure and services.

In **health** the final phase of the project "Promotion of prevention and early detection of cancer among women in the regions of Samegrelo and Shida Kartli" was launched. The project is aimed at promoting prevention and early detection of breast and cervical cancer, and at preparing the national strategy for the prevention of cancer in patients living in rural areas.

Based on its own experience with prevention and response to floods, the Czech Republic continued with the implementation of the project "Enhanced Preparedness of Georgia against Extreme Weather Events" in the **general environmental protection** sector. The project, which aims to develop an early warning monitoring system for floods, is carried out in cooperation with the Czech Hydro Meteorological Institute, the National Environment Agency (NEA) of Georgia and the Ministry of the Environment of Georgia. The project is beneficial for agriculture, energy, and weather forecasting in general.

In **agriculture** two grant projects aimed at supporting effective management of the cooperatives and service centres in western Georgia were implemented in 2013. The projects' objective is to promote efficiency, production and economic sustainability of agricultural cooperatives.

There is great potential for sharing transformation experience of the Czech Republic with convergence to EU standards in the **government and civil society** sector. In 2013, the CzDA cooperated with the local government of Akhmeta district and the Agency of Protected Areas (APA) on the project "Preparation of Management Plan for Tusheti Protected Landscape". The project is intended for residents of the remote mountain region and builds on the previous intervention of CzDA. Implementation of the project "Increased Efficiency of Management of Imereti Caves Protected Areas", was also ongoing. Its aim was to improve management of the caves. The project "Introducing Addictology in Educational Systems in Georgia" helped Georgian professional capacities in the field of addictology. The objective was to create curriculum for a university study program, based on the educational modules developed for the Addictology program at the 1st Faculty of Medicine of Charles University in Prague. The project was co-financed by USAID.

In **social infrastructure and services sector**, three projects aimed at supporting vulnerable groups: disabled, seniors and vulnerable youth from incomplete families, continued in Georgia throughout 2013.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Tbilisi implemented seven **small scale projects** that primarily addressed social and health issues. There were also **2 trilateral projects** aimed at promoting integration of adults with mental disabilities and strengthening the democratic dialogue in the region.

In the academic year 2013/14, three new students from Georgia received the **Czech Government scholarship**. Currently there are 21 recipients of the government scholarship from Georgia enrolled at Universities in the Czech Republic. In the course of 2013 5 scholarship recipients completed their studies.

Czech development cooperation project "Restoration of network for groundwater level and quality monitoring in the Alazani-Agrichai area" was implemented in 2013 under the **Aid for Trade** programme, administered by MPO. The Czech implementing partner was the AQUATEST a.s. company.

The **Czech-UNDP Trust Fund** in 2013 provided support for a study trip to the Czech Republic for a group of Georgian archivists, as well as for training of representatives of Parliament, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia and the Georgian municipalities in the following areas: urban development, waste management, and citizen involvement in the decision-making.

In 2013, the Czech Republic used bilateral development cooperation funds to implement total of 34 projects in Georgia (18 bilateral, 2 trilateral, 7 small scale projects at the Embassy, 1 *Aid for Trade* project and 6 Transition Promotion projects) totalling to the amount of 1.95m USD. Official development assistance provided to Georgia by the Czech Republic in 2013 totalled to **3.02m USD**.

## **Cambodia**

Cambodia continues to struggle with the consequences of the Pol Pot regime, which had a devastating effect on the social and economic structure of the country. In terms of the economic growth, Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in the region. The 2013 Human Development Index ranks it 138th out of 187 countries.

The Czech Republic has a long history of relations with Cambodia. Czech development cooperation has mostly focused on the following sectors: other social infrastructure and services, health, education and energy generation and supply. Projects are geographically concentrated in the Takeo province, and also in the Pursat and Chhnang provinces.

In **other social infrastructure and services** the Czech development activities focused on the most vulnerable population groups. The projects implemented in 2013 focused on inclusive education of children with disabilities in the Takeo province and deployment of European humanitarian workers in local partner organizations.

In **Energy generation and supply** sector a project was implemented to develop a market-oriented biodigester for sustainable energy supply. Thanks to the project, the inhabitants of the poorest areas of the country will have access to energy needed for cooking and lighting.

In 2013, in the **health** sector, projects focused on improving the health of mothers and children and preventing child malnutrition were implemented in Cambodia.

In the **agriculture** sector, projects focused on the development of market services for livestock commodities were completed in 2013 in Cambodia.

In 2013, two **small scale projects**, were implemented in Cambodia. Their objective was to increase the level of sanitary facilities in schools in underdeveloped areas.

In the academic year 2013/14 one new Cambodian student took advantage of the **Czech government scholarship**. Currently there are 4 recipients of the government scholarship from Cambodia enrolled in Universities in the Czech Republic. In the course of 2013 four scholarship recipients completed their studies. In 2013, the concept of **deploying Czech university teachers** in partner countries was also applied in Cambodia.

In 2013, the Czech Republic used bilateral development cooperation funds to implement a total of 6 bilateral and 2 small scale projects in Cambodia totalling to the amount of 0.9m USD. Official development assistance provided to Cambodia by the Czech Republic in 2013 totalled to **1.16m USD**.

## **Kosovo**

Kosovo remains one of the poorest countries in Europe. It struggles with a number of ethnic, social and security problems. Political developments in the country were affected by a significant shift in the dialogue with Serbia in 2013 (conclusion of agreement under the auspices of the EU), as well as by local elections. The opening of negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU creates a good basis for future development.

Bilateral development cooperation with Kosovo has long been concentrated in the sectors of other social infrastructure and services, education, and water supply and sanitation.

The emphasis in 2013 was traditionally placed on the development of the **other social infrastructure and services** sector, where the Czech Republic focuses on supporting disadvantaged population groups and their integration into society. In addition to projects supporting the blind and the hard of hearing, which in 2013 successfully followed up on activities from previous years, two projects, aimed at promoting education of inhabitants of the socially excluded communities and people with disabilities, were also completed. The project "Lifelong Learning for the 21st Century" supported the development of professional expertise and practical skills of the population in northern Kosovo, which is predominantly inhabited by ethnic Serbs. The project "Providing support to Blind School - Resource Centre in Peja" continued the activities initiated in 2012. The objective of the project was to support the introduction of music classes for the blind in collaboration with the Jan Deyl Academy in Prague, which would help expand employment opportunities for the blind in Kosovo.

Another important sector of the Czech development cooperation in Kosovo in 2013 was **water supply and sanitation**, which is essential for improving the environment in Kosovo. In 2013, the three-year project "Construction of wastewater treatment plant in the town of Hiralaj" was completed. This project was unique, since the wastewater treatment plant in Hiralaj is the very first facility in the country.

In 2013, two **small scale projects** managed by the Czech Embassy in Pristina were implemented. First project promoted social inclusion of visually impaired in northern Kosovo, the second was aimed at supporting the development of music education.

**The Czech - UNDP Trust Fund** supported four projects in Kosovo. These were projects to support social enterprises, launch a system for monitoring and reporting of

greenhouse gas emissions in Kosovo, create a detailed technical design of the acid mine water sanitation in Novo Brdo and support the association of local governments in the Republic of Macedonia, Moldova and Kosovo, which increase the capacity of local officials to promote tax incentives for the introduction of energy-saving measures in schools.

In 2013, in the **Transition Promotion Program** of MFA a project of pilot accreditation of towns and municipalities continued with the objective to make the municipalities more attractive for foreign investors and to have the necessary infrastructure in place. The new project focused on promoting partnership and cooperation between the non-governmental organizations, local authorities and other key actors at the local level in Kosovo.

Under the **Aid for Trade** programme a feasibility study for the construction of industrial zone in the Llabjan area was completed.

In the academic year 2013/14 Czech **government scholarships were** newly granted to 2 Kosovo students. A total of 7 scholarship recipients from Kosovo were enrolled in the Czech Republic. In the course of the year three scholarship recipients completed their studies.

In 2013, the Czech Republic used bilateral development cooperation funds to implement a total of 15 projects in Kosovo (10 bilateral, 2 small scale projects, 2 Transition Promotion projects and 1 *Aid for Trade* project) totalling to the amount of 0.74m USD. Official development assistance provided to Kosovo by the Czech Republic in 2013 totalled to **1.34m USD**.

## **Palestinian Autonomous Territories**

The Palestinian Autonomous Territories (PAT) belong among the poorest countries in the Middle East, yet their economic and social stability is of vital importance to the entire region. In the 2013 Human Development Index, PAT ranked 110th out of 187 countries.

The Czech Republic has been providing assistance to the PAT since the 1990s. Between 1996 and 2013, 22 development projects, totalling to more than CZK 300 mil., were implemented, with additional CZK 60 mil. for extraordinary reconstruction aid in 2008. The Czech Republic has focused its activities primarily on the Tubas governorate and the energy sector (approximately 30 villages have been electrified since 1996, thanks to Czech assistance).

Given the specific conditions in the PAT, since 2011 cooperation has been pursued via financial donation to the relevant institutions of the Palestinian national authorities for specific development projects. Projects are implemented on the basis of a memorandum of understanding in the sectors of energy generation and supply and water supply and sanitation. In 2013, the Palestinian Government received funds in the total amount of CZK 8.5 mil.

In the **energy generation and supply** sector in 2013 construction of the 120 kW solar power station in the Tubas governorate was completed and the station subsequently put into operation (construction was completed by the Palestinian company SATCO Co.) The official opening of the power plant was attended by the head of the Czech diplomatic mission in Ramallah and high-ranking local officials. The project "Modernization of a Capillary Irrigation System Using Renewable Resources" in the agriculture sector, provided support to local farmers in the form of building solar energy sources for greenhouse irrigation.

In the **water supply and sanitation** sector, internal problems on the Palestinian side with implementation and management of the project "Multi-Year Water Allocation System" (MYWAS) caused a serious delay of the project. Funding for 2013 was therefore not transferred to the Palestinian side, and termination of the project is under consideration.

The diplomatic mission in Ramallah implemented four **small scale projects** totalling to the amount of 71 580 USD. . The projects dealt with education of women, children recreation, cooperation between Israel and Palestine in the protection of agricultural crops and educational activities in European classical music.

In 2013, the Czech Republic also provided the PAT with **humanitarian aid** worth 0.2m USD, which was delivered via UNRWA and Caritas Jerusalem to help the Palestinian population affected by the conflict in Syria, and the refugees in Gaza and the West Bank.

In the academic year 2013/14 **government scholarships** were newly granted to 3 Palestinian students. A total of 7 scholarship recipients from PAT were enrolled in the Czech Republic. In the course of the year four scholarship recipients completed their studies.

In 2013, the Czech Republic used bilateral development cooperation funds to support or directly implement 7 projects (2 bilateral, 4 small scale projects and 1 trilateral project) in PAT totalling to the amount of 0.52m USD Official development assistance provided to PAT by the Czech Republic in 2013 totalled to **0.81m USD**.

## **Serbia**

In 2013 Serbia took a major step towards European integration, when the EU decided to initiate accession negotiations. Despite the declared GDP growth (2.4% in 2013) there is an urgent need for reforms in privatization, restructure and transformation of industry that, however, are often delayed in order to preserve social cohesion. The country continues to face high unemployment rates (officially approximately 20%, unofficial estimates are higher). In the 2013 Human Development Index, Serbia fell from 64th to 66th place, out of 187 countries.

In 2013, development interventions in Serbia continued in four sectors: business and other services, energy generation and supply, water supply and sanitation, and health, which have been the long term focus of the Czech Republic also in collaboration with other donors active in the country.

In **water supply and sanitation** an extensive project of construction of sewage system in the village of Kruščica continued. Another important partnership in Serbia in 2013 was the continuing cooperation with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), in the business **and other services** sector, on the project "Supporting cheese production in Sandžak", which is one of the least developed, and politically very fragile, regions of Serbia.

In the **energy generation and supply sector**, the project "Enhancement of energy effectiveness in the hospital heating system in the city of Valjevo" was completed in 2013. The renovated hospital was newly connected to the central heating system. In addition, a nearby housing estate was also connected to the system by a kilometre-long hot-water pipeline. In order to make heating efficient, the project utilized a geothermal borehole, which was used to heat the rehabilitation swimming pool in the hospital.

In the **health** sector, the project of modernization and capacity-building of surgical unit of general hospital in Pirot continued.

In 2013 six **small scale projects** were implemented in Serbia. These involved supplying aids and interactive tools for handicapped children, musical instruments for an elementary art school and construction of heating and sanitary facilities in elementary schools.

In the context of **Transition Promotion Program** of the MFA of the Czech Republic supported a project aimed at the transfer of expertise to local non-governmental organizations in the field of strategic litigation management and situation testing in order to develop local *know-how* to promote non-discrimination in practice.

In 2013, three projects under the **Economic Development Partnership Program B2B** were implemented in Serbia focusing on the transfer of modern construction technologies and strengthening of regional cooperation.

In addition, one **Aid for Trade** project focused on project management and socially responsible business practices of small and medium-sized enterprises was completed in Serbia in 2013.

Serbia has traditionally been one of the most benefited recipients of Czech **government scholarships**. In the academic year 2013/2014 government scholarships were newly granted to 12 Serbian students, while a total of 28 scholarship recipients from Serbia were enrolled in the Czech Republic. In the course of the year 9 scholarship recipients completed their studies. Under the **programme of deploying Czech teachers** to developing countries, the cooperation of Palacký University in Olomouc and the University of Belgrade, where a project management course and evaluation were implemented, continued in 2013.

The joint projects of the Hradec Králové region with the Banat region and the South Moravian region with the Šumadija region also continued in 2013. Both projects primarily focused on improving local government's capacity through the transfer of experience with the implementation of the EU accession conditions.

In July 2013 a **Development Cooperation Agreement** was signed with Serbia. Its main objective is the liberation of development projects from duties and taxes.

In 2013, the Czech Republic used bilateral development cooperation funds to implement 22 projects in Serbia (10 bilateral, 6 small scale projects, 1 trilateral project, 3 projects under the economic development partnership programme *B2B*, 1 Transition Promotion project and 1 Aid for Trade project) totalling to the amount of 1.1m USD. Official development assistance provided to Serbia by the Czech Republic in 2013 totalled to **1.59m USD**.

#### 4.1.3 Phase out countries

Following the current strategy, phase out countries are former priority countries, where Czech development activities continued in 2013 in a redefined scope and focus, subjected to a gradual phasing-out. These include **Yemen, Vietnam and Zambia**. This group also includes partner countries where projects under the administration of Czech ministries from the previous period were completed, or where activities of the Transition Promotion Program of the MFA, and of technical assistance from the Ministry of Finance, are still implemented.

## Yemen

Since its reunification in 1994, Yemen has undergone a process of social and economic transition; nevertheless it is still the poorest of the Arab countries. In 2013 Human Development Index, Yemen ranked 160th out of 187 countries. Progress is hampered by internal conflicts and fragile security situation. The diminishing access to water, for both drinking and irrigation, and its pitiful quality, make the development of agriculture and economy very difficult.

Yemen is one of the partner countries, where Czech development cooperation gradually decreases its activities. However, due to excellent results and in order to ensure sustainability, development cooperation on the island of Sokotra was extended until 2014. The objective of the project is to increase food security and nutritional quality of the diet of Sokotra population through the support of home gardens and seed-beds producing seedlings of agricultural crops, as well as endemic species. More than thirty established agroforestry entities and school gardens serve as models and examples of good practice. In 2013 the Czech Republic allocated 0.24m USD to this development cooperation project.

As a **small scale project** supervised by the Czech Embassy in Abu Dhabi, the Czech Republic provided equipment for a cultural and sports centre for the disabled worth 25 560 USD.

In 2013, the Czech Republic provided Yemen with humanitarian aid delivered via the WFP and its programme, aiming at better nutrition and education for girls.

In the academic year 2013/14 **government scholarships** were newly granted to 6 students from Yemen. In the academic year 2013/2014 8 scholarship recipients from Yemen were enrolled in the Czech Republic. In the course of the year no scholarship recipients completed their studies.

In 2013, the Czech Republic used bilateral development cooperation funds to implement 2 projects (1 bilateral and 1 small scale project) in Yemen totalling to the amount of 0.27m USD. Official development assistance provided to Yemen by the Czech Republic in 2013 totalled to **0.61m USD**.

## Vietnam

In spite of important reforms having been implemented in Vietnam in recent years, the country remains among low income countries, ranking 127th in the 2013 Human Development Index. Vietnam problems stem mainly from its economic structure (more than 70% of the workforce is employed in agriculture), insufficient infrastructure (especially in rural areas) and an inefficient education system. Furthermore, the country still struggles with the consequences of war.

In the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2010-2017, Vietnam is included amongst the countries where no more bilateral development projects will be launched after 2013. In accordance with the responsible approach of development cooperation towards the recipient country, some partial development activities may be considered, in order to strengthen the sustainability of the projects currently in progress. Projects completed in Vietnam in 2013 primarily focused on the following sectors: energy generation and supply, other social infrastructure and services, water supply and sanitation.

In the **energy generation and supply** sector, a project introducing renewable sources of energy in the Thua-Thien Hue province was implemented.

In **other social infrastructure and services**, a project focused on the multiplication of vocational education trainers' network was finalized.

In the **water supply and sanitation** sector, the project "Support to overcome dioxin/herbicide effects in Vietnam" continued. The aim of the project is to eliminate the health risks and environmental damage caused by the massive use of herbicides during the Vietnam War during the 1960s and 1970s.

In **industry, mining and construction**, the project of sustainable development of the glass-making industry in central Vietnam was completed.

In the academic year 2013/2014 3 **scholarship** recipients from Vietnam were enrolled in the Czech Republic. In the course of the year two scholarship recipients completed their studies.

In 2013, the Czech Republic used **bilateral development** cooperation funds to implement 4 bilateral, 1 trilateral and 3 small scale projects in Vietnam totalling to the amount of 0.75m USD. Official development assistance provided to Vietnam by the Czech Republic in 2013 totalled to **1.45m USD**.

## Zambia

Zambia belongs among the poorest countries on the African continent. It faces a number of challenges. Agriculture remains the most common means of subsistence. Due to lack of diversity of the economy it is, however, vulnerable. The situation is further complicated by a low level of education, and by inadequate infrastructure. In the 2013 Human Development Index, Zambia ranked 163rd out of 187 countries.

Currently, Czech development cooperation with Zambia continues in a downsized scope as compared to the previous program period. However, with regard to the good results of the development cooperation with Zambia, the financial allocations remained in place. Czech development cooperation focuses on the sectors of agriculture, health, education and other social infrastructure and services. Geographically, the Czech Republic has steadily focused its development efforts on the Western Province, which is relatively isolated and outside other donors' interests, and on the Southern and partially the Eastern Province.

In **agriculture sector**, implementation of two projects supporting the breeding of cattle was in progress in 2013. An insemination center producing frozen semen doses was established, as well as laboratories for the processing of samples. Data was also collected for the formulation of a new project to be launched in 2014, aimed at promoting small farmers.

In **health sector**, an independent evaluation of projects, aimed at training of midwives in 2009-2012, took place. Following the achievements of previous projects and the positive results of the evaluation, a new project was launched, which aims to introduce higher level of education for midwives in Mongu.

In **education sector**, implementation of project focused on apprenticeships of tailors, electricians and bakers/waiters successfully continued.

In **other social infrastructure and services**, a project supporting care for orphans and other disadvantaged children in the Western Province was successfully completed.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Harare, accredited for Zambia, implemented three **small scale projects**, mainly in the education sector. Through these projects, the Czech Republic supported the construction of facilities for orphans

and vulnerable children, the establishment of a school library and a computer lab and the construction of school latrines.

In the academic year 2013/14 government scholarships were newly granted to 3 students from Zambia. In the academic year 2013/2014 7 scholarship recipients from Zambia were enrolled in the Czech Republic. In the course of the year 7 scholarship recipients completed their studies.

In 2013, the Czech Republic used bilateral development cooperation funds to implement a total of 9 projects (6 bilateral and 3 small scale projects) in Zambia totalling to the amount of 0.66m USD. Official development assistance provided to Zambia by the Czech Republic in 2013 totalled to **0.79m USD**.

### **Other countries**

To a limited extent, development cooperation also took place in several other countries. These were mainly projects by the **Ministry of Industry and Trade**, the **Ministry of Finance**, and the Transition Promotion Program of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** of the Czech Republic.

Within the **Aid for Trade** programme under the administration of the Ministry of Industry and Trade in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a total of 8 projects was implemented in 2013. There were 3 projects implemented in **Ethiopia**, 2 projects in **Mongolia** and there was 1 project implemented in each of the following countries: **Georgia, Kosovo** and **Serbia**. The amount spent in 2013 reached 0.3m USD. The projects were focused on the environment, water and sanitation, agriculture, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, trade and economic development and energy generation and supply sectors.

In 2013 the Ministry of Finance implemented technical assistance program, **Transformation financial and economic cooperation**, with total funding of 0.13m USD. It involved assistance to partner finance ministries, which took place in the form of study visits from **Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Egypt, Ethiopia, China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, Thailand and Ukraine**. The project facilitates the transfer of the Czech Republic experience and know-how from the period of transformation of the economy, preparation for accession to the EU, the experience with the reform of the key areas of public finances and the implementation of the EC/EU acquis. Reduction of expenditure was achieved by co-financing from EU programmes, and programmes financed by other multilateral and bilateral development institutions.

Development of the civil society, independent media and the local government in **Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iraq, Kosovo, Cuba, Moldova, Myanmar/Burma, Serbia** and **Ukraine** (beyond the above mentioned countries) were areas also supported last year by the **Transition Promotion Program administered by MFA**. The objective of the program is to contribute to the creation and strengthening of democratic institutions, the rule of law and good governance. The Czech Republic relies on its transition experience, as well as good mutual relations with partner countries. In 2013 **Egypt** was included among the Transition Promotion priority countries.

## 4.2 Bilateral development cooperation by sector

In terms of ODA division by sectors, in accordance with OECD methodology, in 2013 the Czech Republic focused primarily on the sectors of government and civil society, education, water supply and sanitation and agriculture, as well as on other sectors that are instrumental in meeting the Millennium Development Goals, such as other social infrastructure and services, health, environment protection and energy generation and supply, with an emphasis on the utilization of renewable energy sources.

The largest amount of funds (including transition promotion program funds) was invested in the strengthening of government and civil society around the world. The main objective of these activities was to create a stable, peaceful and democratic civil society, as the foundation of economic prosperity and a dignified human existence. A natural part of this effort is a long-term priority of the Czech Republic and one of the primary Millennium Development Goals - education. These sectors received approximately 27% of Czech ODA.

In other sectors, the Czech Republic focused on its traditional priorities, using its comparative advantages, while contributing to solving many pressing issues in the partner countries. The Czech Republic contributed approximately 16% of its ODA to projects dealing with water supply and sanitation and agriculture. In 2013, activities also continued in sectors: environment protection, energy generation and supply, other social infrastructure and services and health.

**Table 6 Distribution of bilateral development assistance in 2013 by sector (according to OECD/DAC, sorted by volume)**

Sector	Volume (USD mil.)	% of Czech bilateral ODA (%)
Assistance to refugees*	9.02	15,88
Education	8.75	15,40
Government and civil society	7.57	13,32
Water supply and sanitation	5.36	9,43
Humanitarian assistance - immediate	4.65	8,19
Administrative costs of donor	4.56	8,02
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3.85	6,77
Energy generation and supply	3.11	5,47
Other social infrastructure and services	2.24	3,94
Health	2.18	3,84
Development cooperation awareness	1.57	2,77
General environmental protection	0.98	1,73
Sector unspecified	0.8	1,41
Mineral resources and mining	0.56	0,98
Industry, mining and construction	0.52	0,92
Trade and other services	0.52	0,92
Population policies	0.31	0,54
Humanitarian assistance - disaster prevention and response preparedness	0.11	0,20

Other cross-sector activities	0.11	0,19
Trade policies and regulation	0.02	0,04
Tourism	0.01	0,02
Construction	0.005	0,01
<b>Total bilateral ODA by sector</b>	<b>56.81</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ORS MFA CZ

## Government and civil society

In 2013, the Czech Republic implemented projects that supported good governance, both at the general cross-sector level – such as strict transparency control across all implementation phases, with the emphasis on the involvement of the local communities in the decision-making process of the projects, as well as in projects, focused specifically on improving government efficiency.<sup>13</sup>

The **Transition Promotion Program** is the key component of the Czech development assistance in this sector. Its aim is to contribute towards the establishment and strengthening of democratic institutions, rule of law, civil society and good governance.

In 2013, the program continued to focus on the priority countries of the foreign policy of the Czech Republic. (**Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iraq, Kosovo, Cuba, Moldova, Myanmar/ Burma, Serbia and Ukraine**). The Czech Republic relies on its transition experience, as well as good mutual relations with partner countries. In 2013 **Egypt** was included among the Transition Promotion priority countries. Transition Promotion Program in **Georgia** focused primarily on supporting independent journalism, strengthening civic participation in the decision-making processes of local government, as well as the capacity building of civil society to protect the rights of women. A total of six projects were carried out totalling to the amount of 0.43m USD.

In **Moldova**, projects aimed at promoting the active involvement of citizens in solving local problems (including activities of young people and women) and supporting the use of new media continued throughout 2013. The Czech Republic devotes special attention to the situation in Transnistria, where it provides long-term support to the development of the non-profit sector. 3 projects were implemented totalling to the amount of 0.26m USD.

In **Kosovo**, a project was implemented to make the municipalities more attractive to foreign investors. The second implemented project focused on promoting cooperation between the non-governmental organizations, local authorities and other key actors at the local level in Kosovo. Projects, totalling to the amount of 0.09m USD, were implemented.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina** a project, totalling to the amount of 0.07m USD, was implemented. . It focused on strengthening mutual understanding among young people and encouraging young people participation in public life.

The Czech Republic supported a Transition Promotion project focused on strategic litigation management and situational testing, in order to develop local *know-how* to promote non-discrimination in practice. The allocated grant totalled to 0.05m USD.

<sup>13</sup>Participation of the Czech Republic in peacekeeping operations and civilian missions represented the most significant component of this sector - these activities are described in more detail in Chapter 4.3.

In 2013, a total of 52 projects prepared by Czech non-governmental organizations and institutions were implemented within the Transition Promotion Program, under administration of MFA's Department for Human Rights & Transition Policy, in collaboration with partners in the recipient countries. Some activities were also organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, mostly implemented by the Czech embassies abroad. Besides the priority countries, some activities took place in countries in Africa (Zimbabwe), Asia (Kyrgyzstan), the Middle East (Jordan) and Russia. Many projects involving Czech entities were multilateral or international. A total of 2.53m USD was spent in 2013 on projects in support of democracy and human rights.

In 2013, the Ministry of Finance implemented a technical assistance project, **Transformation financial and economic cooperation**, with total funding of 0.14m USD. The project aimed at helping partner finance ministries in developing and transition countries in the form of study visits to the Czech Republic from the following countries: **Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Egypt, Ethiopia, China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, Thailand and Ukraine**. The project facilitated the transfer of the Czech Republic experience and know-how from the period of transformation of the economy and preparation for accession to the EU, as well as the experience with the reform of the key areas of public finances and the implementation of the EC/EU acquis.

The Ministry of the Interior continued its long-term project to strengthen security cooperation with **Western Balkan** and **South Caucasus** countries and the development of their local security forces capacities. The project "Improvement of fighting power and professional competence of the Moldovan fire-fighters" implemented by the Directorate-General of the Czech Fire Rescue Service represents another successful activity.

### **Assistance to refugees in the Czech Republic**

Based on the 1951 Convention regarding the status of refugees, the Czech Republic provides shelter to people who are subject to political, religious or racial persecution. The Czech Republic covers the costs of basic livelihood, healthcare, language courses and general education, as well as consultancy expenses and courses of social and cultural integration.

The Czech Republic pays special attention to vulnerable groups (seniors and orphans) and to integration activities (Czech language courses, assistance with job search, accommodation search etc.). The assistance is provided via state institutions (Refugee Facilities Administration), as well as via local governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

In 2013 the Czech Republic co-financed the EU project Regional Protection Programme (RPP) in the amount of 0.51m USD on **assistance to Syrian refugees** outside of the Czech Republic., This complex program targets neighbouring countries of Syria, where there is the largest concentration of Syrian refugees (Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq). The Ministry of Interior also provided a gift to the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) in the amount of 0.64m USD, and to the Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees totalling to the amount of 1.28m USD.

In 2013, the Czech Republic provided 9.89m USD to assist refugees in the Czech Republic, of which 9.02m USD qualified as ODA. Foreign nationals from 54 countries (707 persons) claimed international protection (asylum). Most claims were submitted by nationals of Ukraine (146), Syria (69), Russian Federation (53), Vietnam (49) and Armenia (43).

## Water supply and sanitation

One of the Millennium Development Goals, fulfilled before the deadline in 2015, was to halve the number of people with no access to drinking water and basic sanitary equipment.. Access to quality drinking water and sanitation equipment is, however, still not commonplace in many parts of the world. The water supply and sanitation sector, one of the long-term priorities of the Czech Republic, was therefore, the most important sector of the bilateral projects conducted by CzDA in 2013. In 2013, Czech development assistance focused particularly on providing drinking water, wastewater treatment, elimination of old environment burdens and, last but not least, on municipal waste treatment as prevention of water contamination.

The Balkan countries have been among the traditional recipients of assistance in the water supply and sanitation sector.

In 2013, the three-year project "Construction of wastewater treatment plant in the town of Hiralaçi" was completed. This project was unique, since the wastewater treatment plant in Hiralaçi is the very first facility in the country.

Another completed project in the Balkans focused on inter-ethnic cooperation in the Doboï - Maglaj region in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** in the waste management sector. Its main objective was to prepare documentation necessary for the construction of a regional landfill. Its main objective was to prepare documentation necessary for the construction of the regional landfill. The project significantly contributed to improving the situation of waste management in the broader region, and other local municipalities expressed interest in participating in the project. In the **Serbian** Vojvodina, construction of pressure sewers in the village of Kruščica continued in 2013. The project will, among others, positively affect the life of the Czech minority living in Serbia.

In the water supply and sanitation sector, the CzDA in **Moldova** actively collaborated with major multilateral and bilateral donors (GIZ, ADA, USAID) throughout 2013, with the directors of the CzDA and the Austrian ADA signing a memorandum on the continuation of mutual cooperation in this sector in November 2013. The CzDA also launched a new project in Moldova focused on municipal waste management. Implementation of follow-up projects was launched, focusing on elimination of old environment burdens.<sup>2</sup> of the three projects aimed at restoration of waste water treatment systems, originally scheduled for completion last year, had to be extended until mid-2014, due to monitoring, which identified a need to provide additional *phase out* activities allowing sustainable transfer of the projects' outputs to local authorities.

In **Mongolia** a project, which responded to significant water shortages in the area, was completed last year. It included activities for improving the yield of wells, ensuring the supply of drinking water for the growing capital city Ulaanbaatar, and designing a plan for sustainable water resources in the future. Three new projects were launched in this sector, among others, in the city of Murun and the Zavkhan province.

In 2013, following the previous Czech development activities in the SNNPR region, **Ethiopia**, a new project in the water supply and sanitation sector was implemented. Its objective was to use geophysical survey to verify sites and develop conceptual proposals for supplying the local population with drinking water. Other projects were also identified in Alaba Woreda. Due to cooperation of the Czech Geological Survey with the Geological Survey of Ethiopia, it was also possible to complete mapping of water resources, geology and geological hazards in most of Ethiopian territory. The project, which will continue in 2014, has significantly strengthened the capacity of the partner organization and accelerated mapping of the terrain.

In 2013 implementation of several long term projects, focused on the elimination of old environmental burdens, continued in **Vietnam**.

The sector cooperation with **Palestine**, where the Czech Republic supported the implementation of *MYWAS (Multi-Year Water Allocation System)* project, unfortunately encountered unexpected difficulties last year, due to personnel and organizational changes by the project implementer (Palestinian Water Authority), which caused delays of the entire project. The funding for the financial year was therefore withheld and continuation of the entire project re-evaluated.

## **Education**

Education is one of the main premise for the well-being and economic development of society, and of quality life. The level of education influences all facets of life—ranging from the empowerment of women, to supporting social and economic development by using qualified human resources in the public sector, as well as political stabilisation. Support of education sector, especially support of primary and vocational education, represents one of the traditional aspects of Czech development cooperation.

In 2013, implementation of three projects in the area of education continued in **Afghanistan**. The first focused on improving the quality of teaching at secondary agriculture schools. The objective was to provide students with the opportunity to learn in practice the process of agricultural production. At the same time 12 schools received grants to provide practical teaching. The second project focused on close cooperation with the Afghan Ministry of Education, the Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in the effort to strengthen the capacity of this institution, so that it could adequately respond to the needs in this sector. Furthermore, a project addressing poverty reduction and improvement of agricultural production in Afghanistan, by promoting the development of secondary vocational education in the agriculture sector, was completed. It sought to improve the quality of teaching through professional and methodological training for educators in particular schools, as well as implementation of practical teaching in schools.

The project in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** focused on capacity building in the field of assisted reproduction in livestock. Its aim was to create a team of experts able to operate the highly specialized centre which deals with quality assessment of semen and insemination doses of bulls and other livestock.

Three projects in the education sector were also implemented in **Ethiopia**. The objectives of two projects focusing on the development of leather industry in Ethiopia were to improve the quality of education and training of leather manufacturing, as well as create opportunities for the development of micro and small enterprises in leather industry. The third project aimed to integrate modern methods to teaching and learning practices at selected schools. The aim of the project was to revise the current teaching methods and make them more practical and student friendly. The programme "Deployment of Czech university teachers to Ethiopia" helped strengthen the professional qualification of employees of engineering geology, geological risk assessment and hydrogeology with focus on geological hazards, as well as development of technical fields, in particular alternative energy sources and the processing of agricultural products.

In **Cambodia** a project to increase the school attendance of children with disabilities in the province of Takeo, and improve the quality of school policies and regulations for inclusive education for handicapped children was implemented. In 2013,

a memorandum at the national level with key departments of the Ministry of Social Affairs was negotiated.

Project in **Moldova** sought to include children with disabilities and special education needs in regular elementary schools. The second project focused on promoting the development of population statistics and demographics, in order to create a fully functional system for obtaining and dissemination of relevant information on the latest population developments in the Republic of Moldova, and thereby increase the effectiveness of management and planning of social development at the time of adversely evolving demographic situation.

The project in **Mongolia** raises the qualifications and employability of the people in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. The project strengthened quality of four secondary technical and vocational schools. Second project focused on increasing the professional qualification of workers in rural agricultural support centres for herders, who are faced with low productivity of labour due to the use of environmentally unsustainable practices significantly contributing to degradation of pastures and the environment in general, as well as vulnerability to natural disasters (heavy long-lasting winters and epidemic diseases).

The project on the island of Sokotra in **Yemen**, increased food security and nutritional quality of the diet of the island population, through support of small-scale home gardens and seed-beds producing seedlings of crops, as well as endemic species. More than thirty established agroforestry entities and school gardens serve as models and examples of good practice.

The project in **Zambia** provided apprenticeship courses for bakers, electricians and tailors, adapted to the specific conditions of the Zambian educational system. The main idea of the project was to provide 13-25 years old people from rural communities in the Western Province of Zambia with vocational apprenticeships, so that they have a better chance to compete on the local labour market after graduation. Within three years of its duration about 350 students participated in the apprenticeship training, received an official certificate and are successfully employed in a new profession.

Another important aspect of development cooperation in education are scholarships provided to students from developing countries, enabling them to pursue education at public universities in the Czech Republic (for more information on scholarships see Chapter 4.3).

## **Agriculture, forestry and fishing**

Agriculture is usually the main source of sustenance for the inhabitants of remote and underdeveloped areas of developing countries. The main issues of agricultural production in developing countries include high dependence on natural conditions, major losses during harvesting and subsequent processing, low effectiveness and insufficient sustainability that may have immediate impact on basic living conditions. However, if modern techniques are correctly applied, agricultural activities support sustainable development. They also have a favourable effect on environment stability, as well as biodiversity.

One of the most significant activities of the Czech Development Agency in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** in 2013 was a project "Strengthening the capacity of veterinary laboratories and veterinary inspection services for the implementation of National Residue Monitoring Programme. "The project was closely coordinated with project "Fostering Agricultural Markets Activity" (FARMA), supported by USAID and the Swedish SIDA. . The launch of the project "Development of a System for Breeding

Beef Cattle in Bosnia and Herzegovina" represented another important activity. It aimed to facilitate standardized processes in breeding of beef cattle and increase the self-sufficiency in beef production. The successful project "Increase of milk production in North-East Bosnia" was completed in 2013 and its outputs were taken over by the beneficiaries of the project.

In **Ethiopia**, a number of projects was carried out to improve the quality and effectiveness of local agriculture, especially in terms of food availability and safety, sustainable management of soil resources, prevention of soil erosion and consultancy in agriculture. In **Zambia**, the project „Introduction of a controlled system of artificial insemination of cattle for small farmers in Zambia“, continued in 2013. The project broadened the focus of another, ongoing, project to increase the performance of local cattle breeds.

In **Mongolia** the project "Increasing the Efficiency of the Artificial Insemination of Cattle in Mongolia" was launched, contributing to the increase in self-sufficiency of livestock production through more efficient cattle breeding using artificial insemination. In Dornogobi, a project on the enhancement of plant production continued. Within this project a support centre was established, and a minimum of five groups of farmers received direct support. The Czech Development Agency further supported the effort of Prague Zoo to reintroduce the Przewalski horse to its original habitat, as well as the activities for improvement of the socio-economic situation of people living in the regional reservation area Gobi B, where the horses live.

In **Moldova** preparations began for a project facilitating access of agricultural co-operatives to the market and support for agricultural production with added market value. This project followed up on the results of previous projects in the agriculture sector and was based on lessons learned. Projects completed in 2013, to be built upon by new projects in the following years, include a project to spread the best agriculture practices of the Czech and Moldovan professional and commercial institutions, projects to support the development of ecological agriculture and a project focused on high added value production, using progressive agricultural technologies. There is a transfer of Czech experience and know-how with transition in the agricultural sector.

Three agricultural projects were implemented in **Georgia** in 2013. Two of them continued their activities from previous years and focused on capacity building and cooperation among, small-scale farmers in the province of Imereti and the creation of a sustainable rural service centre in Adjara.

In **Afghanistan** a project to improve the quality of agricultural production in the Zare District was underway in 2013. The trilateral project aimed at streamlining the use of natural resources in cooperation with local communities focused on strengthening food security.

## **Energy generation and supply**

Insufficient access to energy can have major negative impact on living conditions and significantly limit the development of a region. Inappropriate sources of energy can also play a negative role, especially in terms of emissions and other negative impacts on the environment and, consequently, also on the health of the population.

Due to many years of experience, the development activities of the Czech Republic are aimed at supporting sustainable energy resources and energy self-sufficiency. With emphasis on sustainable energy resources at local level, the Czech Republic builds on one of its priorities in the area of development cooperation during its EU Council presidency. Mainly, however, it contributes to the fight against climate

change, and fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goal number 7: ensure sustainable environment.

Czech development cooperation in the Balkans was mainly focused on the use of renewable energy resources. CzDA began strategic cooperation with UNDP **Bosnia and Herzegovina** in this sector in 2013. Czech experts were able to participate in the UNDP-GEF (Global Environmental Facility) project in the area of biomass utilization in the region of Srebrenica. In the energy sector the project "Usage of renewable sources of energy for district heating system in the village of Nemila" was also completed. The project "Enhancement of energy effectiveness in the hospital heating system in the city of Valjevo" was completed in **Serbia** in 2013. The renovated hospital was newly connected to the central heating system. In addition, a nearby housing estate was also connected to the system by a kilometre-long hot-water pipeline. The project to streamline heating utilized a geothermal borehole, which was used to heat the rehabilitation swimming pool in the hospital.

In **Mongolia**, one of the most expensive projects, aimed at modernising the control room and guild of the chemical water treatment plant at the Number 4 Power Plant in Ulaanbaatar, which is the key supplier of energy to the capital city, as well as a large part of the country, was successfully completed. The Czech Republic is also active in the sector of energy generation and supply in **Palestinian Autonomous Territories**. Installation of a solar power plant in the Tubas region, where Czech development assistance has been active since the late 1990's, was completed in 2013.

In **Cambodia**, a long-term project in the area of the use of sustainable energy sources, namely small domestic biogas stations, was finalized. A similar project was also implemented in the rural areas of central **Vietnam**, which, aside from biogas, is aimed at the evaluation of the potential of photovoltaic panels as the source of electric energy for local communities.

### **Other social infrastructure and services**

Czech development activities in the partner countries in the sector of other social infrastructure and services are aimed primarily at groups of population threatened by social exclusion. Projects of Czech development assistance provide social and health services that contribute to social and economic inclusion of children, especially those with disabilities, as well as seniors – that are directly threatened by social exclusion.

In **Moldova** implementation of projects "Promotion of diabetes prevention and treatment" and "Development of home care services in Northern Moldova" began. Construction was completed and two home care centres began their activities in 2013.

In 2013, Czech non-profit organizations continued the implementation of three projects in **Georgia** aiming to support vulnerable groups, such as seniors, youth at risk, multiple and single-parent families and people with disabilities.

In **Mongolia**, the Czech Republic focused on providing assistance in the remote western regions, where it donated mobile infirmaries and ambulances, in order to improve access to primary health care for the rural population.

In **Kosovo**, the Czech Republic supports disadvantaged population groups and their integration into society. In addition to projects supporting the blind and the hard of hearing, which in 2013 successfully followed up on activities from previous years, two projects, aimed at promoting education of population in socially excluded communities and people with disabilities, were also implemented. The project "Lifelong

Learning for the 21st Century" supported the development of professional expertise and practical skills of the population in northern Kosovo, predominantly inhabited by ethnic Serbs. The project "Providing support to Blind School – Resource Centre in Peja", very well received by partners, builds on activities initiated in 2012. Its main objective was to introduce music classes for blind in collaboration with the Jan Deyl Academy in Prague.

One of the population groups in direst need are disabled children in rural areas, whose form of disability provides them with very limited opportunities to attend a regular primary school. Czech project, ongoing since 2011, in **Cambodia** focuses specifically on these children, and through education and training of teachers helps the integration of these children into regular classes and among their peers.

At the end of 2013, a project aimed at increasing the quality of vocational secondary education (apprenticeship) and supporting the labour market in **Vietnam** was completed.

In the District of Mongu, **Zambia** with high rate of HIV/ AIDS infected, a project to reduce the social vulnerability of local orphans and other threatened children and their families was supported until the end of 2013 by supporting the access to education, small entrepreneurship and by providing foster families with psychological support.

A project to support small and medium entrepreneurs in the processing of agricultural production within the trade and other services sector was carried out in the District of Zare in **Afghanistan**.

## Health

Supporting access of the population to high-quality health care, and increasing the level of the services provided is an important part of the Czech development assistance. Supporting healthcare is part of the Millennium Development Goals, which include reduction of child mortality rates, improvement of maternal and child health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases. In 2013, eight health projects, six of them new, were implemented in six countries as part of the Czech development assistance. Health projects in 2013 focused on capacity building of vascular surgery, prevention of oncological diseases, improving the availability of health care and the prevention of chronic malnutrition of children.

In 2013, important health projects were implemented in the Balkans. In **Serbia** the project "Modernization and capacity-building of surgical unit of General Hospital in Pirot" was launched in 2013. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, a project aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Bosnian medical personnel and increasing the quality and extent of care in three hospitals in the cities of Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Foča continued. In **Georgia**, a project aimed at early detection and prevention of breast and cervical cancer in the regions of Samegrelo and Shida Kartli was completed in 2013. It included training of medical personnel and operation of mobile dispensaries, as well as activities raising awareness.

There were two health projects in **Cambodia** in 2013. The first was focused on improving quality and availability of health and nutritional care for children under 5, and the second project aimed to increase quality and availability of health care for mothers and children among rural population.

The Czech Republic implemented three health projects in Africa in 2013. Two projects were launched in **Ethiopia**. One focused on the development of health services and vocational training in the Sidama area by supporting the local hospital and nursing

school. The second aims to strengthen the capacity and service quality of Karat hospital. The project in **Zambia**, launched in 2013, supported capacity building and education quality of midwives at the local nursing school in order to improve care for mothers and children in the area.

In **Afghanistan**, the decision was made at the end of 2013, that the resources originally allocated to the sector of water supply and sanitation will be redirected to drug prevention (the relevant project to be launched in 2014) – this step was also in line with the implementation of the Action Plan of the National Drug Policy Strategy 2013-2015, which was approved by the resolution of the Czech Government in March 2012.

### **Humanitarian aid (emergency response and disaster prevention)**

The main objective of humanitarian aid is to prevent loss of life, and to relieve human suffering caused by natural or human-induced disasters or armed conflicts. It also involves early and permanent recovery, as well as assistance to countries and regions affected by humanitarian crisis. Disaster prevention and resilience building are also parts of humanitarian assistance, increasingly important in relation to linking humanitarian and development activities. The provision of humanitarian aid follows internationally recognised principles of good humanitarian donorship (GHD), most notably the key principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

The most serious humanitarian crisis throughout 2013 was the continuing conflict in **Syria** and its negative impact not only on the majority of the population inside the country, but also on the neighbouring countries (in particular, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Turkey). In 2013, the Czech Republic provided aid to Syria and the region (Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon) in the amount of 1.47m USD from the MFA humanitarian aid budget. In addition, the Government approved the proposal of the Ministry of the Interior (Moi) in November 2013, to provide 2.56m USD from the Moi budget in support of the asylum systems of Turkey and Bulgaria in the context of the influx of refugees from Syria to these countries.

The Czech Republic also contributed to humanitarian aid linked to conflicts in **Mali** and the **Central African Republic** and to post-conflict support of internally displaced persons, returnees and refugees in **Burma/Myanmar** (including Burmese refugees in Malaysia), **Yemen, Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia**. A total of 2.43m USD, i.e. 65% of the total humanitarian budget, was allocated to humanitarian aid linked to conflicts.

In regards to natural disasters, in 2013 the Czech Republic provided support to the Philippines following a series of disasters that culminated in the super typhoon Haiyan. The Czech Republic also supported recovery operations after the drought in **Afghanistan, Ethiopia and South Sudan**, as well as the response to the epidemic of the dengue fever in **Honduras**. A total of 0.64m USD was allocated to this assistance.

0.66m USD was distributed among countries facing complex humanitarian crises – including priority countries of the Czech development cooperation, Afghanistan and Ethiopia – in particular to promote health care and nutrition, access to drinking water and sanitation, and developing sustainable sources of livelihood.

Czech humanitarian assistance in 2013 was implemented by Czech and foreign non-governmental organisations (55.6% of the funds), international organizations (36.78%) and the embassies of the Czech Republic in Amman and Beirut (7.62%).

The government resolution No. 413 of June 13, 2012 allocated 3.73m USD to the annual Czech humanitarian assistance for 2013. Over the course of the year 27

humanitarian projects in 30 countries received support totalling to the amount of 3.73m USD (i.e., 99.99% of the approved budget).<sup>14</sup> Government resolution No. 788 of October 16, 2013 endorsed the inclusion of CZK 0.008m USD in MFA's humanitarian budget to cover the costs of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Amman in relation to the implementation of the humanitarian evacuation programme (MEDEVAC) of Syrian refugees in Jordan

Beyond the funds allocated to humanitarian aid within the MFA budget, some multilateral contributions (ICRC, UNOCHA) in the amount of 0.76m USD, bilateral projects (in the amount of 0.33m USD) and the MEDEVAC project managed by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health, with total costs of 0.38m USD, can be also characterized as humanitarian aid.

According to the OECD/DAC classification, the humanitarian assistance of the Czech Republic classified as ODA in 2013 can be divided into: emergency response, amounting to 4.65m USD, and disaster prevention and preparedness totalling to CZK 0.33m USD.

## **Industry, mining and construction**

Developing countries often lack sophisticated mining and industrial technologies or use them insufficiently. Ineffective production processes, old equipment and lack of qualified professionals result in inefficient methods and a disproportionately high burden to the environment. The Czech Republic seeks to minimize these risks by providing technical support and developing or strengthening professional capacity in the industrial sector via transfers of technologies and know-how.

In 2013, the Czech Republic supported a project in **Vietnam** (in a largely agricultural Thua Thien Hue province) focused on the development of the glass industry. The objective of the project was to contribute to the economic development of the central Vietnam region through sustainable development of the glass industry. The effort builds on previous activities in the region, which led to the verification of the largest deposits of high-quality glass sands in the country. The three-year project (2012 - 2014) aims to conduct evaluation of the industrial significance of the local resources, as well as to strengthen the technical and professional capacities of the partner organization (State Geological Survey of Vietnam) and its local branch in Vinh City.

## **General environmental protection**

The general environment protection sector covers mostly education and research activities, support for the creation of the relevant policies, and protection of the biosphere and biodiversity. Flood prevention also belongs to the environment protection sector. Related activities, such as protection of water sources, waste water treatment etc., belong, according to OECD/DAC methodology, to the water supply and sanitation sector.

In 2013, projects in the general environment protection sector predominantly aimed at prevention of floods. The project "Enhanced preparedness of **Georgia** against extreme weather" implemented by the CzDA, in collaboration with the Georgian National Environmental Agency (*NEA*), the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (CHMI) and Czech suppliers, aims to develop a flood warning monitoring system with the use of hydrological and meteorological stations. The project transfers experience of the Czech

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<sup>14</sup>Information about the annual Czech humanitarian assistance abroad for 2013 was discussed by the government on March 24, 2014.

Republic with flood warning and weather forecasting, including data collection and evaluation.

A similar project was implemented in 2010-2012 in **Moldova** on the river Prut, with follow up activities in 2013 aimed at ensuring the sustainability of project outputs, especially in terms of the ability of the project's beneficiary - State Hydrometeorological Service of Moldova - to operate and correctly use the installed flood warning system.

### **Trade and other services**

In 2013, projects in the trade and other services sector were implemented in three priority countries of the Czech development cooperation. In the District of Zare, in **Afghanistan**, a project to support small and medium entrepreneurs in the processing of agricultural production continued. In order to increase income and food security, the Czech Republic supported the processing of agricultural production with added value, focusing on oilseeds. The project also addressed product sales, training and material provision of farmers, including breeding poultry and bees.

In **Mongolia** a project focused on metrology was completed in 2013. Its outputs indirectly facilitated the improvement of market and reduction of business barriers. Information on time precision and frequency or length measurements is necessary, for example, for computer networks or engineering and industry. Thanks to the project, the Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology acquired new technology and instrumentation, which contributes to the consistency of measurement and improvement of the metrological infrastructure in Mongolia. The introduction of a national standard for measurement of length also contributed to the accuracy of measurement.

Czech development interventions continued in southwest **Serbia** aiming at strengthening the competitiveness of local cheese producers, and their ability to meet hygiene and market demands. Thanks to the project small farmers received milk cooling tanks and also had the opportunity to increase their knowledge of food processing. The local laboratory testing milk quality acquired new equipment for food analyses.

In 2013, the **Aid for Trade** programme, under the administration of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, continued. Projects were focused on assistance to partner countries, particularly in the efforts to build and develop their business activities, to assist in trade facilitation and liberalization to better integrate into the international trading system and acquire related benefits and profit. In broader sense, the projects also support capacity building in local production, building the infrastructure to support trade, technology transfers and services related to their installation.

Eight projects Aid for Trade were implemented in 2013 of which three projects were implemented in **Ethiopia**, two in **Mongolia** and one project was implemented in each of the following countries: **Georgia**, **Kosovo** and **Serbia**. The total amount of funds allocated to these projects was 0.31m USD.

### 4.3 Bilateral development cooperation by assistance modality

#### Development projects

**Development projects in partner countries** implemented as “technical assistance” (such as consultancy, transfer of know-how, seminars, etc.), were the most frequent form of assistance within bilateral development cooperation in 2013. . This form fully corresponds to the partnership principle, and also enables Czech experts to use their expertise in selected sectors. Where required by the partner country, investment projects were also implemented. The Czech Development Agency implemented its projects through public tenders, as well as subsidy programmes.

**Small scale projects** implemented by the Embassies of the Czech Republic as low-cost precisely targeted activity to support local entities and communities in education, health, social and non-governmental areas formed a special kind of Czech development cooperation in 2013.

A new tool of the Czech development cooperation called **Programme of Development-Economic Partnerships** has been employed since 2013. The direct objective of the programme is to support the cooperation of Czech private subjects with local partners in the developing countries using transfer of knowledge (know-how) and technologies. This new instrument is primarily designated for priority countries of the Czech development cooperation. Ethiopia and Serbia were selected as pilot countries for its implementation in 2013.

A specific **technical cooperation assistance on public financial management**, implemented by the Ministry of Finance and the *Aid for Trade* programme managed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, focused on increasing the level of integration of partner countries into international trade to benefit the development of their economies formed another part of development projects.

The bilateral development cooperation included in 2013 also **grant projects in the Czech Republic. These grant projects were** focused on development education and raising awareness and supported capacity-building of non-governmental organizations active in the field of development cooperation and its platforms.

Assistance modality of the Czech development cooperation included also scholarships for students from developing countries, humanitarian aid, assistance to refugees in the Czech Republic, etc.

**Table 7 Bilateral development cooperation by assistance modality**

Assistance modality	Volume (USD mil.)	% of Czech bilateral ODA
Bilateral and trilateral projects abroad*	21.45	37,75
Projects in cooperation with international organisations	1.12	1,98
Global Development Education and awareness	1.32	2,33
Support of NGOs	0.23	0,41
Administrative costs MFA + CzDA	1.41	2,49
Scholarships (including health care)	5.04	8,86
Transition Promotion Program	2.55	4,50
Humanitarian assistance (under MFA administration)	3.73	6,57
PRT (projects and experts)	0.17	0,31
Other development activities (public administration - departments, regions, universities)	3.37	5,92
International organizations projects (beyond funds allocated by government resolution No. 413/2012)	2.48	4,37
Assistance to refugees*	9.02	15,88
Civilian missions	2.66	4,67
Peacekeeping operations	1.87	3,29
Humanitarian assistance beyond government resolution No. 413/2012 (MEDEVAC)	0.38	0,67
<b>TOTAL beyond government resolution No. 413/2012</b>	<b>19.95</b>	<b>35,11</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56.81</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Note: these figures relate to countries internationally recognized as ODA recipients. The category of bilateral and trilateral projects abroad also include some of the projects implemented by international organisations with Czech Republic contributions, whose financing was approved by government resolution No. 413/2012.

### Scholarships for students from developing countries

Scholarships represent another important part of bilateral development cooperation. According to government resolution No. 301 from 2012, more than 130 government scholarships are provided every year, to support studies at public universities in the Czech Republic. The tradition of awarding scholarships dates back to the 1950s. Since then, approximately 22,000 students have pursued their studies in Czechoslovakia/the Czech Republic on a government scholarship. Students enrol in undergraduate, masters and doctoral study programmes in both the Czech and English language. The Government scholarship programme runs under the joint responsibility

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

The Strategy for the provision of government scholarships for students from developing countries for the period from 2013 to 2018, approved by the government in 2012, is in effect since 2013. This Strategy aims for greater transparency and streamlining in the scholarship granting process. The number of countries granted scholarships was slightly reduced, and thus a higher concentration and better use of scholarship offers was achieved. A new electronic register was launched, including an electronic application and an online aptitude test.

During 2013, a total of 538 scholarship recipients from 59 countries studied at Czech public universities. A total of 137 students terminated their studies (of these, 43 graduated, 40 completed the study otherwise, and the payout to 54 students was terminated, due to their exceeding the regular length of the programme; the majority of these continue to study at their own expense.

For the academic year 2013/2014, the Czech Republic offered 134 new scholarships (of which 94 were to study in the Czech language, and 40 in English), to 29 countries and UNESCO program Total funding of 4.96m USD (without healthcare costs) was allocated to scholarships for students from developing countries in 2013.

## **Civilian missions and peacekeeping operations**

The purpose of civilian missions and peacekeeping operations is to prevent and contain conflicts, to stabilise situation in areas where conflicts have already erupted, to pave the way for peaceful resolution, to assist in the implementation of peace agreements and to aid states and regions during the transition to stable government, as well as to support their economic development. As military and non-military threats increasingly tend to overlap, the coordination of the military, police and civilian entities that are involved in missions is vital. Peacekeeping missions are designed to have both a civilian and a military component. Their tasks, besides the usual military assignments, include the support the rule of law, reconstruction of government and civil defence, as well as provision of training of local police.

Funds for deployment of experts in civilian structures and missions in post-conflict territories in 2013 were drawn by the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while experts of several ministries were often involved in the particular mission.

As part of the Civilian Headline Goal, the Czech Republic has committed to providing civilian experts for missions organised by the European Union and other international organizations. The Czech Republic has provided 65 experts in 2013. Depending on the continuous rotation of these experts, at any given time in 2013, the average of 50 representatives from the Czech Republic were participating in EU civilian missions. The major missions included EULEX Kosovo, EUMM Georgia and EUPOL Afghanistan. The largest team was assigned to EULEX Kosovo with 33 experts at the beginning of the year.

The Czech Republic also funded closing activities of 4 civilian employees in the departing Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Logar province, Afghanistan, as well as one expert in NATO KFOR mission in Kosovo. Seven civilians were seconded within field operations of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Seven long-term and 45 short-term monitors were deployed in election-monitoring missions under the OSCE. In addition, 10 long-term and 15 short-term monitors were assigned to election-monitoring missions organised by the EU.

The total expenditure in 2013 amounted to 2.66m USD for civilian missions and 1.87m USD for peace-keeping operations.

### **NGO support**

The Czech Development Agency provided grants to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other authorized entities. Support of NGOs active in development cooperation focused on the development of their capacities and platforms (grant schemes Strengthening the Capacities and Partnership of NGOs, Strengthening Capacities of Platforms). In 2013, 9 projects received 0.15m USD aimed at capacity building and facilitation of NGO partnerships; a total of 0.08m USD was distributed among three platforms. A total amount allocated to NGO support was 0.23m USD. Two Czech regions implemented two projects under the grant scheme "Development Activities of Regions and Municipalities in the Program Countries of the Czech Republic's ODA" totalling to 0.03m USD.

NGOs also carried out a number of bilateral development projects in developing countries. Table 9 shows their share in this group of projects.

Trilateral projects are instrumental activities in promoting development partnership among non-governmental organizations, as well as in terms of effective spending and obtaining funding from other donors (grant scheme "Support for trilateral projects of Czech entities"). Their aim is to support cooperation among entities from the Czech Republic, another developed country or the European Union, and a developing country. These projects are primarily focused on the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular on fighting global poverty, support of education and know-how transfer. These projects are also implemented outside of the priority countries of Czech development cooperation, where non-governmental organizations promote meaningful change, in line with the MDGs. In 2013, a total of 45 trilateral projects received support totalling to 1.42m USD.

### **Development cooperation awareness and global development education**

Public and political support is a key prerequisite for the effective implementation of development cooperation, with public awareness, therefore, being of great importance. The effort to share information on the results and benefits of development cooperation with citizens is also inspired by the desire to stimulate greater public involvement in the long term.

Global development education, in particular, plays an essential role in this respect. Its aim is to achieve an understanding of the differences and similarities between the lives of people in developing and developed countries, which facilitates the understanding of the underlying economic, social, political, environmental and cultural processes, which influence them. It develops skills and supports the formation of values and beliefs, empowering people to become actively involved in dealing with both local and global issues.

Global development education has been steadily and actively promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As opposed to other OECD/DAC countries, however, the awareness among the Czech public of global issues and development cooperation remains low. Despite the undeniable solidarity that the Czechs show vis-à-vis acute humanitarian crises, there is only limited awareness of what extreme poverty entails, what the significance of long-term development cooperation is, and of what implications go hand in hand with global issues.

Under the grant scheme for promotion of global development education and awareness, the Czech Development Agency supported 22 projects in 2013, which amounted to 0.82m USD, while additional resources were allocated to support projects co-financed by the European Union and implemented in other EU countries. Partly owing to these grants, the number and impact of educational activities focusing on development and global issues at schools of all levels have been steadily on the rise within the Czech Republic.

As the coordinator of development cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs implements its own additional awareness-raising activities including conferences, seminars, exhibitions, publishing of printed materials, operation of a website, and cooperation with journalists. A total expenditure on these activities in 2013 amounted to 0.02m USD.

## 5 Multilateral development cooperation of the Czech Republic in 2013

Given how complex development problems of the contemporary world have become, development goals cannot be achieved via bilateral cooperation alone. In order to achieve significant and lasting improvement of the quality of life for people in developing countries, coordinated global action is necessary, including a wide range of policies concerning - besides development cooperation - international trade, environmental protection (including climate change measures), tax issues, the fight against corruption, migration, security and others.

In this respect, the Czech Republic has worked with a number of international organizations that strive to reduce poverty on a global scale. The Czech Republic participates especially in development activities organised by the United Nations, the European Union, international financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations.

**The Multilateral Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic for the period 2013-17**<sup>15</sup> determines the concept of how to purposefully capitalise on the Czech Republic's membership in international organizations. It also determines the scale of Czech involvement in the activities of individual institutions (financial involvement, and the participation of experts in executive structures), and sets the priorities of multilateral development cooperation (thematic and territorial). In the case of mandatory contributions arising from the Czech Republic's membership in the UN organisations, the Czech Republic strives for better targeting of its activities in these organizations and for effective use of its contributions. Targeted contributions to UN funds and programmes are provided either for implementation of specific projects, corresponding to the priorities of the Czech development cooperation, or to trust funds, which are then used to finance projects with participation of Czech entities. The Czech Republic's cooperation with international organisations active in the field of development and humanitarian aid for the period 2013-2017 therefore focuses on those organizations that offer the highest added value and allocate the entrusted funds in accordance with Czech Republic's interests.

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<sup>15</sup> The Multilateral Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic was approved by the Czech government on February 6, 2013.

## 5.1 Involvement in UN development activities

The United Nations is the most important global force in the area of multilateral development assistance and humanitarian aid, realised via its organizations, funds and programmes. The Czech Republic, in accordance with its foreign-political goals and with regard to its position as an important donor in the Central European region, has the interest and capacity to participate in the formulation of development strategies and management of international organizations. It participates actively in the work of organizations, programmes and funds of the UN and, in accordance with its possibilities, actively financially supports their activities.

In 2013, as in previous years, Czech multilateral development cooperation within the UN system was provided via mandatory contributions, arising directly from membership of the applicable organizations (FAO, ILO, UNIDO, WHO), as well as via targeted donations towards specific UN funds and programmes.

The amount of individual contributions is derived from a UN contribution scale valid for the given two-year period. Targeted contributions enable the financing of activities pursued by the international community in those sectors that do not receive any funding, or that receive the minimum funding from mandatory contributions of the member states. This method is applied especially within the UN, where dozens of programmes and funds financed exclusively by voluntary contributions of the member states exist, alongside individual expert organizations.

The contribution to the UN, reportable according to the OECD methodology as ODA and provided from the state budget of the Czech Republic amounted in 2013 to 9.71m USD.

### United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), founded in 1966 following UN General Assembly Resolution no. 2029, is the main UN body for the coordination of development activities. It has global reach, and is the largest provider of grant assistance within the UN. The UNDP focuses its activities on the eradication of poverty, the support of democratic government, the relationship between the environment and sustainable development, and on the impacts of climate change, while also trying to alleviate the impacts of economic and financial crisis on development activities. The UNDP is the key player in the process of improving UN development coherence, especially in the so-called pilot countries.

The UNDP is one of the main programmes that the Czech Republic has supported with its multilateral development assistance funding since 2000. In 2013, a donation totalling to the amount of 0.51m USD was made to the UNDP, to implement projects coordinated by its regional office in Bratislava, Slovakia (as of 2014 in Istanbul). These were mostly in support of the UNDP's development activities carried out by Czech entities in the regions of Eastern Europe, Western Balkans and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which were financed via the Czech - UNDP Trust Fund. The projects were implemented in the areas of the environment, support of local production and transfer of transition experience. Czech Republic contributed 0.05m USD to the UNDP's main fund.

In 2013 the Czech Republic ended its three-year tenure on the Executive Council, which is common for three UN programmes - UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The Czech Republic presided over the Executive Council in 2011 and held the post of Vice-President in 2012. It actively participated in the development of the UNDP/UNFPA

strategic plans for 2014-2017, and was engaged in the process of enhancing the transparency of these organizations, inter alia, by making the complete audit reports publicly available. Closer cooperation of particular UN development agencies has been boosted resulting in administrative costs saving and greater coordination of activities in particular countries where these organizations operate. Czech Republic's tenure of the Executive Council was very beneficial in terms of increasing the country's visibility in the UN and obtaining information about the agencies.

### **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)**

Since 1995, Czech volunteers have actively participated in UN development programmes and peacekeeping missions. A total of 280 Czech volunteers has already lent their helping hand to developing countries and crisis areas around the world since then.

In 2013, the Czech Republic supported UN volunteering via the participation of 21 Czech volunteers in UNV multilateral programmes. Of these, 7 volunteers were newly deployed in 2013 to peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia, as well as in development programmes. Furthermore, 7 graduates of Czech universities departed to take part in the UNV Internship Programme at UN agencies in the priority countries of the Czech Republic's development assistance.

UNV received a financial contribution of 0.26m USD to support the assignment of Czech volunteers to development projects in 2013.

### **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

As the executive agency of the UN's Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) monitors, assesses and reviews the implementation of the programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) at a national, and international level. Within its development programmes, UNFPA focuses on the issues of reproductive health, specifically on ways to improve maternal health, as well as on global health awareness, the reduction of child mortality and HIV/ AIDS prevention.

As mentioned above, the Czech Republic held a post in the joint Executive Council for UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS in the period 2011-13. The Czech Republic was also re-elected to the Committee for the UN Population Fund Award for the period 2013-15 and presided over the Committee in 2013.

In 2013, UNFPA was provided with a contribution of 0.10m USD to cover projects in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. These projects were carried out by Czech entities in areas where the Czech Republic may offer professional expertise and experience - for example, in demographics, maternal health and transition promotion.

### **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

UNEP's activities focus on the sustenance of international cooperation in the area of environment, the coordination of UN environment projects, the monitoring of the global environment, submitting proposals for resolving the most pressing environmental challenges, research support, exchange and dissemination of information concerning the environment.

In accordance with the results of the UN Summit on Sustainable development "Rio+20" in 2012, it was decided to strengthen UNEP. Resolution of the UN General

Assembly stipulates a general membership on the UNEP Executive Council. It demands provision of stable and enhanced UNEP funding. The highest authority of UNEP was established – the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). The first meeting of the Executive Council in the universal format took place in Nairobi on February 18 - 22, 2013. At the meeting, UNEP's medium-term strategy for the period 2014-2017 was adopted, and the initiative Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) received support.

In 2013, the Czech Republic donated 0.06m USD to the Environmental Fund of UNEP.

### **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

FAO heads the international effort to deal with famine in the world, and its partnership extends to both developed and developing countries.

The main tasks of the FAO include elimination of hunger, transfer of know-how in agriculture, effort to increase the level of nutrition, to improve yields in agriculture, to promote efficient distribution of food and to improve living conditions in general, as well as promotion of agriculture and sustainable rural development.

The 38th session of the FAO Conference took place in Rome on June 15 - 22, 2013. It is the governing body of FAO, which meets every two years. The main task of the Conference was to chart a strategy for future direction of FAO and to approve the budget. The Conference elected new members of its executive body - the FAO Council. The Czech Republic succeeded with its candidacy and will be a member of the Council for the period 2014-17.

The Czech Republic provided the FAO with a compulsory contribution of 1.72m USD for 2013 (of which 51% is reportable as ODA). It also donated 0.09m USD for the Czech Republic-FAO cooperation project, "Training programmes in specific areas". A regional seminar "4th Regional Workshop on Rural Development - Best Practices in Green Jobs creation for ensuring Sustainability of Rural Households and Resource Use", was held within the scope of the project on May 27 - 29, 2013 and attended, in particular, by representatives of the Balkan countries.

### **World Health Organization (WHO)**

WHO promotes international cooperation in health care and implements programmes aimed at eradication of serious diseases. It enforces the reduction of mortality, disease and disability, promotes healthy living and reduction of health risks resulting from environmental, economic and social conditions, as well as integration of health aspects into social, economic, environmental, and development strategies. It elaborates health policies, provides assistance in the preparation of national health strategies and keeps global statistics of public health. The activity of its epidemiological experts plays an important role in combating infectious diseases. WHO's importance is also increasing in the context of the growing risk of bioterrorism and as deals with other crisis events and humanitarian assistance.

The 66th World Health Assembly (WHA/WHO) was held in Geneva on May 22 - 26, 2013. The delegation of the Czech Republic was led by the Minister of Health, Dr. Leoš Heger. Health-related issues as well as general foreign policy issues, such as the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in the area of health or the assessment of the health impacts of the humanitarian crises in Syria, Mali and the Central African Republic were the subjects of negotiations.

In 2013, the Czech Republic provided WHO with a compulsory contribution of 1.65m USD (of which 76% is reportable as ODA). Part of the compulsory contribution for 2014 in the amount of 1.86m USD was paid as well.

### **Unites Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

UNAIDS was founded in 1994 by a resolution of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) no. 24. UNAIDS is the main advocate of the global fight against the AIDS epidemic. It strives to enhance awareness and education in this area, by monitoring and evaluating data about the state of epidemics and by mobilising resources. In 2013, the Czech Republic provided the UNAIDS main fund with a donation of 0.05m USD.

### **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**

UNIDO is a specialised UN agency focusing on assisting developing and transitioning countries in building export capacities, industry, environmental technologies, energy sector and agriculture. UNIDO is equally involved in helping these countries to create a favourable investment climate, as well as to integrate with the global economy. An important component of UNIDO's activities is disseminating knowledge related to industrial development and providing a platform for industrial and technical cooperation.

The 15th session of the UNIDO General Conference took place in Lima (Peru) on December 2 - 6, 2013. It was focused primarily on inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and adopted the second Lima Declaration. The Member States underlined their commitment to industrial policy as prerequisite for the development of their economies. The connection of industrial development to sustainable development was reinforced, in other words, the intersection with environmental protection and social development. Industry and industrial policy are considered to be a source of employment, a driver for the development of the private sector, including the small and medium-sized enterprises, and an engine for the creation of values and resources, also as regards tax revenues of individual countries.

In 2013, the Czech Republic acted on the UNIDO Industrial Development Board, onto which it was elected for the period 2011-2015. The Czech Republic provided UNIDO with a compulsory contribution of 0,5m USD (which is fully reportable as ODA).

### **International Labour Organization (ILO)**

In 2013, the cooperation of the Czech Republic with the International Labour Organization continued, particularly in the area of the reinforcement of democracy, the observance of human rights and on dignified work conditions and social justice by way of an extended offering of employment opportunities and protection of workers' rights. Czech funding of CZK 1.5 mil. was provided to an ILO project in Moldova "Return Labour Migration and the Socio-economic Development of the Republic of Moldova", whose objective was to analyze migration trends, especially those that have an impact on the return of migrants to Moldova and their possible subsequent repeated migration. Results of the analyses will be used in adoption and setting of new policies and strategies in Moldova aimed to support the reintegration of returned migrants to the Moldovan labour market, in order to utilize the human, financial and social capital of these returning migrants.

In 2013, the Czech Republic provided the ILO budget with a compulsory contribution of 1.67m USD (of which 60% is reportable as ODA). The contribution covers the Czech Republic's ILO membership in 2014.

### **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

The development sector of ITU is engaged both in the long-term programmes of aid for developing and the least developed countries (Benin, Djibouti, Lesotho, Somalia, Guinea, Ethiopia and Mali) and in short-term aid for natural disasters. Long-term programmes consist not only of the delivery of technology and software, but also of tutorial programmes which include skills, such as creation of national policies in the area of telecommunication, sharing of well-established administrative procedures, and training in the handling of crisis situations, etc. The predominantly technical assistance (communication systems, expert internships) is very well known, both for the least-developed, as well as other developing countries. Provision of satellite communications during the floods in Malawi or Uganda may serve as an example.

The Czech Republic contributes to these activities by its compulsory contributions to ITU, which are used to cover most of the organization's development activities. The Czech membership contribution to ITU amounted to 0.36m USD in 2013 (of which 18% is reportable as ODA). No targeted contribution was provided

### **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

UNESCO strives to contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable development and dialogue among cultures via the systematic support of education, research and artistic activities.

The Czech Republic provided UNESCO with a compulsory contribution of 0.78m USD (of which 60% is reportable as ODA).

### **UN-HABITAT**

UN-HABITAT is a UN programme that systematically deals with the challenges of human settlement and related issues of sustainable development, as well as fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals. By the end of 2012, the Czech Republic concluded its membership of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT, onto which it was elected for the 2009–2012 period. The Czech Republic provided an extra-budgetary contribution in the amount of 0.008m USD.

### **Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)**

UNOCHA is the main coordinator of global humanitarian assistance and advocates to ensure timely assistance to victims of conflicts and natural disasters. In 2013, UNOCHA played a vital role in negotiations on unhindered humanitarian access to internally displaced persons in Syria, and also in ensuring fast and effective coordination of assistance to the Philippines following the Haiyan Typhoon.

In 2013, the Czech Republic supported the activities of UNOCHA with the financial contribution of 0.06m USD approved by the government resolution No. 912 of November 27, 2013.

## **World Food Programme (WFP)**

The mission of WFP is to assist poor inhabitants of developing countries in fighting famine and malnutrition. Through food aid and related assistance, WFP supports economic and social development, as well as food security. In emergency situations, the Programme provides emergency aid to victims of natural and manmade disasters and conflicts. A total of 80% of its resources are dedicated to emergency assistance, also covering logistics (transport, warehousing and communication).

The Czech permanent representative in WFP acted as the Vice-President of the Executive Board in 2013. Within its humanitarian assistance in 2013, the Czech Republic supported the continuation of the project focused on nutrition of girls from vulnerable families and their engagement in education in Yemen (0.2m USD).

## **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

Since its founding in 1951, the UNHCR has fulfilled its mission among refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum or resettlement seekers. UNHCR operations fully respect the principles and goals highlighted in the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and in the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

In 2013, the Czech Republic provided 0.18m USD from the MFA humanitarian budget in support of the Syria Regional Response Plan coordinated by UNHCR, which provides assistance to Syrian refugees in the neighbouring countries. Additional 0.1m USD were donated via UNHCR to health care for Afghan refugees in Iran. Following the approval of the Multilateral Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2013-2017, the Czech Republic in spring 2013 began the process, which will lead to membership in the UNHCR Executive Committee.

## **United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

UNICEF's aim is to provide programme assistance to needy children across the globe in the sectors of health, nutrition, education, maternal development participation, etc. At the same time, UNICEF is responsible for humanitarian coordination in the sectors of water supply and sanitation, child protection, and education.

In 2013, the Czech Republic provided a donation in the amount of 0.1m USD to the UNICEF programme in Somalia focused on nutrition, education and protection of children.

## **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)**

UN Reliefs and Works Agency (UNRWA) operates both in the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza, as well as in other countries hosting large communities of Palestinian refugees. In connection with the conflict in Syria, UNRWA is assisting more than 120,000 Palestinian refugees in this country.

In 2013, the Czech Republic donated 0.2m USD in support of UNRWA's humanitarian activities, both in the PAT and in Syria; a total of 0.08m USD was devoted to assist the Palestinian refugees affected by the conflict in Syria, another 0.13m USD was allocated to food aid vulnerable families in Gaza.

## United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was established in 2005, with the aim of providing early funding for humanitarian needs, in particular at the onset of large-scale catastrophes. Its other task is to provide grants for the financing of critically underfunded humanitarian operations in countries with comprehensive humanitarian needs. The Czech Republic provides an annual voluntary contribution to the fund; in 2013, its targeted contribution totalling to the amount of 0.12m USD.

### 5.2 Involvement in EU development activities

The European Union is collectively the world's biggest aid donor, and an important proponent of good practices in development cooperation in general. The Czech Republic is actively involved both in EU development policy formulation, as well as in its implementation. According to the Lisbon Treaty, development cooperation belongs among shared competences, meaning that the EU's development cooperation policy and that of the Member States complement and reinforce each other. The basic EU development policy document, outlining the key principles, priorities and commitments is the European Consensus on Development of 2005. The Consensus sets the joint framework for provisions in development cooperation at the level of the individual Member States and the EU and confirms joint EU commitments to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular, halving global poverty rates by 2015. The Consensus highlights the importance of the partnership with developing countries, and of their own responsibility for the development process. The Consensus also calls for the improved effectiveness of development assistance and for development policy coherence with other policies that have an impact on development.

The priorities of EU development cooperation are summarized in a new policy document, the *Agenda for Change*, which was adopted in the form of conclusions of EU Council. It is a response to the changing needs of developing countries, the domestic expectations and the overall global context. Following the *Agenda for Change*, the EU should concentrate its development cooperation in support of human rights, democracy and other key elements of good governance, as well as on inclusive and sustainable development. In the implementation of development assistance, EU will apply a more differentiated approach to partner countries. The EU also confirmed its commitment to increase aid coordination and improve policy coherence.

The priorities of the *Agenda for Change* are also reflected in the new EU Strategy for Budget Support. The Czech Republic actively participated in formulation of this Strategy and supported changes aiming to lead to better financial management, macroeconomic stability and growth, and the fight against corruption. The budget support should complement – not replace – the generation of domestic resources in partner countries.

In implementation of EU development assistance, the Czech Republic emphasises, together with the other countries which joined the EU in the last decade, the use of transition experience, accumulated during its own transition processes.

The Czech Republic continuously strives to closely link its development cooperation activities with those of the EU and calls for geographical balance of EU development cooperation and its improved effectiveness. The Czech Republic is actively involved in the formulation of EU development policy, focusing on its own thematic and geographical priorities, and participates in the programming and implementation of activities financed by EU external instruments. The Czech Republic also supports the

initiative of *EU Joint Programming*, which aims to improve the effectiveness of EU joint efforts in partner countries.

### **Development cooperation funded from the EU budget and the European Development Fund (EDF)**

External cooperation of the EU consists of several instruments that receive funding from the EU budget, and the European Development Fund (EDF), which is outside the EU budget. Besides EDF, which finances the EU's cooperation with the poorest countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, the most important tools, in terms of the amount of funding provided to EU development programmes, are the other three instruments of territorial focus: 1) the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), focusing most notably on the developing countries of Asia, Middle East and Latin America; 2) the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), and 3) the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). In terms of the Czech Republic's foreign priorities, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) is also considered significant. In the context of the internal functioning of the EU, the Czech Republic is actively trying to influence the targeting of EU external assistance instruments, so that they also reflect the priorities of Czech development cooperation and foreign policy. This is achieved mostly by intensive involvement of Czech embassies abroad in the preparation of upcoming EU strategic documents, which are developed by corresponding EU delegations in the relevant countries or territories. Another form of the Czech Republic's involvement is presentation of national priorities within the structures of the European Commission (committees) or the EU Council (working groups), which are concentrated in Brussels.

In terms of EU development assistance implementation, the Czech Republic has striven to increase the participation of Czech entities in the implementation of projects funded by the EU instruments for external assistance. For this purpose, the inter-departmental group, called. "*The Task Force on EU External Instruments*", continued its activities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. One of its outputs was the updated MFA Handbook for businesses, non-governmental organisations and public institutions for 2014.

Funding provided to the EU budget constitutes an important part of Czech multilateral assistance. The Czech Republic, as well as other EU Member States, counts a certain percentage of its membership contribution to the EU budget towards its ODA.

In 2013, this contribution amounted to 98.82m USD. The Czech Republic also contributed to EDF, with three instalment payments totalling to the amount of 19.83m USD.<sup>16</sup>

### **5.3 Involvement in OECD development activities**

#### **Development Assistance Committee (DAC)**

The OECD's *Development Assistance Committee* (DAC) represents the main strategic department of OECD in the field of development. It monitors global development in a wider context, and ensures the coherence of rules, while also

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<sup>16</sup>In 2013, no Czech entity was a contracting party (or a beneficiary) within EDF, however, their indirect participation through subcontracting cannot be ruled out. In contrast, Czech entities were relatively successful in other instruments of the EU's external affairs, in particular in DCI, ENPI and IPA.

providing overall inputs necessary for the drafting and implementation of development cooperation rules.

The Czech Republic was accepted as a full member of the DAC on May 14, 2013. Membership on this Committee is a significant recognition of the achievements in the area of development cooperation and humanitarian aid that the Czech Republic reached since 1995.

Unlike other multilateral organisations, the OECD DAC does not dispose of any funds for the implementation of development assistance. The contributions of member countries are used only for its own activities. DAC serves its member countries primarily as a forum for the exchange of *best practices*. It collects statistical data and conducts regular *peer reviews* of the development cooperation practice in member countries. In 2013, the DAC has reviewed the development assistance of Australia, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden. The *peer review* in the Czech Republic is planned for 2016.

Some of the significant OECD-DAC professional activities include the creation of various standards (e.g. for statistical reporting) and *guidance*, e.g. concerning the environmental impact assessment, etc. In the long term, the DAC is engaged in the aid effectiveness agenda, including the Czech Republic's participation in the meeting of the so-called Global partnership for effective development cooperation, which was held in Mexico in April 2014. In recent months, the DAC also comments on the formulation of the post-2015 agenda.

In 2013, the Czech Republic contributed 0.05m USD in targeted contributions to the activities of DAC.

### **OECD Development Centre (DEV)**

The OECD's *Development Centre (DEV)* remains the main platform for cooperation, comparative analyses and informal discussions on development issues among the OECD members and other countries. DEV took an active part in the preparation of the **OECD Strategy on Development**, adopted in 2012. The main goal of the Strategy is to identify the OECD's comparative advantages in the changing global economic landscape in comparison to other international organizations, as well as to strengthen the OECD's contributions to higher and more inclusive growth in the widest array of countries. Other reasons for elaboration of the new Strategy are due to the shift of the centre of economic growth onto non- OECD member countries, the changing structure of development financing and the increasing amount of poverty in middle-income countries.

Subsequent to the Fourth High Level Forum (HLF 4) in Busan, in July 2012, the session of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness approved the **mandate of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation**. The Global Partnership brings together OECD member countries and a wide range of other providers and recipients of development assistance (particularly important is the participation of OECD key partner countries, such as China, India, Indonesia and other emerging economies, who are not only recipients, but also providers of development assistance).

## 5.4 International financial institutions

### International Development Association (IDA)

The *International Development Association* (IDA), founded in 1960, is one of the member institutions of the World Bank Group. Its principal mission is to provide aid to the poorest developing countries in areas such as education, health care, access to drinkable water, social network, fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS, etc. A total of 82 countries, where the per capita GDP did not exceed 1,205 USD in 2012, are presently authorised to draw on IDA funding. The Czech Republic has been a donor country since 1990. The Minister of Finance confirmed the Czech Republic's commitment to take part in the 16th IDA replenishment totalling the amount of 17.28m USD during the period 2012-2014. The amount is paid equally in three annual instalments due in 2012-2014. The second instalment of the 16th IDA replenishment totalling the amount of 5.7m USD was paid in 2013.

### Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (IDA-MDRI)

Founded in 2006, MDRI's aim is to completely relieve selected developing countries of their debts vis-à-vis the International Development Association, the International Monetary Fund and the *African Development Fund*. The Minister of Finance issued a confirmation of the Czech Republic's commitment to take part in the MDRI replenishment. A commitment to provide MDRI with 5.87m USD in funding over the period 2012-2022 was approved. The payment of Czech Republic's commitment continues in annual instalments. The 7th instalment totalling the amount of 0.41m USD was paid in 2013.

### International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

The Articles of Agreement of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development were drafted at the Bretton Woods Conferences in 1944 and 1946. IBRD strives to reduce poverty in middle-income countries, as well as in creditworthy countries, through the provision of loans, guarantees and other assistance, including analytical and consultancy services for the sake of sustainable development.

An annual review of the capital investment paid by the Czech Republic in CZK is performed each year, to verify whether its dollar value, affected by variations in the CZK/USD exchange rate, remains the same. The payment related to the increase of the IBRD capital, approved by the governors of the bank in 2011, was realised in 2013. The IBRD capital will be increased by nearly USD 58.4 billion. The Czech Republic is authorised to subscribe to a total of 1685 IBRD shares, of which 276 shares worth USD 1.99 mil. were subscribed to in 2013.

### European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

EBRD was founded in 1991 to assist the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia as they transitioned to a market economy. The Czech Republic has built a well-respected position among the new EU member states, earning recognition as an active partner of EBRD, namely inter alia, due to the timing of the country's joining of the Western Balkans Fund in 2006, and by setting up its own Czech Technical Assistance Fund. The Fund was created on the basis of the government resolution No. 1448/2007 and the funds may be allocated exclusively to Czech entities. Funds are used for the provision of technical assistance in target countries for EBRD operations, which

are at the same time recipients of ODA, and with the intention to strengthen and consolidate commercial links of Czech entities, their active involvement in EBRD projects on the basis of winning the tender, and to encourage investment and export activities.

In 2013, the Czech Republic supported EBRD activities, namely the aforementioned Czech Technical Assistance Fund, with a contribution of 3.55m USD. In the framework of EBRD, payment was also made to the Energy Efficiency and Environment Fund in the amount of 0.28m USD, which is aimed at supporting investment projects mainly in the field of energy efficiency and environmental protection in the region of Eastern Europe, where cooperation is politically and strategically desirable. From the Czech Republic's perspective, the Fund, in addition to being the political signal of support for the Eastern partnership, represents an opportunity for Czech entities to participate both in technical assistance projects, as well as in the implementation of their own investment projects.

### **Transfer of Share in the Proceeds from the Sale of IMF Gold (IMF Gold)**

In 2013, the Czech Republic agreed with the second transfer of its share of the windfall profits of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from the sale of gold to benefit the *Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT)*. The transfer was approved by government resolution No. 162 of March 6, 2013. The PRGT facility is a fund managed by the IMF, providing preferential loans to the low-income countries. In the case of the Czech Republic, the contribution amounted to 7.37 mil. SDR (representing, in March 2013, when the transfer took effect, the equivalent of approx. 11.09m USD).

No other transfers to IMF (and/or to facilities it manages) were carried out. The Czech National Bank (CNB) is responsible for the provision of bilateral loans, utilizing its foreign exchange reserves.

## **5.5 Other international organizations and funds**

### **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

The IOM, an intergovernmental organization founded in 1951, focuses on solutions to problems related to migration, including assistance to refugees and reconstruction efforts following disasters. It has pursued its activities in the Czech Republic since 1998, dealing most notably with the issues of voluntary returns and re-integration, labour migration, the prevention of and fight against human trafficking, building of capacities in migration management and integration of immigrants.

In 2013, the Czech Republic provided IOM with a mandatory contribution of 0.15m USD (which is fully reportable as ODA), and with two targeted voluntary donations as part of humanitarian aid totalling 0.31m USD: 0.15m USD was directed to assist Burmese refugees in Malaysia, and the same amount to help the refugees and returnees from Syria to Iraq.

### **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**

The International Committee of the Red Cross was founded in 1863, with the goal of promoting the care of people injured in wars, including the relevant international treaties, while also initiating the existence of field health services in individual countries. The ICRC headquarters are located in Geneva; it pursues its independent

mission of assisting victims of wars and violence, while also promoting observance of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and humanitarian principles, most notably in the situation of violent conflicts.

The Czech Republic cooperates with the ICRC both in the advocacy work related to IHL, as well as in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

In 2013, the Czech Republic provided a mandatory contribution amounting to 0.7m USD (which is fully reportable as ODA). Furthermore, the Czech Republic provided humanitarian aid via ICRC to assist the population of Mali affected by conflict (0.15m USD).

### **Law and Order Trust Fund Afghanistan (LOTFA)**

The Law and Order Trust Fund in Afghanistan (LOTFA) is a multilateral financial mechanism, which provides support to the building of Afghan National Police forces. LOTFA is jointly administered by the Government of Afghanistan and the UNDP. It represents the most reliable way to fulfil international financial pledges made in support of the transition of responsibility for security in Afghanistan, as well as for the development of civil security capacities. In 2013, the Czech Republic's contributed 0.05m USD to LOTFA.

## **6 Conclusion**

The Czech Republic was accepted as a full member of the **OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in 2013**. Membership on this Committee is a significant recognition of the achievements in the area of development cooperation and humanitarian aid that the Czech Republic has reached since 1995 in institutional arrangements, practical development efforts and the transparency of its activities.

Implementation of the priorities of the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2010-2017 continued in 2013. Several **conceptual steps were also made to further increase the effectiveness** of Czech development activities, as well as to strengthen the strategic activities of the Czech Republic in the area of multilateral cooperation.

In 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs completed and submitted for approval to the Czech Government the **Multilateral Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2013-2017**. The follow up to the Strategy was the preparation of the **Strategy for involvement of Czech entities in projects funded by EDF**. The draft of this strategy was presented to the members of the Council for Czech Development Cooperation for comments at the end of 2013.

Mid-term evaluation of the Strategy was initiated aiming to assess whether the priorities and principles settled down in the Strategy were still relevant and met the global challenges, or whether it is necessary, for the remaining term of the Strategy, to update the fundamental objectives of the Czech development cooperation and principles of its provision or to adjust its priority countries and sectors.

As regards the total official development assistance indicators, in 2013, the **ODA of the Czech Republic amounted to 210.16m USD, which represents 0.11% of GNI<sup>17</sup>**.

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<sup>17</sup>According to the 2005 conclusions of the European Council, the Czech Republic should seek to achieve the ODA/GNI ratio of 0.33% by 2015.

In the long term the Czech multilateral assistance outweighs the bilateral, in 2013 at a ratio of 73% to 27%.

In **bilateral development cooperation**, development projects played a dominant role, the vast majority of them being managed by the Czech Development Agency, while only several types of activities were administered by various ministries. Bilateral cooperation in 2013 was primarily implemented with the five highest-priority countries as defined by the programming framework (Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Moldova and Mongolia), and also with project countries (Georgia, Cambodia, Kosovo, Palestinian Autonomous Territories, Serbia).

The Czech Republic also made progress in negotiations of agreements on development cooperation with some priority countries. The agreement on development cooperation was signed with **Serbia** and a similar agreement with **Moldova** came into force. Their main goal is to contractually ensure liberating Czech development projects and their implementers from import duties, taxes, visas and other bureaucratic expenses in partner countries. In 2013, the Afghan Ministry of Finance, responsible for the coordination of development cooperation, received the mutually agreed Development Cooperation Programme for **Afghanistan** for the period 2013–2017.

In terms of division of the development cooperation by sectors, the Czech Republic focused in 2013 primarily on government and civil society (among others, also through the Transition Promotion Program), water supply and sanitation, agriculture and education. Humanitarian aid holds a significant place in the Czech ODA as well.

The contribution of selected projects in priority countries and projects aimed to strengthen capacities of the non-governmental platforms active in the Czech development cooperation was assessed by independent evaluation teams. Recommendations that resulted from the evaluations were incorporated into subsequent implementation of bilateral development cooperation.

In the area of **multilateral development cooperation**, the Czech Republic gets involved in development activities organised by the United Nations, the European Union, international financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations. Multilateral cooperation of the Czech Republic within the UN system in 2013 was carried out through mandatory contributions to relevant specialized organizations (UNIDO, FAO, WHO, ILO), as well as by targeted contributions, intended to support specific projects.

Contributions to the European Union's budget and the European Development Fund represent the most important component of the Czech multilateral ODA. In the planning of EU development assistance, the Czech Republic emphasises the use of transition experience, accumulated by the Czech Republic and the other new Member States during their own transition processes.

## List of Abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
B2B	Programme of Development-Economic Partnership (Business To Business)
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CR	Czech Republic
CzDA	Czech Development Agency
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCI	Development Cooperation Instrument
DEV	OECD Development Centre
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EDF	European Development Fund
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
EU	European Union
EULEX	European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo
EUMM	European Union Monitoring Mission
EUPOL	European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FARMA	Fostering Agricultural Markets Activity
FoRS	Czech Forum for Development Cooperation
GDE	Global Development Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility, WB
GHD	Good Humanitarian Donorship
GIZ	German Agency for Economic Cooperation and Development (Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
GNI	Gross National Income
GR	Government Resolution
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDA	International Development Association
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LOTFA	Law and Order Trust Fund Afghanistan
LPTP	Department for Human Rights & Transition Policy Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
SSP	Small Scale Projects
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDRI	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
MEDEVAC	Medical Evacuation
MF	Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
MIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic
MoH	Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic
NGO	Non-governmental organization
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
ORS	Development Cooperation & Humanitarian Aid Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
PAT	Palestinian Autonomous Territories
PCD	Policy Coherence for Development
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PRSPS	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
RO	Representative Office
SDR	Special Drawing Rights, IMF
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region, Ethiopia
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNOCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization