

2019 Humanitarian Assistance Operational Strategy of the Czech Republic

Executive Summary

Providing of humanitarian assistance financed from the Czech Government Budget is based on the **Act on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid**, which entered into force in 2010.¹ According to this law, the humanitarian aid (HA) is defined as a set of activities financed from the national budget in order to prevent loss of life and injury, to alleviate suffering, to protect human dignity and to restore basic living conditions of people after an emergency, as well as to mitigate long-lasting consequences of emergencies and to prevent their occurrence and negative consequences.

The provision of humanitarian assistance of the Czech Republic is governed by fundamental international humanitarian principles of **humanity** (the main goal is saving lives), **impartiality** (HA is provided strictly on the basis of needs), **neutrality** (the humanitarian actors do not favour any part of a given conflict) and **independence** (the aid is provided regardless of political, economic, military or other aims of the donor and/or beneficiary). The Czech Republic endorsed these principles in 2006, having joined the **Good Humanitarian Donorship** (GHD) platform.²

We promote the leading role of the **UN** (in particular UNOCHA) in the global coordination of humanitarian action, and cooperate regularly with UN-related humanitarian agencies and programmes (in particular IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA and WFP). The **International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement**'s role in the promotion of International Humanitarian Law as well as its field presence in particular in conflict-affected countries is highly appreciated and supported. We participate in the forming of the **EU** humanitarian policy and response as well.

In 2016, the Czech Republic played an active role in the forming of indicators for the implementation of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030**³. We further endorsed the **UN Agenda for Humanity** as well as the **Grand Bargain** document which represents a comprehensive summary of measures for a more efficient humanitarian system as presented on the First World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. The Czech focus is on local partners' involving and capacities, multi-year financing and limited administrative requirements towards our implementing partners.

In the programming of our humanitarian response 2019, both **global humanitarian needs assessments** and the **follow-up to the bilateral humanitarian assistance** provided in 2018 are taken into consideration.

¹ 151/2010 Act on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid and Amending Related Laws

² PRINCIPLES AND GOOD PRACTICE OF HUMANITARIAN DONORSHIP, endorsed in Stockholm, 17 June 2003, by 16 donor countries and the EC. Several other donors, incl. the Czech Republic (2006), have joined since then (42 in January 2017); the EU joined collectively in 2007 through the endorsement of the EU Consensus on humanitarian aid.

³ Adopted on the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015.

In **2019**, the amount of **CZK 218 million** will be available for humanitarian assistance in the initial budget⁴, representing an increase by CZK 38 mio, compared to the 2017 initial budget. In addition, at least **CZK 20 mil** from special means for Syria 2016 – 2019 will be provided in the form of humanitarian assistance.

We will continue our support to **countries affected by conflict and forced displacement** (in particular Iraq, Syria + refugees in Jordan and Lebanon; Yemen; Sahel – Mali and Niger; Myanmar; Afghanistan, incl. refugees in Iran and Pakistan; and the Ukraine), including refugees from these countries in the neighbouring regions and their host communities, with a particular focus on health care, education and protection. Following the opening of a Czech Embassy in Bamako (January 2019), the possibilities for trilateral humanitarian cooperation in Mali and Sahel will be explored, in particular with France, Germany and Spain, further with Denmark and Luxembourg.

Another continued priority will be the humanitarian response in our **bilateral ODA partner countries** (in particular Cambodia, Ethiopia and Zambia) according to their needs and with a special aim on reducing structural vulnerabilities, risk reduction and resilience building.

There will be follow-up activities in the recovery and reconstruction, combined with DRR and resilience building, in Greece (fires), Indonesia (tsunami + earthquake) and Mexico (earthquake).

We will coordinate closely the humanitarian assistance programme with related programmes under the authority of the Ministry of Interior (MEDEVAC – the Medical Evacuation Programme; Refugee Assistance Programme in Regions of Origin).

A **Mid-term review** of the Strategy will be completed in July 2019.

Preliminary distribution of the Czech humanitarian budget 2019:

Period	Indicative Amount (CZK)	Countries/Activities	Implementing Partners
Q I - IV	60.000.000	Ad hoc needs and emergencies	UN, ICRC/IFRC, IOM, Czech and local NGOs
Q I	35.000.000	Calls for Proposals: Protracted emergencies (Ethiopia, Myanmar, Mali, Niger, Ukraine, Zambia)	NGOs registered in CZ
	15.000.000	DRR and resilience (Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia)	
	40.000.000	Urgent assistance (Iraq + refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey)	
	20.000.000	Syria (<i>special means</i>)	
Q I - II	15.650.000	Pledges from 2018: Greece, Indonesia, Mexico	CZ experts, local partners
Q III - IV*	52.350.000	International Cooperation, according to Czech and international assessments	ICRC, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, CERF, local partners
Total	218.000.000 + 20.000.000	Hum Aid Budget Means for Syria	

* Based on the mid-term review of the humanitarian situation and available means.

⁴ According to the Government decision No. 435 from June 26, 2018 (2019 Development Cooperation Plan)