

2020 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, 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 particular prioritizing the implementation of humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

The Czech Republic promotes the implementation of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030**³, with a stress on preparedness, risk management and resilience. We also take part in the implementation of the **Grand Bargain** initiative, focusing on local partners' participation and capacities, multi-year financing and limiting administrative requirements.

The Czech Republic cooperates also with other bilateral donors (Germany, France, Spain, Denmark; V4 countries), currently mostly in relation to humanitarian and stabilization efforts in Africa in general and Sahel in particular.

In the programming of our humanitarian response 2020, both **global humanitarian needs assessments** and the **follow-up to the bilateral humanitarian assistance** provided in 2019 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 **2020**, the amount of **CZK 220 million** will be available for humanitarian assistance in the initial budget⁴; 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, as well as on integration of handicapped. Following the opening of a Czech Embassy in Bamako (September 2019), the possibilities for trilateral humanitarian cooperation in Mali and Sahel are enhanced.

Another continued priority is 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, and promoting risk management and resilience building.

There will be follow-up activities in the recovery and reconstruction, combined with DRR and resilience building, in Albania (earthquake), the Philippines and Indonesia (tsunami, earthquakes, hurricanes); and continued assistance to population in Venezuela, incl. refugees in Colombia and Peru.

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 2020.

Preliminary distribution of the Czech humanitarian budget 2020:

| Period | Amount (CZK) | Countries/Activities | Implementing partners |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q I – IV | 45.000.000 | Ad hoc needs and emergencies | UN, IOM, ICRC/IFRC, Czech and local NGOs, |
| Q I | 40.000.000 40.000.000 10.000.000 | Calls for proposals Urgent assistance Protracted emergencies DRR and resilience | NGOs registered in CZ, with local partners |
| Q I - II | 2.000.000 18.000.000 Do 2.000.000 20.000.000 | Pledges from 2019: Albania Yemen Pakistan Sahel (Mali, Niger) | Partner to be identified ICRC, WFP Local NGO WHH, UNICEF |
| Q III - IV* | 43.000.000 | International cooperation | ICRC, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, CERF, UNDRR, local NGOs |
| Total | 220.000.000 | | |
| Additional means | 20.000.000 Syria | Call for proposals | NGOs CZ + local |

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

⁴ According to the Government decision No. 586 from August 26, 2019 (2020 Development Cooperation Plan)