



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic

Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid
Department
Loretánské nám. 5, 118 00 Praha 1
tel.: +420 224 182 366, e-mail: ors@mzv.cz,
<https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/index.html>

2022 Humanitarian Assistance Operational Strategy of the Czech Republic

Executive Summary



The continued impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, together with the growing impacts of climate change, have highlighted the importance of the international humanitarian assistance and of the global humanitarian system as well as of the preparedness, prevention, anticipatory action and of coherence and cooperation between humanitarian and development actors.

The Czech Republic confirms its international obligations of solidarity and assistance provided according to international humanitarian principles and with full respect to the International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

The main goals of the Czech humanitarian assistance

The main goal of the Czech humanitarian assistance is identical with the global one: saving lives and alleviating suffering of people affected by natural or man-made crisis, including conflict and forced displacement; and to contribute to their fast stabilization and resilience building.

In this main framework, the Czech humanitarian assistance in particular focuses on:

- ✓ fast and efficient response based on needs, our capabilities and international division of labour;
- ✓ coherence of our humanitarian and development assistance, including through integrated approach to planning, funding and implementation (humanitarian-development-peace nexus);
- ✓ vulnerability reduction, empowerment and resilience building of local populations and their response capacities (localisation);
- ✓ contribution to the international efforts related to IHL, with a special focus on humanitarian access to people in need, protection of vulnerable populations and safety of humanitarian workers.

Czech priorities in relation to the EU Humanitarian Communication

The Communication on the EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles, was adopted in spring 2021. In view of the Czech EU Presidency in autumn 2022, the Czech Republic will focus its humanitarian work, in particular in the COHAFA working group, on following joint priorities:

- ✓ **DRR, preparedness and anticipatory action**, in response to fragility and climate change and in view of enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian action and contributing to reduction of humanitarian needs. In the framework of the European year of youth 2022, the awareness raising, as well as practical involving of young people will be highlighted.
- ✓ The sharing of good practice in implementing **the humanitarian-development-peace nexus** will be encouraged, not least in cooperation with the International Network for Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) and its analytical work on the OECD/DAC Nexus Recommendation.
- ✓ **The response capacities** will be enhanced in cooperation with the PROCIV working group. In the same time, reduction of the environmental impact of EU humanitarian response will be promoted, not least with enhanced use of digitalization and innovations, and with a stress on localized and nature based solutions.
- ✓ In relation to the IHL, **unhindered and safe humanitarian access** in all kinds of crises will be promoted in cooperation with COJUR and RELEX working groups.

Thematic priorities

The main thematic priority of the Czech humanitarian assistance is enhancing of preparedness and resilience of populations, institutions and governments, through risk reduction, risk management both in general and as part of the disaster response.

Our assistance pays special attention to marginalized regions and vulnerable persons and their protection, participation and empowerment – such as orphaned and unaccompanied children, single women with children, alone living senior people and persons with handicap.

Sectoral focus is coherent with the general bilateral assistance and the SDG framework, focusing in particular on access to safe water and sanitation, basic health and nutrition care, and basic livelihood, incl. the adaptation to climate change.

Geographic priorities

In terms of geographic priorities, we prioritize the response to humanitarian needs of our partner countries for bilateral development cooperation, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Moldova, and Zambia, incl. the implementation of double and triple nexus of humanitarian-development-peace (stabilisation) activities.

Other geographic priorities are fragile countries affected by conflict and forced displacement or in need of post-conflict stabilization such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Sahel region, and the Ukraine. Some of them are covered by multi-annual assistance programmes (in 2022: Middle East Assistance Program 2022-2025, and Africa Assistance Program 2020-2022).

Implementing partners

The Czech humanitarian assistance is managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, in close cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, Directorate General for the Fire Rescue Corps (which holds the responsibility for humanitarian response in the EU MSs).

A substantial share of the humanitarian assistance funded by the Czech Republic is implemented in cooperation with Czech, local and international NGOs such as ADRA, CARE, Caritas, People in Need, Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

The Czech Republic also annually contributes to the humanitarian programmes and pooled funds coordinated by international organisations, in particular ICRC - International Committee of Red Cross, IFRC - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies incl. DREF), IOM - International Organisation for Migration, UNDRR – United Nations Organisation for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund, and WFP – World Food Programme.

Criteria for humanitarian funding

In view of the huge scale of needs and limited means, the main criteria for decision making in the humanitarian area for the Czech Republic are as follows:

- ✓ **Needs:** scale and impact of the crisis, request for assistance by the affected country and its own capacities;
- ✓ **Capabilities:** thematic focus, available implementing partners, division of labour with other donors, quality and efficiency of the assistance;
- ✓ **Coherence and integration:** track record of former assistance, humanitarian-development-peace nexus, comprehensive partnership;
- ✓ **Cross-cutting:** good governance (respecting IHL and humanitarian principles, building of local capacities); human rights and gender equality (incl. vulnerable groups and their

protection and empowerment); protection of the environment (incl. adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts, disaster risk reduction, preparedness and resilience according to Sendai Framework).

Preliminary distribution of the humanitarian budget

In 2022, the amount of 200 mil CZK is approved by the Government for humanitarian assistance provided abroad. In addition, part of the assistance programmes for Middle East and Africa will be available for humanitarian needs.

Period	Amount (CZK)	Countries/Activities	Implementing partners
Q I - IV	40 000 000	Ad hoc needs and emergencies	UN, IOM, ICRC/IFRC, NGOs, local partners
Q I	80.000.000 (incl. ME/Africa funds)	Calls for proposals Protracted emergencies and stabilization (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine, Zambia)	NGOs registered in CZ with local partners
	10.000.000	DRR and resilience (Cambodia, Ethiopia, Zambia)	
Q I - II	10 000 000 10 000 000 5 000 000 3 000 000 5 000 000	Follow-up 2021 pledges: Afghanistan Yemen Ethiopia Colombia (VE refugees) BiH and Georgia DRR	UNHCR, UNICEF ICRC, WFP NGOs, WFP Local NGOs UNDP
Q III – IV*	37 000 000	International cooperation	ICRC, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, CERF, UNDRR, local NGOs
TOTAL	200 000 000 HumAid		
Additional funds	Middle East Program Africa Program	(Calls for proposals, donations)	CZ and local NGOs, ICRC, UNICEF, UNDP

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