



Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí
České republiky

Odbor rozvojové spolupráce a humanitární pomoci
Loretánské nám. 5, 118 00 Praha 1
tel.: +420 224 18 2366, e-mail: ors@sekretariat.cz
www.mzv.cz

2023 Humanitarian Assistance Operational Strategy of the Czech Republic

Executive Summary



CZECH REPUBLIC
HUMANITARIAN AID

Russia's military aggression in Ukraine with adverse effects on developing countries mainly on the African continent 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 starting point for the joint implementation of humanitarian aid within the framework of the EU's shared competence with the Member States is the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid from 2007, which was updated in spring 2021 by the European Commission's Communication on the EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles. 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. At 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

Among the main thematic priorities of the Czech Humanitarian Aid is Disaster risk reduction (DRR), preparedness and resilience program, on which the Czech Republic focuses within the framework of recovery after disasters and in separate preventive measures in the form of building public systems and capacities as well as educating the public. The topic of DRR is also highlighted in the context of climate change response and in the implementation of the triple nexus. Other thematic priorities extend from the priority areas established in the bilateral development cooperation, namely the focus on access to safe drinking water and sanitation, to health and nutritional care and to sources of livelihood, especially in the field of agriculture, including adaptation to the effects of climate change (especially drought).

At the same time, in all the thematic priorities, the Czech Republic usually focuses on particularly vulnerable people - with an emphasis on orphaned children, single parents with children, seniors and people with disabilities.

Geographic priorities

In terms of geographic priorities, we prioritize responding to our humanitarian needs of partner countries for bilateral development cooperation, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Moldova and Zambia, incl. implementation of double and triple nexus of humanitarian-development-peace (stabilization) activities. Other geographic priorities include unstable countries affected by conflict and forced displacement or in need of post-conflict stabilization, such as Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Syria, the Sahel region and Ukraine. Special attention will also be paid to countries affected by complex humanitarian crisis, such as Yemen or Lebanon. Some of them are also covered by multi-year aid programs (Middle East Program and Africa Program).

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, Diakonia ČCE, 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 2023, the amount of 165 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.

The amendment to the State Budget Act of 2022 earmarked funds in the total amount of 120 million CZK intended for stabilization aid to Ukraine. This amount has already been spend with some of the funds being currently utilized in 2023 as well. Funds from the Humanitarian, Stabilization, Development and Economic Assistance Program for Ukraine will also be used for humanitarian aid to Ukraine in 2023.

Period	Amount (CZK)	Countries/Activities	Implementing partners
Q I - IV	30.000.000	Ad hoc needs and emergencies	OSN, IOM, ICRC/IFRC, NGOs, GŘ HZS, local partners
Q I	70.000.000	Calls for proposals Protracted emergencies and stabilisation	NGOs registered in CZ with local partners
	10.000.000	DRR and resilience	
Q I - II	5.000.000	Ethiopia	WorldWide
	5.000.000	Nepal	Local NGOs
Q III – IV*	45.000.000	Embassy's suggestions, international cooperation	ICRC, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, CERF, UNDRR, local NGOs
TOTAL	165.000.000		
	HumAid		
Additional funds	Middle East Program	Calls for proposals	NGOs registered in CZ with local partners

	Ukraine Program	Calls for Proosals, Donations	NGOs registered in CZ with local partners
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*) Based on the mid-term review of the humanitarian situation and on available means