



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic

Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic

2018–2030

Prague 2017



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Summary

The Czech Republic's development cooperation and humanitarian assistance is an expression of solidarity, a key instrument of foreign policy, and an investment into the country's own security.

Development cooperation helps partner countries address their economic, social, environmental and security problems, build their resilience, give their people prospects for a better future, and thus to reduce risks that we all face. In synergy with humanitarian assistance, it provides opportunity for targeted support for stabilisation of countries affected by conflicts and disasters, with a direct link to recovery, development and political and economic partnerships.

The main framework for development and humanitarian activities between 2015 and 2030 is defined by Agenda 2030 adopted in September 2015. Agenda 2030 defines seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and sets the objectives for global development until 2030, interlinking the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. Agenda 2030 focuses on poverty eradication and reducing inequalities in the developing as well as developed world, involving the public, civil, private and academic sectors in this effort.

The Czech Republic's development activities will focus on five thematic priorities: from building stable and democratic institutions, through sustainable management of natural resources, agriculture and rural development to inclusive social development and economic growth.

In the priority countries selected for bilateral development cooperation, the Czech Republic will ensure the coherence between development cooperation and humanitarian activities (development-humanitarian nexus). It will promote mutually accountable and transparent partnerships at the level of the public, non-profit and private sectors. Special attention will also be paid to fragile countries, especially their rapid stabilisation after disasters and conflicts, recovery and resilience building.

In the implementation of development and humanitarian activities, the Czech Republic will use both project and financial instruments to efficiently achieve the intended results, including the interconnection of its bilateral cooperation with the financial instruments of the EU, the UN and other international organisations and financial institutions.

The fulfilment of development cooperation and humanitarian objectives will be in line with the foreign policy priorities of the Czech Republic in order to ensure the mutual synergy of its individual components while contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030.

Implementation of the strategy will be continually reviewed. Regular and transparent information available to professional and general public will be an important part of development and humanitarian efforts.

I. Vision

The purpose of development cooperation and humanitarian assistance is to promote stability in partner countries, and to foster their potential for sustainable economic and social development and prosperity.

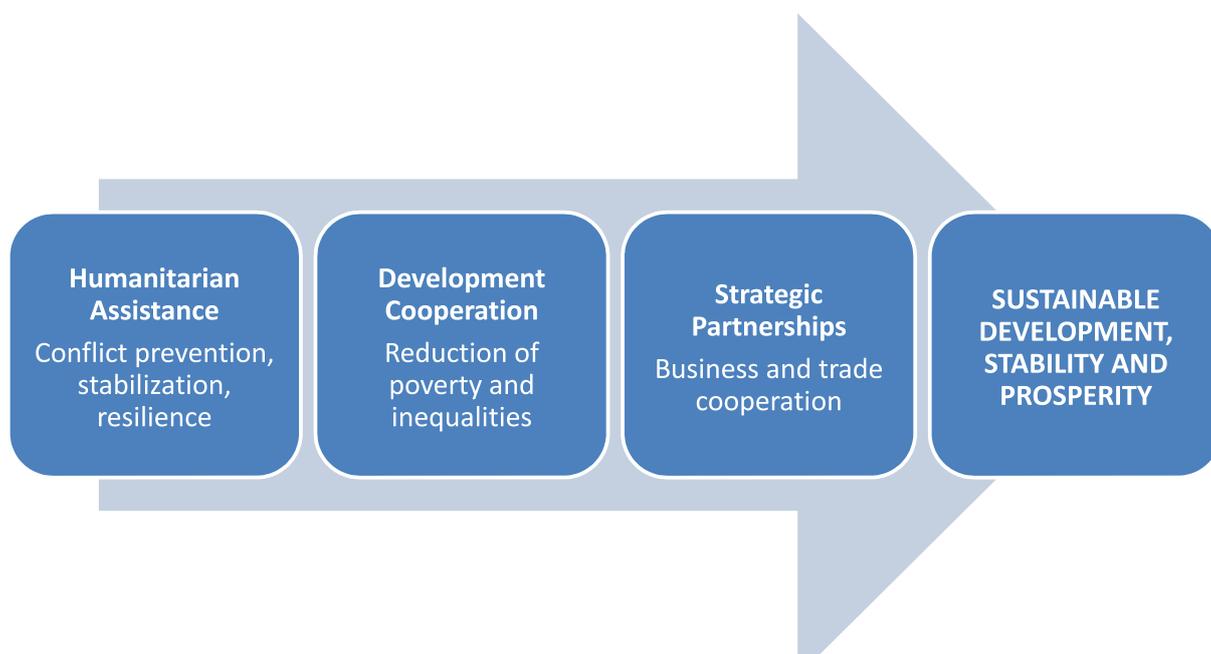
Development cooperation enables the Czech Republic to contribute to the reduction of poverty and inequality in the world while promoting its national interests, strengthening its security and laying the groundwork for stronger political, trade and investment relations and for economic diplomacy.

Humanitarian assistance enables the Czech Republic to contribute to saving human lives and reducing suffering of people affected by natural disasters or conflicts, to rapidly restore decent living conditions and reduce the vulnerability of the population in partner countries.

Czech development cooperation focuses on areas where the Czech Republic can offer specific experience and expertise, and where it has the necessary capacities/experts for the implementation.

The Czech Republic's development cooperation focuses on a limited number of partner countries, priority themes and activities. It uses the Czech Republic's comparative advantages to maximise synergies for greater positive impact.

The Czech Republic strives to create strategic partnerships in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance between the public, private, civil and academic sectors and to effectively link activities aimed at preventing and resolving conflicts and disasters with stabilisation, reconstruction and development.



II. Points of reference and principles

The main point of reference for modern development cooperation is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ based on the 2000-2015 Millennium Development Goals. Agenda 2030 interlinks the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, including key areas such as promotion of good governance and inclusive peaceful societies, and emphasizes the reduction of structural inequalities. Agenda 2030 is universal and 17 SDGs are addressed to all countries: the developing as well as the developed ones based on the national ownership of the development process and shared responsibility for the results.

An integral part of Agenda 2030 is the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which sets a new paradigm for development financing, with an emphasis on the mobilisation of domestic resources and underlining the catalytic role of financing for development. Its key component is the Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by developed countries to support development. The Czech Republic has pledged to achieve the 0.33 % ODA/GNI ratio by 2030.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, also adopted in 2015, sets the main objectives in the area of disaster prevention, preparedness and resilience. The Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted in 2016, establishes a legally binding framework for climate protection beyond 2020.

The UN Agenda for Humanity, adopted at the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016, reaffirms Agenda 2030 with its commitment to “leaving no one behind”. It underlines the need to respect international humanitarian law, and urges countries and international organisations to honour their humanitarian commitments concerning the delivery of effective and efficient assistance, in particular to victims of conflicts and forced displacement.

The new global framework for sustainable development, humanitarian assistance and disaster risk reduction highlights resilience – of populations, countries and regions – to natural, man-made and hybrid threats. It aims to build resilient basic infrastructures and public administration systems, to strengthen adaptation to climate change, to improve food security and nutrition, and to achieve better overall risk assessment and risk management at the local, regional and global levels.

An important framework for the Czech Republic’s development cooperation is the development policy of the European Union, formulated in the European Consensus on Development which aims to promote implementation of the Agenda 2030 in developing countries and to better coordinate the assistance of European donors. The new consensus is based on the EU Global Strategy adopted in 2016, outlining the comprehensive vision of the EU’s external action.

The legislative basis for the Czech development cooperation is the Act No. 151/2010 Coll., on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance (hereinafter referred to as the “Development Cooperation Act”). The strategic and policy framework is established by this Strategy, building on the Strategic

¹ The document entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was adopted at the UN summit held in New York in September 2015. The document identifying seventeen SDGs is the result of cooperation between all UN member states, civil society representatives, and the business and academic communities.

Framework Czech Republic 2030 and on the Concept of the Czech Republic's Foreign Policy.²

The Czech Development Cooperation Strategy is coherent with the main objectives of the Czech Republic's foreign policy. It builds closely on the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2010-2017, including its 2014 mid-term evaluation, and reflects lessons learned from its implementation as well as the "Main findings and recommendations" presented in 2016 by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) at the first ever Peer Review of the Czech Republic's development system.

Effective partnership

In development cooperation, the Czech Republic will strive for effective, result-oriented action and a clear contribution to partner countries as well as to the Czech Republic's interests.

In line with the commitments of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, the Czech Republic will focus on further progress in the following areas:

- Strengthening local ownership of development policies: notably by aligning its objectives with the respective national development strategies of the partner countries and by promoting their inclusive participation in decision-making;
- Coordination and harmonisation with other donors; linking bilateral and multilateral cooperation;
- Result-oriented planning and implementation of development activities;
- Inclusion of development partnerships at the level of the government, public administration, civil society and private sector, and
- Increasing the transparency and predictability of the Czech ODA and mutual responsibility of all partners.

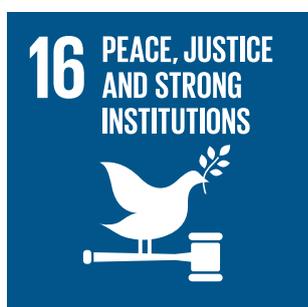
Policy Coherence for Development

Policy coherence is one of the Agenda 2030 goals which are essential to sustainable development. In line with the Agenda 2030 and the objectives of the Czech Republic 2030 Strategic Framework, the Czech Republic will strive to ensure the coherence of domestic and foreign policies with the objectives of the development cooperation in order to prevent the negative impacts of individual policies on development efforts, with an emphasis on environmental and human rights dimension. Within the framework of the Government Council for Sustainable Development and in co-operation with the Council on Development Cooperation, the coherence of all the Czech national policies will be stressed to ensure that they effectively contribute to sustainable development at home and in the world.

² Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 was approved by Government Resolution No. 292 of 19 April 2017; Concept of the Czech Republic's Foreign Policy was adopted by Government Resolution No. 563 of 13 July

III. Main objectives and priorities in development and humanitarian sectors of the Czech Republic

The core objective of the Czech Republic's development cooperation and humanitarian assistance is to contribute - using its capacities and experience and in line with international commitments - to building a stable, secure, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable world and to strengthen its position within it. Following the Agenda 2030 and the Czech Republic 2030 Strategic Framework, the Czech Republic will focus on fulfilment of selected thematic priorities in the development and humanitarian area which correspond to the key Sustainable Development Goals.



Good democratic governance

The Czech Republic believes that promotion of a peaceful and coherent democratic society is an essential presumption of security and stable international relations, and a contribution to the prevention of conflicts and forced displacement. This objective enables the Czech Republic to capitalise on its comparative advantage – the experience and knowledge acquired in the process of its own political and economic transition can be transferred and implemented in partner countries to foster the development of democratic societies in which human rights are respected and all people

have access to justice. This objective also serves the Czech Republic's interests and needs – promotion of good governance is a prerequisite for intensifying political and economic relations with partner countries. The Czech Republic will also pursue this objective within the framework of the Transformation Cooperation Programme (under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and other development cooperation instruments with an emphasis on increasing the capacities and legitimacy of public institutions at all levels.



Sustainable management of natural resources

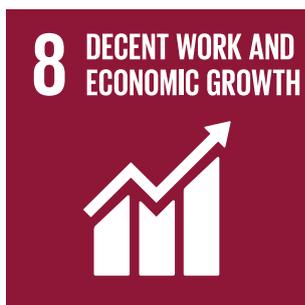
Inadequate supply of safe drinking water and limited access to sanitation facilities are major signs of poverty in developing countries. These deficiencies contribute to the spread of diseases and generally impair the quality of healthy life and protection of public health. In view of its past experience and its own capacities, the Czech Republic intends to build on its existing experience and capacities. The focus will remain on drinking water supply, water resources protection, as well as on the development of waste management, and on sustainable use of natural resources in general. The Czech Republic will continue to contribute to protect partner countries and communities against the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and risks and take into account the environmental aspects of industry, with an emphasis on measures to increase resilience and adaptability to climate change. It will also focus on the transfer of technology and know-how in the given fields.





Economic transformation and growth

The Czech Republic will build on its track record and experience in the areas such as technical support and capacity building in industry. The cooperation will focus on the transfer of technology and knowledge. In view of its experience, the Czech Republic will focus on providing access to affordable, reliable and sustainable low-emission energy sources towards a technically modern and energy-independent partner country. The Czech Republic will continue to focus its activities on supporting sustainable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth while respecting human rights, social and socio-economic rights to promote full and productive employment and to ensure decent work for all. Environmental protection and the fight against corruption will be among the main concerns under this objective.



Agriculture and rural development

Limited access to good quality and safe food, low-efficient and environmentally unfriendly (including terrestrial ecosystems) soil management methods, and underdeveloped or poorly functioning value chains in agriculture, food production and rural development are some of the pressing problems in developing countries. The Czech Republic will contribute to eliminate hunger, improve nutrition and support rural development, with an emphasis on building sustainable, environmentally friendly and profitable local agricultural production. At the same time, the Czech Republic will contribute to protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, in particular soil and forest rehabilitation, and prevention of soil degradation and desertification. The Czech Republic will focus especially on the transfer of relevant know-how, the use of suitable agricultural technologies for the sustainable use of ecosystems in crop and livestock production, and the development of rural smallholder households and communities, including support for proper functioning of food commodity markets.





Inclusive social development

In this area, the Czech development cooperation will continue its long-standing focus especially on education, health care and support for social inclusion. The Czech Republic thus wants to promote healthy life and generally the quality of life in partner countries, including equal and affordable access to inclusive and good quality education (primary and especially secondary and vocational technical education and lifelong learning for all). It will also act towards creating a society open to all groups of the population, including socially excluded and otherwise disadvantaged groups.



Cross-cutting priorities

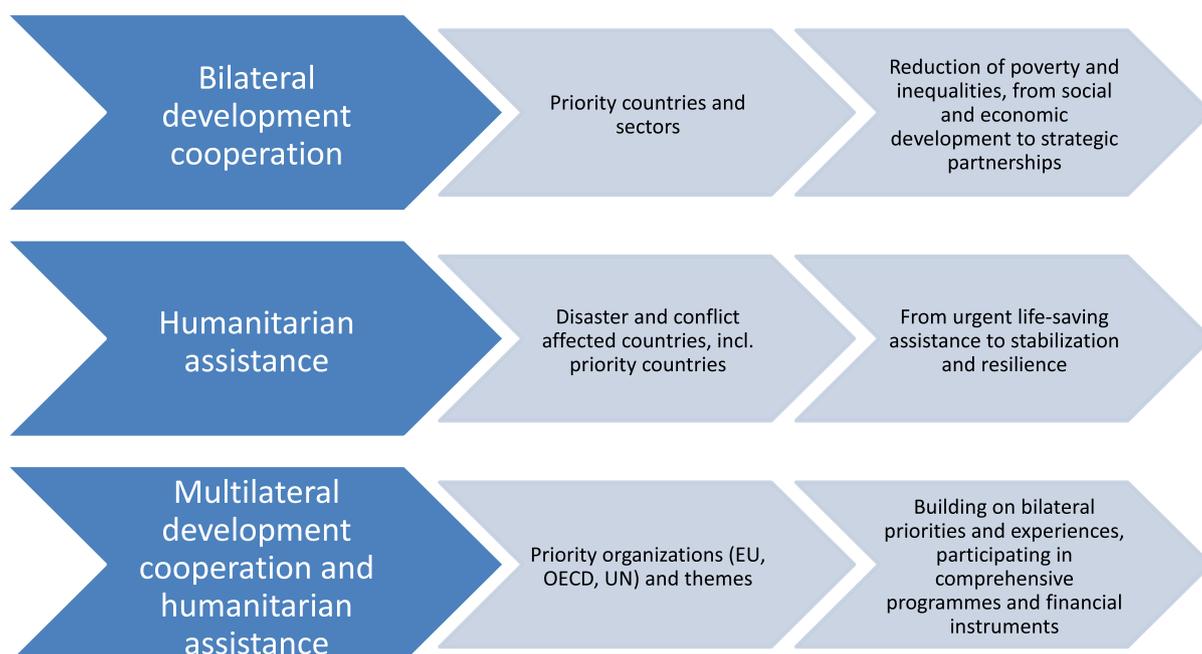
The priorities to be streamlined across the above-mentioned objectives include promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all, accountable, participatory and representative decision-making, and building of effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. In partner countries as well as in international organisations, the Czech Republic will place emphasis on the development of democracy and respect for human rights, including gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

In all its activities, the Czech Republic will promote the partner country's ownership of the development process and mutually accountable and inclusive partnerships with cooperating countries and international organisations. It will be driven by development and humanitarian needs of the partner countries, including mobilisation of domestic resources, debt sustainability, capacity building, implementation of the national sustainable development and resilience plans, as well as the strengthening and building of standardised, transparent and equitable trading systems.

The activities of the Czech Republic will maintain its commitment to sustainable use of natural resources, and to environmental protection and biodiversity. It will continue to focus on increasing the resilience of partner countries to the negative impacts of climate change and natural disasters, while promoting the development of national, regional and global mechanisms for effective climate change management and capacity building.

IV. Main areas of cooperation

The Czech Republic will seek to effectively interlink policies and measures in order to achieve visible and sustainable results and maximise synergies for the greatest possible impact of Czech development and humanitarian interventions, while respecting the basic principles of bilateral and multilateral development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, respectively.



Bilateral development cooperation

The aim of Czech bilateral development cooperation is to offer partner countries modern cooperation instruments that reflect their demand, capacity and level of development and contribute to the overall growth of mutual relations.

In the choice of partner countries, the Czech Republic will focus in a balanced way on cooperation with low-income countries (LDCs, Least Developed Countries) as well as with middle-income countries (MICs) in terms of OECD classification. This approach reflects Agenda 2030 with its focus on the world's poorest countries while enabling the Czech Republic to capitalise on its comparative advantage – the transition experience. In addition, the Czech Republic's development cooperation naturally contributes to the country's investment into quality and mutually advantageous partnerships.

The choice of priority partner countries takes into account recommendations from the mid-term review of the 2010-2017 Development Cooperation Strategy as well as OECD/DAC recommendations (for the summary see Annex 1). The selection criteria are as follows:

- **Overall state of bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and the partner country**, including the existence of a resident Czech diplomatic mission, which has a major impact on the effectiveness of development cooperation;
- **Development relevance, added value of and need for the Czech development cooperation in the partner country**, continuing need for assistance according to OECD/DAC classification;
- **Ownership of the development process and assessment of the conditions in the country for Czech development cooperation**, the degree to which previous Czech programmes and projects have achieved their targets, the degree of ownership by local partners, the conditions for implementation in the recipient country including respect for Czech, local and international law, the ability of the partner country's public administration and local governments to absorb the shared technologies, know-how and knowledge and continue using them on a long-term basis;
- **Sustainability and impacts of the activities, the country's interest and readiness to build a partnership for development** and responsibly contribute to the intended results;
- **Coordination with other donors, including EU Joint Programming;**
- **Visibility of the Czech development cooperation** in the country and among other donors.

In each of the priority countries³, the Czech Republic will focus on a clearly defined set of thematic priorities (up to three). It will, as a rule, combine priorities in the area of infrastructure (agriculture and rural development, sustainable management of natural resources, economic growth) and public service areas (good democratic governance and inclusive social development). This approach (to be applied also in the so-called specific countries and other developing countries) enables to effectively respond to the partner country's needs, to engage project implementers from non-profit, private, academic and public sectors, as well as to develop synergies and sufficient visibility in the partner country. In relation to priority countries of the Czech development cooperation, this principle will be further elaborated in bilateral cooperation programmes, which will be continuously evaluated and updated according to the needs of partner countries.

³ On the basis of the above and following debates in the Council on Development Cooperation in 2015 - 2016, the Government approved a new list of priority partner countries of the Czech development cooperation for the period from 2018 onwards (Government Resolution No. 631 of 11 July 2016). The list includes Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Moldova, and Zambia.

In addition, the cited Government Resolution establishes the category of Specific Countries, currently including Afghanistan, Palestine, Ukraine, and Syria (Syria was added by Government Resolution No. 588 of 27 June 2016). According to Government Resolution No. 631/2016, the list of specific countries may be amended and supplemented by government resolutions to reflect, inter alia, the Government's interest to developing partnerships or targeted support of selected countries in the context of a post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction processes.

In the countries whose priority status terminates in 2017 (Mongolia, Kosovo and Serbia), there will be a transition period (2018-2020) for completing any ongoing projects and phasing out the Czech development cooperation. Cooperation with these countries will continue in other forms (mainly through commercial activities).

Development cooperation in priority and specific countries will reflect recommendations from evaluations and the mid-term review of the previous strategy period, as well as the OECD/DAC recommendation to focus on fewer (not more than three) thematic activities in each partner country in order to increase the impact of the Czech development cooperation and maximise synergies between priority thematic areas. Thematic areas will be listed in bilateral ODA programmes with individual priority countries.

Humanitarian assistance

The Czech Republic will provide humanitarian assistance with the aim to save lives, protect health and dignity, reduce suffering of people in sudden disasters, effectively support fragile countries with long-term problems (including bilateral development cooperation priority countries), and generally reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change and to security risks.

Czech humanitarian assistance reflects the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship with an emphasis on humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.⁴ It includes immediate assistance to countries with urgent humanitarian needs due to disasters or conflicts, as well as comprehensive assistance to countries and regions affected by long-term humanitarian problems as a result of overall fragility.

When providing immediate assistance in response to urgent humanitarian needs, special attention will be paid to humanitarian needs of the priority countries of the bilateral development cooperation. The Czech Republic will respond primarily to humanitarian needs arising from disasters and forced migration from neighbouring countries, with an emphasis on reducing structural vulnerability and strengthening resilience and local capacities, in particular, in connection with the thematic priorities of the Czech development cooperation and in accordance with bilateral development cooperation programmes.

In relation to countries with complex humanitarian problems, including the priority countries of the bilateral development cooperation, the Czech Republic will strive to effectively support refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities, to protect women and children against violence and malnutrition in crisis situations, and to promote resilience, preparedness and risk management in disasters and conflicts.

The Czech humanitarian assistance will be delivered in cooperation with Czech, local and international humanitarian actors depending on their specialisation, capacities and added value. It will support building of partnerships, including multi-annual ones. Fundamental emphasis will be put on careful assessment of needs and risks, substantive financing, proper coordination with other donors, predictable continuity of the phases of humanitarian assistance, and humanitarian – development nexus.

⁴ The declaration on the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship was adopted by a group of donor countries and the European Commission on 17 June 2003; the Czech Republic joined in 2006. The declaration was reaffirmed by the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid in 2007.

Security, forced displacement, fragile states

Following the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development (in particular, the Global Development Goal 16 reaffirming the vital importance of peace, security and stability for sustainable development of individual countries, regions and the world) and the Agenda for Humanity (in particular, the focus on conflict resolution and forced displacement), the Czech Republic will, within the framework of development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, strive to stabilise the countries at risk of conflict and forced displacement due to factors related to security, human rights or climate change, so-called fragile countries.⁵

In the development cooperation with priority countries, both in the context of bilateral programmes and of each country's national development strategy, the Czech Republic will focus on activities contributing to structural resilience, with emphasis on good governance at all levels, stable institutions and inclusive social and economic development.

In the countries affected by long-term conflicts, the Czech Republic will continue its consistent humanitarian support in cooperation with other donors, especially within the EU, with an emphasis on protection and stabilisation of the civilian population. Once the country is ready to move from humanitarian assistance to the recovery and reconstruction phase, it will be considered for temporary inclusion in the Specific Countries category with its own additional resources.

In the context of the relevant EU and UN policies, the Czech Republic will continue to intensively support sustainable conflict resolution and conflict prevention, including prevention of conflict recurrence. The Czech Republic will provide assistance to long-term refugees and internally displaced communities as well as their host countries, and to contribute to facilitating their safe return to their country of origin.

Last but not least, the Czech Republic will, within its capacities, also contribute to reducing the fragility of states and regions caused by the negative impacts of climate change. In particular, it will help to meet the objective of reducing human, environmental and economic losses caused by disasters. In this area, the Czech Republic can use its expertise in disaster risk reduction, preparedness and risk management, which has already been reflected in the development of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan and its indicators.

⁵ Fragile (or failed) states are countries with significant overlap of the security, political, economic and climate related risk factors that serve as indicators for the Fragile States Index.

Multilateral development cooperation

The Czech Republic will pro-actively advance its national priorities and promote its expertise, especially in the European Union and in selected international organisations.

Multilateral development cooperation gives the Czech Republic an opportunity to use its experience (including experience from bilateral development cooperation and humanitarian assistance) and to take account of Czech interests at the international level. Through the multilateral formats, the Czech Republic has, in the long run, been providing about 70 per cent of its ODA.

The Czech Republic will promote its national experience and objectives in the EU and in selected international organisations in an active, comprehensive and coherent manner. It will define its strategic and political positions in consultation with all relevant national actors including line ministries, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, local governments, educational institutions, etc. Czech positions will be prepared and coordinated in Council on Development Cooperation. The coordination will aim to ensure that funding allocated to multilateral development cooperation is used in an effective and efficient way and in accordance with the foreign policy priorities of the Czech Republic.

European Union

The EU is collectively the largest provider of development assistance in the world, with long-standing experience and a broad network of diplomatic missions in most developing countries of the world. Development interventions of the EU and its member states have an important and in some cases crucial impact.

The EU development budget is funded by the Member States, which means that national interests and experience shall be sufficiently reflected at the European level. The Czech Republic strives for European development assistance to be delivered efficiently, with clear results and in line with the EU's foreign policy interests. The European development cooperation must be provided in a coordinated and synergistic manner with the EU Member States, including the wide use of their comparative advantages.

Issues of essential importance to the Czech Republic are effective partnerships with developing countries, stronger linkages and coherence between development cooperation and security building measures, development of international trade, and prevention of forced migration. The Czech Republic supports greater private sector involvement in development, including the important role of development banks and of innovative financial instruments.

Beside its contribution to the EU policy making, the Czech Republic focuses on its active involvement in the implementation of EU development cooperation, especially with regard to selected national priorities of the Czech development cooperation. The Czech Republic strives for opportunities to disseminate and multiply the Czech Development Agency's successful programmes through delegated cooperation with the European Commission, and supports the Agency as a reliable and effective partner of the European Commission. The objective of the Czech Republic is also to establish a development financial institution, which would be involved in funding for sustainable development in partner countries, including blending and pro-investment instruments at the EU level. The EU External Investment Plan and the European Fund for Sustainable Development are important instruments in which the Czech Republic wants to be actively involved.

At relevant EU forums, the Czech Republic will continuously and actively promote, and regularly evaluate, the implementation of partnerships with developing countries, the linking of development cooperation with the above-mentioned objectives and the coherent use of EU instruments and programmes.

The Czech Republic will continue to support EU Joint Programming and joint implementation of development cooperation wherever these processes contribute to a positive impact.

International organisations

In the framework of multilateral development cooperation the Czech Republic will focus on partnerships with organisations that operate in synergy with Czech national priorities and interests and where the Czech Republic can bring a visible added value and where it can assert its influence effectively. By concentrating on a smaller number of partner organisations, a greater effect and increased impact in specific formats can be achieved. On the basis of experience gained to date, the Czech Republic will focus its international development efforts (including related financial and human resources) primarily on the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and UN Volunteers (UNV). These platforms enable the Czech Republic to make the most effective use of its national expertise, including opportunities for Czech entities to take part in the implementation of the given UN programmes. In addition, the Czech Republic will closely cooperate with the OECD Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC).

The Czech engagement in the selected international organisations will include, primarily, financial support for specific programmes (earmarked funding) or contributions to trust funds. The Czech Republic will, as far as possible, continue its contributions to the core budgets of selected international organisations and international financial institutions (core funding) to reflect the critical importance of core budgets for the functioning of these organisations. The Czech Republic will also strive for adequate involvement in the decision-making processes of international organisations and the use of expertise of Czech experts, non-governmental organisations, business companies and other entities; including secondments of national experts in selected institutions or their direct involvement in these structures.

In the multilateral forums, the Czech Republic will support development cooperation instruments that contribute effectively and transparently to the reduction of poverty and inequalities. These include, in particular, technical assistance, local capacity building, sharing of experience, and transfer of knowledge and expertise. The Czech Republic will place emphasis on innovative financial instruments enabling sustainable engagement of the private sector, with an emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises. In the same time, the Czech Republic will maintain its reserved position on budget support for partner countries.

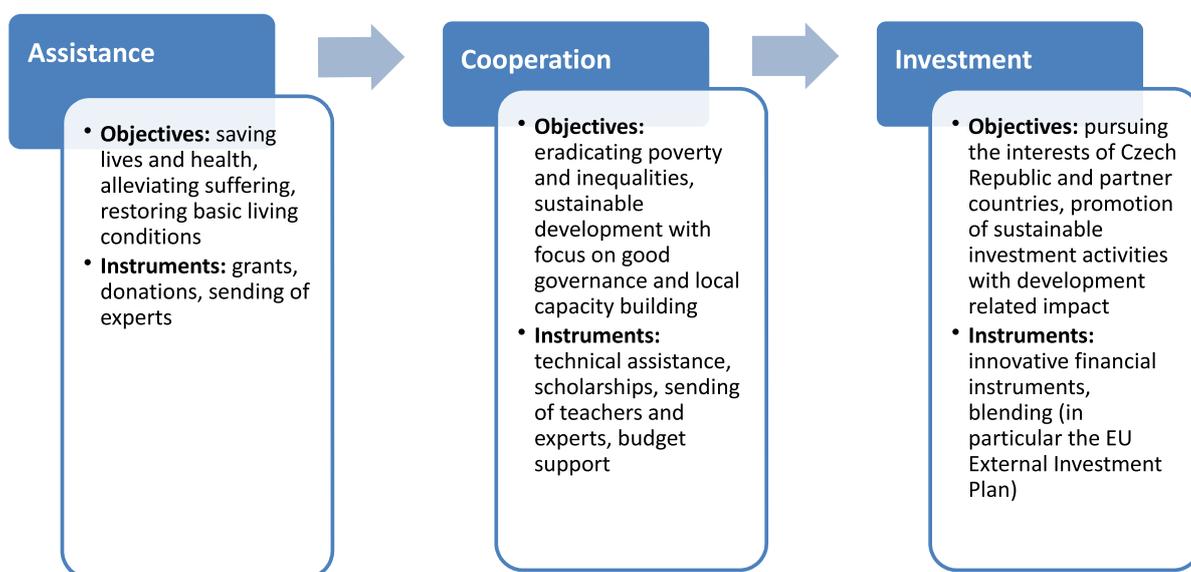
V. Instruments and partnerships

In line with Agenda 2030, the Czech Republic will strive for an effective and coherent involvement of the public, non-governmental and private sectors in the implementation of development cooperation. The aim is to use modern cooperation instruments in all areas of cooperation, reflecting the demand, capacity and degree of development of partner countries as well as the specificities of the given development partnership.

The Czech Republic uses a broad range of instruments and forms to provide effective and visible development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. In the future, it will seek to further enhance synergies of these instruments, improve them and, if appropriate and effective, complement them with new instruments, particularly in the area of private sector involvement, and interconnection between bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The Czech Republic recognises the contribution of public institutions to support public and local administration, the importance of non-governmental organisations for the development of civil society, and of the private sector for development of the business environment. The Czech Republic will continue to support their specific roles in the humanitarian and development fields.

Promoting partnerships and coherent engagement of public, non-governmental and private sectors will be crucial to effectively fulfil the joint vision of a stable and sustainably prosperous world. The Czech Republic will therefore strive to develop relations at the level of partner governments and their public institutions, private entities as well as civil society.



Innovative support for private sector involvement in development

Public resources alone are not sufficient to finance the ambitious SDGs unless supported by private capital. Private enterprise and investments are also key sources of economic growth and employment. The Czech Republic has historical experience in building the private sector, including the related legislative and institutional background. Current migration pressures from developing countries driven, in many instances, by the search for economic opportunities testify to the need to provide citizens in affected countries with livelihood in the form of jobs that can be ensured in particular by the responsible private sector.

The Czech development cooperation will therefore support investments in challenging and higher-risk markets, not only at the level of large enterprises but also of small and medium-sized companies. The support will be tied to terms and conditions such as sustainability of investments, their development impact, and clear added value (additionality).

Based on its own experience, the Czech Republic is also aware that investments will not thrive unless the partner country provides a clear legal framework, effective state administration, stable economic environment, and predictable social partners. It is necessary to remove obstacles to business and to build skilled and educated local workforce. Therefore, the Czech development programmes in the partner countries will focus on these priorities, seek to cultivate the local business environment and use synergies to create an environment conducive to effective economic development.

Project instruments

The Czech bilateral development cooperation has so far been mostly project-based. Various instruments are used according to the type of implementer: grants, public contracts, budgetary measures, and financial donations. A wide-spread form with a large geographic scope of implementation is so called local small scale project. Trilateral and in some instances also multilateral development cooperation is also delivered through projects.

To share transition experience and promote sustainable institutions and good governance in partner countries, effective and widely demanded instruments are used, such as technical assistance or sending and exchanging of experts, including development scholarships.

The Czech Republic has also introduced and expanded various types of direct budget support instruments, which will be further developed where desirable. In the international context, the Czech Republic makes use of the trust funds of partner international organisations, in particular the EU and the UN. For the future, it intends to take part in the delegated cooperation with the European Commission.

Financial instruments

The Czech Republic will promote innovative financial instruments (guarantees, venture capital, concessional loans and other soft instruments) as a way to increase the effectiveness of development cooperation and mobilise additional financial resources. These tools use public resources to stimulate and multiply private financing, and also to stimulate higher sustainability of development projects. The use of innovative financial instruments will be effectively linked to grant instruments, especially technical assistance (blending). Involving private investors in sustainable development will be one of the important aims for implementing the financial instruments in practice.

For the future, the Czech Republic intends to establish its own development financial institution which will participate in sustainable development funding in the partner countries.

For an overview of the Czech development cooperation instruments, see Annex 2.

VI. Implementation of the Strategy

Throughout the implementation of this Strategy, the Czech Republic will continually evaluate its development and humanitarian activities and present the results achieved. If necessary, the Strategy will be updated to ensure that the Czech development cooperation effectively contributes to the implementation of Agenda 2030.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, which is the coordinator of development cooperation in accordance with the Act 151/2010 Coll., will be responsible for the implementation of this Strategy in close cooperation with the Czech Development Agency (responsible for project-based development cooperation) and with the line ministries implementing specific programmes.⁶ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will regularly consult the implementation of bilateral and multilateral development and humanitarian activities, including funding and staffing, with all major actors in the Council on Development Cooperation. Fulfilment of the Agenda 2030 goals in the Czech Republic's development cooperation will also be coordinated with the Government Council for Sustainable Development.

Financial framework

Financial funds for implementation of the bilateral and multilateral development cooperation and humanitarian assistance under the authority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Czech Development Agency, including bilateral development programmes managed by the line ministries, will continue to be provided through annual development cooperation plans with a medium-term outlook, submitted annually to the Czech Government by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, thus reflecting ODA commitments.

Monitoring and evaluation

Consistent supervision and result-oriented monitoring together with project, sector and programme evaluations remain the key tools for management and qualified decision-making on further effective targeting and organisation of development and humanitarian activities. The outputs of monitoring and evaluations will serve to further improve the quality of the Czech development cooperation and to deliver on the commitment to mutual accountability and transparent partnership with partner countries as well as with the Czech public.

The groundwork for quality monitoring and evaluation must be prepared by careful identification of development activities, including reliable input data, sound risk analysis and a clear exit strategy.

⁶ "Programme of government scholarships for students from developing countries at public universities in the Czech Republic" under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (including related healthcare services provided to government scholarship holders under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health); "Transformation Economic and Financial Cooperation Programme" managed by the Ministry of Finance; "Aid for Trade", trade promotion programme managed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade; "Security Development Cooperation Programme" managed by the Ministry of the Interior; and multilateral environmental cooperation managed by the Ministry of the Environment.

In accordance with international recommendations, the Czech Republic intends to further strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of activities and outputs, taking into account their expected results and impacts. The focus will be on linkages and synergies between projects and programmes and their relationship to the respective thematic priority and SDG.

A certified methodology for evaluation of cross-cutting principles (tested on a pilot basis during the 2016 and 2017 rounds of evaluations) will be applied starting from 2018 in order to produce more comparable results. The Czech Republic will continue to take an active part in the work of the OECD/DAC Evaluation Group, including the regular sharing of evaluation plans, lessons learned and opportunities for joint evaluations.

Communication and presentation of the Strategy

Successful implementation of the Czech Development Cooperation Strategy is associated with a good presentation of the objectives and results of development cooperation and humanitarian assistance to the partner countries, other donors and, in particular, to the Czech political representation, the expert community, stakeholders, and to the Czech public.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as a legal coordinator of the Czech development cooperation, will regularly inform the Government and the Parliament of the Czech Republic and professional public, in particular through the Council on Development Cooperation, about fulfilment of the main strategic objectives in the development and humanitarian field.

It will also strengthen the presentation of the Czech development cooperation to professionals and the general public through electronic and social media as well as the presentation of development topics in formal and non-formal education through global development education and awareness raising activities. The Czech Republic will focus in particular on more effective integration of sustainable development topics in the education system, including relevant methodological and didactic support for teachers. This objective will be addressed by public institutions in cooperation with the non-profit and academic sectors in line with the relevant Global Development Education Strategy.

For each priority country of the bilateral development cooperation, a separate communication strategy will be developed to assist the unified presentation of all actors of the Czech Republic's development cooperation in the respective country. Attention will be paid to presentation activities aimed at awareness raising of the professional and lay public about the objectives and results of the Czech bilateral and multilateral development cooperation.

Validity and revision of the Strategy

This Strategy provides a strategic framework for the Czech development cooperation until 2030 in line with the validity of the global Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030.

The Council on Development Cooperation will review the implementation of the Strategy at least twice during this period, in both the short and medium terms, to reaffirm the validity of the document. The objectives and priorities of the Strategy may be revised if necessary to reflect essential needs and changes of the situation. The revisions will be recorded in amendments to the Strategy. An overall evaluation of the Strategy will be carried out well in advance before the end of the framework period in order to provide input for further strategic planning.

VII. Annexes

1. Review of the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2010-2017
2. Overview of Czech development cooperation instruments, by main formats and partners

Annex 1: Review of the 2010 – 2017 Czech Development Cooperation Strategy

Strategic framework for Czech Development Cooperation	Review sources
<p>Development Cooperation Strategy (DCS) of the Czech Republic 2010 - 2017</p> <p>Multilateral DCS of the Czech Republic 2013 - 2017</p> <p>National Strategy for Global Development Education 2010 - 2015 + action plan in force until 2017</p> <p>Strategy for Government Scholarships Programme for students from developing countries 2013 - 2018</p>	<p>Mid-term review of the Development Cooperation Strategy (2013-14)</p> <p>Mid-term review of the Multilateral Development Cooperation Strategy (2015)</p> <p>Two reviews of the National Global Development Education Strategy (2013, 2015)</p> <p>Project and programme evaluations (2011-16)</p> <p>Audit by the Supreme Audit Office of the Czech Republic (2015)</p> <p>OECD/DAC Peer Review (2016)</p>

CZECH BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Category	Conclusion	Recommendations
Choice of countries	Relevant	Focus on fewer priority countries, especially on LDCs
Choice of sectors	Relevant, transition experience is an added value	Move on to complex thematic priorities based on SDGs
Project cycle	Continued improvement in identification, monitoring and evaluation, efficient and cost-effective implementation; limited scope and duration of projects with negative impact on sustainability	Concentrate activities into larger programmes covering longer periods. Improve risk analysis and management, strengthen results-oriented monitoring, and define exit strategies more clearly.
Instruments	Absence of instruments for direct cooperation in recipient countries	Interlink instruments more effectively, consider introducing instruments for direct cooperation in recipient countries
Partnerships	Good partnerships with Czech non-governmental organisations, growing partnership with the Czech private sector, absence of partnership with local actors	Build presence in recipient countries, coordinate more consistently with other donors, and develop strategic partnerships with the public, non-profit and private sectors
Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)	PCD is pursued consistently through the Council on Development Cooperation but with limited results	Transfer responsibility for PC(S)D to the Government Office and the Government Council on Sustainable Development, improve awareness raising (especially in the legislative process)

CZECH MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Thematic priorities	Relevant	Link up priorities with priority SDGs
Priority organisations	Relevant	Focus strategically on a smaller number of partners - those with long-term relevance
Linkages between bilateral and multilateral development cooperation	Partly successful	Interlink bilateral and multilateral development cooperation more closely
Involvement in the EU and UN steering bodies and financial instruments	Partly successful	Finalise the Czech Development Agency's accreditation for delegated cooperation Improve inter-ministerial coordination with a view to engaging in bodies and instruments of the EU and the UN

Annex 2: Overview of Czech development cooperation instruments by core formats and Partners

The instruments shown in italics have not been used to date; however, in the future their use is possible or desirable.

Partner	Czech public sector	Czech NGOs	Czech private sector	Partner country public sector	Partner country NGOs	Partner country private sector	Other bilateral donors	EU	International organisations
Instrument									
Project and programme cooperation									
Grants	Dev	Dev, TRANS, Hum							
Public procurement		Dev	Dev			<i>Dev</i>	<i>Dev</i>		
Budgetary measures	Dev, Hum								
Financial donations				<i>Dev, Hum</i>	<i>Dev, TRANS, Hum</i>	<i>Dev</i>	<i>Dev, Hum</i>		
Budget support									
Direct budget support				Dev					
Sectoral budget support				Dev					
Trust funds								Dev, Hum	Dev, Hum
Co-funding	<i>Dev, Hum</i>	Dev		<i>Dev</i>			Dev, Hum	<i>Dev, Hum</i>	<i>Dev, Hum</i>
Technical cooperation									
Sending experts	Dev, Hum	Dev	Dev	Dev	Hum		<i>Dev, Hum</i>	<i>Dev, Hum</i>	Dev, Hum
Sending teachers	Dev	Dev		Dev					
Scholarships	Dev			Dev					Dev
Technical assistance	Dev			Dev			Dev	Dev	
Other									
Delegated cooperation							<i>Dev</i>	<i>Dev</i>	
Cash-based activities		Dev, Hum	<i>Dev, Hum</i>		<i>Dev, Hum</i>	<i>Dev</i>			
Blending	Dev	Dev	<i>Dev</i>	<i>Dev</i>				<i>Dev</i>	