



CZECH REPUBLIC

0.13% GENUINE AID/GNI

0.13% TOTAL AID/GNI



“Our aid has multiple purposes. It is meaningful both morally and pragmatically... If people do not have any prospect of providing for their families in the place where they live and struggle, then they naturally look elsewhere for better chances in life. The aim of our aid is thus to guarantee people conditions that mean they do not have to leave their homes.”

– Tomáš Petříček, then Minister for Foreign Affairs,
19 March 2021

MAIN CHANGES IN 2020

In 2020, Czechia disbursed €257m in ODA, down 6.9% from 2019. Figures for 2019, however, were inflated by some €2.2m in debt relief for Serbia and Montenegro. ODA as a share of GNI remained at 0.13%, where it has lingered since 2018.

The concentration of decision-making power within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) was completed, while the capabilities of the Czech Development Agency (CZDA), responsible for implementing a significant portion of bilateral development cooperation, remained very basic. With the appointment of a new CZDA director, however, personnel and operations within the agency have begun to be stabilised. The trend of ODA cuts has continued in 2021, with the bilateral ODA budget down by 14% and humanitarian aid by 43%.

The MFA's efforts to kick-start the use of so-called 'new instruments' to engage national private-sector actors in development cooperation continued throughout 2020. This mainly involved the wider use of tied financial donations, after the pilot phase in 2019 (those from 2020 were formally labelled a humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic), and a development cooperation guarantee instrument (which after two years of existence has failed to provide a single guarantee).

Very few of the recommendations made in the AidWatch 2020 Report were actually implemented, apart from improvements to the operational capabilities of CZDA.

TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

Projected ODA budgets show that the Czech Republic is not on track to reach 0.33% of GNI by 2030. Also, bilateral ODA, which accounted for only a quarter of ODA in 2020, is

decreasing: a trend that will persist, as parliament's cuts to the bilateral development cooperation and humanitarian aid budgets for 2021 set a new baseline, with the government planning similarly reduced levels of financing for the next three years. Meanwhile, the risk remains that future parliamentary trade-offs will shrink bilateral ODA even further.

ODA policy will probably continue to be compromised by other political agendas, such as export diplomacy, and there is pressure from the prime minister and parliament for ODA to be economically justifiable.

The MFA will continue to be engaged in developing Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs), as indicated by its invitation to Czech implementers, including NGOs, to suggest how they might contribute to future TEIs.

The projections for funding so-called trilateral cooperation (co-financing of projects funded by other donors), which was very positively evaluated in 2019 by a Czech consultancy (selected by the MFA in an open bid process), keeps stagnating. Also, resources for CSOs' capacity building have declined, and a cut in resources for global education is expected; these negative trends could have severe consequences for these sectors.

CASE STUDY BOX:



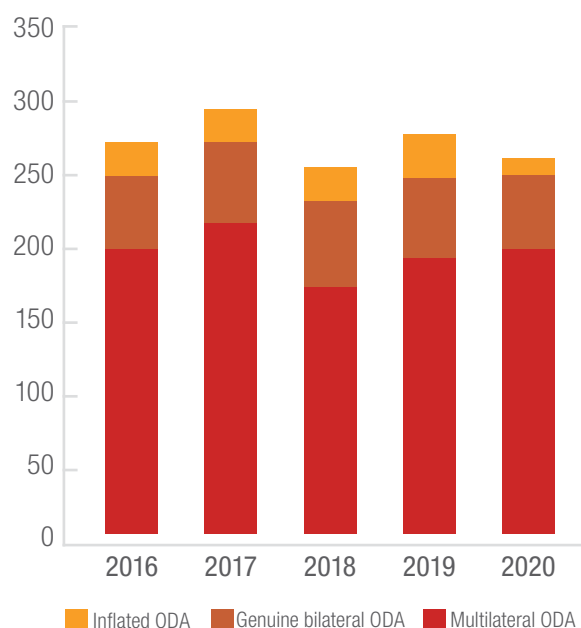
In several Czech bilateral ODA projects, a range of Czech and partner-country actors have worked together effectively to deliver a positive impact.

- A consortium led by Czech Caritas has supported local farmers in Zambia by connecting them with manufacturers and customers, thereby improving supply chains and access to markets. Czech start-up Big Terra used its own mobile app to provide weather forecasts for local farmers, while local company Lima Links gave them information about market prices using another low-tech mobile app, and a Czech-Zambian firm, Breeding Impuls Zambia, provided training.
- Czech NGO People in Need (PIN) has provided access to drinking water for local communities in Ethiopia, digging or repairing over 600 wells over a 20-year period. The wells are monitored using software developed by Czech IT firm Hrdlička, in cooperation with PIN, enabling effective maintenance.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CZECH GOVERNMENT

- Increase ODA budgets from 2022 onwards (in particular, bilateral ODA).
- Intensify the focus on development effectiveness and impact in partner countries, and strengthen systematic monitoring and evaluation in line with the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principles.
- Ensure expertise and capacity are adequate to enable the Czech Development Agency and the entire Czech ODA system to operate effectively.
- Increase the allocation of financial resources for global development education, in particular to raise the (low) awareness of Czech citizens of the role of development cooperation, especially in the post-pandemic context.

CZECH REPUBLIC – GENUINE AND INFLATED ODA (€ million, constant 2019)



ODA TO LDCS (€ million, constant 2019)

LDC	ODA to LDCs	ODA to LDCS (% GNI)	ODA to LDCS (% total ODA)
2016	57.04	0.03	21.07
2017	58.54	0.03	19.97
2018	57.96	0.03	22.76
2019	63.10	0.03	22.84

ODA TO DRM (€ million, constant 2019)

DRM	ODA for DRM	DRM (% bilateral)	DRM (% total ODA)
2016	0.00	0.00	0.00
2017	0.00	0.00	0.00
2018	0.00	0.00	0.00
2019	0.00	0.00	0.00

AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Year	Bilateral gross	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2016	74.24	74.24	0.00	0.00
2017	77.62	77.62	0.00	0.00
2018	83.53	83.53	0.00	0.00
2019	85.62	85.62	0.00	0.00

ODA TO SUPPORT GENDER EQUALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Gender focus	Bi allocable	Total Screened	Not Screened	None	Significant	Principal	Significant (% of screened)	Principal (% of screened)
2016	49.49	29.84	19.65	24.89	4.42	0.52	14.82	1.75
2017	52.18	36.00	16.18	10.16	22.55	3.29	62.63	9.15
2018	57.71	40.11	17.60	28.00	10.39	1.71	25.91	4.27
2019	55.94	55.94	0.00	33.99	20.72	1.23	37.04	2.20

ODA TO SUPPORT CSOs (€ million, constant 2019)

CSO support	Non-CSO	Donor-CSO-Earmarked	International-CSO-Earmarked	Recipient-CSO-Earmarked	Donor-CSO-Core	International-CSO-Core	Recipient-CSO-Core	Total bilateral CSO support, % bilateral	Total bilateral CSO support, % total ODA	Core bilateral CSO support, % bilateral	Core bilateral CSO support, % total ODA
2016	56.18	14.67	0.88	1.71	0.01	0.79	0.00	24.34	6.67	1.08	0.30
2017	60.72	14.48	0.53	1.11	0.06	0.73	0.00	21.77	5.77	1.02	0.27
2018	64.32	14.31	2.54	1.70	0.00	0.64	0.02	22.99	7.54	0.79	0.26
2019	74.14	7.31	3.34	0.11	0.01	0.71	0.00	13.41	4.16	0.85	0.26