



The need for a renewed increase in total funding for foreign development cooperation, humanitarian aid and transformational cooperation from the state budget is urgent.”

**The then Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Jakub Kulhánek, 6 June 2021**

MAIN CHANGES IN 2021

In 2021, Czechia disbursed USD 361.74 million in ODA. Compared to 2020, this is a nominal increase in the total amount of funds, mainly due to the increase in the share of the contribution to EU foreign development cooperation (a total of CZK 4.4 billion and 56.7% of the total ODA) and also by reporting the donation of COVID vaccines at an aggregate value of over half a billion CZK. However, due to GNI growth, the total share of ODA remains at 0.13%, or it continues to decrease slightly (now 0.126 in thousandths). Due to the reduction of bilateral foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid, multilateral ODA at 78.5 % remained the most significant and growing part of the total ODA figures.

Decision-making power on development assistance and cooperation remains at the MFA. The capacities of the Czech Development Agency (CZDA) which is responsible for the implementation of a significant part of bilateral development cooperation, including intentions to get effectively involved in EU delegated cooperation, remained basic. Efforts continued to stabilise the CZDA in terms of staffing and processes. Unfortunately, the trend of significantly reducing bilateral ODA from 2020 onwards has continued. There was an additional reduction of CZK 200 million in the budget for foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid, agreed in parliament in late 2020, as part of a trade-off between the government and the opposition in order to pass the 2021 State Budget Bill. As a result, the biggest burden of the cuts fell on the CZDA, whose resources fell by CZK 100 million, (i.e. 20 % of its budget for bilateral projects) and for humanitarian aid under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (CZK 100 million, i.e. 46% of the aid budget), in spite of the continued exceptional humanitarian needs in the context of the pandemic, but also those in fragile countries.



CASE STUDY

Diaconia CZ implemented an innovative menstrual health project in Cambodia that improved access to healthy menstrual products for women and girls in Kampong Chhnang province. At the same time, they sought to increase awareness of menstruation and reproductive health. A set of menstrual packs was created that included reusable cloth menstrual pads, which are a sustainable, affordable and healthy alternative to disposable pads. The project supported the entrepreneurship of local women involved in sewing the pads.

THE GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CSOs

The government that was in power in 2021 had a rather controversial attitude towards civil society. Nevertheless, the lower levels of administration remained relatively open to NGOs. However, a systemic approach to involve CSOs properly in consultation processes was lacking. A positive move was the adoption, in July 2021, of the Strategy for Cooperation between the Public Administration and NGOs for the period 2021-2030. In addition, a new government came to power in late 2021 following a general election. This new government takes mostly, but not exclusively, conservative policy positions. Overall, the space for further positive moves in advocating the CSOs' agenda in the country has been widened.

Under the responsibility of the MFA, in close cooperation with the CZDA, a revision of Czech development cooperation methodology took place in 2021. This placed particular emphasis on an integrated approach across all phases of the project cycle in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of development cooperation, supplemented the chapter on communication and also specified the procedures for identification of new projects and results-focused monitoring.

In the context of the EU, the fundamental change was the introduction of the new comprehensive external action tool NDICI-Global Europe and the concept of Team Europe Initiatives (TEI). The Czech Republic decided to join a number of regional and global TEIs. The MFA maintained its efforts to strengthen the use and ease of access to the new instruments to engage national private sector actors in development cooperation.

Very few recommendations proposed in the AidWatch 2021 report were achieved, and they therefore continue to be the focus of action needed over the next few years. At the same time, the active approach of the CZ MFA towards the NDICI-GE and TEIs mentioned, can be presented as an increased focus on development effectiveness and impact in partner countries.

TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2022 AND BEYOND

Budgets projected for bilateral ODA and humanitarian aid for the coming years are clearly not in line with the need for a steady increase to reach 0.33 % of GNI by 2030. 2022 ODA figures, and possibly for the years immediately ahead, will be influenced by the “Ukraine factor.” 2022 has seen extraordinary humanitarian aid measures and these will be increased further following the massive influx of refugees from Ukraine with public spending on people with refugee status.

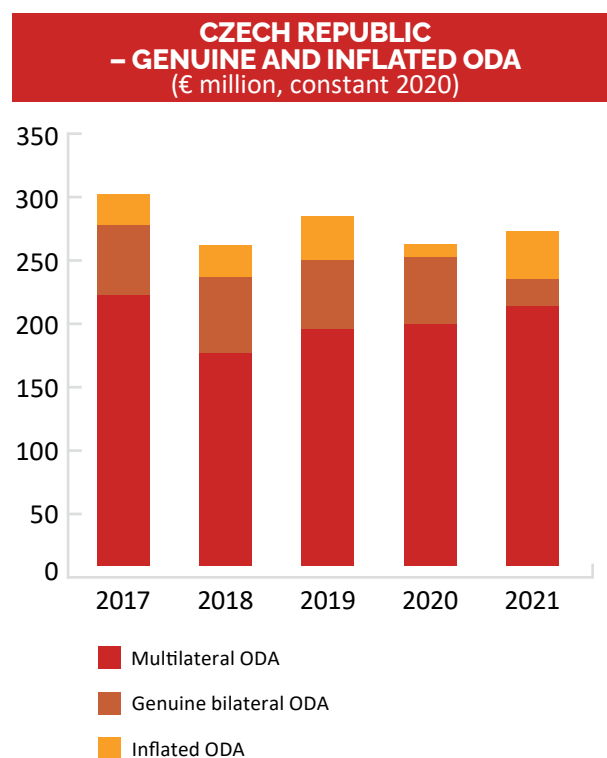
The share of bilateral ODA is constantly decreasing, and comprises only 20% of total ODA in 2021. This problem will probably persist, with the exception of bilateral aid and stabilisation funding for Ukraine.

The global impact of the war in Ukraine (in particular the rising prices of food and the energy supply crisis), as well as the Czech Presidency of the EU are factors that push Czech decision-makers to act more proactively on the international scene. This also involves efforts to strengthen the humanitarian aid and development cooperation agenda, as well as intensification of the Czech government’s pro-human rights agenda.

The Czech government will continue to combine a values-based approach (such as support for the human rights agenda) with a more utilitarian approach. There will also be increased attempts to involve the private sector in development via different tools, such as economic diplomacy.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CZECH GOVERNMENT

- Put genuine ODA figures on a growth trajectory in terms of the ODA/GNI percentage from 2023, particularly for bilateral development cooperation and humanitarian assistance; and at the very least, stop decreasing ODA.
- Increase focus on development effectiveness and impact in partner countries and strengthen systematic monitoring and evaluation in line with Leave no one behind (LNOB) principles. This requires looking more closely at ways of increasing the localisation of development cooperation activities.
- Ensure expertise and capacity are sufficient to enable the CZDA and the entire Czech ODA system to operate effectively.
- Increase allocation of financial resources for global development/citizenship education and awareness raising. This is particularly important given the relatively low support of Czech citizens for development cooperation (as documented by various Eurobarometer surveys); and more so in the context of the combined crises Czech society is facing in this turbulent period, which have significant impacts on people’s livelihoods.



ODA TO LDCS (€ million, constant 2020)

	ODA to LDCs	%GNI	% ODA
2017	60.39	0.03	19.97
2018	59.79	0.03	22.76
2019	65.07	0.03	22.84
2020	54.10	0.03	20.61

AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2020)

	Bilateral (gross)	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2017	80.1	80.1	0.0	0.0
2018	86.2	86.2	0.0	0.0
2019	88.3	88.3	0.0	0.0
2020	63.8	63.8	0.0	0.0

ODA TO CLIMATE FINANCE (€ million, constant 2020)

	ODA for mitigation	ODA for adaptation	Total climate finance	Adaptation finance as % of climate finance	Climate finance as % of ODA
2017	1.6	2.4	3.9	60.3	1.3
2018	1.5	3.1	4.5	67.4	1.7
2019	2.1	2.2	4.2	51.3	1.5
2020	1.5	2.5	4.0	62.0	1.5

ODA TO SUPPORT GENDER EQUALITY (€ million, constant 2020)

	Bilateral allocable	Total screened	Not screened	None	Significant	Principal	Significant (% of screened)	Principal (% of screened)
2017	53.8	37.1	16.7	10.5	23.3	3.4	62.6	9.2
2018	59.5	41.4	18.2	28.9	10.7	1.8	25.9	4.3
2019	57.7	57.7	0.0	35.1	21.4	1.3	37.0	2.2
2020	56.6	55.3	1.4	29.3	25.0	1.0	45.3	1.7

ODA TO SUPPORT CSOs (€ million, constant 2020)

	Non-CSO	CSO Earmarked	CSO Core funding	Total bilateral CSO support (% bilateral)	Total bilateral CSO support (% ODA)	Core bilateral CSO support (% bilateral)	Core bilateral CSO support (% ODA)
2017	63.5	15.8	0.8	20.7	5.5	1.0	0.3
2018	66.6	18.9	0.7	22.7	7.4	0.8	0.3
2019	76.5	11.1	0.7	13.4	4.2	0.8	0.3
2020	52.2	10.5	1.1	18.2	4.4	1.7	0.4