



CZECHIA

“ A year of frank words about the serious challenges ahead for Czechia's approach to ODA from the OECD DAC Peer Review Team. ”

FoRS

Main trends

Czechia's internationally reported ODA/GNI share, which reached 0.38 % in 2022, has fallen to 0.24 % of GNI in 2023. This still keeps the country higher than its long-term average (around 0.13 %). However, after subtracting the in-country spending on Ukrainian refugees, the ODA figure further decreased to 0.11 %. The long-term weak performance regarding the non-inflated ODA level was also highlighted by the OECD DAC Peer Review of Czech ODA, which took place in 2023. It is unlikely that this situation will improve, as the projections for the years to come remain stagnant in nominal terms, therefore declining after inflation is factored in. This is particularly a problem for annual bilateral ODA plans.

Implementation of Czech development cooperation and humanitarian action in 2023 continued to be significantly impacted by **the war in Ukraine**.

Within scarce budgetary resources, it is difficult to develop a more programmatic and complex approach, as the authorities' capacities to manage ODA remain very modest. There are however some positive moves with greater focus on the humanitarian–development nexus and disaster risk reduction approaches in humanitarian action. The Czech Development Agency (CZDA) is also increasingly active in EU delegated cooperation.

The long-term positive aspect of Czech ODA is that it supports initiatives to promote **democratic governance**, the rule of law, and human rights in partner countries. This includes providing assistance for electoral processes, strengthening legal systems,

Reported ODA: EUR 655.6 million
0.24% GNI (↓ from 0.38% in 2022)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 308,9 million
0.11% GNI (↓ from 0.15% in 2022)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 346,7 million
53% of total



and supporting CSOs. Development programmes increasingly focus on promoting **social inclusion, with a particular emphasis on gender equality**, the rights of marginalised groups, and the empowerment of women and youth.

Government's relationship with civil society

The relationship between governmental stakeholders and CSOs is generally cooperative, though it can vary based on specific issues and political contexts.

The Czech government often collaborates with CSOs in developing and implementing policies, particularly in areas where these organisations have specialised knowledge or grassroots connections, such as social services, human rights, environmental protection and healthcare.

On the other hand, the political context remains rather fragile, and the fact the Czech ODA system is far from being a robust one, makes the future of such collaboration very unpredictable.

The Czech government should:

Following the 2023 OECD DAC Peer Review of Czech ODA, FoRS highlights below the recommendations that we consider to be most relevant.

1. Bridge the gap between policy and implementation by:

- ensuring that all country strategies and development projects explicitly address



poverty and/or inequality;

- continuing to strengthen capacity at headquarters and use guidance to systematically consider good governance; human rights, including gender equality; and protection of the environment and climate.

2. Re-assess its institutional setup and the functioning of the CZDA by:

- addressing the staff and country presence constraints faced by CZDA;
- delegating more authority to Czechia's in-country representation;
- building mechanisms to ensure that investments in EU delegated cooperation improve Czech bilateral development cooperation.

3. Agree on a long-term plan to maintain the ODA/GNI ratio at least at the level of the national target of 0.33%. An ODA financing plan by 2030 would significantly enhance the country's reputation with bilateral partners as well as in the EU, OECD and UN and the perspective of a successful Czech candidacy for the UN Security Council for 2032-33.