



AIDWATCH2015

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN THE LIGHT OF NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The View of FoRS – Czech Forum for Development Cooperation on the Czech International Development Cooperation in 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE CZECH AIDWATCH REPORT 2015¹

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – NEW FRAMEWORK NOT ONLY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The evaluation of the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted at the UN 15 years ago, and the formulation of new global goals for 2030, were the major events of 2015 in the field of international development cooperation. In September 2015, at the 70th UN General Assembly, the representatives of 193 UN member countries, including the Czech Republic, adopted **Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**². The Agenda introduces a vision of how the world should look like in 2030 and at the same time serves as an action plan on how to fulfil this vision.

The new global goals represent a comprehensive and interconnected set of practical goals that cover the **three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental**. SDGs encompass both development issues (poverty, health, education, gender equality, governance, etc.) and issues “traditionally” linked to sustainable development (climate change,

sustainable production and consumption patterns, environmental protection, etc.).

In many aspects, the Agenda 2030 seeks a **different approach to development cooperation**. Most importantly, it provides guidance **for member states on how to set their national policy priorities**. When working towards the SDGs implementation, the Czech Republic, therefore, needs to **ensure coherence within and across the following three strands of its national policy**:

- 1/ **Adopt domestic reforms for the achievement of the goals** relevant to the inhabitants of the Czech Republic (e.g. inclusive education for sustainable development, gender equality, reduction of environmental pollution, anti-corruption measures, etc.);
- 2/ **Provide support for the achievement of the goals in partner developing countries** through foreign policy and international development cooperation;

¹ See <http://www.fors.cz/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Aidwatch-2015.pdf>.

² See the text of Agenda 2030: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>. Czech translation of SDGs is available at: <http://www.osn.cz/osn/hlavni-temata/cile-udrzitelneho-rozvoje-sdgs-2015-2030/>.

³ On the topic see e.g. Glopolis (2015): Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – the initial analysis of Agenda 2030 impact and recommendations for Czech national administration: <http://glopolis.org/cs/clanky/cile-udrzitelneho-rozvoje-sdgs-prvotni-analyza-dopadu-agendy-2030-doporuceni-pro-statni-spravu-cr/> or BOND (2015): Bringing the Goals Home: Implementing the SDGs in the UK: https://www.bond.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource-documents/bringing_the_goals_home_implementing_the_sdgs_in_the_uk.pdf.

- 3/ **Ensure that domestic reforms have positive global impacts** – through systemic reforms that will contribute to the solution of global problems (reducing CO₂ emissions, consumption of raw-materials and energy, food waste etc.) and an active involvement in multilateral cooperation in international organisations and multilateral diplomacy³.

THE ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The current (mega)trends in the world, such as climate change, urbanization, population ageing and the demographic shift, the increasing number of poor people living in middle-income countries, the growing scarcity of natural resources, and process of huge technological transformation and innovation etc., all **contribute to changes in the global and regional distribution of poverty, social inequalities, and the nature of needs and conflicts**⁴. A sustainable world – i.e. a more just and responsible world – is only achievable **if the root causes of poverty and inequalities are addressed**. However, these cannot be defined solely on the basis of one, economic indicator based on income or consumption. Other, non-financial indicators have to be taken into account as well, such as access to education, health care, standard

of living, access to electricity, safe drinking water, housing and basic sanitation, etc.

For most countries, **public domestic institutions and resources** will constitute **the main pillars for achieving and financing SDGs**. Nevertheless, many developing countries do not have sufficient public domestic resources at their disposal. **Effective development cooperation therefore is, and will remain, a unique tool that can be used to ensure the human dignity of the poorest and most vulnerable groups of the population**, especially in LDCs and so called fragile states. Official Development Assistance (ODA) **develops the partner countries' own capacities to provide their inhabitants** with better access to public services, greater economic opportunities and enhanced resilience or the adaptability to natural or human-induced shocks, including climate change. Effective ODA also serves as a catalyst for **investment in sectors that play a key role in poverty reduction, such as agriculture, education and healthcare**. ODA is the only source of development finances⁵ for which the international commitments were established (see BOX 1).

Sustainable development also requires a **globally responsible society** – i.e. citizens who perceive themselves as part of the world, and who understand the wider global context and have key competencies which allow them to participate in social life as globally responsible citizens. **Global development education (GDE)** offers modern educational methods and **contributes to increasing the openness, tolerance and capacity to cooperate**, to reducing fears of social change and xenophobic attitudes in society, and **consequently also leads to higher competitiveness**. In the Czech Republic, the GDE forms part of the development cooperation under the auspices of the MFA. The Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is a key partner in implementing GDE to all levels of formal and informal education. In 2015, MFA initiated **the preparation of the new National Strategy for Global Development Education**. According to FoRS, this Strategy should be developed in accordance with already adopted binding documents of the Czech government's education policy and with new trends in global citizenship education.

BOX 1

Key international commitments for the donor countries in the field of official development assistance (ODA), which were set up by UN and EU:

- Provide 0,7% GNI as ODA annually
- Allocate between 0,15 and 0,20% GNI as ODA to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- For the member states, which joined the EU after 2002, reach the target of 0,33% ODA/GNI by 2015

See <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/the07odagnitarget-ahistory.htm> a http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/fr/article_4714_fr.htm

⁴ See also Bond (2015): Tomorrow's World: How Might Megatrends in Development Affect the Future Roles of UK-based INGOs? https://www.bond.org.uk/data/files/publications/Tomorrows_World_230215.pdf.

⁵ More on the topic of development finances see e.g. Bond (2015): Investments to end poverty 2015, https://www.bond.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource-documents/investments_to_end_poverty_report_2015_0.pdf.

CZECH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION – WHY AND WHERE TO INCREASE FUNDING

The Czech Republic has a functional institutional system and legislative framework of international development cooperation and as a member of the Development Assistance Committee of OECD (DAC), it is one of the most advanced donors. **In 2014, the official development assistance of the Czech Republic totalled 210 mil.**

aid, government scholarships for students from developing countries, civil missions, etc.), which constituted some 30% in 2014, **and multilateral component** (i.e. mandatory or voluntary contributions to EU, European Development Fund, UN agencies, etc.). The majority of the expenditure items of the multilateral ODA, which represents 70% of total ODA, are calculated according to the methodology of OECD DAC ex post. This means that the government has limited possibilities to plan these expenses in advance. On the contrary, the budget

Chart

Volume of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and its share of GNI 2004 - 2014

Source: MFA CZ



USD (4.36 billion CZK)⁶. The ODA/GNI ratio thus remains low at 0.11%, which is one third the ratio the Czech Republic should have reached by 2015 according to international commitments, considering its economic status. **So far, the government has not made the necessary political decisions for more substantial and systematic growth of ODA, nor has it adopted any realistic plan to achieve the 0.33% ODA/GNI ratio by the new deadline of 2030.**

Official development assistance consists of bilateral component (i.e. development projects, humanitarian

for the major part of bilateral development assistance can be defined on an annual basis by government resolutions within its annual Plan of development cooperation. **In 2014, the actual expenditure on development cooperation, according to the Annual plan, was 36.9 million USD (765.88 million CZK)⁷.** Within this amount, the development projects implemented abroad under the auspices of the Czech Development Agency (CzDA) represent only a small part – 17.3 million USD (358 million CZK) in 2014. **According to FoRS, there is room for increasing ODA especially in the area of bilateral development cooperation, and specifically for development**

⁶ Data taken from MFA: http://www.mzv.cz/jnp/cz/zahranicni_vztahy/rozvojova_spoluprace/koncepce_publikace/vyrocní_přehledy/index.html. The CZK/USD exchange rate used 20.75 according to the Czech Central National Bank exchange rates fixing – quarterly averages: https://www.cnb.cz/en/financial_markets/foreign_exchange_market/exchange_rate_fixing/currency_average.jsp?code=USD.

⁷ Data taken from MFA: http://www.mzv.cz/jnp/cz/zahranicni_vztahy/rozvojova_spoluprace/koncepce_publikace/vyrocní_přehledy/index.html. The CZK/USD exchange rate used 20.75 was according to the Czech Central National Bank exchange rates fixing – quarterly averages: https://www.cnb.cz/en/financial_markets/foreign_exchange_market/exchange_rate_fixing/currency_average.jsp?code=USD.

projects (including trilateral projects), humanitarian aid and transformation cooperation. Despite the fact that these activities represent the core of the added value of the Czech bilateral development cooperation, they are consistently underfunded.

The grant programme of trilateral cooperation⁸ under the auspices of CzDA brings into Czech development cooperation a three-fold or four-fold effect in comparison with the funds spent on the bilateral projects. It gives priority to projects which have already received financial support within the grant schemes of foreign donors, especially the EU, and to projects which are geographically or thematically in accordance with the International Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic, or which target LDCs. In 2014, 47 projects received grants from the CzDA for a total of 1.6 million USD (33 million CZK) and another 5.5 million USD (115 million CZK) from the grants of European Commission (EC) and other donors. Out of these, 35 projects with a total grant of nearly 1 million USD (20.6 million CZK) co-financed EC grants totalling 4.2 million USD (87 million CZK) – these included projects implemented in developing countries as well as development awareness and global development education projects⁹. The programme is an effective instrument

for the implementation of large-scale projects under the auspices of CzDA and it is also administratively less cumbersome than public contracts or other CzDA grant programmes. However, each year it struggles with an excessive number of applications submitted by the successful recipients of EU grants or grants from other donors.

WHAT THE CZECH REPUBLIC HAS DONE SINCE 2014 TO INCREASE THE DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

In addition to development cooperation volume, development cooperation quality is essential. So far, the Czech Republic has not adopted a comprehensive strategic plan on how to meet its commitments to development effectiveness embodied in the so called Busan partnership¹⁰. However, in 2014 development cooperation effectiveness was increased in a number of areas: involvement in joint EU programming, evaluation of results and potential cooperation in three selected priority sectors, meta-evaluation of completed evaluations, preparation of two pilot sector programmes, new CzDA methodology for the evaluation of the identified project themes of the call for proposals, certain steps towards increased transparency, and new models for more effective engagement of private sector in development cooperation etc. At the same time, there are areas for long-term improvement, such as increasing transparency according to the standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)¹¹, increasing staff capacities for CzDA, combining existing development cooperation instruments into complex programmes, increasing sustainability of project results, fostering partner countries' ownership of development actions, and supporting cooperation between the private, NGO and academic sectors, etc.

For the future focus of the Czech development cooperation as of 2018, when a new International Development Cooperation Strategy for the Czech Republic should come into force, it is necessary to take into account such factors as the changing nature of the world challenges, the distribution of poverty and inequalities, the needs and opportunities of the poorest populations, the capacities of their governments and other actors, and any experience and added value that the Czech Republic can offer within its development cooperation for the eradication of the world poverty and attainment of other SDGs in developing countries.

BOX 2

Principles of development effectiveness valid for all development actors

- **Ownership of development priorities by developing countries:** partner countries should define the development model that they want to implement
- **A focus on results:** having a sustainable impact should be the driving force behind investments and efforts in development policies making
- **Inclusive partnership for development** – development depends on the participation of all actors and recognizes the variety and complementarity of their roles
- **Transparency and shared responsibility** – development cooperation must be transparent and accountable to all citizens

For more information see: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/>

⁸ Projects are defined as “trilateral” as they involve cooperation and funding from a Czech grant, a grant provided by another donor, and the own resources of the implementing agency – an NGO or other eligible entity.

⁹ Data provided by the Czech Development Agency.

¹⁰ See <http://www.oecd.org/development/effectiveness/busanpartnership.htm>.

¹¹ According to IATI standards, the data on DC should be publicly accessible, complete, mutually comparable and up to date. Accession to IATI represents both political commitment and the fulfilment of technical requirements. – see: <http://www.aidtransparency.net/> and <http://ati.publishwhatyoufund.org/index-2014/results/>.

HUMANITARIAN AID OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC – SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES FOR ITS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

In many crisis situations, humanitarian aid is the main or only means to protect human lives, health and dignity. In the last decade, the Czech Republic has built an effective system to deliver humanitarian aid: MFA prepares annual Operational strategies, adheres to the Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship¹², and funds are spent on immediate responses aimed at life-saving in disasters and epidemics (in 2014 mainly the treatment of Ebola virus disease and floods in the Balkans) or conflicts (in 2014 up to 40% of the humanitarian aid budget, primarily in relation to the war in Syria) as well as on subsequent reconstruction efforts aimed at restoring the basic living conditions. Czech humanitarian organisations consistently receive a high level of public support, and have broad international experience and contacts. **However, from 2010 through 2016, the annual budget of the Czech Republic for humanitarian aid within the Czech Development Cooperation Plan remained virtually unchanged at 3.5 million USD (73 million CZK), an amount considered insufficient by FoRS. In relation to the current refugee crisis, the Czech government has released additional resources for the Ministry of the Interior, but these are mainly spent on security measures in the migrants' countries of origin and transit countries. Nevertheless, it is of utmost importance that the government continuously increase the funds for humanitarian aid within the budget of MFA.**

MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND ITS EMBEDDING IN THE MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and societal inequalities, cannot be attained without complex and systemic changes in security, political, economic and environmental conditions. International cooperation and coherent diplomatic support within the inter-governmental and international organisations are absolutely necessary if these changes are to happen. The Czech Republic recognises the importance of multilateralism, but it **is not actively involved in the practical implementation of multilateral diplomacy**. There is a lack of political activity on the part of political leaders as well as a lack of sufficient

capacity and coordination at the state administration level, especially outside of the MFA. The Czech Republic has a good conceptual framework for more active involvement in multilateral organisations, particularly on the basis of the Foreign Policy Strategy and in the area of development on the basis of the **Multilateral Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2013-2017**. However, the Czech Republic has not been able to assert itself on the multilateral level – either in terms of its expertise or initiative. In accordance with the priorities of the Multilateral Development Cooperation Strategy and with regard to the high amount of financial resources disbursed to the development cooperation implemented by the EU (127.2 mil. USD out of 147.6 mil. USD of the Czech multilateral ODA in 2014), the Czech Republic should clearly identify its priorities for its engagement in the EU development cooperation and follow these priorities also within the related departmental policies and positions at the EU level.

NEW HOMEWORK FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN RELATION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In order to meet Agenda 2030, it is necessary to enhance the coherence between the domestic reforms and their impact on sustainable development, gain political support coordinate across the different government departments and **cooperate across different fields and sectors**. The Czech Republic has already taken several basic steps toward the implementation of SDGs. On the institutional level, **the Government Council for Sustainable Development**, which falls under the Office of the Government, was established. **The Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development**, which is to be submitted to the government by December 31, 2016, should serve as the basic conceptual document for the Czech Republic. **The Council for Development Cooperation**, chaired by the MFA, should continue pursuing the coherence between the policies and development goals. Pushing through some of the following measures could contribute to an increased coherence of Czech policies for sustainable development, including greater coherence with development cooperation goals: (1) the new Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development will clearly link the implementation of SDGs to the national development priorities (2) thanks to the participative process of its preparation, this document will have a broad support of expert public as well as political elites, (3) an appropriate way for the engagement of

¹² These principles are: humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. Declaration on Good Humanitarian Donorship: http://www.mzv.cz/jnp/cz/zahranicni_vztahy/rozvojova_spoluprace/koncepce/publikace/koncepce/deklarace_dobreho_humanitarniho.html and <http://www.ghdinitiative.org/>.

the inter-ministerial Council for Foreign Development Cooperation in the work of the Government Council for Sustainable Development will be found, for example through its Committee for coordination of Czech positions on sustainable development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

TO THE CZECH LEGISLATORS AND GOVERNMENT:

- Commit to providing 0.33% of GNI for the Czech Republic Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2030 at the latest and adopt a realistic plan for its gradual fulfilment (i.e. increase the ODA/GNI ratio annually at least by 0.01%, especially in the area of bilateral ODA for development projects, trilateral cooperation and humanitarian aid);
- Increase the budget for humanitarian aid within the MFA budget in the Plan of Development Cooperation for 2017 to at least 7.2 million USD (150 million CZK) and ensure that it is systematically increased within the framework of annual Plans of development cooperation;
- Maintain a stable, long-term predictable and adequate contribution of the Czech Republic to the Green Climate Fund;
- At the EU, UN, OECD and other selected international organisations, engage actively and in a coordinated way (across different government departments and state administration mechanisms) in the multilateral mechanisms for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, including development cooperation, negotiations on climate change, UN tax body, solutions for humanitarian crises;
- Based on a participatory process of consultations across government departments, sectors and democratic parliamentary parties, draft and adopt an ambitious, but realistic Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development, with specific priorities, indicators and regular assessment.

TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- Draw up a plan for meeting the development effectiveness commitments set out in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation¹³, and

implement this plan, including transparency and predictability; and furthermore join the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) in 2015;

- Prepare amendments to laws on the use of new development cooperation models in accordance with the Czech Republic development effectiveness commitments set out in the Busan Partnership (for example the creation of pooled funds, delegated cooperation, development projects funding on a multi-annual basis, inter-sectoral partnerships etc.);
- Require that the private sector involved in development cooperation applies (as the other actors) the development effectiveness principles set out in the Busan Partnership;
- Promote that the eradication of extreme poverty and the reduction of inequalities remain at the core of the Czech Republic and EU development cooperation;
- Ensure coherence of (non-development) policies with the development cooperation objectives at the level of the Council for Development Cooperation, in drafting and approving legislation and adopting positions within the EU;
- Provide more development assistance to the poorest countries – allocate at least 25% of the bilateral ODA to LDCs;
- In the middle-income countries, with more than 70% of the world's poorest people and the biggest income disparities, build the capacities of state administration and civil society, to reduce inequalities and provide systematic support to the most vulnerable groups of the population;
- Increase the budget for trilateral projects and thus enable the Czech entities to multiply the effect of the Czech ODA;
- Ensure an effective preparation process for the new National Strategy for Global Development Education, valid for the period after 2015, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and other entities (NGOs, the academic community etc.) and in accordance with binding documents of the Czech Republic education system and new trends in the global citizenship education;

¹³ See <http://www.oecd.org/development/effectiveness/busanpartnership.htm> and Information on the Czech Development Cooperation in 2014: http://www.mzv.cz/jnp/cz/zahranicni_vztahy/rozvojova_spoluprace/koncepcie_publikace/vyrocn_i_prehledy/informace_o_zahranicni_razvoje_5.html.

- Conduct an independent evaluation of the Multi-lateral Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2013-2017;
- Strengthen the CzDA personnel and expert capacity by appointing additional staff at the head office and establishing CzDA offices in priority countries, and increase these capacities in parallel to the increases in the budget for the bilateral development cooperation of the Czech Republic, in order to improve the quality of program formulation, implementation and monitoring according to the real needs of the partner countries and target groups, and the sustainability of the Czech projects;
- Update the Project Cycle Management methodologies and apply them at all stages of project formulation, implementation and monitoring.

TO THE CZECH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY:

- With regards to the limited volume of the Czech development cooperation, increase the share of the projects with added value of the Czech Republic as a donor (particularly regarding social, education and transformation projects);
- Better combine various development cooperation instruments and projects to complex development solutions; through more detailed formulation of programs in priority sectors, through enabling the implementation of longer-term and more flexible projects, including building links between them at the regional level and within inter-sectoral cooperation;
- Strengthen the sustainability of the development projects through complex situation analysis of the problem at the stage of the identification and formulation of the project and by thorough post-project monitoring;
- Increase transparency and improve access to information on development cooperation in accordance with the IATI standards and recommendations based on the ranking of the Publish What You Fund (PWYF) Aid Transparency Index;
- Strengthen the CzDA capacity by appointing additional staff and increase the long-term presence of the CzDA staff in priority countries by establishing CzDA foreign offices.

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Since 2008, FoRS has been issuing regular reviews of the Czech development cooperation's performance in the previous year from the perspectives of the NGOs and other non-profit entities, within the framework of the Czech AidWatch Report. FoRS also presents recommendations addressing the Czech state administration, political representatives and other stakeholders.

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MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

2000–2015

- MDG 1** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- MDG 2** Achieve universal primary education
- MDG 3** Promote gender equality and empower women
- MDG 4** Reduce child mortality
- MDG 5** Improve maternal health
- MDG 6** Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- MDG 7** Ensure environmental sustainability
- MDG 8** Develop a global partnership for development

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TARGETS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2015–2030

- SDG 1** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- SDG 2** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- SDG 3** Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
- SDG 4** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- SDG 5** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- SDG 6** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- SDG 7** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- SDG 8** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
- SDG 9** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation
- SDG 10** Reduce inequality within and among countries
- SDG 11** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- SDG 12** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- SDG 13** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum)
- SDG 14** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- SDG 15** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
- SDG 16** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- SDG 17** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

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TARGETS