

DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2005

In 2005, Czech ODA increased by 16% in real terms and reached USD 135 million which represents 0.11% of gross national income. The increase was due primarily to the Czech contribution to the EU development budget (USD 62 million) and partly due to humanitarian operations in Asia after the tsunami disaster. All assistance was provided in the form of grants.



The Czech ODA in 2005 comprised technical assistance (11% of the total), investment projects (5%), special programmes in the Middle East and the Balkans (7%), humanitarian aid and assistance to refugees (14%), debt relief (7%), and administrative costs including public awareness (3%). This makes 48% in total for bilateral activities while multilateral assistance (including EU) amounted to 52% of the total ODA.

In geographical terms, bilateral aid was focused on the Balkans (Serbia and Montenegro), South-East Asia (Mongolia, Pakistan) and the Middle East (Iraq). The main thematic focus was on good governance, post-conflict situations, education and environmental protection. Basic social services (basic education, health, water) amounted to about one-seventh of the allocable ODA.

Programmes of Co-operation for the 2006-2010 Period with eight priority countries (Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Mongolia, Serbia and Montenegro, Vietnam, Yemen, and Zambia) were approved by the Czech Government in 2005. The existence of programmes will make development work more predictable and simplify planning activities for all parties involved.

The Czech Republic has made further efforts at strengthening efficiency and transparency of the Czech development assistance, including new *Principles for Tender Procedures of Development Assistance Projects* (October 2005) and *Guidelines for Project Cycle Management* (April 2006). At present, a concept of an *Act on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid* is being prepared.

