



AID PLACE

CZECH



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

FOR ONE
2019

AID IN PLACE 2019

IN THE YEARS 2015-2018 THE PROGRAMME WAS PRESENT ALSO IN THESE COUNTRIES:

Bilateral cooperation:

Bosnia and Hercegovina
Bulgaria
Iraq
Ivory Coast
Greece
Serbia
Syria
Turkey
Ukraine

Multilateral cooperation:

Ethiopia
Kenya
Lebanon
Somalia
Sudan
Uganda

Activities in 2019

Activities in 2015-2018

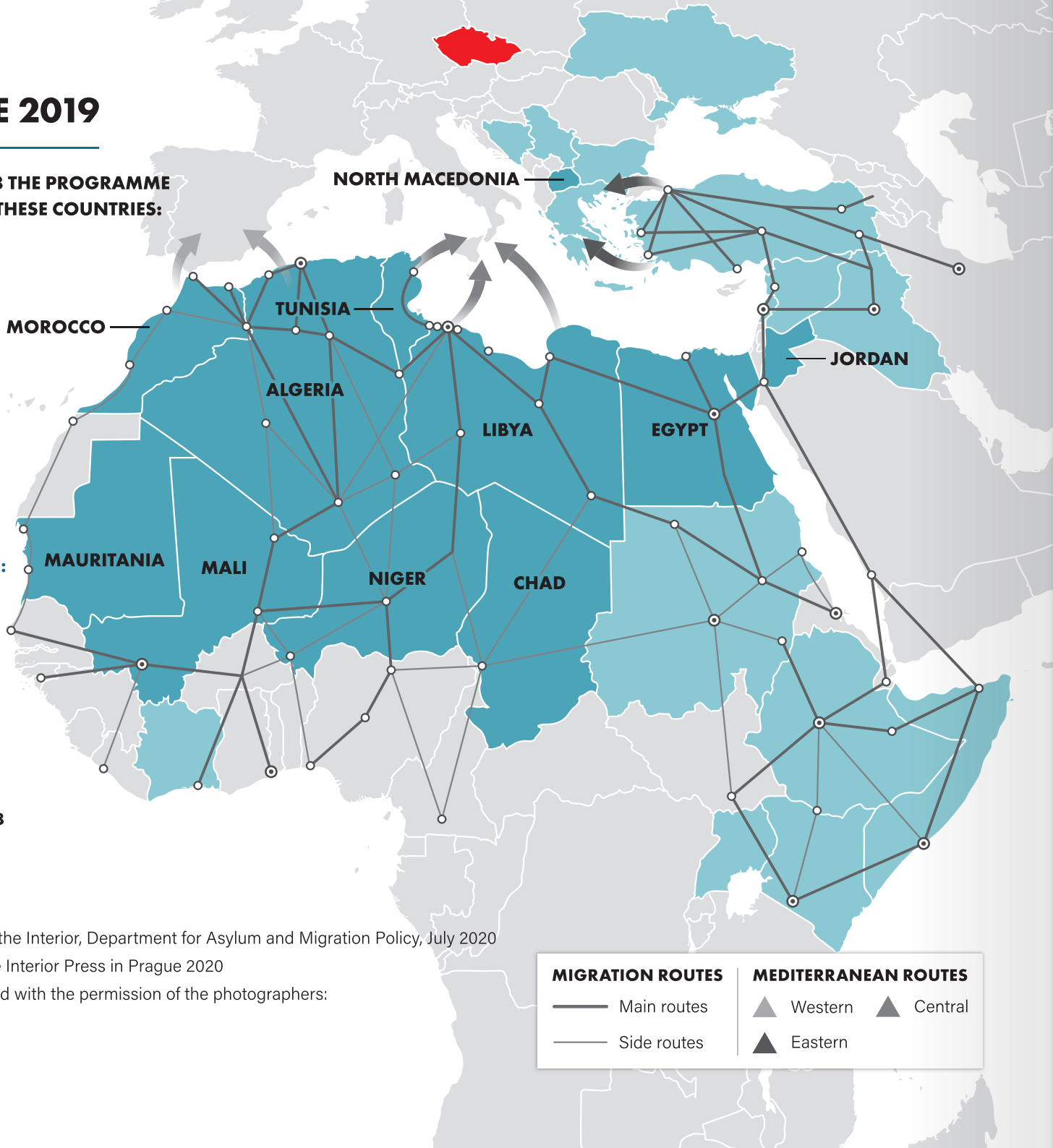
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Adam Hříbal, Štěpán Lohr

EUR 1 = CZK 25



A WORD OF INTRODUCTION

Mgr. Pavla Novotná

Director of the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy



Photo: Adam Hříbal © MoI ČR

Dear Readers,

You are holding an annual report for the year 2019 of the Ministry of the Interior Aid in Place Programme. The fact that developments in the area of migration and asylum have been very dynamic over the past few years is nothing new. Similarly to previous years, 2019 brought many turnabouts in migration routes and altered migration flows into Europe. Nevertheless, we were ready to react flexibly to such sudden challenges through the Aid in Place Programme.

In consequence of developments in the Western Mediterranean route in 2018, when this migration route became the most frequented channel into Europe for migrants and refugees, we were forced to change our priorities for 2019 and move North African countries and the Sahel to the top of our programme's list of priorities. Of course, we likewise continued in our activities in the Eastern Mediterranean and the related Western Balkan route, since considerable growth and increased needs were identified in this area in 2018 after the calmer year of 2017.

Please allow me to express my thanks to all of our implementing partners without whom Aid in Place would be unable to help. Our partners in 2019 included not only the United Nations (UN), but also individual partner governments and international non-governmental organisations. All of these organisations deserve profound gratitude for their endeavours to protect, improve the lives and to offer alternatives to refugees and other people on the move.

Mgr. Pavla Novotná

INTRODUCTION

Since 2015, the Ministry of the Interior Aid in Place Programme (full title: The Programme of the Ministry of the Interior for Assistance to Refugees in Regions of Origin and Prevention of Large Migration Flows) has been helping “people on the move” – in other words refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons and persons returning to their homeland after displacement. These are the people for whom the Ministry of the Interior is attempting to find a permanent solution – to create the best possible conditions for them in their country of origin, help them return to their home country or integrate them into a neighbouring host country. Another important component of the Aid in Place Programme is combating illegal migration and by it fighting human smuggling and trafficking. For this reason we assist countries along the main migration routes to bolster their migration systems to enable them to confront and prevent illegal migration and smuggling.

Individual projects financed from the programme are implemented in partnership with individual foreign governments, international organisations and non-governmental organisations. The Ministry of the Interior cooperated with a total of six foreign partners in 2019.

The Aid in Place budget for 2019 was CZK 150 million (EUR 6 million), allowing to participate in the execution of seven bilateral projects, and also to contribute to one regional programme, specifically the European Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) for North Africa. This was the second contribution made by the Ministry of the Interior to this programme.

Projects in this year were implemented in three priority areas: North Africa and the broader Sahel area, the Middle East and the Balkans. Priority regions and their order were decided with regard to the existing migration and refugee situation in the immediate vicinity of the European Union and the related migration pressure on the EU and the Czech Republic in the previous year.

Cooperation and coordination between Aid in Place and its sister medical humanitarian programme MEDEVAC also continued in 2019. One example of this are joint activities in Jordan, where aid donated from the Aid in Place budget to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) local healthcare project made cooperation between UNHCR and MEDEVAC in pre-selection of patients for the Czech medical missions possible.

OVERALL STATISTICS OF THE PROGRAMME 2015 – 2019



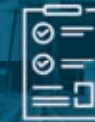
CZK 779 million (EUR 31.2 million)

for migration crisis management provided since 2015



27 countries

across 3 continents where the programme operates



37 projects

and other 5 multilateral programmes supported



18 implementing partners

from governmental institutions and international organisations



588 700 refugees

helped by Aid in Place



18 000 refugee children

protected by Aid in Place

HOW WE HELP

- › We provide **protection** of refugees and other vulnerable persons on the move outside the EU.
- › We build and reconstruct **housing** and essential **infrastructure** for forcibly displaced persons.
- › We contribute to **education and healthcare** for those most in need.
- › We support **building and reinforcing of migration and asylum systems** in the EU neighbourhood and prevent illegal migration.
- › We help ensure the **livelihood and self-sufficiency** of refugees and host community.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2019



- **Jordan — CZK 40 million (EUR 1.6 million)**
Support in healthcare and education of Syrian refugees
(implementing partners: UNHCR, LWF, Care International)
- **Libya – CZK 25 million (EUR 1 million)**
Assistance to refugees after disembarkation, in government refugee facilities and UNHCR centre
(implementing partner: UNHCR)
- **Mali – CZK 25 million (EUR 1 million)**
Protection of children on the move
(implementing partner: UNICEF)
- **Niger – CZK 25 million (EUR 1 million)**
Assistance to refugees from Nigeria
(implementing partner: UNHCR)
- **North Macedonia – CZK 25 million (EUR 1 million)**
Reinforcing the migration system and combating illegal migration
(implementing partner: Ministry of the Interior of North Macedonia)
- **North Africa – CZK 10 million (EUR 400 000)**
Financial contribution to the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) for North Africa
(implementing partner: Ministry of the Interior of the Italian Republic)

ACTIVITIES PLANNED IN 2020

The priorities for the year 2020 take again into account the migration and refugee situation along the main migration routes into Europe and also reflect the establishment of the independent Programme of Activities for Supporting Source and Transit Countries of Migration in Africa for the Period 2020 – 2022 coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A rise of 53 % was registered in 2019 on the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan route (to 70 369 persons), making it the most frequented migration route into the European Union. For this reason, the first priority for the year 2020 is the Balkan region, followed by the second priority of North Africa and the Middle East, known collectively as MENA. Part of the budget this year too will be kept back as a reserve for potential unexpected developments on the migration routes, thereby allowing the Czech Republic to react quickly and effectively and provide necessary aid following assessment of acute, unpredictable needs.

The budget for the Aid in Place Programme for 2020 is CZK 135 million (EUR 5.4 million). The programme's priorities were discussed by an inter-ministerial working group and approved by the Government of the Czech Republic by Resolution No. 144 of 24 February 2020.

- BALKANS – CZK 50 MILLION (EUR 2 MILLION)**
- MENA – CZK 50 MILLION (EUR 2 MILLION)**
- MIGRATION ROUTES – CZK 35 MILLION (EUR 1.4 MILLION)**

HELPING CHILDREN

Leaving their home is very traumatic for children, often carrying with them nothing more than unpleasant experiences from wars and other disturbing experiences. For this reason, 40 % of Aid in Place activities focus on children.



Thanks to Aid in Place, we supported the construction of primary schools in Niger. © UNHCR

Helping children is unarguably fundamental because children are always the worst hit by wars, conflicts and other crises that often lead to forced migration. Leaving their home is very traumatic for children, often carrying with them nothing more than unpleasant experiences from wars and other disturbing experiences. Along their journey to safety, they are exposed to many risks, especially if they are travelling alone without any adult family members accompanying them. These are known as “unaccompanied children”. Common for all such children is interruption of regular schooling; they all lack access to education as a result of their displacement.

Therefore, since its inception in 2015, the programme has focused primarily on helping children. Special protection and assistance must be provided not just to unaccompanied children, but also to families with young children. The Ministry of the Interior cooperates with numerous partners who specialise in this type of assistance to achieve this. Such partners include the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Care International. Since 2015, projects focused on helping children and families with children amounted to a total of CZK 275 million (EUR 11 million), i.e. almost 40 % of all the hitherto expenditure of the Aid in Place Programme.



Aid in Place supports the access of children to education and healthcare in refugee camps in Jordan. © Mol CR (Photo: Štěpán Lohr)

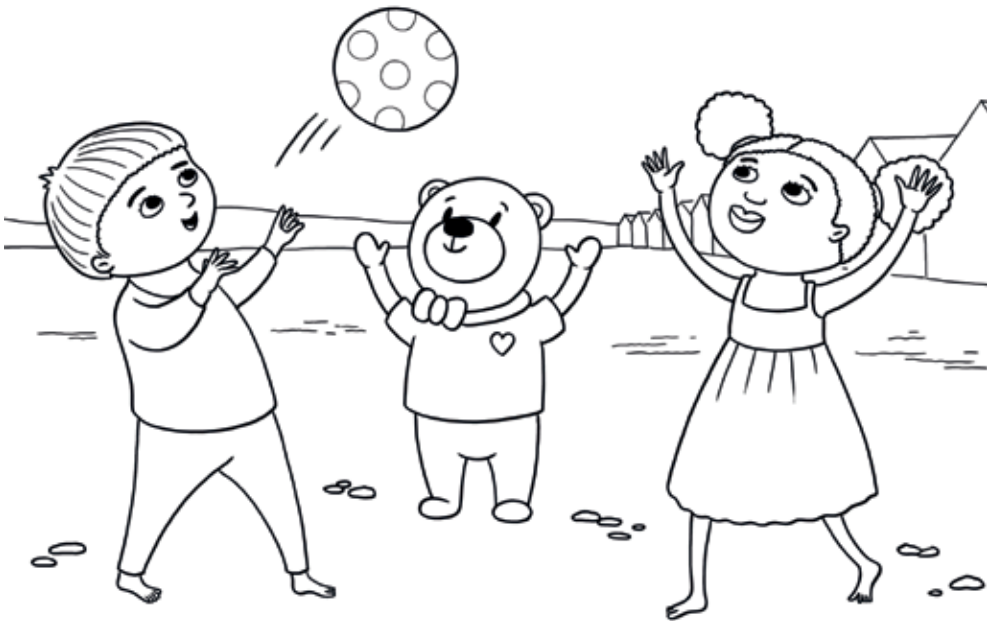


We supported the construction of houses for families with children in the refugee camp Azraq in Jordan. © Mol CR (Photo: Štěpán Lohr)

Because we know just how important education is, we also help the children of refugees to attend schools, receive an education, thereby guaranteeing them a better future. For this reason we contribute to the repair and construction of schools inside and outside refugee camps in the Middle East and in Africa.

Unfortunately, on the long journey to a safer destination, unaccompanied children are often exposed to violence and abuse. In cooperation with our partners, we have arranged for accommodation in special centres for these children and they are provided with psychological support and education. Furthermore, experts are working hard to find a permanent solution as an alternative to illegal migration. Such solutions include reunion with their families or foster care.

Aid in Place is also building homes for families with children in refugee camps. This applies specifically to Jordan, where Aid in Place has contributed to the construction of more than 4500 dwellings and also almost 7300 dwellings were repaired in the two largest camps for Syrian refugees, Azraq and Zaatari.



A colouring book with illustrations of children who were forced to leave their homes. © Adéla Růčková

In 2019, two large projects focusing on children were also implemented under the programme.

In Mali, we supported the UNICEF project “Children on the Move” which helps unaccompanied children to find an alternative to illegal migration by organising reunion with their families or foster care. An integral part of the project is also informing children of the risks involved with illegal migration. A total of 10 000 children were helped under the project.

The second project facilitated access to primary education in Jordan for 190 Syrian children who, due to their families’ unfortunate economic situation, were previously unable to attend school. The families of these children received financial aid under condition that their children did not have to work, but instead could go to school and secure a better future. This project was implemented in Jordan by Care International.

At the same time, we do not neglect the children in the Czech Republic. In cooperation with the excellent illustrator, Adéla Růčková Moravcová, we published colouring-in books illustrating the plight of children around the world to whom we provide assistance by means of the Aid in Place and MEDEVAC programmes. The colouring books are intended not only for children in crisis-affected areas where they help the children to pass the time and teach them a few Czech and English words, but also for Czech children to whom it serves as a playful way of informing them about the situation of children outside Europe and about the activities of both Ministry of the Interior programmes - Aid in Place and MEDEVAC.

NORTH AFRICA AND THE SAHEL

The first geographical priority of the Aid in Place Programme in 2019 is Africa for the first time since the launch of the programme in 2015; concretely North Africa and the countries of the Sahel.

A significant factor influencing this step was primarily the rise in migration from African countries to Europe in the course of 2018, when the Western Mediterranean route to Spain became the most frequented migration route into Europe, with a year-on-year rise of 124 %. According to European Commission statistics, 64 427 persons entered Spain (including land entry into the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla). This route was mainly used by inhabitants of North Africa, the Sahel and West Africa, for example Morocco, Mali and Guinea. The states of this region have long been frequented source and transit regions for migration to the EU by sea. The unstable situation in a range of states in this region and the high porosity of the sea border represents a huge challenge for certain European countries, as well as for institutionalised cooperation with the EU. Finances from the EU Trust Fund for Africa are channelled into this region; certain European countries, under the leadership of Italy, are implementing projects under the common Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) which focuses on the stabilisation, development and protection of refugees, including increasing the capacities of local migration and asylum structures. However, despite all of these endeavours and the results achieved, the migration situation in Africa remains problematic because local conflicts are constantly flaring up and worsening and other causes of migration such as more frequent drought and failed harvests due to climatic changes just make matters worse.

The main source areas of migration to North Africa are the unstable countries of the Sahel and Sub-Saharan Africa. The most frequented transit countries include Mali and Niger, which were priority countries of the programme in 2019. Libya also became a priority country, with almost 800 000 migrants and refugees in desperate need of humanitarian aid in its territory at the beginning of 2019. Under what is known as the Emergency Transit Mechanism, the UNHCR began evacuation of persons entitled to international protection into Niger. In doing this, Niger proved its readiness to cooperate in solving the migration situation in the Mediterranean, despite the fact that it also has to deal with a great number of refugees from Nigeria and Mali inside its territory. And so for this reason, Niger is one of the priority countries of the Aid in Place Programme with an aim to at least partially relieve this country of the burden lying on its shoulders due to the refugee situation. The Aid in Place Programme focused mainly on protection and stabilisation of migrants and refugees, including those most vulnerable – children.

LIBYA

PROTECTING AND ASSISTING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN LIBYA

Allocated amount:
CZK 25 million (EUR 1 million)

Implementing partner:
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Implementation period:
January - December 2019

Project description:

The aim of the UNHCR project in 2019 was to provide refugees and asylum seekers essential assistance after disembarkation in Libya in government refugee centres and in the UNHCR facility (Gathering and Departure Facility), where vulnerable refugees are placed prior to their evacuation from Libya to their home countries or states offering refuge (in 2019 this involved Niger and Rwanda which offered refuge to refugees under the UNHCR return and resettlement mechanism). Under the project and in cooperation with its partners, the UNHCR provided basic needs packages, medical consultations and essential treatment after disembarkation and in the government refugee centres and also medical and psycho-social care, accommodation and meals in the UNHCR facility.

Implementation status:

Under this project, refugees were provided immediately after disembarkation 1058 medical consultations or treatment and were distributed a total of 4755 emergency packages with hygiene items, blankets and food. 17149 medical consultations or treatment were provided in government refugee centres. Contributions were made towards medical and psycho-social care, meals, accommodation and basic needs for 1500 of the most vulnerable refugees, mainly women and children, at the UNHCR facility. Implementation of the project finished in December 2019 and the desired results were achieved in full.



A refugee family in front of the UNHCR centre before their evacuation out of Libya. © UNHCR

NIGER

PROTECTING AND ASSISTING REFUGEES FROM NIGERIA

Project description:

The aim of this project implemented in cooperation with UNHCR was to provide protection and assistance to refugees from Nigeria in the Maradi region in southern Niger and support of the local host community. When the project was launched, more than 35 000 Nigerian refugees were in the Maradi region and more than 120 000 refugees from Nigeria throughout Niger. The main activities of the project included quality registration of in-coming refugees, which was conducted in cooperation with the Niger government. Such registration provides UNHCR and the Niger government information on the size and the social structure of the refugee community in the country, making it possible to plan specific support measures for the refugees. It also facilitated identification of the most vulnerable persons who were then offered relocation to villages in inland Niger, which is safer and more suitable for integration than areas near the border. In connection with the growth in the population in the Maradi region, new infrastructure was required, especially new drinking water sources, accommodation capacities and schools. The activities also included provision of medical care to new incoming people and distribution of basic needs packages.



Taking fingerprints in a registration centre Dan Kano. © UNHCR

Allocated amount: CZK 25 million (EUR 1 million)

Implementing partner: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Implementation period: January - December 2019

Implementation status:

Under this project and in cooperation with the Nigerian government, registration took place of 41 818 refugees who had left Nigeria, fleeing from violent Islamic groups, mainly Boko Haram. 453 refugees were relocated to villages outside the dangerous border zone. Furthermore under the project, two clean water sources were created and new latrines were made, 264 new accommodation units built and 400 basic household needs packages distributed (mattresses, blankets, mosquito nets, pots and pans, hygiene items etc.). Additionally 4 884 medical procedures and consultations were provided in a newly opened healthcare centre and 3 primary schools were reconstructed. Implementation of the project finished in December 2019 and the desired results were achieved in full.



Nigerian woman with a basic household needs package. © UNHCR



New water tank and pump using solar energy in Garin Kaka. © UNHCR

MALI

Allocated amount: CZK 25 million (EUR 1 million)

Implementing partner: UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Implementation period: July 2019 – June 2021

PROTECTING CHILDREN ON THE MOVE IN MALI

Project description:

One of the main traditional migration routes to North Africa and on to Europe passes through Mali. This migration route is used also by a large number of unaccompanied children, most often hailing from West African countries. The most frequent reasons for leaving home in many African countries is the lack of livelihood opportunities; also, families frequently send their children to work in Europe with the prospect of finding work mainly on the black market, and then sending money back home to Africa to support the entire family. This goes on without the parents or family being aware of the perils awaiting their children. Unaccompanied children are threatened by many dangers, including physical, psychological and sexual violence and abuse. Under this project implemented by UNICEF, 7 000 children on the move in Mali are provided concrete forms of protection. An increase in the capacities of 10 mobile teams and the creation of 5 new teams, training for 100 new social workers, the setting up and extra staffing of 30 children's psychological support centres are planned. The capacities of Malian authorities have been increased to make them capable of reacting and helping children in need sufficiently quickly. 200 unaccompanied children will be provided surrogate care in foster families or childcare centres, 200 children will be reunited with their families and provided essential reintegration care and, by means of community programmes and awareness campaigns, 10 000 children and youths most inclined to leaving their family and migration will be informed of the risks of illegal migration.

Implementation status:

During the first implementation year of this two year project 1 329 children (668 girls and 661 boys) were provided with psychosocial support in 15 secured child friendly spaces in Mopti region. Most migrants pass through Mopti region on their journey through Mali, including unaccompanied children. Therefore the assistance in the first project year primarily focused on this region. During the implementation coronavirus pandemics hit Mali. Consequently, from the Czech support, child friendly spaces were supplied with sanitary items and thermometers to prevent spreading of the Covid-19. During the first implementation year capacities of Malian authorities in the field of assistance to vulnerable children have been assessed. Based on the findings trainings for relevant authorities and organisations will be conducted and Standard Operating Procedures will be developed. Last but not least, 13 unaccompanied children on the move were reunited with their families, and in May 2020 Facebook page has been launched with short videos of children's on the move testimonies. These short videos should inform other children about risks of illegal migration. After 6 days of publication, the first video got 11 474 views. Implementation of the project will finish in June 2021.





NORTH AFRICA

CONTRIBUTION TO THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAMME (RDPP) FOR NORTH AFRICA – PHASE 4

Allocated amount:

CZK 10 million (EUR 400 000)

Programme coordinator:

Ministry of the Interior of the Italian Republic

Implementation period:

2019 - 2021

Programme description:

Regional Development and Protection Programmes (RDPPs) are the European Union states' main instrument for providing support and protection to refugees and migrants in Europe's three neighbouring regions: North Africa, the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. Aid in Place supports the implementation of projects under three separate programmes. Cooperation with other EU member states and common financing under regional programmes are important for increasing the impact of implemented development interventions.

More than a million refugees and migrants are currently seeking safety and a livelihood in the countries of North Africa. Projects under the RDPP for North Africa are underway in Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger and Tunisia. The programme is coordinated by the Italian Ministry of the Interior and is divided into two parts – Protection and Development. The first part is concerned specifically with protection of migrants and refugees and with aid to North African states to enable them to look after the migrants and refugees, in other words to provide them safety and access to a livelihood. The aim is to find a permanent solution for such people, thus discouraging them from further migration – this could involve integration in a North African country, voluntary return and reintegration in their home country or resettlement to a third country. The second part of the programme focuses on supporting host communities and their resilience to social, political and economic turmoil.

The programme is financed by the European Commission (specifically from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund) and bilateral donors. In addition to Italy and the Czech Republic, Austria and Norway also contribute to the RDPP for North Africa. Phase 4 of the programme is currently underway.

Implementation status:

Since 2016, 40 projects amounting to a total of EUR 41.4 million (approx. CZK 1.1 billion) have been financed through the RDPP for North Africa. Separate projects were and are being implemented by international organisations, namely the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children and others. For example, under Phase 4 of this programme a project is underway for increasing the capacities of the Libyan government in the area of migrant registration, a project for supporting returning migrants and victims of human trafficking in Niger and a project for increasing the capacities of governmental authorities in Egypt and Algeria in the area of asylum procedure. Implementation of activities under Phase 4 of the programme will finish in 2021.

THE MIDDLE EAST

The second geographical priority for Aid in Place in 2019 was the Middle East region because, in consequence of the protracted conflict in Syria, the states of the Middle East are hosting high numbers of Syrian refugees whose situation is unsustainable in the long term. Most Syrian refugees found refuge in their neighbouring countries – according to UNHCR data, 5.6 million Syrians are currently living in Syria's neighbouring countries. Turkey is hosting the largest number of Syrian refugees on its territory (3.6 million), followed by Lebanon (1.5 million), Jordan (673 000), Iraq (251 000) and Egypt (132 000).

The situation leads to unprecedented pressure on these countries, their infrastructure and the stability of local communities. The capabilities of these countries to provide sufficient protection and dignified treatment of refugees are extremely limited, which results in increased frustration among both the local population and refugees who are subsequently forced to seek safety and protection elsewhere, including Europe. A good example may be Jordan where, as a result of insufficient job opportunities and restriction on refugee work imposed by the Jordanian government, 80 % of Syrian refugees live outside refugee camps and are below the poverty line and 57 % of Syrians of productive age in Jordan are unemployed. Only a very few refugees have as yet decided to return to Syria. The reasons for this are many – lost documents, loss of all property in Syria and no chance of returning to their home town, fear of persecution by the Syrian government, fear due to the continuing unstable security situation and active ammunition.

The priority country for Aid in Place in the Middle East region is Jordan, where the number of registered Syrian refugees represented almost 9% of the total population in 2019 and where the Czech Republic implemented several successful, much needed projects for assisting refugees in the past years. Unlike preceding years when aid was directed mainly at building infrastructure inside refugee camps, in 2019 aid was newly directed at supporting healthcare and education of Syrian refugees, in other words, at their human development, which is so important in situations of long-term displacement. Moreover, activities of the MEDEVAC Programme that has been operating in Jordan since 2013 could follow the support of UNHCR in the health sector.

JORDAN

SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Allocated amount:

CZK 25 million (EUR 1 million)

Implementing partner:

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Implementation period:

January - December 2019

Project description:

The aim of the project for supporting healthcare and special education for Syrian refugees in Jordan was to facilitate access to healthcare for the more than 11000 refugees living outside refugee camps. Primary health care was provided to patients at five partner health clinics. UNHCR also operates a mobile medical unit which regularly drives to tend to patients living in remote rural areas. Patients in need of specialised medical care were sent to Jordanian hospitals which have the necessary equipment and specialist staff at their disposal. The second aim of the project was to provide rehabilitation care and special education to Syrian children with special educational needs.

Implementation status:

More than 11000 Syrian refugees received health care in Jordan and over 60 Syrian children with disabilities were provided rehabilitation services and special education. Implementation of the project finished in December 2019, nevertheless subsequently to the project cooperation was taken up between UNHCR and the Ministry of the Interior MEDEVAC Permanent Medical Humanitarian Programme in pre-selection of patients for surgical procedures performed by Czech doctors who travel regularly to Jordan to operate.



Small Syrian boy during rehabilitation care. © UNHCR



A little Syrian patient with a colouring book of Aid in Place and MEDEVAC programmes. © MoI CR



IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES AND THE JORDANIAN HOST COMMUNITY

Allocated amount: CZK 8 million (EUR 320 000)

Implementing partner: The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

Implementation period: October 2019 – September 2020



Training on business skills in the Zaatari camp. © LWF

Project description:

The aim of the project is to improve the economic plight of Syrian refugees and the Jordanian host community in the city of Irbid and in Zaatari Refugee Camp by supporting small businesses. Small home businesses run by Syrian refugees were made legal by the Jordanian government in November 2018, thereby opening up job opportunities especially for women. The beneficiaries of this project, administered by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), are 150 Syrian refugees and members of the Jordanian host community (women and youths). Beneficiaries are selected from among the most vulnerable families, while their motivation for setting up a business is also assessed. Selected women and youths undergo training in managing a small business (how to draw up a business plan, basic accounting, marketing etc.) and they are provided assistance in registering their business. Selected 15 women and 5 youths will subsequently be provided an initial grant for purchasing equipment essential for starting up their own businesses.

Implementation status:

Project implementation began with a survey of the market and needs. Most of the potential beneficiaries expressed an interest in doing business in tailoring services, jewellery manufacture, handicraft products, small home shops, but also in the area of web design. At the end of 2019, training materials were produced and a module was installed in the LWF centre in Zaatari Refugee Camp known as the "Peace Oasis", which is to serve as a tuition centre. In the course of January 2020 the selection of participants for training was completed, with the most vulnerable and most motivated people being given the opportunity. Training itself began in February 2020. The project will continue to be implemented until September 2020.



SUPPORTING REFUGEES' CHILDREN IN ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Allocated amount: CZK 7 million (EUR 280 000)

Implementing partner: Care International

Implementation period: November 2019 – October 2020

Project description:

Many Syrian families in Jordan do not send their children to school because they need them to help bring income into the family. Without the help of children, some families would find it incredibly hard to earn a living. The aim of the project, whose full title is “Protection of refugees’ children and their families by means of conditional financial assistance for supporting education”, implemented by Care International, is to provide primary education to Syrian children in Jordan whose parents could not otherwise afford to send their children to school. 190 children between 8 – 17 years of age and their families living outside refugee camps receive conditional financial assistance when their children begin attending school, which motivates the families to send their children to school, thereby ensuring necessary education.

Implementation status:

At the beginning of implementation of the project, assessment and selection of the most vulnerable children and families involved in the project took place. Subsequently 190 selected children (99 girls and 91 boys) between 8 and 17 years of age began school attendance. Throughout the project the children's parents or guardians are informed about the importance of education and the risk factors that might lead to their children not completing their schooling. Care International also helps these families to establish a sustainable income and livelihood, to make it possible for their children to continue attending school even after the end of support from this project which will run until October 2020. Alongside these activities, Care International provides advisory services to other refugee families, mainly regarding the possibility of access to certain healthcare, social and educational services and legal advice. Since the beginning of this project such assistance has been provided to 1839 families.



THE BALKANS

The third geographical priority for Aid in Place in 2019 was the Balkan region where the Ministry of the Interior has long been active also through deploying Czech police officers to assist the local authorities with border protection.

The Western Balkans and Southwest Europe as a whole represents a long existing land migration route to the EU, primarily for migration originating in the Middle East region, which follows the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan route with destinations in Western and Northern Europe. Despite the fall in the numbers of refugees using this migration route since the peaks of 2016 and 2017, risks related with migration flows still exist. In 2018, a rise of 30 % as against 2017 was identified on the Eastern Mediterranean route; 49 158 people entered Greece in 2018 using this route. In this respect, it continued to be necessary to support Balkan states also in 2019 for increasing the capacities and setting up the infrastructure for their asylum and migration systems to ensure their capability to absorb effectively any potential rise in migration pressure. Combating human smuggling and trafficking is becoming an ever greater challenge in this region. The priority Balkan country for Aid in Place in 2019 was North Macedonia.

NORTH MACEDONIA

REINFORCEMENT OF THE MIGRATION SYSTEM AND COMBATING ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Allocated amount:
CZK 25 million (EUR 1 million)

Implementing partner:
Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of North Macedonia

Implementation period:
April 2019 – December 2020

Project description:

The aim of the project is to reinforce the migration system and capacities in North Macedonia for combating illegal migration. The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of North Macedonia intends to use the financial donation from the Czech Republic to equip its police units involved in protecting and patrolling the borders and specialised police authority focused on combating migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The equipment purchased will include boats and rubber dinghies for patrolling the borders that run through Lake Prespa and Lake Ohrid, separating North Macedonia from Albania and Greece, and also 10 off-road vehicles, 10 transit vans, thermal imaging equipment, binoculars, special video cameras and other technical equipment essential for protecting the borders and detecting migrant smugglers and human traffickers

Implementation status:

In the course of 2019, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of North Macedonia specified the technical parameters of the required equipment and at the beginning of 2020, four public tenders for the equipment were issued. The equipment is expected to be supplied in the second half of 2020.

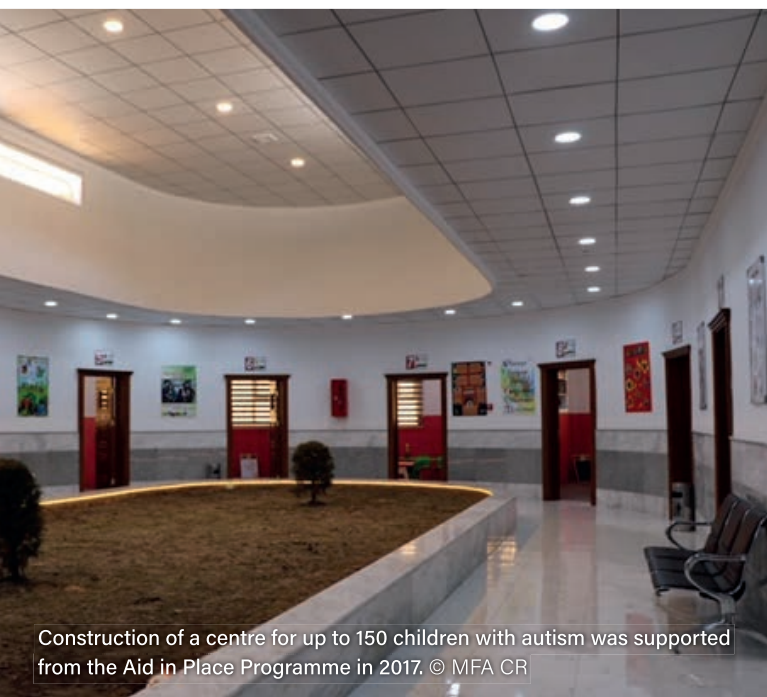


Ministers of the Interior Mr. Jan Hamáček and Mr. Oliver Spasovski are signing in Skopje Memorandum of Understanding for the financial donation. © MoI CR

IRAQ



Monitoring of a completed construction of a centre for children with autism in Iraqi Duhok in June 2019. © MFA CR



Construction of a centre for up to 150 children with autism was supported from the Aid in Place Programme in 2017. © MFA CR

MONITORING OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

In cooperation with Czech diplomatic missions, the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic performs regular monitoring of all projects supported by the Aid in Place programme. The Ministry's implementing partners submit interim and final reports on implementation of projects, including an overview of drawdowns from the budget.

Over and above this, the coordinators of the Aid in Place Programme in cooperation with the diplomatic mission of the Czech Republic in the country in question and with local partners, perform on-the-spot detailed monitoring of the activities and results of certain projects. In 2019, detailed monitoring was conducted of the completed tasks in refugee camps in Jordan, monitoring of the project for construction of a centre for mentally ill children in Duhok, Iraq, and evaluation of activities in North Macedonia.

Monitoring of ongoing activities and final evaluation of outcomes based on reports by implementation partners, including an overview of budget execution, are an integral part of each project supported by the Aid in Place Programme.

Apart from these standard procedures, more detailed monitoring of selected projects is being carried out directly at the place of their implementation thanks to cooperation with Czech embassies and local partners in countries concerned. These visits serve the purpose of evaluating project impacts on a target group and mapping further needs to be addressed potentially in the future.

It was no different in 2019 when deeper monitoring of three concrete projects was organised. In spring 2019 the Czech General Consulate in Erbil was invited to visit the newly built centre for mentally ill children in Dohuk, Iraq, to which the programme contributed CZK 10 million (EUR 400 000). In autumn the programme coordinator travelled to Jordan where the programme has been helping Syrian refugees since 2015 and has so far supported projects totalling CZK 230 million (EUR 9.2 million). Afterwards she visited North Macedonia where the Ministry of the Interior cooperates with the Macedonian government on building of migration system and thus has since 2016 invested into its reinforcement CZK 98 million (EUR 3.92 million).

JORDAN



Visit of the MoI CR representatives in the Azraq refugee camp in September 2019. © MoI CR

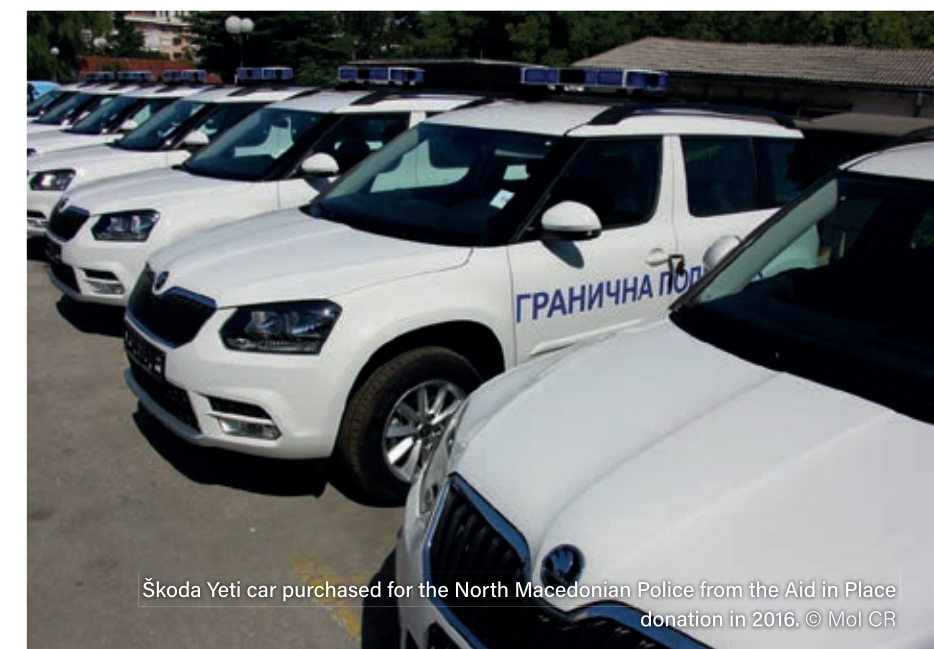


Monitoring of the project „Supporting healthcare and special education for Syrian refugees” supported in 2019. Azraq Camp Hospital. © MoI CR

NORTH MACEDONIA



Monitoring of activities financed in North Macedonia took place in October 2019. Reception centre Vinojuk. © MoI CR



Škoda Yeti car purchased for the North Macedonian Police from the Aid in Place donation in 2016. © MoI CR

