



2018



AID IN PLACE
CZECH



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Aid in Place in 2018

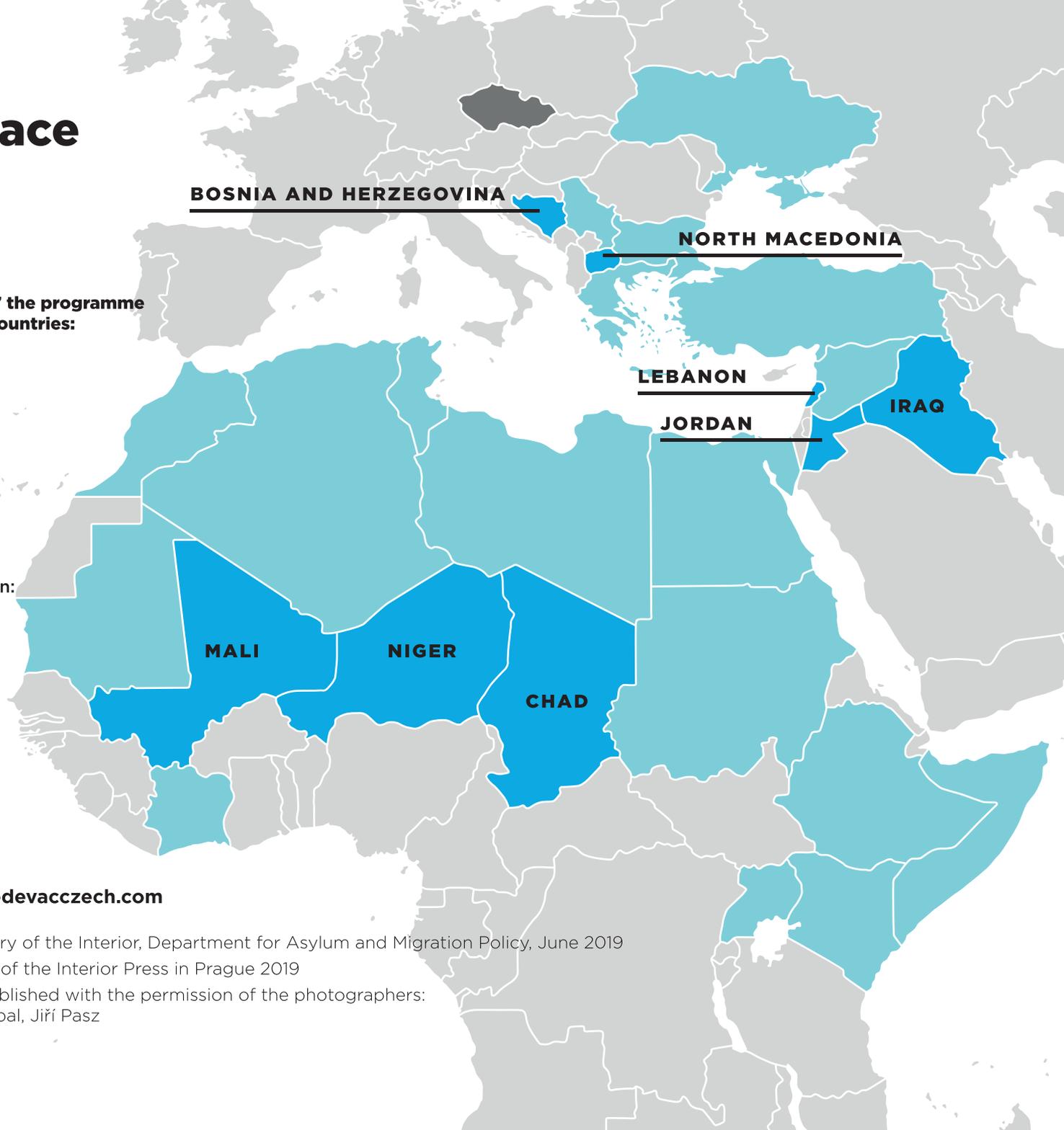
In the years 2015–2017 the programme
was present in these countries:

Bilateral cooperation:

Bulgaria
Libya
Ivory Coast
Greece
Serbia
Syria
Turkey
Ukraine

Multilateral cooperation:

Algeria
Egypt
Ethiopia
Kenya
Morocco
Mauritania
Somalia
Sudan
Tunisia
Uganda



www.medevaczech.com

Published by the Ministry of the Interior, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, June 2019

Printed by the Ministry of the Interior Press in Prague 2019

All photographs are published with the permission of the photographers:
Štěpán Lohr, Adam Hříbal, Jiří Pasz

A Word of Introduction by the Director of the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy

Dear readers, you have in front of you already the fourth annual report of the Aid in Place Programme, through which the Ministry of the Interior provides foreign aid to countries facing a large number of refugees. Together with other activities of the Czech Republic and the European Union, this programme strives to effectively contribute to the overall effort of the international community in seeking long-term solutions to refugee and migration situations in the European neighbourhood and to the prevention of illegal migration further to Europe.

Alongside with the implementation of the Aid in Place projects, the Ministry of the Interior coordinates its sister MEDEVAC Programme, which provides medical care to the most vulnerable refugees and poor local population. Both programmes thus complement other activities of the ministry, which deploys police officers to European countries to support with the border protection and national experts to help with the registration and asylum procedure in those EU Member States, which are affected by an increased migration the most.

© Mof CR (Photo: Adam Hříbal)



The Aid in Place projects have achieved a lot of success in 2018. First of all, the programme activities served as an efficient security measure against illegal migration and ensured better European border protection. In the Balkan countries the programme has for many years made use of the Czech Republic's own experience from the 1990s and helped with building local asylum and migration system. At the same time, the programme activities provided protection, roof above heads and healthcare to vulnerable refugees in the Middle East and contributed to the decrease of the migration causes in the Sahel region. At the same time, the programme raised awareness among migrants of risks associated with illegal migration.

And also in the year of 2019 the Aid in Place Programme will continue its effort in solving the current migration issues effectively, sustainably and on the spot.

Mgr. Pavla Novotná

Introduction

The Aid in Place Programme (*the Programme of the Ministry of the Interior for the Assistance to Refugees in Regions of Origin and Prevention of Large Migration Flows*) was established in 2015 as an effective tool in response to the refugee and migration situations which still persist in the neighbourhood of the European Union. In its fourth year, the primary focus of Aid in Place is to provide direct support to “people on the move”, in other words to refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons and persons who wish to return to their home country after displacement. The Ministry of the Interior wishes to help these people through its projects to find a permanent solution, specifically by stabilising their circumstances on the spot and integrating them in the host country or helping them return to their home country. The second focus of Aid in Place is to combat illegal migration and provide assistance to frequent transit countries. The programme particularly helps these states strengthen their asylum and migration systems to make them better prepared to face illegal migration.

The Aid in Place projects operate in areas with increased refugee and migration risks and are implemented by partners in the field who include local governments, international organisations or international non-governmental organisations. The implementation partners of Aid in Place execute selected projects in three priority

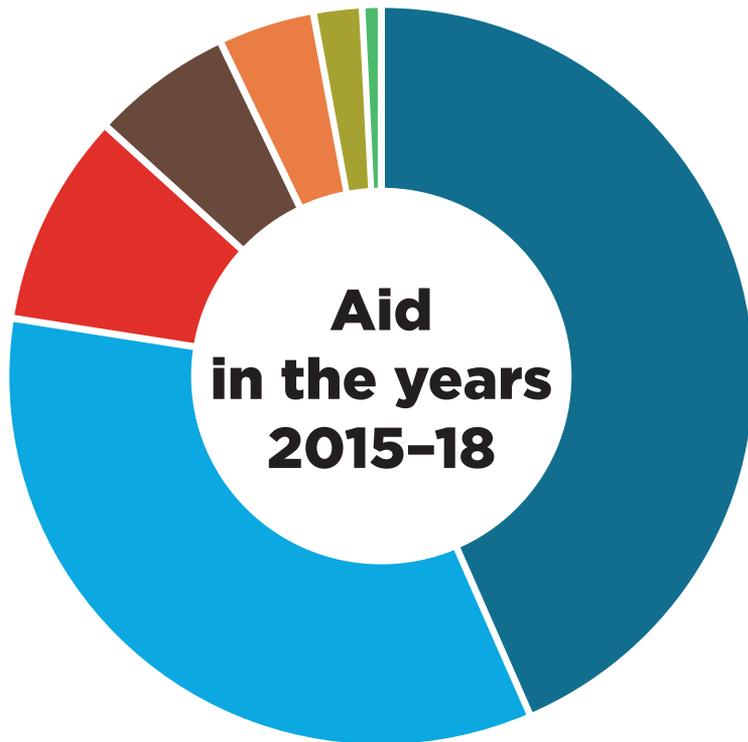
regions, the Middle East, the Balkans and North Africa and the countries of the greater Sahel region.

In 2018, the budget of the Aid in Place Programme totalled CZK 150 million, which made it possible to implement 7 bilateral projects in 7 countries. The priority geographic areas and specific focuses of the programme are discussed by an inter-ministerial working group on an annual basis, with the participation of the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Office of the Government and are subsequently approved by the Government of the Czech Republic.

Aid in Place also made contributions to the European Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) for the Middle East administrated by Denmark, which has projects underway in three countries of the Middle East (Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq).

The year 2018 likewise introduced a photographic exhibition titled Flying Doctors, which presented the activities of the Aid in Place Programme and its sister medical humanitarian MEDEVAC Programme. The exhibition took place not only in the Czech Republic but also abroad. ♡

Aid in Place makes sense



● Supporting asylum/migration system and combating illegal migration

We support the construction and improvement of migration and asylum systems in neighbouring European Union countries so that they are able to better withstand the pressure of illegal migration.

● Providing housing for refugees

Housing is a basic need of life for everyone. This is why we build and repair dwellings for refugees in refugee camps in the Middle East and Africa.

● Construction and reconstruction of infrastructure in refugee camps

To make it possible for children to study and prepare for school after darkness falls, to make it possible for their parents to keep food in refrigerators all year round or recharge their telephones and to make the streets at night safe, we have built an electrical grid to ensure delivery of electricity to the households in a refugee camp in Jordan.

● Supporting refugees' livelihoods

The ability to earn a living in one's home country significantly reduces the motivation to migrate. This is why we focus on training local inhabitants in sustainable agricultural techniques and practices.

● Basic needs of refugees

In order for refugees to be able to financially secure their whole family so their children may attend school instead of going to work, we support adults' independent livelihoods.

● Providing protection to refugees

Violence against women and children is, regrettably, a frequent phenomenon. This is why we contribute to the protection of these most vulnerable groups of persons, for example through consultancy centres and by raising awareness.

● Provision of medical care

Access to medical care and education is a fundamental human right. This is why we reconstruct and equip hospitals and schools in the neglected regions for both refugees and the host community.

Aid in Place 2015–2018

350,000



Aid in Place has satisfied the basic needs of more than **350,000 refugees** and significantly improved the living conditions of **130,000 refugees** in refugee camps.

61,000



Aid in Place has provided **61,000 refugees** with a new roof over their heads, **built more than 4,300 dwellings** for refugees and **repaired** another **7,300 dwellings**.

3,200



Aid in Place has provided protection for more than **3,200 refugee children**.

3,700



Aid in Place has supported food self-sufficiency of **3,700 refugees** in Africa by purchasing farm animals and crops.

70



Aid in Place arranged for the purchase of **70 Škoda vehicles** for the border protection in the Balkans.

Refugee

A person who, according to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and asylum law, has been forced to leave their home country for fear of persecution, due to an armed conflict, war or humanitarian crisis and seek temporary refuge in another country, often a neighbouring one.

Internally displaced person

A person who has been forced to leave their home particularly due to an armed conflict, war or humanitarian crisis, but who has remained in the territory of their home country.

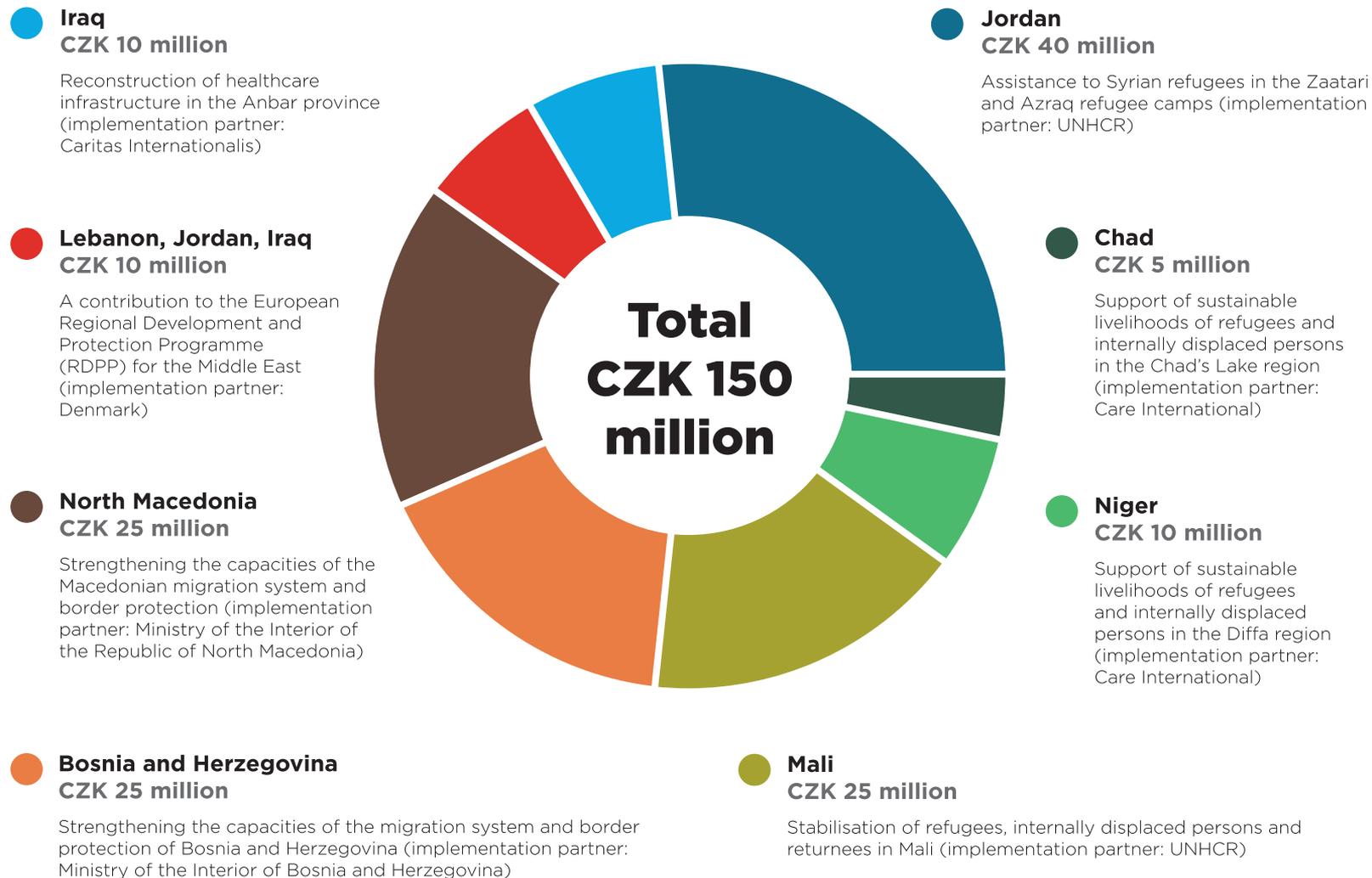
Migrant

A person who decided to leave their home country for a destination country for personal, primarily economic, reasons such as a better job or better education or due to a climate change.

Returnee

A refugee who decided to return to their home country after the security situation calmed down and the threat to their life or their fear of persecution has passed.

Activities Implemented in 2018



Middle East

The first geographic priority of the Aid in Place Programme in 2018 was the Middle East. As a result of the ongoing conflict in Syria, the neighbouring Middle East countries still host a large number of Syrian refugees in their territories, whose situation is untenable from a long-term perspective. According to data from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are 5.6 million Syrians living in the neighbouring countries. Most Syrian refugees found refuge in Turkey (3.6 million), Lebanon (1 million), Jordan (673 thousand), Iraq (251 thousand) and Egypt (132 thousand). This situation has resulted in an unprecedented pressure on these countries, their infrastructure and stability of local communities. These countries have very limited options for providing sufficient protection of and dignified treatment to refugees, which leads to increased frustration of both local communities and refugees who are subsequently driven to seek security and protection elsewhere, including Europe.

The priority Middle East country for the Czech Republic in 2018 was Jordan, where the number of registered Syrian refugees has reached nearly 10 % of the local population and where in recent years Aid in Place has implemented

a number of successful, much needed projects to assist refugees. The Aid in Place projects implemented in Syrian refugee camps effectively complemented the assistance of the Czech Republic in healthcare, which has been provided by the MEDEVAC Programme in Jordan since 2013.

The second priority country in 2018 was Iraq, which in addition to hosting large numbers of Syrian refugees has been severely affected by the fight against the so-called Islamic State (IS), forcing more than 2.5 million inhabitants to leave their homes for safer areas. After the IS was defeated in December 2017, the Iraqi government began to reconstruct the damaged areas with support from the international community so that the displaced Iraqis could return to their homes as soon as possible. In addition to the Nineveh province and the city of Mosul where the Czech Republic contributed to reconstruction of the healthcare system through the MEDEVAC Programme in 2018, the Anbar province in the west part of Iraq was another area with extensively damaged healthcare infrastructure, and for this reason, it became another focus of Aid in Place. ♥

JORDAN

Assistance to Syrian Refugees in the Zaatari and Azraq Refugee Camps

Allocated amount:

CZK 40 million

Implementation partner:

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Implementation period:

May-December 2018

Project description:

The project has been building on Aid in Place projects implemented in cooperation with UNHCR between 2015 and 2017. In 2018, Aid in Place concentrated on repairing dwellings and expanding the marketplaces in the two largest Syrian refugee camps in Jordan - Zaatari and Azraq, making life easier for a total of 42,700 Syrian refugees. Under the project the dwellings for 2,000 families were repaired in the Zaatari camp, and in the Azraq camp the total of 1,068 dwellings were repaired, which are highly susceptible to damage due to the harsh weather conditions involving intermittent rain, strong sunshine and wind. 62 local refugees participated in carrying out the repairs, thus having the opportunity to earn additional income. In the Azraq camp, the project also ensured a gas supply for cooking for 6,903 households and expanded the local marketplace by adding 75 more shops.

Implementation status:

Implementation of the project was completed in December 2018. The project goals were accomplished in full.



Mother with children in the Azraq refugee camp.
© MoI CR (Photo: Štěpán Lohr)



A repaired dwelling in the Azraq refugee camp.
© MoI CR



Jordánsko

View of the Zaatari
refugee camp.
© MoI CR



Jordánsko

A boy is sitting at home in the kitchen
by a gas cooker. Zaatari refugee camp.
© MoI CR (Photo: Jiří Pašz)



Marketplace
in the Zaatari camp.
© MoI CR

IRAQ

Reconstruction of Healthcare Infrastructure in the Anbar Province

Allocated amount: CZK 10 million

Implementation partner:
Caritas Internationalis

Implementation period:
November 2018–May 2019

Project description:

The goal set for the project was to replace the irreparably damaged medical equipment in the district hospital in the town of Al-Qaim, which serves more than 90,000 inhabitants of the Iraqi province of Anbar. The equipment was heavily damaged during fights with the so-called Islamic State (IS). When the IS was leaving the city, they looted and set fire to the hospital and took any remaining equipment away with them. The Aid in Place project will equip the laboratory, the orthopaedics department, the dialysis unit, the ENT and ophthalmology departments, and also the radiology, surgery and paediatric departments. At the same time, the medical and technical staff will be trained in operating and maintaining the supplied equipment. The project will also include the training of senior hospital staff in collecting, storing and evaluating statistical data and information on patients and their procedures.

Implementation status:

A tender procedure for supply of all the medical equipment took place early on in 2019. In March 2019, the hospital staff was trained in the field of statistical reporting and in using the related software. The project also equipped the hospital's office with new computers, a printer, furniture and office supplies. Implementation of the project will be completed in May 2019.



Delivery of office materials to the Al-Qaim hospital.
© Caritas Internationalis



A training session for the administrative employees of the Al-Qaim hospital.
© Caritas Internationalis

JORDAN, LEBANON AND IRAQ

Contribution to the European Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) for the Middle East – Phase II

Allocated amount: CZK 10 million

Programme coordinator: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark

Implementation period: November 2018–December 2021

Project description:

Regional Development and Protection Programmes (RDPP) are the main instrument of the European Union for providing support and protection to refugees in the three regions neighbouring Europe – the Middle East, North Africa and the Horn of Africa. Aid in Place contributes to implementation of projects through all three programmes.

The goal that was set for the RDPP for the Middle East was to protect and support sustainable livelihoods of refugees and internally displaced persons in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. Several implementation partners are chosen under this programme, always making an effort to involve local organisations as much as possible, helping to strengthen of their capacities at the same time. The activities of separate projects focus particularly on improving access to employment and self-employment for refugees. As concerns protection, the projects focus mainly on protecting the most vulnerable groups such as women and children.

The programme is coordinated by Denmark and, besides the Czech Republic and Denmark, contributions to the programme are made by France, Switzerland, Ireland and the European Union through the MADAD Fund (The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis).

Implementation status:

Phase II of the RDPP for the Middle East built on the success of Phase I, which mainly consisted of providing legal aid to more than 15,000 Syrian refugees and strengthening the capacities of governmental institutions providing services for refugees in the host countries, that is, in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. Phase I also included research concerning particularly permanent solutions for Syrians. Numerous results of the research will be taken into account in the Phase II projects.

During spring 2019, the number of staff at the programme's head office in Lebanon was raised and the process of selecting the implementation partners in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq was under way. Furthermore, local advisory groups, which always include representatives of the donors, were set up in all three countries.

The Balkans

The second geographic priority of the Aid in Place Programme in 2018 was the Balkan region where the Ministry of the Interior is also active by sending police officers to protect borders. Especially Western Balkans and southeast Europe have been a long-term significant migration route by land to the European Union, mainly for the migration coming from the Middle East region. Despite the fact that traffic decreased considerably along the eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan migration routes in the years 2016 and 2017, the risks associated with migration flows still persist. For this reason, it was necessary in 2018 to provide continued support to the Balkan countries and to share the experience of the Czech

Republic while building capacities and infrastructure for asylum and migration systems to make it possible for these countries to handle a possible increase in migration flows. For a long time now, North Macedonia has been one of the priority partner countries for the Czech Republic. Furthermore, an extraordinary migration situation also arose in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018 when during the spring and summer months up to 500 migrants per day flowed across the border from Serbia into this country which has a population of just 3.5 million. Therefore, Aid in Place promptly responded to this acute migration situation and assisted Bosnia and Herzegovina in reinforcing border protection. ♡

NORTH MACEDONIA

Strengthening the Capacities of the Macedonian migration System and Border Protection

Allocated amount:

CZK 25 million

Implementation partner:

Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of North Macedonia

Implementation period:

June 2018–June 2019

Project description:

The goal that was set for the project was to increase the capacities of the Macedonian border police by purchasing technical equipment based on the needs of this police force in order to address the consequences of the migration crisis. Specifically this comprised 10 vehicles, thermal imaging devices, video cameras, binoculars, megaphones, sanitation packages and other pieces of equipment necessary for effectively combating illegal migration and human smuggling. This project builds on the two Aid in Place projects previously implemented in North Macedonia in the years 2016 and 2017.

Implementation status:

During spring 2019, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of North Macedonia finalised the tender procedures for supply of the equipment. A total of six public procurement contracts were announced. All the equipment will be delivered by the end of June 2019.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Strengthening the Capacities of the Migration System and Border Protection of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Allocated amount:

CZK 25 million

Implementation partner:

Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Implementation period:

August 2018–August 2019

Project description:

The goal that was set for the project was to increase the capacities of the border police of Bosnia and Herzegovina by purchasing technical equipment based on the needs of this police force to address the consequences of the migration crisis and to ensure the border protection, particularly the border with Serbia. The subject of procurement under the project are thermal imaging devices, heartbeat detectors, CO2 detectors, binoculars, camera traps, drones and torches, which are all greatly needed to detect illegal migration and combat human smugglers effectively.

Implementation status:

In cooperation with the State Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the local Ministry of Security specified the technical parameters of the required equipment. During spring 2019 the Ministry of Security finalised the tender procedure for the supplier of the equipment. All the equipment will be delivered by the end of August 2019.

North Africa and Sahel Region

The third geographic priority of the Aid in Place Programme in 2018 was the region of North Africa and the Sahel. The countries in these regions have been frequent source and transit areas for migration by sea to the European Union for decades, and the west Mediterranean route to Spain became the most frequent migration route to Europe in 2018. Finances from the EU Trust Fund for Africa are allocated to this region but the migration situation in this entire region remains highly problematic. The main source area for migration to North Africa and subsequently to Europe consists of the often unstable, conflict-prone countries of the Sahel and sub-Saharan Africa. Consequently, the attention of the European Union and many European countries during 2018 began to focus increasingly on Africa. The Ministry of the Interior

began supporting this region as early as in 2017 when it contributed to stabilisation of the displaced population in the source country of migration, concretely Ivory Coast. Projects in Mali, Niger and Chad were also supported in 2018, since these countries are some of the most frequent migration transit countries. As for Niger, to which UNHCR has been trying to evacuate the migrants stranded on their way to Europe in Libya, Aid in Place has complemented an already existing project of the MEDEVAC Programme with a focus on reproductive health and equipment for medical facilities. ♡

MALI

Stabilisation of Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Returnees in Mali

Allocated amount: CZK 25 million

Implementation partner:

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Implementation period:

January–December 2019

Project description:

The target group of this project consists of 15,000 displaced Malian citizens who returned to their home country and 2,000 refugees from Mauritania who were forced to find a temporary refuge in Mali. In cooperation with UNHCR, Aid in Place is trying to find permanent solutions for these persons. One of the project's objectives is to ensure Malian citizenship for the refugees from Mauritania to support their integration in their new home country. The project's activities also include the construction of dwellings for refugees along with necessary reconstruction of infrastructure in the villages hosting the refugees, such as rehabilitation of water sources and repairs to medical and educational facilities.

Another objective is to support the reintegration of those citizens of Mali who had fled to the neighbouring countries and decided to return to their home country after the situation calmed down. The project will support the returnees with a one-off contribution towards starting a livelihood, which is so much needed to begin a new life. Children of Malian parents without birth certificates will be assisted by UNHCR in obtaining their birth certificates, because only then will such a child be entitled to citizenship and the related public services, in particular access to medical care and education.



Implementation status:

Since the beginning of implementation, 40 permanent dwellings for refugees have been built and reconstruction of four schools attended by refugees has commenced. This will include the renovation of classrooms, latrines, installation of solar panels and purchase of school furniture and supplies. One water source has been restored and, in the near future, drilling of a new borehole will be commenced; the contract with the well-drilling contractor has already been entered into. As concerns naturalisation, i.e. gaining citizenship, UNHCR is already providing assistance in 851 cases, mainly to undocumented children. For this purpose, an agreement on strategic partnership with the Ministry of Justice of Mali is being prepared for signing. Since the launch of the project, a livelihood contribution was also paid to 1,718 Malian refugees who returned to their home country, and 13 associations were created with the objective of supporting the livelihoods of returnees.

NIGER

Support of Sustainable Livelihoods of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in the Diffa Region

Allocated amount:

CZK 10 million

Implementation partner:

Care International

Implementation period:

November 2018–October 2019

Project description:

The goal set for this project was to stabilise refugees from Nigeria in the Diffa region in the south of Niger who were forced to flee to Niger due to the security situation in the north of Nigeria caused by attacks committed by Boko Haram, as well as to stabilise internally displaced persons in the territory of Niger. The main pillar of the project is the support of sustainable livelihoods and resilience against the consequences of natural catastrophes, particularly long-term draught. Aid beneficiaries will receive training and technical support in various livelihood options – small scale plant and animal farming (setting up and training in tending for a home garden; distribution of seeds or farm animals) as well as in founding and managing women's village saving and loans associations with a system of mutual loans among members. These societies allow local women to engage in micro-business activities, reach surrounding markets and prepare for changing economic and market conditions. Young people will also be supported in gaining access to vocational training in skills such as building works, sewing, food processing and other skills corresponding to the demand in the country. An integral part of the project is making all the aid beneficiaries aware of all the risks associated with illegal migration such as human trafficking, physical violence, sexual exploitation, labour exploitation or child labour.

Implementation status:

Over the course of the implementation of the project, representatives of Ministries as well as the leaders and members of the communities of aid beneficiaries were acquainted with the project plan on a participative basis. The aid beneficiaries were identified together with the implementation partner and the representatives of the communities concerned. During the first half of the year 2019, 1,250 women will have the opportunity to develop their businesses thanks to micro loans within the women's village saving and loans associations; 300 families will be supported in their agricultural activities and consequently in access to food, and 100 young people will receive vocational training to secure their future prospects. Completion of project activities is scheduled for October 2019.



Nigerien women collectively save for businesses.
© Care International

CHAD

Support of Sustainable Livelihoods of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in the Lake Chad Region

Allocated amount:

CZK 5 million

Implementation partner:

Care International

Implementation period:

November 2018–October 2019

Project description:

The goal that was set for the project was to contribute to comprehensive stability in the Lake Chad region by enhancing the social-economic self-sufficiency and food security of the local communities who have become victims of armed conflicts. At the same time, the Lake Chad region suffers from the consequences of the climate change, which has caused a drastic decrease of natural resources and, in turn, fuelled devastating armed conflicts over resources in the region. The beneficiaries of project activities are refugees, internally displaced persons and the host community. Through its activities, the project supports the creation of women's village saving and loans associations with a system of mutual loans among members. The loans serve women to support micro businesses. The project's activities also include training the local population in sustainable agriculture techniques. Under the project, approximately 1,500 households, headed mainly by women, will be supported. An integral part of the project is raising awareness in all the aid beneficiaries of all the risks associated with illegal migration such as human trafficking, physical violence, sexual exploitation, labour exploitation or child labour.

Implementation status:

During the year 2018, aid beneficiaries were identified and the project was discussed with local authorities in order to involve the wider community and to maintain sustainability in this way. Subsequently, support began to be provided for three community food warehouses in the form of training 275 people and increasing the storage capacity up to 15 tons of corn or other crops. As part of support of animal farming, 20 veterinary experts were trained and distribution of farm animals among 200 poor households is planned, with 2 female goats and 1 male goat being allocated per family as standard. As an integral element of the project, 8 women's village saving and loans associations were formed. Women and girls will also be trained for a period of several months in various types of livelihoods, which will help to achieve better readiness to respond to the opportunities for livelihood development. Completion of project activities is scheduled for October 2019.



Training of veterinary experts, Chad.
© Care International



Information sign on the project's site, Chad.
© Care International



Presentation of veterinary products during the training for veterinary experts, Chad.
© Care International

Project Implementation Monitoring

The Ministry of the Interior monitors all the projects of the Aid in Place Programme on an ongoing basis. The implementation partners present interim and final reports on the implementation of projects to the Ministry of the Interior, including a statement on the use of the budget. Coordinators of the Aid in Place Programme also carry out detailed monitoring of the activities and results of each project on site of implementation itself in cooperation with the relevant embassies of the Czech Republic in the given country. ♡



IVORY COAST

In 2018, the results achieved in the Ivory Coast project, which the Ministry of the Interior supported in 2017 together with Italy, each country contributing an amount of CZK 27 million, were monitored in detail. The project was implemented on site by UNHCR.

The first goal of the project was for UNHCR to assist with the reintegration of the refugees who left Ivory Coast during the civil war in the years 2010 and 2011 and decided to return to their home country after the cease of hostilities. This concerned more than 300 thousand persons. These inhabitants usually have a problem particularly with finding housing and engaging in an economic activity after their return. Frustration from their inability to retain their housing or find a job contributes to the reasons for repeated migration. Therefore, as part of this project, UNHCR worked to ensure sustainable housing for these returnees, to support gainful activities and to build the necessary social infrastructure, particularly schools and hospitals.

The second goal of the project was to help stateless persons of whom approximately 700 thousand are estimated to live in Ivory Coast. In practical life, these persons face many bureaucratic obstacles; they do not have access to public services such as education and medical care and, therefore, they are prone to migration. The goal of the project was to create a register of stateless persons living in the territory of Ivory Coast in order to map the scope of this issue. To this end, UNHCR carried out a census of these persons and, in late 2018, released an analysis and recommendations for actions to be taken by the government of Ivory Coast so that stateless persons are properly integrated into the life of the local community and have better access to services.



JORDAN

In November 2018, monitoring was carried out in the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan. More than 78 thousand Syrian refugees live in this camp at the border with Syria, which is administrated by UNHCR. Under the Aid in Place Programme, an electrical grid was built in the camp in 2015. In that year, the Czech Republic contributed an amount of CZK 45 million to the project. As part of implementation, 1,089 electricity poles were erected and 16 transformers and 79 thousand metres of cables were installed. At each consumption point, an electricity meter was installed to control the consumption of electricity, which achieved significant savings in electric power consumption. All parts of the camp were connected to the new electrical grid.

Since 2015, thanks to this Czech assistance, people living in the camp have been able to read in the evening, watch television and children have been able to study after dark; people have been able to keep food in refrigerators and charge their cell phones; and, no less importantly, it ensures improved safety in the streets of the.

UNHCR was the implementation partner of the project.



Inside the Zaatari camp.
© MoI CR (Photo: Adam Hřibál)



Syrian boys in a refugee camp.
© MoI CR



The electrical transformer installed
using funds from the Czech Republic.
© MoI CR (Photo: Adam Hřibál)



Participants of the monitoring mission in the Zaatari camp.
© Mol CR (Photo: Adam Hříbal)



View of the Zaatari refugee camp.
© Mol CR (Photo: Jiří Pasz)



Syrian boy at the transformer built using funds from the Czech Republic.
© Mol CR

2019

In view of the ongoing refugee situation and the current developments concerning the migration situation in the vicinity of the European Union, the Ministry of the Interior plans to support particularly projects in African countries in 2019, specifically in the countries of the greater Sahel region and North Africa under the Aid in Place Programme. The poor economic situation, unemployment and security instability in this region cause an increasing number of Africans to set out on a journey to for better living conditions in Europe often by way of illegal migration which is associated with high risks. Thus, the projects will concentrate on combating human smugglers and illegal migration and on stabilising the “people on the move”.

Aid in Place will continue in its efforts the Middle East, where 12 million Syrians have been homeless for eight years now and are trying to ensure a better future for their families and loved ones. No less importantly, Aid in Place will contribute to border protection and to the process of building asylum and migration systems in the Balkans.

The budget of the Aid in Place programme for the year 2019 has remained at CZK 150 million. The priorities of the programme were discussed by the inter-ministerial working group and were approved by the Government of the Czech Republic in Resolution No. 185 of 18 March 2019. ♥