

ASPECTS OF PROVIDING OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Abstract

Humanitarian aid is thus directed to the most vulnerable people of our planet. Is an expression of respect and humanity with people who are in crisis situations, is a manifestation of saving of lives as well as manifestation in the provision of provided humanitarian aid. The main aspect of humanitarian aid is to alleviate human suffering and misfortune of the people who were affected, either due to natural and other disasters or they become victims of various crises that which were cause by human errors, in different, life-threatening areas.

Key words:

humanitarian aid, treat, humanity

INTRODUCTION

The idea of helping others is as old as mankind itself. Although initially it was based more on the help to particular people, with the development of modern technologies the help began to focus on larger population groups. Thanks to the media and the Internet, we are able today respond to incidents in a few minutes after their occurrence. We can online track the natural disasters, as well as various crisis events and quickly send funds to help the victims of unexpected and unpredictable situations.

An important part of the aid is not to violate the principles on humanitarian grounds and very important is the principle of humanization, to emphasize respect for and comply with human rights of each and every individual, regardless

of his/her origin, religious or political creed with respect and protection of their human dignity (Matyšák, 2015).

Humanitarian aid is provided in response to extraordinary events, related to the emergency situation, which it is not possible to predict in contrast e.g. with development assistance, which is prepared with a long-term aim and is focused on the preparation and creation of development programs in various areas of the world. Effective aid is based on the real needs of developing countries and local communities and the on the principle of implementation of mutual cooperation.

In the development cooperation it is necessary to equally focus on economic, social, political and environmental development, as well as the fact that the targeting countries of the development assistance bear main

responsibility for development processes in their area.

In carrying out the activities of humanitarian assistance in the affected area is important the willingness of the authorities of the affected area, as flexible as possible to tackle the state of emergency, be helpful and willing to meet the needs of people affected by crisis situation. Very important is the interplay of various aid organizations. Humanitarian assistance both recognize certain principles of providing timely and appropriate assistance where is possible to add e.g. the compliance with the principles of international humanitarian law standards and respect for the principles of equality, fairness, recognition of dignity without discrimination and with respect to the fundamental human rights of each individual.

Humanitarian aid is also an expression of solidarity without unjust enrichment and obtaining of unappropriated monetary amount / profit /. Importance by the provision of urgent assistance is initiative of the national organizations and the effort of victims who have been affected by various unforeseen crisis events. Effective aid thus becomes an important indicator to ensure sustainable development in developing countries and should not build dependency on aid, but create opportunities for the start their own development. (Matyšák, P., Tůma 2015).

In Slovakia is the humanitarian aid provided by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, through its technical side of assistance, through the Office of civil protection and its other bodies. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

by using of the network of diplomatic missions of the Slovak Republic abroad provides mainly monitoring of the situation in the affected country and crisis regions and crisis and the communication with the coordinators of help, local authorities in the host country, with EU10, UN, NATO and other humanitarian organizations and partners e.g. embassy of the Slovak Republic, consulates general of the Slovak Republic, permanent missions and representations of the Slovak Republic in international organizations (EU, UN, OECD).

In particular concerns cooperation with the European Commission and its Humanitarian Aid Office (DG ECHO) as are:

- consular assistance to citizens of the Slovak Republic and the European Union
- financial contributions to organizations providing humanitarian assistance.
- the financing of humanitarian and post-humanitarian projects in countries facing major or protracted crisis
- cooperation in the delivery of the Slovak humanitarian assistance, coordination of implementation of the aid in the recipient country.

Humanitarian projects are implemented in accordance with the mechanism of Slovak official development assistance and can include all types of humanitarian and post humanitarian aid. Humanitarian projects are aimed at saving lives and alleviating the suffering of those who are in need,

as well as victims of disasters and epidemics.

Humanitarian aid can be implemented and provided as a combination of different forms. Every actor has responsibility for the activities he/she holds. In Slovakia, the coordinator of assistance in this case is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior after receiving a call for humanitarian aid are as soon as possible trying to process the received information and properly where appropriate, provide decisive opinion.

Following the positive decision, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with partners implements the humanitarian aid. The submission of this form is decided by the Minister of the Interior with a favorable standpoint of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Various forms of implementation may include various types of humanitarian assistance. This may be e.g. in the form of financial contributions. To provide humanitarian aid in the form of financial contributions is decided by the Minister of foreign affairs and contributions of national and international humanitarian organizations ensures the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

In the case of lack of own capacity for the provision of bilateral humanitarian assistance, respectively beyond the aid thus granted, Slovak Republic provides humanitarian aid abroad in the form of financial contributions to humanitarian organizations. The allowance may be provided to the head office of the

international humanitarian organization or to their Slovak representation. The assistance is implemented on the basis of multilateral programs of international humanitarian aid as ad hoc allowance, respectively through partner of the Slovak humanitarian organizations ([http://www.mzv.sk/sk/zahranicnapolitik a/oficialna development aid](http://www.mzv.sk/sk/zahranicnapolitik a/oficialna%20development%20aid)).

The organization which is contractually bounded by the implementation of humanitarian projects, informs the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic about the fulfillment of humanitarian action. At the end of humanitarian action implementer of the assistance submit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic the final report by the humanitarian action. The final report contains the amount of provided aid and the amount of the total funds spent, type of assistance, information on beneficiaries and other relevant data. Ministry of Foreign Affairs may have performed an independent audit of the project, respectively of the humanitarian action in terms of efficiency, targeting and overall benefits of the granted aid.

Part of the mechanism for providing humanitarian aid of the Slovak Republic is the publicity, respectively media presentation. Every humanitarian action is issued by press release with a possible photo documentation. The promotion of Slovakia also contributes to the use of standardized logo of the Slovak Aid (in accordance with „Design manual “of the Slovak aid).

Responsibility for publicity and media coverage of humanitarian assistance in Slovakia has designated coordinator of humanitarian action.

Immediately after implementing humanitarian action has its coordinator, respectively contractor (if it's Slovak organization), the obligation to complete the questionnaire called "Report on the development of humanitarian assistance" and submit it to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. For web publishing was by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established web page <http://www.slovakaid.sk> which contains official information on official development assistance and in its framework also the Slovak humanitarian aid to abroad (<http://www.slovakaid.sk>).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs also regularly provides data and information on the provided humanitarian aid to international humanitarian and development organizations (ECHO/EÚ, OCHA/OSN, DAC/OECD).

MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES (MSF)

Doctors without borders is the largest independent, non-medical international humanitarian organizations in the world, founded in November 1971 by the group of French doctors. They have previously been involved in humanitarian operations in Biafra and Bangladesh and have been disappointed by how limited were the possibilities of effectively help to people suffering in these war zones. Their goal was to create a competent independent organization that will specialize on medical assistance in crisis situations.

Currently are Doctors without borders represented in 19 countries

around the world where they provide medical assistance to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics and natural disasters. Organize approximately 400 humanitarian programs in more than 70 countries. In 1999 was to the organization Doctors Without Borders awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the highest international award that can organization obtain. The aim of the humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders is to alleviate human suffering, protect human life and health, restore and respect each and every individual with respect for fundamental human rights.

Doctors without borders launched in 1999 an international campaign Access to Essential Medicines (access to life saving medicines). This campaign aims to develop solutions to improve the availability of essential medicines for all people and to initiate mutual dealings of responsible persons from research, politics and economics.

Contributions from private persons have on the income of Doctors Without Borders the largest share. The organization committed that the majority of the spending will go directly to humanitarian programs. A maximum of 20% may be spent on administrative procedures related to the allowances and management. Thus can provide assistance regardless of the governments concerned. (<http://www.lekari-bez-hranic.cz/medecins-sans-frontieres>).

ACTUAL STATE OF SLOVAK HUMANITARIAN AID

Humanitarian organizations and organizations for the protection of

human rights arose mainly after 1989 and are in recent years, significantly more visible. By the fall of the Iron Curtain gained also Slovak citizens awareness about the problems of the outside world, as well as the opportunity to actively participate on humanitarian help.

On the system of Slovak Humanitarian Aid has been working since 2003, but only by the tragedy in Asia - the pressure waves (tsunami), it gained broader support. Since 2006, Slovakia has a "New concept of humanitarian assistance".

The document "Mechanism of providing Humanitarian Aid SK" was adopted in 2006 by the Slovak government. It describes in details the decision-making process and the division of powers and responsibilities of the main actors and determines the particular forms; It envisages strengthening cooperation with Slovak non-governmental sector, as well as with international humanitarian organizations.

By the Governmental Resolution to this material was under the budget heading of the Ministry of the foreign affairs SR created subprogram for the Humanitarian Aid SR. From it in a crisis situation may the Ministry of the foreign affairs SR receive funding to implement projects of Slovak NGOs, respectively the financial contributions to humanitarian organizations.

Since 2007, as part of the National Program ODA earmarked appropriation, which is not subject to further approval of the Slovak Government. The division of finance is directly decided by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Minister of Foreign

Affairs can thus quickly and address financial assistance from the selected contractor.

The mechanism of Slovak humanitarian assistance abroad is a new basic document on Slovak humanitarian aid. The material comes from experience, understanding and practice of traditional donors and of system solutions for the needs of the Slovak humanitarian aid. In the case of lack of funds, the material will prepare the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (in the case of rescue, material and technical assistance), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic (in all other cases).

The Humanitarian Aid is built on basic humanitarian principles such as humanitarian aid, respecting of human rights, the needs of people affected by unforeseen disasters, as well as by the voluntary provision of humanitarian aid without financial compensation. (<http://www.foreign.gov.sk>).

Humanitarian aid falls under the ODA SR. Humanitarian aid is provided in response to emergencies, which usually cannot be predicted and are usually short-term. Development aid is being drawn up with some long-term goals in social and economic infrastructure and environment and as help in shaping of national and local governments.

In contrast to development aid, which is conceptual and has long-term character, the aim of humanitarian aid is quickly and effectively solve current tasks related to emergency situations. In the case of humanitarian aid is expected to be temporary and lasts for the time of direct threat.

Platform of MVRO roof in Slovakia organizations with humanitarian and development efforts in countries that are not only often the victims of conflicts, but also of the post-war crisis. In Its activities seeks to contribute to solving of problems of poverty, oppression and humanitarian crises in the world, irrespective to ethnic, religious, or racial affiliation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic gave in 2011 at one of the largest humanitarian crisis in East Africa financial humanitarian aid for specific humanitarian activities of the Slovak organizations. The aid was approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Such projects provide directness, effectiveness and visibility of Slovak support. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation Platform approached non-governmental development organizations to verify the interest of Slovak organizations on humanitarian projects in the region. To the challenge responded several Slovak organizations among them the University of St. Elizabeth, Magna, Integra Foundation, People in Peril and the Slovak Catholic Charity. The Ministry decided to support of them.

CONCLUSION

Currently, attention is directed to the fact that humanitarian aid is becoming an important part of the operation of

more countries in the international arena in regards to many different crisis emergencies, whether it is a conflict in the Middle East, or life-threatening earthquakes or other natural and destructive elements and disasters. Even United Nations system performs a significant amount of active operations, engaged in the field of humanity, respect for human rights, human dignity, based on democratic principles and its strategic role in promoting development is irreplaceable.

In increasingly interconnected world the humanitarian and development aid is not only a moral obligation, but it also helps to build stability and peace in the world. Therefore, the developed countries (including Slovakia) committed themselves to providing development assistance from part of their funds. Funds allocated from the budgets of national governments are designated as official development assistance. Also beyond it seeks the provision of development assistance non-governmental organizations which implement projects in developing countries with funds obtained from the collections, foundations, and private sector support. In addition to development projects in the affected countries is implement humanitarian aid and assistance to victims of violence. Humanitarian aid, humanitarian programs and projects thus become an essential part of life and existence of people in affected areas around the world.

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