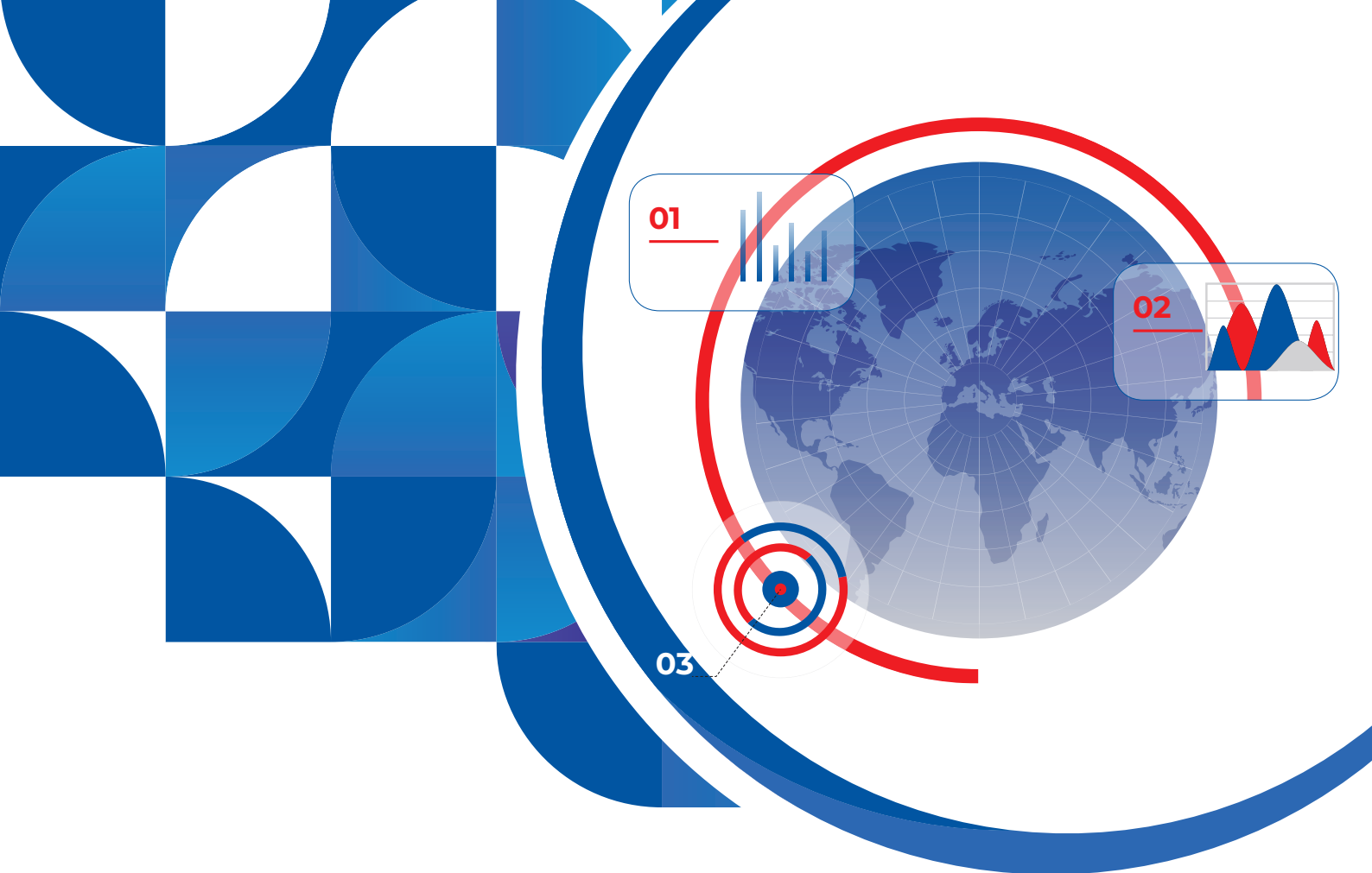




MEDIUM-TERM DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STRATEGY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC FOR **2025-2030**



Vegetable farming in the bush, Kenya, 2022

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Executive Summary

The Medium-Term Development Cooperation Strategy of the Slovak Republic for 2025-2030 is a key strategic document setting out the objectives and principles of the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic, sectoral and territorial priorities, as well as the framework parameters of the system, programmes and instruments used.

The development cooperation of the Slovak Republic, represented by the SlovakAid brand, forms an integral part of the foreign policy of the Slovak Republic. It serves as a manifestation of solidarity with developing countries, engagement in solving global challenges and an instrument for promoting national interests.

The Strategy is based on international commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the European Consensus on Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It also reflects the findings of external evaluations of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation system, including recommendations from the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The Strategy builds on the previous Medium-Term Development Cooperation Strategy of the Slovak Republic for 2019 – 2023, extended until the end of 2024, but introduces several changes aimed at improving the quality and effectiveness of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation system.

In 2025-2030, the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic will still focus on reducing poverty and addressing the root causes of illegal migration, improving the environment, and strengthening good governance in partner countries. The Slovak Republic will strive to intensify cooperation with foreign donors and international organisations and strengthen the position of the Slovak Republic by fulfilling international commitments arising from the Slovak Republic's membership in the OECD and the EU. In its development and humanitarian activities, it will focus on sustainable and inclusive development, environmental sustainability of activities, efficient and transparent spending of funds and compliance of its interventions with the development needs and priorities of partner countries and the national interests of the Slovak Republic.

Various instruments will be used to achieve the goals set in the Strategy, including grants, financial contributions, sharing of knowledge and experience, government scholarships and humanitarian aid. SlovakAid's activities will primarily be implemented in the EU Eastern Partnership, the Western Balkans, the Middle East and East Africa regions. The programme countries will still include Moldova, Kenya and Georgia, while Ukraine will have the status of a country with special needs. Central Asia is a region with great potential for the gradual intensification of the Slovak Republic's development activities.

As regards the relevant sectors, SlovakAid activities will focus on supporting 1) infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources; 2) food security and agriculture; 3) the market environment; 4) good health; 5) quality education; and 6) good governance and building civil society. The above sectoral priorities are complemented by two cross-cutting themes that will be applied across all SlovakAid activities: 1. Environment and climate change; 2. Equality of women and men. The aim is to focus on a limited number of sectors in individual territories in an effort to prevent over-fragmentation of development interventions, increase the specialization and visibility of Slovak assistance and focus on areas where the Slovak Republic has the greatest expertise.

A separate thematic programme focused on the environment, climate change and circular economy will be introduced. The aim is to further concentrate the current sectoral focus of development activities and provide this topic with more predictable support in a broader time frame, improve the measurability of results and define topics in which the Slovak Republic has a comparative advantage and expertise more clearly. The programme will be implemented mainly through individual SAIDC grant calls, as well as through the activities of different Slovak ODA actors.

Non-governmental development organisations will remain one of the key partners, especially in the area of bilateral development cooperation of the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Republic is also interested in strengthening the involvement of the private sector in development cooperation projects through the ongoing Private Sector Engagement Programme, concessional export credits provided by EXIMBANKA SR, and the implementation of the contract award instrument. This cooperation can contribute not only to the mobilization of private resources for sustainable development, but also to the penetration and establishment of Slovak companies in the markets of developing countries.

The Slovak Republic will continue to use multilateral development cooperation to supplement bilateral activities in its partner countries, or where it is not effective for the Slovak Republic to operate on a bilateral basis, e.g. in the least developed countries. The Slovak Republic plans to continue supporting the implementation of projects financially supported by EU instruments, in particular through participation in the Team Europe and Global Gateway initiatives, as well as TAIEX activities and Twinning projects. The Slovak Republic will also continue to actively participate in other delegated cooperation projects in partner countries. In this context, the SAIDC and EXIMBANKA SR, which are authorised to manage EU funds, will play an important role.

In relation to unexpected humanitarian crises, the Slovak Republic will focus on the speed of response, which plays a key role in ensuring effective humanitarian aid. For this purpose, an immediate response mechanism will be put into practice, which will be prepared in a participatory process with the involvement of all relevant actors.

The Slovak Republic has the ambition to gradually increase the total ODA amount and move closer to fulfilling its international commitment to achieve a share of ODA in gross national income of 0.33% by 2030. The aim is to increase the share of bilateral ODA in the total development cooperation of the Slovak Republic, with the ambition to achieve a ratio of bilateral and multilateral ODA of 35 : 65%. It will take into account the absorption and administrative capacities of individual actors and the public finance consolidation.

The Slovak Republic will also strengthen results-based management by introducing measurable indicators of outputs and results, as well as a system for their evaluation and monitoring, which will enable the quantification of the joint results of the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic in various territorial and sectoral areas.

The success of the Strategy also depends on public support and the involvement of all relevant actors. The Slovak Republic plans to intensively communicate the objectives and benefits of ODA through traditional and digital media, events for the professional and general public, and global education. The aim is to raise awareness of global challenges and sustainable development and the importance of development cooperation.

01

Background of Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic

The Medium-Term Development Cooperation Strategy of the Slovak Republic for 2025-2030 (hereinafter referred to as the "Strategy") is a key strategic document for the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "SR") until 2030. The Strategy is based on Act No. 392/2015 Coll. on Development Cooperation and on Amendments to Certain Acts as amended by Act No. 281/2019 Coll. (hereinafter referred to as the "Development Cooperation Act"). The Strategy sets out the objectives and principles of development cooperation, sectoral and territorial priorities, as well as the framework parameters of the system, programmes and instruments used. The Strategy responds to international developments and the needs of partner countries, taking into account the capacities, expertise and financial capabilities of the Slovak Republic. The fifth strategy was prepared through a consultative process involving all relevant actors of development cooperation of the Slovak Republic, including state administration entities, representatives of the non-governmental and private sectors.

The development cooperation of the Slovak Republic, represented by the SlovakAid brand, forms an integral part of the foreign policy of the Slovak Republic. It serves as a manifestation of solidarity with developing countries, engagement of the Slovak Republic in solving global challenges and an instrument for promoting national interests. Through development cooperation and humanitarian aid, the Slovak

Republic, as a responsible member of the international community, contributes to supporting global sustainable development, improving the living conditions of people in partner countries, eliminating poverty and inequalities, supporting democracy and reforms, rescuing and reducing the suffering of people affected by natural disasters or conflicts, and ensuring stability and peace in the world. At the same time, through development and humanitarian activities, it helps to prevent potential negative impacts on the Slovak Republic itself, from mitigating climate change and adapting to its consequences, stopping the loss of biodiversity, preventing the spread of diseases, preventing illegal migration and conflicts, to creating conditions for deepening the political and economic relations of the Slovak Republic with partner countries.

The Slovak Republic began implementing official development assistance (ODA) in 2003. By joining the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the "EU") in 2004 and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (hereinafter referred to as the "OECD/DAC") in 2013, the Slovak Republic joined the international community of donors supporting the economic development and well-being of developing countries. A significant milestone was the year 2007, when the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MFEA SR") established the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the "SAIDC"), which has since then been

fulfilling the objectives of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation, mainly through bilateral instruments.

At the national level, the basic framework for development cooperation of the Slovak Republic is the Development Cooperation Act. The Strategy is also based on **international commitments** adopted primarily within the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as the "UN") in the form of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (hereinafter referred to as the "2030 Agenda") and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other commitments under the UN Environment Programme.¹⁾ The Strategy builds on the Concept for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in International Setting adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic in January 2017.²⁾ It defines 4 key areas in which the Slovak Republic implements the Sustainable Development Goals: 1. People and the State, 2. Prosperity, 3. Environment, 4. Partnership for Development. **At the European level,** the Strategy is based on the 2017 European Consensus on Development.

The Strategy builds on the previous Medium-Term Development Cooperation Strategy of the Slovak Republic for 2019 – 2023,³⁾ the achievements and ongoing challenges of development cooperation of the Slovak Republic. The main achievements in previous periods include the adoption of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation strategies with three programme countries (Georgia, Kenya, Moldova); strengthening the activities of the Coordination Committee for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic through working groups; implementation of a wider range of instruments of the MFEA SR and the Ministry of Finance of the

Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MoF SR") for involving entrepreneurs in development cooperation; successful completion of the in-depth audit of the European Commission (the Pillar Assessment) by the SAIDC and EXIMBANKA SR and the related involvement of SAIDC in the management of EU funds under development projects of the so-called EU delegated cooperation. The first strategic partnerships (for Kenya and Moldova) were concluded with the aim of more predictable and financially efficient financing of long-term development interventions. Efforts continued to concentrate the Slovak Republic's development cooperation on a smaller number of territories and less developed regions of recipient countries. Guidelines were also developed for the implementation of cross-cutting themes (equality of women and men; environment and climate change) in development cooperation projects, and the first independent evaluations of Slovak ODA development interventions were carried out by external evaluators.

The stagnation of public budget resources for Slovak ODA, due to which the Slovak Republic continues to fall short of the international commitment to spend 0.33% of its gross national income on development cooperation, represents an ongoing challenge. This is also associated with a limited capacities of human resources and a limited ability to withdraw from the tying of Slovak ODA to Slovak entities in the implementation of projects. There is also room for improvement in the area of making the system of providing humanitarian aid more effective, as well as raising awareness and involving Slovak business entities in development cooperation, which may lead to their establishment in foreign markets in the future.

In an effort to improve and streamline

¹ Including the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter referred to as the "CBD") and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (hereinafter referred to as the "UNCCD").

² „<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/21703/1>“

³ The effectiveness of the Medium-Term Development Cooperation Strategy of the Slovak Republic for 2019-2023 was extended by one year until 31 December 2024 by Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 620/2023 of 20 November 2023.

the development cooperation system of the Slovak Republic, the Medium-Term Development Cooperation Strategy for 2025-2030 reflects the findings and recommendations resulting from the comprehensive⁴⁾ and interim⁵⁾ evaluations of the development cooperation system of the Slovak Republic by the OECD/DAC, the so-called Peer Review. The Strategy was also developed taking into account the findings of external evaluations, including the interim⁶⁾ and final⁷⁾ evaluations of the Medium-Term ODA Strategy of the Slovak Republic for 2019-2023, extended to 2024.

Based on these recommendations, the Slovak Republic plans to continue to gradually **increase the territorial and sectoral concentration** of development cooperation in the medium term by further reducing the number of partner countries and by specifying sectors in more detail at the strategy level and by limiting their number in individual partner countries to make development cooperation

targeted, relevant and effective. A **separate thematic programme** will be introduced, which will help to more clearly define the topics in which the Slovak Republic has a comparative advantage and expertise. The Slovak Republic will strengthen results-based management by introducing measurable indicators of outputs and results, as well as a system for their evaluation and monitoring at the level of partner countries, individual sectors and the Strategy itself, enabling the quantification of the joint results of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation. The operationalisation of the contract award instrument for the implementation of development projects or the use of **concessional export credits** to a greater extent as a means of more intensive involvement of Slovak business entities in development activities will also play a key role. The Slovak Republic also plans to continue establishing new **strategic partnerships** and implementing projects financially supported by EU instruments through **delegated cooperation**.



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⁴⁾ „https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-development-co-operation-peer-reviews-slovak-republic-2019_9789264312326-en.html”

⁵⁾ „[https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/AR\(2024\)3/29/en/pdf?_ga=2.18223805.527475063.1720528295-1162570859.1720089567](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/AR(2024)3/29/en/pdf?_ga=2.18223805.527475063.1720528295-1162570859.1720089567)”

⁶⁾ „<https://slovakaid.sk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/ZA%CC%81VEREC%CC%8CNA%CC%81-EVALUAC%CC%8CNA%CC%81-SPRA%CC%81VA.pdf>”

⁷⁾ „https://slovakaid.sk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Zaverecna-evaluacia-SSRS_zaverecna-sprava.pdf”

02

Objectives and Principles of Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic

2.1. Objectives of Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic

Through development cooperation, the Slovak Republic assists less developed countries and contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to addressing major global challenges, particularly through activities aimed at reducing poverty, supporting democracy, mitigating and adapting to climate change, combating biodiversity loss, and establishing and strengthening partnerships based on the principle of equality and mutual respect. In doing so, the Slovak Republic relies on its experience in building the institutions of an independent state, developing a market economy and implementing the principles of democracy, as well as on successful integration into international organisations and groupings.

In order to ensure the coherence of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation with relevant strategic documents, the objectives of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation are based on four key areas of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in international setting defined in the Concept for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in International Setting and on six national priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda⁸⁾ linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The objectives of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation are divided into four areas:

- **reducing poverty** and addressing the root causes of **irregular migration** through job creation, supporting food security, developing human capital and increasing the economic and social resilience of communities;
- **improving the environment** of the inhabitants of partner countries by implementing measures to mitigate climate change and adapt to climate change by supporting the effectiveness of water, waste and forestry management, ensuring access to water and sanitation, supporting energy security, the use of renewable energy sources and innovative technological solutions, including sharing know-how;
- **strengthening good governance**, including increasing state resilience, supporting and developing health systems and capacities, supporting inclusive and quality education and skills development, preventing conflicts, supporting democracy, the rule of law and human rights, with particular emphasis on the rights of women and children;
- **intensifying cooperation with foreign donors** and international organisations and strengthening the position of the Slovak Republic by fulfilling international commitments arising from the Slovak Republic's membership in the OECD and the EU.

⁸⁾ Draft-national-priorities-for-implementation-of-the-2030-Agenda.pdf(gov.sk)

Cohesion of development cooperation goals of the Slovak Republic with the areas of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in international setting, national priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

AREA OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN INTERNATIONAL SETTING	Prosperity	Environment	People and the State	Partnership for Development
NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA	Reduction of poverty and social inclusion Moving towards a knowledge-based and environmentally sustainable economy in the face of demographic change and a changing global environment	Sustainable settlements, regions and landscape in the context of climate change	Rule of law, democracy and security Good health Education for a dignified life	
BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FOR 2025-2030	Reducing poverty and addressing the root causes of irregular migration through job creation, supporting food security, developing human capital and increasing the economic and social resilience of communities	Improving the environment of the inhabitants of partner countries by implementing measures to mitigate climate change and adapt to climate change by supporting the effectiveness of water, waste and forestry management, ensuring access to water and sanitation, supporting energy security, the use of renewable energy sources and innovative technological solutions, including sharing know-how	Strengthening good governance, including increasing state resilience, supporting and developing health systems and capacities, supporting inclusive and quality education and skills development, preventing conflicts, supporting democracy, the rule of law and human rights, with particular emphasis on the rights of women and children	Intensifying co-operation with foreign donors and international organisations and strengthening the position of the Slovak Republic by fulfilling international commitments arising from the Slovak Republic's membership in the OECD and the EU
2030 AGENDA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)	     	        	        	  

2.2. Principles of Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic

Sustainable and Inclusive Development

Sustainable and inclusive development requires an approach that intersects with all aspects of society and the economy. For the Slovak Republic, this means not only aiming for economic growth but also ensuring that it does not harm the environment and that everyone benefits from it. In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, the Slovak Republic will strive to promote a horizontal approach to sustainable development with the aim of ensuring mutual coherence and synergies between national policies (including development, foreign, security, trade, environmental, migration policies, etc.) so that they prevent negative impacts of individual policies on development goals and contribute effectively to sustainable development in the Slovak Republic and abroad. This approach is in line with the holistic view of development under the Sustainable Development Goals, emphasizing the link between social justice, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.

Environmental Sustainability

Respecting the critical importance of environmental and climate action, Slovak ODA activities will actively contribute to the global effort to combat climate change and its consequences, with the aim of protecting the planet, conserving natural resources and halting biodiversity loss for future generations. The Slovak Republic's efforts will focus in particular on supporting green energy, sustainable agriculture, the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of biodiversity in line with internationally agreed goals, including the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Effectiveness, Transparency and Accountability

Effectiveness, transparency and accountability are the basic pillars for building trust and ensuring the effective use of resources in development cooperation. These principles include setting clear, measurable objectives at the level of development strategies, programmes and projects; objective assessment of achieved results; open communication and the creation of inclusive partnerships. The orientation of Slovak ODA towards results based on evidence and good practices and the subjection of development cooperation to evaluation and control mechanisms are a prerequisite for increasing the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of development cooperation in accordance with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, confirmed by the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Outcome Document.

Strategic Cooperation and Mutual Interests

The development cooperation of the Slovak Republic forms an integral part of the foreign policy of the Slovak Republic. Respecting the principles and commitments of international development cooperation and EU development policies, the Slovak Republic will implement development cooperation based on the development needs and priorities of partner countries and in line with the national interests of the Slovak Republic. Building mutually beneficial partnerships is an important prerequisite for sustainable and long-term development, while projects and initiatives intended primarily to assist recipient countries will also reflect and promote the foreign policy goals of the Slovak Republic, take into account economic interests, strengthen security, bilateral and multilateral relations of the Slovak Republic and fulfil international commitments. This approach may include supporting regional stability, supporting the penetration of Slovak enterprises into the markets of developing countries, sharing Slovak know-how and technologies, and strengthening the role of the Slovak Republic in international setting.

03

Actors of Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic

The implementation of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation involves central state administration bodies, local government bodies, non-governmental development organisations, the private sector and the academic sector.

State administration⁹⁾

The national coordinator of development cooperation of the Slovak Republic is the MFEA SR. The role of the implementing agency is performed by the SAIDC. The MFEA SR is also the coordinator of statistical reporting of Slovak ODA expenditure. Other state administration bodies also participate in the creation and implementation of Slovak ODA under the SlovakAid brand.

The coordinating, initiative and advisory interdepartmental body for development cooperation of the Slovak Republic is the Coordination Committee for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic.¹⁰⁾ It mainly ensures the harmonisation of policies for development and the preparation of strategic and conceptual documents. The members of the Coordination Committee are representatives of selected ministries, SAIDC, representatives of non-governmental organisations, the private sector, representatives of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, EXIMBANKA SR, as well as various associations. The Coordination Committee uses its powers under the approved statute,

including the creation of working groups for selected areas of development cooperation.

To achieve the goals of this Strategy effectively, building partnerships, promoting coherence, and seeking synergies between the development activities of individual state administration bodies, as well as actors from the non-governmental, private, and academic sectors are required.

Local Government

The role of local and regional governments is mainly based on their knowledge of the local environment, the potential to use their experience in local and regional development and the provision of services to citizens at the local level in development activities in partner countries. Cooperation with local governments is coordinated with their umbrella organizations, mainly the Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia (ZMOS).

Non-governmental sector

Non-governmental development organisations have been an important pillar of Slovak ODA for over 20 years and will continue to be one of the key partners, especially in the area of bilateral development cooperation. They participate in solving conceptual and coordination issues related to Slovak ODA, in which the non-govern-

mental sector is represented by the Ambrela Development Forum, being also a member of the Coordination Committee for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic.

In accordance with the OECD/DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, the Slovak Republic will continue to partner with the civil society sector in the Slovak Republic and support its capacity building. Non-governmental development organisations will still be able to apply for grants under announced calls and participate in EU delegated cooperation projects in partner countries implemented by the SAIDC. Non-governmental organisations will also be able to deepen cooperation with the private sector, not only under the SAIDC grant calls, but also in the implementation of the contract award instrument. In addition to implementing Slovak ODA, they also contribute to monitoring and evaluating Slovak ODA activities, as well as to informing public and raising awareness. Where possible, the Slovak Republic will strive to reduce administrative requirements for partners from the non-governmental sector.

The Slovak Republic will also support the participation of civil society in democratic processes in partner countries, while implementing SlovakAid activities in a way that does not have negative impacts on civil society in partner countries.

Private sector

Due to the lack of global progress in implementing the SDGs and the increasing needs of developing countries caused by parallel crises (climate, economic, debt crises, consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts), public resources are not sufficient to address current challenges. It is therefore necessary to use ODA also to mobilise private sector resources for sustainable development by supporting the penetration of Slovak companies into the markets of developing countries and creating an enabling environment for foreign investment in partner countries. The Slovak Republic uses several instruments to support the involve-

ment of the private sector in development cooperation. Cooperation with the private sector takes place mainly through the Private Sector Engagement Programme. The possibilities for involving business entities in development cooperation will also be expanded by the introduction of the contract award instrument for the implementation of development projects or the use of the instrument of concessional export credits. The MoF SR has also been addressing the involvement of business entities in development cooperation for a long time through its own instruments.

For the purposes of broad involvement of the private sector in development cooperation, the Slovak Republic is interested in using the EU Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, which provides significant opportunities for a more intensive participation of the Slovak private sector in European development projects through grants, loans, blended financing and guarantees, from large investments to business cooperation at the local level. For this purpose, the Slovak Republic has built capacities through SAIDC and EXIMBANKA SR, which have EU authorisations to manage European funds. There is also room for more systematic cooperation with the private sector in the area of providing humanitarian aid. The involvement of the private sector in Slovak ODA is described in more detail in separate Chapter 8.

Academic sector

Academic sector organisations implement education projects in SlovakAid partner countries and are also involved in the transfer of new technologies, innovations and know-how to partner countries. They play an important role in the Slovak Republic in global education activities.

The Slovak Republic sees untapped potential in partnerships between the academic sector and non-governmental development organisations and the private sector and will support the strengthening of their cooperation.

⁹⁾ The competencies of individual actors of central state administration and local government are anchored in the Development Cooperation Act.

¹⁰⁾ Statute of the Coordination Committee

04

Instruments of Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic

The Development Cooperation Act defines the following instruments of development cooperation of the Slovak Republic:

- providing grants,
- providing financial contributions,
- awarding contracts,
- sharing knowledge and experience,
- donating state movable property,
- government scholarships,
- debt forgiveness,
- providing concessional export credits,
- implementing EU financial instruments intended for development cooperation,
- other instruments decided by the government.

Grants:

Grants are the basic instrument of bilateral development cooperation of the Slovak Republic. The mechanism for providing grants is implemented through calls announced by

SAIDC, for which eligible entities submit grant applications. Pursuant to the Development Cooperation Act, a grant may be provided to a legal entity established under the legal order of the Slovak Republic¹¹⁾ for:

- (a) development project,
- (b) humanitarian project,
- (c) development education project,
- (d) public awareness project,
- (e) capacity building project,
- (f) sending a volunteer to a partner country,
- (g) development programme.

Calls will be announced based on the available funds specified in the Slovak Republic's bilateral development cooperation plans for individual years. Grants will be provided in accordance with the territorial and sectoral priorities of the Strategy and will continue to be primarily focused on the least developed areas of partner countries. In the context of geographical focus, exceptions include: 1) grants for projects supporting private sector partnerships and volunteer deployment, which can also be implemented in other developing countries on the

OECD/DAC list; and 2) grants for development education and capacity building projects, for which the Slovak Republic is the eligible place of implementation, or part of the activities can also be implemented in other EU Member States, territorial priorities of Slovak ODA or developing countries on the OECD/DAC list. In the context of sectoral focus, projects supporting private sector partnerships and volunteer deployment can focus on all six sector priorities defined in the Strategy and will not be limited by sectors designated for individual partner countries. In an effort to achieve narrower sectoral specialisation, the ambition will be to introduce regular calls with sectoral focus as opposed to almost exclusively territorial calls. The Slovak Republic aims to continue announcing calls for further strategic partnerships with the aim of financing long-term development interventions, depending on the legislative setting of budgetary rules.

Providing financial contributions:

Financial contributions are used within the framework of development cooperation (bilateral and multilateral), as well as humanitarian aid. They are provided mainly by the MFEA SR and SAIDC, but the law also allows them to be provided by other ministries and central state administration bodies. Within the MFEA SR and SAIDC, there are 2 types of financial contributions: 1. financial contributions based on the decision of the minister and 2. financial contributions based on a financial contribution application submitted to the Slovak Embassy. Financial contributions provided based on the decision of the minister represent a tool for flexible response to global crisis events, which can be used in all developing countries on the OECD/DAC list. When providing them, the ambition will be to ensure complementarity with the activities of other actors responding to the given crisis. Financial contributions based on a financial contribution application submitted to the Slovak Embassy represent a tool available directly in the priority countries of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation, allowing for a targeted response to the problems and

needs of the given country. Both types of contributions represent a flexible, operational and effective form of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Awarding contracts:

The purpose of the contract award instrument defined in the Development Cooperation Act is to award a contract by the SAIDC for the supply of goods, the performance of construction works and the provision of services abroad. The experience of other donors shows that this is one of the most effective development cooperation instruments, which allows for the implementation of activities that meet specific objectives based on the development needs of partner countries. At the same time, the instrument can contribute to a more intensive involvement of the private sector in development cooperation activities and to strengthening cooperation between the non-governmental and private sectors.

However, the contract award instrument has not been used in the past due to legislative restrictions associated with its implementation. In practice, it has been shown that the implementation of this instrument is hindered or significantly limited by the provisions on the division of state budget expenditures into capital and current expenditures and budgeting the value of the contract a year before its award (Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on Budgetary Rules of Public Administration and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended), the acquisition of the acquired property by SAIDC instead of the final beneficiary (Act No. 278/1993 Coll. on the Management of State Property), and the low limit for the application of the exception from Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on Public Procurement and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended. Removing these restrictions, harmonizing the relevant legislation, and introducing the contract award instrument into practice will be one of the priorities of the next strategic period. The contracts can be used in all developing countries on the OECD/DAC list.

¹¹⁾ A grant may also be provided to a legal entity established under the legal order of a foreign state, if the State Budget Act for the relevant fiscal year approves state budget expenditures for grants in the amount of at least EUR 15 million.

Sharing knowledge and experience:

Through the instrument of sharing knowledge and experience, the Slovak Republic offers and transfers expertise, experience and recommendations from public administration reforms in various areas in the form of study visits, expert visits to partner countries, internships, round tables and workshops. Knowledge and experience sharing activities implemented by SAIDC under the name ***Sharing Slovak Expertise (SSE)*** contribute to building the personnel capacities of public administration in partner countries, but also to building the expert capacities of the Slovak Republic and to a closer identification of the comparative advantages of the Slovak Republic in the field of development cooperation. The sharing of knowledge and experience can also be implemented by central state administration bodies and territorial self-government bodies within their scope of competence. In the framework of sharing knowledge and experience, in addition to direct bilateral interaction between the Slovak Republic and the partner country at the expert level, attention will be paid to sustainability in the form of practical use of shared experience and implementation of follow-up interventions using other development cooperation instruments of the Slovak Republic. The tool for sharing knowledge and experience can be implemented in all developing countries on the OECD/DAC list.

Donating state movable property:

This instrument is used to ensure the provision of material humanitarian aid by the Slovak Republic to persons affected by natural disasters, man-made crises, famine and other emergency situations. The main actors are the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MoI SR") and the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MoD SR"), but also other ministries, e.g. the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic or the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic. The instrument is described in more detail in Chapter 9 on humanitarian aid.

Government scholarships:

The aim of the government scholarship instrument provided by the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the MFEA SR is to contribute to the support of education as an important element of the socio-economic progress of developing countries. Given the gradual increase in the number and amount of scholarships, the Slovak Republic will focus on better targeting this instrument so that it provides the desired results and is recognizable by the partner country and also coherent with other development cooperation instruments of the Slovak Republic in the given territory. Maintaining communication with graduates after returning to their countries of origin will also be a priority in order to monitor the benefits of the instrument and build a network of contacts for possible future development or foreign policy activities in partner countries. The territorial redistribution of scholarships is adjusted annually to take into account the needs of partner countries to the greatest extent possible, based on the territorial priorities defined in the Strategy.

Providing concessional export credits:

The aim of the instrument for providing concessional export credit managed by EXIMBANKA SR is to support the involvement of Slovak business entities in development activities and to facilitate the penetration of the private sector into markets in developing countries. The intention is to use the instrument for providing concessional export credit to a greater extent, as it brings benefits to partner countries as well as to Slovak business entities, while ensuring its complementarity with other instruments of development cooperation of the Slovak Republic. The provision of concessional export credit can be implemented in developing countries according to the rules of tied aid under the OECD Convention on Officially Supported Export Credits (the so-called OECD Consensus) and the criteria for concessional financing, which are based on sustainable principles of financing low-income countries.

Implementing EU financial instruments intended for development cooperation:

The Slovak Republic plans to continue supporting the implementation of projects financially supported by EU instruments, in particular through participation in the Team Europe and Global Gateway initiatives, as well as through the EU delegated cooperation mechanism, and thus develop international cooperation with partner organisations from other EU Member States. An important role in this area will be played by institutions that, based on the Pillar Assessment, have been authorised to supervise the implementation of development projects financed from EU funds (SAIDC and EXIMBANKA SR). To achieve the goal, systematic personnel capacity building and their subsequent development are necessary at the level of these institutions. At the same time, a systematic solution for sending employees of the relevant institutions to the places of project implementation is necessary for the implementation of

EU delegated cooperation projects. The Slovak Republic will primarily participate in projects financially supported by EU instruments implemented in priority countries of development cooperation of the Slovak Republic, and Slovak embassies will cooperate in direct communication and building relationships with the territorially competent EU delegation.

Other instruments

In the next strategic period, the Slovak Republic will mainly focus on the speed of response in the context of unexpected humanitarian crises, which plays a key role in ensuring effective assistance. To this end, an immediate response mechanism will be implemented, using elements of existing or newly created instruments, which will be based on the involvement, close coordination and cooperation of state institutions, as well as the non-governmental sector (more in Chapter 9 on humanitarian aid).



Botanical garden, provision of technical equipment, Moldova, 2018

05

Sectoral Focus

5.1. Sectoral Priorities

The Slovak Republic's development cooperation in 2025-2030 will be concentrated in six sectoral priorities. The aim is to focus on a limited number of sectors in individual territories in an effort to prevent over-fragmentation of development interventions, increase the specialization and visibility of Slovak assistance and focus on areas where the Slovak Republic has the greatest expertise. The sectors are also based on the development needs of partner countries and are linked to SDGs. The sectoral priorities are used as a reference list of priorities, which will subsequently be assigned to individual territorial priorities (one or more sectoral priorities will be assigned to each partner country or region).

1. Infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources



SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15

Through its development activities, the Slovak Republic will contribute to improving water and waste management; protecting and restoring the environment; transitioning to a green economy and using clean energy with regard to energy security; sustainable forest management, sustainable development of settlements; reducing the risk of natural disasters; and building environmental awareness.



2. Food security and agriculture



SDGs 1 and 2

The Slovak Republic will contribute to increasing food security; self-sufficiency in the production of agri-food commodities within the entire agri-food sector; increasing

employment in the agri-food sector; introducing new techniques and processes in all parts of the value chain; and to the sustainable use of ecosystems.

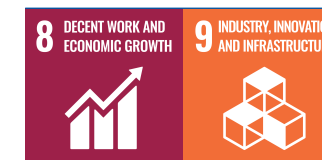


3. Supporting the market environment



SDGs 8 and 9

The Slovak Republic will focus on supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; introducing innovations and digitalisation; creating jobs and a business-friendly environment; responsible business conduct with an emphasis on preventing and mitigating any adverse impacts of business activities on the environment and society.



4. Good health



SDGs 2 and 3

The Slovak Republic will support health and social care with an emphasis on mothers and children, nutrition programmes, equipment of health facilities, education and awareness of the population in the areas of prevention and health care, including mental health; education of health and social workers.



5. Quality education



the SDG 4

The Slovak Republic will focus on ensuring education at all levels of schools; acquiring

professional skills with a focus on entering the labour market and starting a business; training of pedagogical and non-pedagogical staff, and equipping school facilities.



6. Good governance and building civil society



SDGs 11, 16 and 17

The Slovak Republic will engage in the areas of building and reforming democratic institutions; public finance management; the rule of law and civil society participation in democratic processes; building the capacities of local governments and active participation of citizens in community development; conflict prevention and reconciliation activities; activities of civilian experts in international crisis management and digitalisation of the capacities of institutions and local governments.

For Slovak ODA programme countries, sectors will be specified in more detail in the programme strategies for individual countries (the Country Strategy Paper). The activities of other public actors involved in SlovakAid activities will also be based on the framework sectoral priorities to ensure greater coherence of the Slovak Republic's development interventions.



5.2. Thematic Programme

In addition to the above sectoral priorities, the Slovak Republic will implement a separate thematic programme focused on the **environment, climate change and circular economy** (hereinafter referred to as the **"GREEN Programme"**), aiming at increasing the concentration of resources for this area and at the same time making the activities of individual actors more transparent when reporting Slovak ODA and fulfilling the international commitments of the Slovak Republic in the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD and other international conventions with a development aspect. The aim of creating the thematic programme is mainly to further concentrate the current sectoral focus of SlovakAid development activities, to provide this topic with more predictable support in a broader time frame and to improve the measurability of results. The thematic programme can also contribute to increasing foreign awareness of Slovak ODA specialisation.

The programme will be implemented mainly through individual SAIDC grant calls announced on the basis of individual annual plans of bilateral Slovak ODA, as well as through the activities of individual Slovak ODA actors. The SAIDC calls will be open to project proposals from multiple territorial priorities.

The new thematic programme is not complementary to the six sectoral priorities above, or a selection of any of them. Development activities implemented under this programme must actively contribute to the objectives set out in the GREEN Programme but may also contribute in parallel to the objectives of the six sectors.

The aim of the programme is to support projects contributing to green and just transitions and adaptation of partner countries to climate change; addressing the climate crisis through sustainable use of water, land and forests; ensuring accessible and clean energy and increasing energy efficiency; food security and sustainable agriculture; transferring Slovakia's experience in the field of institutions building and policy making focused on sustainability and climate resilience; protecting biodiversity; developing the principles of a circular economy, sustainable production and consumption; preventing pollution; protecting health, etc.

A significant part of bilateral ODA has been devoted to the topic of the environment, climate change and circular economy in recent years, which testifies to the expertise built up by Slovak entities and shows the direction in building the comparative advantage of the Slovak Republic. This area is cross-cutting and has also a greater impact on the functioning and development of other sectors. Supporting the environment, sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity and green transition through new clean technologies and innovations has a direct impact on the socio-economic development of countries and the safety of people and property, as well as the health of the population.

5.3. Cross-Cutting Themes

The Slovak Republic will continue to integrate the following cross-cutting themes into SlovakAid projects and activities and take steps towards improving this integration:

1. Environment and climate change



SDGs 13 and 15, with a focus on supporting projects that contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its global goals, including climate change mitigation; strengthening adaptation to climate change and increasing the resilience of ecosystems and supporting their services; protecting nature, biodiversity and land; monitoring the environment and its components; protecting and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources.



2. Equality of women and men



SDG 5, with a focus on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls, as well as all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices and conventions (such as early or forced marriage or female genital mutilation); ensuring equal opportunities in public life. The emphasis is on promoting education; improving

access to quality health care for all girls, women, boys and men, taking into account their specific needs; reducing maternal, newborn and under-five mortality. In regard to women's economic empowerment, the aim is to develop and implement interventions that promote equal opportunities in the workplace, equal access to opportunities and resources, as well as women's participation in entrepreneurship.



Cross-cutting themes will be applied in all relevant Slovak ODA instruments. The degree of integration of cross-cutting themes will be evaluated based on the prepared assessment methodology and used for reporting on the international commitments of the Slovak Republic. At the same time, cross-cutting themes may represent a priority focus of projects and activities implemented under the SlovakAid brand.



©Jana Čavojská, Iraq, 2018

06

Territorial Priorities

The development cooperation forms an integral part of the foreign policy of the Slovak Republic. The territorial priorities of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation therefore reflect primarily the foreign policy priorities of the Slovak Republic with an emphasis on supporting peace and security in the world, but also global challenges. Development activities also build on the long-term activities of Slovak non-governmental organisations and other actors in partner countries. In this context, the ambition for the years 2025-2030 is mainly to concentrate Slovak ODA on a smaller number of partner countries and to use already established partnerships, as well as to further develop them. Emphasis will continue to be placed primarily on the least developed regions of partner countries. The Slovak Republic's development cooperation will also focus on increasing the national visibility of Slovak ODA in partner countries, achieving long-term relevance and effectiveness, linking Slovak ODA priorities with EU development priorities and instruments, increasing the predictability of Slovak ODA in terms of geographical orientation and recipient country needs, and implementing long-term strategic projects and providing predictable financing.

The criteria for selecting partner countries for development cooperation of the Slovak Republic include:

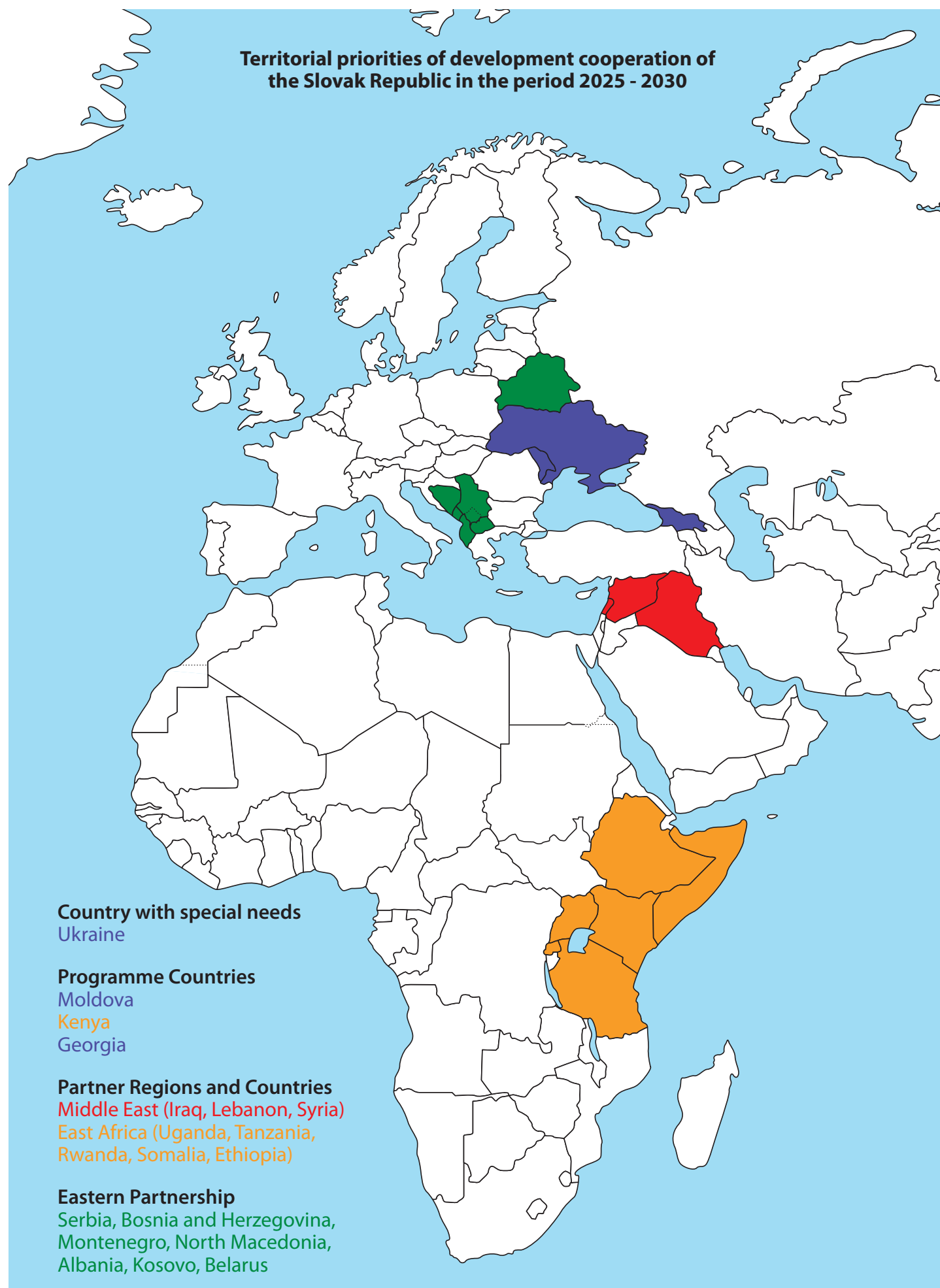
- Foreign policy and economic interests of the Slovak Republic with an emphasis on supporting world peace and security

- Development needs of partner countries
- Ownership of the development process by the partner country, involvement of local partners
- International development and global challenges
- Relevant expertise and capacities of Slovak development actors
- Presence of activities of Slovak development and other actors (e.g. the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic)
- Presence of a Slovak embassy
- Potential for involving the private sector in Slovak ODA.

The Slovak Republic's development cooperation in 2025-2030 will be implemented in the following regions: EU Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans, Middle East, East Africa. In this context we distinguish between countries with special needs, programme countries and partner countries.

Central Asia is a region with great potential for the gradual intensification of the Slovak Republic's development activities, it has an important position in the EU geopolitical space and is promising for the involvement of Slovak development cooperation actors, including entrepreneurs, also in connection with the implementation of the EU Global Gateway

Territorial priorities of development cooperation of the Slovak Republic in the period 2025 - 2030



strategy. From the perspective of sectoral focus, the Central Asia region provides room for utilising the Slovak Republic's comparative advantage, especially in the areas of water and waste management. In addition to the infrastructure, energy and sustainable use of natural resources sectors, the sector of supporting the market environment, good governance and innovation is also promising.

The territorial focus for the relevant years will be further adjusted in the individual focuses of bilateral Slovak ODA, including a possible narrowing of the territorial concentration based on the availability of funds, the Slovak Republic's foreign policy priorities and political and security developments in the partner country.

Given the European integration processes and the possibilities of using financial resources from EU funds in some SlovakAid partner countries, the scope and form of the Slovak Republic's development activities in these countries may be reassessed in the future.

6.1 Country with special needs – Ukraine

Due to geographical, cultural and linguistic proximity, the Slovak Republic provides assistance to Ukraine continuously and in the long term. Political, security and economic interests of the Slovak Republic in Ukraine are linked to the preservation and restoration of the democratic order and institutional system in Ukraine, its business and production base and market, and the restoration of the environment and natural resources destroyed as a result of Russia's war of aggression. Ukraine has been a partner country of SlovakAid since 2009. In the previous period, the Slovak Republic supported Ukraine in the areas of humanitarian, development and economic projects. In the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the related destroyed and damaged infrastructure and environment, it is necessary to focus on the restoration and reconstruction of Ukraine and also on improving the living conditions of internally displaced persons. It is also

necessary to ensure support and development of infrastructure in areas of Ukraine that are not directly affected by the war conflict, but their development is crucial for the functioning of the country. In the context of Ukraine, emphasis will be placed on defining all options through which the Slovak Republic can contribute to the restoration and reconstruction of Ukraine, and on identifying possible sources of financing, including ODA instruments, EU instruments (e.g. the Ukraine Investment Framework), alternative sources and the use of instruments of international financial institutions. Ukraine is also a country that represents the potential for the development of infrastructure connectivity with the Slovak Republic, also in the context of building export corridors from Ukraine to the EU and vice versa. There is also room for cooperation and strengthening cross-border business activities.

Sectoral focus: good health, food security and agriculture, good governance and building civil society, infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources.

6.2. Programme Countries

For the period 2025-2030, the programme countries include Moldova, Kenya and Georgia. The Slovak Republic is implementing enhanced development cooperation with the programme countries, which requires comprehensive interventions using all available Slovak ODA instruments. The specific objectives of development cooperation with these countries, including eligible Slovak ODA sectors and instruments, will be further defined in bilateral strategies, as well as in the annual plans of bilateral Slovak ODA and territorial calls for proposals. Given the European integration processes and the possibilities of using EU funds, the positions of Moldova and Georgia as programme countries may be reassessed in the future and development activities may be gradually reduced.

6.2.1. Moldova

Development cooperation with the Republic of Moldova is based on the Development Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Moldova signed in October 2013. Moldova has been a partner country of SlovakAid since 2009 and a programme country since 2014. In 2013, the Slovak Embassy was opened in Moldova and the implementation of development cooperation is supported by the work of a development diplomat at the Slovak Embassy in Chisinau.

The comparative advantage of the Slovak Republic in Moldova is its geographical proximity and similar historical experience. The continuation of Slovak ODA programme focus on Moldova is also highly relevant in the context of granting EU candidate status to Moldova in June 2022.¹²⁾ In this context, an increased need for the implementation of development projects and the sharing of Slovak expertise in fulfilling the commitments and recommendations of the European Commission is expected. In the context of granting EU candidate status to Moldova, foreign policy interest in the country is also growing. The need for long-term mutual cooperation and support for Moldova also arises from the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine. Moldova remains vulnerable as a neighbouring country. The ongoing war in Ukraine has negative economic impacts on Moldova, also in the context of hosting Ukrainian refugees.

Continuous support to Moldova is also desirable with the aim of continuing the successful implementation of development projects using various instruments of development cooperation of the Slovak Republic, as well as the implementation of the EU delegated cooperation project. Moldova also represents an opportunity for the continued involvement of the Slovak private sector in the SlovakAid development activities.

¹²⁾ On 14 December 2023, the European Council Summit approved the opening of accession negotiations with Moldova, and on 25 June 2024, the 1st Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) with Moldova was held in Luxembourg, officially opening Moldova's accession negotiations with the EU.

Sectoral focus: infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources, supporting the market environment, good governance and building civil society.

6.2.2. Kenya

Kenya is a traditional development partner of the Slovak Republic and SlovakAid has been operating there since its establishment in 2003. Kenya became Slovak ODA programme country in 2009. The intergovernmental agreement on development cooperation between the Slovak Republic and Kenya entered into force in November 2013. A development diplomat has been working at the Embassy in Nairobi since 2014. The continuation of Slovak ODA programme focus on Kenya results not only from the need to maintain the ongoing activities of Slovak development actors in the region and the successful implementation of several development projects using various development cooperation instruments, including the implementation of a project within the Team Europe initiative, but also from the high potential for the implementation of future activities. Activities corresponding to the specified sectoral priorities and their objectives will be supported, with emphasis on activities related to mitigating climate change and its impacts and halting biodiversity loss.

Sectoral focus: infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources, food security and agriculture, quality education, good health, supporting the market environment.

6.2.3. Georgia

Georgia is a traditional partner country of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation and SlovakAid has been operating there since 2008. Georgia became a programme country in 2019. The continuation of Slovak ODA programme focus on Georgia results from the successful implementation of several develop-

ment projects aimed at the population near the administrative boundary line (ABL) with the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and the least developed regions. There is also a potential in using the Slovak Republic's transformation experience in the reform process of Georgia following the granting of EU candidate status to Georgia in December 2023. Georgia is also a country that provides

opportunities for greater involvement of the private sector in development cooperation and the extension of development projects to economic topics.

Sectoral focus: good governance and building civil society, infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources, supporting the market environment.



Ecoschool, Ukraine, 2018



Winterization, Ukraine, 2020



Autistic centre, Moldova, 2018



Botanical garden, provision of technical equipment, Moldova, 2018



Support for improving mothers' work skills, Kenya, 2017



A family's mud house in the bush, Kenya, 2022

6.3. Partner Regions and Countries

6.3.1. Neighbourhood region (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo,¹³ Belarus):

The Western Balkans region is one of the foreign policy priorities of the Slovak Republic, where the successful integration of the entire region in the EU is a long-term interest of the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Republic will therefore use development instruments to emphasize dialogue on reconciliation, support for the most vulnerable groups, and sharing expertise in areas that help countries advance in EU accession negotiations. Due to the EU integration processes and the possibilities of drawing financial resources from EU funds, in particular the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (hereinafter referred to as "IPA"), as well as the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) and Twinning, which are intended for institution-building through the exchange of experience and know-how and for technical assistance, the Slovak Republic's development activities in the Western Balkans may be gradually reduced in the medium term. In Belarus, the priority is to continue supporting civil society and a democratic future.

Sectoral focus: good governance and building civil society, supporting the market environment.

6.3.2. Middle East (Iraq, Lebanon, Syria)

The Middle East region is geopolitically important for the prevention of irregular migration and for the free movement of goods. To this end, the Slovak Republic will focus on assistance through improving the living conditions of Syrian and other refugees and host communities (improvement of infrastructure, education and healthcare), as well as prospects for employment in their home communities (developing skills for the labour market). Attention will also

be paid to assisting refugees with their return to their countries of origin after the end of the conflict.

Sectoral focus: good health, quality education, infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources.

6.3.3. East Africa (Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Somalia, Ethiopia)

Through development cooperation in the East Africa region, the Slovak Republic contributes to addressing the root causes of migration and to the overall elimination of poverty in the least developed countries under the UN classification. In addition to maintaining relations between Slovak development actors at the subregional level, the region is important also in the context of the Slovak Republic's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2028-2029. The region also has potential in terms of involving business entities in development cooperation.

Sectoral focus: food security and agriculture, infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources, quality education, good health.



¹³ In accordance with UNSC Resolution No. 1244/99 and the Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Declaration of Independence of Kosovo.



Syrian Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees, Lebanon, 2018



Sewing Courses for Refugees from South Sudan, Uganda, 2019

07

Multilateral Development Cooperation

Multilateral development cooperation is one of the key pillars of Slovak ODA and contributes to strengthen the position of the Slovak Republic as a responsible member of the international community that fulfils its political, legal and moral obligations. Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is a crucial parameter in providing multilateral development cooperation.

Multilateral development cooperation annually accounts for approximately 70-80% of the total volume of Slovak ODA. Given its large share in overall development cooperation, the Slovak Republic will strive to effectively set it up so that it contributes to the objectives specified in this Strategy and the fulfilment of the SDGs and at the same time benefits the Slovak Republic's capacity building, the involvement of Slovak entities in the implementation of international development projects, and the visibility of the SlovakAid brand.

Through multilateral development cooperation, the Slovak Republic promotes its foreign policy priorities and SlovakAid objectives at the international level. It will use it to supplement bilateral activities in its partner countries, or where it is not effective for the Slovak Republic to operate on a bilateral basis, e.g. in the least developed countries (LDCs). The implementation of multilateral development cooperation will be in accordance with OECD/DAC recommendations and examples of good practice in ensuring transparency, efficiency and predictability of financing.

The Slovak Republic is involved in multilateral development cooperation mainly through the development activities of the EU, international organisations and financial institutions. It implements development cooperation by participating in decision-making processes, as well as by providing voluntary financial contributions from the state budget to specific programmes or trust funds and by increasing the share capital of international financial institutions.

The comparative advantage of the Slovak Republic for successful participation in international projects is the authorisation of SAIDC to manage EU funds in the form of delegated cooperation, as well as a certificate according to ISO 9001: 2015 Quality Management System (since 2019). EXIMBANKA SR is also the holder of the authorisation to implement EU delegated cooperation since 2021.

When selecting multilateral development cooperation partners of the Slovak Republic, the following are taken into account:

- a) compliance with the priorities of the Slovak Republic's foreign policy,
- b) compliance with the sectoral and geographical priorities of Slovak ODA,
- c) international developments (e.g. humanitarian crisis, climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, migration and refugee crisis),
- d) the organisation's establishment and activities in the country and qualitative indicators of its operations, including an assessment of the organisation's performance,¹⁴⁾

¹⁴⁾ For example, through MOPAN – Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network

e) the importance and benefit of cooperation for the Slovak Republic in the form of building the national capacities of the Slovak Republic or the possibility of involving Slovak entities and experts in the implementation of programmes and projects,

f) the visibility of SlovakAid.

In 2025-2030, the Slovak Republic will:

continue to actively participate in decision-making processes within the EU, UN, OSCE, OECD and other multilateral organisations and institutions, to which the Slovak Republic provides mandatory and voluntary membership contributions, and transfer Slovak positions, values and foreign policy and development priorities of the Slovak Republic into the specific activities of the given organisation or institution;

assist Slovak entities in increasing their participation in programmes and projects of the EU, UN and other international organisations and financial institutions through exchange, networking and information events or economic diplomacy;

engage in the coordination of development activities at the EU level, including the use of joint programming formats, Team Europe initiatives, Global Gateway flagship projects; by increasing the coherence and interconnectedness of development cooperation of European providers. These practices will support the SAIDC position in co-decision-making on the use of EU resources within the framework of delegated cooperation;

use the expertise of multilateral partners to optimise and streamline the system for implementing development cooperation in the Slovak Republic and providing humanitarian aid;

– provide voluntary financial contributions to selected international organisations, funds and programmes with the aim of more effectively utilising the potential of these organisations and the leverage effect of combined interventions. The selected voluntary contributions will complement the development activities of the Slovak Republic in the partner country with the aim of achieving their connection with humanitarian interventions and security and stabilisation measures under the humanitarian, development and peace nexus (hereinafter referred to as the “HDP nexus”).

7.1. European Union

The EU is the largest collective donor globally. It provides more than half of global ODA. In the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, EU development cooperation is financed through the **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe**¹⁵⁾ (NDICI) established by EU regulation.¹⁶⁾ The application of the instrument must be regulated by EU priorities specified in the Foreign and Security Policy Strategy and the European Consensus on Development of June 2017. The instrument should also contribute to strengthening the trade dimension of the EU’s external relations, with a view to ensuring coherence and mutual support between EU trade policy and development activities and objectives.

The Slovak Republic allocates approximately 80% of its funds spent on multilateral development cooperation through EU institutions. The Slovak Republic will therefore promote the effective functioning of EU development cooperation and the spending of funds, as well as work on creating a national systemic mechanism for engaging in the use of the NDICI – Global Europe financial instrument, created from the

above funds and aimed at financing European development cooperation projects. The Slovak Republic will continue to support the coordination of donors from among the EU Member States and, in the case of available capacities, expertise and overlap with SlovakAid’s objectives and sectors, it will participate in **Team Europe** initiatives.

Thanks to the authorisation to implement EU delegated cooperation, SAIDC and EXIMBANKA SR can manage EU funds allocated to joint development projects. The Slovak Republic will build on the projects implemented in recent years in Moldova, Kenya, Republic of South Africa, Serbia and Georgia and will continue to actively engage in other **delegated cooperation** projects in partner countries and thus develop international cooperation with partner organisations from other EU Member States.

The Slovak Republic will also continue to co-finance development projects financially supported by EU instruments.

The Slovak Republic will actively seek overlaps and support opportunities for Slovak entities to engage in the **EU Global Gateway** strategy aimed at supporting and strengthening clean and safe infrastructure in the energy and transport sectors and strengthening healthcare, education, research and digitalisation systems in developing countries (more about the Global Gateway strategy can be found in Chapter 8 on engaging the private sector).

The Slovak Republic will also be more actively involved in the transfer of expertise and experience through EU institution-building instruments – TAIEX and Twinning, which are funded from NDICI and IPA.

7.2. International Partners

Coordination and cooperation of the Slovak Republic with international partners (international organisations, international financial institutions and other donors) in the form of

joint development activities increases the effectiveness of development interventions to the benefit of the recipient country, enables the exchange of experiences and building national capacities and also has a positive impact on the visibility of SlovakAid. It provides opportunities to jointly apply for the implementation of projects financed by EU instruments and other international organisations.

The Slovak Republic will continue to cooperate with international partners in 2025-2030. It will build on the experience from joint projects and programmes implemented in recent years not only in regional formats (Visegrad Group, Slavkov format), but also with major global donors (USAID) and international organisations (UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, etc.).

In cooperation with international financial institutions, the Slovak Republic uses joint funds, with the aim of supporting the implementation of the mandate of international financial institutions in developing countries, participating in the implementation of EU and OECD policy objectives, contributing to solving global challenges, such as the migration crisis or climate change and halting biodiversity loss, and at the same time to streamline opportunities for the involvement of Slovak business entities in international projects. The main partners include: the European Investment Bank, the Council of Europe Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, KfW/DEG and other national development banks, EDFI (European Development Financial Institutions – an association of national development banks of the EU Member States) and the International Finance Corporation. An important factor for cooperation with international financial institutions is the search and support for innovative forms of development financing and ensuring social inclusion. The Slovak Republic will pay attention to creating opportunities for the use and combination of public and private resources for financing development (so-called blending) and creating synergies between different areas of development cooperation.

¹⁵⁾ A total of more than EUR 79 billion has been allocated to the NDICI for the current EU budget period, which can be used in the form of grants, loans, blended financing and guarantees implemented through the EIB, EBRD and national development banks

¹⁶⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No. 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No. 480/2009.

08

Private Sector Engagement

The private sector is an important partner in the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic, and its engagement in the development activities of the Slovak Republic and support for foreign investments are important for achieving the SDGs. The large global financial deficit for the implementation of the SDGs and the growing needs caused by the parallel crises cannot be met only by using public resources. Therefore, it is necessary to use ODA to motivate business entities to mobilise private capital, align investments with the SDGs, and create an enabling environment in partner countries for private sector development, attracting foreign investments, and establishing Slovak entities in foreign markets.

The private sector contributes to supporting sustainable economic growth, increasing employment, and strengthening the socio-economic development of the local population by creating jobs, building human capacities, providing access to basic goods and services, and involving developing countries in global value chains. By creating job opportunities in countries of origin and transit of migration, it also contributes to eliminating the root causes of irregular migration.

The Slovak Republic will deepen cooperation with the private sector in implementing development cooperation projects in partner countries, as well as in resolving conceptual issues related to Slovak ODA (e.g. by involving them in the activities of the Coordination Committee for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic).

The Slovak Republic will continue to use the Private Sector Engagement Programme, more

actively promote the use of concessional export credits and plans to make the contract award instrument operational. It will also seek synergies with other development instruments, create space for cooperation between the private sector and other development actors in the Slovak Republic, and explore the possibilities of creating support mechanisms to increase the engagement of the private sector in development cooperation.

The Slovak Republic will also support increasing the effectiveness of development projects in the private sector, their development impact and the sustainability of investments in partner countries. The initial step should be to streamline the grant application system, in particular by reducing the administrative burden on applicants and simplifying application forms. The next steps will be to strive to reduce administrative burdens throughout the entire project cycle.

The Slovak Republic will also contribute to building capacities and raising awareness among Slovak entrepreneurs about the possibilities of supporting their presence in markets of developing countries and participation in calls and tenders of international organisations and financial institutions. MFEA SR, SAIDC, the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as "SARIO") and Slovak Embassies will cooperate in sharing information for potential applicants on the possibilities of participating in development cooperation projects.

At the same time, emphasis will be placed on creating a favourable business environment in partner countries by sharing Slovakia's experi-

ence and expertise in transitioning to a market economy, building the private sector and public institutions, removing obstacles to entrepreneurship, and shaping public policies affecting the operation of the private sector, including supporting the rule of law, good governance, and education of the local workforce.

Activities aimed at involving the private sector in development cooperation are not strictly intended only for priority regions and countries, but their implementation is possible in all countries defined in the OECD/DAC list of ODA recipients.

Private Sector Engagement Programme (PPP)

The Programme was specifically created with the aim of effectively engaging the private sector in the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic. It enables the fulfilment of the following objectives:

- to support synergy between the set objectives of the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic and the goals of business entities in developing countries;
- to support the emergence of new private sector cooperation and strengthen the long-term capabilities of local partners;
- to activate private finance to support Slovak development projects;
- to help Slovak companies operate in developing countries and to simplify the participation of local companies in global supply chains;
- to increase and expand the activities and development impact of Slovak companies that are already actively operating in developing countries.

The nature of development cooperation implies that direct export support is excluded from the programme and the primary goal is

to implement the development dimension of the project for the largest possible population groups. The programme is implemented through calls announced by SAIDC for all developing countries defined by OECD/DAC and in all sector priorities of this Strategy.

Operationalisation of the development contract award instrument

One of the main goals of the current strategy is to make the contract award instrument operational. These are mainly necessary legislative changes that, after implementation, will allow the range of development instruments to be expanded again, through which it will be possible to engage the private sector in development cooperation projects (more about the contract award instrument can be found in Chapter 4 on development cooperation instruments of the Slovak Republic).

Intensive use of concessional export credits

Another long-term objective is to implement a pilot project and subsequently regularly use the "Concessional Export Credit" instrument. It is a specialised product of EXIMBANKA SR for countries eligible to receive trade-related assistance, when a foreign public buyer (e.g. state administration bodies, municipalities, etc.) is provided with a purpose-bound credit, which is more advantageous than a credit provided under commercial conditions thanks to the grant element in the form of a contribution to repay part of the credit, lower interest rates or extended loan maturity. Ideally, the goal is to create synergy in the subsequent use of the PPP and concessional export credits for partners, where the initial experience gained in smaller-volume PPP projects could be followed up by participating in the schemes offered from the EXIMBANKA SR portfolio.

Participation in EU initiatives

For the purposes of adequate and effective involvement in the use of the great potential of the EU financial mechanisms for external action,

it will be necessary to develop a system of engagement and support for Slovak ODA actors in order to respond flexibly and substantively to current European and also global trends in the field of development cooperation. An important EU financial instrument is the NDICI and the “Global Gateway” EU strategy based on it. Both the financial mechanism and the strategy are increasingly based on the “Team Europe” principle and aim to mobilise private capital for development cooperation. In the case of the Global Gateway, this is particularly the case in the area of investment and trade cooperation focused on smart, clean and secure connectivity in the digital, climate, energy and transport sectors and on the strengthening of education, research and healthcare systems globally.

Similarly, a new instrument specifically focused on the reconstruction of Ukraine, the Ukraine Facility, with a total volume of EUR 50 billion, also offers great potential for the involvement of Slovak entities in EU financial mechanisms. One of the pillars, the Ukraine Investment Framework (hereinafter referred to as the “UIF”), has guarantees and blended finance instruments of EUR 9.3 billion for 2024-2027, intended to support public and private investments in the reconstruction of Ukraine in cooperation with EU Member States and international financial institutions. These mainly include investments in support of the energy sector, reconstruction and development of infrastructure, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as investments in the social sector, healthcare, etc.

To develop the above system, it will be necessary to involve all relevant departments that participate or may participate in supporting the involvement of the Slovak private sector in foreign markets. The financial capacity of EXIMBANKA SR or SAIDC will play a significant role in this regard. Horizontal active participation of ministries may have a supra-ministerial or legislatively supported inter-ministerial form of management. In this regard, special attention will need to be paid to the preparation of interest presentation in the creation of the budget for NDICI and the Global Gateway project pipeline for the upcoming EU budget period.

Raising awareness and capacity building

One of the main prerequisites for the successful engagement of the private sector in development activities of the Slovak Republic is providing the professional and general public with regular and up-to-date information about the possibilities of Slovak ODA, international financial institutions and development organisations. In this activity, it is necessary to create synergy between several Slovak ODA actors, namely MFEA SR, SAIDC, MoF SR, EXIMBANKA SR and relevant EU bodies. In 2023, the Slovak Business Agency conducted a survey on a sample of 1,000 small and medium-sized Slovak entrepreneurs, the results of which pointed to the fact that more than two-thirds of the surveyed small and medium-sized entrepreneurs do not have enough information about the possibilities of participating in development cooperation projects (68.1%). Slovak business entities therefore lack sufficient information and opportunities to access them, or they do not have any specific experience with participating in any of the schemes offered by Slovak ODA. In cooperation with SAIDC and SARIO, the MFEA SR responded to this fact by organising an annual webinar that provides detailed information on the possibilities of participating in the Private Sector Engagement Programme. In this context, cooperation is also necessary with Slovak Embassies and the network of economic diplomats who monitor and obtain the necessary information directly in their territories, as well as with EXIMBANKA SR, which organises information events and webinars on opportunities in international financial institutions within its mandate as the Private Sector Liaison Officer (PSLO). Emphasis will also be placed on interministerial dialogue on the topic of preparing instruments to support the engagement of business entities in ODA and related budgetary and legislative issues. For example, these are technical assistance instruments for companies to carry out a project feasibility study and to support a consultant in preparing tender documentation when participating in more complex tenders.

09

Humanitarian Aid

Humanitarian aid forms an integral part of development cooperation and aims to alleviate suffering by ensuring that vulnerable and crisis-affected people receive the necessary assistance and protection, and by restoring basic living conditions after emergencies. It is guided by the principles endorsed in UN General Assembly resolutions (46/182 and 58/114). These mainly include:

- **The principle of humanity**, which aims to save human lives and alleviate human suffering where it occurs;
- **The principle of political neutrality**, based on which assistance is provided in a way that does not favour any of the parties to the conflict;
- **The principle of impartiality** sets that assistance must be provided on the basis of needs without regard to nationality, race, religion or other affiliation;
- **The principle of independence** of humanitarian objectives from political, economic, military or other objectives.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) estimates that in 2024, approximately 300 million people in the world need humanitarian aid. This situation is impacted primarily by ongoing conflicts, climate change and its consequences, and economic factors, which significantly contribute

to the increase in humanitarian needs in several crises. Current crises are complex in nature, and therefore cooperation and coordination of relevant actors at both the national and international levels is essential. Linking development, humanitarian and peace interventions is also crucial.

In the Slovak Republic, the provision of humanitarian aid is based on the Development Cooperation Act and the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 310 of 12 April 2006 on the Mechanism for Providing Slovak Humanitarian Aid Abroad (hereinafter referred to as the “Mechanism for Providing Slovak Humanitarian Aid Abroad”). It is guided by the humanitarian principles enshrined in UN General Assembly resolutions 46/182¹⁷⁾ and 58/114¹⁸⁾, the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid¹⁹⁾ and the principles of international humanitarian law.

9.1. Implementers and Partners of Slovak Humanitarian Aid

MFEA SR is the coordinator for international cooperation in relation to other central state administration bodies and other partners as part of responses to humanitarian crises. In humanitarian activities, it provides immediate and post-humanitarian aid through grant calls, as well as financial humanitarian aid using the financial contribution instrument. It also monitors the situation in the affected country through the network of diplomatic missions

¹⁷⁾ A/RES/46/182 (undocs.org)

¹⁸⁾ A/RES/58/114 (undocs.org)

¹⁹⁾ Európsky konsenzus o humanitárnej pomoci | EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

of the Slovak Republic abroad, communicates with aid coordinators and cooperates in the provision of Slovak humanitarian aid.

Mol SR is the provider and logistics coordinator of material humanitarian aid of the Slovak Republic (procurement of materials, management of humanitarian aid warehouses in the Slovak Republic, transport of humanitarian material), the sending organisation of rescue teams (so-called civil protection modules) and provides advisory humanitarian aid through the deployment of experts and the implementation of preventive programmes.

MoD SR, or military units in general and organisations within its founding jurisdiction, provide activities and resources to strengthen and support the provision of humanitarian aid (exchange of information, provision of equipment, transport and other assistance to humanitarian workers, provision of premises for temporary storage of humanitarian aid, coordination and assistance in the distribution of humanitarian aid, construction and renovation of infrastructure for humanitarian needs, humanitarian demining and provision of humanitarian aid).

Other partners include **other central state administration bodies** (such as the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic) and **Slovak humanitarian organisations**. In providing humanitarian aid, the Slovak Republic cooperates with international humanitarian organisations, local institutions and organisations in the country affected by the humanitarian crisis, other donors, as well as other partners.

9.2. Procedure for Providing Humanitarian Aid

Slovak humanitarian aid is currently provided through financial humanitarian aid, material humanitarian aid, expert humanitarian aid and the deployment of rescue teams.

Since the approval of the Mechanism for Providing Slovak Humanitarian Aid Abroad in 2006,

there have been significant changes in the security environment and the nature of humanitarian crises, which are now more complex and multidimensional, which often worsens and prolongs their impacts. The currently valid **Mechanism for Providing Humanitarian Aid requires updating in order to ensure** the flexible and effective provision of Slovak humanitarian aid.

The system for the provision of Slovak humanitarian aid itself has been underfunded for a long time, which reduces our preparedness and prevents a rapid and effective response to crisis situations. It will be necessary to ensure **a gradual increase in financial resources** for the implementation of humanitarian aid activities. In this context, it is also intended to **strengthen cooperation with the private sector** in providing material humanitarian aid.

In order to increase the effectiveness of the Slovak Republic's humanitarian interventions, it will be necessary to **strengthen coordination and communication** between humanitarian aid implementers and partners. In the current system, the provision of humanitarian aid is preceded by a coordination meeting convened as necessary by the Mol SR after consultation with the MFEA SR. Beyond the coordination meetings, the output of which is a response to a specific emergency situation, it is intended to establish a system of regular coordination of implementers and partners in the future, which will focus on increasing preparedness for future crises.

In connection with increasing preparedness to respond to humanitarian requirements abroad, the aim is to **build an effective immediate response instrument**. The instrument will be designed and approved in a participatory and consultative process involving all relevant actors. An important factor will also be increasing personnel and logistical capacities, including transport and storage capacities, which are essential for the successful implementation of these activities. The Slovak Republic is interested in continuing to use the available options within

the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** (hereinafter referred to as the "UCPM") and, if necessary, to actively participate in UCPM interventions. When providing financial humanitarian assistance, the intention is also to build long-term

partnerships with local organisations operating in places of ongoing crises, which will be the basis of the Slovak Republic's actions in accordance with the principles of the HDP nexus.



© Maria Mühl, Kenya, 2021



Health Care, South Sudan, 2018

10

Implementation of the Strategy

The Strategy is adopted for the period until 2030 in accordance with the validity of the 2030 Agenda. By June 2025, the MFEA SR, in cooperation with other development cooperation actors of the Slovak Republic, will develop an **action plan for the implementation of the Strategy**, specifying in more detail the main strategic tasks arising from the Strategy, together with the deadlines for their implementation and responsible managers.

Based on the framework parameters of development cooperation set out in the Strategy, new **cooperation strategies with individual programme countries** will be prepared.

In accordance with the Development Cooperation Act and the Strategy, the MFEA SR will annually prepare, in cooperation with other SlovakAid actors, the **Bilateral Development Cooperation Plan** of the Slovak Republic for the relevant year.

During its validity, the Strategy will be **evaluated and, if necessary, revised**, also in the context of the recommendations that will arise in 2025 from the comprehensive review of development cooperation by the OECD/DAC. The final evaluation of the Strategy will be performed towards the end of the Strategy's validity so that its findings can be used in the creation of the next sixth medium-term Slovak ODA strategy.

10.1. Financing

The Slovak Republic has the ambition to gradually increase the total ODA amount in order to

implement the Strategy and move closer to fulfilling its international commitment to achieve a share of ODA in gross national income (GNI) of 0.33% by 2030, which it has so far significantly lagged behind. The average ODA provided by donor countries associated in the OECD/DAC in 2023 was 0.37%, while Slovak ODA ranged from 0.11% to 0.15% of GNI in 2019-2024. The Slovak Republic also lags slightly behind EU countries with a similar income level and in 2023, when Slovak ODA expenditure reached EUR 162.4 million, it ranked last out of the 32 OECD/DAC member countries. To achieve its commitment of 0.33% of GNI by 2030, Slovak ODA would have to be increased annually by approximately EUR 48 million, which would have meant an increase in total ODA expenditure by almost 30% in 2024.

The aim is to increase the share of bilateral ODA in the total development cooperation of the Slovak Republic, with the ambition to achieve a ratio of bilateral and multilateral ODA of 35: 65%. This will require efforts by all central state administration bodies involved in the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic to increase the bilateral part of ODA, taking into account the absorption capacities of themselves and their partners. The financial provision of expenses for bilateral ODA activities in the next three years is based on indicative allocations within the framework of covered expenses in individual budget chapters. MFEA SR will also promote and encourage other departments involved in the development cooperation activities of the Slovak Republic to increase their budget allocations for bilateral development cooperation activities, taking into account not only absorption and administrative capacities, but also the

progress of public finance consolidation.

Increasing ODA funding would create more space for fulfilling the objectives of this Strategy, including supporting the reconstruction of Ukraine, addressing the root causes of irregular migration in countries of origin and transit, applying for EU delegated cooperation projects, strengthening cooperation with the private sector, and making the contract award instrument operational. The gradual increase in Slovak ODA budget will allow the Slovak Republic to demonstrate in international setting that it has not abandoned its international commitment or its position as a reliable and predictable international partner, and that it is taking measures to gradually fulfil it.

10.2. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Slovak Republic will continue to monitor and evaluate its development cooperation with the aim of improving its effectiveness and quality. The basic framework for monitoring and evaluation is set out in the Strategy for Monitoring and Evaluation of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic adopted in 2014.

Monitoring and control of project activities is carried out by SAIDC in cooperation with Slovak Embassies. Depending on the capacity, employees of the Department for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the MFEA SR also participate in monitoring. In accordance with the contracts on the provision of grants for development projects, monitoring is also carried out by the recipients of ODA funds themselves.

Evaluations will continue to be carried out by external entities with relevant experience in the field of development cooperation evaluation. MFEA SR carries out evaluations based on the annual evaluation plan, which is part of the Bilateral Development Cooperation Plan of the Slovak Republic for the relevant year. The subject of the evaluation may be individual ongoing or completed projects or a group

of projects, development interventions of the Slovak Republic in a selected partner country or in a selected sector, a programme, or the entire strategy. The findings and recommendations resulting from the evaluations are used in making decisions on the future orientation and method of implementing the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic. The evaluation applies internationally recognized criteria: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. Final evaluation reports will continue to be published on the MFEA SR and SAIDC websites in order to increase transparency, accountability and awareness of ODA SR activities. The ambition of the MFEA SR is to carry out at least one evaluation per year.

Monitoring and evaluation can also be carried out by other actors involved in Slovak ODA independently, through an implementing partner or an external evaluator.

10.3. Results-based Management

Despite efforts to adopt a more strategic approach to managing the outputs and results of development interventions, there is room for improvement in the current system of development cooperation of the Slovak Republic. The main limitations include an orientation towards outputs instead of results, while there are no tools for evaluating the overall impact of development interventions on development and the fulfilment of Slovak ODA strategic objectives. Strategic objectives are not sufficiently linked to specific outputs and results of projects, which complicates monitoring of progress and the effectiveness of interventions.

To this end, MFEA SR will prepare a logical framework in 2025, including a set of measurable result indicators, in cooperation with SAIDC and other relevant actors of development cooperation of the Slovak Republic, which will be linked to the strategic objectives set out in the Strategy and evaluated for individual development interventions, as well as comprehensively at the level of project

calls, territories, programmes and the Strategy itself. The Slovak Republic will follow the findings and recommendations of the OECD.²⁰⁾

The long-term goal is to gradually introduce a results-based management system that will be applicable across all Slovak institutions involved in development cooperation activities, so that it will be possible to quantify the common results of the Slovak development cooperation policy in various territorial and sectoral areas.

10.4. Communication and Awareness Raising

The successful implementation of the Strategy's objectives depends on the active involvement of all development cooperation actors, as well as the mobilisation of support from both the professional and general public. For this reason, the Slovak Republic will pay increased attention to clear, targeted, systematic, apolitical and proactive communication about the goals and results of the Slovak Republic's development cooperation and SlovakAid activities, as well as about the global challenges of sustainable development, the positive impacts of development cooperation on aid recipients and benefits for the Slovak population, and about the importance of ODA from the perspective of foreign and economic policy and building a positive image of the Slovak Republic abroad.

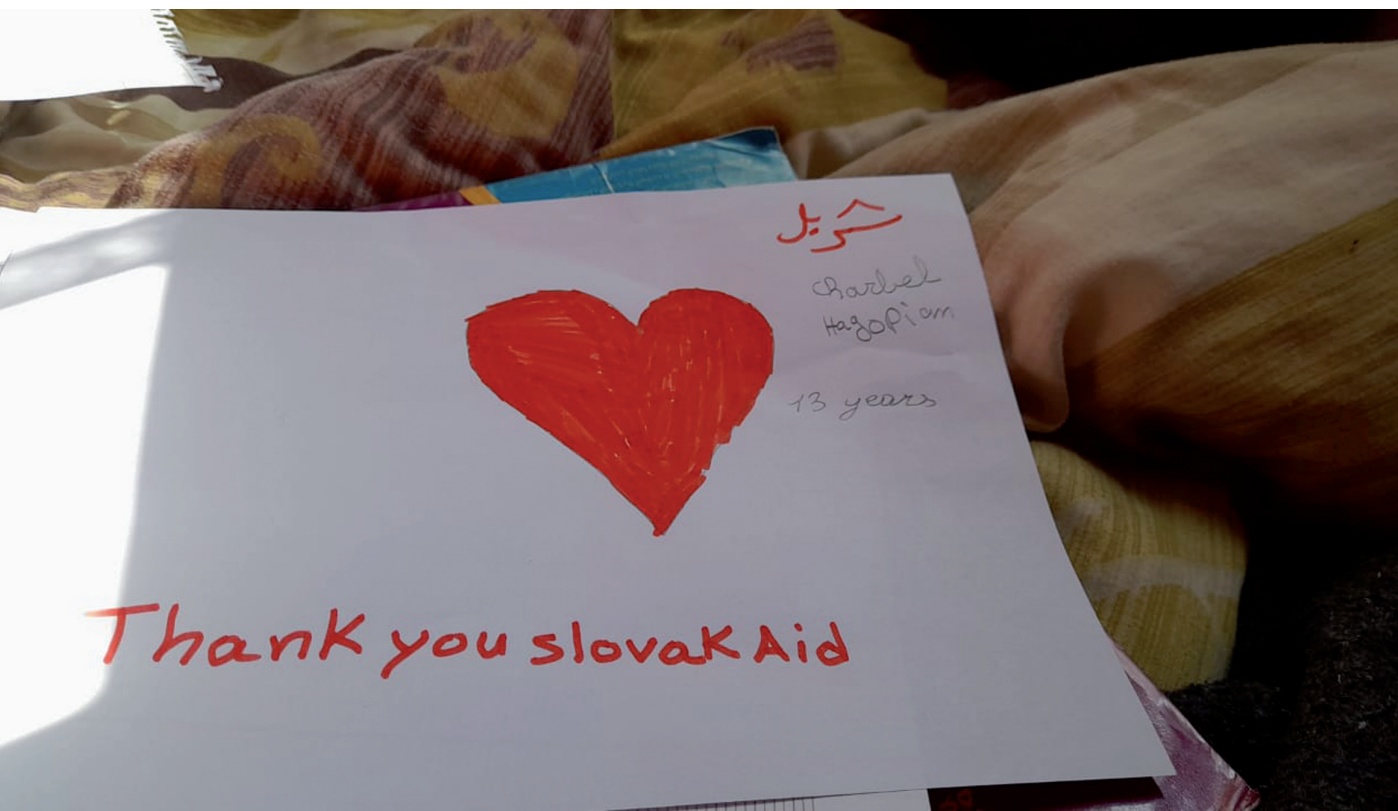
The Slovak Republic will work to raise awareness, mainly through traditional and digital

media, social networks, professional conferences, popularisation and educational events for young people and students as well as the general public, and global education projects. The communication also includes the use of a unified identity and SlovakAid logo by all development cooperation actors, including ministries and other central state administration bodies. In order to increase the involvement of entrepreneurs in development cooperation, the MFEA SR, in cooperation with SAIDC, EXIMBANKA SR, MoF SR, SARIO and other relevant actors, will actively present to the private sector the possibilities of participating in development cooperation projects and calls and tenders of international organisations. Last but not least, the Slovak Republic will also focus on raising awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in accordance with the Communication Strategy for the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, which was developed in cooperation with the OECD.

For the purpose of transparency and accountability, the MFEA SR will regularly inform about the results of Slovak ODA through materials submitted for the attention of the Slovak Government: 1) the annual report and 2) the report on the implementation of the OECD/DAC recommendations. SAIDC will present and evaluate the results of its activities through SAIDC annual reports. The Slovak Republic will also continue to publish data on the ODA provided through regular reporting of ODA statistics to the OECD and the EU.



²⁰⁾ In 2023, a bilateral project was carried out between the OECD and the MFEA SR, within which the OECD provided expert advisory services on the assessment and potential strengthening of results-based management in Slovakia's development cooperation, with an emphasis on the introduction of results indicators.





© MFEA SR, Informal tent settlement in Al Faour, Lebanon, 2021



Environmental care, North Macedonia, 2020



Humanitarian aid, Ukraine, 2022



Construction of water wells, Iraq, 2022

List of Abbreviations

UNSC	United Nations Security Council
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
EDFI	European Development Financial Institutions
EÚ	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HDP nexus	Humanitarian, development and peace nexus
GNI	Gross National Income
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
KfW/DEG	Deutsche Investitions und Entwicklungsgesellschaft
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MoF SR	Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
MoD SR	Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic
Mol SR	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
MFEA SR	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
NDICI Global Europe	Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECD/DAC	Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
UN	United Nations
PPP	Private Sector Engagement Programme
SAIDC	Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation
SARIO	SSlovak Investment and Trade Development Agency
SDGs	CSustainable Development Goals
SR	Slovak Republic
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument
UCPM	Union Civil Protection Mechanism
UIF	Ukraine Investment Framework
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



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