



Evaluation of Polish Development Aid

Provided through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland in 2012-2015

PALESTINE



The evaluation study aimed to determine the effectiveness, sustainability, utility and relevance of Polish Development Aid provided to Palestine (Gaza and the West Bank) in 2012-2015 and to make recommendations based on its conclusions.

Methodology

The evaluation was mainly based on field studies:

- ⇒ interviews with key actors of the process – administration and the third sector,
- ⇒ questionnaire surveys conducted with project participants in Palestine,
- ⇒ ethnographic research,
- ⇒ in-depth analysis of 8 projects.

Other methods applied:

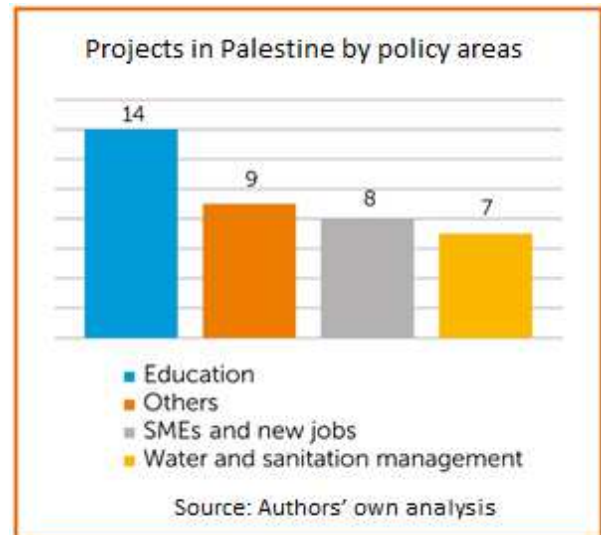
- ⇒ desk research,
- ⇒ panels of experts,
- ⇒ SWOT analysis,
- ⇒ a total of 5 case studies, of which 2 were analysed in depth,
- ⇒ benchmarking against Great Britain.

The most important criteria for selecting benchmarking country

- ⇒ membership of OECD/DAC
- ⇒ donor's significance for the beneficiary
- ⇒ existence of a development aid agency,
- ⇒ the way aid is monitored

In 2012-2015, a total of 38 projects were implemented using PDA funds in Palestine, of which:

- ⇒ 8 projects in 2012,
- ⇒ 10 projects in 2013,
- ⇒ 11 projects in 2014,
- ⇒ 9 projects in 2015.



Research results

The study has shown that Polish Development Aid is highly efficient

- ⇒ Projects and their impact are positively assessed by the beneficiaries and participants of project initiatives.
- ⇒ As a rule, the sustainability of projects, especially infrastructural ones, has been maintained chiefly because they were adapted to fit the beneficiaries' needs.
- ⇒ The implemented projects also owe their success to cooperation with a tried and tested local partner.

PDA was adapted to fit local conditions and needs by applying the partnership principle (ownership/empowerment) and the model of participatory support.

The key factors determining the **sustainability** of Polish projects are:

- ⇒ adjusting to the beneficiaries' real needs (e.g. contributing financially to expanding an existing business),
- ⇒ requiring beneficiaries to make a contribution, however small,
- ⇒ first effects visible immediately – a motivating element,
- ⇒ remaining in regular contact with beneficiaries after the projects were completed in order to provide support to further initiatives.

Polish Development Aid in Palestine

STRENGTHS

- ⇒ direct effects of implemented projects are visible and sustainable
- ⇒ project assumptions and targets are consistent with the country's conditions
- ⇒ contacts are easily made and representatives of Polish organizations/institutions are widely accessible to the beneficiaries of support and to local partner organizations
- ⇒ professionalism of activities undertaken by the diplomatic mission
- ⇒ extensive experience of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of development projects in other countries which can be applied to Palestine's conditions
- ⇒ flexible rules of implementing projects (possible modification of ways to implement projects)
- ⇒ Polish aid is very visible at the local level

The analysis of the capacity of Polish institutions involved in development aid in Palestine shows that they are prepared for engaging in larger initiatives.

Polish development aid in Palestine

Despite positive opinions on the work and professionalism of institutions involved in PDA, cooperation with other donors is impeded due to financial limitations (small projects) and lack of multiannual financing (a short period of implementing of development initiatives).

The research results also indicate the need of further development of the system of PDA impact monitoring and evaluating (long-term impact).

Polish Development Aid in Palestine

WEAKNESSES

- ⇒ support is dispersed
- ⇒ implementation of small projects (broader and long-term intervention impact, including the impact on image at national and regional levels, is more difficult to accomplish)
- ⇒ temporariness, no permanent presence of Polish organizations on the ground
- ⇒ lack of a visible synergy impact of the projects
- ⇒ not enough focus is placed by promotion and information initiatives on presenting the impact
- ⇒ poorly developed cooperation with the private sector
- ⇒ insufficient PDA visibility in Poland

Other barriers:

- ⇒ lack of synergy with other PDA projects as well as with other donors' initiatives,
- ⇒ complex political situation affecting the sustainability of projects,
- ⇒ increasing support for projects in the area of entrepreneurship,
- ⇒ delegating tasks relating to PDA implementation by the MFA to an external institution (public or private),
- ⇒ greater focus of the Small Projects System on PDA strategic tasks and finding ways to cooperate with other aid donors,
- ⇒ strengthening the evaluation system, par-

OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ enthusiasm, engagement and a high level of mobilization among local partner organizations and support beneficiaries
- ⇒ high awareness of benefits from pro-development initiatives among support beneficiaries
- ⇒ beneficiaries' great creativity and innovation capacity as well as their operational flexibility
- ⇒ openness of Polish organizations/institutions to cooperation with other donors (countries or international organizations)

Key study recommendations

Strategic recommendations (systemic issues):

- ⇒ spending on Polish development aid should be increased,
- ⇒ implementing a smaller number of projects but with a bigger budget and limited to a selected specialization,

ticularly with respect to project impact evaluation (long-term project impact).

Operational recommendations:

- ⇒ increasing the initiatives' synergy thanks to developing project complementarity with other donors' activity,
- ⇒ introducing changes to the organization of follow-up visits,
- ⇒ reviewing procedures to faster start projects during a budget year,
- ⇒ taking into account the influence of local conflicts on the implementation of projects – preparation by applicants of a risk management model,
- ⇒ in the evaluation of the projects, putting additional premium on factors boosting sustainability,
- ⇒ more active promotion of project impacts,
- ⇒ increasing the use of various media to promote PDA.

The evaluation report is published on the MFA website: www.polskapomoc.gov.pl

The research has been conducted by the Idea of Development Foundation over June-December 2016

I D E A

Fundacja IDEA Rozwoju
Wierzbica 57b, 05-140 poczta Serock

@ → biuro@ideaorg.eu
WWW → www.ideaorg.eu