

Training for Young Diplomats from developing countries

As a response to growing interest by developing countries, the MFA has regularly organised training courses for young diplomats since 2006. In 2008, the fourth round took place with 24 trainees – foreign services officers from 15 countries: Afghanistan, the Palestinian Autonomy, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Moldova, Namibia, Republic of South Africa, Ukraine and Turkmenistan.

During the four-week-long training course, the young diplomats attended lectures and participated in discussions on international co-operation, democratization as well as modes of resolving social and economic problems in developing countries. They also had a chance to work on the practical dimension of diplomatic work.

The Konstanty Kalinowski Scholarship Programme of the Polish Government

The Konstanty Kalinowski Scholarship Programme was launched in March 2006 on the basis of the letter of intent signed by Prime Minister K. Marcinkiewicz, the Belarusian presidential candidate in the 2006 elections, A. Milinkiewicz, representatives of the Conference of Rectors of Polish Universities and the Conference of Rectors of Polish Higher Education Institutions. The aim of the programme is to facilitate continuation of studies for Belarusian students who were expelled from their home universities as a result of their engagement in the defence of democratic values.

Currently the programme covers approximately 300 Belarusian students. They are exempt from university fees, dormitory rents as well as from fees for preparatory courses and language courses. Additionally, the students can participate in a rich cultural programme which is also free of charge. The scholarship programme is implemented as a collaborative effort of The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Centre for East European Studies at Warsaw University.

Belsat TV

Belsat TV is the first foreign satellite channel of Telewizja Polska (Polish Television). The programme is created by a team of Polish and Belarusian journalists. The decision to start Belsat TV was a consequence of a need to broaden Belarusian people's access to independent information. At the moment, Belsat TV is the only TV station which broadcasts in the Belarusian language. The channel was officially launched on December 10, 2007 and has been financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland ever since.

The aim of Belsat TV is to create a varied, modern and attractive programme offer for Belarusian viewers. This offer includes news broadcasts, critical journalism, documentaries, satirical programmes, TV series and feature films. In order to meet the channel's requirements, own production of critical journalism and documentary programmes has been organised, including the news feature *Obiektyw* transmitted live from Warsaw at 18.00, 21.00 and 24.00 EET. In collaboration with the Lithuanian State TV, production of a weekly critical journalism programme *Forum* has been organised.

Development Education

The Development Co-operation Department of the MFA has supported Polish NGOs and educational institutions involved in raising awareness of development-related issues within the Polish society since 2005.

In 2008, the fourth round of the call for proposals for development education projects was launched in order to finance projects of Polish NGOs that were directed to particular groups within the Polish society.

The fourth round was broadened with a new initiative – the competition „Science for Development” carried out by Partners Polska Foundation. The competition enabled young scientists to apply for co-financing of participation in development co-operation conferences organised abroad. Last year's initiatives (summer schools for students and weekend workshops on development issues) were successfully continued: the Global Development Research Group prepared event offer for Warsaw and Angelus Silesius House carried out sessions in the Wrocław area. Moreover, the National In-Service Teacher Training Center organised yet another series of trainings in global education directed to teachers and methodologists from across Poland.

2nd Forum of Polish Development Co-operation

In September 2008 the Development Co-operation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland organised 2nd Forum of Polish Development Co-operation, open to the general public. The Forum presented Poland's assistance for developing countries and was officially inaugurated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Radosław Sikorski. Over 40 organisations, partners of the MFA, exhibited their achievements in the area in exposition tents installed in Warsaw's Krakowskie Przedmieście. The exhibitors were both NGOs and public institutions. 2nd Forum offered an extensive educational and cultural programme: competitions on the main stage, education workshops for children and youth, debates as well as discussions with experts on current dilemmas surrounding development assistance. The event also featured a live radio broadcast of the popular Radio 3 programme „Report on the State of the World”, simulated field hospital operations, Food Force computer game sessions, free documentaries shown in the „Rejs” cinema, stands with Armenian and Ukrainian cuisine, regional music and dance shows from recipient countries and a strong note at the end – live show of the Belarusian rock band N.R.M.

Exposition „Polish aid for the world”

In 2008 the Development Co-operation Department once again prepared its annual exposition covering photographic documentation of development assistance projects co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2007 and relating to different areas of development assistance: education, health, water, professional activities of women, economic reforms and improvement in the functioning of public administration as well as civil society.

Our websites

www.polskapomoc.gov.pl and www.polishaid.gov.pl

A special website launched in 2006 is entirely devoted to Polish assistance activities. The website, available in Polish and English, presents up-to-date information on Poland's involvement in development co-operation, humanitarian aid and activities aimed at promoting the ideals of democracy and civil society. It is mainly directed to the NGOs and central and local administration entities which carry out assistance projects in co-operation with the MFA but can also be a source of valuable information for all people interested in development assistance.

Our structure

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the co-ordination of Polish aid activities. Programming and implementation of the Polish aid programme is carried out by the Development Co-operation Department of the MFA. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education are also engaged in assistance activities.



Polish Robert Schuman Foundation, PROJECT: Europe in Ukrainian media, Poland 2008



Polish Humanitarian Organisation Foundation, PROJECT: Provision of safe drinking water to the IDPs and host communities in West Darfur, Sudan 2008



Foundation of Borderland Culture, PROJECT: European Neighbourhood, Ukraine 2008

Photo on the cover: Polish Embassy in New Delhi, PROJECT: Maintenance of the school for leprosy children and the Leprosy Care Centre, Puri, India 2008



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POLISH AID 2008
**Activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Poland**

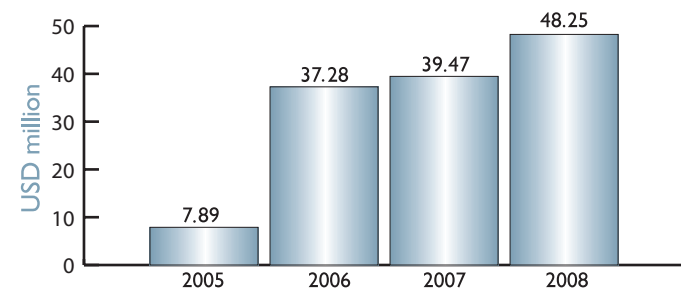
POLISH AID 2008

Activities implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Poland has consistently increased its foreign assistance for several years. In 2007, the total amount of Poland's Official Development Aid (ODA) reached the level of PLN 1.01 billion (USD 362.83 million), an equivalent of 0.09% per cent of GDP.

In 2008 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has administered funds amounting to **PLN 110 million (USD 48.25 million)** for co-financing development co-operation activities as well as activities supporting the construction of democracy and civil society.

Funds administrated by MFA in years 2005-2008



We endeavour to assure that Polish foreign assistance functions in accordance with the rules set out in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness:

Ownership – partner countries exercise effective authority over their development policies and strategies and co-ordinate development actions;

Alignment – donors base their overall support on partner countries, national development strategies, institutions, and procedures;

Harmonization – donors strive to provide well co-ordinated assistance;

Managing for results – assistance is managed and implemented by both donors and partner countries in a way that focuses on desired results and uses information to improve decision-making;

Mutual accountability – donors and partner countries accept mutual accountability for development results.

Activity map

- Belarus
- Ukraine
- Georgia
- Afghanistan
- Moldova
- Palestinian Autonomy
- Angola
- Tanzania
- Western Balkans
- Africa
- Countries of Central Asia and Southern Caucasus
- Countries of Central and South America

Projects

The MFA co-finances foreign assistance projects carried out by:

- NGOs, higher education institutions;
 - central government agencies;
 - local government agencies;
 - Polish embassies (Small Grants Fund)
- in co-operation with partners in recipient countries.

Scope of activities

The scope of project-based activities encompasses:

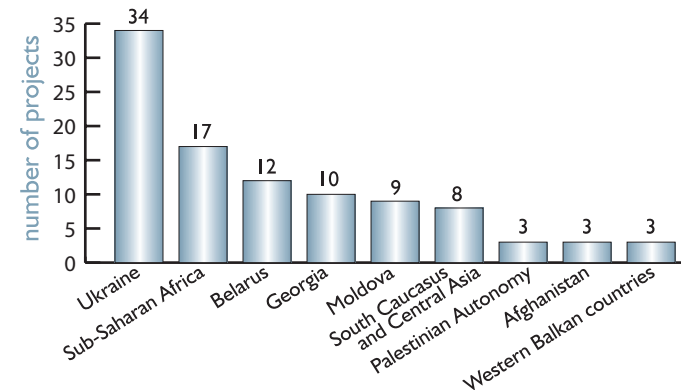
- support for economic transformation, in particular: development of entrepreneurship, agriculture, environmental protection and power industry;
- institutional support for both central and local government institutions;
- support for cross-border co-operation and local partnerships.

The scope of activities depends on the type of entity co-operating with the MFA in implementation of the programme as well as on the recipient country. NGOs' activities are mostly focused on supporting civil society institutions. Projects undertaken by central and local administration agencies chiefly consist in sharing experience acquired by these institutions.

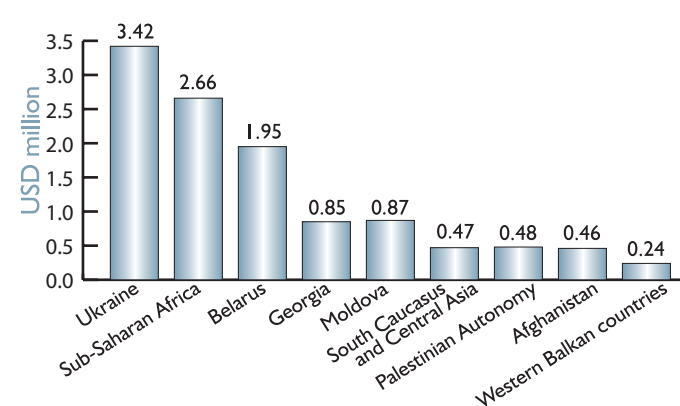
Co-operation with NGOs

In 2008 NGOs submitted over 300 foreign assistance project proposals. Most of the projects concerned assistance activities in Ukraine and Belarus.

Assistance projects carried out by NGOs and co-financed by the MFA in 2008



Volume of subventions for assistance projects granted to NGOs in 2008 (USD million)



Co-operation with NGOs also covers humanitarian aid and development education activities.

Co-operation with central government agencies

In 2008 central government agencies submitted about 130 applications for partial or complete financing of foreign assistance projects. The majority of the applications concerned Ukraine as the recipient country.

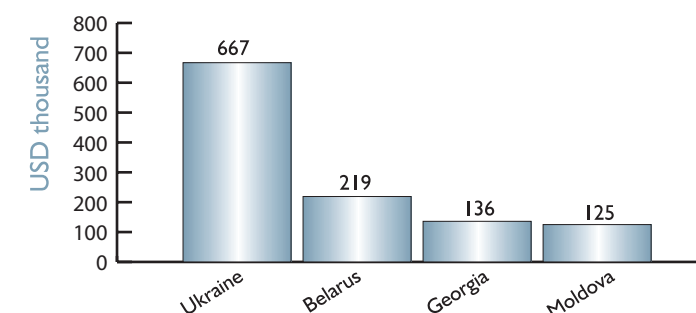
Region	Number of donations	Volume of donations (USD)
Ukraine	28	3 355 679,53
Afghanistan	24	1 827 254,65
Georgia	12	883 042,22
Africa and Middle East	9	702 295,17
Moldova	8	574 355,16
South Caucasus and Central Asia	6	218 470,61
Belarus	4	237 033,07
Western Balkan countries	2	483 393,23
Other countries	5	902 041,90

The projects concerned most of all improvement of institutional capacities of central administration entities, integration with the EU, support for the agricultural sector and infrastructural endeavours.

Co-operation with local government institutions

In 2008, 35 applications for implementation of foreign assistance projects were filed by local government institutions.

Volume of subventions for assistance projects granted to local administration in 2008 (USD thousand)



The projects were predominantly aimed at strengthening local administration, supporting regional development and co-operation between local administration bodies as well as enhancing cross-border co-operation.

Co-operation with Polish embassies – Small Grants Fund

The Small Grants Fund facilitates co-financing for assistance activities initiated at the local level (in recipient countries). Projects financed as part of the Small Grants Fund submitted by Polish embassies which are consistently more active in implementation of assistance projects. The Fund most often supports small scale projects concerning fields like education, health protection, access to potable water or agriculture: projects which offer significant improvement in local communities, everyday life.

In 2008 Polish embassies received funds to implement 147 assistance projects, the majority of which concerned African and Middle Eastern countries (42 projects).

Region	Number of projects	Volume of projects (USD)
Africa and Middle East	42	1 989 903,22
South Caucasus and Asia	25	924 605,81
Ukraine	16	221 790,44
Belarus	15	190 462,25
Latin America and Caribbean	11	232 790,87
Georgia	10	223 936,79
Afghanistan	9	174 518,79
Moldova	7	229 766,70
Western Balkan countries	7	278 677,67
Angola	5	234 825,88

Humanitarian aid (selected activities)

Ukraine – a disastrous flood which affected the west of Ukraine (the Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zakarpattia, Chernivtsi and Vinnytsia oblasts) at the end of July 2008 resulted in casualties among humans and considerable material damage. According to official data from the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, 38 people were killed or missing without a trace in what was labelled in Ukraine as „the century's worst flood". The disaster also destroyed transportation infrastructure including bridges, hundreds of kilometres of motorways and railways. The flood's aftermath led the MFA to transfer financial aid amounting to **PLN 1.5 million (USD 658 thousand)** to the Ukrainian government. Additionally, rescue operations in Ukraine were performed by two units of the Polish State Fire Service.

Georgia – in reaction to the difficult situation of the people of Georgia in the wake of the military conflict, Poland transferred medical aid for hospitals in the most severely affected areas. The aid was transported by air from Warsaw to Tbilisi on August 14, 2008 thanks to the MFA's co-operation with the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Interior and Administration and Caritas Poland. The shipment included disinfectants, medicines, medical equipment (including splints), blood-borne medical products with a total weight of 4.7 tonnes. Receipt and distribution of the humanitarian aid was handled by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tbilisi.

Burma/Myanmar – late at night on May 2, 2008 Burma/Myanmar was hit with cyclone Nargis and thus affected by the most severe humanitarian disaster in the country's history. Asia had not experienced such a violent cyclone since 1991. The disaster affected approximately 2.5 million people and the UN estimates that about 140 thousand persons were killed or regarded as missing and a further 600 thousand were resettled as a result of the cyclone. Many towns and villages were levelled to the ground, including the country's capital, Rangun. Taking into account the tragic outcome of cyclone Nargis, the Minister of Foreign Affairs decided to grant the affected population of Burma humanitarian aid amounting to **PLN 500 thousand (USD 220 thousand)**. The aid was transferred to UNICEF, international assistance co-ordinator, as this was deemed the fastest way for Polish aid to assist the people of Burma.