

## PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN OTHER RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

### AZERBAIJAN

#### Community-based first aid Polish Red Cross

The initiative is aimed at increasing the security of Azerbaijan's local communities in the Sheki-Zagatala region through improvement of first aid tuition. The project's objective is to increase the potential of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) by volunteer training, organisation of events, articles promoting education on first aid, as well as development of appropriate training materials and distribution of first aid kits. The relevant experience of the Polish Red Cross (PCK) is the basis of the process: during a consulting visit and remote advisory PCK instructors pass over first aid skills and knowledge to the members of ARCS.

### KAZAKHSTAN

#### Development of ecological and good citizenship education in Kazakh part of Altai

##### Rominicka Forest Foundation

The project was implemented in the border region of Katon-Karagai at the foot of the Altai mountains, where most inhabitants make a living out of extensive farming. The aim of the initiative was construction of an active and democratic civil society which is fully aware of its role in the region and respects the principles of sustainable growth in order to protect the natural environment. Thanks to this implementation, representatives of local administration and active citizens became involved in the process of creation of a working strategy for Katon-Karagai National Park. In co-operation with the local partner, an information centre and a library were created for the region's inhabitants.

### KYRGYZSTAN

#### The drinkable water supply increase Kochkor-Ata city. Phase I – well's renovation

##### East European Democratic Centre

In the town of Kochkor-Ata water used to be rationed only at particular times of the day and it did not reach all the city's inhabitants (25,000 people). Due to poor water management and technical difficulties, water supply was the most expensive in the whole country. Project activities covered renovation of 10 wells and were supplemented with workshops on environmentally conscious water management in the region. Thanks to the initiative, permanent access to potable water was ensured resulting in the improvement of health conditions for the local community.

## POLISH AID VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME

In 2008 the MFA launched Polish aid volunteering programme which aim is to support direct engagement of Polish citizens in development assistance and dissemination of knowledge of development-related problems in the Polish society.

#### The following actors are engaged in the Programme:

- Volunteers;
- Polish organisations which send volunteers to work on particular projects;
- Partner organisations in recipient countries;
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the financing entity.

The pilot scheme of the programme grouped 30 volunteers who implemented 19 projects in, among others: Armenia, Mongolia, Georgia and Ukraine.

#### Examples of projects from the Programme's pilot scheme:

Country	Armenia
Sending Institution	Gajusz Foundation
Receiving Institution	Pain Control & Palliative Care Association
Title	Volunteering for the Incurable

The project is in line with the broadly understood development of the hospice movement in Armenia, and is managed by Gajusz Foundation. The local partner in the project was the Armenia's only hospice for adults. For 3 months 2 volunteers from Poland with extensive hospice experience popularised the idea of volunteering and free-of charge care for patients. The persons dealt with recruitment of prospective volunteers from among secondary school students and representatives of the Polish minority in Armenia. A series of meetings and presentations on the topic were organised. Active involvement of the two volunteers also popularised the idea among the staff of the hospice.

Country	Mongolia
Sending Institution	Salesian Mission Centre in Warsaw
Receiving Institution	Don Bosco Technical Skills Center c/o Catholic Church Mission
Title	Assistance for the street children in Ulan Bator, Mongolia

The main task of the volunteers was to work with children in receiving institution in Ulan Bator. The volunteers conducted holiday activities for children (English language classes, sports and games, art classes, dance and theatrical workshops), and assisted in development and on-going management of the institutions as well as improvement of personnel's teaching and first aid qualifications.

Country	Georgia
Sending Institution	Polish Medical Mission
Receiving Institution	Camillian's Mission in Georgia
Title	Rehabilitation assistance in the St. Camillus House in Georgia

A Polish volunteer – specialised in special education and therapy of disabled, worked with people with special needs in St. Camillus House and trained other volunteers and staff in: occupational therapy, movement therapy and basics of sign language. The volunteer also conducted a survey in order to create a database of disabled persons from Temka district in Tbilisi. At the end of the project, a guide with a good practice examples was compiled.

Country	Georgia
Sending Institution	Angelus Silesius' Meeting House
Receiving Institution	People in Need
Title	Volunteering in the Sustainable Development Programme in Tbilisi

As part of the project one of the volunteers monitored activities of the People in Need organisation. She also carried out social consultations and gave presentations on tourism and environmental protection in schools. Additionally, the volunteer collected the necessary information and worked out a concept of a farming project. Subsequently, she implemented all components of the project single-handedly (the project encompassed: organisation of seminars and training courses, IT and English courses).

#### Training for Young Diplomats

In September 2008 the Development Co-Operation Department of the MFA, in collaboration with the Diplomatic Academy of the Polish Institute of International Affairs, organised a training for young diplomats from the partner countries. It was the fourth round of the training, attended by, among others, foreign service officers from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, 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 the diplomatic work and to learn about the functioning of the MFA's territorial departments, including directions of Polish foreign policy towards their countries. The training is a regular element of Polish aid programme and it will be continued in the future.

#### Implementation of a Study Tour for Young Elites from Former USSR and post-communist countries

As part of the project conducted by the Centre for Eastern European Studies at Warsaw University, a group of young academics from Eastern Europe, Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia was broadening their historical and political knowledge, but also studied elements of the history of art, literature, culture, sociology, geography, demographics, law and economy. Supervised by experts, the young people benefit from postgraduate studies integrated with the Polish curriculum; they attend lectures, seminars, conferences and a Polish language courses. Selected students have an opportunity to benefit from internships offered by Polish public and non-governmental institutions.

#### HUMANITARIAN AID

##### Kyrgyzstan

A strong earthquake shook the southern part of Kyrgyzstan at the beginning of January 2008. Its epicentre was located in the Fergana Valley, in the Osh region. According to the Kyrgyz Ministry of Emergency Situations, the earthquake reached 5.6 degrees in the Richter scale and damaged over one thousand buildings. According to the Kyrgyz Red Crescent Society almost 2 thousand families were evacuated. The disaster happened in the midst of the frosty winter which additionally worsened the situation of the affected population.

The government of Poland supported the victims of the disaster by transferring more than USD 37 thousand to the Kyrgyz Red Crescent Society. The donation was utilised to purchase staple foods which distribution to the affected areas was a joint effort of the MFA, the Regional Centre of the Red Crescent, the Kyrgyz Ministry for Emergency Situations as well as the local leaders. The aid reached over 300 families in 4 locations of the Osh region.

##### Georgia

The group who suffered the most from the Russian-Georgian conflict in 2008 were the civilians in the area of military actions. Also the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees on the territory of Georgia increased. Poland donated medical aid for hospitals in the most severely affected areas. The first shipment was dispatched immediately (before August 15, 2008), thanks to the efficient co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Health, The Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Interior and Administration and Caritas Poland. The further shipments of aid coming from the Polish government, the Chancellery of the President as well as NGOs reached Georgia within the next few days. The value of donated medicines and medical items have exceeded USD 77 thousand. The reception and distribution of aid in Georgia was assisted by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tbilisi.

Moreover, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland supported relief activities conducted by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) with USD 283 thousand. Additionally, Poland paid a targeted contribution of USD 107 thousand into the Office of High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with the aim of provision for humanitarian aid to Chechen refugees on the Georgian territory.

##### Ukraine and Moldova

The floods in Central and Eastern Europe in July 2008 affected Ukraine and Moldova very severely. In Ukraine, a few dozen people lost their lives. The material damage was estimated at USD 1 billion. Nearly 920 bridges were seriously affected or completely destroyed; 700 kilometres of roads and more than 50 kilometres of rail tracks were destroyed. In reaction to the tragic events the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland transferred to the Ukrainian government financial aid amounting to USD 644 thousand. The Polish Ministry of Interior and Administration took instant action and commenced relief activities in Ukraine with two units of the Polish State Fire Service. The rescue team consisted of 70 firemen and 40 cars with trailers.

In Moldova, a few hundred buildings were damaged and large area of crops was seriously affected. In reaction to the disaster's aftermath and to the appeal by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Poland transferred USD 215 thousand to co-finance relief actions. This assistance helped the Moldovan Red Cross to provide temporary shelters and access to potable water for the affected population.



Gajusz Foundation  
Polish aid volunteering programme, Armenia 2008



Prince Konstanty Ostrogski Foundation  
PROJECT: Open Chances – Activisation and support of endangered social communities. Small bakery in Grodno, Belarus 2008



Educational Society of Malopolska  
PROJECT: Active Youth are Ukraine's Future.  
Volunteers at Job Fair in Charkov, Ukraine 2008



Foundation for Intercultural Education  
PROJECT: Development of agro-tourism in Pankisi Yavakhetia  
International Tourist Fair Tour Salon, Poznan 2008



Humanitarian Aid for Georgia: medical equipment  
Loading of the CASA 295M plane, Warsaw 2008

#### Photo on the cover:

1. Gajusz Foundation  
Polish aid volunteering programme, Armenia 2008
2. Belarusian Radio Racyja, Bialystok 2008

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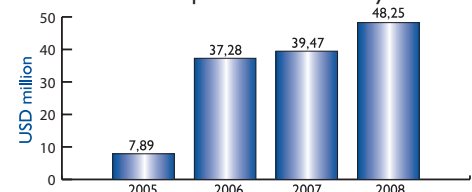


Polish aid:  
Co-operation with Eastern Europe,  
South Caucasus and Central Asia

## Polish aid: Co-operation with Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia

In 2007, Poland's Official Development Assistance (ODA) amounted to PLN 1.005 billion. The Polish aid transferred by the Ministry of Foreign affairs has been increasing systematically since 2004.

The value of MFA's development assistance in years 2005–2008



Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia are Polish aid's priority recipients in the East. A smaller scale of assistance is also provided to the countries of Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.

### Human Development Index 2007/2008

1. Island
2. Norway
3. Australia
4. Canada
5. Ireland
37. Poland
64. Belarus
67. Russian Federation
73. Kazakhstan
76. Ukraine
83. Armenia
96. Georgia
98. Azerbaijan
109. Turkmenistan
111. Moldova
113. Uzbekistan
114. Mongolia
116. Kyrgyzstan
112. Tajikistan

#### Human Development Index (HDI)

– a socio-economic index of the development of a given country. It is periodically calculated by the United Nations Development Programme and it permits governments to monitor changes in development occurring over a time. HDI is a comparative measure of the following factors: life expectancy, level of education (measured according to adult literacy rate), gross enrolment ratio and GDP per capita (adjusted according to the local costs of living).

Assistance projects are implemented predominantly through NGOs, central government agencies, local government agencies, Polish embassies as well as through multilateral channels.

### SELECTED PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AS PART OF MFA'S POLISH AID PROGRAMME IN PRIORITY COUNTRIES

#### BELARUS

According to the HDI index, Belarus occupies 64. position out of 177 countries ranked by the United Nations Development Programme. The Polish support for the Belarusian community results from the countries' proximity and the complicated internal situation in Belarus.

#### Polish assistance in the Republic of Belarus covers:

- support for the free media;
- development of civil society;
- support for independent Belarusian culture and Belarusian language;
- development of local government;
- scholarships.

#### “Open prospects” – Open Chances – Activation and support of endangered social communities

##### Prince Konstanty Ostrogski Foundation

The aim of this project is to assist local women's organisations in co-creation of workplaces within small-projects implemented in six locations across Belarus: the centre for hippotherapy in Tarasov, small-bakery in Grodno, a mobile cafe in Lida, agrotouristic centre in the vicinity of Nesvizh, herbalism in Volkovysk and window fitting in Staryi Sielo. The common feature of all these small-projects is their capacity to create workplaces for the unemployed as well as the social nature of the enterprises (the profits are equally allocated to the further development of enterpris-

es as well as women's organisations working for the benefits of the needy). This kind of support is provided for both individuals who struggle with unemployment in small towns and villages, as well as women's organisations who assist the groups threatened with social marginalisation. In order to facilitate exchange of experiences, the project leaders had an opportunity to learn about similar initiatives which are successfully implemented in Poland.

#### BELARUSIAN RADIO RACYJA

“You're listening to Radia Racyja – the voice of free Belarus. The radio station created by Belarusians for Belarusians” – for the first time this line was broadcasted on February 22, 2006 and instantly became the trademark of the Belarusian Radio, brought back to life after a few years' break. The project dates back to 1998 and has been revived thanks to the support of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 2007, Radio Racyja has broadcast non-stop and the enhanced 98.1 FM signal can be heard in the following Belarusian cities: Grodno, Skidel, Scucyn, Mosty, Svisloch, Volkovysk, Zelva, Vysokye. The station also broadcasts two-hour-long, short wave programmes (6145 kHz), with reception in the whole country (18.30–20.30 EET). Radio Racyja's undoubted asset is a user-friendly, clear and extensive information website [www.racyja.com](http://www.racyja.com). The site supports real time broadcasts in a number of sound qualities suitable for different Internet connection bandwidths.

#### BELSAT TV

On December 10, 2007 on the Human Rights Day, Belsat TV Belarus' first independent TV station created by Belarusian journalists in Belarusian language started broadcasting. The aim of a joint project of Poland's MFA and TVP S.A. (the Polish national TV) is to create an alternative source of information for the Belarusian society. Beside news and journalism, the programme offers series promoting Belarusian culture, historical documentaries, entertainment programmes, films and series. The project is Europe's largest assistance endeavour in this particular field. The programme is broadcasted six hours per day – from 18.00 to 24.00 Belarusian time (GMT+2) through Sirius satellite (position 50 E, polarisation H, frequency 12 379,6 MHz) and Astra 1Kr satellite (position 19,2 deg. E, polarisation H, frequency 10773 MHz). The Belsat TV website can be found at: [www.belsat.eu](http://www.belsat.eu).

#### UKRAINE

In 2004 Ukraine underwent a deep political transformation which has triggered socio-economic reforms. The reforms, however, are disrupted by a serious government crisis which results in growing social discontent about the Republic's internal situation (76. position in the HDI ranking). For Poland, development of democracy in Ukraine, the country's complete sovereignty and its collaboration with European and Atlantic structures are of the crucial importance.

#### Priority assistance areas:

- social reforms (changes in the educational system, the youth exchange, reform of pension and health care systems, support for the homeless and the disabled);
- local government and territorial reform (including regional and cross-border co-operation);
- strengthening of central administration institutions;
- civil society building;
- reform of the economic system;
- development of agriculture and rural areas;
- support for population protection and co-operation in the field of relief services.

#### Active youth are Ukraine's Future Educational Society for Malpolska

The outcome of the project is creation of six Centres of Youth Activity (CAM) and more than ten Public Achievement Groups (PA). The Centres of Youth Activity established near Kharkiv aim at training youth and providing the young people with necessary information in seeking jobs or voluntary placements. CAM offices are located in places affected by high unemployment and match their profiles to the local needs. They also approach their young clients individually and enable them to participate in training courses, meetings with experts or psychological profile set-up sessions. In Odessa and its oblast, 17 PA groups have been created. They are managed by primary and secondary school teachers who assist children and youngsters who are actively involved in tackling local issues. The youth from the groups have shown impressive empathy an ingenuity by organising projects for kids from children's homes and for the hearing-impaired. Other projects of the groups included improvement of school infrastructure as well as promotion of multiculturalism and tolerance.

#### Transformation of child care institutions in Ukraine, model solutions of the child welfare system reform.

##### NASZ DOM Society

The process of transformation of care and educational institutions in Ukraine was

initiated already in 2005, when an official plan of reform was accepted. One of the plan's objectives was the reduction of the number of children covered with permanent institutional care to 50, and introduction of quality changes in the work with children and their families. The main objectives of the project are qualitative changes consisting of shifting away from a group to an individual care and a bigger focus on children and the families as such. The proposed solutions differ from the traditional models of group care which are deeply rooted in the state system and in people's mentality. To participate in the project two institutions were invited: from Cherkasy and Kirovograd oblasts.

#### “Job Coach” Supported Employment Programme – innovative solutions for social activation of people with disabilities. Pilot scheme in Lviv region Krzyżowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding in Europe

The project is an introduction to implementation of supported employment programmes in Lviv oblast. Such programmes have proven to be successful in many Western countries including Poland. Supported employment is a priority of the European employment policy for persons with disabilities, which aim is to change the existing approach to activation of the disabled on the open labour market. Supported employment is based on finding employment, starting work and retaining work on the open labour market, with assistance from a personal assistant – the job coach.

#### MOLDOVA

Moldova's dominant sector of economy is agriculture but the country's transformations have been directing Moldova towards the model of market economy. Despite the ongoing transformation, Moldova is still one of Europe's poorest countries; it is characterised by a low level of domestic product and the remaining development indices (111. position on the HDI ranking). The most significant political and economic problem in Moldova is the unregulated status of the country's best developed industrial region Transnistria.

#### The main areas of Polish assistance to Moldova are:

- agriculture and development of rural areas;
- support for civil society in particular development of local government and democratisation of the Moldovan media;
- strengthening of public administration, particularly in the field of migration management and human trafficking prevention as well as training in acquisition of European Union funds.

#### Connection Cioc-Maidan village to water mains supply, renovation of well Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Kishinev

One of the key problems for the dwellers of Cioc-Maidan in Gagausia was limited access to potable water. This affected the health situation in Cioc Majdan. As a result of the project, a few hundred households, the secondary school, the kindergarten, the cultural centre, the public bath and the mayor's hall of the town were connected to the water pipeline.

#### Combating human trafficking in the context of strengthening Moldovan system of migration management and international co-operation. Polish-Moldovan exchange of experiences and good practices.

##### Migration Policy Department, The Ministry of Interior and Administration

The number of reported cases of human trafficking in Poland has recently grown. The reason for the negative development is economic liberalisation and easier border crossing procedures. Very often people of Moldovan origin become victims of the crime. The idea behind the project is to support Moldova's administrative structures through improvement in qualifications of state officers, exchange of information and through suggesting the institutional and legal solutions applied in Poland and the European Union. The objective is to create new, more effective platforms of Polish-Moldovan co-operation in order to facilitate effective combat against human trafficking.

#### Ecological agriculture and agro-tourism promotion and development in Moldova Association B4

The main objective of the project is to support agriculture and sustainable development of the rural areas of Beltsy and Goldeń through mobilisation of local communities which are expected to take actions aimed at development of organic farming, farm tourism and regional promotion (including promotion of local products, natural and cultural heritage etc.). The project is composed of a study visit of Moldovan farmers in Poland, workshops and individual consultations in farm tourism and organic farming methods. The farmers who take part in the project also have an opportunity to learn about accessible subsidies for farm modernisation. Moreover, the project offers training courses in farm tourism for administration, NGOs and travel agencies. A website has also been created to facilitate promotion and exchange of information. At the end of the project, a final conference presenting the project's outcomes was organised.

#### GEORGIA

Georgia has entered the path towards democratisation relatively recently. The country is in need of political support in order to ensure sustainability of the changes and their acceptance by the society which has been adversely affected by the first phase of the transformation (96. position in the HDI ranking). Additionally, Georgia struggles to retain territorial integrity (South Ossetia, Abchasia) and has to cope with the economic embargo by the country's largest trade partner – Russia. Poland supports the process of development and stabilisation in Georgia.

#### Priority support areas:

- agriculture and development of rural areas;
- development of local governance;
- strengthening central administration, in particular – support for border guards and trainings in acquisition of EU funds.

#### Influence agricultural advising on development of agriculture and enterprises on rural areas of Georgia

##### Pomorski Agricultural Advisory Centre in Gdansk Department in Stare Pole

The general objective of the project is to support economic transformation in agriculture and business in the rural areas by utilisation of the Polish experience in the field, as well as the experience of other countries undergoing transformation (e.g. Ukraine). The project takes into account current reforms and modernisation processes of the rural areas of Georgia. The project offers mainly professional training for inhabitants of the areas it also has ambition to motivate and encourage its participants for initiating socio-economic change. The project is composed of the “Forum of Farm Consulting Services” and training courses for Georgian farmers, entrepreneurs, representatives of local governments and administration, institutions responsible for farming, farmers' associations, educational institutions, NGOs. The closing element of the project is a final conference.

#### Development of agro-tourism in Pankisi Yavakhetia

##### Intercultural Education Foundation

The project is aimed at developing rural areas and farm tourism capacity as well as supporting NGOs in Georgia's rural areas inhabited by the ethnic minorities of the Kists in Pankisi and the Armenian minority in Javakheti. Project activities are focused on enhancing and expanding the regions' tourism offer so that the promotion matches the commercial requirements of the tourism industry. The offer created by the Kists was advertised broadly on the Internet and presented at the International Tourism Fair Tour Salon 2008 in Poznań. Additionally, a promotional campaign of the second region, Javakheti, has began. Representatives of the Armenian community in Javakheti participated in trainings in farm tourism, project drafting and acquisition of funds. A database of the accessible grant providers and private sponsors in Georgia was also prepared as part of the project. Project activities were implemented both in Poland and in Georgia. The Pankisi region website: [www.pankisi.org](http://www.pankisi.org).

#### Paths to self-reliance development assistance for Chechen refugees in Georgia in their integration with host community

##### Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tbilisi

There are over 1,000 Chechen refugees in the Pankisi Gorge in Georgia. The Georgian authorities have granted them the official status of refugees. As a consequence, all registered refugees from Chechnya have a legal status in Georgia, and the newly issued long-stay permits enable them to start their own businesses. From the very start the refugees have been looked after by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The living conditions are dire for the refugees and they are dependent on humanitarian aid. This causes frustration, stagnation and the feeling of dependency. A large number of the refugees does not have any income, remain unemployed and do not extend their qualifications. Integration of refugees with local communities is the only opportunity to ensure self-reliant life and dignity. The project is composed of 6 small-projects implemented by different groups of refugees in different locations. Each of the projects is aimed at creating new workplaces in farming, manufacturing and services. This should result in the beneficiaries' independence from humanitarian aid. The projects were prepared by initiative groups: future beneficiaries defined their needs, created business plans and found potential markets for their future products.