

working translation

**MULTIANNUAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
PROGRAMME
2012 - 2015**

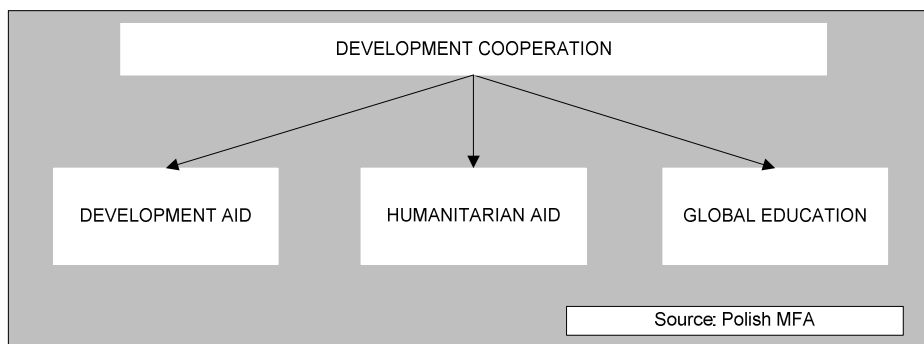
**SOLIDARITY
DEMOCRACY
DEVELOPMENT**

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Introduction

Pursuant to the Development Cooperation Act of 16 September 2011, development cooperation is implemented on the basis of the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme (the "Programme"). Under the Act, development cooperation is defined as all actions taken by government administration agencies to provide developing countries with development and humanitarian aid. The definition also covers the implementation of educational activities aimed at raising awareness and understanding of global issues and interdependencies.



The Programme lays down the goals as well as the geographical and thematic areas of Polish development cooperation, and specifies its basic principles. They were based on an analysis of strategic documents and on the needs and development paths of partner countries. The Programme was developed with the engagement, knowledge and experience of government administration officials, civil society representatives and independent experts. It is based on the conclusions drawn from other donors' initiatives and the MFA's own experiences, e.g. gained while implementing previous annual programmes.

By setting out the medium-term goals and priorities of cooperation, the Programme will also ensure a more effective use of available resources, in line with the OECD guidelines. This will make it possible to define a streamlined catalogue with thematic and geographical areas where Poland plans to develop its competitive advantages.

The Programme covers a period of four years. It provides the basis for MFA annual plans and will be subject to at least one periodic review. The Programme can be modified, in particular in connection with new social and political developments in a given country/region, adoption of new legislative solutions, development of cooperation within the European Union (including in the field of joint programming), as well as following the conclusions from the periodic review. The Programme's modification is subject to approval by the Council of Ministers.

The Programme activities will be financed from MFA funds and from the central government budget's special purpose reserve earmarked for development cooperation. Funding will also come from other Ministries' development cooperation resources. The Programme covers activities that will be directed to countries included in the DAC list of ODA recipients.

The document is divided into two parts. Part one sets out goals, principles, and forms of assistance and describes the thematic and geographical areas of Polish development aid. The Appendix lays down specific priorities that Poland plans to concentrate on in the years 2012-2015.

1. Objectives of development cooperation

Development concerns many areas, but most of all it aims at constant improvement of economic, social and political capacities of countries, societies and individuals (United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, 1986). For Poland, development cooperation is an important element of both its policy towards its closest neighbours and its engagement in more distant areas.

The primary objective of Poland's development cooperation is to create conditions for sustainable development of developing countries. This aim is pursued in particular by promoting and consolidating democracy and respect for human rights, helping create modern and efficient state institutions, promoting their sustainable social and economic development¹, undertaking actions which contribute to reducing poverty and improving the health condition of the population, as well as raising the level of education and professional qualifications of the population.

Development cooperation brings mutual benefits. It strengthens Poland's position as a visible, credible and responsible participant of global processes and international cooperation. Moreover, it broadens Polish citizens' knowledge about global interdependencies, with special emphasis on problems faced by developing countries. Polish involvement in development cooperation also bolsters the country's foreign policy, reinforces European development policy and helps meet Poland's international commitments to the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Principles of Polish development cooperation

Solidarity is very high on the list of principles that underlie Polish international engagement. Solidarity is both the driving force behind and the objective of Poland's involvement in development cooperation. Development cooperation implemented in the framework of the Programme is additionally governed by the following overriding principles:

- a. subsidiarity, taking into account social, cultural, economic and political characteristics of local communities, and by seeking the greatest possible inclusion of local partners and beneficiaries in deciding about their own development;
- b. coordinating actions with other donors;
- c. improving aid effectiveness, in particular by adhering to the principles of alignment, harmonisation, managing for development results, transparency and mutual accountability in relations with partner countries;
- d. respecting and protecting human rights, by safeguarding equal opportunities, counteracting any forms of discrimination, in particular based on ethnicity, religion, disability or sex, and empowerment of women;

¹Conditions for sustainable development are also created by stimulating economic growth with financial instruments.

- e. concern for natural environment and sustainable management of natural resources;
- f. ensuring coherence between programmes and government strategies on the one hand, and the objectives and priorities of development cooperation on the other hand.

3. Forms of assistance

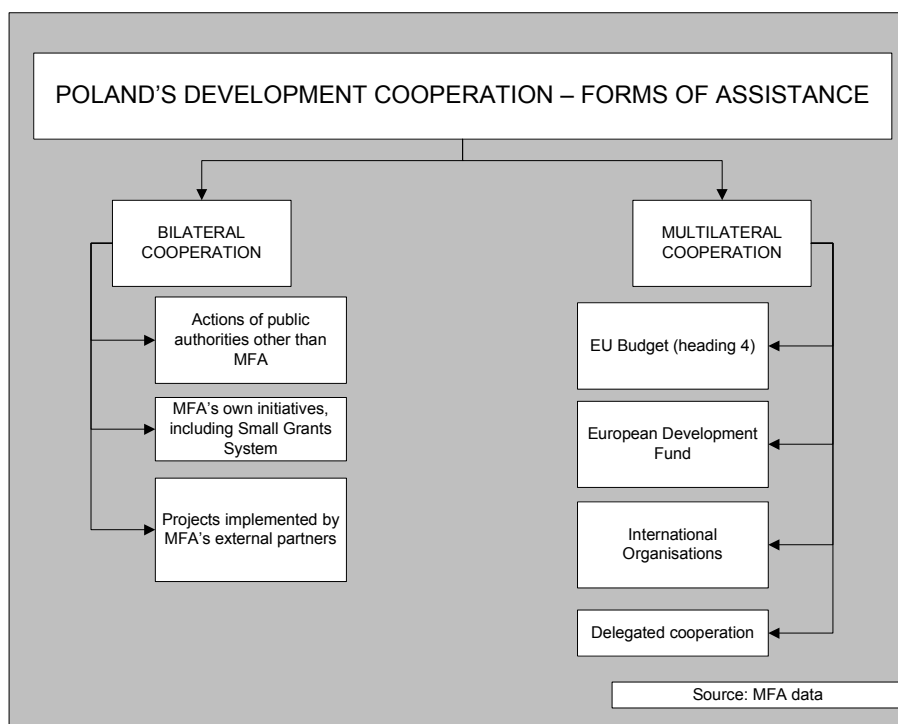
Polish development cooperation is implemented through bilateral channels (for financing activities directed at partner countries), as well as through multilateral cooperation via international organizations, programmes and funds. It is also possible to cooperate with other donors in activities directed at a specific partner country. In such an event, the project is co-financed or technical assistance is provided to measures funded from the budget of other donor countries, the EU or other international organizations.

Bilateral aid activities can be undertaken by public finance sector agencies, research institutes, NGOs and private sector entities. In cooperation with external partners, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is conducting a number of its own initiatives, some of which are implemented via Polish diplomatic missions as part of the Small Grants System². The potential of entities involved in development cooperation will additionally be boosted thanks to trainings and consultancy support.

Development cooperation tasks can also be commissioned to the Polish Foundation for International Development Cooperation "Know-How"³. Moreover, funds can be transferred directly to a recipient country's central government budget. In addition, Polish aid covers projects carried out by other government administration agencies. They include scholarships, assistance to refugees, credits and loans, debt reduction and restructuring.

² The Small Grants System covers projects that are aimed at contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and have considerable significance for local communities. To further these objectives, the MFA and diplomatic missions engage in wide-ranging cooperation with local NGOs and public benefit organizations.

³ Since 13 February 2013 the Polish Foundation for International Development Cooperation „Know-How” operates under the name of Solidarity Fund PL.



Multilateral aid consists of joint projects and programmes that are financed, among other things, from payments made to international organizations, including contributions to specialized agencies, programmes and funds dealing with international development cooperation.

The European Union, UN agencies and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (*OECD*) constitute the major multilateral organizations active in the field international development cooperation and in which Poland is present. Multilateral cooperation is implemented primarily through Poland's contribution to the EU budget, contribution to the European Development Fund (EDF), as well as voluntary payments made to specialized international agencies. Thanks to its presence on international fora, Poland co-formulates the rules of functioning and the direction of actions taken in the framework of international development cooperation.

4. Areas supported through bilateral channels

Poland's development aid is implemented in a number of thematic and geographical areas.

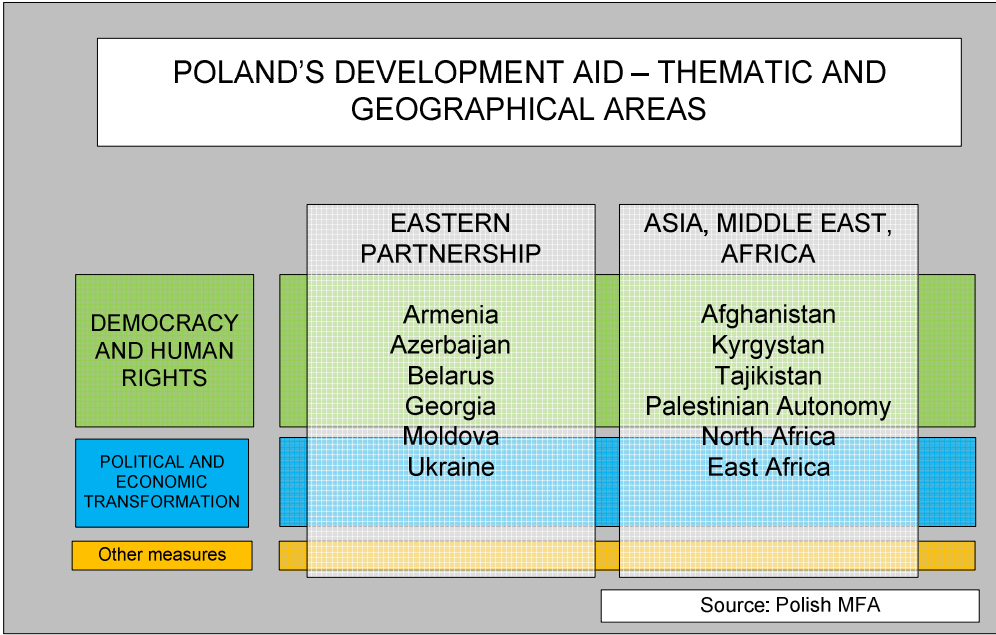
4.1. Geographical areas

Geographical areas are divided into two groups. The first group consists of the six Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. In terms of their development needs, these countries have much in common: the consequences of the command-and-quota economy, numerous transitional challenges, and a bloated agricultural sector that is uncompetitive with respect to EU economies. However, each EaP country has its distinctive features, which the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme tries to take into consideration. By financing projects implemented in these countries, Poland wants to foster changes that ensure long-term and stable functioning of democratic systems, respect for human rights and support for political

transformation that will bring Eastern European and Southern Caucasus countries closer to the European Union.

The second group comprises selected countries with high poverty levels and/or countries facing significant transformation challenges.. The group consists of eight countries from East Africa (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda), two from North Africa (Libya and Tunisia), as well as Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and the Authority.

The priority countries from East Africa, Asia and the Middle East were selected mainly on account of their very high poverty levels. (Under the OECD DAC classification, all countries from the above regions – except for the Authority – fall into the *Least Developed Countries* or *Other Low Income Countries* categories.) Another factor taken into account was Poland's commitment, as an EU member, to increasing the value of aid provided to Africa and Sub-Saharan countries. An important factor when choosing recipients was the limited interest that other aid donors had shown for some countries (OECD DAC listed Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan among potentially under-aided countries), as well as the special relationship that Poland has with Afghanistan (ensuring security and helping to reconstruct the country) and the Authority (Poland's long-standing partner in development cooperation). In North Africa, aid will be provided to countries where the Arab Spring ousted undemocratic regimes and precipitated political transformation.



4.2. Thematic areas

For 2012-2015, two cross-cutting thematic areas were selected: democracy and human rights, and political and economic transformation. Thematic areas of development cooperation can be supported in parallel and irrespective of priorities listed in the geographical areas of support. Under the Programme, activities aimed at fostering economic growth and meeting the Millennium Development Goals can be carried out also in other countries. However, such aid can be granted only in duly justified cases and with the approval of the minister responsible for foreign affairs, or – in the case of credits, loans and debt reduction and restructuring – in consultation with the minister.

4.2.1. Democracy and human rights

Poland's post-1989 transition experience has demonstrated the importance of ensuring civil liberties, establishing the rule of law, protecting human rights and developing civil society. The stable and harmonious development of present-day democratic systems and effective government are unthinkable without citizens who are aware of their rights and duties and take active part in the public debate and in shaping their environment. The Programme will focus in particular on the following activities:

- a. supporting democracy and good governance, including the cooperation between public administration and civil society organizations;
- b. strengthening the rule of law, promoting human rights protection;
- c. promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- d. ensuring better access to information, including stronger independent media and more effective social control of the media;
- e. supporting pro-democracy institutions, activists and movements;
- f. strengthening civil society organization;
- g. developing local governments;
- h. improving access to high-quality education and civic education;
- i. enhancing social and inter-cultural dialogue;
- j. supporting democratic and transparent electoral procedures.

4.2.2. Political and economic transformation

The last twenty years of Poland's history provide a good example of a country and society that has made a successful transition from an authoritarian regime and a centrally planned economy to democracy and a free market. This experience could be of special interest for countries that start from a similar position and are eager to learn how to carry out reforms in nearly all fields of government. Polish experts can also share knowledge on how to manage the transformation process itself.

In recent years, Poland has seen a rapid development of SMEs, which has contributed to job creation. Polish experiences in developing its rural areas, modernizing production, setting up production groups and business sector organizations, creating new non-agricultural jobs and strengthening local leaders' potential provide a good example of successful agricultural modernization and the narrowing of development gap.

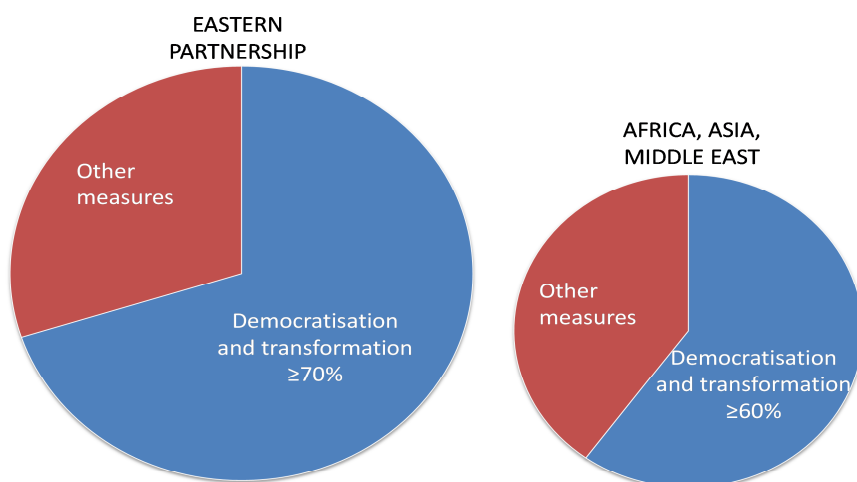
The environmental situation in Poland has visibly improved thanks to a range of activities to protect the environment, more investment in this field and the implementation of *acquis communautaire*. A number of measures were introduced to limit energy and raw material consumption through the adoption of energy efficient technologies. As a result, Poland has significantly reduced its pollution emissions. Given the climate change that is affecting the world, Polish experiences in this field can prove interesting for partner countries. The Programme will focus in particular on the following activities:

- a. reforming public administration at central, regional and local levels (including self-governments), building a non-partisan and effective civil service, supporting anti-corruption initiatives undertaken by the central and local governments and the NGOs;
- b. ensuring more consistency with EU standards of laws and institutions of partner countries that closely cooperate with the EU;
- c. developing SMEs;
- d. developing agriculture and rural areas;
- e. helping to solve social problems that stem from political and economic transformation, including problems affecting disadvantaged groups;
- f. counteracting environmental degradation, climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- g. building a modern information management system order in such fields as the media market, IT and access to high-quality public information.

4.3. Activities implemented by the MFA and external partners

As of 2013, Eastern Partnership countries will receive at least 60 percent of funds allocated for activities implemented by the MFA and its external partners. At the same time, Polish aid will focus on supporting democratisation and transformation projects in specific countries.

Chart: Share of the financial envelope allocated for democratisation and transformation activities in specific geographical regions



60% of the financial envelope implemented by the MFA and its external partners will be reserved for projects in the Eastern Partnership countries.

Bilateral projects implemented by the MFA and its external partners with a view to supporting democratisation and political and economic transformation are above all intended to improve the functioning of state institutions, promote good governance, protect democratic standards and human rights, and to build and enhance civil society. In addition, each country has been assigned specific priorities. They were selected following the analysis of a given country's needs and reform ambitions, contacts with its administrative agencies and citizens, as well as the competitive advantages of Polish aid and other donors' activities.

PRIORITIES IN SUPPORTED AREAS: DEMOCRATISATION AND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IMPLEMENTED BY THE MFA AND ITS EXTERNAL PARTNERS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT AID			
Horizontal priority: to improve the functioning of state institutions, to promote good governance, to protect democratic standards and human rights, and to build and enhance civil society.			
EASTERN PARTNERSHIP			
Country	Specific priorities		
Armenia	Support for disadvantaged groups	Environmental protection	Agriculture and rural development
Azerbaijan	Support for disadvantaged groups	Environmental protection	Agriculture and rural development
Belarus	Support for independent media, organizations and civil society, youth and education cooperation	Support for disadvantaged groups	
Georgia	Support for disadvantaged groups	Regional development, strengthening public administration and local government	SMEs and job creation

Moldova	Public security and border management	Regional development, strengthening public administration and local government	Agriculture and rural development
Ukraine	Public security and border management	Regional development, strengthening public administration and local government	SMEs and job creation
AFRICA, ASIA, MIDDLE EAST (selected countries)			
Country	Specific priorities		
East Africa (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda)	Education, social and vocational empowerment	Environmental protection	Health care
North Africa (Libya, Tunisia)	Professionalization and development of public administration	Environmental protection	Support for disadvantaged groups
Afghanistan	Professionalization and development of public administration	Provincial sustainable development	SMEs and job creation
Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan	Self-governance and support for local communities	Water and sanitation	SMEs and job creation
Palestinian Authority	Education	Water and sanitation	SMEs and job creation

for a description of specific priorities see the Programme's Appendix

Actions supporting democratic processes and strengthening civil society in countries in particular political conditions can also be undertaken in countries other than those granted priority in the Programme, taking into account the recommendation of the Solidarity Award holder, founded by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Minister of Foreign Affairs shall provide a list of countries, among which the award holder will chose one for recommendation.

5. Humanitarian action

Principles of Polish humanitarian aid

As a signatory of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, Poland undertook to comply with humanitarian aid principles and standards, in particular the Good Humanitarian

Donorship (GHD) principles. Polish humanitarian activities are also consistent with other documents and guidelines that were adopted by Poland at the UN, the EU and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The key principle of Polish humanitarian aid is to ensure that it corresponds with the needs of affected population. This means that actions are taken in response to a concrete humanitarian appeal following a thorough situation analysis (carried out on the basis of UN, ICRC and EC DG ECHO documents), and funds are allocated in proportion to humanitarian needs. Poland is sensitive not only to humanitarian needs arising from sudden and unexpected disasters that receive a lot of media attention, but also to the needs of victims of the protracted and forgotten crises.

Poland's humanitarian assistance is provided in line with basic humanitarian principles: humanitarianism, neutrality, impartiality and independence, as well as the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) principles. Moreover, Polish special needs of the vulnerable groups, i.e. women, children, elderly, ill and disabled people, as well as protection against sexual and gender-based violence, are taken into account in the implementation of Polish humanitarian action.

Poland provides humanitarian food assistance pursuant to the Food Assistance Convention and on the basis of the EU Council conclusions on Humanitarian Food Assistance.

Forms of Polish humanitarian activities

Polish humanitarian actions will be implemented in particular by:

- a. strengthening partnership with international humanitarian organizations, especially UN OCHA (mainly within the framework of the OCHA Donor Support Group, CERF and UNDAC), ICRC, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and UNRWA;
- b. cooperating with other humanitarian assistance donors within the UN, EU and GHD;
- c. conducting civil protection operations in the framework of the UN and EU coordination mechanisms, in particular rescue assistance;
- d. supporting activities and programmes of Polish NGOs;
- e. capacity building and strengthening of coordination of the Polish humanitarian aid system;
- f. disaster risk reduction and enhancing disaster resilience, especially in the fragile states.

6. Global education and volunteer work

Global education and volunteer work are well inscribed into the civic dimension of Poland's development cooperation. These forms of activity serve to promote open attitudes towards global development challenges among the widest possible domestic audience.

Global education takes place both in the framework of the formal education system - where it has the greatest outreach - and on an informal level, mainly through NGOs.

For global education to take hold in Poland's formal education system, it is imperative to strengthen cooperation between central and local government institutions responsible for programming and implementing curricula on all levels of educations, the education institutions themselves, and civil society. The actions undertaken will also serve to boost teachers' skills - both with regard to initial training for new teachers and in-service vocational courses - in taking up new and difficult topics and drafting the relevant teaching materials.

The supported measures will include both widespread education actions and local initiatives, especially those addressed to recipients with limited access to information on the problems affecting the world today. Global education activities will be encouraged among entities which have little hitherto experience in the field, but which have the potential to effectively implement education measures. Global education will also be implemented via the media and modern education tools, including new communication technologies.

The **volunteering programme** is an effort to meet the needs of Polish citizens' participation in providing aid to inhabitants of developing countries. This will enable them to share their abilities when working directly with local communities in beneficiary countries. The educational dimension is a key aspect of the programme. Thanks to the educational measures implemented by volunteers after their return to Poland, volunteering also helps to raise awareness among Poles about the dependence which exists between developing countries and countries providing development aid, and about the challenges faced by the former.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The goal of **monitoring** is to ensure that projects are implemented in line with the guidelines and goals set forth in the annual plans and the Programme.

Monitoring supports the decision process and is a primary source of information necessary to conduct the evaluation of a project/group of projects. .

Evaluation will cover development cooperation programmes in the annual and multiannual perspectives, as well as projects and groups of projects. Evaluation will cover: the multiannual development aid programme for 2012-2015 (selected topics, horizontal areas and/or sector-specific actions), annual Polish development cooperation plans, selected projects/groups of projects.

Evaluations will be conducted by external institutions supervised by the MFA. Moreover, the MFA may prepare and conduct its own evaluations (internal evaluations), which will be complementary to external evaluations.

8. Information activities

Promotional and information activities relating to Poland's development cooperation will cover, in particular, expanding website resources, making active use of electronic media and developing publishing activities. It will also focus on cooperation with the media, including radio broadcasts and TV programmes. During the Development Cooperation Forum, Poland's involvement in global development cooperation will be presented to the public at large.

APPENDIX - Specific priorities for democratisation as well as political and economic transformation as implemented by the MFA and external partners in the framework of bilateral development aid

1. Eastern Partnership

Armenia
<p>Priority 1 – Support for disadvantaged groups</p> <p>The social exclusion of migrants and IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) in Armenia remains a challenge for both state institutions and society as a whole. Between 1989 and 1990, some 360,000 people made their way into Armenia from Azerbaijan. The country is still grappling with the consequences of the tragic earthquake of 1988 which resulted in the forced relocation of large numbers of the population. Another key problem lies with the social perception of disabled persons, which results in the social marginalization of persons living with disabilities. Activities undertaken under this priority will focus in particular on counteracting the social exclusion of disabled persons, their vocational empowerment, providing them with access to education and contributing to their comprehensive inclusion in social and economic life.</p> <p>Priority 2 – Environmental protection</p> <p>Many Armenian regions suffer from considerable air and surface water pollution. Waste collection, disposal and segregation systems are ineffective and there is a lack of a comprehensive chemical management system. The Soviet era has bequeathed Armenia with huge and unprofitable industrial plants, particularly chemical factories and mines. Simultaneously, the country has a significant potential for using renewable source of energy. Activities undertaken under this priority will help, in particular, to slow the rate of environmental degradation and to adapt to the consequences of climate change. Means of achieving this include: developing the competences of environmental experts, raising environmental awareness among the population, improving the waste management system and municipal services; strengthening national and local community disaster resilience, building disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Priority 3 - Agriculture and rural development</p> <p>Agriculture employs almost half of the total population of Armenia. Climate and soil conditions in the country make farming difficult. Effective irrigation systems remain beyond the reach of poorer farmers. The food processing industry and the system of crediting are poorly developed. The setting up of producer groups and farming cooperatives will help boost investment and increase the efficiency of farming techniques. Activities will also cover the social and vocational empowerment of rural inhabitants. Integrated water management systems will also be supported.</p>
Azerbaijan
<p>Priority 1 – Support for disadvantaged groups</p> <p>According to official data presented by the State Committee on Refugees and IDPs, there are 586,000 internally displaced persons in Azerbaijan. Around half of this group is unemployed. Disabled persons also find themselves in a similarly difficult position. According to official data, out of 450,000 registered disabled persons, only 12% managed to find work. Activities will primarily work to limit social marginalization, increase access to education for excluded groups and help them become fully active and economically.</p>

Priority 2 – Environmental protection

A key problem facing Azerbaijan is surface water and air pollution, as well as soil contamination. The main reason for the high contamination of Azerbaijan's environment is old technologies in operation throughout the country and low levels of environmental awareness. Activities under this priority will serve to arrest the degradation of the natural environment, implement new mechanisms associated with local community contribution to a clean environment, increase the level of environmental education and build national and community-based instruments of disaster risk reduction.

Priority 3 - Agriculture and rural development

Even though the most traditional and lucrative branch of the Azerbaijan economy is oil and gas extraction, some 30% of the population still works in agriculture. The Azerbaijani authorities work to support the country's agricultural sector and boost its output. In practice, however, bureaucratic obstacles make the production still largely unprofitable. This priority includes measure which will help implement elements of an efficient system of extension services, help the rural population become vocationally and empowered, and modernize rural management systems.

Belarus**Priority 1 –Support for independent media, civil society organisations, youth and education cooperation**

An important barrier to the country's social and economic development is a deficit of democracy and civil liberties. Entities which protect human rights and monitor the state of democracy in Belarus have problems in registering and functioning normally. This also applies to independent associations of employers and entrepreneurs, as well as independent trade unions. Access to credible information, the development of independent media outlets and cultural organizations, increased participation of society in the decision-making process and the development of civil society may lead to the onset of transition processes which will benefit the society as a whole. Activities under this priority will help provide greater access for Belarusian citizens to objective information and strengthen civil society organisations' resources in matters related to the economy, education, culture, legal expertise and advocacy; strengthen youth and children cooperation; establish contacts and cooperation between schools, educational institutions and in-service teacher training centres.

Priority 2 – Support for disadvantaged groups

The economic situation of Belarus deteriorated in 2011. The number of people living in poverty is on the rise; this affects in particular disadvantaged groups, especially disabled persons and people living with HIV/AIDS. Approximately 540,000 disabled persons are registered in social security institutions. Data collected by organizations which provide assistance to the disabled show that close to 80 per cent of them have been unemployed for many years. Activities under this priority will serve, in particular, to advance education; counteract the spreading of HIV/AIDS; raise standards of care for infected persons; help disabled persons become and vocationally empowered and support entities working to benefit such persons.

Georgia**Priority 1 – Support for disadvantaged groups**

Even though efforts have been made in Georgia to integrate people with disabilities into professional life, they still live on the margins of society. The large percentage of abandoned children and orphans remains a key problem. Marginalization is also a problem affecting IDPs and ethnic minorities. According to the UNODC, the number of drug addicts in Georgia was estimated at 200,000-240,000

people in 2005. The drug addiction among children between 12 and 16 years of age is often underestimated, and it is common among street children. The experiences gathered so far show that Polish organizations have had good results in cooperation with Georgia in the field of social aid and education. Activities financed under this priority will help strengthen the support system for drug addicts; enhance the potential of foster parenting institutions; improve the quality of inclusive education, and enable persons from marginalised groups to become vocationally and empowered.

Priority 2 – Regional development and capacity building of public and local administration

The objective of draft government reform is to enhance local governments' power vis-à-vis the central government and to move towards authentic decentralisation. Poland has been supporting the government's actions in this field for several years and intends to continue its involvement, both on the central government and regional levels, as well as in cooperation with social partners. Priority activities will help in particular to enhance management processes at the local level and foster dialogue between government administration and NGOs, as well as strengthen disaster resilience of state institutions and local communities.

Priority 3 – SMEs and job creation

Thanks to economic reforms Georgia has become one of the region's most attractive countries, but much still remains to be done to meet the challenges facing the country. Comprehensive economic reforms have not succeeded in modernizing the country's employment structure. Agriculture still remains the main job-generating sector. Georgia still has high unemployment rates, an outdated industrial framework and insufficiently developed infrastructure, which means that the private sector needs further support to become fully active. The implemented activities will help shape and support existing consumer groups and cooperatives and support the development of small enterprises, economic education, as well as support for vocational schooling and in-service professional training with a view to enhancing cooperation between local governments, universities, government ministries and the private sector.

Moldova

Priority 1 – Public security and border management

The Action Plan prepared by the European Commission for Moldova in the field of visa liberalization requires a fundamental reform of the entire internal security sector; modernising technical equipment; strengthening the migration management system, and severely limiting corruption. Improvements in border management must be accompanied by measures to stem criminal activity and improve the feeling of security among the general public. Eliminating key threats necessitates a coordinated system to protect human life and property, and to counter criminal activity. Activities undertaken under this priority will serve, in particular, to modernize the functioning of police and border guard services, and to improve public security.

Priority 2 – Regional development, strengthening public administration and local government

Fiscal and administrative decentralization is one of the five pillars of the reform project prepared by the Government of Moldova (as laid down in the Rethink Moldova document). In the field of regional development Moldova has been implementing a comprehensive National Regional Development Strategy, divided into two stages: 2010-2012 and 2013-2019. Measures under this priority will in particular serve to provide support to Moldova's central and regional government in the implementation of the national strategy.

Priority 3 - Agriculture and rural development

Moldova's economy is characterized by considerable dependence on the agricultural sector, which suffers from structural problems similar to those experienced by Polish agriculture in the recent past. A key recommendation made by the European Commission in connection with the DCFTA (Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement) negotiation process is the application of sanitary and veterinary measures as part of the food safety policy. Measures under this priority will in particular serve to boost competitiveness of agricultural production, including to improve the functioning of the sanitary and phyto-sanitary control system, implement innovative farming technologies, modernize rural infrastructure, provide support for small and medium enterprises, cooperatives and extension services, and help the poorest groups become and professionally active.

Ukraine

Priority 1 – Public security and border management

In order to limit threats related to public security in Ukraine, a coordinated system must be implemented to protect citizens' lives and property and counteract criminal activity. However, measures aimed at boosting citizens' sense of security must not entail excessive restrictions of their freedoms and liberties. In order to reduce security risks associated with natural and man-made disasters, it is necessary to improve the effectiveness of emergency response services. External border management is a specific aspect of security policy. Measures under this priority will seek to support bodies dealing with civil protection, to prevent and reduce disaster risk, to modernize the police force and border guard, as well as to promote observance of human rights.

Priority 2 –Regional development, strengthening public administration and local government

One of the major priorities of Ukraine's development strategy is a reform of the regional development system. Its objective is to level out disproportions between regions, to reinforce decentralisation of executive power and to develop a mechanism for better harmonisation of central and regional interests. Measures under this priority will serve in particular to build the capacities of public and local administration, strengthen dialogue between the administration and NGOs and strengthen local government in the field of modern management of municipal services, real estate and energy efficiency.

Priority 3 – SMEs and job creation

After joining the World Trade Organization in 2008, Ukraine's economy opened up to global competition. What is more, over the last few years the problems faced by Ukrainian entrepreneurs have been exacerbated by the international financial crisis as well as the economic crisis in Ukraine. Authors of various analyses point out that the development of the SME sector in Ukraine is inhibited by an unfavourable business environment and the lack of an SME development strategy, including in rural areas. Activities undertaken in the framework of this programme will serve in particular to support and develop entrepreneurship, economic education - including in the area of innovation and alternative energy, incorporating elements of business education into the education system, supporting job creation and helping women become vocationally empowered.

2. Africa, Asia, Middle East - selected countries

East Africa: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

Priority 1 – Education, social and vocational empowerment

As many as 5 million children and young people in East Africa do not have access to primary education. Improving access to education and raising the quality of education has an impact on across-the-board development – from health care and environmental protection, to building efficient and stable civil society. By reinforcing entrepreneurship, competition and innovation, the education system also is a key factor in spurring on economic growth in individual countries. Measures under this priority will focus on facilitating and providing equal access to education and supporting entrepreneurship, including in the agriculture and fishery sectors which constitute an important source of income for the inhabitants of East Africa.

Priority 2 – Environmental protection

East Africa is facing a number of risks associated with environmental pollution and the negative consequences of climate change. Local communities can be greatly assisted in eradicating poverty by such measures as preventing desertification and efficient management of water resources. Counteracting soil degradation will make it possible to enhance agriculture, while sustainable waste management will contribute to improving health. Activities under this priority will focus on preventing degradation of the natural environment and adapting to climate change.

Priority 3 – Health care

East Africa is one of the regions most affected by epidemics and infectious diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. For this reason it is vital to ensure and continuously improve the quality of health care, which should focus on both diagnosing and treating illnesses, as well as on appropriate prophylaxis. Despite improvements in health care for women and children, East Africa is still the region with the highest rates of maternal death and under-five mortality in the world. The level of health of citizens and resistance to diseases is also linked to access to food and water. Moreover, the East Africa food crisis has led to a further deterioration of health in the region. Measures under this priority will serve in particular to provide access to health care, improve sanitation and access to food and water.

North Africa: Libya, Tunisia

Priority 1 – Professionalization and development of public administration

After the ousting of undemocratic regimes, both countries are now faced with the challenge of rebuilding state structures without sufficient expertise. Sharing Poland's transition experiences will help build a modern, efficient public administration capable of effective management and communication with society.

Priority 2 – Environmental protection

While under authoritarian rule, these countries did not pay much attention to applying a sustainable approach to the natural environment, which is especially fragile in North African countries and heavily influenced by human action and climate fluctuations. Environmental education was also hardly existent. Poland plans to implement measures aimed at raising environmental awareness and to become involved in measures to boost sustainable use of natural resources, including water. In particular, measures under this priority will serve to promote renewable energy use, rational waste

management, and organic farming.

Priority 3 – Support for disadvantaged groups

People with chronic diseases and the disabled (especially numerous in the aftermath of the Libya conflict) are traditionally cared for by their family members. If for any reason they cease to receive such support, they are pushed into the margins of society. Poland will share its experiences in the field of social inclusion of disadvantaged groups, improving their education and professional activation levels, as well as raise the effectiveness of civil society organizations working to benefit these groups.

Afghanistan

Priority 1 – Professionalization and development of public administration

Afghanistan is one of the world's poorest countries. Right now the biggest challenge in light of the country's future development and the transfer of responsibilities to the Afghan government is to strengthen state structure and good governance. Measures under this priority will serve in particular to boost the potential of Afghan institutions pursuant to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy.

Priority 2 – Provincial sustainable development

There exists a noticeable discrepancy in the level of development between the capital city and rural areas. Pursuant to the breakdown of responsibilities for supporting individual regions in Afghanistan, Poland is focused on the Ghazni province. The implementation of these is the task of the Polish team of specialists active within the U.S. Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT Ghazni). The measures are implemented pursuant to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the Ghazni Provincial Development Plan. In light of the ongoing transition process, the volume, form and scope of provided development cooperation will be adapted to meet the changes taking place in the country.

Poland also carries out activities in regions in which the security situation makes it possible to implement development actions by NGOs. Measures under this priority will serve in particular to develop infrastructure, improve education, and build civil society, including women's rights organizations.

Priority 3 – SMEs and job creation

One of the pillars of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy is social and economic development, with the private sector to become a catalyst for the country's economic growth. Support for agriculture - which employs 80% of the population - is of key importance here. Measures under this priority will serve in particular to strengthen initiatives aimed at activating the private sector, creating jobs and generating new forms of employment, especially in rural areas.

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Priority 1 – Self-governance and support for local communities

After the collapse of the USSR, official local authorities scaled down their participation in local development. Some of the responsibility for public services (e.g. renovating infrastructure, making smaller investments, etc.) was taken over by traditional self-governing organizations. However, these structures are too poor to genuinely participate in local development. They are also hampered by financial dependency on the central government and the low level of employee qualifications. Activities under this priority will serve in particular to raise the qualifications of local communities and local government officials.

Priority 2 – Water and sanitation

Poland's engagement in improving the water sector results from the significance of water resources for Kyrgyzstan's and Tajikistan's development at the local and national level, . Both countries' economies are largely dependent on hydroelectric power. Despite the region's extensive water resources, providing the citizens of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan with access to water and resolving conflicts over water sharing remain challenges. Activities under this priority will serve in particular to improve water resources management and to enhance the potential of local communities and resolve local disputes.

Priority 3 – SMEs and job creation

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are the poorest countries in Central Asia. A serious problem affecting both countries is economic migration, which leads to the breakdown of traditional social structures and depopulation. It is thus especially important to create new jobs, prevent "brain drain" and make the most active social groups less dependent on the political and economic situation in immigration countries. Measures under this priority will in particular serve to boost entrepreneurship and job growth.

Palestinian Authority**Priority 1 – Education**

Youth aged under 24 represents over 60 per cent of the population at large. Due to overburdening of public schools, a growing part of the population attends extracurricular classes, craftsman's workshops and vocational training. Access to education and vocational training, however, still remain overly constrained. Measures under this priority will serve in particular to provide better access to education and enhance teachers' competence, including by popularizing stimulating teaching methods and IT tools.

Priority 2 – Water and sanitation

Due of the dire state of infrastructure, Palestinians struggle with a lack of access to waterworks and sewage systems, and access to potable water. Water access issues are seen as a key problem and a defining element of social, economic and political life. Measures under this priority will serve in particular to improve the water and sanitary infrastructure, increase access to water, and streamline waste management.

Priority 3 – SMEs and job creation

Over the past decade the economy of the West Bank and Gaza Strip stood out as having the highest rate of unemployment in the world. This affects mostly unqualified workers - including young people. Women living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip find themselves in a particularly difficult situation not only due to the cultural and social landscape, but also due to limited mobility and lack of security. Measures under this priority will serve in particular to boost vocational empowerment in the agriculture, commerce and service sectors, paying special attention to women and young people.

Acronyms:

CERF - *Central Emergency Response Fund*

DAC - *Development Assistance Committee*

DCFTA - *Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement*

DG ECHO - *Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid*

EDF - *European Development Fund*

GHD - *Good Humanitarian Donorship*

ICRC - *International Committee of the Red Cross*

IDPs – *Internally Displaced Persons*

MFA – *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

ODA – *Official Development Assistance*

OECD - *Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development*

OCHA - *Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*

PRT - *Provincial Reconstruction Team*

SMEs - *Small and Medium Enterprises*

UNDAC - *United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination*

UNICEF - *United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund*

UNHCR - *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

UNODC - *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

UNRWA - *United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*

WFP - *World Food Programme*