



Polish aid

**The Multiannual Programme
for Development Cooperation
for 2021–2030
Solidarity for Development**





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for Development Cooperation
for 2021–2030
Solidarity for Development

Annex to Resolution No. 11/2021 of the Council
of Ministers of January 19, 2021

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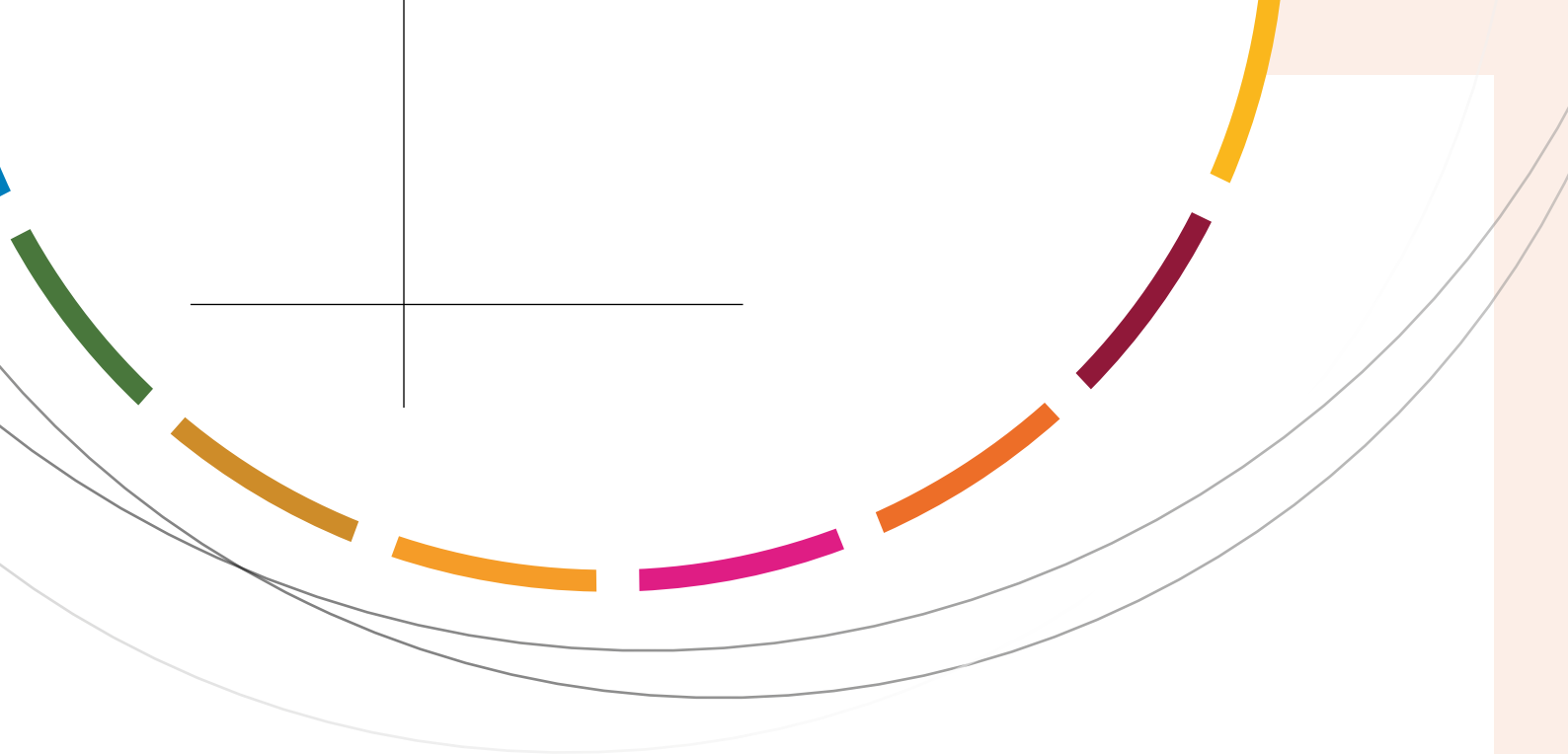
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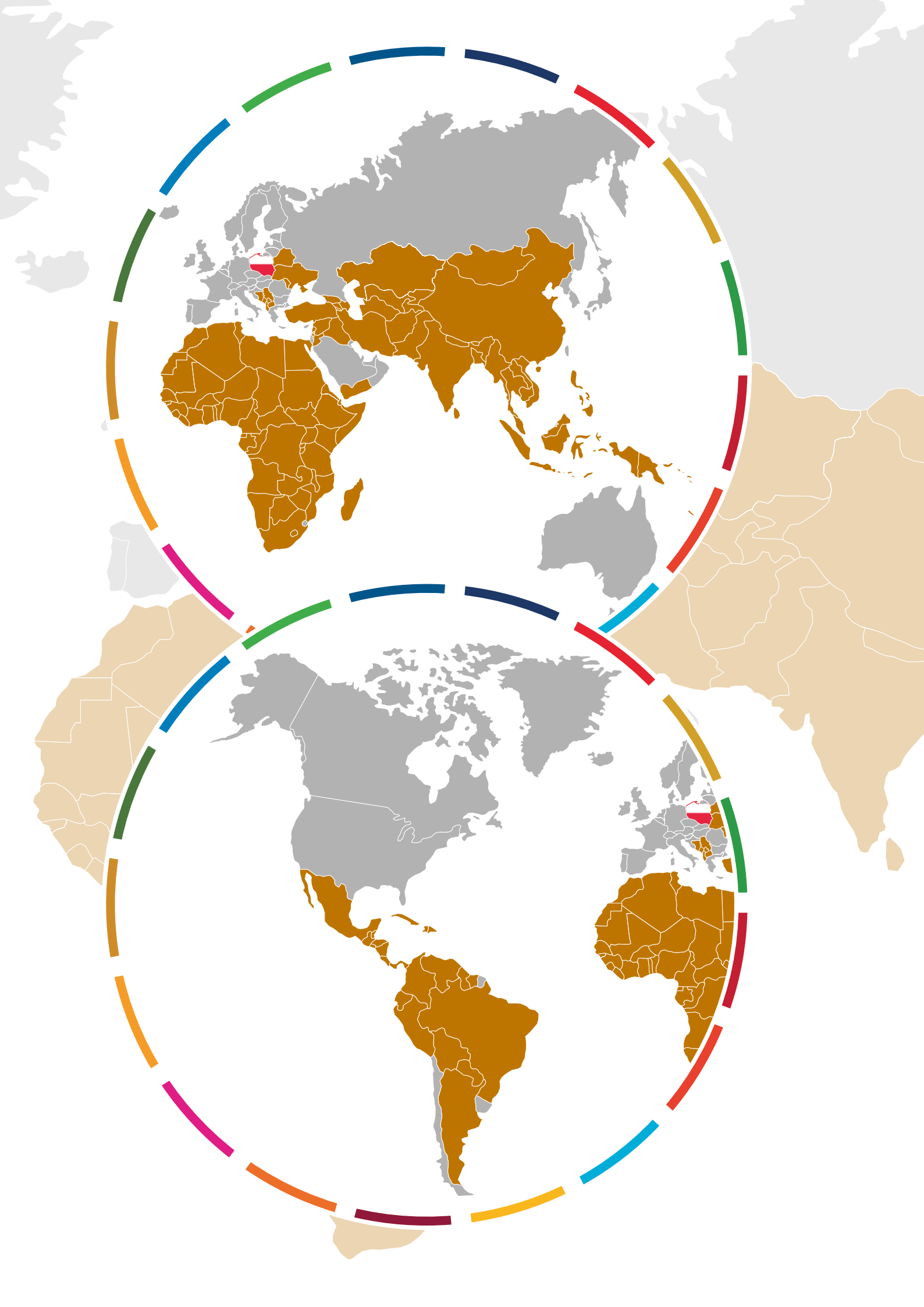
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INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Poland is a democratic state ruled by law and implementing the principles of social justice. This overarching principle, found in Article 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, obliges national institutions to undertake actions that meet the needs of the community and encourage all social actors to engage in mutual support – in short, demonstrate solidarity – not only in words, but also in deeds. This obligation applies to both domestic and international actions. As a country which benefited from foreign development support in recent decades, Poland with its increasing level of prosperity and dynamically growing economy is gradually weaning itself off from this support while expanding its capabilities to aid other, less developed countries. This assessment remains unchanged by the global COVID-19 pandemic whose social and economic consequences in other countries are much more severe than in Poland. Given these circumstances, it is our duty to progressively increase *Polish development and humanitarian aid* in line with our growing capacities – to the advantage of both the beneficiaries of the aid and the international position and prestige of the Republic of Poland.

The *Solidarity for Development* programme is Poland's voice in the global debate on the future of the world and her contribution to carrying out the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* goals.¹

Poverty, exploitation and major development disparities are among the key challenges faced by the world today. The global crisis of values, the consequences of climate change, or dynamic shifts in demographics of developed countries (including uncontrolled economic migrations) affect all of us to a different degree. Moreover, a distinctive feature of today's world is continuous change which, while offering new opportunities, may also pose threats. This state of flux was made evident by the COVID-19 pandemic that broke out in early 2020. It has brought about global consequences, difficult to imagine just a few months earlier, and its effects will continue to be felt for years to come.

One of the responses to the challenges of modern times are accelerated advances in technology which, however, may serve both to mitigate and aggravate existing differences in development. Although the modern world offers a growing array of tools and methods

¹ Cf. the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 September 2015, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, released for general distribution on 21 October 2015, the UN Information Centre in Warsaw website, http://www.un.org.pl/files/164/Agenda%202030_pl_2016_ostateczna.pdf [access: 19 October 2020]

to counteract adverse events, it is still not free from discrimination, acts of violence, war, and conflicts. Inequalities exist both within and between countries, as well as on personal level, and can affect social groups and individuals in varying life circumstances. The underlying cause of these inequalities is a complicated system of political, historical, economic, social, climatic and environmental interdependencies. To tackle them, it is first necessary first to diagnose and name a specific problem or cause of inequality and then to apply coordinated actions which comprehensively respond to the most urgent issues and offer benefits for the current and next generations.

A response to these circumstances is the drive for sustainable development – building a world in which access to assets, opportunities, benefits, and knowledge is increasingly common and where the needs of the present generation may be satisfied without reducing the chances of future generations to satisfy theirs. A sustainable world that, inter alia, takes into account the axiological foundations of sustainable development, is less susceptible to crisis situations, especially those triggered by humans. A sustainable world means a greater chance for lasting peace and prosperity, based on respect for fundamental values, including human rights and dignity.

The *Solidarity for Development* programme is the third multiannual development cooperation programme. The two preceding ones spanned the years from 2012 to 2015 and from 2016 to 2020, that is – almost an entire decade in which views on both the structure and effectiveness of development support evolved. The experience of Poland in this domain allows us to define priority areas in which our support will have a real influence on positive change. The new programme is based on conclusions drawn while carrying out previous activities. On the one hand, therefore, it continues efforts in areas in which positive outcomes are already apparent, and on the other – it incorporates necessary changes resulting from the evaluation of previous programmes. The goal of the *Solidarity for Development* programme is to set the course for the entire Polish official development assistance (ODA).

The new programme defines thematic priorities based on *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs). These goals form a fundamental part of the 2030 Agenda that assumes the interdependence of the three aspects of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.² Such actions are also aligned with “ending poverty in all its forms and everywhere.”³ The *2030 Agenda* and the *new European Consensus on Development*⁴ are political frameworks that allow a comprehensive approach to achieving the above goals. Poland’s active involvement in meeting these obligations is one of the essential tasks of the current *Polish Foreign Policy Strategy for 2017-2021*.⁵

2 Cf. *The preamble of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, op. cit., p. 1

3 *Ibidem*.

4 Cf. Joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission, *New European Consensus on Development “Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future”*, Official Journal of the European Union (2017/C 210/01), 30 June 2017, [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/?uri=celex:42017Y0630\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/?uri=celex:42017Y0630(01)) [access: 19 October 2020]

5 Cf. the *Polish Foreign Policy Strategy for 2017-2021*, website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, <https://www.gov.pl/web/dyplomacja/co-robimy> [access: 19 October 2020]

The foundations underlying the aid activities carried out by Poland remain unchanged. Polish cooperation for sustainable development reflects the values we share, based on the idea of justice and rule of law, democratic patterns of social life, inter-generational solidarity, Christian moral and ethical values, and identical values derived from other sources. The new development cooperation programme confirms the attachment of society to the idea of international solidarity and the feeling of shared responsibility for the fate of humankind and opposing the development of totalitarian ideologies as well as forms of government and societal practices that display such traits. The memory of support received by Poles from other countries, international organisations, the Catholic Church, other Christian churches, and other religious denominations, which Poland received in the Communist era and later, during transformation of the political system, and the quantifiable effects of such aid are a potent driving force behind *Polish aid*. A sustainable and safe world is obviously aligned with the interests of Poland. A stable political, economic, social and environmental situation in the immediate neighbourhood and beyond is a condition for further systematic development and security of Poland and other countries. Development aid is therefore an important instrument in implementing the objectives of Polish foreign policy.

By engaging in aid activities, we want to build stronger, mutually beneficial political, economic and social relationships with the *Polish aid* partner countries. For this reason, our long-term plans are backed by the idea of improving the political, economic and social potential of developing countries. We will, among other things, support the building of institutional capabilities and uniform improvement of human and social capital to make these societies find their own solutions to their problems and take responsibility for their future, development and prosperity to the maximum extent possible.

We realise that achieving ambitious goals like these on a global level requires firm and comprehensive actions to be undertaken by the entire international community. These actions must, to varying extent but jointly, employ the means and resources of individual countries and organisations. As a responsible partner, aware of the need for joint action, Poland again confirms its pledge to systematically increase Official Development Assistance to the level of 0.33 percent of the gross national income by 2030, subject to the current budgetary situation.

Implementing the *Solidarity for Development* programme is therefore a strategic investment in the common future and the Polish plan of action to build a more sustainable and safe world.



1

VISION AND OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

By means of development cooperation, Poland wants to contribute to building a more sustainable world for the current and future generations.

By undertaking initiatives for sustainable development and improved stability in partner countries, we at the same time support the development and security of our own country. Development cooperation allows us to join in the global efforts to reduce poverty and inequality while promoting Polish national interest. Caring for the security and sustainable development of partner countries, it lays the foundations for stronger political and business relationships, including extended economic cooperation.

The challenges that will continue to affect the global debate and decisions at least until 2030 include: the growing instability of the international environment, potent and multi-directional demographic changes in developing countries, the still deepening economic disparities between highly developed countries and the developing ones, as well as climatic change resulting, inter alia, in restricted access to natural resources and forcing people to migrate in search of them. Even today, the majority of these challenges require firm action of the international community. We hope that the effective implementation of the *Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme 2021-2030*, which is closely correlated with the *2030 Agenda*, will contribute to major positive changes both in today's world and in the long term for the benefit of future generations.⁶ We believe that the *Solidarity for Development* programme will serve to boost the prestige and international position of our country.

The thematic priorities of *Polish aid* specified in the programme, which will be pursued with particular emphasis, take into account our former experience, prospective courses of involvement, and global challenges. Using these priorities, we will implement in particular the objectives of the following sustainable development goals: *Goal 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions*, *4. Quality education*, *8. Decent work and economic growth*, *10. Reduced*

⁶ The first sustainable development financing outlook, carried out in 2019 by the OECD, notes the urgent need to mobilise resources. According to the report, the increase of financial means, promised to developing countries for achieving sustainable development objectives upon adopting the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in July 2015, did not materialise, cf. OECD, *Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2019: Time to Face the Challenge* (Summary in Polish), OECD Publishing, Paris 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1787/5d1c22aa-pl> i <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/5d1c22aa-pl.pdf?expires=1569330812&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=65EAAE12B8DC5AB2A02FF2F319F74CD0> [access: 19 October 2020]

inequalities, 3. Good health and well-being, 6. Clean water and sanitation, 11. Sustainable cities and communities and 13. Climate action.

As far as geographic priorities are concerned, we wish to focus means and actions on 10 priority partner countries to maximise the impact of our support. In addition, we will respect international rules for granting aid, especially those concerning the effectiveness and coherence of development policies.

We believe that the foundation for the correct functioning of states and societies, and hence the key factor that allows sustainable development, are peaceful, fair and strong institutions. This is why we will support their establishment and development in partner countries, hoping that they will contribute to the protection of human rights and the development of democracy and civic society.

We want to invest in young people by giving them access to high quality education and creating decent jobs. We will strive to improve the quality of life and healthcare, especially for the most vulnerable groups: children, people with disabilities, and victims of violence and conflicts.

Realising that almost half of humanity already live in urban areas, we want to become involved in actions to make cities and neighbourhoods more friendly, safe and sustainable. We will strive to ensure the widest possible access to clean water and clean air. We want to support the natural environment by being actively involved in initiatives to counteract climate and environmental change, thereby striving for climate neutrality in the spirit of fair transformation, taking into account the varied needs and capabilities of different countries. Lack of a joint, socially responsible response to climate change aggravated by human activity may result in a disaster on a previously unrecorded scale. For this reason, climate action will be a cross-cutting objective for us.

As a member state of the European Union, we will continue efforts to ensure that the Community, in its development cooperation, will take into account the knowledge and experience of all its members. We will also act across the board to support gender equality and social empowerment of women and girls. Striving to increase the effectiveness of the European Union with regard to development cooperation, Poland will actively participate in the process of planning individual development cooperation strategies in partner countries and in the process of monitoring the implementation of their objectives

Polish aid activities will be carried out together with partners involved in development cooperation, based on Polish foreign policy priorities. We want to combine the actions of public administration, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and the scientific community in order to conduct joint tasks more effectively. Combining the tasks and making them complement each other allows a more effective response to global challenges and more effective implementation of *Polish aid* objectives. We realise that the implementation of the *2030 Agenda* objectives requires huge financial expenditures, far exceeding the sums that countries and international organisations can allocate to official development assistance. Therefore, in the perspective of achieving the global objectives by 2030, it will be crucial to involve the private sector and nongovernmental organisations while observing the standards of social and environmental responsibility. The private sector plays an integral role in reducing poverty and stimulating economic development.

This role is not limited to mobilising financial resources. Private companies contribute to increased productivity and introduce technological innovations in local markets, and transforming the private sector may also help protect the environment and the climate. The products, services and technologies offered by the private sector may have a significant impact in solving the development-related challenges faced by societies in developing countries.

We intend to mobilise Polish business to join in building global sustainable development and prosperity. Financial profit can, and frequently should, go hand in hand with measurable developmental and environmental effects. It is important that nongovernmental organisations be involved in cooperation with the business sector, so as to increase the sustainability and transparency of activities for the benefit of local communities.

It is also our ambition to make Polish society increasingly aware of the most pressing challenges of the contemporary world and to foster a feeling of joint responsibility for global development. Through global education that forms part of education and teaching of Polish civic society we want to make our fellow countrymen even more aware of the impact of our everyday choices on the quality of life, both in our immediate neighbourhood and in distant regions. Everyone should be confident that they can and are able to change the world! We hope that *Polish aid* will be perceived in this way by all inhabitants of our country – as an opportunity and a tool to improve global situation.



2

POLISH DEVELOPMENT AID - MAIN PRINCIPLES AND POINTS OF REFERENCE

2.1. POINTS OF REFERENCE AND FRAMEWORK OF THE DOCUMENT

Polish development aid implements the priorities of Poland's foreign policy and the objectives of the Development Cooperation Act of 16 September 2011.⁷

As a responsible partner, we also want to fulfil Poland's obligations resulting from our membership in international organisations. Poland is actively engaged in achieving and monitoring the goals of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, a document that forms the universal "plan of action for people, planet and prosperity."⁸ An integral part of the *Agenda* is also the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* that sets the framework of development financing in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity.⁹

"(...) nowadays Poland is ready to take its share of responsibility for international security, including also climate dimension of the latter."¹⁰ According to the *Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration*, adopted by world leaders on the initiative of the Polish presidency of the UNFCCC COP24¹¹, the social aspect is crucial for effective transition towards a low-emission economy and for gaining broad social acceptance of the changes that are taking place, while development instruments have the potential to create decent jobs and increase resilience to climate change. The majority of objectives of the *2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity* (the so-called *Aichi objectives*) will not be achieved, and – as a result

7 Journal o Laws 2020, items 1648 and 2023.

8 Cf. The preamble of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. Transforming our world: *the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, op. cit.

9 The *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA), adopted in July 2015, notes the need to engage a wide range of entities – governments, private sector companies, foundations, and private individuals – in providing financial support and to handle these funds in a more coordinated manner. The *Agenda* also stresses the major role played by national sustainable development strategies and the mobilisation of national resources that is of key importance for the implementation of these strategies. Cf. the digital knowledge platform on sustainable development, United Nations 2015, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=2051&menu=35> [access: 19 October 2020]

10 Cf. Statement by the President at the official opening of the Climate Summit and the COP24 Leaders' Summit, Katowice 2018: <https://www.prezydent.pl/aktualnosci/wypowiedzi-prezydenta-rp/wystapienia/art,589,wystapienie-prezydenta-rp-podczas-uroczystego-otwarcia-szczytu-klimatycznego-oraz-szczytu-liderow-cop24.html> [access: 19 October 2020]

11 Cf. the *Solidarity and Just Transition Declaration*, COP24, Katowice 2018, <https://cop24.gov.pl/pl/prezydcja/inicjatywy/deklaracja-just-transition/> [access: 19 October 2020]

– Poland is determined to help by acting in support of biodiversity and implementing new global biodiversity frameworks after 2020. Such activities include supporting other countries in their efforts to ensure protection and sustainable use of biodiversity. Poland also draws attention to the objectives, priorities and main principles of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030*,¹² stressing the need to strive for considerable reduction in risks and losses concerning life, health and prosperity in developing countries.

An important point of reference for Polish development cooperation is the *New European Consensus on Development*¹³. This is a joint plan of action of the European Union and individual member states to end poverty and achieve sustained global development in the economic, social and environmental dimensions. For the first time, the plan applies in its entirety to all European Union institutions and obliges all member states to work more closely towards sustainable development. The framework for the European Union involvement in the world is also delineated by the *Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy*¹⁴ and the amended European Neighbourhood Policy.

The implementation of the provisions of international documents is reflected in Polish foreign and internal policy. In the international dimension, these are activities undertaken under the *Polish aid* programme. In the internal dimension, it is a new model of Poland's development policy found in the *Sustainable Development Strategy up to 2020 (projected until 2030)*.¹⁵

Since October 2013, Poland has been a member of the *Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (DAC OECD)*. As a member state, Poland strives to fulfil the guidelines adopted by the Committee and to comply with its recommendations.

As a member of the United Nations, European Union and OECD, Poland has undertaken a number of political obligations to increase its activity in the international arena with a view to reducing poverty. In line with these commitments, over the time frame of this programme, we will strive to systematically increase the financial expenditures for development cooperation to 0.33 percent of the gross national income in 2030.

2.2. PRINCIPLES OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Polish development cooperation is implemented in line with the principles of respecting universal, inalienable and indivisible human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, rule of law and good governance, equality and solidarity.

12 Cf. the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030*, ONZ (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction), 2015, <https://undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030> [access: 19 October 2020]

13 Cf. The *New European Consensus on Development* "Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future", *op. cit.*

14 Cf. *A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign And Security Policy*, June 2016, EUGS website, http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/top_stories/pdf/eugs_review_web.pdf [access: 19 October 2020]

15 Cf. the government's *Sustainable Development Strategy up to 2020 (projected until 2030)*, Warsaw 2017, <https://www.gov.pl/documents/33377/436740/SOR.pdf> [access: 19 October 2020]

2.2.1. Effectiveness and efficiency of development cooperation.

In pursuing development cooperation, Poland strives to ensure its effectiveness and efficiency. In the international forum, our country participates in the efforts of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation which forms the main platform for dialogue on the effectiveness of development activities. Poland will continue activities to fulfil the provisions of the Fourth Development Effectiveness Forum in Busan:¹⁶

- » country ownership – development cooperation should take into account the priorities of partner countries (aid beneficiaries) found, inter alia, in national development strategies, as well as development cooperation models adjusted to the needs of the beneficiary country and its specific situation,
- » result-oriented approach – investments and efforts undertaken as part of development cooperation must exert a long-lasting effect on reducing poverty and inequality, promoting sustainable development, and must also contribute to increasing the potential of developing countries in line with their priorities.
- » inclusive partnership for development – it is necessary to involve the widest possible number of various stakeholders in sustainable development efforts while taking their diverse and complementary roles into account,
- » transparency and mutual responsibility – ensuring transparency of provided development aid and mutual responsibility in development cooperation with respect to beneficiaries, citizens, organisations and stakeholders.

An important feature of development activities, ensuring that their quality can be assessed, is the monitoring and evaluation of the effects of the support provided. The rich experience of Polish public statistics can be used to support the monitoring and evaluation of development cooperation.

2.2.2. Policy coherence for development

Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) has its roots in treaties (Article 208 of the Lisbon Treaty¹⁷). It also forms part of a wider process defined by OECD, in which *Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)*¹⁸ is considered a key component in implementing the *2030 Agenda*.

The purpose of *Policy Coherence for Development* is for states to draft and implement policies so as to support development goals wherever possible. The intention is also to

¹⁶ Cf. *The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation*, Busan 2011, OECD website, <https://www.oecd.org/development/effectiveness/busanpartnership.htm> [access: 19 October 2020]

¹⁷ Cf. The Lisbon Treaty, Official Journal of the European Union (C306/1), 17 December 2007, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A12007L%2FTEXT> [access: 19 October 2020]

¹⁸ Cf. *Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development*, OECD website, <http://www.oecd.org/gov/pcsd/> [access: 19 October 2020]

avoid activities which have a negative impact on development opportunities of developing countries.

In implementing the *Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development*, the key components are:

- » ensuring compliance with global SDGs, supporting the implementation of SDGs during negotiations in international forums,
- » introducing sustainable development criteria/elements to public policies,
- » making changes to national policies to contribute to global development,
- » supporting developing countries in achieving compliance with international standards, including through capacity building.

The competent public administration bodies are responsible for ensuring policy coherence within the remit of their competences and for the compliance of implemented sectoral policies with sustainable development goals.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the competent ministries and offices, will define priority areas of action as part of *Policy Coherence for Development*. These areas will be included in the *Development Cooperation Plan* for 2021 and updated in subsequent years.

Public administration bodies will compile annual reports on implementing SDGs in these areas. The documents will be submitted to the Development Cooperation Policy Council affiliated with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.





Kenya, Participants of firefighting training conducted by rescuers of the Polish Center for International Aid; Photo: PCPM



Myanmar, Mobile clinic-ship for the hospital in Wakema – part of the support of the Polish Medical Mission for health protection activities in the Irrawaddy Delta; Photo: PMM



3

PRIORITIES OF POLISH AID

The geographical and thematic priorities of *Polish aid* have been defined on the basis of the assessment and evaluation of previous activities and consultations with strategic partners. Polish priorities will support the implementation of the *Polish Foreign Policy Strategy*, take into account the European Union priorities related to EU foreign policy and security, including neighbourhood policy, development cooperation and building sustainable development, and respond to global challenges that require a joint response from all states involved in implementing the *2030 Agenda* goals.

3.1. GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITIES

The main point of reference in defining geographical priorities of *Polish aid* is the list of countries eligible to receive Official Development Aid (ODA), drafted and published by the OECD Development Assistance Committee.¹⁹ Having in mind the principles of development cooperation, including the criterion of effectiveness, and considering previous experiences, comparative advantages and alignment with Poland's foreign policy priorities, Polish activities will focus on selected geographical areas.

The priority partners of *Polish aid* will be selected from among countries qualified for the European Neighbourhood Policy, including the Eastern Partnership countries and selected Middle Eastern, North African and sub-Saharan countries. We will offer support to the least developed countries as well as to those at a medium level of development where large segments of population are still living in poverty. In the perspective of a decade-long programme, we do not rule out extending our activities to other geographical areas, depending on the needs of partner countries and our own capabilities.

The priority countries of *Polish aid* are those to which the largest number of development activities is addressed. For each of these countries, Poland will strive to draft a

¹⁹ Cf. *DAC List of ODA Recipients Effective for reporting on 2018, 2019 and 2020 flows*, OECD website, http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf [access: 19 October 2020]

development cooperation strategy for at least the next three years, with specific goals and results. Each such document will be produced following a dialogue with the country's government institutions, local authorities, social partners and other entities, taking into account the joint EU programming for development, depending on the specific circumstances of each country and the nature of support. The most important thing will be to align the offered aid with the needs of our partners.

When selecting priority countries, we take into account the following criteria:

- » current status of and prospects for future relationships with the country in question, given the political and economic aspects, its importance for the broadly understood security of Poland, and potential benefits of cooperation,
- » the development needs of the partner country and the possibility to satisfy them using the resources available to Poland, including the resources of the private sector,
- » the goals of Polish foreign policy, including social and economic goals, in particular improving international capacity to include Polish companies, social organisations and experts in development projects,
- » permanent diplomatic or consular presence in the partner country,
- » security of personnel engaged in providing aid,
- » experience obtained from previous development and humanitarian activity in the country or region.
- » coherence with the activities of the European Union and other international organisations, of which Poland is a member, ,
- » the possibility to cooperate with other countries and external partners.

Based on the above criteria, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as the body responsible for the “foreign affairs” division of public administration which covers development cooperation matters, including humanitarian aid, and coordinating this cooperation, will designate no more than 10 priority countries.

The list of *Polish aid* priority countries will be taken into account in the *Development Cooperation Plan* for 2021, according to the procedure of drafting an annual plan based on the Development Cooperation Act. Because of potential social and political changes worldwide, the list will be reviewed twice: while drafting the *Development Cooperation Plan* in 2024 and in 2027.

In exceptional cases the Minister of Foreign affairs will be able, after consultation with non-governmental partners, to make changes to the list of priority countries (by modifying, narrowing or extending the list) if unforeseen circumstances arise and also in other cases when such a change is justified by the foreign policy objectives of the Republic of Poland.

3.2. THEMATIC PRIORITIES

The priorities defined below are directly related to selected sustainable development goals described in the *2030 Agenda*. The *Agenda* and its 17 goals and 169 tasks serve as an important point of reference for us.

Treating the *2030 Agenda* as an integral set of values and goals, we will implement thematic priorities, taking into account particularly the following sustainable development goals: *16. Peace, justice and strong institutions*, *4. Quality education*, *8. Decent work and economic growth*, *10. Reduced inequalities*, *3. Good health and well-being*, *6. Clean water and sanitation*, *11. Sustainable cities and communities* and *13. Climate action*. The horizontal priorities of the programme will be climate action- and equality between men and women.

We are aware of the universal nature of the *2030 Agenda*, the links between individual goals and tasks, and the fact that achieving results related to one goal may affect others. We are convinced that Polish experiences and competences will most effectively contribute to achieving tangible, visible results within the selected group of goals, which will be extended as new development needs of partner countries and available financial resources arise.

Sustainable development goals set as priority for *Polish aid*²⁰



²⁰ Own study based on analysed bilateral and multilateral cooperation and internal and external consultations carried out in 2019.



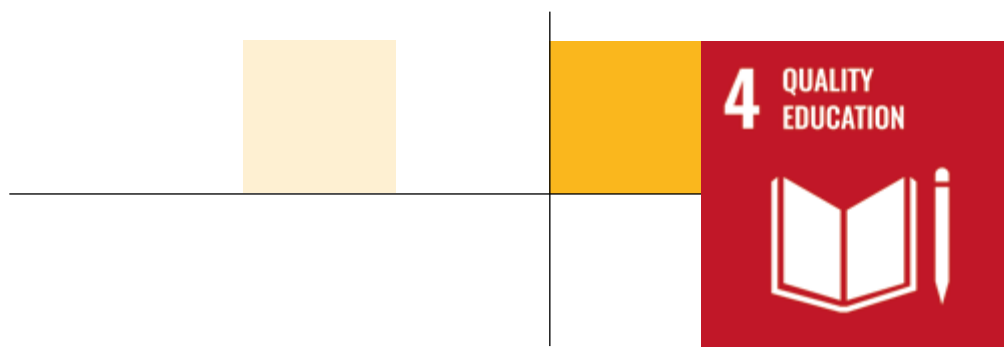
3.2.1. Peace, justice and strong institutions.

Peace and security are the indispensable conditions for development. Sustainable development, in turn, increases the chances for lasting peace and international stability. Only countries having strong and stable institutions, following good governance principles, respecting human rights, and granting citizens equal opportunities to influence the decisions that affect them stand a chance to achieve lasting and sustainable development.

This is why we will support all partner countries in applying good governance principles by building institutional systems able to implement a sustainable development policy. Development should be based on reliable knowledge about sources and conditions that generate conflict and degradation on the scale of entire civilisation, as well as on regional and local level.

We want these countries to pursue their own open policy conducive to sustainable development, based on reliable, objective and independent data. We want them to rely on a professional administration acting for the public good in compliance with legal regulations, following transparent processes and giving consideration to dialogue with civic society.

Our activities will also be oriented at ensuring effective protection for people persecuted because of their religion, creed, or other beliefs, both by providing assistance to the victims of such persecution and by supporting governments and institutions which fight its manifestations and causes. In this way, we will support the values protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, aligned with Polish foreign policy priorities (also as part of the UN Council of Human Rights of which Poland is a member for the 2020-2022 term), and the ideas underlying the establishment of the *International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance* (where Poland is a participant).



3.2.2. Equal opportunities

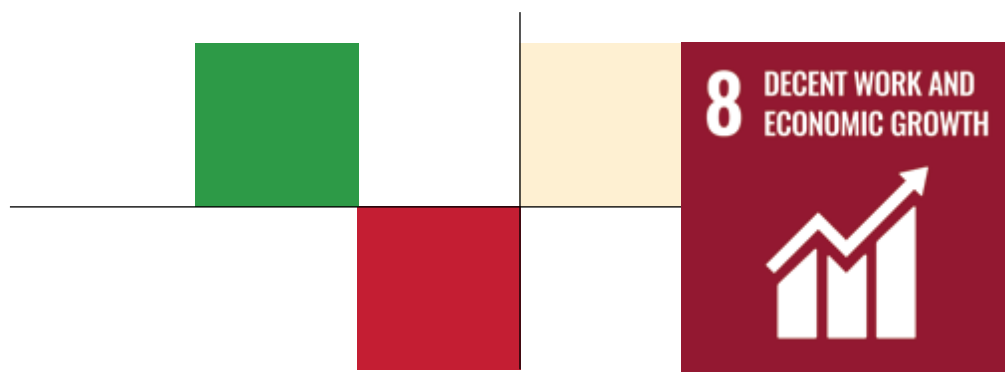
3.2.2.1. Education

Universal access to high quality education increases the chances for lasting, sustainable and peaceful development of states and societies. Education is of fundamental importance, as the level of educational attainment affects opportunities for finding decent work, participating in social life, enforcing one's civil rights, or even the health of individuals.

Therefore, we will support the efforts of the countries we aid to ensure equal educational opportunities to all citizens and good quality of education that meets modern challenges and standards. We will pay particular attention to equal access to education for girls and young women and people from groups at risk of exclusion, including in particular persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons or refugees. We will support civic education in schools, including initiatives to develop a culture of peace, which also means supporting education in areas ravaged by conflicts, including humanitarian law and human rights, as well as education concerning the principles of sustainable development, including the causes and effects of climate change. The cooperation will cover all levels of education, from preschool through early school, primary, and secondary teaching to the vocational and academic level, as well as adult education. We will also improve the professional qualifications of teachers. Foreign students at Polish universities will be supported by means of scholarships and waived tuition fees. The support will be available to all citizens of developing countries, in particular to citizens of Polish development cooperation priority countries. The rules for waiving tuition fees for foreigners are set by universities at their own discretion. Dedicated scholarship programmes will also be launched to make it easier for students to obtain education and skills which can be used to improve the conditions of life in their home countries.

We want to create a society open to all population groups, in particular those previously affected by social exclusion. Our objective is to remove all barriers, both physical and mental, preventing access to education, in particular by undertaking activities for the benefit of groups and persons deprived of access to education.

In addition to initiatives supporting high quality education in developing countries, we will strive to strengthen the presence of global education in Poland at all levels of formal and informal education (in line with SDG 4.7).



3.2.2.2. Decent work

The ability to engage in gainful employment is of fundamental importance for human dignity. Unfortunately, conditions and rules of employment, especially for people from marginalised social groups, often detract from basic standards and liberties and are contrary to human rights. We will support the creation of new jobs and improvement of working conditions, with particular focus on those threatened with exclusion: women, the young, , and people with disabilities. Establishing decent working conditions is inseparably entwined with companies taking responsibility for respecting human rights, also with regard to the right to decent wages. Climate change and attempts to deal with the issue often result in far-reaching problems on the labour market. This applies to all enterprises, regardless of their size, industry, context of activities, ownership, and structure.

Societies whose members have satisfying jobs and wages stand a better chance to build sustainable and innovative economies. Due to dynamic and multi-directional demographic changes in developing countries, the coming years will bring the challenge to create good quality jobs suited to the needs of local economies and labour markets, especially in low-emission sectors. Focusing the activities on young people is of key importance. Neglecting this group may considerably jeopardise achieving sustainable development goals and increase its susceptibility to negative influences, especially in conflict situations, and it may also contribute to an increase in unrestricted migrations.

Our cooperation will focus on transfers of technology and knowledge. Our objective will be to promote full and productive employment and ensure decent work for everyone.

3.2.2.3. Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship contributes to lower unemployment, paving the way for innovation and economic growth, and may also help reduce social inequalities. In developing countries, being an entrepreneur is often the only way to earn money when the state is unable to create a sufficient number of jobs for its citizens. We will promote entrepreneurship, especially among the youth and women and in rural areas. We will boost the development of micro, small and medium enterprises to make them competitive and innovative, and also

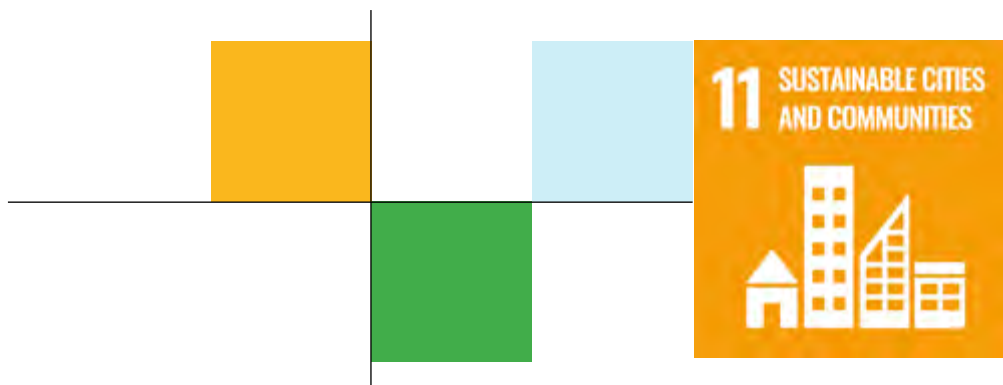
offer support to start-ups. Particular attention will be paid to young entrepreneurs who develop their ideas in modern, low-emission branches of the economy, producing goods with high added value. We will support the manufacturing of local goods.

We will help enhance the creation of new and development of existing innovation centres and modern business clusters. We want to ensure support for regional and local development strategies focused on balanced economic growth. Our activities will serve to attract more investors, develop tourism and recreation, and promote local culture.



3.2.2.4. Reducing inequality

Ending poverty is not possible without reducing inequality. The development of societies and countries is measured by the situation of their weakest members. Only the societies that ensure equal opportunities and access to benefits to all their members and allow them to positively contribute to social and economic life stand a chance to achieve lasting and sustainable development. There is no doubt that ensuring the equality of genders and improving the position of women and girls can considerably contribute to stimulating growth, thereby ending poverty, and to reinforce stability and build peace in regions affected by conflict. We will strive to reduce existing inequalities. Our activities will focus on eliminating discriminatory practices, laws, and policies in all areas of life, primarily in education, where we will promote equal educational opportunities. We will support policies and activities aimed at reducing inequality. We will strive to enhance the representation and importance of marginalised social groups in the decision-making process on the local, national and international level.



3.2.2.5. Sustainable cities

Rapid urbanisation is one of the greatest challenges in the twenty-first century.²¹ On the one hand, the development of cities contributes to economic growth. No country has managed to achieve mid-range income without developments in urbanisation.²² Nonetheless, urbanisation has a negative impact on the environment and impairs the quality of life of city inhabitants. Sustainable and inclusive development may stimulate positive changes in the functioning of cities and the lives of their inhabitants, and also reduce the pressure cities exert on the environment.

This is why we will be involved in urban planning and renovation schemes to support sustainable development and take into consideration social, economic, spatial and environmental needs, including those to counteract and adapt to climate change. Other activities will include improving the quality of life of citizens, reinforcing social participation mechanisms, restoring damaged urban areas, and modernising municipal utility services. Another essential feature will be civil protection with extended social participation, supporting the development of the ability to react to crisis situations and the long-term adaptation of urban infrastructure to ongoing climate change.

We will strive to become engaged in urban development planning, including low-emission transport infrastructure and blue-and-green infrastructure, also by contributing to the drafting and implementation of systems for the monitoring of social and economic growth.

21 Cf. *New City Agenda*, Habitat III, United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Quito 2016, <http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-Polish.pdf> [access: 19 October 2020]

22 Cf. *UN System-Wide Strategy on Sustainable Urban Development*, 26 April 2019, ONZ (CEB/2019/4/Add.4), <https://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/UN-System-Wide-Strategy-on-Sustainable-Urban-Development-1.pdf> [access: 19 October 2020]

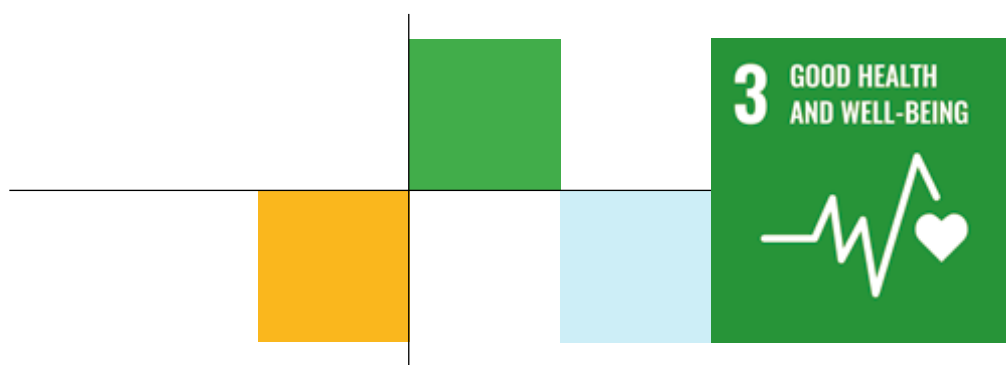
3.2.2.6. Regional development planning and planning of rural areas

In poorly developed countries, the majority of population lives in rural areas. Even though in these countries a high percentage of people are working in agriculture, the share of rural inhabitants in the national income is disproportionately low. This has unwelcome effects in the form of poverty, disrupting traditional family and social links, or economically motivated migration to cities (and to other countries, including those in the EU) that result in lower stability and decreased security.

Preventing these negative consequences is possible by supporting sustainable food production, modernisation and development of agriculture, as well as building up alternative branches of economy in rural areas. Actions to develop stable institutions and educational facilities and to improve access to healthcare are also necessary.

Socially responsible development aid should lead to uniform regional development of the beneficiary countries, regardless of their level of urbanisation.

Actions to build stable institutions and educational facilities, improve access to healthcare, and support the development of capability to respond to crisis situations must also be carried out in rural areas.



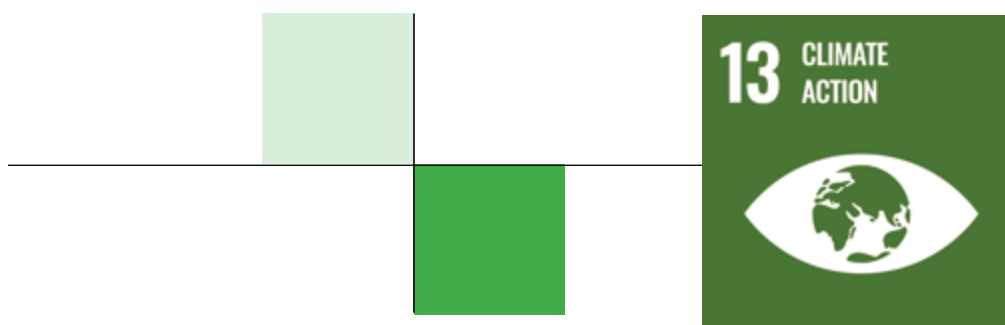
3.2.3. Health

Ensuring that everyone has access to healthcare and health education is the foundation of sustainable development of any country. Health is crucial to the success of processes aiming at building sustainable growth and ending poverty. In recent years, many countries have shown considerable improvement in healthcare standards. Nevertheless many problems, such as fighting infectious diseases, their causes and transmission, remain unsolved.

We will focus our activities on improving the quality and accessibility of healthcare, especially for women and children, whose situation in this respect is the most difficult. We will strive to ensure wider access to social services and enhance their quality for people from groups threatened with social exclusion. An important factor in these activities will be education. Its purpose will be to exchange knowledge and experience with specialists and local medical personnel and to raise the awareness of hygiene and prevention, especially

among children and young people. Cooperation with partner countries will involve enhancing their ability to ensure the accessibility and high quality of health services to their citizens.

Polish aid activities will also include building and modernising medical and sanitary infrastructure, supporting the development of specialised healthcare, promoting the operation of local health centres, and establishing early warning, early response and risk management systems in healthcare.



3.2.4. Climate and natural resources

Climate change, degradation of the environment, and the extinction of species and populations produce a number of negative consequences that strongly limit the possibilities of economic growth and development of countries and societies and jeopardise the well-being of individuals. This is one of the biggest challenges for humankind, putting many people at risk of not being able to lead a normal existence and enjoy their basic rights, including access to natural resources. This is a global challenge that requires a global response and coordinated action. The desire to achieve climate neutrality (activities aimed at balancing anthropogenic emissions and absorption of greenhouse gases), adapt to climate change (aligning institutions and infrastructure to the coming change), and increase the resilience of communities to such change, must be implemented at all levels and closely linked to the development policy of each country.

Poland, which is also facing the huge challenge of economic and social transformation towards sustainable development, can share its experiences with other countries. In order to protect the climate, we will support all levels of public administration in partner countries, also with respect to environmental protection, fostering its ability to ensure effective management of the environment and enforce the relevant regulations. One of the factors important for us is developing the ability to plan and implement sustainable development by, among others, making environmental aspects part of social and economic policy to ensure that meeting social needs and aspiring towards sustainable development involve

care for climate and the environment. We will pay attention to issues related to biodiversity, forest resources, renewable energy sources, electromobility, and active mobility. Due to the priority nature of the climate issue, we will also support the design and implementation of policies related to mitigating climate change, including emission trading and monitoring as well as prevention of natural disasters. We will also strive to empower society. Citizens must necessarily be aware that they themselves can make a change for good by rigorous waste segregation or limiting CO₂ emissions. In the Eastern Partnership countries, we will additionally support the convergence of internal regulations with European Union standards.



3.2.4.1. Clean water and sanitary conditions

Everyone should have access to clean water. The global resources are currently sufficient, however their equitable distribution remains a challenge. Improper management of these resources and their local shortages give rise to multiple threats. For this reason, our activities will serve to improve water management in respect of ensuring access to safe potable water, rational water use in all sectors of the economy, and care to preserve clean and natural water ecosystems. When dealing with this issue, we will take innovative solutions into account. We will undertake educational activities concerning water and sanitary hygiene. We will support the establishment of systemic solutions, including legal changes related to water and waste management. We will strive to reduce sewage generated by households (ensuring suitable sanitary conditions) and sectors of the economy (limiting the use of hazardous chemicals and other dangerous materials). We will also aspire to increase the potential for natural water retention that helps mitigate the effects of droughts and reduce the risk of flooding.

We want to expand international cooperation and support the potential of individual countries in undertaking actions and developing programmes to protect water ecosystems and improve sanitary conditions. This will apply in particular to retaining water in the location of rainfalls, effective water management, sewage treatment, and water recycling and reuse technologies. The basis for these actions will be European experiences related to achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

3.2.4.2. Forests and biodiversity

Due to their ability to absorb greenhouse gases, forests are of key importance in counteracting the effects of human activity on climate change. As part of *Polish aid*, we will undertake actions demonstrating the advantages of permanently sustainable forest management and socially responsible forest administration, in particular informational and educational initiatives related to forestation and biodiversity. We will oppose the degradation of the environment and aspire to repair or mitigate any previously caused damage. We will protect forests and forest ecosystems which are now threatened with deforestation, soil degradation and fires. We will focus on preserving natural balance, restoring degraded ecosystems, and protecting biodiversity. We believe that in this respect we need to combine the actions of public and local administration, non-governmental organisations, scientific institutions, local communities, and individual citizens.

3.2.4.3. Renewable energy sources

Renewable and balanced energy sources could improve the accessibility of electric energy, but also contribute to achieving climate neutrality. The growing demand for electricity in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East results in generating enormous amounts of energy from traditional sources despite increasing use of renewable ones. We will therefore undertake actions to improve energy efficiency and endorse the production and use of energy from renewable sources. We will support drafting standards and legal frameworks regulating this sector, also in terms of research on new technologies, taking into account transfers of RES technologies from Poland.

3.2.5. Horizontal priorities of *Polish aid*

The two horizontal priorities of *Polish aid* are climate change and equal opportunities for men and women. The unprecedented climate changes are affecting the entire planet, all areas of life, and every community. These changes are the major threat for development cooperation and achieving the basic *2030 Agenda* goal of limiting poverty. In addition, each sustainable development goal considers the position of women, noting their huge importance for the sustainable development of the world.

Effective protection of the climate requires coordinated actions in the fields of both environment protection and economic and social policy. Having in mind the cross-cutting nature of this phenomenon, we will promote taking climate change-related issues in all *Polish aid* actions. Poland will support partner countries in their activities aimed at limiting negative impacts of climate change and building their ability to adapt to these events (including climate risk reduction and reduction in vulnerability to threats). This relates to both bilateral and multilateral cooperation, drafting a development cooperation strategy for priority countries, operational plans, inventing new tools, regulatory mechanisms, and

evaluation of the actions undertaken. The activities should contribute to efficient energy use and waste reduction.

Sustainable development goals point to the huge role of women in making the world a better place and emphasise that their activities and ability to bring things together are key to solving global problems.²³ Preventing inequality from becoming rooted in society and improving the status of women form an important development cooperation instrument both on the micro and macro scale, and in addition are a goal in itself. The common belief is that gender equality is an essential prerequisite for permanently ending poverty and a necessary condition of sustainable development that supports social inclusion.²⁴ The principle of equality between men and women is regulated in a number of legal instruments and national/international documents, including the constitution of the Republic of Poland of 2 April 1997 (Journal of Laws no. 483, as amended) and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OJ EU C 202 of 7 June 2016, p. 1). Equal opportunities are not only a goal in itself, but also a means to achieve specific sustainable development goals.

Humanitarian aid consists in particular in providing support, care and protection to people harmed by armed conflicts, natural disasters or other humanitarian crises caused by natural or man-made factors.²⁵ Such activities are aimed mostly at saving and protecting life and health.

Poland grants humanitarian aid in accordance with the *European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid*²⁶, the Common Principles and Good Practices found therein, and other international guidelines laid down by, among others, the United Nations and the European Union. These principles are derived from international legal humanitarian heritage and include, inter alia, independence, neutrality, impartiality, and humanity. They lay down the rules for cooperating with various entities from the humanitarian sector while preserving the competences possessed by these institutions.

23 Cf. *Równość płci a Cele Zrównoważonego Rozwoju*, document drafted by the UN Information Centre in Warsaw, 8 March 2017, <https://www.un.org.pl/rownosc-plci-a-cele-zrownowazonego-rozwoju> [access: 19 October 2020]

24 Jankowski B., *Współpraca rozwojowa a równość płci*, „Sprawy Międzynarodowe”, 2016 no. 2, p. 105.

25 Cf. Article 2(1)(2) of the Development Cooperation Act of 16 September 2011 (Journal of Laws 2020, items 1648 and 2023)

26 For more on the *European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid*, see the EU web page https://ec.europa.eu/echo/who/humanitarian-aid-and-civil-protection/european-consensus_en, updated on 12 July 2019 [access: 19 October 2020]



4

HUMANITARIAN AID

The nature of humanitarian crises is becoming increasingly complex, straddling the traditional border between humanitarian aid and development cooperation. Situations that require supplying necessary humanitarian aid last longer and necessitate a multi-faceted approach. This makes it necessary to distinguish traditional, immediate humanitarian aid and long-term development support for countries affected by prolonged crises.

In this context, investing in preventing and eliminating the basic causes of threats and in methods to quickly respond to humanitarian crises and natural disasters is of paramount importance.

Wishing to ensure the most effective reaction to prolonged crises, we will strive to make humanitarian and development activities complement each other in our efforts and to support peace efforts (the *humanitarian – development – peace nexus*). Responding to the most urgent needs of the citizens in countries affected by a humanitarian crisis, we will at the same time gradually implement development projects aimed at boosting the social and economic potential of these countries. One should also notice close ties between humanitarian activities, sustainable development activities, prevention of conflicts, and building and maintaining peace. The importance of diplomatic and political action to support peace and security, in accordance with the global EU strategy and the *Agenda for Sustainable Development*, should be recognised.

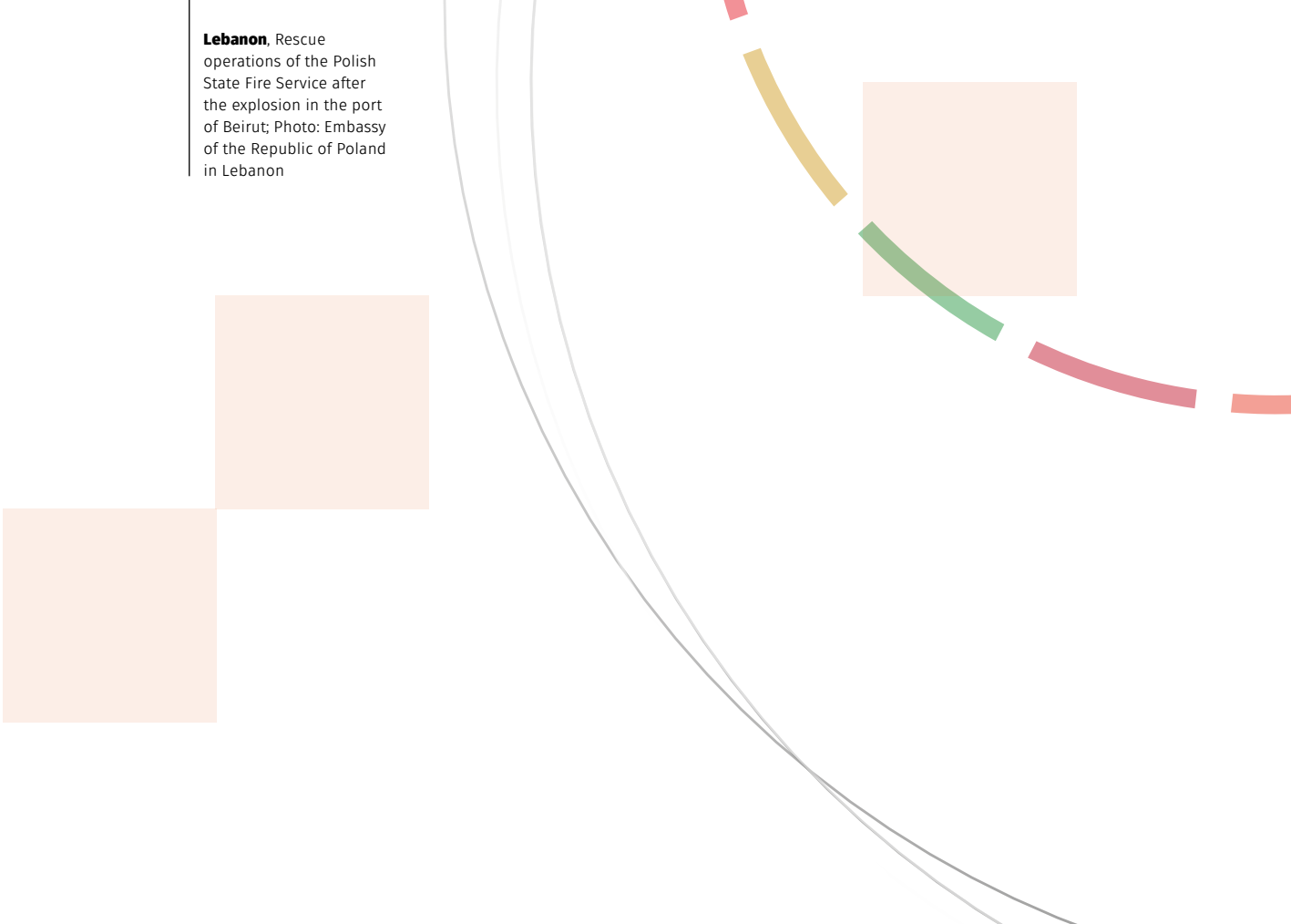
The mutual cooperation of countries is of considerable importance in the humanitarian aid area. However, despite extreme efforts of the international community, many of those harmed by humanitarian crises lose their chances for a decent life. It is therefore particularly essential to improve the self-sufficiency and economic independence of countries and societies to which humanitarian aid is addressed. In this context, investments in preventing and eliminating the basic causes of threats and meeting humanitarian needs while simultaneously improving the ability of societies to cope in crisis situations are of extreme importance.

Due to its specific character, humanitarian aid will be provided regardless of geographical priorities.

We will cooperate with non-governmental organisations, specialised state agencies (including rescue services), other public administration institutions, and multilateral organisations. Polish humanitarian aid will also take into account strategic partnerships with international humanitarian organisations and activities within the European Union and the United Nations.



Lebanon, Rescue operations of the Polish State Fire Service after the explosion in the port of Beirut; Photo: Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Lebanon





Lebanon.
Humanitarian Aid of
the Polish Center for
International Aid for
Syrian Refugees in
the Akkar Province in
Lebanon; Photo: PCPM



5

GLOBAL EDUCATION AND VOLUNTARY WORK

The *Solidarity for Development* programme assumes conducting educational activities about the state of the world and its development, called global education. Global education forms part of civic education, extending its scope by making students aware of global events and interdependencies. Its main objective is to get students ready to face the challenges that affect the entire humanity. By interdependencies, we mean mutual ties and blending of cultural, environmental, economic, social, political, technological and legal systems, particularly as regards protecting human rights. Our mission is to share knowledge and experience on both the local and global level. One of the assumptions of global education is to explain why implementing the 17 sustainable development goals is necessary and to make students aware of their importance.

Global education activities are also aligned with achieving the sustainable development goals.

We attach considerable attention to promoting proper behaviour patterns on the local, regional, and global level – responsibility, respect, honesty, empathy, openness, personal involvement, and readiness for lifelong education. Our goal is to change the negative attitudes and actions of those to whom our educational efforts are addressed, including discriminatory attitudes and passiveness in the face of global challenges. Particular emphasis will be put on reducing stereotypes about countries of the South and taking care not to reproduce these stereotypes in global education activities.

In implementing this goal, state institutions will work in partnership with other entities responsible for educational activities in their countries, including schools, universities, and non-governmental organisations specialising in civic education, in order to extend the understanding of the world by raising awareness about global events and interdependencies. At the international forum, in turn, we will cooperate with specialized organisations and their agencies in order to emphasise the global character of Poland's actions to repair the world. Cooperation with the media, also on the Internet, will allow us to distribute the news and messages created, and thus form a knowledge base accessible to everyone interested.

We want to create a strategic and operational document on global education in Poland, which will feature, among others, general and detailed goals of the Polish global education programme, include global education in the lifelong education perspective, and also establish a framework for cooperation between sectors, ministries, and other central administration institutions with a view to supporting the development of global education in Poland.

These activities will be targeted at a wide audience – children, youth and adults – using various forms of education, including informal education, in particular by improving the competences of teaching staff and educators. The programme will promote global education, including climate education, at all stages of formal education, in line with the core curriculum. The presence of global education in schools and universities will also be promoted.

We will aspire to increase and improve the involvement of Poland's residents in development aid, humanitarian aid, and other activities contributing to the achievement of sustainable development goals. We are particularly keen to directly integrate Poles in aid efforts through volunteer work in developing countries. We are also open to bilateral and multilateral exchanges. This course of action is aligned with the objectives of Polish development policy.

In-depth training on global education should form an inherent component of volunteer work programmes.

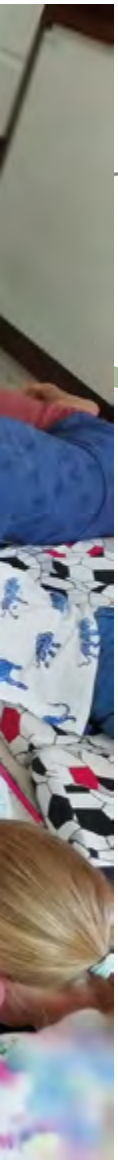
Thanks to the experiences they acquire, volunteers build new competences useful for employers, public organisations and educational institutions. Being respected both in their professional and private environments, upon returning to Poland they often serve as goodwill ambassadors for development.

We intend to engage volunteers in global education activities. By doing this, we want to popularise knowledge about global development challenges and promote the culture of volunteer work in Poland. Development and humanitarian volunteer work will allow us to build a core of experts back home. Volunteers knowledgeable about the nature of specific developing countries may contribute to a better understanding of global processes and events in Polish society. They will also build friendly and cooperation-oriented personal relations across borders.

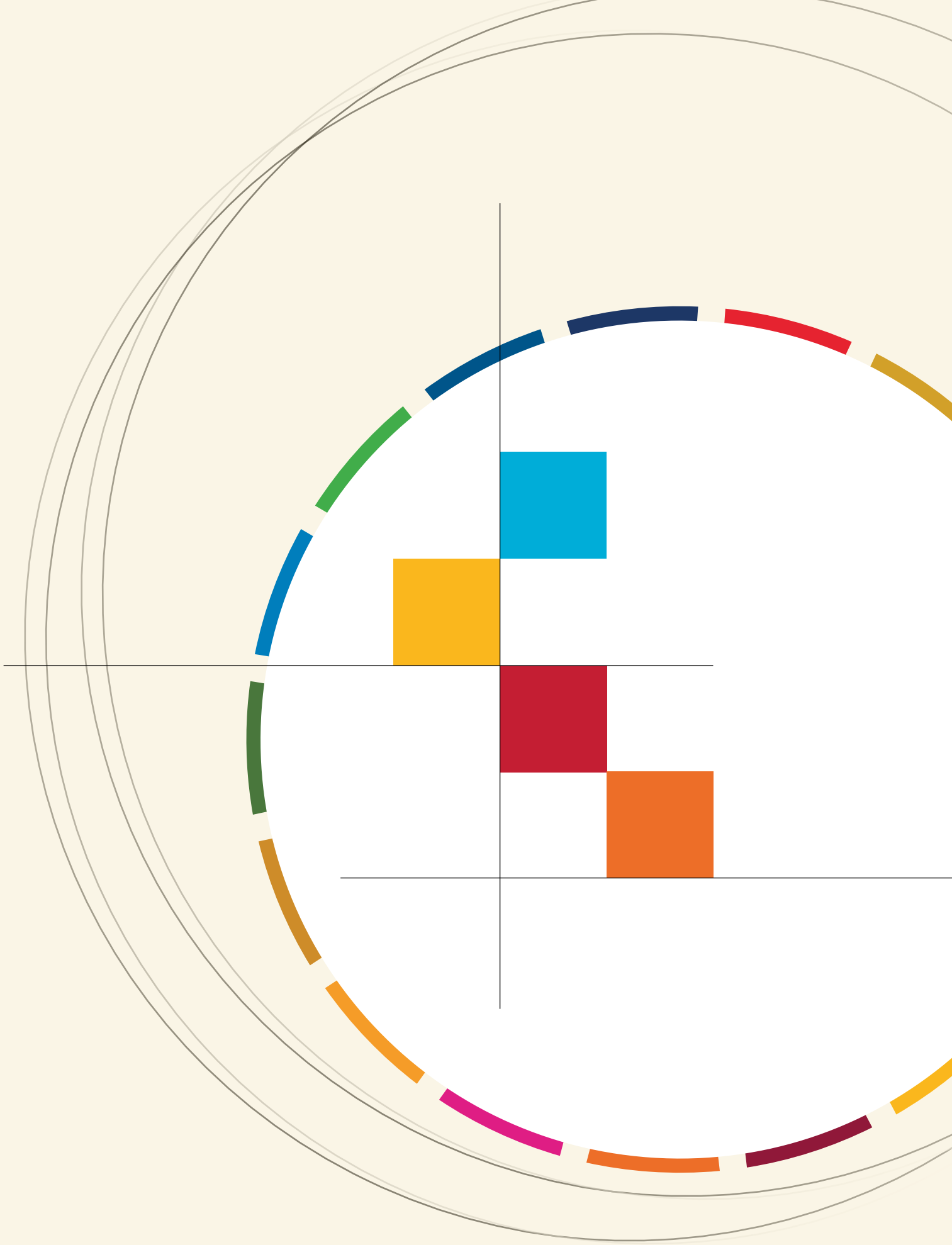




Poland. Global education classes as part of the summer camp "Lato Świątzmieniaczy" of the Imagine Foundation; Photo: Imagine Foundation



Tanzania, Volunteer of the Charity and Volunteer Center "Solidarni" during classes with children from the Buhangija center for albino, deaf and blind children in Bugisi; Photo: Charity and Volunteer Center "Solidarni"



6

TOOLS AND PARTNERS OF POLISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

6.1. TOOLS

Financing development activities is based on strictly regulated procedures and occurs in compliance with legal provisions.

Considering the challenges faced by Polish development cooperation, the financing mechanisms should be adjusted to the changing needs of developing countries. From the viewpoint of a multiannual policy included in this strategy, the available tools can be identified and the need for implementing new, more effective forms of development cooperation can be indicated.

The *Development Cooperation Act* contains an open list of development cooperation forms. Example forms enumerated in the Act include:

- » supporting or entrusting tasks to entities that participate in implementing development cooperation,
- » granting credits and loans,
- » contributions to international organisations, institutions, programmes, and funds.

Poland's experience in providing development and humanitarian assistance, spanning over a decade, makes it justified to consider whether the Polish system should perhaps include an entity specialised in implementing modern tools in the international cooperation area. Such an entity, for example an executive agency in the meaning of the Public Finance Act of 27 August 2009,²⁷ would engage in a wide range of development activities while carrying out government policy, not only in the forms of assistance which have been *verbatim* provided for in the Act but are not used due to institutional limitations (for example co-financing or granting technical support in implementing activities, co-financed in particular from the budgets of other countries, the EU or other international organisations), but also through entirely new initiatives. More flexible implementation instruments, including

²⁷ Journal of Laws 2019, item 869, as amended. Changes of the consolidated text of this Act have been announced in Journal of Laws 2019, item 1622, 1649, 2020 and 2473, and Journal of Laws 2020, item 284, 374, 568, 695, 1175 and 2320.

multiannual projects and funds sourced from the budget of the European Union or international agencies, would considerably increase the scale of development cooperation provided by Poland and – consequently – enhance Poland’s positive image internationally.

The development cooperation system requires modern tools that allow to adequately respond to the challenges faced by the world today. Establishing an agency to implement Polish development cooperation in the time-frame of the strategy could, if such a decision were made, contribute to enhancing the potential of *Polish aid* as a method for achieving the objectives of Polish foreign policy. It would also support Poland’s long-term involvement in building stability and sustainable development in her immediate international environment.

Alternatively, suitable legislative changes should be undertaken to allow the current institutional structure to carry out development cooperation tasks more efficiently.

While reviewing the present structure used to implement development cooperation, recommendations on how to change institutional solutions will be offered, combined with an evaluation of costs and benefits of the proposed solutions and their impact on the amount of aid provided by Poland.

6.2. PARTNERS

Effective and efficient development cooperation is possible only if there is partnership between various entities. Partners of Polish development cooperation include, among others, public administration, local government bodies, the Solidarity Fund PL, non-governmental bodies, entrepreneurs, and research institutes. The list is not closed, allowing new possibilities to be identified.

6.2.1. Cooperation of the government of the Republic of Poland with domestic entities

6.2.1.1 Cooperation with civil society partners

Social partners of development cooperation include non-governmental organisations, experts, academics, volunteers, or institutions dealing with or interested in development aid, global education, and humanitarian aid, as well as organisations specialising in the areas covered by the thematic scope of development cooperation defined in the Development Cooperation Act.

The voice of social partners is taken into account while drafting strategic and operational documents. Representatives of non-governmental organisations and universities sit

in consulting and advisory bodies affiliated with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, participate in works of selection boards, and implement development cooperation projects.

As part of the *Multiannual Cooperation Development Programme for 2021-2030*, action will be taken to ensure conditions in which the potential of non-governmental organisations in the area of development cooperation can flourish.

6.2.1.2 Cooperation with public institutions

Public institutions involved in development cooperation are an important partner of *Polish aid*. Representatives of state administration sit in consulting and advisory bodies affiliated with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and propose and implement development cooperation projects.

Initiatives implemented by public institutions, including public administration bodies, will be used, inter alia, to support political transformation in priority countries of *Polish aid*. The complexity of challenges faced in the third decade of the 21st century requires that synergy be ensured between the actions of various institutions whose activities support the implementation of thematic priorities of the Polish development cooperation programme. In this context, a wide perspective that takes into account also public institutions, their long-term experience, and their activities that reach beyond Poland, is especially important.

6.2.1.2.1 Cooperation with local government

A special role in the public administration system is played by local government institutions. All actions aimed at implementing specific subjects of importance for local communities are an excellent method for breaking down stereotypes, barriers, and prejudices. Experience shows that these actions contribute to sustainable positive change in how local communities perceive one another. More than a decade of intense international cooperation with foreign partners has allowed Polish local government bodies to be treated with considerable trust on the international scene.

6.2.1.3. Cooperation with the private sector

Polish development cooperation is implemented according to *UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*.²⁸ We will encourage Polish companies to take into account the possibility of engaging in global economic, environmental, and social challenges while

28 Cf. *Wytoczne ONZ dotyczące biznesu i praw człowieka. Wdrażanie dokumentu ramowego ONZ "Chronić, szanować i naprawiać,"* Polski Instytut Praw Człowieka i Biznesu, Częstochowa 2014, http://pihrb.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Wytoczne-ONZ-UNGPs-BHR-PL_web_PiHRB.pdf [access: 19 October 2020]

making their business decisions. In this manner, we will combine effective development policy actions with reinforcing the export and investment capabilities of Polish companies. In this way, we will combine effective action under the development policy with the strengthening of the export and investment capacity of Polish companies, which will then translate into a successive increase in their involvement in the *Polish aid* programme, and will improve its effectiveness and visibility. The possibility to pursue economic interest in tandem with development activities undertaken by Polish entrepreneurs will serve as an incentive for subsequent companies to participate in such undertakings.

We will provide backing to build a system of incentives and support for the private sector, so that it could invest in projects contributing to global sustainable development. We will design instruments to engage the private sector, using public funds to reduce the investment risks or to incentivise companies to invest in least developed countries or in sectors essential for social and economic development. One of the essential tools in this respect will be inter-governmental loans, granted in particular when the financed project has a development-related nature, which ensure the participation of Polish entities in implementing such projects.

We will also increase the capacity of Polish companies to become involved in the activities of international organisations, in particular to take part in open calls and tenders related to development projects (both individually and in consortia with foreign partners). By creating a repository of publicly available knowledge and organising trainings on existing tender and competition procedures, as well as advising about the related reputational and economic advantages, we will cause a sharp rise in the participation of Polish companies in projects of this kind.

6.2.2. Cooperation through international organisations

Thanks to Poland's presence at international forums, our country takes part in shaping the international debates, contributes to their rules, and influences the directions of international development cooperation according to our priorities. Besides, Poland gains an opportunity to achieve the development goals, important from the viewpoint of Polish foreign policy, through specialised institutions focused on multilateral cooperation. These institutions, operating on an international mandate, having suitable experience, expert knowledge and funds, are able to coordinate and deliver a wide range of aid activities. Aid provided by this channel is complementary to bilateral cooperation – on the one hand by supporting Polish priorities in international organisations, and on the other hand by financing activities that for certain reasons are not implemented bilaterally (due to geographical distance, complicated security situation etc.)

In 2018, Poland provided over 60% of its development aid in the form of contributions to the EU general budget and the European Development Fund. Poland will strive to have her priorities reflected in EU development activities through cooperation with other member states in the European Council and dialogue with EU institutions and bodies – the European Commission, European External Action Service, and European Parliament.

Poland will also participate in the joint implementation of projects financed from funds of the EU or other member states, and will also become involved in aid projects implemented as part of twinning and *Technical Assistance and Information Exchange* (TAIEX).

Multilateral cooperation is also pursued via other international organisations, primarily the institutions of the UN, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and multilateral development financial institutions.

As part of its multilateral cooperation, Poland regulates the required contributions and makes voluntary payments, supporting the actions of selected organisations that contribute to achieving the goals of Polish foreign and development policy.

The basic prerequisites for decisions about voluntary payments to multilateral organisations are their effectiveness and complementary character of their objective vis-a-vis bilateral cooperation. For this reason, the payments will be:

- » classified as Official Development Assistance,
- » aligned with the Republic of Poland's foreign policy goals, taking into account the priorities stated in the *Multiannual Cooperation Development Programme for 2021-2030*.
- » complementary towards bilateral undertakings,
- » subsidiary, implementing objectives that cannot be carried out using bilateral development cooperation,
- » focused, allowing to increase individual amounts supporting the funds and programmes that implement tasks of particular importance for the priorities of Polish development assistance and the priority objectives of the Poland's foreign policy.

In addition, Poland will support activities allowing domestic economic entities to participate as widely as possible (in the role of supplies/partners) in aid projects carried out by international organisations. Poland will also strive to regularly increase the number of Polish employees working in these institutions.

6.2.3. Cooperation with multilateral development banks (MDBs)

One of the essential dimensions of Polish development cooperation implemented through multilateral institutions is the ongoing involvement in the activities of multilateral development banks, which tends to reinforce and complement Poland's bilateral aid activities.

The mandates of multilateral development banks allow them not only to put funds from public donors to use, but also to mobilise private capital. This, in turn, allows implementing large-scale joint development investments that contribute to economic growth and create jobs, thereby helping reduction of poverty in developing countries.

Cooperating with development banks gives Poland the opportunity to mobilise their long-term financing, in particular with respect to infrastructural and environmental projects that support low-emission economy, promote political transformation experiences, remodel the transport sector, prevent and adapt to climate change and ensure energy

security – all of which are essential for the sustainable development of our partners. Development banks have many years of experience in carrying out technically and technologically advanced projects. They also create and use innovations, including financial innovations (such as *blending* and guarantees). Cooperating with banks also gives an opportunity to involve the Polish private sector in development cooperation by taking part in international tenders conducted by these institutions.

Poland will intensify its previous cooperation with the World Bank Group, European Investment Bank, European Reconstruction and Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank by increasing her activity in their decision-making bodies, paying member contributions, and participating in trust funds. We are also open to cooperation with other multilateral banks.

The most important areas of cooperation with multilateral development banks will include, among others, infrastructural investments, as well as investments supporting low-emission economy, promoting political transformation experiences, protection of the environment, prevention and adaptation to climate change, and energy security of our partners.

Poland will take care that the investment policy of the banks will follow the highest standards of social and environmental responsibility and will be consistent with the goals and principles of effective development cooperation.





7

FROM POLICY TO RESULTS

The activities of *Polish aid* are founded on the willingness to achieve solid results. Focusing on real goals adjusted to the needs of the partner, engaging in specific tasks to achieve intended results, and initiating change processes in supported regions is meant to trigger long-term positive change over time.

Achieving such tangible and lasting results will be used as a foundation for planning, decision-making, and carrying out our initiatives. We will endeavour to ensure that our projects are accurately monitored and their results well documented. We will take care to announce the effects of our activities in a reliable manner.

We will act according to international standards, primarily those devised by the OECD and the EU.²⁹

We realise that the kind of strategic goals as sketched in this document are usually achieved gradually, over a longer time. We know that development cooperation is fraught with risk at every step. The risk may be related to various issues, but it most often stems from the unstable political situation in countries receiving development aid and the threat of conflicts or corruption. The risk increases if a decision is made to involve the private sector, as it is averse to an unstable environment, quickly limiting or withdrawing its investments. Although the identification of risk in our activities is important, a wish to completely eliminate it would in practice mean abandoning our ambitious goals. Accepting risk is therefore part and parcel of development cooperation, as is willingness to revise the original intentions if circumstances require that.

In measuring and evaluating effectiveness, we will rely on the criteria suited to the situation in partner countries. In agreement with our partners, we will aspire to build monitoring systems in these countries, and to choose indices that reflect the goals of sustainable development based on international (UN) and domestic experience of Polish public statistics.

Polish development aid will also be subject to regular evaluation, and the projects will be constantly monitored.

²⁹ The evaluation of Polish development aid occurs according to principles and standards adopted by OECD: DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluation (2010), <https://www.oecd.org/development/evaluation/qualitystandards.pdf>, DAC Principles for Evaluation of Development Assistance (1991), <https://www.oecd.org/development/evaluation/2755284.pdf> and guidelines of the European Commission, <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/article/evaluation-matters> [access: 19 October 2020]

Logical map of the programme³⁰

Based on the assumptions of	IF we provide partner countries with well-targeted support	we will set the change mechanism in motion	AND BY THIS, we will enable a structural change
identifying partners and diagnosing their needs	knowledge and tools	aid beneficiaries will gradually respond by changing their mental attitude	by making a permanent change in the behaviours of aid beneficiaries
previous experiences and also new concepts	conducive environment	and, over time, also by changing their actions	by effecting gradual, positive changes in their environment

We want to enable reliable review (evaluation) of projects and programmes even after some time after their completion. Monitoring and evaluation, based on credible and reliable data, will help design, launch and expedite change processes and optimise the tools we use.

The current strategy is projected to last for ten years and will be subject to a mid-term review. According to the Development Cooperation Act, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs uses the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme to devise and adopt annual plans. The programme may be subject to modifications, in particular as a result of the changed social and political situation in a particular region, adopting new legislative solutions, expanded cooperation in the European Union, and conclusions derived from the mid-term review. Each modification of the programme must be approved by a resolution of the Council of Ministers.

To monitor the implementation of goals found in strategic documents, in particular sustainable development goals, it is necessary to have coherent, internationally comparable indices relying on high quality data, used as a basis for making per-subject domestic and international comparisons and to draft reviews and reports.

The programme assumes engaging in multi-aspect communication including information, education and promotion, both internally and externally. These activities will be aligned with the mission and vision of Polish development cooperation in all its aspects.

The communication will be addressed to specific target groups via carefully selected methods reinforced by using the Republic of Poland national colours, coat of arms and flag, the *Polish aid* logo and other consistent visual identification signs.

³⁰ Own study based on the results of evaluation of Polish development cooperation conducted in 2013.





8

COMMUNICATION

Previous communication experiences show that the Solidarity movement is associated with Poland and forms her national brand, and demonstrating solidarity in international activities serves to permanently tighten our bilateral relations with countries benefiting from development, humanitarian and rescue activities, and helps promote the positive image of Poland around the world. The basic purpose of providing information on *Polish aid* (and other similar undertakings) will be to boost Poland's image and positive associations with our country.

As a member state of the European Union, UN and OECD, we will inform the international community on Poland's involvement in the implementation of sustainable development goals. The educational, informational and promotional activities conducted by Poland internationally are aimed at contributing to an increased awareness on the role of our country at the international scene and to understanding Poland's international obligations and her involvement in solving global challenges.

Communication guidelines will be used to define the tools and manner of their use by organisers, executors and beneficiaries of aid, as well as rules of providing information about developing countries in a manner that respects the dignity of the people in question, intercultural sensitivity and reliability of the message.

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