

**Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme  
for 2016-2020**

Text modified as of September 2018

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## I. Introduction

Pursuant to the provisions of the Development Cooperation Act of 16 September 2011 (Journal of Laws of 2017 item 2098 and of 2018 items 650 and 1699), development cooperation is implemented on the basis of the Multiannual Development Cooperation 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 multiannual development cooperation programme for 2016-2020 is a governmental document that encompasses the entire Polish Official Development Assistance, ODA, and continues the works conducted under the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for 2012-2015. The new programme considers the challenges that the Polish development cooperation system will now have to face, both in terms of global (implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> together with the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, has begun), European (the European Union has adopted a New European Consensus on Development<sup>2</sup>) and regional changes (the need to accelerate the transformation in the Eastern Partnership countries, the situation in Ukraine). The purpose of the changes proposed in the programme is to continue to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of Polish development cooperation.

The Programme specifies the objectives, thematic and geographical areas and outlines its basic forms and principles, based on bilateral and multilateral cooperation instruments. The Programme was based on the analysis of strategic documents, the needs and development paths of partner countries as well as having consulted the representatives of partner countries. The programme was developed considering both the experience gained while implementing the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for 2012-2015, annual development cooperation plans, as well as the experiences of the stakeholders of Polish development cooperation, i.e. government administration officials and other central administration officials, civil society partners or the private sector. The programme also considers the conclusions drawn from the work of the Development Cooperation Programme Board<sup>3</sup> and the initiatives of the European Union and other international donors that are active in the priority countries for the Polish aid.

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<sup>1</sup>Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

<sup>2</sup> The New European Consensus on Development. Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future:

[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/new-european-consensus-development-our-world-our-dignity-our-future\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/new-european-consensus-development-our-world-our-dignity-our-future_en)

<sup>3</sup> Under the Development Cooperation Act, a Development Cooperation Programme Board was established at the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It is an opinion-making and consulting body. Its tasks include in particular: making proposals regarding geographical and thematic priorities of the development cooperation, issuing opinions to drafts of multiannual development cooperation programme and annual plans, issuing opinions to annual reports on the implementation of the development cooperation tasks by state administration authorities and to draft governmental documents related to development cooperation.

The Programme describes actions taken for the benefit of the countries that are listed as beneficiaries of Official Development Assistance of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC). Including objectives and priorities of the development cooperation in medium-term is intended to increase the efficiency and concentration of Polish assistance, which is consistent e.g. with the recommendations of OECD and EU documents (including “Agenda for Change”<sup>4</sup>, recommendations of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation<sup>5</sup>). Compared to the previous multiannual programme, the Multiannual Programme for 2016-2020 has a reduced number of priority countries and of thematic priorities. The comparative advantages of Poland arising from Polish transformation experiences as well as from the knowledge and skills of the stakeholders of Polish development cooperation, were considered.

The programme contains a reference to the place of Polish development cooperation within the EU as well as to the multilateral dimension of the cooperation, including the presence of Poland in international agendas. The programme also considers joint EU programming.

The programme covers a period of five years and will be subject to one periodic review. It provides the basis for MFA annual plans. 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 cooperation within the European Union, 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 the central government budget’s special purpose reserve earmarked for development cooperation, from MFA funds, and from other public funds.

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<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/european-development-policy/agenda-change\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/european-development-policy/agenda-change_en)

<sup>5</sup> <http://effectivecooperation.org/>

## **II. Global and regional dimension of development cooperation**

### **1. A changing world**

Thanks to development cooperation actions undertaken by the international community, progress was made in reducing extreme poverty and hunger in the world. On a global scale, however, implementation of the Millennium Development Goals<sup>6</sup> has not led to elimination of poverty. 2016 marks the beginning of implementation of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The global financial crisis changed how we are perceiving the development cooperation. Next to the value of the aid provided, the quality of such aid, the efficient use of such funds granted, and the achieved results are just as important. The cohesion of the development policy is an important tool to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the results of development cooperation and contributes to achieving the development goals.

The Official Development Assistance will still be of key significance for the development of the least developed countries (LDCs). In many places of the world, ODA is an important part of budgets of developing countries and plays a key role in ensuring the functioning of fundamental services (e.g. the functioning of such sectors as education or healthcare). On the other hand, development cooperation with middle-income countries (MICs) is less and less dependent on ODA.

Despite economic growth, MICs are home to the largest number of people affected by poverty. These countries frequently receive and provide development assistance. These are the countries that have attained a significant position in the world in the context of political, economic and intellectual progress. They create development models that are followed by other developing countries. Therefore, emerging economies should try to support poor countries in their attempts to achieve the objectives related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as agreed on the international forum, including by providing ODA. On the other hand, highly-developed countries, including Poland, should strive to maintain the support provided to those countries, to ensure access to knowledge and means necessary to continue reforms and evening out the different development levels.

Next to ODA, funds that are not treated as development aid are becoming more and more important sources of development. Such funds include financial transfers to developing countries, where the share of subsidy is less than indicated in the ODA definition, funds from private sources directed mainly to middle-income countries in the form of Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs), trust funds that make it possible to make capital investments in the private sectors, transfers from migrant workers, funds from private foundations and corporations.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Mobilising public funds of developing countries is being treated as more and more important for stimulating development. In line with the estimates provided by international financial institutions and the idea that the development policy should be specified autonomously by each country, it is the development policy and the financial systems and economies of the developing countries themselves that have the highest potential to generate development. The responsibility of donor countries will focus more and more on co-creating favourable conditions (in commercial policy, in creating a capital flow monitoring system, in sharing experiences in the area of building efficient tax systems, in fighting corruption, tax avoidance and money laundering) that enable developing countries to build efficient institutions, tax systems and to prevent illegal outflow of funds.

The events taking place in the vicinity of the European Union show how important it is for the international community, including Poland, to engage in assuring stability and successful transformations in the countries that are the neighbours of the EU. In particular, countries that signed Association Agreements with the EU that provide for establishing extensive and comprehensive free trade zones, will require support to conduct key reforms and to draw closer to the European standards. The geopolitical conditions as well as the shared experiences with the countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiative give it a special place in the Polish Development Cooperation.

Due to the increasing climate change or changing geopolitical conditions, it is estimated that the international community will have to face humanitarian crises caused by nature or by humans and affecting more and more people. In 1992-2012, 1.3 million people died as a result of natural disasters. Almost 4.5 billion people were affected by their consequences, and economic losses reached USD 2 billion. The regions that were most affected by the disasters cover most of all the developing countries that also have the lowest potential to deal with the consequences of natural disasters and catastrophes caused by human activity<sup>7</sup>.

Dramatic humanitarian situation caused by the military conflicts in Syria and Iraq resulted in an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the Middle East region and beyond.

Therefore, the programme envisages a comprehensive strategy of responding to the most urgent needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and the poorest local communities which have borne the brunt of the crises.

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<sup>7</sup> In line with the data collected by UNISDR, countries most affected by disasters included: Haiti, Indonesia, Myanmar (as regards the number of casualties) and China, India and Bangladesh (as regards the number of people affected by the consequences of the disasters).

## **2. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals<sup>8</sup>**

In 2016-2020, Development Cooperation will be implemented in line with the new global development agenda that was adopted for 2015-2030 during the summit of heads of state and government held in New York in September 2015. The actions undertaken will serve to realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which follow up and develop the idea behind the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs address the economic, social and environmental aspect of sustainable development, i.e. eradication of poverty, ensuring durability of natural environment, and sustainable consumption and production. The adoption of a new development agenda and its 17 Goals is the first step towards a measurable improvement in the situation of billions of people around the world in the course of the next decade or so.

The new development agenda is of a universal character, with responsibility for implementing it resting with the entire international community: developed countries, developing countries, and the organizations that bring them together. The private sector and NGOs will also play a major part in pursuing the 2030 agenda.

The European Union responded to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by issuing the new European Consensus on Development, which was adopted in 2017 as a joint declaration of the European Commission, European Parliament, and Council. Its aim is to provide a framework for a common approach of the EU and its member states to development policy and cooperation with developing countries. The EU reaffirms that the main aim of its development assistance is to eradicate poverty. EU development cooperation will have economic, social and environmental dimensions. At the same time, development cooperation policy will be consistent with security, humanitarian aid, migration, environmental protection, and climate change policies.

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<sup>8</sup> For a list of Sustainable Development Goals, please refer to Appendix no. 1.

### **III. Objectives and priorities of Polish Development Cooperation**

#### **1. Objectives of Polish Development Cooperation**

The objective of Polish Development Cooperation is to support sustainable social-economic development of developing countries and their societies, to undertake measures intended to reduce poverty, improve health condition of the population, raise education level and professional qualifications of the population, support democratization processes and state reforms, build modern state institutions, promote human rights and support civic society.

Polish Development Cooperation is a part of Polish foreign policy and fits in the European and global development policy, including the support for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Polish Development Cooperation also contributes to promoting knowledge about global interdependencies between the highly-developed and developing world among Polish citizens.

#### **2. Thematic priorities**

The thematic priorities of the Polish Development Cooperation respond to the needs of selected partner countries. Their implementation will represent Poland's contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by those countries. When selecting the priorities of specific countries, regard was had to their national development strategies, which reflects the principle of fundamental responsibility of states for selecting their paths of development. The planned activities fit in the efforts of the international community to reduce poverty in the world and to ensure inclusive and sustainable development, based on democracy, human rights and good governance principles. Priority thematic areas are areas that became a specialisation and a renowned brand of Polish activity in the world thanks to the involvement of the Polish Development Cooperation so far. By providing support, Poland will use the comparative advantages arising from Polish experiences and the knowledge, skills and abilities of stakeholders of Polish Development Cooperation.

Development cooperation activities implemented by governmental administration bodies from the funds they have at their disposal should be in tune with the priorities described below. In line with Article 8 of the Development Cooperation Act, they are obliged to consult the assumptions for spending the funds with the minister competent for foreign affairs. The minister competent for public finance realises the development cooperation tasks having consulted with the minister competent for foreign affairs.



Polish Development Cooperation will focus on supporting the following thematic priorities:

- **good governance** – in particular, regional development, including strengthening the local government institutions, decentralisation, public security and population protection sector, strengthening the competences and the capacities of public administration, strengthening the rule of law and combating corruption, bringing the law and institutions closer to EU standards and other international standards; access to reliable and objective information; media independence;
- **democracy and human rights** – in particular, democratic election process; human rights and civic freedoms; strengthening the civic society organisations, civic dialogue;
- **human capital** – in particular, improving the quality of healthcare; inclusive education and common access to education at a high level; civic education; social integration of persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion;
- **entrepreneurship and private sector** – in particular, competitiveness and innovativeness of micro and small enterprises; social economy; entrepreneurship, in particular of women and youth; education and vocational training;
- **sustainable agriculture and rural development** – in particular, food safety; production capacity and competitiveness of agricultural production; access to markets; using modern technologies in agriculture, modernising local infrastructure;
- **environment protection** – in particular, renewable energy sources; energy efficiency; water management; waste management; preventing the consequences of natural disasters and catastrophes caused by human activity; promoting sustainable development; counteracting climate change and its consequences; protecting natural resources.

### 3. Geographical priorities

The activities of Polish Development Cooperation in 2016-2020 will focus on a lower number of geographical and thematic priorities than in the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for 2012-2015. The envisaged effect will take the form of higher than before efficiency and impact of the Polish Development Cooperation within the financial and organisations measures available.

Selection of new geographical priorities was made on the basis of five criteria (development needs, implementation of development cooperation, bilateral cooperation, cohesion with EU measures and security), within which an analysis of situation and development needs of individual countries, evaluation and assessment of experiences and conclusions from the implementation of the current multiannual programme were performed. Emphasis was

placed on the need to ensure better coordination and cohesion of Polish aid with the activities undertaken by international donors and within joint EU programming. As regards bilateral cooperation, the status of current political and economic relations with priority countries and their development perspectives within the duration of the programme were assessed.

The list of priority countries includes twelve countries in total, i.e. four countries of the Eastern Partnership:

- **Belarus;**
- **Georgia;**
- **Moldova;**
- **Ukraine,**

and eight countries from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East:

- **Ethiopia;**
- **Kenya;**
- **Lebanon;**
- **Myanmar;**
- **Palestine;**
- **Senegal;**
- **Tanzania;**
- **Uganda.**

It is the first time Lebanon has been put on the list of Polish development cooperation priority countries. Since 2012, Poland has continuously provided humanitarian aid to this country in such areas as shelters, healthcare, and education. To ensure that the response to the protracted conflict is as effective as possible, Poland's approach has been to combine humanitarian and development measures. Consequently, the most urgent humanitarian needs can be complemented with lasting and structural measures.

Following its modification, the programme includes Uganda. One of priority countries between 2012 and 2015, today it has to cope with a tide of refugees from neighbouring South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Programmes in Uganda will strengthen Poland's position in East Africa.

As regards Afghanistan, a Polish aid priority country in 2012-2015, multilateral assistance will be continued in order to stabilize the country. In particular, help will be provided through contributions to international funds.

No more than 10% of the special-purpose reserve at the MFA's disposal will be allocated every year to bilateral development cooperation with countries other than priority countries, excluding funds earmarked for humanitarian aid.

#### 4. Horizontal issues

While implementing programmes, projects and development activities of the Polish Development Cooperation, the issues of **respecting human rights**, principles of **good governance, gender equality** among people affected by the project, impact on the **natural environment and the climate**, and **migration** will be taken into account horizontally at all stages of planning and implementing projects.

#### 5. Flagship initiatives

Flagship initiatives are development cooperation initiatives that are implemented periodically or are of permanent character, ensuring multiannual presence of Polish aid in selected areas. These programmes realise the priority objectives of Polish Development Cooperation, primarily within good governance and human capital development. Thanks to high recognition level and good assessment of partners, these programmes ensure the visibility of the Polish Aid Programme and recognition of Poland as a reliable and trustworthy donor of development aid.

- **Public Administration Academy of the Eastern Partnership**

The Public Administration Academy of the Eastern Partnership was established during the Polish Presidency in the European Council. The programme is intended to strengthen public administration in the Eastern Partnership countries by organising specialised training courses for public administration officials. The programme serves to shape professional clerk personnel in those countries, in order to establish an expert base needed to implement the principles of a democratic state of law and of modern economy.

- **Information Center for Local Authorities in Ialoveni, Moldova**

Established in 2012, the Center aims at supporting Moldovan local authorities, NGOs, and initiative groups in their actions to strengthen local democracy, in particular in absorbing assistance funds and establishing partnerships with institutions from Poland and other EU Member States. The Center operates pursuant to the *Memorandum of Understanding* signed by the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of Moldova and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

- **Stipend programmes**

*Stefan Banach Stipend Programme, Ignacy Łukasiewicz Stipend Programme*, and other stipend programmes are an essential instrument of Polish foreign policy. They enable foreign students to gain education and skills that they may later use to improve the living conditions in their countries. Thanks to their stay in Poland, such persons may also learn the Polish culture, language and customs as well as get to establish relations that will benefit them in their professional life. Therefore, the stipend policy contributes to building the social-economic potential of partner countries.

#### **IV. Priority countries**

The Programme specifies the priorities of the actions undertaken by the MFA and its partners financed from MFA funds and the state budget special purpose reserve earmarked for development cooperation. The actions undertaken by government administration bodies from the funds at the MFA's disposal may be undertaken within six thematic priorities of the Polish Development Cooperation.

Democracy and human rights may be realised in selected priority countries.

##### **1. Eastern Partnership Countries**

###### **BELARUS**

Polish Development Cooperation for Belarus will focus on supporting human capital, good governance and entrepreneurship and the private sector.

###### **1) Human capital**

To achieve the objective entitled *Improving social integration for persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- better access to social services for persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion;
- increased social integration of persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion;
- improved functioning of centres for persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion.

Belarus is now facing challenges that are of social and economic nature, pertaining to integration of persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion. One of the objectives posed by the social policy of the Belorussian government is the reduction of poverty among particularly vulnerable groups, like the persons with disabilities, single parents or the elderly. The persons belonging groups at risk of exclusion face difficulties in terms of access to education and the labour market. The employment rate of persons with disabilities is very low, and the unemployed receive limited care. Support is also needed as regards improving awareness of equality of opportunities as well as of the rights and needs of persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion. It is necessary to enable the persons at risk of exclusion to actively participate in the economic and social life of the country.

## 2) Good governance

To achieve the objectives entitled *Public access to reliable and objective information and regional development*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:

- improving public access to reliable and objective information;
- supporting regional development.

The civic society in Belarus requires support both in terms of access to information and building capacity to participate in public debate and in the decision-making processes in the state. Independent media and journalists will be one of the target groups of the development cooperation in terms of building the civic society.

Regional development is a more and more often indicated need of local authorities. Considering local conditions, the programme will include actions intended to share experiences in creating the concept of regional development, drawing up regional plans, effective use of local resources, e.g. by supporting tourism.

## 3) Entrepreneurship and private sector

To achieve the objectives entitled *Supporting the local private sector and the development of entrepreneurship*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:

- developing entrepreneurship in rural areas and small towns;
- better access to high-quality education and vocational training.

Seventy percent of Belorussian economy is state-owned, and the role of the private sector, in particular micro and small enterprises, remains limited. Agriculture is an important area of economy and trade, yet it is estimated that its share in GDP will fall to approx. 5% post-2015, which means that some employees will have to look for a job in the non-agricultural sector.

Considering the current disproportions in the development level between the capital city and the remaining towns, supporting local entrepreneurship, including micro and small enterprises, must be treated as an essential instrument of supporting development activities. This objective should be achieved by means of efforts to build the technical potential and to prepare qualified workforce, e.g. through holding vocational training courses.

## GEORGIA

Polish Development Cooperation for Georgia will focus on supporting good governance and human capital.

### 1) Good governance

To achieve the objectives entitled *Building the potential of public administration and organising civic society*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:

- improving the institutional capacities of public administration at the central, regional and local levels as regards implementing key reforms under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, and provisions on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA), as well as other reforms that are of key significance for Georgia, including those leading to ensure financial stability of the state;
- developing market supervision institutions and supporting the development and stability of the financial market
- strengthening the capacity of public administration in terms of preventing and responding to natural disasters and catastrophes caused by human activity.

The planned reforms include professionalising the civil service, ensuring publicly available and transparent services at any level of public administration, as well as decentralisation of public power.

Poland is successively supporting modernisation processes in the Georgia's administration, including those related to implementing the AA/DCFTA. In line with the Association Agenda, dialogue and cooperation in the area of local government are to pertain to strengthening stability, independence and efficiency of the institutions guaranteeing democracy, rule of law, and respecting human rights by implementing decentralisation strategy in line with the "European Charter of Local Self-Government"<sup>9</sup> of the Council of Europe and by implementing administrative reforms.

The natural conditions and the civilization development make the Georgian population exposed to a higher extent to the consequences of natural disasters and catastrophes caused by human activity. Ensuring safe living conditions is the foundation of the social and economic growth. In connection with the reorganisation of the rescue services held in 2014 in Georgia and establishing a new, uniform rescue and population protection system, the needs related to training, equipping and managing the services grew. It is also important to improve coordination of rescue activities and to develop specialist rescue service. Georgia is open to drawing from European experience in the area of public security, and it participates in the Programme for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Man-made and Natural

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/122>

Disasters in the ENPI East Region<sup>10</sup> (PPRD-East), which is intended to bring the countries of the Eastern Partnership closer to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

## 2) Human capital

To achieve the objectives entitled *Improving the quality of social services and supporting social integration for persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- better access to social services for persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion;
- better social integration of persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion.

In line with the statistical data for 2013, approx. 37% of the Georgian population was at risk of social exclusion or poverty. Particular support needs to be granted to the elderly, persons with disabilities and other persons that require additional care.

The situation of youth from rural areas and from smaller towns and villages, as well as children in the kindergarten-age, which are deprived of the access to relevant care and educational programmes, are in the exceptionally dire situation.

## **MOLDOVA**

Polish Development Cooperation for Moldova will focus on supporting good governance and agriculture and rural development.

### 1) Good governance

To achieve the objective entitled *Building the potential of public administration*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:

- improving the institutional capacities of public administration at the central, regional and local levels as regards implementing key reforms under the EU-Moldova Association Agreement and provisions on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA), as well as other reforms that are of key significance for Moldova, including those leading to ensure financial stability of the state;
- developing market supervision institutions and supporting the development and stability of the financial market
- improving access of Moldovan micro and small enterprises to European markets.

In connection with signing the AA/DCFTA, Moldovan public administration is subject to reforms, both at the central and local levels. Their primary objective is to bring Moldova closer to EU standards in such areas as transparency and efficiency of public administration.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://pprdeast2.eu/en/>

Modernising and strengthening the administration at the local level play a key role in achieving another objective of the Moldovan government – strengthening the economy in rural areas.

The sector of micro and small enterprises will be one of the major beneficiaries of the AA/DCFTA. Currently, Moldovan enterprises exhibit low levels of competition and innovation. According to estimates, only 5-10% of them is able to operate on the international market. Moldova also needs activities to support increasing the exports to EU Member States, including but not limited to thanks to meeting the EU requirements and standards, as well as thanks to improving the capacity of enterprises to compete with EU-based producers.

## 2) Agriculture and rural development

To achieve the objectives entitled *Strengthening the sources of income for agricultural farms, improving access to infrastructure and services in rural areas and developing non-agricultural entrepreneurship*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- improving efficiency and competitiveness, as well as increasing income of agricultural farms;
- improved access to the relevant infrastructure and services in the agricultural sector;
- improved share of income of farms derived from non-agricultural activity.

Agriculture is traditionally an important sector of Moldovan economy. It is also the largest sector, which employs half of the working population. It generates one fourth of the entire GDP and two thirds of exports. Moldovan agriculture still requires modernisation, both in terms of technology and structure (e.g. by preventing fragmentation of the agricultural sector by creating producers' groups and combining agricultural enterprises). Particular attention must be paid to actions intended to diversify the labour market in rural areas and to slow down the financial emigration, e.g. through activities intended to take advantage of local resources to generate income from non-agricultural activities.

## **UKRAINE**

Polish Development Cooperation for Ukraine will focus on supporting good governance, human capital, and entrepreneurship and the private sector.

### 1) Good governance

To achieve the objectives entitled *Building the potential of public administration and organising civic society, and access to reliable and objective information*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:



- improving the competences of public administration personnel at the central, regional and local levels as regards implementing key reforms under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and provisions on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA), as well as other reforms that are of key significance for Ukraine, in particular those leading to ensure financial stability of the state;
- developing market mechanisms, market supervision institutions and supporting the development and stability of the financial market;
- improved engagement of the civic society to support reforms;
- strengthening the local government reform;
- preventing and combating corruption;
- improving capacity in the area of preventing and reducing the risk of as well as responding to extraordinary situations;
- improving public access to reliable and objective information.

The above proposals are consistent with the objectives indicated in the “Strategy for Sustainable Development Ukraine-2020<sup>11</sup>”, approved in January 2015 by the President of Ukraine and the EU-Ukraine European Reform Agenda.

Promoting good governance and the rule of law forms the foundations of cooperation between the EU and Ukraine, which was also reflected in AA/DCFTA priorities. Reforms of the public administration sector are important not only to ensure efficient functioning of the state, but they also contribute to reducing corruption and building a beneficial business and investment environment. Civic society has an important role to play in this area by exercising social supervision over the reforms and by engaging in implementing the local governance. Improving the efficiency of public administration in implementing reforms and reducing corruption may be achieved, including but not limited to, the development of competences of public institution personnel and by promoting good administrative practice.

Another objective of the reforms, next to professionalisation of the civil service, is to strive to carry out effective decentralisation and to strengthen local governance by building local capacity to conduct effective and transparent management at the regional level. In line with the AA/DCFTA, cooperation in the area of local government is to pertain to building stability, independence and efficiency of the institutions guaranteeing democracy, rule of law, and respecting human rights by implementing decentralisation strategy in line with the “Local Government Charter” of the Council of Europe and by implementing administrative reforms.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/5/2015#n10>

In March 2015, pursuant to the ordinance of the Council of Ministers<sup>12</sup>, a Government Plenipotentiary for Supporting Reforms in Ukraine was appointed, whose tasks include, but are not limited to, coordinating and monitoring the operations of the government administration activities to support the reforms in Ukraine, together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The capacity of Ukraine to prevent and respond to natural disasters and extraordinary situations as well as critical management is one of the key areas that require improvement both at the central and at the local level. The rescue and population protection system that is being reformed now (since 2014, it is based on the State Rescue Service that answers to the Ministry of the Interior), requires further adjustments to the modern challenges posed by civic security.

As a result of the military activities launched in 2014 against Ukraine, the State Rescue Service faced a new challenge – providing systemic support to hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people.

## 2) Human capital

To achieve the objectives entitled *Improving the quality of social services and supporting social integration for internally displaced people*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- better access to social services for internally displaced people;
- improved social integration for internally displaced people.

In connection with the military activities that are on-going within the Ukrainian territory, the country is now facing a growing problem of internally displaced people (IDPs). According to the data provided by the Ukrainian authorities and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), it is estimated that about 1.8 million citizens left the military conflict zone in Eastern Ukraine and the territory of Crimea annexed by Russia<sup>13</sup>. Refugees are staying all over the country. According to the available data, over 13% of Ukrainian internally displaced people are children<sup>14</sup>, 4.2% are persons with disabilities.

In view of the difficult humanitarian situation in Ukraine, Poland will continue to respond to the most urgent needs of IDPs. Seeking to ensure that reaction to the protracted crisis is as effective as possible, efforts will continue to make humanitarian aid and development assistance dovetail with each other. The process of integrating displaced persons into their

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<sup>12</sup> The ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 19 March 2015 on appointing the Government Plenipotentiary for Supporting Reforms in Ukraine

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/ukraine-2018-humanitarian-response-plan-hrp>

<sup>14</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEFUkraineSitRep%236431Oct2017External.pdf>

host communities and developing their capacity to function independently also requires support.

### 3) Entrepreneurship and private sector

To achieve the objectives entitled *Supporting the local private sector and the development of entrepreneurship*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:

- developing entrepreneurship using innovative technologies;
- developing entrepreneurship among internally displaced persons;
- better access to high-quality education and vocational training.

The current legal conditions, lack of systemic support to entrepreneurs and difficult economic situation clearly make it difficult for the small and medium enterprises to develop in Ukraine. The institutions that would provide specialist services in the area of implementing innovations and modern technologies, competitiveness development and training and vocational education, are missing.

The development of a competitive, profit-generating and modern entrepreneurship, in particular micro and small enterprises, plays an important role in development and creating new jobs, including in the regions affected by the inflow of internally displaced persons. Thanks to the support of local entrepreneurship, Ukraine will have the opportunity to develop a middle class.

## **Countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and the Middle East**

### **ETHIOPIA**

Polish Development Cooperation in Ethiopia fits in the joint EU programming. In this context, selection of the areas of support primarily considers the joint analysis of the situation and of the needs of Ethiopia and the division of tasks among EU donors. Polish Development Cooperation for Ethiopia will focus on supporting human capital, environment protection and entrepreneurship and the private sector.

#### 1) Human capital

To achieve the objectives entitled *Improving healthcare services for mothers and children and improving access to high quality education at all levels*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- increasing access to better healthcare services for mothers and children;
- improving teaching conditions and quality at all levels of education.

According to the data of the UN, Ethiopia has gained the fastest improvement of social development indicators between 2005 and 2010. Over the past two decades, the number of children sent to primary schools increased four times, the number of persons with access to clean water increased over twofold, and the percentage of people living on less than 1 dollar a day decreased from 60% to 36%. Despite this significant improvement, the low quality of education and other social services continues to pose a challenge. A large number of people continue to live below the poverty line. The mortality of mothers is one of the highest in Africa (676 women for every 100 thousand live births). While the number of boys and girls attending primary school is almost even, the scales are tipped to the detriment of girls in secondary schools and universities. Access to basic social services, in particular for groups at risk of exclusion and for minorities, is still a problem.

## 2) Environment protection

To achieve the objectives entitled *Protecting natural resources and promoting sustainable development, mitigating negative consequences of climate change, including preventing natural disasters*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- improving water management, including an increased access to water and sanitary infrastructure, promoting hygiene;
- improving access to renewable energy sources;
- reducing the practice of deforestation, desertification or degradation of land;
- strengthening the capacity in terms of preventing and responding to natural disasters and catastrophes caused by human activity.

Due to the terrain and the climate, Ethiopia is an important centre of biodiversity in Africa. However, poverty, rapid population growth, poor management of natural resources, lack of alternative energy sources, contribute to the degradation of biodiversity and ecosystems. Natural resources and ecosystems of Ethiopia are vulnerable to climate change and excessive exploitation. The consequences of the climate change are most acutely felt in the agricultural sector, the place of employment of the majority of Ethiopians and as such, the main source of their income and food security. Despite major investments in the municipal and rural water networks, the issue of ensuring access to water, sanitary devices and hygiene for the rapidly growing population remains a challenge. Only 42% of rural population has access to drinking water (2012). Forests cover only 12% of the Ethiopian territory.

## 3) Entrepreneurship and private sector

To achieve the objectives entitled *Supporting the local private sector and the development of entrepreneurship*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:

- improved entrepreneurship levels, in particular among youth and women, new jobs;
- improved access to high-quality technical education and vocational training;
- improved competition, capacity and innovation levels of producers' groups, cooperatives and labour cooperatives, in particular in the agri-food sector.

The Ethiopian private sector is dominated by the informal sector, which is characterised by low productivity levels. Private companies employ 5.8% of the workforce and generate 2.7% of GDP. Ethiopia belongs to the countries that have significant barriers to running business activity, which is visible in the low position of the country in international rankings, like "Doing Business 2014" (132th place). Qualified workforce is needed to improve capacity and competitiveness of enterprises. However, the availability of vocational training courses is limited, and their quality is often low. Young Ethiopians have little opportunity to find paid employment. Thousands of graduates who do not want to return to family farms, emigrate to urban and suburban areas in the search for jobs. Each year, there are 2-2.5 million young people entering the labour market. In the context of such rapid population growth, it is a huge challenge. The Ethiopian government has already implemented multiple programmes to promote and develop entrepreneurship among women, who are still the ones mainly responsible for running households. Women encounter even more barriers while running a business than men. In urban areas, the unemployment rate for women is over twice as high as for men, and the difference in pay for the same work is about 50 percent.

## **TANZANIA**

Polish Development Cooperation for Tanzania will focus on supporting human capital, environment protection and entrepreneurship and the private sector.

### 1) Human capital

To achieve the objectives entitled *Improving healthcare services for mothers and children and improving access to high quality education at all levels*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- increasing access to better healthcare services for mothers and children;
- improving teaching conditions and quality at all levels of education.

Tanzania has been successful in improving basic infrastructure and increasing access to education and healthcare at the basic level. Nevertheless, this progress was achieved mainly at the cost of worsening the quality of the services provided. As a result, students frequently

leave schools without learning the necessary skills. To improve the level of education, it is necessary to make investments to improve the equipment and aids in the teaching centres or to improve the qualifications of the teachers.

Low quality of medical services is also an issue, which is caused e.g. by insufficient personnel and insufficient knowledge of the medical personnel, limited access to basic drugs and poor accompanying infrastructure (e.g. roads).

The situation in the education and healthcare sectors is made even more difficult by the rapid population growth, at 3% per year.

## 2) Environment protection

To achieve the objectives entitled *Protecting natural resources and promoting sustainable development, mitigating negative consequences of climate change, including preventing natural disasters*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- improving water management, including an increased access to water and sanitary infrastructure, promoting hygiene;
- improving access to renewable energy sources;
- reducing the practice of deforestation, desertification or degradation of land;
- strengthening the capacity in terms of preventing and responding to natural disasters and catastrophes caused by human activity.

Tanzania is a country that is rich in natural resources and has a high biodiversity. Natural resources should be managed in a sustainable and efficient manner, which still remains a challenge. Tanzania's natural resources are being increasingly damaged due to socio-economic development, in particular as a result of the progressing urbanisation and extensive agricultural development. Access to clean water and good sanitary practice are necessary to ensure health and productivity of the population. While the access to drinking water sources in urban areas has improved, the level of access observed in rural areas is still insufficient (44% in 2012). Strengthening the sustainable management of forest ecosystems is also necessary in the context of falling forestation levels in the country (from 46% in 2015 to 36% in 2012). Apart from protecting the soil and water resources, access to renewable energy sources also requires improvement in rural areas. As regards counteracting the negative consequences of climate change, actions intended to improve the capacity and coordination of responding to natural disasters require further strengthening.

## 3) Entrepreneurship and private sector

To achieve the objectives entitled *Supporting the local private sector and the development of entrepreneurship*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:

- improved entrepreneurship levels, in particular among youth and women, new jobs;
- improved access to high-quality technical education and vocational training;
- improved competition, capacity and innovation levels of producers' groups, cooperatives and labour cooperatives, in particular in the agri-food sector.

In the past, the economic growth of Tanzania was mostly fuelled by public spending and international assistance. Currently, the growth is being generated more and more by the private sector, which has the higher potential to create new jobs. Apart from the need to improve the business environment, investment climate or infrastructure, the insufficient number of qualified employees represents a major barrier to the growth of the economy, including the private sector. For this reason, it is necessary to improve the system of technical education and vocational training in cooperation with the private sector. The development of the private sector will be strengthened by the slowly growing middle class. Despite the high significance for the Tanzanian economy, the agriculture is not taking full advantage of its development potential. Support must be granted e.g. to modernisation and commercialization of the private sector entities active in the agricultural business.

## **KENYA**

Polish Development Cooperation for Kenya will focus on supporting human capital, environment protection and entrepreneurship and the private sector.

### 1) Human capital

To achieve the objectives entitled *Improving healthcare services for mothers and children* and *Improving access to high quality education at all levels*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- increasing access to better healthcare services for mothers and children;
- improving teaching conditions and quality at all levels of education.

Over the past decade, Kenya has made significant progress in improving access to education at individual levels and the number of children in education. Nevertheless, there are still many challenges left to combat in the area of education, in particular improving the quality of education, better connection between the education system and the needs of the labour market, developing special education and education at the level of kindergartens. Almost half of the Kenyan population has access to basic healthcare services within the distance of 5 km. The problem of significant differences in the access to medical services between urban and rural areas and in remote locations, is still a challenge. Healthcare related to combating infectious diseases, such as HIV-AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, has improved significantly in

Kenya. The main challenges still include high mortality of mothers and infants, high level of malnutrition of children below 5 years of age or low numbers of medical personnel compared to the number of citizens.

## 2) Environment protection

To achieve the objectives entitled *Protecting natural resources and promoting sustainable development, mitigating negative consequences of climate change, including preventing natural disasters*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- improving water management, including an increased access to water and sanitary infrastructure, promoting hygiene;
- improving access to renewable energy sources;
- reducing the practice of deforestation, desertification or degradation of land;
- strengthening the capacity in terms of preventing and responding to natural disasters and catastrophes caused by human activity.

Every fourth Kenyan lives in the dry and semi-desert areas, where the effects of climate change are particularly palpable. The intensification of negative consequences of climate change results in the progressing degradation of land, e.g. as a consequence of excessive cattle pasturage, deforestation (only 6% of the Kenyan territory is covered by forest), and extensive use of biomass as an energy source. About 42% of Kenya's GDP and almost 70% of employment is derived from the economy sectors that are based on natural resources, including but not limited to agriculture, water, energy, forestry and tourism. Out of the economy sectors, it is the agriculture that is most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. In 2012, 18% of the Kenyan population had access to electric energy, compared to 14% in Tanzania and 23% in Ethiopia, whereas this percentage was only 5% in rural areas. Towns experience frequent interruptions in power deliveries. Despite the progress observed over the recent years, 82% of urban households and only 55% rural households have access to drinking water (2012). Access to water for the purposes of irrigation and industry is still at a low level. As regards counteracting the negative consequences of climate change, actions intended to improve the capacity and coordination of responding to natural disasters require further strengthening.

## 3) Entrepreneurship and private sector

To achieve the objectives entitled *Supporting the local private sector and the development of entrepreneurship*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:

- improved entrepreneurship levels, in particular among youth and women, new jobs;
- improved access to high-quality technical education and vocational training;



- improved competition, capacity and innovation levels of producers' groups, cooperatives and labour cooperatives, in particular in the agri-food sector.

The private sector generates 97% of Kenya's GDP and gives work to 80% of those officially employed. The improvement of entrepreneurship and the efficiency of micro and small enterprises will translate into increasing GDP and will create additional jobs. The development potential of the private sector in Kenya is limited by many factors, including, but not limited to, infrastructural shortages, corruption, unfavourable business environment, and lack of qualified employees. The Kenyan economy is not able to generate a sufficient number of jobs to absorb the young Kenyans who enter the labour market every year – about 800 thousand of them. The unemployment rate among young people is 25%. Poor connections between the private sector and the technical and vocational education system result in the fact that the education of young people does not correspond fully to the needs of the labour market. Agricultural export of Kenya is composed of agricultural raw materials or semi-processed products (in almost 90%), which translates into low export income due to the low added value of the products. For this reason, the support should focus on improving access to markets, developing value chain and strengthening the production entities and systems and marketing capacities.

## SENEGAL

Polish Development Cooperation for Senegal will focus on supporting human capital, environment protection and entrepreneurship and the private sector.

### 1) Human capital

To achieve the objectives entitled *Improving healthcare services for mothers and children* and *Improving access to high quality education at all levels*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- increasing access to better healthcare services for mothers and children;
- improving teaching conditions and quality at all levels of education.

In Senegal, the poverty level of the population in rural areas is 57.3%, while in the cities – 41.3%. Over the past five years, the access to primary education and drinking water improved; an improvement was also registered in the fight with HIV/AIDS. The measures undertaken within Senegal's National Strategy in Economic and Social Development 2013-2017<sup>15</sup> (In French: *Stratégie Nationale de Développement Économique et Social 2013-2017*, SNDES) helped to achieve it. However, the improvement is insufficient as regards the level of education and the provisions of medical services. Improving the quality of education and

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.ipar.sn/Strategie-Nationale-De-Developpement-Economique-et-Social-2013-2017.html?lang=fr>

healthcare requires a series of activities, including but not limited to increasing the number of teachers, doctors, medical personnel (mainly in rural areas), making further infrastructural investments, improving the qualifications of education and healthcare personnel, access to drugs, school handbooks. These measures are necessary, considering the demographic situation of Senegal, which registered a growth of the population at 2.8% per year, and half of its total population is below 20 years of age.

## 2) Environment protection

To achieve the objectives entitled *Protecting natural resources and promoting sustainable development, mitigating negative consequences of climate change, including preventing natural disasters*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- improving water management, including an increased access to water and sanitary infrastructure, promoting hygiene;
- improving access to renewable energy sources;
- reducing the practice of deforestation, desertification or degradation of land;
- strengthening the capacity in terms of preventing and responding to natural disasters and catastrophes caused by human activity.

The SNDES lists a major objective entitled “Human development and sustainable development”, which includes a detailed objective entitled “Environment protection and managing natural resources”. This objective is composed of the issues of horizontal nature, which have an impact on other social-economic sectors determining the development of the country. The economic development process is integrated with managing natural resources. The strategy indicates, including but not limited to, the need to: consider the issue of environment protection in state sectoral policies, systematic evaluation of consequences of climate change to ecosystems and sectoral policies, strengthening capacities in the area of environment protection and managing natural resources (also at the local level) and promoting “green economy” and reducing the negative impact related to the development of agricultural production on the environment. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment of Senegal agreed the need to integrate the environment-related issues with the agricultural policy. The objective is to limit the negative impact of using sanitary devices on the natural environment.

## 3) Entrepreneurship and private sector

To achieve the objectives entitled *Supporting the local private sector and the development of entrepreneurship*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:

- improved entrepreneurship levels, in particular among youth and women, new jobs created in rural areas;

- improved access to high-quality technical education and vocational training;
- improved competition, capacity and innovation levels of producers' groups, cooperatives and labour cooperatives, in particular in the agri-food sector.

The development of the private sector, including support granted to micro and small enterprises, constitutes a significant factor contributing to growth and well-being in the country. Investments in the private sector bring additional benefits in the form of new jobs and reduction of unemployment. They also improve the level of innovation and competition in the economy. In the business ranking "Doing Business 2014", Senegal took a distant 161st place. Despite the reforms initiated by the Senegal's government, there are not any major successes observed as regards facilitations for companies in accessing loans. The procedure to establish and register new companies still has not been shortened. Besides the need to improve the business environment or access to financial services, the shortage of qualified employees is the major barrier hindering the growth of the private sector. Hence the need to improve the system of technical education and vocational training in cooperation with the private sector.

## **UGANDA<sup>16</sup>**

Polish Development Cooperation for Uganda will focus on supporting human capital.

### 1) Human capital

To achieve the objectives entitled *Improving healthcare services for mothers and children* and *Improving access to high quality education at all levels*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- increasing access to better healthcare services for mothers and children;
- improving teaching conditions and quality at all levels of education.

Since 1990, Uganda has witnessed a marked improvement in healthcare, as reflected by such indicators as the infant mortality rate and HIV prevalence (between 1990 and 2015, it dropped from 13% to 7%). While the country has clearly been successful in raising the level of healthcare offered to its citizens, there is still much room for improvement. Although Uganda's average estimated life expectancy grew by 14 years to 59 years in 1990-2015, this figure is still among the lowest in the world<sup>17</sup>. The same is true for infant mortality and maternal mortality, which stood at 343 deaths per 100,000 births in 2015. Other major

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<sup>16</sup> All statistics from the UNDP website <http://hdr.undp.org/en/indicators>

<sup>17</sup> According to the UNDP classification, a country falling within the 48.9-65.6 years bracket ranks in the group of countries with the lowest estimated life expectancy.

problems include access to basic and specialist medical services, including equipment for appropriate diagnostics and treatment, and shortages of medical personnel.

Uganda is still grappling with an insufficient literacy rate, which was a little under 74% in 2015. There is a clear educational gap between boys and girls, the latter of whom study on average for two years less. Moreover, the high ratio of students per teacher<sup>18</sup> means Ugandan classrooms are overcrowded, often in disrepair and ill-equipped. Consequently, the effectiveness of teaching is low, and graduates often struggle on the labour market. It is also necessary to ensure teachers' in-service training.

The situation of the education and healthcare sectors is made even worse by the influx of refugees, who reach Uganda from neighbouring South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## **MYANMAR**

Polish Development Cooperation for Myanmar will focus on supporting human capital and entrepreneurship and the private sector.

### 1) Human capital

To achieve the objectives entitled *Improving healthcare services for mothers and children and improving access to high quality education at all levels and supporting social integration of persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- increasing access to better healthcare services for mothers and children;
- improving teaching conditions and quality at all levels of education;
- improved access to social services for persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion.

Myanmar has one of the lowest indicators of social development in South-Eastern Asia. In 2010, the poverty indicator was 37%. Among member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Myanmar has also the lowest average life expectancy and the second highest mortality rate of infants and children. Almost 23% of children below five years of age are underweight.

In 2011, the level of public investments in healthcare and education in Myanmar was one of the lowest in the world (below 1% of GDP). There are significant differences in the poverty level and development between urban and rural areas all over the country, in particular in terms of education, access to healthcare and education. Remote areas, poor condition of infrastructure and cultural-religious conflicts are listed among the main obstacles hindering

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<sup>18</sup> In 2013, it was 46 students per one teacher, while the indicator for Poland stood at 10 students per one teacher in the same year.

access to basic social services. Financial barriers serve as additional obstacles for the poorest. Children and mothers (comprising approx. 60% of the population) experience the lack of accessible, high quality healthcare the most negatively. Considering the fact that the majority of the poor population of Myanmar lives in rural areas, improving access to basic services in these areas is of key significance for reducing poverty and improving the quality of life.

## 2) Entrepreneurship and private sector

To achieve the objectives entitled *Supporting the local private sector and the development of entrepreneurship*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:

- improved entrepreneurship levels, in particular among youth and women, new jobs;
- improved access to high-quality technical education and vocational training;
- improved competition, capacity and innovation levels of producers' groups, cooperatives and labour cooperatives, in particular in the agri-food sector.

Technical and vocational education is very poorly developed in Myanmar. Cooperation of the administration with the private sector is insufficient in this respect. The topics covered by the training courses are related to the real demands of the labour market to little extent. About one million young people graduates every year, while only 10% of them has access to various types of professional training courses. Agriculture currently employs 70% of the workforce. The commenced economic reforms, the increase in foreign direct investments and the planned integration with ASEAN will offer the opportunity of the private entrepreneurship to develop. The above factors will drive the demand for qualified workforce in the future. Therefore, it is necessary to improve and strengthen the vocational education, and thus expand the employment options.

## **LEBANON**

Polish Development Cooperation for Lebanon will focus on supporting human capital, entrepreneurship, the private sector and protection of the environment.

### 1) Human capital

To achieve the objectives entitled *Improving access to high quality education at all levels, and supporting social integration of persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- improving the quality of formal and informal teaching at all levels of education;
- improving teaching conditions at all levels of education;
- improved access to social services for persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion.

The Syrian conflict, ongoing since 2011, and the accompanying influx of 1.2 million Syrian refugees into Lebanon, have exacerbated internal tensions and significantly hampered economic growth resulting in increased poverty among the population. According to data presented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 52% of Syrian families in Lebanon, 10% of the Lebanese and 6% of Palestinian refugees live at or below the poverty line. The youth and children belong to the group which is most affected by the ongoing crisis, including the limited access to social services, education and the labour market.

The education system in Lebanon is traditionally based on private schools, with a small role of public schools. In 2012, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education of Lebanon issued a recommendation allowing schools to admit Syrian students irrespectively of their legal status. Such system applies only to 25% of schools during the school year. As a result, out of nearly 500,000 school-age children aged 3-18, 58% still do not attend any school.

The priorities listed above are part of a strategy of the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education titled “Reaching All Children with Education, RACE II<sup>19</sup>” aimed at providing access to high quality education to all children in the Lebanese territory, and in the case of Syrian refugees, counteracting the “lost generation” phenomenon.

In view of demographic and social challenges, it appears that assistance provided to children, youth and women is most important. Professional training could act as an additional development incentive, which in the long run could increase the employment of both refugees and local disadvantaged groups. Social groups need support in order to reintegrate and develop their ability to function independently within their host communities.

## 2) Entrepreneurship and private sector

To achieve the objectives entitled *Supporting the local private sector and the development of entrepreneurship*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:

- improved entrepreneurship levels, in particular among youth and women, new jobs created;
- improved access to high quality technical education and vocational training, including retraining;
- improved competitiveness, efficiency and innovation of producers’ groups and cooperatives, especially in the agri-food sector.

The subjects listed above are compatible with the EU-Lebanon Partnership Priorities<sup>20</sup>, which are part of the revised European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).The Partnership Priorities

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.racepmulebanon.com/index.php/about>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/11/15/eu-lebanon-partnership/>

include fostering job opportunities, as well as migration and mobility, security and institutional support for the public sector.

Since 2012, the consequences of the Syrian war, ongoing since 2011, have been acutely felt in Lebanon. Poor quality of strategic infrastructure (transport, telecommunications, energy, water) and of the administrative and legal business environment, red tape and political instability have not been conducive to the development of competitive and innovative businesses for years.

According to the World Bank (WB), the unemployment rate among the Lebanese reached 34% in 2016. Among the Syrians, the same rate grew to nearly 50%. Due to legal constraints on the access to labour market of persons without the resident status (from 60 to 80% of the Syrians), officially the labour market is only open in low-paying construction, public utility and agriculture sectors.

Current legal regulations, lack of systemic business support mechanisms and the difficult economic situation clearly hamper the growth of small and medium enterprises. The most vulnerable social classes become impoverished because of a fall in wages caused by the influx of cheap workforce in traditionally lowest paid professions, as well as the poorest Lebanese being pushed out of the labour market by refugees. A continuation of these negative trends will stoke radicalisation, especially among youth without prospects.

### 3) Environment protection

To achieve the objectives entitled *Protecting natural resources and promoting sustainable development, mitigating negative consequences of climate change*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- improving waste and water management, including an increased access to water and sanitary infrastructure;
- improving access to renewable energy sources;
- reducing the consequences of climate change and of human activity, including the process of deforestation, desertification or degradation of land.

According to World Bank data, the population of Lebanon exceeded 6 million in 2016, which translates into a 50% growth within 10 years (4.057 million in 2006). Such major demographic shift, mainly due to growing migratory pressure, also affects the natural environment and resources of Lebanon.

The mass influx of Syrian refugees put a further strain on the energy, water and waste management infrastructures, which had already been insufficient after many years of neglect. Each of these sectors requires investment in modern and environmentally friendly wastewater treatment and waste disposal systems, as well as sustainable energy supply

systems, with an emphasis on renewables. Furthermore, it is necessary to mitigate the existing negative consequences of human activity in terms of waste removal, deforestation or overexploitation of farming land. It is also crucial to raise environmental awareness of the public and involve them in the process of environmental protection.

## **PALESTINE**

Polish Development Cooperation for Palestine will focus on supporting human capital, agriculture and rural development, and entrepreneurship and the private sector.

### **1) Human capital**

To achieve the objectives entitled *Improving access to high quality education at all levels, in particular kindergarten-level education, and supporting social integration of persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- improving teaching conditions and quality at all levels of education.
- improved access to kindergarten education;
- improved access to social services for persons belonging to groups at risk of exclusion.

In the case of Palestine, due to the small territory of the country and a low amount of natural resources, education is the key to building human capital. Despite improvements in the quantitative indicators (e.g. access to primary education at 94% in the 6-15 years of age group), education in kindergartens and special-needs education still require particular attention. Only 33% of children attends kindergarten education, primarily due to a limited number of kindergartens in smaller and remote communities. In the case of students with special needs, it is necessary to increase the school attendance level at the primary level. Among children with disabilities who are of school age, only 45% of them attends a school. In turn, only 40% of graduates of secondary schools continues their education and studies at universities. Apart from education, healthcare and rehabilitation of persons with special needs also requires more attention from the Palestine's government and international donors.

### **2) Agriculture and rural development**

To achieve the objectives entitled *Improving food security in rural areas and improving efficiency and competitiveness of the agricultural business*, it is vital to achieve the following results:

- improved income and strengthened food security of agricultural farms;
- improved levels of competition, efficiency and innovation of producers' groups, cooperatives and agricultural cooperatives;



- increased access to markets, attaining higher quality of products and a higher added value in the value chain.

Despite the decreased share in GDP from 13% (in 1994) to almost 5.6%, agriculture still remains an important sector in the Palestinian economy. It is of key significance in ensuring food security, generating income for the population and in private sector development. For about 15% of the Palestinians, agriculture constitutes the primary source of employment. 11.5% of the workforce is employed in agriculture. In 2011, Palestine had about 105 thousand agricultural farms. In 2012, 34% households experienced lack of food security. The development of this sector and the increase of agricultural production are limited by many factors, including the occupation of some of the Palestinian territory by the Israeli, which limits access to arable land and water sources. The on-going Israel-Palestine crisis also limits the free flow of goods/persons to/from Palestine. Physical barriers (Israeli control points) and administrative barriers (provisions and procedures) restrict access of local producers and agricultural products to foreign markets. The difficult situation in the agriculture is also made more acute by, including but not limited to, low productivity, poor use of natural resources, low level of agricultural education and the growing dependence on import.

### 3) Entrepreneurship and private sector

To achieve the objectives entitled *Supporting the local private sector and the development of entrepreneurship*, it is necessary to achieve the following results:

- improved entrepreneurship levels, in particular among youth and women, new jobs created;
- improved access to high quality technical education and vocational training for youth and women, in particular in East Jerusalem.

The economic growth registered over the recent years in the Palestine did not bring improvements to the labour market and was not able to stop the unemployment rate from increasing. Weak economy, susceptible to political factors, is almost entirely dependant on Israeli economy and international aid. It is vital to activate the private sector to improve the condition of public finance sector and to lead the Palestinian economy into the path of sustainable development. The unemployment rate in Palestine is 27%, and the employment rate is 44.5%. The situation of the youth and women on the labour market is the most difficult. The unemployment rate among graduates of universities is 31%. Young Palestinians more and more frequently consider emigration for economic reasons. The percentage of vocationally active women is 18%, while in the case of men – 70%. High birth rate (2.9%) and a high percentage of the population aged 15-29 (30%) constitute challenges for the labour market.

## V. Humanitarian Aid

In line with the Development Cooperation Act, humanitarian aid first and foremost is intended to ensure aid, care and protection to the population that was harmed as a result of armed conflicts, natural disasters or other humanitarian crises caused by nature or human activity.

Polish humanitarian aid is granted in line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid<sup>21</sup>, the Good Humanitarian Donorship specified therein, and other international guidelines specified e.g. by the United Nations and the European Union. These principles are derived from the international humanitarian experience and include, but are not limited to, independence, impartiality, neutrality and humanity. They specify the principles of cooperating with individual entities from the humanitarian sector, while maintaining the competences ascribed to them.

Considering the experiences from providing humanitarian aid in 2012-2015, and due to its specific character, humanitarian aid will be provided:

- irrespective of the geographical priorities specified in the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for 2016-2020;
- within selected areas:
  - health and nutrition;
  - shelter;
  - education and welfare;
  - water, sanitation and hygiene;
  - early recovery;
  - linking relief, rehabilitation and development.

The humanitarian aid will be granted in response to the calls announced by the country that needs humanitarian aid or international organisations in response to sudden crises as well as protracted and forgotten crises. An important element of the undertaken actions will be to build society's resilience to disasters and crises through combining humanitarian and development measures.

Polish humanitarian aid will cover the activities that are of bilateral and multilateral nature, consisting in providing financial or material humanitarian aid (via e.g. Polish NGOs, Polish foreign posts, specialised state services, including rescue services, or multilateral

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<sup>21</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/?qid=1431445468547&uri=CELEX%3A42008X0130%2801%29>

organisations). It will supplement and continue actions intended to provide immediate rescue assistance granted following a natural disaster or a disaster caused by human activity. Humanitarian aid will also be aiming at building the foundations for conducting long-term development activities to support the regions affected by the crises. This form of humanitarian aid strengthens Poland's image as a country that provides assistance in areas affected by humanitarian crises. Aid delivered on the spot is an important part of the government assistance strategy.

Polish humanitarian aid will also consider partnerships with international humanitarian organisations, the activity on the EU and UN forums. The cooperation will be undertaken with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (ICRC).

Over 2016-2020, an important element of the Polish humanitarian aid will take the form of facilitating and adopting systemic solutions to support the mechanism of coordinating humanitarian actions abroad within central administration, with the assistance of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration and subordinate services, the Ministry of National Defence, Governmental Security Centre, the Ministry of Health and non-governmental partners, under coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Forms of humanitarian aid:

- voluntary payments to international humanitarian organisations;
- voluntary payments in response to humanitarian crises;
- bilateral projects implemented via Polish entities;
- co-financing or technical assistance in implementing financial activities, in particular funded from the budgets of third countries, the European Union or other international organisations;
- operations of public administration authorities, including rescue services;
- participation in special EU financial instruments, including trust funds.

### **Support in the Middle East**

Globally, the refugees from Syria are second only to refugees from Palestine in terms of the size of refugee population.

It is estimated that 5 million Syrians fled to neighbouring countries, and over 6 million people were forced to leave their places of residence and are displaced internally within the Syrian territory. The 6-year conflict in Syria has significantly impacted the internal situation

of neighbouring countries, mainly Jordan and Lebanon. These countries received the biggest number of Syrian refugees out of the Middle East countries. As a result, Amman and Beirut are struggling with a difficult socio-economic situation. According to UN OCHA data, it is estimated that around 7 million people in Syria have limited access to food and over 25% of households are forced to spend over 25% of their monthly income to buy food. Over 30% of children remain outside the school system. The situation in the healthcare sector is bad, as over half of public healthcare facilities are inefficient or only partly operational.

According to UNHCR estimates, in Jordan there are currently 0.5 million refugees, of whom nearly 90% live below the poverty line. Nearly 52% of them are children. Mass influx of refugees contributes to the impoverishment of the poorest classes of Jordanian society as a result of increasing prices of food and limited access to the local labour market.

In addition, increased public services and security spending of the Jordanian government, aimed at satisfying basic needs of refugees, had a major impact on the negative financial situation of the country.

The issue of Syrian refugees, making up nearly 25% of the population, poses a great challenge and is a topic of an internal debate in Lebanon as well. The disputes over refugees escalate as a result of a dramatic increase in the terrorist threat. There are growing animosities between the refugees and the local Lebanese communities hosting them, whose needs are often disregarded. According to UN data, in Lebanon there are approx. 1.1 million refugees from Syria who have been registered by UNHCR (1.5 million together with the unregistered refugees). Most of them are urban refugees, living mainly in the poorest areas of Lebanon: the Beqaa Valley and the Akkar district. The situation in these regions calls for educational and healthcare measures.

The humanitarian crisis in Iraq, a country affected by both the consequences of the war in Syria and the conflict with the Islamic State (ISIS), is one of the largest and most unstable of its kind in the world. Since 2014, over 3.3 million Iraqis have been displaced, with 1 million staying in Iraqi Kurdistan. Added to this record should also be Syrian refugees, whose number exceeded 240,000 by the end of the first half of 2017 according to UNHCR.

The influx of population of Syrian origin and the mass scale of local displacements (over 800,000 people displaced from the Mosul region) is a major burden for Iraq, as it continues to struggle with the consequences of its own protracted conflicts. While the number of Syrian refugees in Iraq remains lower compared to other countries of the region, in the current situation the crisis can lead to more serious consequences for stability and security in Iraq. Regional government of Iraqi Kurdistan enabled Syrian refugees to attend local schools and take on legal employment. Nevertheless, the overall situation in the region worsened, and the poverty indicator rose twofold, mostly as a result of higher prices and unemployment.

If the security situation stabilises, it will be possible to intensify the involvement of the MFA in providing direct assistance in Syria by implementing projects of Polish missions abroad in the area of development cooperation or taking measures through Polish non-governmental organisations on the territory of Syria.

### **Support for internally displaced persons in Ukraine**

The ongoing crisis in Ukraine gave rise to major humanitarian needs.

Since 2014, that is the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, approx. 1.8 million people have been displaced from the combat areas near Donetsk and Luhansk. The support system for the internally displaced in Ukraine is based on emergency relief and does not take into account their actual needs. Most of the displaced persons live in difficult conditions, unable to take up work. Limited access to healthcare and food causes hardship for the displaced population in the areas adjacent to the conflict line. In some areas affected by the conflict the state stopped financing healthcare and delivering medical supplies and medicines. Basic healthcare services are to a large extent unavailable. The lack of vaccines for children is a serious problem in that respect.

Considering Ukraine's great humanitarian needs, Poland will continue to respond to the most urgent needs of the internally displaced in terms of healthcare, social assistance and employment assistance, both via multilateral and bilateral channels. Humanitarian aid will be provided in the regions with the largest population of the internally displaced, in particular in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia, Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts (except for parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts remaining outside the control of the government in Kyiv and except for the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol).

## VI. Global education

In line with the definition adopted in the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Global Education<sup>22</sup>, global education covers educational activities directed to the Polish society and referring to the development problems and challenges experienced all over the world. It is a part of civic education and instruction, pertaining to raising awareness of the existence of global phenomena and interdependencies. Its main objective is to prepare the recipients to face the challenges that pertain to the entire humanity. Interdependencies are defined as mutual connections and permeating of cultural, environmental, economic, social, political and technological systems. The list of current global challenges includes, but is not limited to: ensuring peace and security in the world, improving the living conditions in developing countries, protecting human rights, ensuring sustainable development, establishing partner-level economic and social relations among highly-developed and developing countries. In particular, global education emphasizes the need to explain the reasons and consequences of the described phenomena, presenting the perspectives of developing countries, understanding the world as a complex and dynamically changing system, encouraging critical thinking and influencing the change in attitudes, overcoming the existing stereotypes and prejudices, showing the impact of an individual on the global processes and the impact of global processes on an individual. Global education also includes actions intended to inform the population about the problems that are present globally and about the means and methods of working to reduce them, in particular about the Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation process.

The main objectives of the Global Education programme are as follows:

- strengthening the presence of global education at all levels of formal education in accordance with core curriculum, in particular by educating teaching personnel, developing educational tools and by promoting global education at schools and at the universities;
- increasing awareness of the general public of the global interdependencies;
- improving the quality of educational initiatives in the area of global education;
- strengthening cohesion between global education carried out in Poland and abroad.

The activities in the area of global education will be directed to widely-understood audience, children, teenagers and adults, within formal, informal and non-formal education.

The activities that have a high multiplication potential and those with sustainable results will receive priority treatment while achieving objectives in the area of global education.

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<sup>22</sup> The “Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Global Education in Poland” was made on 26 May 2011 by and between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Education and the Zagranica Group. [http://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/Porozumienie\\_rozwojedukacjiglobalnej,1165.html](http://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/Porozumienie_rozwojedukacjiglobalnej,1165.html)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Environment and other public institutions that conduct or support activities in the area of global education will strive to coordinate their actions and to use the effect of synergy among them.

## **VII. Partners of the bilateral development cooperation**

Polish bilateral development cooperation financed from the state budget special-purpose reserve for development cooperation at the disposal of MFA is first and foremost conducted via:

- non-governmental organisations, public and private higher education institutions, research institutes, Polish Academy of Sciences and its organisational units;
- public administration authorities;
- Solidarity Fund;
- private sector entities;
- volunteers.

The structure of the Polish Development Cooperation system, including in particular the mode of distributing public funding to assistance initiatives, favours improving efficiency of the implemented projects, and indirectly serves to strengthen the potential of the partners of Polish Development Cooperation. Under the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for 2016-2020, measures are undertaken to build the potential of NGOs, organise trainings and counselling for the entities participating in implementing development cooperation.

### **1. Social partners**

The ranks of social partners of development cooperation include NGOs, experts, representatives of academic institutions and other institutions involved or interested in development cooperation, global education, humanitarian aid, and organisations specialising in the areas that belong to the thematic areas of the development cooperation defined in the Development Cooperation Act. While performing the commissioned public tasks within the development cooperation, they form a key group of partners of bilateral aid granted by Poland. These organisations also work closely with local entities in the partner countries receiving Polish development aid. The social partners also contribute to the shape of the Polish development policy and co-create its bases, including by participating in the works of the Development Cooperation Programme Board. Cooperating with social partners, including NGOs, is conducted in line with the principles of competition and transparency.

### **2. Public administration bodies**

Involvement of public administration bodies in implementing the activities of Polish Development Cooperation is intended to support reforms and activities of systemic character in the partner countries receiving Polish aid. The partners of Polish public



administration bodies in the conducted development activities most often include their counterparts in the partner states, which allows for having more influence on the changes that cover the entire country. The initiatives realised by government administration and local government units mostly serve to support good governance in priority countries of the Polish Development Cooperation.

### **3. Solidarity Fund**

Acting pursuant to Article 10(3) of the Development Cooperation Act, the minister competent for foreign affairs may order the Solidarity Fund to realise tasks in the countries with specific political conditions.

The Fund can perform tasks that serve to realise the thematic priorities in priority countries and in other countries receiving official development aid, and organize election observation missions.

The Fund will receive a state budget specific grant from the funds at the disposal of the minister of foreign affairs to conduct the tasks commissioned by MFA. While implementing Polish Development Cooperation projects, the Fund can also use funds from other sources.

### **4. Volunteers**

The activity of volunteers cooperating with local communities on development projects in selected partner countries is one of the important tools supporting the achievement of the objectives of Polish development cooperation.

Every adult Polish citizen can become directly involved in global development actions by undertaking cooperation with Polish non-governmental organisations implementing both independent volunteering projects, and undertakings which complement or continue Polish development assistance projects. The undertaken actions are aimed at strengthening the synergy effect.

Volunteering projects also have an educational dimension. After returning home, the volunteers use their experience to take actions in the field of global education, spreading knowledge about the partner countries of Polish Development Cooperation and promoting volunteering.

### **5. Lending policy of the Ministry of Finance**

Government loans under the tied aid scheme serve to support the development of partner countries and assume a required minimal share of goods and services of Polish origin in the financed projects. Poland is bound by a number of requirements on assistance loans defined by the OECD<sup>23</sup>, especially in relation to classification as official development assistance,

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<sup>23</sup> *DAC Recommendation on Terms and Conditions of Aid, DAC Recommendation on Untying ODA to the LDC, Converged Statistical Reporting Directives for the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and the Annual DAC*

ensuring the minimal subsidy level and the so-called grant element, depending on the income group of the borrower's country, as well as untying official development assistance in the case of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs).

The Ministry of Finance is the leading institution, and loan agreements are concluded pursuant to the Act on International Agreements. The Act imposes an obligation of conducting inter-ministerial consultations, held in this case with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology. The opinion of the MFA, pursuant to the Development Cooperation Act, relates to whether loans to be granted are advisable from the point of view of achieving this Programme's objectives. The opinion takes into account compliance of the loan agreements with OECD DAC recommendations and includes a direct assessment of proposed initiatives from the point of view of the overriding objectives of Polish Development Cooperation.

## **6. Technical assistance of the National Bank of Poland**

The National Bank of Poland (NBP) provides technical and training assistance to central banks from the countries that are undergoing economic or systemic transformation and yet they are not EU members. The core of NBP's assistance lies in providing support consists in sharing specialist knowledge and Polish experiences in establishing central banking system, including establishment of an independent central bank. The main recipients of the tasks realised under this programme are institutions from the countries belonging to the Eastern Partnership; constituents in the election groups together with Poland of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF); candidates for joining the EU.

## **VIII. Cooperation with EU, UN, OSCE, development banks and OECD**

Multilateral cooperation, which covers development projects and programmes, constitutes a major part (approx. 75%) of Official Development Aid granted every year by Poland to developing countries. The European Union remains the main (approx. 90% of the value of the multilateral aid) channel that transfers the aid, via the contribution to the EU budget and the payments made to the European Development Fund (EDF). Multilateral cooperation is also implemented via international organisations, i.e. mainly within the UN system, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), World Bank Group, and other multilateral development financial institutions.

The multilateral cooperation is conducted by a wide range of government administration bodies and other central administration institutions, including, but not limited to, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the National Bank of Poland.

Thanks to the presence on international arenas, Poland co-creates the principles of functioning and the directions of the measures undertaken within the international development cooperation. It also gains the ability to realise development objectives that are important from the point of view of Polish foreign policy, via specialised multilateral cooperation institutions.

### **1. Objectives of multilateral cooperation**

In 2016-2020, Poland will be able to participate in shaping international debate through multilateral cooperation. Multilateral cooperation will also be used to implement Sustainable Development goals, including in particular the thematic priorities of Polish Development Cooperation. The presence on the international forum will also be used to promote and implement political and economic priorities of Poland.

The engagement of Poland in the forms of multilateral cooperation for development will contribute to:

- achieving development objectives, particularly important from the viewpoint of Polish foreign policy, in particular, sustaining the issue of good governance and human rights as an important element of the development agenda;
- supporting implementation of the SDGs by the international community, which first and foremost serve to improve the level of life in the developing countries, to reduce poverty, to eliminate problems of the developing countries and their societies,

promoting and supporting democracy and civic society, the principles of good governance and respect for human rights;

- strengthening the position of Poland as a reliable and trust-worthy partner.

Poland will achieve these objectives through:

- active involvement in the works of the European Union, including taking care about maintaining cohesion of EU policies with the Development Agenda;
- co-shaping the international debate within the UN, taking into consideration its compatibility with the principles of Polish foreign policy;
- participating in the works led by the World Bank Group and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD);
- activity on the forum of the Development Aid Committee OECD, including the works on changing the definition of Official Development Aid;
- striving to increase the number of Polish citizens employed in international development institutions;
- striving to increase the share of Polish private sector in development cooperation and to increase the share of Polish public, private and non-governmental entities in implementing projects of multilateral institutions.

## **2. European Union**

The activities of Polish Development Cooperation will complement the development assistance provided via the European Union. The European development cooperation is taken into consideration while implementing the Polish Aid Programme, both at the programming stage and at the stage of implementing projects and other initiatives. Poland also participates in joint EU programming.

Poland will support the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The priority measures undertaken on the EU forum will constitute supporting the achievement of commitments arising from the Association Agreements signed by the countries that strive to tighten the relations with the EU. Particular attention will be paid to strengthening the bilateral relations with partner countries subject to financing from the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), including promotion of democracy, human rights, good governance and sustainable development. Support will be granted to reforms and moving closer to the EU standards of states subject to the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). Poland will take care about the cohesion and complementarity of ENP with the development policy.

Poland will also participate in assistance projects implemented under a twinning programme and Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX), sharing its experiences pertaining to systemic transformation and supporting democratisation processes.

In 2016-2020, the European Union diplomacy will have an important task to work out an agreement pertaining to the shape of the future relations of the European Union and its Member States with the ACP countries (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States) in connection with the fact that the Cotonou Agreement between ACP and the EU expires in 2020<sup>24</sup>. Poland takes part in this debate in line with the priorities of political, economic and development cooperation established as a result of inter-ministerial consultations.

In line with the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement and on providing financial aid to overseas countries and territories (OCTs), a contribution will be made to the European Development Fund (EDF) under its 11th edition (2014-2020). The EDF funds, in line with the Internal Agreement<sup>25</sup>, will be allocated to financing sustainable development, eradicating poverty, and gradual integration of ACP countries with the global economy, implementing programmes supporting cooperation and regional and inter-regional cooperation of ACP countries, as well as territorial and regional OCTs programmes.

In accordance with an obligation assumed in 2016, Poland will continue its cooperation in the Strategic Board and Operational Committees of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF).<sup>26</sup>

Together with the Delegations of the European Union and on the forum of the European Neighbourhood Instrument, European Development Fund and Development Cooperation Instrument Committees, Poland will take an active part in creating documents related to supporting partner countries or regions and thematic programmes.

### **3. United Nations system**

Poland, as a UN member, realises the objectives and the principles listed in the UN Charter. The representatives of Poland actively participate in the works of the UN, paying particular attention to the actions to eliminate poverty in the world, to promote human rights, principles of good governance and democracy, to support sustainable social-economic development of developing countries and their societies, to support actions to improve health, to undertake measures in the area of environment protection and to reduce the risk and consequences of disasters.

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<sup>24</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/pl/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:r12101>

<sup>25</sup> Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, on the financing of European Union aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014-2020, in accordance with the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union applies (date of entry into force: 1 March 2015)  
<http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20150000413>

<sup>26</sup> EUTF is a key element of the migration package, with its support covering 26 African states, grouped into three regional “windows” (Sahel and Lake Chad, Horn of Africa, North Africa) as part of a plan of counteracting the migration crisis in Europe.

Active participation of Poland on the forum of UN in the debate regarding the post-2015 Global Agenda of Development Cooperation was focused on promoting good governance and human rights. The significance of this element was proven by including it in the Sustainable Development Goals. Poland will support implementing this aspect of development cooperation by making payments to the organisations and funds of the UN system that realise relevant programmes. Additionally, Poland will become engaged in substantive work of the decision-making bodies of the UN system institutions. Promotion activities will also extend to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030<sup>27</sup>.

Poland will continue working with key agencies and making voluntary payments to those whose activity corresponds to the objectives of Polish foreign and development policy. Poland will cooperate, among others, with: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and World Food Programme (WFP).

The basic reasons for making the voluntary payments for multilateral cooperation are efficiency and complementarity with the bilateral cooperation. For that reason, the payments will:

- support specific thematic areas concerning development issues that are part of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals;
- be in line with Polish foreign policy objectives and will take into consideration the priorities specified in the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for 2016-2020;
- be classified as Official Development Assistance;
- supplement bilateral undertakings;
- be of subsidiary nature – they will be used to realise objectives that cannot be achieved under bilateral development cooperation;
- be reduced, which will make it possible to increase individual amounts of support for those funds and programmes that do realise tasks that are of particular importance from

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<sup>27</sup>The document is a response to the growing number of natural disasters and catastrophes around the world, and the significant economic losses they cause. The programme outlines seven global targets to be achieved by 2030. <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/43291>). The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai.

the viewpoint of the priorities of Polish Development Cooperation and the objectives of the Polish foreign policy.

#### **4. Development banks**

One of the important dimensions of the Polish Development Cooperation realised via multilateral institutions in 2016-2020 will take the form of continued involvement in the activity of development banks. Poland will focus its operations in this respect on cooperating with the World Bank Group (WBG) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as well as the European Investment Bank (EIB). Poland took up shares in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a new entity that emerged in 2016 on the scene of regional banks. As much as it is financially feasible, Poland will strive to increase its engagement in financing development projects, initiatives and programmes realised by WBG, EBRD and AIIB for the benefit of other countries, while Poland still takes advantage of the financial and technical support of these institutions itself. Poland will also actively participate in the work of the Investment Facility Committee that issues opinions to projects realised by the Bank in ACP countries. This involvement will focus in particular on the priority countries benefiting from Polish Development Cooperation. Increasing the share in implementing multilateral development aid via WBG, EBRD and AIIB will make it possible to improve the development level of those countries; it will also be an important tool for Poland to realise its political and economic objectives. Multilateral cooperation granted via those institutions will also strengthen our bilateral assistance activities.

Multilateral trust funds administered by the banks must be considered an effective form of allocating development funds. Poland's involvement in the Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund (EPTATF) and the funds managed by EBRD<sup>28</sup> will be continued and, if new valuable initiatives appear, supplemented with new payments.

By participating in the work of World Bank Group, EBRD, AIIB and EIB, Poland will strive to ensure as high cohesion of acting of those institutions with the objectives, principles and priorities with the Polish Development Cooperation as possible. Poland cooperates with other stakeholders of the said institutions with respect to increasing the scale of assistance measures and implementing projects and programmes respecting human rights, social and environmental responsibility and the principles of development cooperation. Activities will be undertaken in two important areas:

- enabling national commercial entities to participate to the highest extent possible (as suppliers/contractors) in the projects implemented by WBG, EBRD, AIIB and EIB, and

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<sup>28</sup> Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership Fund (EEP), Chernobyl Shelter Fund, and Ukraine Stabilisation and Sustainable Growth Multi-Donor Account

- striving to systematically increase the number of Polish employees of those institutions.

## **5. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.**

Poland will cooperate with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development mainly through actively working with the Development Assistance Committee. The Committee is a body of OECD, whose task is to develop standards of providing assistance to developing countries and to improve efficiency of such assistance. It serves as a forum for dialogue on development cooperation, making it possible to take advantage of the experiences of partners, supporting the formulation of development cooperation programmes. In 2016-2020, Poland will participate in the Committee's work on the reform of the definition of the official development assistance and on modernising the statistical system. Poland will also contribute to establishing a new instrument that measures financial flows of development nature (under the working name *Total Official Support for Sustainable Development - TOSSD*). Poland will also become involved in the work of auxiliary bodies of DAC OECD.

The Development Assistance Committee conducts an assessment of the national assistance programmes of individual Member States. Poland underwent such assessment in 2016.

As a result of the review, DAC OECD presented recommendations of proposed changes and improvements to the Polish Development Cooperation System<sup>29</sup>.

## **IX. Cooperation with the private sector**

In the international practice of development cooperation, cooperation with the private sector is playing a more and more distinctive role in fostering economic growth and creating jobs. The assistance measures from states-donors are limited and do not make sufficient impact. However, they can be used to leverage additional private investment or be directed to yield a greater development effect, for instance, by reducing poverty and creating decent jobs. Therefore, development cooperation should be used to improve the business environment, remove market imperfections and bottlenecks and to support entrepreneurship. Noticing the benefits of engaging private entrepreneurs in the actions to promote development, Polish Development Cooperation will support the private sector in developing countries. The support will focus on vocational activation of employees, promoting entrepreneurship, and improving productivity and competitiveness of economies. Mobilising the Polish private sector to implement sustainable development goals in developing countries through corporate social responsibility (CSR), investments, transfer of

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<sup>29</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/dac/oecd-development-co-operation-peer-reviews-poland-2017-9789264268869-en.htm>



knowledge and technology, development of commerce value chains will be just as important.

Engagement of the private sector in the development cooperation will take place in line with the best existing standards of OECD and UN and in line with the provisions of Polish law.

## **X. Evaluation and monitoring**

Introduction of the best solutions in the area of development policy should be accompanied by in-depth reflection on the conducted and planned measures. Evaluation is both the analytical instrument as well as the catalyst of the positive changes in the process of managing the development cooperation.

By conducting evaluation tasks, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs follows the principles and evaluation standards drawn up primarily by OECD and EU<sup>30</sup>. Evaluation will also consider the Busan principles<sup>31</sup> (ownership, focus on results, transparency, liability, inclusive partnerships).

Primary objectives of Polish Development Cooperation are:

- assessing the efficiency of achieving the objectives specified in the programme;
- strengthening the development policy;
- supporting the decision-making process in the context of programming, including continuation to finance programmes/projects;
- providing information about the results of development measures to policy makers, partner organisations and the general public.

The evaluation will be conducted in two modes:

- following the conclusion of programmes/projects – it will focus on the completed annual or modular tasks, mainly programmes, projects or groups of projects. Considering the involved funds, it will mainly focus on the priorities of the Polish Development Cooperation.

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<sup>30</sup> Evaluation of Polish development cooperation is held in line with:

- *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>;
- European Union guidelines  
[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/evaluation-matters\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/evaluation-matters_en_0.pdf).

<sup>31</sup> Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, November 2011.  
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

- mid-term – evaluation will pertain to the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for 2016-2020 about 3 years in. The conclusions will be used to introduce the necessary modifications to the binding document and to draw up the subsequent one.

The programme is used to draw up annual evaluation plans presenting how the evaluation is carried out and what the expected actions are. The analyses may be conducted both abroad and in the country. The following criteria will be considered: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. Implementation of evaluation tests will be entrusted to external entities.

Monitoring will be conducted in order to determine whether the projects and initiatives were implemented properly, in particular as regards whether they met their objectives and achieved their intended results. Monitoring will also pertain to determining the compliance of implementing the projects and initiatives with the objectives arising from the annual plans and the Multiannual Programme.

## **XI. Information and promotion actions**

Informative and promotional activities related to the implementation of Polish Development Cooperation will include activities addressed to the general public and to the selected groups of recipients. Among the informative activities, plans include publishing activity, developing the website, using social channels and media, working with the media, including preparation of radio auditions and TV reports. Plans also involve organising photographic competitions focussing on development, an exhibition of photographs documenting the implementation of projects financed under the Polish Aid Programme, organising information stands during mass events.

The main objectives of the promotional and informative activities will include increasing the awareness of the society regarding the Polish Development Cooperation Programme, its objectives and priorities, as well as maintaining high social support for the development cooperation run by Poland.

## **XII. Principles of development cooperation**

Polish Development Cooperation is implemented in line with the principles of human rights, rule of law and good governance, which guarantee the release of the relevant social potential and ensure the durability of the results of the sustainable development process.

### **1. Efficiency of development cooperation**

Poland strives to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of its development cooperation.

On the international forum, Poland participate in the works of the Global Partnership for Efficiency of Development Aid. The forum constitutes the main platform of international dialogue about the efficiency of development cooperation and implementation of the decisions made during the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Pusan. These works also fit into the operations run by the Member States and EU institutions.

At the national level, measures will continue, contributing to meeting by Poland of the provisions of the Fourth Forum on Aid Effectiveness, including in particular with respect to increasing the transparency of Polish Development Cooperation, reducing fragmentation of the aid and considering the ownership of priorities of partner countries.

- Transparency of development cooperation

In line with the decisions made by the Global Partnership, the website dedicated to Polish aid will contain a tool that makes it possible to access information about the Polish Development Cooperation projects.

The statistical database on the official development assistance provided by Poland will also be expanded. This tool will facilitate the process of collecting data on the Polish official development aid for the purposes of the Development Assistance Committee OECD. In the future, the database will be made public and will allow for improving access to information about the entire Polish Development Cooperation.

- Joint EU programming of development assistance

EU and its Member States undertook to improve efficiency the granted aid by gradually implementing joint programming of development cooperation at the EU level. = Poland is interested in participating in the joint programming process in priority countries of the Polish aid..

- Considering development priorities of partner countries

National strategies of partner countries and their development priorities were considered while drawing up the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for 2016-2020. In line with the inclusion principle, the entities from partner countries, as full-fledged partners

of Polish applicants, will be able to participate in implementing projects financed under the Polish Development Cooperation Programme.

## **2. Policy coherence for development**

Policy coherence for development (PCD) was considered in the OECD documents (e.g. in the Development Strategy of 2012<sup>32</sup>) and is rooted in the treaties (Article 208 of the Lisbon Treaty<sup>33</sup>). The purpose of the Policy coherence for development is to draw up and implement policies by the countries in such a way as to avoid actions that have a negative impact on global development and on development opportunities of other countries. At the same time, the countries should strive to agree the objectives of national policies with the objectives of sustainable development.

The following elements are of key significance for implementing Policy Coherence for Development:

- ensuring compliance with global SDGs;
- supporting implementation of SDGs during international negotiations on international forums;
- introducing criteria/elements of sustainable development to public policies;
- introducing changes to national policies that will contribute to global growth.

The relevant government administration bodies are responsible for coordinating the cohesion of the policy for development within their competences and for ensuring that the sectoral policies currently implemented are consistent with SDGs and will contribute to global growth.

The assessment of impact of national policies on the potential of social-economic development of priority countries of the Polish Development Cooperation is conducted in the form of impact assessment and public consultations under the governmental legislative process.

Additionally, as regards the coherence of policies for development, two priority areas were indicated for the actions under PCD on the national and international forum. Poland will strive to support the actions to promote the system to fight illegal financial flows in such thematic areas as: combating avoiding paying taxes and money laundering, and will seek to disseminate and introduce corporate social responsibility standards in the context of policy coherence for development. For both priority areas under PCD, annual action plans will be drawn up by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development, which are leading entities for the given priority areas, in cooperation with ministries and central administration bodies whose competences are related to the priority

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<sup>32</sup> OECD Strategy on Development: <http://www.oecd.org/belgium/50452316.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3Aai0033>

areas, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the priority area under PCD.

In line with the binding rules, Poland will submit a report to OECD and European Commission on the activities undertaken by the ministries in order to ensure cohesion of the policies for development within their competences, and additionally a report on the implementation of annual action plans specified for given priority areas.

The report that contains the aforementioned data will also be presented on the forum of the Development Cooperation Programme Board. Contact points for policy coherence for development established at the ministries will serve as the coordinators for the Cohesion of Policies for Development. The issues related to cohesion of policies for development, including potential new priority topics, will be subject of discussions at the Development Cooperation Programme Board.

### **3. Other principles**

Polish Development Cooperation also follows the following principles:

- non-discrimination – respecting and adhering to human rights, considering the equality of opportunities, including on the grounds of sex, ethnicity, age, religion, disability;
- participation – ensuring active and free participation of stakeholders of development cooperation in the process of creating and functioning of development cooperation, ensuring equal access to benefits derived from the development activities to all members of the communities that benefit from such measures;
- empowerment – guaranteeing partners in the developing countries that they will be able to decide on the course of changes they wish to undertake;
- taking care of the natural environment, sustainable management of natural resources, counteracting climate change.

Polish Development Cooperation is granted in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.<sup>34</sup>

While carrying out development cooperation, Poland will also take into consideration the results of work at the international and EU levels on combating tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning, in particular with respect to the list of non-cooperative jurisdictions in taxation matters, in line with the EU Council conclusions of 5 December 2017.

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<sup>34</sup> [http://pihrb.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Wytyczne-ONZ-UNGPs-BHR-PL\\_web\\_PiHRB.pdf](http://pihrb.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Wytyczne-ONZ-UNGPs-BHR-PL_web_PiHRB.pdf)

### **XIII. Forms of development cooperation**

The bilateral cooperation finances measures addressed directly to partner countries. In turn, multilateral cooperation provides assistance through specialised organisations and international institutions. It is also possible to cooperate trilaterally with donors of development cooperation in order to realise a joint support offer for the benefit of a given priority country.

Bilateral development cooperation might be conducted in particular in the following forms:

- supporting or entrusting tasks to entities that participate in implementing development cooperation;
- granting loans and credits;
- reducing and converting the debts of a developing country;
- co-financing or providing technical assistance while implementing financial measures, in particular from the budgets of other states, of the European Union, or from other international organisations;
- payments to international organisations, institutions, programmes, funds;
- granting stipends;
- projects implemented by Polish foreign posts;
- trilateral development cooperation.

Multilateral development cooperation might be conducted, for example, with the use of the following instruments:

- contributions to the general budget of the European Union;
- contributions to the European Development Fund;
- voluntary payments and contributions to specialised organisations, programmes and funds under the international development cooperation.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

- Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15.** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems
- Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development
- Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development