



Evaluation of Polish Development Aid Provided to East Africa through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland in 2012-2015

ETHIOPIA • KENYA • TANZANIA



The evaluation study aimed to determine the effectiveness, sustainability, utility and relevance of Polish Development Aid (PDA) provided to selected countries in East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania) in 2012-2015 and to make recommendations based on its conclusions.

Methodology

- The evaluation was mainly based on field studies:
- ⇒ interviews with key actors of the process – administration and the third sector,
 - ⇒ 318 questionnaire surveys conducted with project participants in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania,
 - ⇒ ethnographic research,
 - ⇒ in-depth analysis of 19 projects.

Other methods applied:

- ⇒ desk research,
- ⇒ panels of experts,
- ⇒ SWOT analysis,
- ⇒ a total of 10 case studies,
- ⇒ benchmarking.

Countries selected for benchmarking

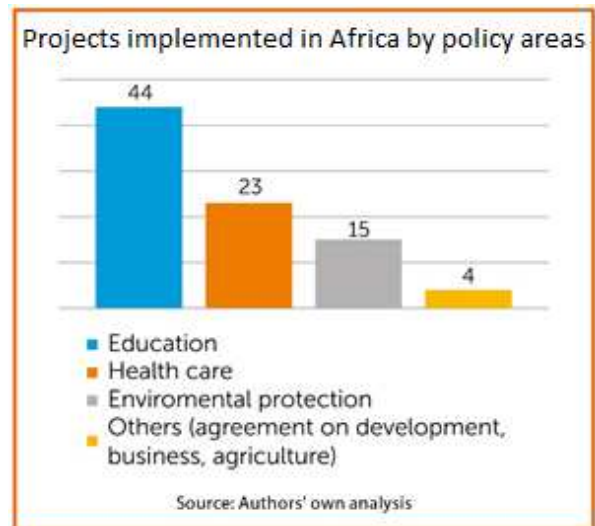
- ⇒ For Ethiopia - the Czech Republic
- ⇒ For Kenya - Germany
- ⇒ For Tanzania - Denmark

Most important selection criteria

- ⇒ membership of OECD/DAC
- ⇒ donor's significance for the beneficiary
- ⇒ existence of a development aid agency
- ⇒ the way aid is monitored

In 2012-2015, a total of 86 projects were implemented using PDA funds in East Africa, of which:

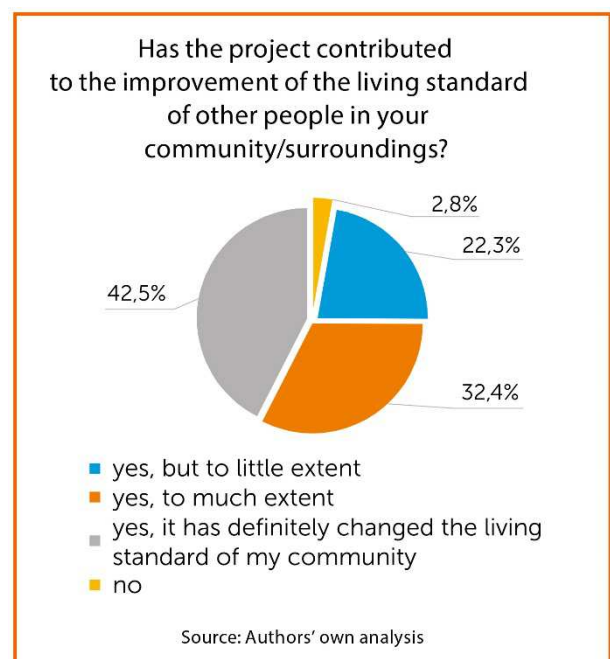
- ⇒ 23 projects in 2012,
- ⇒ 18 projects in 2013,
- ⇒ 18 projects in 2014,
- ⇒ 27 projects in 2015.



Research results

The study has shown that Polish Development Aid is highly efficient.

The aid projects have made social and economic impact on the supported areas and have accomplished most of the assumed targets (expected impact).



PDA was adapted to fit local conditions and needs by applying the partnership principle (ownership/empowerment) and the model of participatory support.

The evaluation has shown that the greatest effectiveness and efficiency are obtained through integrated projects which combine infrastructural support with "soft" elements, and with simple, cost-efficient projects that bring quick and visible improvement of the beneficiaries' situation (e.g. environmental protection initiatives).

Polish aid is distinguished by a relatively high level of local recognition.

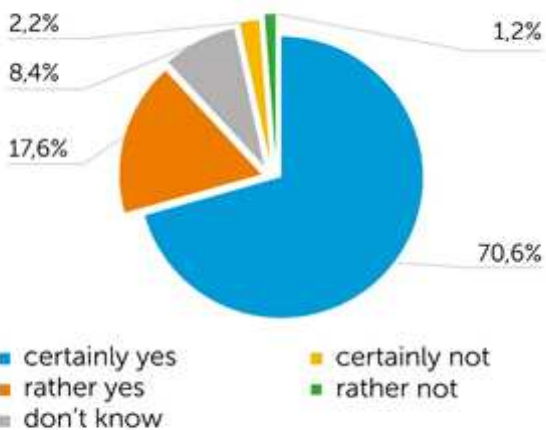
The key factors of sustainability of Polish project include:

- ⇒ relevant identification and training of "knowledge multipliers,"
- ⇒ planning sustainability mechanisms at the conceptualisation stage,
- ⇒ strong institutional partner.

**Polish Development Aid
in East Africa
STRENGTHS**

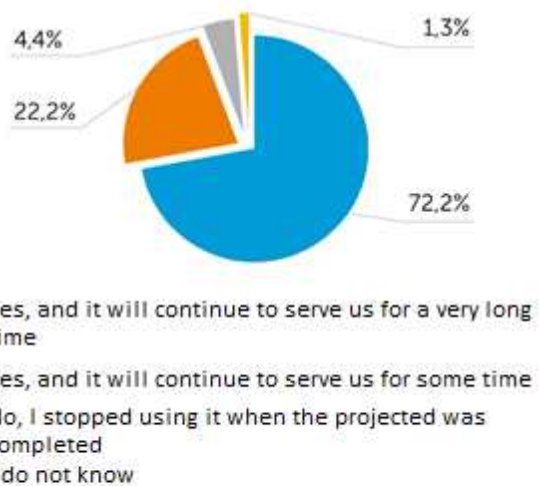
- ⇒ visible direct impact of the implemented projects
- ⇒ adaptation to conditions prevailing in the country of support
- ⇒ Polish NGOs' experience

Have the needs of Ethiopia/Kenya/Tanzania and of the local inhabitants been well understood by the project executors?



Source: Authors' own analysis

Have you used knowledge/equipment/materials /devices gained during the project after it was completed?



Source: Authors' own analysis

**Polish Development Aid
in East Africa
WEAKNESSES**

- ⇒ limited human resources of the Polish diplomatic missions that implement development projects
- ⇒ no permanent presence of Polish organizations in aid recipient countries
- ⇒ weak cooperation with the private sector

Key factors limiting DPA's broader (other than local) and long-term impact are:

- ⇒ low spending,
- ⇒ one-year project cycle.

Polish institutions involved in development aid in East Africa have extensive experience, knowledge and skills, but are facing a barrier to growth and need support.

The scale of Polish bilateral aid is not significant compared to that of other donors. The implementation of small, dispersed and short-term initiatives has a negative impact on the efficiency of undertaken activities. Limited financial resources are also not helping to build sustainable cooperation with other organizations in the countries receiving support in spite of the positive opinions expressed about the professionalism of Polish institutions engaged in development cooperation.

Polish Development Aid in East Africa OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ positive approach of local partner organizations and support beneficiaries
- ⇒ openness of Polish organizations to cooperation with other donors
- ⇒ applying the Polish reform experience to local conditions
- ⇒ taking advantage of niches that are not filled in by other donors

Key study recommendations

Strategic recommendations (systemic issues):

- ⇒ spending on Polish development aid should be increased,
- ⇒ there should be a gradual transition towards a system of projects with big budgets,
- ⇒ strengthening the PDA's strategic level by delegating implementation to an institution outside the MFA,
- ⇒ Polish diplomatic missions should focus more on PDA's strategic tasks and on cooperation with other donors,
- ⇒ strengthening the PDA's evaluation system, particularly with respect to project impact evaluation (long-term impact).

Operational recommendations:

- ⇒ developing complementarity of projects implemented under the Small Grants System in relation to initiatives of other donors,
- ⇒ introducing mechanisms to verify the synergy impact of initiatives,
- ⇒ introducing changes to the organization of follow-up visits,
- ⇒ reviewing procedures to faster start projects during a budget year,
- ⇒ putting additional premium on factors boosting the sustainability of initiatives in the evaluation of projects by the MFA,
- ⇒ more active promotion of project impacts,
- ⇒ increasing the MFA's use of various media to inform about and promote PDA.

Recommendations for East Africa:

- ⇒ supporting the capacity of project promoters for diagnosing the situation and adapting projects to meet local needs,
- ⇒ implementing simple and cost-efficient projects,
- ⇒ introducing solutions that facilitate the implementation of projects by NGOs (e.g. greater flexibility in managing project budgets)

The evaluation report is published on the MFA website: www.polskapomoc.gov.pl

The research has been conducted by the Idea of Development Foundation over June-December 2016

IDEA

Fundacja IDEA Rozwoju
Wierzbica 57b, 05-140 poczta Serock

@ → biuro@ideaorg.eu
WWW → www.ideaorg.eu