



Millennium Development Goals Campaign: time to help others!



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Poland
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland
www.onz.org.pl/rozwoj

How the Poles Change the World Examples of Polish projects implemented abroad

“Independent Media” Program – The Polish-Czech-Slovak Solidarity Foundation

Within the program, the Foundation organizes three-week internships for press, radio and TV journalists and editors from the former Soviet Union countries, dedicated to the role of the media in democracy building. The program participants have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the Polish experiences gained during the years of transformation and with the history of development of the independent media in Poland. Contributions from the journalists taking part in the program on current events in their countries as well as their opinions and comments on world events are published in the Polish press. Since 1996, over 170 people participated in the internships.

More: <http://www.spczs.engo.pl>

Help for a hospice in the RSA – The “My Africa” Foundation

Africa is full of suffering, the suffering of those who are permanently hungry, who are in danger of wars and epidemic diseases. One of such diseases is AIDS, a silent killer that gradually weakens and then kills hundreds of thousands of people a year. The “My Africa” Foundation supported a hospice in the Republic of South Africa, buying medicines and basic sanitary materials for money collected from voluntary donors. Thanks to the donors, transport companies, and volunteers’ work, the Foundation succeeded to help 18 children suffering from AIDS. *“Although we are not wealthy people, we can help those who are much poorer than us,”* says Dorota Kozarzewska, a founder of the Foundation.

More: <http://www.mojaafrica.org.pl>



A project “Women in Kosovo” – The “Partners-Poland” Foundation



The participation of women in public life is one of key elements of democracy building in the Western Balkans. Since 2000, Partners-Poland has been running programs addressed to young and active women living in the rural areas of Kosovo. The programs run by the Foundation include training in leadership, planning, and project implementation skills, study visits to Poland, implementation of participants’ own initiatives, e.g. the initiative aimed at the convincing of parents that their daughters should continue education on at least primary level (this is a serious problem in Kosovo). In general, about 200 young women participated in conferences, training courses, and

study visits to Poland, organized by Partners-Poland.

More: http://www.partnersglobal.org/centers/centers_poland.html

Aid for farmers in Central and Eastern Africa – Caritas Poland

Since January 2001, Caritas Poland has been implementing two projects to provide aid for farmers in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The projects are aimed at better use of environmental

resources by the people living in those countries, especially in the parishes of Burate (Rwanda) and Murhesa (Congo). The projects are directly carried out by Stanislaw Gebala, a volunteer representing Caritas Poland and a graduate from the Warsaw Agricultural University. His charity work consists in conducting of theoretical and practical training in the methods of plant cultivation and animal husbandry, construction of farm buildings, mowing, fertilization, processing of farm products, and hygiene. For the training purposes, an agricultural training center was built in the parish of Burate and an agricultural and bee-keeping farm was built in the parish of Murhesa for Caritas money in 2002. The educational activities raise the agricultural awareness of the poorest rural part of local population and give those people a chance for improvement of their difficult material situation.

More: <http://caritaspolska.caritas.pl>

Revitalization of the educational system in Iraq – Polish Humanitarian Organization

From August 2003 till June 2004, the permanent PHO mission in Iraq carried out a project to improve the conditions of education at primary and post-primary schools in Babyl and Wassit provinces and to create good conditions for the safe spending of free time after school by young Iraqi people. Improvement of the educational sector was necessary after the mismanagement of finances on both the central and local level, allocation of significant funds by the government for armaments, and international sanctions resulted in dramatic worsening of educational conditions. Poor technical condition of educational facilities together with poverty of local population and low safety level caused the number of children attending schools to significantly drop. The PHO's activities, which included the repair of electrical and plumbing installations, replacement of windows and doors, and painting of buildings, resulted in successful refurbishment of 16 post-primary schools, 7 youth centers, and 3 sports centers in Babyl province. Moreover, PHO provided furnishings and equipment for the said facilities. Apart from the renovation work, PHO built eight new primary schools in places where children previously had had lessons in mud huts (as the one on the photo). Similarly, PHO developed one of local mud-hut schools and replaced another one with a completely new building made of brick in Wassit province.



More: www.pah.org.pl

Academy of Local Development – Foundation for Social and Economic Initiatives

Following the collapse of the centrally planned economic system, when the period of top-down control of small communities came to an end, many small and medium-size towns in Eastern Europe lacked local leaders who would be capable to take care of the development of their communities. The Foundation for Social and Economic Initiatives (FISE) put forward an initiative to establish an Academy of Local Development (ARL), whose goal would be to stimulate activity of the communities of selected towns through work with local leaders. Within the project implemented in cycles since 1999, the Academy is visited by teams coming from small and medium-size Ukrainian towns and consisting of representatives of local authorities, business, and NGOs or media. At the first stage of the training course, participants learn about the problems related to local development and are introduced into such topics as quality improvement of public services, support for enterprise, or tourism. They also serve their internships at various institutions where they explore Polish experiences gained at implementation of similar projects (local authorities, NGOs, etc.). At the second stage, they prepare specific projects. The best projects are awarded small money prizes. So far, four cyclic courses were carried out, with 31 teams participating in them and 17 teams having completed the courses. In result of the ARL activities, a number of local development projects were prepared.

More: <http://www.fise.org.pl>

Development of independent macroeconomic forecasts – Center for Social and Economic Research

During recent years, the Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE) set up several teams of economists in Poland, Belarus, Georgia, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Moldova who prepared independent

macroeconomic forecasts. The forecasts are intended for the short-time and medium-time prediction of basic macroeconomic variables such as economic development, inflation, unemployment, balance of payments, and budget and are equally used by journalists, students of economy, entrepreneurs, and economic politicians as a source of current and reliable information on the economies of specific countries. Results of the work of individual teams are published quarterly in the said countries. A good point of independent macroeconomic forecasts simultaneously prepared by several national teams is the standardization of the forecast methods and of both the form and quality of the forecasts prepared.

More: www.case.com.pl

Help for a CAS center (Ghana) which takes care of street children – The Association “In Solidarity with Africa”



Since February 2003, the Association “In Solidarity with Africa” has been implementing a project to provide aid for a CAS center, which takes care of street children in Accra, the capital of Ghana. The CAS centers conduct educational activity in the field of teaching English, personal hygiene, combat against AIDS, and practical vocational skill, which enables street children to acquire education and a definite profession necessary for the finding of a permanent job. Thanks to the involvement of volunteers and generosity of donors, the Association “In Solidarity with Africa” founded scholarships for

children of Accra and carried out a cycle of meetings with post-primary schoolchildren in Poland. *“We know that we will not be able to help everybody. But by making small steps we may achieve much more than we ever could expect,”* says Pawel Sredzinski, a founder of the Association.

More: <http://www.afryka.org>

Organizing and empowering the human rights movement for the civil society in the CIS countries – The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

The mission of this complex program, implemented by the Foundation from 2001 on, is to assist in building an effective human rights movement capable of changing the law and its application and of developing the culture of civil freedoms and respect to the dignity of every human being in the CIS (Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan). The program includes conducting of an International Advanced Course of Human Rights Defense for Leaders of NGOs. This is an in-depth course for activists of human rights NGOs and other “watch dog” NGOs, as well as young academics and community leaders in the CIS countries. The course includes lectures and workshops on human rights, constitutionalism, the rule of law and democratic governance, strategic planning, and various techniques for effective public interest action (such as e.g. monitoring, legal actions, education, including also public education, and solving of social conflicts). One of the sessions is a study-tour during which the participants have the opportunity to learn about work of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, and a number of international and local NGOs. The course ends with the submission and defense of a final thesis.

More: <http://www.hfhrpol.waw.pl>

For more examples visit page (in Polish): www.onz.org.pl/rozwoj