



PCPM
Polish Center for
International Aid

ANNUAL REPORT 2016





POLISH CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AID (PCPM) is a non-profit organization (registered under the KRS number: 0000259298) that provides humanitarian, development and rescue aid around the world. The organization helps Syrian refugees in Lebanon and internally displaced persons in Ukraine. Moreover, it is implementing development assistance's projects in Ethiopia, Kenya, Georgia and Palestine. Experienced paramedics and doctors of Polish Emergency Team PCPM bring medical aid to victims of armed conflicts or natural disasters.

www.pcpm.org.pl

Ladies and gentleman,

It is with great pleasure that I hand to you this report summarizing the operation of the Polish Center for International Aid (Polskie Centrum Pomocy Międzynarodowej, PCPM) Foundation in 2016. Although our work was largely covered by the Polish conventional and social media, we aim to convey the full picture of actions that we undertake on behalf of the needy in various parts of the world.

The year of 2016 seen us working in eight countries across three continents. Regardless of what we were doing - bringing humanitarian aid to thousands of refugees in Lebanon and Ukraine, lending support to the hospital in Kurdistan, developing skills of Kenyan firefighters, providing education to agricultural co-operatives in Palestine, sharing the knowledge of modelling river basins in Georgia, illuminating the schools and libraries in Ethiopia or, finally, researching the possibilities of integration of the refugees in Polish communes - we always aim to address the very core of every problem we work on.

The biggest challenge a relief aid organization does face today is to help the refugees, whose number worldwide has crossed 65 million. The war in Syria alone forced over the half of 20 million inhabitants to abandon their houses. Four years of working with Syrians in northern Lebanon, visiting their new houses provided - among others - by the Polish programme, listening to their conversations full of mixed feelings of happiness and doubtfulness - all of this reassures us that there is nothing more precious than peace in one's own homeland. These people, alike millions of other refugees around the globe, want to return to their homes, even if they long forlorn any hope. Relentlessly we stand beside them, to help them live with dignity and - hopefully as soon as possible - return to their place.

We stay close. We understand. We do not judge. But we do not turn our backs on the rest of the needy of the world either. Just because the problem is not frequently seen on the news does not mean it does not exist.

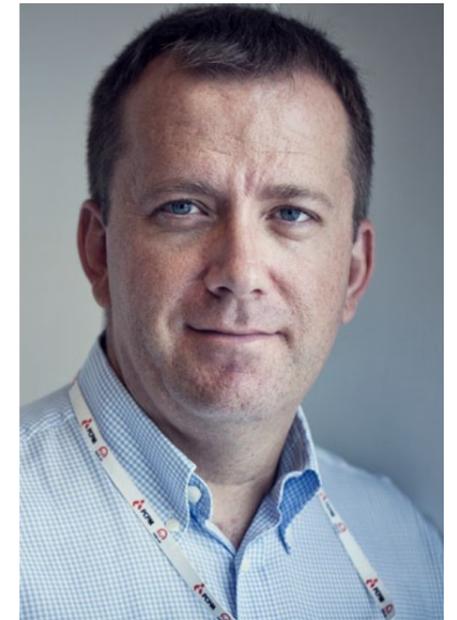
That was why in 2016 our Emergency Team reached out to the forgotten Kurdistan. The Kurds with the western values in mind created a safe place to live for 1,5 million Iraqis and Syrians persecuted by The Islamic State, regardless of their origin or faith. For the living in camps, schools, churches and unfinished buildings, on the brink of poverty, medical appointment is the only chance of therapy or - way too often - of survival. Strained by the overcrowding of the region, the Kurdish health service was desperate for support - support that we decided to provide.

This mission of our Emergency Team, as well as all the previous ones, have been noticed by the World Health Organization, which is currently in process of certifying our work. As the founders of this formation, but also as the Poles, we are proud to see the hard work of our experts recognized and appreciated both domestically and abroad.

Below is a description of various aid programmes that were our goals for 2016. It's crucial to say that even though the largest part of our funding comes from Polish Aid of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Programme, we would not be where we are had it not been for the generous support of the individual donors, who are never oblivious to what is happening around the world.

It is thanks to your trust that we take up another couple of tough, yet surely massively important challenges of the upcoming year.

On behalf of mine and all the workers of Polish Center for International Aid Foundation - thank you.



Wojciech Wilk - CEO of Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM)

Wojciech Wilk
CEO



The Polish Emergency Team is the first rapid-response volunteer group in Poland to operate abroad in case of humanitarian crises and natural disasters. Established in January 2014, the group has already been involved in operations including: civilians suffering during the Ukrainian crisis (2014), Syrian refugees in Lebanon (since 2014), floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014), earthquakes in Nepal (2015), Kurdish, Iraqi and Syrian refugees in Kurdistan (2016). The team consists of over 50 doctors, paramedics and nurses as well as psychologists, logisticians and specialized medics, equipped with professional accoutrement ready to use at all times. In 2016, the Team became the first group in Poland to begin the process of certification by World Health Organization as Type 1 Emergency Medical Team.



The every year recruitment process provides PCPM with qualified Emergency Medical Team specialists whose skills are adequate to work on missions.



Polish doctors in Lebanon on journey with mobile clinic, helping people living in informal tent camps.

KURDISTAN

The escalation of the conflict, acts of terror committed by The Islamic State as well as internal tensions were the factors that caused over 3 million Iraqis to flee their houses. According to International Organization for Migration (IOM), 1,2 million of domestic refugees settled in the autonomous area of Kurdistan (as for June of 2015), however many non-governmental Iraqi organizations claim this number to be nearly three times bigger. What's more, this group is enlarged by 250,000 refugees from Syria. Almost half of the migrants are below 14 years of age. The group consists largely of Christians, escaping violence and mass executions.



Source: <http://maps.google.pl>

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Three of Polish doctors: a paediatrist and psychiatrist, an orthopaedist - traumatologist and an anaesthetist provided support to Kurdish medics in rendering assistance to the injured.
- The emergency department of Rozh Halat hospital in Erbil has obtained necessary medical equipment.
- The medical staff have extended aid to the domestic refugees in camps near the capital inhabited by 360,000 people.

Medical examination for refugees from Kurdistan, Iraq and Syria

Although the healthcare in Kurdistan is free, a massive surge of refugees from Syria and areas in Iraq controlled by The Islamic State caused the medical staff in hospitals to fall short of demand.

Poor living conditions caused by overcrowding, undernourishment and lack of constant healthcare were the factors that made migrants susceptible to serious medical conditions such as heart diseases, hypertension, diabetes and respiratory disorders (especially among kids). For the refugees living in poverty in camps, schools, churches and ruins, proper medical examination was the only chance to obtain medication.

Polish doctors from the Emergency Team have provided support to their professionals in Erbil by both extending aid to the migrants and locals in need and offering the necessary equipment. Moreover, during the mission the team paid a visit to refugee camps, rendering assistance to those in need of medical examination.



War in Iraq often results in illnesses at Harsham internal refugee camp.



A paediatrist, psychologist, orthopedic traumatologist and anesthesiologist of SOR joined the Emergency Department of Rozh Halat hospital in Erbil.



The hospital admits everyone despite their religion, beliefs or nationality.





The Kharkiv Oblast is one of three regions of Ukraine inhabited by the biggest population of internally displaced persons (IDP). Nearly 100,000 immigrants from Donbas have found shelter in the city of Kharkiv alone, while just as many moved to smaller, neighboring municipalities. Those who were the neediest received material assistance and a job opportunity. 75% of the refugees are women and children, as men were forced to stay in the east of the country in order to protect their houses and maintain their employment. To prevent the educational system of the area from deteriorating due to the sudden increase in population, The PCPM in collaboration with The Solidarity Fund PL have renovated schools, provided equipment and organized summer camps for the pupils.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Over 1300 people received material assistance sets
- 400 internally displaced persons had an opportunity of a temporary job
- The PCPM carried out partial renovation of 10 most dilapidated schools in rural areas - 215 windows and 49 doors were replaced.
- 20 educational centers were equipped with necessary furniture, computer and multimedia equipment as well as school accessories.
- The quality of education and learning conditions of 6500 students were improved.
- A sports field was built and the kitchen was renovated in The Romack summer camp near Kharkiv.
- 325 children of the refugees from Donbas participated in summer camps.
- The efforts of PCPM have contributed to improvements in integration of refugees with the local community. Additionally, more Eastern Ukrainians have decided to send their children to village schools.

Ukraine - renovation of schools and summer camp for children

Project title	Renovation and refitting of Kharkiv schools in Ukraine	Humanitarian aid for the poorest people from government controlled territories of Ukraine and also beyond these territories
Duration	May 15th until November 30th 2016	Project continuation until June 15th 2016
Budget	955 61,67 (The Solidarity Fund PL)	1 737 730,65 (International Organization for Migration)

Material assistance and job opportunity

They included basic cleaning and hygiene utensils. Those suffering from insufficient sanitary conditions were given water filters. Moreover, the PCPM foundation introduced housing benefits for those who needed them most: the elderly, the ailing, the disabled as well as members of large families. Household with lowest income-to-rent costs ratio were given priority during the selection process.

PCPM workers, in collaboration with administrative authorities from eastern Ukraine districts organized workplaces for the unemployed in the area, allowing them to engage in community and municipal work, mainly repairing the damage inflicted by the ongoing war.



Eastern Ukrainians queuing for material assistance sets.

Renovation and refitting of schools

Having monitored schools of both urban and rural areas of the Kharkiv Oblast, the PCPM foundation in cooperation with their Ukrainian partner, The UR Foundation, have addressed the needs of the ten most damaged. After leaky roofs, windows and doors were all replaced, the most essential furniture and multimedia equipment were supplied, including nearly 600 desks, over 1000 chairs, 53 computers and laptops.



Some of the schools haven't been renovated since the eighties. Main problems there were leaky doors and windows, and broken toilets.

Romashka summer camp for kids

In the summer of 2016, the PCPM foundation helped organize the summer camp for 325 kids of refugees from Donbas. Apart from catering, sports classes, artistic workshops and recreation among peers, participants had the opportunity to receive psychological support through both individual and group therapy. A two-week stay away from home helped the kids forget about their traumatic experiences while enabling their parents to engage in job search more efficiently.

Additionally, the PCPM have supported Romack by building a sports field and supplying the kitchen with the modern equipment.



Thanks to Romashka camp renovation, children had active and creative summer.

Funding:



The project cofinanced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Poland within Polish cooperation development programme.



The home war in Syria has been going on for over 6 years. The neighboring countries, such as Lebanon, Jordan or Turkey, find it increasingly difficult to address the needs of several millions of Syrians fleeing from the conflict. Lebanon, with its area of only as little as 10,451km and pre-war population of 4,5 million people, has embraced over 1 million of them, thus becoming the world's most hospitable country by refugees per capita.

In August 2012, the PCPM foundation started implementing aid programmes in Lebanon, which have already helped over 25,000 refugees to this day.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The PCPM provided shelter to 2078 families of Syrian refugees in the province of Akkar and the Bekaa valley.
- 1873 Lebanese families obtained additional income from the houses rented to the refugees.
- The PCPM organized training in fire protection for 20 tent camps occupied by 1137 refugees. Lebanese volunteer firefighters from Civil Defense Forces in Qobayat and Hissa have also taken part in training.
- Using the funds of Polish Aid, the PCPM bought an ambulance for the Christian town of Al-Qaa while experts from The Emergency Team carried out training courses for volunteer paramedics in the local healthcare center, which in that provides professional medical care for residents as well as 30,000 dwellers of nearby tent camps.
- The Bire clinic, the mobile clinic and the Polish medical staff rendered medical and psychological assistance for over 3,100 patients.
- PCPM built the Vocational Training Centre in Bire.
- 97 Syrian kids have attended remedial classes. This number is still on the rise.
- 300 kids enjoy the new equipment of the educational centre in Al-Qaa.

Lebanon - Humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees

Project title	Access to vocational education, providing shelter and improvement of security in tent camps	Providing shelter for syrian refugees living at the edge of poverty and access to a standard healthcare	Support for evicted syrian refugee families and others particularly protected
Duration	August 15th until December 31st 2016	August 15th until December 31st 2016	Project continuation until August 14th 2016
Budget	1 903 954,67 (Polish Aid)	2 000 156, 79 (Polish Aid)	1 033 144,02 (Emergency Response Fund - OCHA)

Continuation of the Cash for Rent programme

The Cash for Rent programme has operated incessantly since August 2012 as a housing benefit scheme for the poorest amongst the Syrian refugees. The initiative aims to reach those whose dwellings fail to meet basic standards due to overcrowding or decline in financing by international organizations. It concerns the northern area of the country as well as Beirut area. The fact that the rent is paid by PCPM directly to the landlord not only provides constant housing to the refugees, but also improves the general income of many Lebanese families. In 2016 alone, PCPM have provided shelter for 2078 Syrians.



Cash for Rent at the suburbs of Beirut at the request of UNHCR. At this area only 3% to 7% of refugees get help with rent payment.

The fire protection of the tent camps

The illegal tent sites in Lebanon are mainly made of plywood, foil and other flammable material. Gas stoves and oil lamps pose threats to the large clusters of houses. In 6 months of 2015, in Bekaa valley alone, over 50 refugees, most of them kids, died in such fires.

The PCPM foundation, relying on experience from prior firefighter trainings in Africa, have introduced firefighting groups of volunteers. The equipment installed in designated places and frequent trainings in emergency evacuation and first aid increased safety of the camps' inhabitants.

The programme, brought into effect by Polish trainers and members of Civil Defense in Lebanon, relies on volunteer groups of firefighters. Throughout 2016 and 2017, 70 tent camps, occupied by 4200 refugees, will have been covered.



PCPM supports 10 000 refugees. 10% of them came from Aleppo and 60% escaped from Homs - city conquered by government forces in 2013. Syrians that left their country experience extreme poverty.



Thanks to fire protection training people from tent camps know how to keep themselves safe in case of fire.

Lebanon - Humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees

Vocational training and educational equipment

The Educational Centre in Bire, in northern Lebanon, was launched in late 2016, initially providing remedial classes for children aged 9-15. The off-the-clock classes enable young Syrians to keep up with Lebanese curriculum. Vocational training for the youth and adults, involving professions such as nurse assistant, pharmacist assistant, plumber or electrician, has been then introduced. The courses provide both theoretical and practical insight into regarded professions, preparing youngsters for the Lebanese and, in the future, Syrian labour market. Additionally, the PCPM foundation equipped the educational centre in Al-Qaa, giving access to educational, integrational and cultural classes to over 300 kids.



From December 2016 children of Syrian refugees have started to attend classes at newly built Educational Center in Bire.



Syrian children don't have to be the lost cause. Thanks to the access to education they can avoid bad faith.

More than a half of Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in extreme poverty. 40% of them do not receive any humanitarian aid.

150 thousand families in Lebanon live under the brink of poverty. These are the people who need help first.

PCPM's work is possible thanks to 12 millions of polish zloty transferred by the Polish Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.

Look at what we are doing for #10000refugees in Lebanon!

- We cover 20 of fees for their rent of flats and garages for minimum 8 months.
- We run a clinic in Bire for more than 4000 inhabitants of neighboring villages.
- Our mobile clinic visits 10 tented settlements, inhabited by more than 500 refugees.
- We bought a first ambulance to the Christian city Al-Qaa.
- We give them stoves and fuel when the temperatures goes down to approximately 0°C.
- We create voluntary fire brigades in 20 tented settlements, inhabited by 1200 Syrians.
- We organize vocational trainings for youth so that they could rebuild Syria after war.

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Source: PCPM

Lebanon - Humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees



The Health Centre and the healthcare

Unlike in Syria, the medical care, medicine and hospital treatment in Lebanon cost the refugees up to several thousand dollars. As an alternative, the PCPM launched a stationary clinic in Bire, serving 3104 patients in the second half of 2016 alone. The centre provides services of general practitioner, paediatrist, gynecologist as well as dentist to a number of municipalities inhabited by over 20,000 people. The costs of medical care and basic medicine are covered by Polish Aid programme funds, while the mobile clinic, serving remote tent camps, relies greatly on private donations.

In 2016 PCPM bought a new ambulance for the town of Al-Qaa, as the previous one was destroyed during a bombing carried out by The Islamic State.



At the turn of November and December 2016 the team of experts from PCPM trained medical volunteer rescuers of Al-Qaa Health Center on the use of the equipment bought with Polish funds.

Funding:





The two aforementioned countries have achieved spectacular economic growth over the course of the last two decades. In the same time, the population has also risen rapidly, and the ever-growing number of large cities, skyscrapers and industrial plants has brought a whole new set of challenges to the modern society. Some of them are addressed by the PCPM's firefighting and medical service project.

Achievements:

- 344 firefighters from 12 towns and counties in Ethiopia and Kenya underwent professional firefighting training conducted by Polish instructors.
- The project ensures safety of 5,5 million of Ethiopian and Kenyan citizens in case of natural disaster.
- Trainings conducted by Polish instructors have increased the efficiency of firefighters' actions and enabled further unassisted training by local firefighters in two Kenyan counties.
- Dozens of firefighting units in Kenya and Ethiopia have been equipped with and then trained in professional firefighting utilities.



Increasing number of high buildings require the firefighters to be trained in work at the heights.

Training and equipping of rescue teams in Kenya and Ethiopia

Project title	Training and equipping of rescue teams in Kenya and Ethiopia
Duration	April 1st until December 31st 2016
Budget	933 591,75 (Polish Aid)

In 2016 polish firefighters and paramedics conducted 26 workshops for both volunteers and rescue service members in Kenya and Ethiopia. Not only did the firefighters undergo basic training, they also learned more advanced techniques regarding saving people injured in car accidents, evacuation of tall buildings or rescue operation management.

The variety of topics, number of participants as well as number of counties per one instructor make PCPM the biggest instructional organization for firefighters and paramedics among these from USA, Germany, Austria, Belgium and Japan. In Ethiopia alone, PCPM is the only organization conducting this kind of training, contributing to the foundation of firefighting in the country. More and more newly established firefighting units are interested in participating in the programme.

The courses took place in Kiambu, Murang'a and Machakos counties in Kenya as well as in towns of Hawassa, Dilla, Hosana, Sodo, Bahir Dar, Gonder, Dessie i Kombocha in Ethiopia, with combined population of over 5 million people.

One million Polish Zloty given by Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs allowed us to buy specialized equipment for local rescue services - such as protective clothing, helmets, hydraulic cutters, firefighting modules, fire anchors, fire flappers and pumps - which helps react quickly and effectively in case of fire or other life endangering situation.

Polish professionals involved in the programme have expressed their willingness to share their knowledge and experience with their fellow professionals for the third year running. Considering how huge the demand for such services is in this region, the project will be continued in 2017.



Training at Murang'a, Kenya, May 2016.



Tying ropes training, Bahir Dar.



It's hard to buy fire equipment in Ethiopia but the extinguishers are quite accessible. Training participants learned how to extinguish fire properly.

Funding:





The main source of income for the people in southern Ethiopia is herding. There are places where artificial light is considered luxurious and the nearest power poles are several dozen kilometers away. Both the adults and the children are traditionally occupied with pasturing the cattle, often at the expense of education. The PCPM volunteers have been changing this state of affairs since few years ago.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Libraries and classrooms of 103 primary schools, frequented by approximately 35,000 people, were illuminated.
- The PCPM Foundation in cooperation with a local partner set up libraries in schools, providing them with over 26,000 books.
- 187 members of educational staff and parent council, as well as 222 teachers, underwent professional trainings.
- 187 reference files on how to teach reading effectively and on basic service of illumination systems were published.



Knowing how to read is extremely important during the first years of school. It enables further education and gives a chance to escape poverty in the future.

Project title	Education support in South Ethiopia through primary school illumination and equipment of libraries
Duration	March 1st until December 31st 2016
Budget	1 196 426, 86 (Polish Aid)

Support for education in Ethiopia - illumination of schools and equipment of libraries

The PCPM Foundation have been illuminating schools using alternative energy sources incessantly since 2012. Furthermore, by equipping libraries, we create favorable learning conditions in the first few hours after nightfall. The Polish volunteers in cooperation with local IIRR (International Institute of Rural Reconstruction) partner have already brought light to over 100 schools in Oromo and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's regions, which are still full of places where darkness reigns after dusk. Around 350 kids have the opportunity to learn in the evenings in each of the places the photovoltaic panels were installed.

A total of 26,367 educational books and textbooks were given to the newly illuminated libraries. 30 solar-rechargeable e-readers with 30 preinstalled books, 18 of which were from the Ministry of Education's core curriculum and written in Oromo language, were supplied to two primary schools.

Teachers and educational staff training

Complimentary to the PCPM's educational work in Ethiopia was series of photovoltaic workshops along with training in library keeping and effective teaching. Over 300 teachers, school headmasters and parent council members took part in 3-day workshops. Topics such as basic service, maintenance and repair of photovoltaic panels were exposted by polish experts to representatives of illuminated schools. Techniques of effective teaching in primary schools were also covered.



Positive outcome of our work has encouraged to install the lightning in many schools. The goal is to have light in all of them.



Participants learned how to fix panels at schools and the basics of maintenance.



Teachers, school headmasters and parent board members in Oromia that benefited from the project financed by MSZ.

Funding:





Modern literature about hydrometeorology, flood risk and other issues referring to work of PCPM found its place at the National Environment Agency (NEA).

Due to natural determinants, Georgia is regularly struck by natural disasters - flash floods and landslides, which often force residents to resettle to other parts of the country. Insufficient body of meteorological data used to make it impossible to predict similar occurrences. By signing an association agreement with the EU, Georgia was set a task to adjust to directives regarding assessment and flood risk management. One of the requirements obliged the National Environment Agency (NEA) to create maps of flood threats. Challenges to the Georgian vocational training system and healthcare, especially in remote areas, are no less important.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Thanks to unaided work of Georgian experts, maps of floodplains of 6 Georgian rivers were created; after three years of cooperation with the NEA, 11 rivers and their creeks were studied.
- The NEA workers learned the methods of model extending and disaster's scenario selection. Scenario of Zhinvali dam break, along with the following procedures, was developed.
- Three of the Georgian self-governments obtained evaluation and hazard reports of educational and medical facilities within their respective areas, along with the suggested improvements.
- The NEA obtained several dozen specialized books on the subject of flood risk analysis to include in their newly established library.
- Women from two indigent rural regions have had an opportunity to make use of free psychological consultations and gynecological examination for three months.
- A total of 8 workshops for women in health, law and development were conducted, as well as consultations with a policewoman on the subject of domestic violence.

Flood risk management

The present project is a follow-up to the measures taken in 2015 that led to training of the NEA workers in the field of river modelling. It extends their field of expertise onto new questions, such as development of simulation of dam break or scenarios of bridge failures. Making use of various types of data and advanced software in modelling rivers is crucial to determine floodplains of rivers that are prone to flooding.

Study of unassisted modelling, based on interpretation of data acquired from various sources (such as LIDAR surveying) by NEA experts helps Georgia meet requirements of the Association Agreement and move forwards in the field of flood prevention. By improving the measurement equipment and methods.

Flood warning and trainings for women

Project title	Hydrological modelling training against floods - 2 level, expertise and Georgian institution support	Women of Zemo and Kvemo Nikozi support
Duration	April 1st until December 31st 2016	July 1st until August 31st 2016
Budget	724 844, 24 (Polish Aid)	69 971 (Solidarity Fund PL)

Training and consultations for women from indigent rural regions

Part of PCPM's work in Georgia was to introduce the model of civil society in rural areas. The action involved recruitment of most socially active women from Southern Osetia, followed by trainings in civil rights and healthcare. Regular meetings with social leaders enabled them to obtain knowledge and skills in writing documents such as endowment forms to Georgian ministries. Thanks to these workshops, Georgian women learned about women rights, self-development, social mobilization, voluntary service, communication or budget creation. Health was an equally important topic - participants became acquainted with matters such as psychology, gynecology, pregnancy management, infant feeding, birth control and healthy lifestyle. A meeting with a policewoman was also arranged, enabling Georgian women to gain an insight into the issue of domestic violence, how to report it and what procedures do the police follow in such cases. 26 women from 5 villages, who took part in the workshop, were obliged to pass the obtained knowledge down to other women living there.

Free gynecological and psychological consultation was an additional part of the project. Natalia Kereselidze, hired by PCPM and Nikosi, offered her services for women from Zemo and Kvemo Nikozi regions once in a week for 3 months. Due to high prices of medical examination and low earnings of women in rural areas, these were the first ever medical appointments for many of them.



Females of Nicosia benefited from Polish programme supporting women in knowledge of civil rights and healthcare. 26 members finished the training and became mentors for their local communities.

Funding:





Partially under Israeli administration, Palestine has always been struggling in building economic independence. The local cooperative movement, located mainly in rural areas of the West Bank, seems to be lacking functionality and clout due to low work efficiency and small amount of farm produce. The food security is at stake due to the limited access to agricultural resources.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The PCPM Foundation along with ARIJ, a local partner, installed 35 hydroponic and 40 tank systems across the combined area of 335m².
- Around 600 [people?] from Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramallah districts have acquired food security
- by introducing hydroponic systems.
- Thanks to the installations, the beneficiaries of the project produced over 3 tons of fresh vegetables.
- In 2016 there was a 53% increase in sales of basic Mawasem products compared to 2015.
- Over 2600 members of Mawasem cooperatives have increased their income.
- Business coaches and marketing specialists carried out 13 trainings in crop cultivation, business and cooperative values.
- The project allowed local farmers to develop their skills.
- There has been an increase in both the quality of the products and aesthetics of their packages.



System of pipes and containers for vegetable growing helps to save water and is easy to install on roofs, terraces and yards.

Project title	Hydroponic crops cultivation for improving the food security, income and cooperative sector competition in Palestine
Duration	1 kwietnia - 31 grudnia 2016
Budget	1 183 983, 22 (Polish Aid)

The PCPM Foundation has supported the development of Palestinian cooperatives for a couple of years, contributing to advancement of their members and supplying local, traditionally manufactured products to the market.

The hydroponic and tank crops being introduced by PCPM are helping several women's organizations and centres for the mentally challenged to obtain fresh herbs and vegetables. Innovative technological solutions deal with the question of limited access to agricultural resources, while creating additional areas of greenery on rooftops and terraces. The cultivated crops allow the beneficiaries to satisfy their needs and sell any excess produce on the local market.

The well-thought-out system enables farmers to produce fresh, organic vegetables and herbs throughout all year. Given the seasonality of standard food production in Palestine, it plays a pivotal role in increasing food security.

In 2016, the PCPM foundation continued support for the group of agricultural cooperatives named Mawasem (Arabic for "seasons of the year") by means of marketing campaign of advertisements and press announcements, design of new labels and packages, organization of tasting events and partaking in local trade fairs. Thanks to the participation in trainings, the members of cooperatives have deepened their knowledge of producing and sales strategies as well as social responsibility, thus extending their potential.

The Mawasem Group has gained recognition on the West Bank. Some of their products can already be bought in Saudi Arabia, USA, Canada, Great Britain and Poland. The information campaign on the press, television and Internet familiarized the Poles with the subject of agricultural solutions implemented in remote Palestine. There are plans on opening sales in Oman, Kuwait and UAE.



Hydroponic solution enables to grow fresh and chemical free vegetables for the whole season.



Development strategy established during the training allows to the cooperatives and other centers to gain income.



Advertising and marketing support helped to build a strong brand and increased its recognition on the market.

Funding:



At midyear in 2015, the Polish government obliged to accept 900 to 1200 refugees from Syria and Iraq, currently residing in Lebanon as a part of relocation programme. The process is conducted by The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with the authorities of the country of destination. Until now, Poland has never accepted refugees on such terms.

Achievements

- 22 communes were checked for the ability to receive a group of refugees.
- Conclusions and recommendations were presented in a report printed in 150 copies and handed to participants of the examination as well as organizations and institutions involved in the debate about relocations to Poland.
- A plan of two-day pre-relocation course for migrants was created, along with medical procedures concerning the refugees travelling to Poland.
- A catalogue for Syrian and Iraqi refugees was created, covering politics, economics, customs, work, education, social care and procedure of seeking asylum in Poland. The brochure was then translated to Arabic and printed in 600 copies, 570 of which were handed over to Bureau of Foreigners' Affairs.
- Three trainings dealing with the subject of relocation and refugees' situation in Lebanon were organized for 40 journalists from 26 media of various viewpoints.

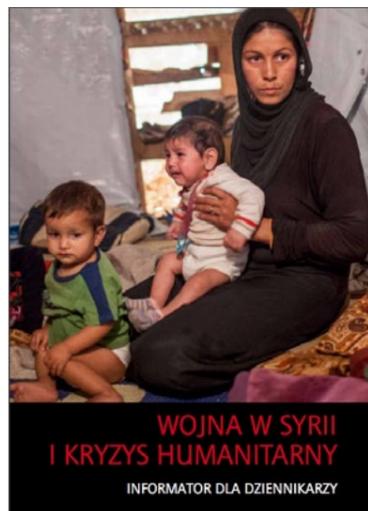
Description of operation

The goal of cooperation of the three NGOs (PCPM, Fundacja Kultury Świata, Fundacja Papaya) was to support institutions involved in preparations of relocation of the group of Syrian refugees from Lebanon to Poland. Analysis of the communes' potential along with the preparation of insightful informative brochures were the key to achieving that goal. Interviews with local authorities, members of help centre and NGOs contributed to the creation of the rapport which dealt with the communes' preparation to the relocation, informative materials and medical procedure as well as the pre-relocation course agenda. An attempt to improve the quality of public debate was also made by educating the journalists.

All institutions involved in the debate about refugees, along with researched communes and 40 representatives of Polish media, benefitted from it. Insightful research into the communes declaring willingness to accept the refugees was conducted by Fundacja Kultury Świata, with its representatives also involved in the preparation of the brochure for the refugees. Fundacja Papaya, on the other hand, organized workshops for journalist and supported the study visit to Lebanon.

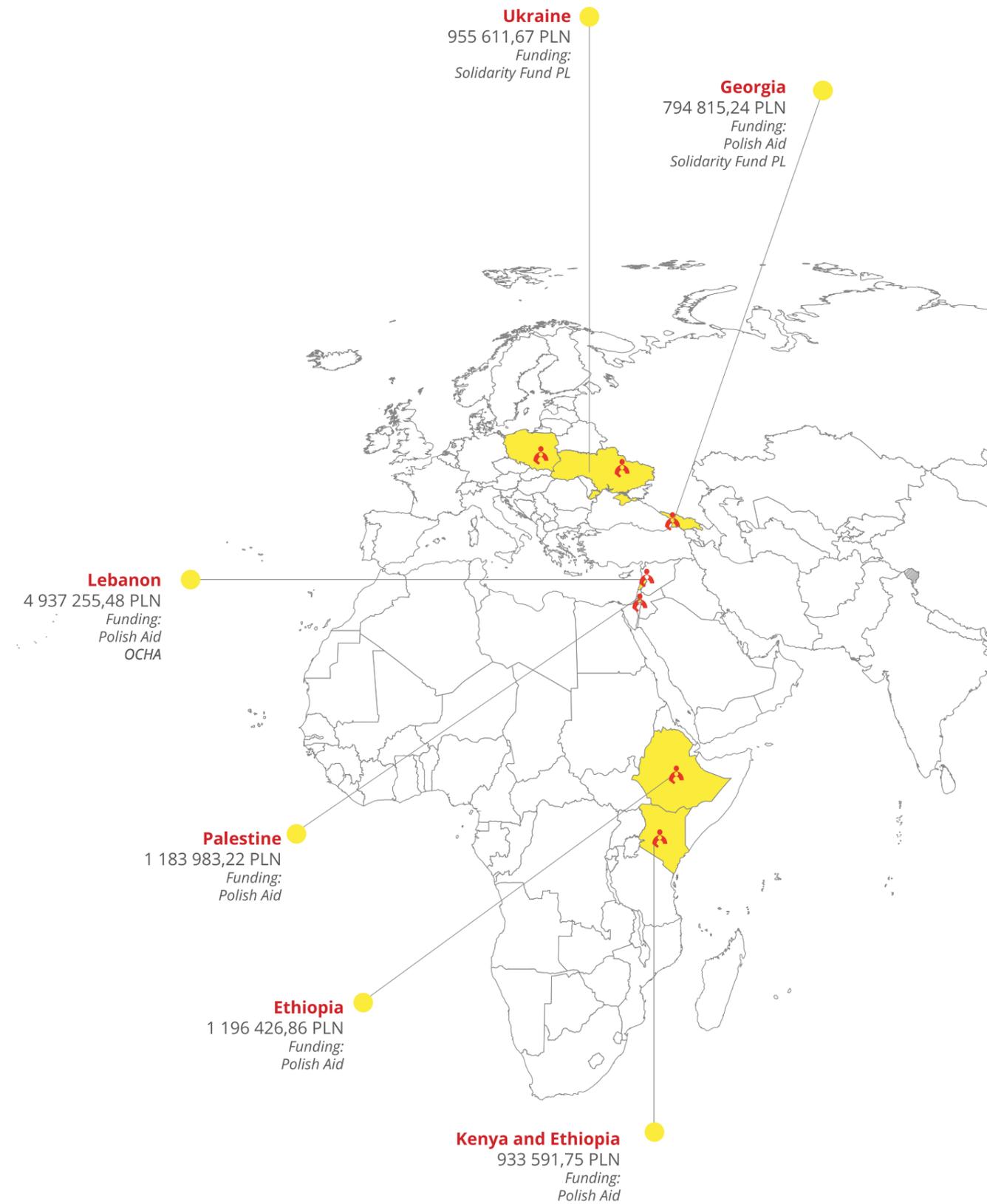


Journalist that visited Lebanese studio could understand better the refugee situation and the root of the problem.



RAPORT Z BADANIA
Analiza potrzeb i możliwości związanych z przyjmowaniem uchodźców z Bliskiego Wschodu przez 22 wybrane polskie gminy

Project resulted in an information catalogue for journalists and a report of the research of Polish boroughs.





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