

Annual report

2023

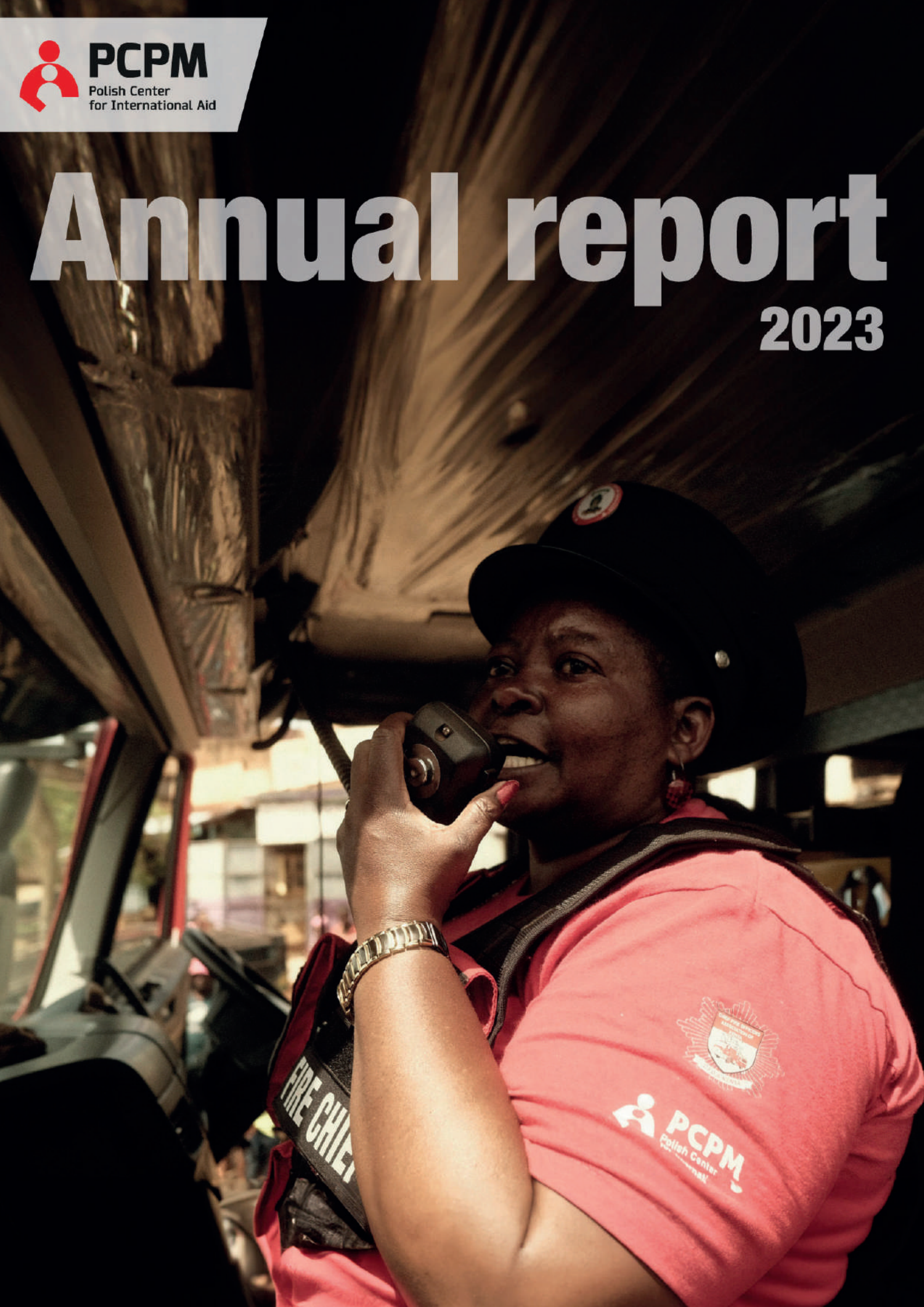




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Marked by global challenges like the war in Ukraine and the Middle East, the impact of climate change, and mounting migration pressures, 2023 demanded a robust response. The Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM) Foundation rose to the occasion, providing both humanitarian assistance and systemic support.

Despite the escalating war in Ukraine, the mounting casualties and the ever-growing refugee crisis, global attention to the conflict and its far-reaching consequences appears to be waning. This translates to a concerning decline in resources available to support Ukrainians both within the war zone and in neighboring countries like Poland. However, the PCPM remains steadfast in its commitment and we have implemented several measures to ensure there is continued support for Ukrainians. One such initiative is the launch of the Polish Organizations Pooled Fund (POP Fund) which empowers smaller organizations to compete for grants and contribute to the relief effort.

This report chronicles the inspiring stories of Ukrainian children. Some have found safe havens in Polish schools, while others continue their education in their native language thanks to programs in Warsaw and Lublin. Their parents and guardians who have rebuilt their lives in Poland, finding both homes and employment. We will explore the challenges faced by those who remain in Ukraine, showcasing how the Foundation's assistance with housing, medicine, and food provides a lifeline. Finally, we turn your attention to the unique MEDEVAC HUB medical transit center in Jasionka, which serves patients from Ukraine.

Since 2012 our commitment to Lebanon has been unwavering. Initially focused on supporting Syrian refugees, our mission's reach has expanded to assist the country's most vulnerable families grappling with one of the worst economic crises in recent history. In collaboration with local authorities, we address critical needs like field irrigation, sewage drainage, and renewable energy implementation.

Beyond Lebanon, our dedication to humanitarian aid extends to South Sudan, where we support victims of the civil war and those displaced by recent conflict in Sudan. The PCPM Foundation plays a vital role in ensuring children's well-being through the Gordhim Nutrition Center.

Across East Africa and Palestine, we are committed to bolstering fire and ambulance services, bringing them closer to international standards. Our efforts encompass supporting the development of the Fire and Rescue Services in Kenya, upgrading Ethiopia's ambulance service, emergency medical services sector in Tanzania. These projects directly impact major cities across the region, serving a combined population of nearly 160 million.

None of this would have been possible without your unwavering support—whether from individual donors, institutional contributors, or the decisions of companies and governments to fund the PCPM Foundation's impactful initiatives.

The PCPM Foundation extends its sincere gratitude to all our valued supporters. We invite you to peruse the following report and gain a deeper understanding of our impact.

Wojtek Wilk PhD
CEO of the Polish Center
for International Aid



Poland



The Center for Education and Creativity visited by
35 604 individuals



Assistant teachers were hired for
34 700 children



2 256 individuals
received financial assistance



1 367 patients
received assistance at
Medevac Hub Jasionka

According to Eurostat there were officially 995,000 registered refugees from Ukraine in Poland at the start of 2023, numbering 955,000 at the end of 2023. The magnitude of their needs is immense and continually evolving. Consequently, in 2023, the Polish Center for International Aid Foundation (PCPM) focused extensively on supporting refugees within Polish borders. The PCPM provided cash assistance, subsidized rent, organized educational and childcare services, offered language and vocational courses for adults, and created employment opportunities. MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka, which was inaugurated in September 2022, continued to help patients.



Scan me



The teacher together with students in the PCPM Education Center



Education

More than 183,000 students, children, and youth from Ukraine arrived in Poland after February 24 2022 and achieved refugee status. According to the Polish Ministry of Education and Science, in Polish schools and kindergartens in 2023 over 286,000 children and youth from Ukraine were enrolled with the highest number, almost 32,000, in the Mazowieckie Voivodeship. That is why since 2022 the PCPM Foundation has been supporting many educational initiatives. In 2023 a total of 34,700 children benefited from the assistance of teaching assistants and teachers who speak Ukrainian. Since October 2022 the PCPM Education Center has been operating in Warsaw, where over 220 Ukrainian students are studying.

The Foundation established the concept of the Center, oversees its management, and guarantees the quality of all internal procedures, including educational standards. All teachers working at the PCPM Education Center are employed by the PCPM Foundation under the "Cash for Work" program and the Center is the only school in Poland with a Ukrainian program where no tuition fee is charged. In 2023, 220 students from grades 1 to 11 were enrolled and there is a waiting list of around 200 pupils. The project is funded by mBank and The Pfizer Foundation, and The Pfizer Foundation is also a strategic partner of the school.

Throughout the school year, many companies supported the institution by donating necessary equipment and materials, and their employees participated in inspiring meetings with the students as part of their corporate volunteering initiatives, helping the students make decisions about their further educational and professional paths. The PCPM Education Center received support from: Citi Handlowy im. Leopolda Kronenberga Foundation, Goldman Sachs, Orange Foundation, and Google.org.

Until August 2023 the Education and Creativity Center operated in Warsaw, providing

short-term care for children (up to 3 hours per day), psychological support, Polish language learning, playtime, and creative activities with peers. The children were taken care of by individuals who speak Ukrainian and a total of 35,604 people benefited from the opportunities provided by the Center. The institution operated thanks to financial support from mBank.

Over a hundred students from the Education Center participated in the PCPM Foundation's summer project in Warsaw. The activities took place from 8:00am to 6:00pm, allowing adults to continue working without having to find care for the youngest members of their families.

In Lublin, a joint action called "Summer in the City" was organized for children and youth from Poland and Ukraine. Throughout the summer the youngest residents of Lublin could participate in artistic craft and musical workshops, take part in sports and recreational activities, and enjoy theater performances or trips to amusement parks. Over 1,750 people participated in the "Summer in the City" project, which was realized with the support of The Pfizer Foundation. The final picnic on September 2 2023 was organized jointly by the Educational Activities Foundation KReAdukcja, the Sport Development Foundation in Lublin, the 5 Medium Foundation, Spilno, and the City of Lublin.

As part of the "Support for Refugee Education in Poland" project, implemented by the PCPM Foundation and funded by CARE organization 107 classrooms in 26 educational institutions were renovated to prepare schools for admitting a larger number of children from Ukraine. The selected institutions were mostly schools with specialized facilities, providing support for students with special educational needs. Classrooms were renovated in Warsaw, Supraśl, Lublin, Siedlce, Bydgoszcz, and Białystok. Schools that were not selected for renovation received laptops, projectors, furniture, games, and software.



Polish language course for refugees

Emergency support

Not all refugees in Poland can secure employment, nor can they all achieve financial independence. Older persons, in particular, face unique challenges. Approximately 73,000 (7%) of Ukrainian refugees are aged 60 or older. To address their needs, the PCPM Foundation continued to provide financial support in the form of aid payments and rent subsidies for those facing particularly difficult financial circumstances. Assistance was extended to individuals who recently arrived in Poland with limited resources, helping them get started.

The cash assistance program, implemented by the PCPM Foundation, was made possible through collaboration with international humanitarian organizations. Thanks to funding from HelpAge International, 543 older refugees from Ukraine received six months of financial assistance, amounting to PLN 1,000 per month. Similarly, in cooperation with the Norwegian Refugee Council, 380 people, primarily older and those with

disabilities, received analogous support. Furthermore, 654 families comprising of 1,333 individuals received assistance for 3 months, aiding them during the initial period of their stay in Poland.

In 2023, the PCPM additionally played a facilitating role in securing housing solutions for refugees by administering a rent and subsidy program. This support targeted individuals who had previously resided in collective accommodation centers and due to financial constraints struggled to find alternative accommodations. Under this successful pilot initiative the Foundation covered the full rent and security deposit for the first month, as well as half of the rent for the subsequent five months. Thanks to funding from NIVEA 16 families were able to benefit from this crucial assistance.

More on older Ukrainian refugees in the report "Everyone Has Their Own Story, but the Pain Is the Same".





Employment, vocational and language courses

"The program gave me the opportunity to do what I know and love. A sense of reliability and security, it was like a roof over my head and a helping hand. It was a great opportunity to adapt, learn the language, make friends, learn about the teaching profession, and gain new knowledge. The program became a good springboard for many and a chance to find their way in a foreign country."

Anna, an employee of the "Cash for Work"

In 2023, the PCPM Foundation continued to operate its "Cash for Work" program. Initially designed as a short-term intervention, it evolved in Poland to provide long-term support to local governments, schools, kindergartens, and most importantly, to refugees from Ukraine. Throughout the year, the program facilitated employment for 1,359 individuals across 24 Polish cities with a primary focus on the education sector. The program extended its support to cultural institutions.

Through the "Cash for Work" program seventy Ukrainian artists, amounting to 9% of program participants, secured placements in Warsaw's theaters, museums, libraries, and community centers. This achievement was made possible through collaboration with various institutions, including CARE International, the International Rescue Committee, the government of Taiwan, T-Mobile, The Pfizer Foundation, Google.org, and the PER-MIRA Foundation.

Furthermore, in 2023 the PCPM employed 30 psychologists who worked in schools, psychological counseling centers, and community centers. A "Cash for Work" hotline

provided psychological assistance to those in need.

From January to September 2023 the PCPM Foundation, in cooperation with CARE, implemented a language and job training project for refugees funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation. This initiative operated in partnership with local labor offices across four cities: Warsaw, Toruń, Lublin, and Swinoujście. Over 1,100 refugees, primarily from Ukraine, actively participated in the program. Among them 950 individuals successfully completed Polish language courses ranging from levels A1 to C1. Additionally, 188 participants engaged in online training at the C1 level as part of the "Cash for Work" initiative.

Though designed primarily for Ukrainian refugees the project demonstrably offered its benefits to a broader population. Individuals from Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, and Jordan, including those with political asylum status, were successfully integrated into the program in both Warsaw and Toruń.

The project also offered vocational training to 180 refugees, equipping them for careers such as nursery attendants, cashiers, and employment in the hotel and catering industries. Furthermore, specialized courses were organized, including beautician training and support to aid refugees gain category B driver's licenses.

In addition to the "Cash for Work" program in Lublin the PCPM Foundation collaborated with SPILNO¹ and the "5Medium" Foundation and conducted training sessions about the Polish labor market. These sessions covered both Polish language skills and subjects relevant to the primary school final exams. A total of 66 individuals benefited from these valuable opportunities.

¹ Spilno Lublin is a hub for social integration in Lublin. Ukrainian newcomers can receive necessary psychological, therapeutic, legal, and social support here, as well as build relationships with their Polish neighbors through educational classes, handicraft workshops, and physical activities. This initiative is funded with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with the City of Lublin. Spilno Lublin program is co-created by 4 Lublin-based non-governmental organizations specializing in assisting those in need.



Medical assistance

Throughout 2023, MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka operated at Rzeszow Airport, with doctors, paramedics, nurses, and logisticians from Poland Emergency Medical Team PCPM² consistently assisting patients. The primary purpose of the transit center is to provide medical care for up to 48 hours to individuals evacuated from Ukraine for treatment at facilities across Europe. In 2023, a total of 1,367 people benefited from the assistance provided by the HUB: 710 were referred for treatment at European facilities, 236 returned to Ukraine from treatment, and patients were accompanied by 421 family members and caregivers. September was particularly intense, with 160 patients: 100 were evacuated from Ukraine and transported to Germany, the Netherlands, and Spain for treatment, while 60 returned after treatment to Ukraine.

"The Hub is designed to accommodate 20 patients and 30 companions at a time. Each of them receives medical care and psychological support, which are necessary for the continuation of further evacuation."

Adam Szyszka, Team Leader of MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka

MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka became operational on September 1 2022 thanks to the joint efforts of the health ministries of Poland and Ukraine. It is an integral part of the complex medical evacuation process coordinated by the European Union under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The center is administered and managed by the Polish Center for International Aid Foundation and Poland Emergency Medical Team PCPM operating under its umbrella. Notably, this team is the first and only group in Poland certified by the World Health Organization. Their mission is to provide aid and rescue to individuals facing humanitarian crises and natural disasters.

The HUB receives funding from the European Union, specifically through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. It has the backing of several partners which include the International Organization for Migration, the Polish Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, and the Podkarpackie Voivodeship.

Detailed information about the activities of the Polish Center for International Aid Foundation supporting Ukrainian refugees in Poland can be found in the "Report Aid to Ukraine 2022-2024."



The MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka



The evacuation of patients to the plane



The evacuation plane

² More about the team on page 32.



Ukraine

The PCPM Foundation was active in Ukraine even before the conflict escalated, and after February 24 2022 it ramped up its humanitarian efforts, participating in the rebuilding of destroyed villages and supporting employment and education. Throughout 2023 it delivered food packages, medicine, and supplies to firefighters and welfare homes, including those in frontline towns.



62 000 individuals
received a "Package for the Family"



2 500 children
were able to return to schools
in Truskavets




40 000 mandays
in 11 different municipalities as part
of emergency employment



63 reconstructed buildings
allowed 234 residents
to survive the winter



Ukrainian family from Tsyrukun in front of their house destroyed in shelling

Scan me 





Reconstruction and public services

The President of Ukraine has chosen six locations to serve as models for post-war reconstruction. Trostyanets is one of these locations. In 2023 the PCPM Foundation launched a significant project there to support municipal services after most of the equipment was destroyed or stolen by the Russian troops. With funding from the government of Taiwan the PCPM donated five buses, an excavator, two garbage trucks, one sanitation machine, one pipe cleaning machine and two ambulances, enabling the town to resume many public services.

"Before, in order to be able to remove waste or clean the sewage system, we had to order a company all the way from Poltava. Now we can do it ourselves. It is much cheaper. Thanks to the buses donated by the PCPM, we will increase the frequency of public transport in the city, but importantly, we will organize transport throughout the entire municipality. Before the war many people had to rely on private transport, and yet many people from surrounding areas work in the city. This is a completely new quality!"

Yuri Bova, the mayor of Trostyanets

The PCPM Foundation, with financial support from the Alliance for Open Society International, has commissioned agricultural experts to conduct land assessment work and assist in restoring horticulture.

Also, in collaboration with the government of Taiwan, the PCPM is rebuilding and renovating houses in the village of Tsyркuny near Kharkiv, which is primarily inhabited by older persons and people with disabilities. The Foundation has already renovated 63 buildings, allowing 234 residents to survive the winter, and aims to renovate a total of 400-

-500 houses. In Kharkiv itself the PCPM replaced windows damaged in the shelling, including in the Saltivka settlement. The Foundation continues to provide expert support for the restoration of public services in the Kherson and Mykolaiv regions, such as electrical networks and reconstruction support. These projects were funded by the Alliance for Open Society International. With the support of Taiwanese funds, the Foundation has helped to reconstruct services responsible for providing social and humanitarian assistance in Kherson. The city's urban transportation network was not functioning, and the resources it previously had were destroyed or stolen by the retreating Russian troops. Thanks to the PCPM, the city received 5 minibusses for the delivery of humanitarian, social, and psychological aid and 40 electric bicycles for volunteers who deliver aid. The city also received 4 ambulances, 40 computers, and printers.

The PCPM Foundation facilitated the transfer of dozens of vehicles from the Taiwanese community to organizations selected by the Taipei Representative Office. The PCPM assisted with all the paperwork and picked up and transported the vehicles to Ukraine.

The Foundation is rebuilding houses in the villages of the Mykolaiv region that were destroyed by the war. The PCPM also conducted a feasibility study for the architectural renovation of schools in Poltava and the water networks in Rivne.

Detailed information about the activities of the Polish Center for International Aid Foundation supporting Ukraine can be found in the "Report Aid to Ukraine 2022-2024."





Education

For the people of Ukraine educating the younger generation is a critical issue. With Russian attacks continuing unabated the condition for schooling is to provide children with safe shelters - a task that is severely hampered. For many students this is the fifth year of homeschooling as it began in 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to educational problems the children also have integration problems. That is why since the escalation of the conflict the PCPM Foundation has been conducting and supporting various projects in education.

Thanks to a project funded by the Taipei Representative Office in Poland it was possible to renovate and equip shelters in all three schools in Truskavets. The activities were carried out in cooperation with the City Council. As a result, more than 2,500 students were able to return to school.

Employment

A total of 683 individuals participated in the two editions of the “Cash for Work” program in Ukraine in 2023. The majority (68 %) were internally displaced persons. These workers collectively contributed nearly 40,000 man-days to benefit communities across 11 different municipalities in the Dnipro, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kropyvnytskyi, and Poltava regions. The first edition spanned three months while the second edition lasted one month. The program received support from the experienced NGO “Ukrainian Frontiers.” A pilot edition of the “Cash for Work” program involving 20 people in Kherson, implemented directly with the city government, was also launched in December 2023.

"I have two sons in 3rd and 5th grade. Compared to last year, things are much better now. The children can go to school normally and learn in one time slot. Two classrooms have been renovated, and the children feel comfortable and like it. They are warm, have televisions, and most importantly, they are in a safe place during these alarms."
Roman from Truskavets



Distribution of humanitarian aid



Distribution of aid



“Point of Invincibility”



Roof repair in Tsyrykuny



Donated electric bicycles



Unloading of humanitarian aid



Distribution of humanitarian aid in Ukraine

Emergency support

Basic aid remains crucial in many areas of Ukraine. Throughout the year the PCPM Foundation, in collaboration with various partners, provided essential support reaching frontline villages located just a few hundred meters from the Russian border. This aid reached regions including Lviv, Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Kropyvnytskyi, and Poltava. Furthermore, when Russian troops destroyed the Nova Kakhovka dam massive flooding occurred along the Dnipro River, prompting the Foundation's staff and volunteers to respond.

In early 2023, under the slogan "A gift for Christmas" the PCPM Foundation and Gazeta.pl jointly carried out a collection for the purchase and transport of Christmas packages. As a result, over 500 packages were distributed to patients and staff at the hospital in Kherson, as well as to residents of one of the most devastated villages in the liberated part of the Kherson region known as Posad Pokrovske. On the ground the PCPM Foundation collaborated closely with the Ukrainian organization Flogiston Team.

At the close of January, thanks to the funding of CARE, the PCPM transported 150 beds to specially prepared centers in Mykolaiv for internally displaced persons and to three so-called "Points of Invincibility." These points were established to assist residents during sub-zero temperatures. Mykolaiv, a regional town, faced frequent shelling after February 24 2022. For seven months, the front line extended approximately 30 kilometers from the city. Providing a safe place was also important given the frequent power outages.

In February the PCPM volunteers delivered 11 tons of humanitarian aid to around 40 villages in Zaporizhzhia. This aid included 50 fire extinguishers, 50 carbon monoxide detectors, and 50 smoke detectors for Orikhiv. Additionally, equipment was sent to the fire fighting unit in Hulaipole. In May, the Foundation distributed flashlights, over a ton of canned goods, nearly 1.5 tons of personal hygiene products, bandages, and thermal blankets to villages such as Orikhiv, Hulaipole, Novodanylivka, Stepanohirsk, and Kamianske. These villages are situated several hundred meters from



the active frontline, necessitating the frequent deployment of firefighting equipment by Ukrainian firefighters.

"The PCPM helped me a lot. My house was destroyed, and I had nowhere to live. Now, thanks to having a renovated roof, I'm no longer afraid of the rain."

Halina, a resident of Tsyrukun (10 km from Kharkiv)

The PCPM Foundation also joined in helping flood victims after the Russians blew up the dam in Nova Kakhovka. The Foundation assisted in three hromadas: the Snihurivka, Horkhivka, Bilozorsk and Kherson itself, as well as in Zaporizhzhia, including residents of the Zaporizhzhia nursing home. In the Snihurivka region 13 villages were flooded and 351 homes were completely flooded. Thanks to the support of the Biedronka Foundation, we donated, among other things, water, bedding, rubber boots, and at a later stage from Taiwanese funds, household appliances and furniture to residents of flooded houses who, after drying out, decided to return to them.

Residents of Hulaipole, Uspenivka, Novohorivka, Novomykholaivka, Orikhiv, Malaia Tokmahka, Bilenka and Kamesarha received more than a ton of personal hygiene products and food.

In cooperation with the Biedronka Foundation and as part of the "Package for the

Family" program in 2023 we delivered parcels of food and hygiene items to all residents of 102 villages: all in the currently unoccupied part of the Kherson region, including villages under fire, Mykolaiv, partly Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv. A total of more than 62,000 needy people received such assistance, 22,000 of whom are persons with disabilities or over 60 years of age.

Many of these projects are being implemented thanks to an agreement with the Taiwanese government which donated \$4 million for various activities implemented by the PCPM in several cities and regions of Ukraine. Support on this scale was also made possible by AOSI, CARE, the Biedronka Foundation, as well as business and private donors. Customers of mBank and Allegro users among others were involved in collections on a huge scale.

The PCPM Foundation closely monitors the use of aid on the ground and physically participates in projects - support is delivered directly to beneficiaries.

"Flashlights, gloves, balaclavas, motion detectors, intervention kits and many other smaller pieces of equipment wear out the fastest for firefighters during rescue operations and pulling people out from under the rubble of bombed homes."

Andrei, the PCPM volunteer to reach out to frontline towns



Distribution of aid in southern Ukraine



"Package for the Family"



Aid for flood victims



Latvia



103 351 refugees

crossed the border into Latvia at four checkpoints, where volunteers supported by the PCPM were operating



82 000 refugees

received support at points on the Latvian border

For one year from November 2022 to October 2023 the PCPM Foundation, together with the Latvian organization Tavi Draugi (Your Friends), operated at 4 aid stations on the Latvian border supporting Ukrainian refugees fleeing Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine. The four border crossings where Latvian staff and volunteers from Tavi Draugi supported by the PCPM operated are located in forests far from villages and towns. Often there was no infrastructure including toilets, a store, or even a place to take shelter from the wind, rain, snow and cold. The journey of Ukrainian refugees to Latvia was not easy. It usually lasted several days during which they traveled an average of 3,000 kilometers, usually in heavily used cars or changing from bus-to-bus several times. Crossing the border on the Russian side took a few nerve-wracking hours. When they finally found themselves in Latvia they were tired and stressed and found themselves in the middle of the

freezing darkness with only a suitcase or a backpack. The whole situation was extremely difficult for them.

From January to October 2023 some 63,500 people were assisted at aid stations at the border with hot meals and drinks as well as access to a place where they could eat in warmth and rest after a long journey, use the restroom, charge their phones and connect to the internet.

Tavi Draugi staff and their volunteers were there to answer questions provide support and information on the rights of refugees in Latvia and the rest of the European Union. More than once they helped arrange onward travel or accommodation.

As of spring 2023 this assistance also included 26,600 Ukrainian refugees traveling to Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine. They were not prepared for the fact that at the border to enter Russia one waits in a car for an average of 3-4 days in heat, cold, rain or snow. Ukrainians usually returned to the occupied territories for a short period of time to take care of important family matters, such as visiting sick relatives living there permanently. In total some 82,000 Ukrainian refugees received support at aid stations along the border. This was made possible thanks to project funding from The Pfizer Foundation.



Assistance points at the Latvian border



Kenya



10 years

building the firefighting system in Kenya



103 certificates

awarded to female and male firefighters



60%

of all Kenyan firefighters trained



12 trainings

for female and male firefighters from 40 counties

"Creating firefighting structures in Kenya has been a long-term project but the results of our continuous efforts are already clearly visible. The instructors from Poland have been continuously delegated to Kenya since 2016 and have provided training in various fire departments across the country. Opening the Fire and Rescue Training Center in Kiambu allowed us to train a higher number of firefighters and improve the effectiveness of the training provided. Ultimately, we wish for the facility to be used by emergency services from neighboring countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia or Tanzania."

Wojtek Wilk PhD, CEO of the Polish Center for International Aid

Systemic support for the fire department

Since 2014 the Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM) has continuously supported the improvement and professional development of the Fire and Rescue Service in Kenya. As a result of our efforts the number of fire service units across the country has increased from 26 to 71 and the number of firefighters from 450 to over 1,500. In total, the PCPM has trained almost 60 percent of Kenya's firefighting personnel.

In 2023 the Foundation focused on the development of the Kenyan Fire Service in the field of technical rescue, in particular Road Traffic Accidents (RTA) rescue. Polish aid has played a leading role in creating a systemic change, providing fire department personnel with the first opportunity in the country's history to obtain professional certificates.

Polish experts have developed a program of certified specialist training and a professional qualification recognition system (PLAR) for firefighters in Kenya which is unique in the national education system. Within the framework of these activities the PCPM conducted a series of training courses in road rescue, first aid, high-rise buildings rescue as well as search and rescue operations. As more instructors became accredited in Kenya, the Polish professionals also conducted state examinations. All activities are consistent with the assumptions of the new educational policy of the Government of Kenya, which emphasizes knowledge and practical skills. We are systematically providing Kenyan fire service units with new equipment. In 2023 the PCPM continued to expand the emergency services system along the main Mombasa-Nairobi road and as part of this activity, another fire station was established in Kyumbi, Machakos County.



Training and certification

Thanks to the development and implementation of a national system of certified training and recognition of professional qualifications, for the first time in the history of Kenya, 103 people earned diplomas with the professional title of firefighter. This formal title increases the professionalism of firefighters, provides better career opportunities, enhances safety of the local community, and puts Kenya in line with international standards in professional education and specialized rescue services. It is all thanks to the involvement of the Polish PCPM Foundation, instructors from Poland, and funds from Polish taxpayers transferred through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Previously in Kenya there was no consistent formal education system for the firefighter profession. The people who actually put out fires and provided direct help with accidents had very different knowledge and skills and no official documents to confirm their qualifications. There are currently over 1,500 formally qualified people and this number is still growing.

One of the most important elements of official professional certification are final state examinations recognized and conducted by specific institutions in Kenya. In cooperation with local and national authorities the PCPM Foundation created a complete examination system for the firefighter profession. At PCPM's request the project partner, Kiambu County, signed an official cooperation agreement with one of the most

important vocational education institutions in Kenya - the Nyeri National Polytechnic (NNP). This agreement included the Fire and Rescue Training Center in Kiambu built by the PCPM, which is where the country's first-ever state exams for firefighters took place. The exams were the final stage of a two-step operation leading to establishing official professional certification in technical rescue: a full-scale basic firefighting training and the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process.

37 firefighters participated in the certified basic firefighting training, 35 of whom passed the exam and received a certificate.

The Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition system (PLAR), saw 233 participants join the process, 68 of whom received a certificate.

In total, in 2023, firefighters from 40 Kenyan counties participated in 12 specialized trainings in road accidents rescue, hazardous materials, rope rescue, first aid and structural collapse rescue operations. These trainings were conducted by 19 Polish and Kenyan PCPM instructors, including five Poles accredited by Kenya's certification body TVETA (The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority) as instructors in Kenya.

Ultimately, the goal is to make the system self-sufficient which is why the PCPM Foundation is involved in both creating national



Kenyan firefighters during training



Kenyan firefighters in action

standards for vocational education and educating the first crew of professional firefighting trainers in Kenya. The Polish Center for International Aid selected a group of 21 people highly skilled in technical rescue, with an emphasis on road accidents rescue, who took part in the trainer course. All classes took place at the Fire and Rescue Training Center in Kiambu.

2023 also brought the development of Standard Operating Procedures for the Kenyan Fire Service - a key tool for increasing the effectiveness, safety and professional operation of the institution, which directly translates into better protection of Kenyans against fire and emergency hazards. The procedure system was the foundation of certified professional training developed by the PCPM Foundation.

Road accident response system

The Mombasa-Nairobi-Uganda road is an East African transportation corridor and is notorious for its high number of road accidents. Until recently, almost half of the Mombasa-Nairobi Expressway was not

served by any road accident response services, and accident victims lacked specialized care. To improve the situation the PCPM built two fire stations, the first one in Makueni County in the period of 2021 - 2022, and the second one in Machakos County in 2022 - 2023, opened in October 2023. The distance to reach accidents decreased from 235 km to 55 km, and the services can now reach the injured within an hour. Rescuers arrive at the accidents faster which reduces the number of fatalities and allows injured people to reach medical facilities faster. Since the handover of the fire station the staff carried out 25 road traffic accident rescue operations, 7 firefighting operations and 1 drowning rescue operation. The increase in safety levels also attracted private investors. A local hospital was built in the area in 2023 and long-suspended works on the tourist and hotel complex were finally completed. This is the largest Polish development project in East Africa. In the years 2021-2023 the activities were financed by the Polish Aid program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland. PCPM's annual budget for activities in Kenya accounts for approximately PLN 1.5 million. In total, since 2014 PCPM has implemented projects in Kenya worth approximately PLN 14 million.



Ethiopia



The equipment was delivered to hospitals in 13 Ethiopian cities

"There is no pre-hospital medical care in Ethiopia because we have no qualified personnel, no equipment and resources, and no ambulances. Patients come to the hospital by bus or car, otherwise they don't receive basic care. They don't receive any pre-hospital care."

Dr. Merhawit Abrha - the only doctor with a specialty in emergency medicine in the Tigray region of Northern Ethiopia

In 2021 at the invitation of the Ethiopian Ministry of Health the Polish Center for International Aid Foundation launched a project to support the building of the country's emergency medical system, including the Ethiopian Emergency Medical Technician. The team brings medical assistance to victims of conflict, natural disasters, epidemics (including cholera and dengue) and refugees on the border with Sudan.

Upon initiating its project implementation in Ethiopia, the Foundation encountered a underdeveloped emergency medical service and a virtually non-existent local emergency response system. In the country - almost three times the size of Poland - there are 0.97 nurses and midwives per thousand people, 0.11 doctors (2020 data), and 0.33 hospital beds (2016 data), which is why any positive change in the system is so significant.


PCPM's 2023 initiatives focused on strengthening pre-hospital care and emergency response capabilities, particularly for critical events like heart attacks and multi-casualty traffic accidents. The Foundation also trained medical personnel and firefighters in water and rope rescue at heights. A series of training

sessions, and consultations were also organized for the Ethiopian Emergency Medical Technician, specialized equipment was purchased and donated.

One of the goals of the project was to improve the performance of the health care system in the first moments after emergency events, the so-called "golden hour", before a patient is taken to the hospital. Thanks to training and equipping rescuers and firefighters with the right equipment, patients with head, spinal, chest injuries or cardiac arrest have a better chance of survival.

In 2023 the PCPM trained 87 employees of the public health system including doctors, nurses, and paramedics, in pre-hospital care inline with the ATLS (Advanced Trauma Life Support) standard. Participants came from 8 regional cities and worked in emergency departments, intensive care units and emergency rooms on a daily basis.

39 firefighters received training in providing assistance to victims of construction disasters landslides or fires at height using basic rope techniques and advanced high-altitude equipment. The training was prepared and conducted by the PCPM Foundation instructors. Selected firefighters also took part in water rescue training which was the first of its kind in the country. There are only five firefighters in all of Ethiopia who specialize in water rescue. Previously, they also lacked adequate equipment. During the rainy season, heavy rains in Addis Ababa raise water levels in rivers, causing flooding. The local fire department regularly gets reports of cases of people swept away by water in the streets, or requests to evacuate vulnerable areas. It was therefore necessary to supplement the Addis Ababa fire department's equipment with water rescue kits. Belay vests, rescue darts and additional rope rescue accessories that are useful in water conditions were purchased and donated.

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Further bolstering the emergency response system involved evaluating preparedness for mass casualty incidents. Through four mass casualty simulations conducted over the project's three years, participants were able to test the skills acquired. One such simulation specifically focused on facilitating coordinated action among rescue workers, firefighters, and the immediate response team (EMT).

We equipped ambulances in 12 major cities in the country with equipment such as AED defibrillators (52 units), manual defibrillators (9 units), ultrasound machines (7 units), orthopedic boards (48 sets) and medical bags (38 units) and first-aid kits (48 units). The project further enhanced Ethiopian emergency medical services by providing essential equipment such as radio sets and tactical vests. The Foundation also organized comprehensive training for Ethiopian EMT. This training encompassed outbound logistics, field tent deployment maneuvers, and consultations on the operational procedures for both ambulances and emergency medical teams. Experts from the Poland Emergency Medical Team PCPM, the first and only WHO-certified EMT Type 1³ team in the country, provided instruction for all training modules.

Expert consultations, study visits and training sessions were also conducted in 2023 with the participation of representatives from the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, specialists from

the Poland Emergency Medical Team PCPM and other emergency medical units from Poland. Representatives from the Ethiopian Ministry of Health visited Nairobi and Kiambu to exchange experiences between emergency services in Kenya and Ethiopia. The purpose of the meeting was to gain firsthand knowledge of the operational practices employed by both AMREF Flying Doctors and the PCPM-established Fire and Rescue Training Center in Kiambu.

The Foundation also organized Training of Trainers for 17 people which consisted of an intensive six-day training program - led by Polish and Kenyan instructors. Ethiopian medics learned how to transfer knowledge and skills to other future trainers. The trainees learned how to conduct exercises in each specialty and perfected supervision techniques. The PCPM also implemented three e-learning modules: two for firefighters as a theoretical supplement to on-site training in rope rescue and a third module as introduction to logistics, prepared for the Ethiopian Emergency Medical Technician.

From 2021 to 2023, the project was funded by the Polish Aid program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland.

More about the Polish Center for International Aid achievements in Ethiopia in the report: "Support to development of emergency medicine system in Ethiopia: Impact Assessment."



The PCPM's instructors from Poland conduct trainings for Ethiopian EMT

³ The World Health Organization - (WHO) classifies Teams by type in terms of level of care, size, capacity, and ability to deliver the services they declare: Type 1: Provides daylight hours care for stabilization of acute trauma and non- trauma presentations, referrals for further investigation or inpatient care and community-based primary care with the ability to work in multiple locations over the period of a deployment. It is capable of treating at least 100 patients per day. It is capable of taking action in the shortest possible time - within 24-48 hours of an incident. Is able to function on site for at least 2-3 weeks.

Ethiopian EMT team sets up tent donated by the PCPM





Tanzania



930 healthcare workers were trained



7 emergency departments received medical equipment

In 2023 the PCPM Foundation continued to support and develop paramedicine in Tanzania. Paramedic is a new profession in the country and the first graduates completed their training in Emergency Medicine ten years ago. Thanks to the Foundation's projects rescuers are gaining new competencies and more people can provide first-aid and specialized help as the system is changing. The Foundation trains rescuers and instructors who will be able to independently prepare more medics for the profession in the future. Hospitals have also received modern medical equipment.

Training

In the Dar es Salaam region, the PCPM Foundation has trained instructors and health care workers in various aspects of emergency medicine: Primary Trauma Care (PTC), Basic Life support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS).

Sixty-two medical professionals selected through a collaborative effort between Aga Khan Health Services Tanzania (AKHS)⁴ and the Tanzanian Ministry of Health participated in instructor training courses. These courses covered a variety of specialties: twenty-four focused on primary trauma care, while thirty-eight future instructors undertook programs certified by the esteemed American Heart Association (AHA). The AHA certifications included thirteen in basic CPR and fifteen in

advanced pediatric CPR. Some participants had already begun independently conducting training within the second module, under the guidance of experienced instructors.

Learning how to teach is also an important part of the system's development. In Tanzania, there is no teaching methodology as a separate field of study. It does not train instructors based on active, experienced staff. Therefore, the PCPM Foundation has organized special training courses for instructors in two configurations. The first was an additional section of the PTC instructor course of 24 people. The second was a separate three-day course dedicated exclusively to teaching methodology issues to 24 graduates of the 2022 PTC (ToT) course.

930 health care workers received training in 5 different aspects of emergency medicine: 321 in Primary Trauma Care (PTC), 410 in Basic Life Support (BLS), 102 in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and 47 in Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and 50 in Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition and Stabilization (PEARS).

"Tanzanian roads suffer from excessively high traffic density, creating a dangerous environment for commuters. This is reflected in the country's ranking of tenth globally for road traffic fatalities. Exacerbating this issue is the nascent state of emergency medicine in Tanzania, which is lacking a pre-hospital response system."

Wojtek Wilk PhD, CEO of the Polish Center for International Aid

Thanks to the PCPM Foundation's projects, the quality of emergency care is gradually improving. As evidenced by the decrease in the number of patients diverted to other facilities, the number of deaths among

⁴ Aga Khan Health Services is the longest-operating, non-profit, private healthcare organization in Tanzania.



Polish aid

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Emergency medicine training in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

patients in the emergency department is also falling. In 2023 Foundation trained 62 emergency officers (including firefighters, scouts, traffic police) in first aid at the scene of an accident. The project in Tanzania is also an example of regional cooperation between countries. Eyewitness courses were jointly conducted by the PCPM instructors from Kenya and Aga Khan Health Services Tanzania trainers.

This is an example of how different projects, in different countries, financed from the same source - Polish Aid, can complement each other and increase efficiency and impact.

"Doctors from Tanzania are learning from Kenyan firefighters how to evacuate the injured, and how to pull them out of a car or bus after a road accident. This is not just purely medical knowledge, and this is where the experience of the Kenyan firefighters, who, after all, learned for many years from Polish instructors, comes in very handy."

Aleksandra Mizerska, coordinator of the PCPM project in Tanzania

Hospital equipment

In 2023 an advanced CPR training manikin, which simulates a full-size adult, was procured and transported to Tanzania. Additionally, three infant manikins were also acquired. The emergency departments of three state hospitals in Dar es Salaam, one hospital in Mwanza, and the Aga Khan Foundation hospital and clinics also received modern medical equipment. This equipment includes 12 patient monitors, 2 ultrasound sets, 23 infusion pumps, 5 resuscitation boards, 15 stabilization splints, and 2 video laryngoscopes. As part of the project, the Foundation is constructing a cutting-edge training center for healthcare professionals at The Aga Khan Health Service Hospital (AKHST) in Dar es Salaam, the largest city in the country. This center will be equipped with state-of-the-art training facilities.

The PCPM Foundation project is a collaborative effort involving the Aga Khan Health Services Tanzania, the Tanzanian Ministry of Health, and is funded through the Polish Aid program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland.



South Sudan

Since 2011 the PCPM Foundation has been providing support to the people of South Sudan, almost from the beginning of its state-hood. In 2023 the PCPM continued its operations by running a Nutrition Center for children and mothers in Gordhim, located in the Aweil East state in the northern part of the country. In response to the persistent threat of malnutrition and severe malnutrition among children in the region the Foundation established a dedicated website facilitating the purchase of therapeutic food.



South Sudan experiences alternating cycles of droughts and floods which undermine the food security situation of its inhabitants. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), recent floods have devastated approximately 65,100 hectares of farmland, resulting in the loss of 37,624 tons of grain. These floods have impacted more than 835,000 people across eight of South Sudan's ten states. The FAO also reports that 795,500 livestock have perished in these states. In addition, the civil war in neighboring Sudan since April 2023 and volatile oil prices caused by the war in Ukraine mean that the number of people in need of basic assistance is increasing.

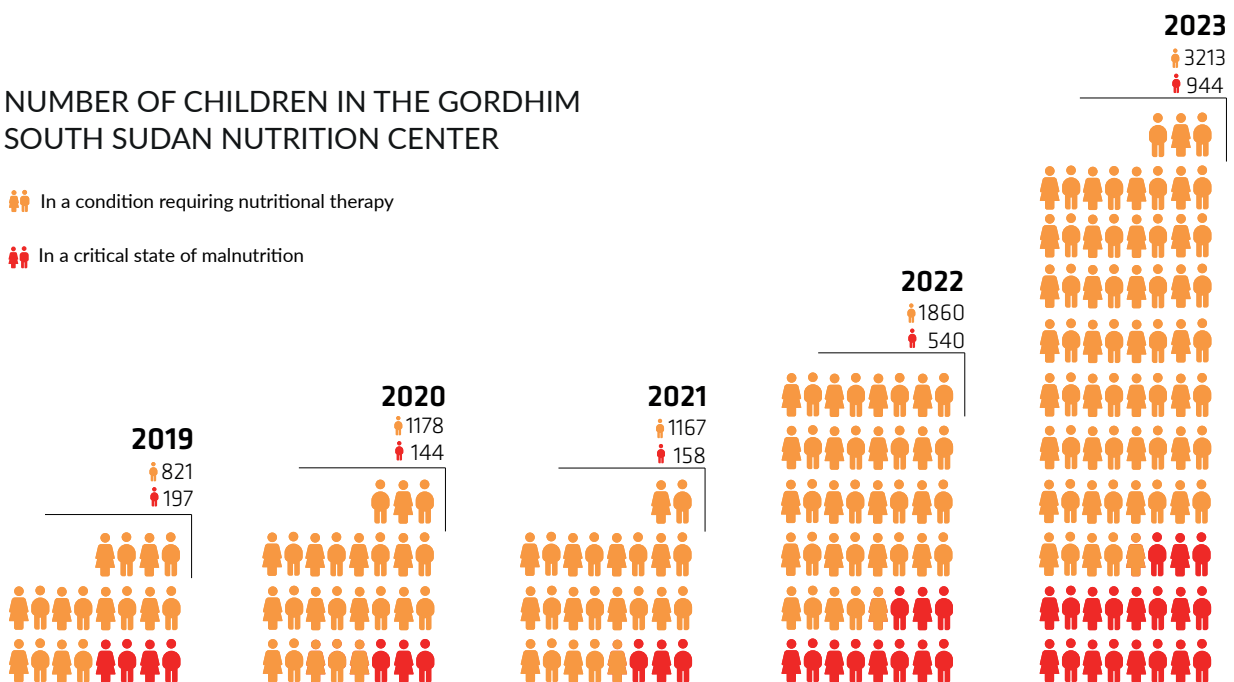
Over the past 12 months the Gordhim Nutrition Center has documented over 13,000 visits. More than 4,000 children at risk of malnutrition have received vital support, including over 950 in a critical malnutrition state.

The center is a small facility, supported by the PCPM Foundation thanks to contributions from Polish individual donors. Therapeutic food for children is distributed on site - in special portions, ready for consumption immediately after opening, without any preparation. One package of food, based on peanut paste contains all the necessary vitamins and minerals and provides as much as 500 kcal per serving. The cost of one serving is only \$0.53. For \$1.59, one child can be provided with a daily amount of nutrition. In 2023 3,213 people benefited from such support.


The center also provides essential medicines and vaccines and the center's employees provide training in plant cultivation and hygiene awareness.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE GORDHIM SOUTH SUDAN NUTRITION CENTER

-  In a condition requiring nutritional therapy
-  In a critical state of malnutrition





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GORDHIM

Medical examination of a child, Gordhim, South Sudan



Lebanon



Over 3,000 of the most vulnerable individuals received humanitarian aid



66 solar streetlights were installed in Qobayat, along with photovoltaic panel sets for 20 families

The situation within Lebanon continues to deteriorate with growing needs on various levels. The country's current economic crisis stands as one of the most severe in the world over the past century. The poverty rate in this once-affluent nation has now reached a staggering 85%. Lebanon grapples with a refugee crisis, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases such as cholera. Since 2012 the Polish Center for International Aid Foundation has consistently

carried out activities in Lebanon. Through collaboration with institutional donors and local communities the PCPM has provided support across a wide spectrum of areas. These efforts range from food and housing assistance to aiding local farmers in irrigating their fields, enhancing their crops, and increasing access to electricity. Projects funded from diverse sources are synergized and contribute to better outcomes for the local population.



Distribution of food assistance in the Akkar region of Lebanon



Food distribution

Lebanon ranks as the sixth largest food crisis globally. As per UN reports, four out of every ten Lebanese and Syrian refugee children in the country face the risk of malnutrition. As part of the UN coordinated humanitarian response the PCPM initiated a pilot food support program in 2023, delivering essential assistance to the most vulnerable families and individuals from Syria and Lebanon. This assistance was based on a need assessment process and a comprehensive distribution strategy.

In the first half of the year, 656 families, including households headed by single women, single older persons, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and people with specific needs received food parcels. For three months, in addition to products with a long shelf life, residents also received fresh vegetables, fruits, dairy and meat purchased from local suppliers, further enhancing the positive impact on the local economy. While such fresh products are urgently needed for their high nutrition value they were not a part of standardized kits distributed by humanitarian agencies due to their high risk of spoilage. To mitigate this risk while ensuring good nutrition, fresh produce were distributed in refrigerated trucks.

Until August the food assistance project was funded by the Polish Aid program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland. UN OCHA funded another food aid project that included meat and dairy in addition to multi-sectoral assistance. Thanks to the support of the Lebanese Humanitarian Fund food assistance was provided to 555 families (a total of 3,269 people), of which 36% were children under the age of 18, 13% were older people over the age of 60, and 80% were pregnant and breastfeeding women. After examining the needs of the community, WASH menstrual kits were also provided to 186 women and girls, and 307 of the most vulnerable families received rent subsidies for six months.

"My father has been dreaming of building irrigation canals for years, so we can live off our own land."

Ghazi, a farmer from Fnaidek

Agricultural support and infrastructure development

The primary cause of the 2022 cholera outbreak was the contamination of irrigation water due to poor wastewater infrastructure and management. To prevent such risks in the future the PCPM is actively supporting the agricultural sector and local municipalities in Akkar Governorate in improving the quality of public services, including WASH infrastructure through expanding the sewerage network and building irrigation canals.

In collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP) the PCPM executed additional activities to support agricultural cooperatives and farmers. In addition to the construction of over 5,000 linear meters of irrigation canals that draw water from mountain springs these initiatives included training farmers, agro-food producers, and cooperatives on technical and non technical skills. The entire community benefited from these efforts. While adults engaged in education and work children received care and entertainment, allowing mothers to participate in the activities. This agricultural development not only benefits the local economy but also contributes positively to the environment.

"Thanks to the PCPM project, I was able to survive. I learned that as a woman, I could work even in construction. The salary and knowledge I gained from the project helped me cover my family's daily expenses."

Sawsan - 27-year-old from the Fnaidek agricultural cooperative



The Polish Center for International Aid also equipped the agricultural cooperatives with food processing equipment, streamlining production and enhancing overall efficiency. In order to facilitate access to markets a dedicated e-commerce website was established.

In the subsequent phases of the project the PCPM continued its training efforts and provided donations of trees, seeds, and tools to local farmers. This support extended to villages like Fnaidek, Qrayet, Hweish, Mechmech, Bani Sakher, Rajm Khalaf, Rajem Hussein, and Kalkha - of which the latter four are situated in Wadi Khaled, one of the most vulnerable regions in the country. The project aimed at achieving farming self-sufficiency.

The PCPM's initiatives not only benefit residents' well-being but also strengthen local governance by enhancing access to municipal services. In the village of Qobayat part of the rural Qatlabe district was connected to the wastewater treatment plant through the construction of an additional section of the sewage network. This development led to

"All men and women, Lebanese and Syrian farmers and youths worked on the construction. In Hweish, only about 30% of the water was reaching agricultural land. Thanks to the PCPM project, it is now 100%!"

Ali Akawi - Mayor of Hweish

reduced environmental pollution, improved sanitation, decreased risks of infectious diseases (including cholera), enhanced quality of life for residents, and more efficient management of wastewater. Furthermore, it heightened the appeal of the area, which boasts significant tourism potential.

A compelling challenge faced by the country is the scarcity of electricity. Public electricity supply is available for a maximum of six hours per day. Generator-based power is both uneconomical and detrimental to the environment. Consequently, the PCPM is actively engaged in the implementation of renewable energy solutions.

In 2023, in collaboration with the Polish Contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), 20 solar street lights were installed in southern Lebanon along public roads particularly susceptible to hazards or accidents. Another 46 were installed in the northern part of the country. The Polish Center for International Aid further implemented 20 solar house systems in households located in northern Lebanon, where access to electricity is the most limited.

This vital project received funding from the Polish Aid program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland.



Lebanese women from agricultural cooperatives



Palestine



The PCPM renovated 45 points where mobile clinics operate



13 training sessions conducted by instructor candidates

The activities of the Polish Center for International Aid Foundation in Palestine in 2023 were aimed at improving the availability and quality of medical care for West Bank residents. The Foundation trains medics, instructors and supports the development of mobile clinics that can reach small villages with aid and provides first aid kits and special-

ized diagnostic equipment. Nearly 50 percent of the West Bank is the so-called Area C - an area administered and controlled both administratively and militarily by the Israeli authorities. The Palestinian Authority, including the Ministry of Health, cannot build a network of clinics there so mobile clinics are the only option for residents.

The PCPM Foundation has been operating in the West Bank since 2010. Ultimately, the health care projects are intended to make the region self-sufficient. The Foundation is keen to cover as many medics as possible with training, including instructors, who will then be able to prepare more people for work on their own.



Certified program for medical instructors

In 2023 The PCPM continued a three-year project initiated in 2021 a proprietary training program for medical staff. The objective was to train new cohorts of instructors in the use of ultrasound for emergency medicine and advanced medical procedures related to trauma and sudden cardiac arrest.

"For us, the most important thing is to build the future here, to make local medical services independent of our assistance."

Zuzanna Wojcinska, the PCPM

In collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Health, we successfully completed a multi-phase medical instructor training program. As a result, 21 Palestinian instructors received certification in Palestinian Advanced Trauma Life Support (PATLS), while 7 instructor candidates underwent training in FAST ultrasound. In 2023 the Foundation organized 13 training sessions conducted by these instructor candidates. Consequently, 195 medics from both public and private medical institutions enhanced their knowledge and skills in trauma and emergency care. These training sessions were further enriched by the expertise of specialists from Poland Emergency Medical Team PCPM.

The PCPM Foundation has developed a second course for instructors focusing on the use of ultrasound in emergency medicine. These training courses facilitate the utilization of five state-of-the-art ultrasound machines provided by the PCPM, which have been delivered to hospitals in the West Bank. In a separate project, the Foundation also supplied four ultrasound machines to mobile clinics operated by the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS), one of the largest

health organizations in Palestine. Additionally, the PCPM purchased and donated six training manikins (1 professional, 5 basic) to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, and delivered thirty anesthesia needle sets to hospitals

Mobile clinics

The mobile clinics serve approximately 30 villages in the West Bank, where access to healthcare is challenging. Each clinic is staffed by a primary care physician, a gynecologist, a laboratory technician, and two local healthcare workers who commute to these villages. In collaboration with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) the Foundation has renovated over 45 rooms in the past three years to accommodate the mobile clinic staff.

The Foundation's efforts included purchasing new furniture, constructing a ramp for people with disabilities, renovating bathrooms, and repairing the water system. Additionally, five more sites were identified for renovation in 2024. As part of this project the Foundation procured medicines and medical equipment for mobile clinics operating in seven villages within the Jenin district. These villages are situated between the wall and the border with Israel. The donated equipment included an ultrasound machine, a hematology analyzer, ten blood pressure monitors, and nine glucometers.

Thanks to the support of the PCPM Foundation, residents now have access to both

"We work with several partners who understand our work. However, the projects we do together with PCPM are unique. Your organization is very open to our ideas."

Mustafa Barghouti, founder of the Palestinian Medical Relief Society



primary and specialized medical care. Pregnant women can benefit from gynecological care and prenatal examinations using high-end ultrasound equipment. In 2023, the Foundation conducted approximately 5,000 such examinations. Patients were also able to undergo screenings related to the early detection of non-communicable diseases, anemia, breast cancer in women, psychiatric disorders, and health anomalies among children. This effort reached more than 3,200 residents in localities within the Hebron and Jenin districts.

The Foundation ensures the purchase of essential medicines, dressing supplies, and medical equipment. Between January and December mobile clinic teams provided over 10,000 consultations, including medical visits, laboratory tests, distribution of medicines, and referrals to specialists.

Additionally, the mobile clinic staff played an educational role. As part of the project and in cooperation with the PMRS awareness-raising sessions on common health problems, including COVID-19, anemia, nutrition, and acute infections, were conducted among residents of 24 villages. Furthermore, three nationwide health prevention campaigns were organized, focusing on breast cancer, chronic diseases (such as hypertension and diabetes), and childhood illnesses.

Given the deteriorating situation in the West Bank and the increasing challenges in accessing medical assistance during the last months of the year, mobile clinic teams expanded their activities to include pre-medical first aid training. PMRS developed and printed an information booklet covering the

training topics which was distributed to participants.

Volunteer groups

To enhance access to essential medical care, the PCPM, in collaboration with PMRS, organizes training for volunteer groups focused on prevention and health promotion.

In total, PMRS, with the support of the PCPM Foundation, established and trained 28 groups (comprising 271 individuals) in the districts of Hebron and Jenin in 2023. Each group initially undergoes five general training sessions followed by seven to ten Basic Life Support (BLS) training sessions. Initially, participants engage in health promotion meetings and later take charge of conducting these meetings in their local communities. The Foundation also donated 381 basic and professional first aid kits to the trained volunteers.

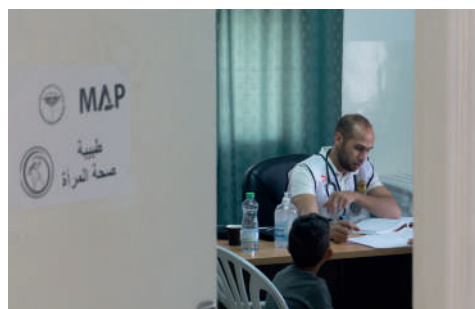
Following the outbreak of conflict between Hamas and Israel, starting from October 7 2023, the volunteers were able to provide first aid to 254 wounded individuals in the town and camp of Jenin as well as 124 wounded individuals in Hebron.

PCPM's projects in Palestine are funded by the Polish Aid program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, representing the largest humanitarian effort in the region.

In October 2023 the PCPM Foundation launched an urgent fundraising drive to help victims of the war in the Middle East. Thanks to the collections it was able to purchase milk for children in Gaza.



Training in emergency medicine



GP talks to a patient



Mobile clinic



Poland Emergency Medical Team PCPM



In 2023 medics from the team supported MEDEVAC HUB in Jasionka. The past 12 months, the EMT has primarily focused on maintaining readiness, intensive training, improving qualifications, and developing the team.

Both internal training, conducted by specialists from the EMT, and external training, led by the most experienced instructors in Poland, took place. These training sessions included: rescue training using a helicopter and crew cooperation in the air, a course on conducting operations in mass incidents. Certified courses on best management practices during civilian operations were organized such as Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC), methods for examining and dealing with severe injuries in the first phase of casualty care (pre-hospital care), known as International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) and advanced resuscitation procedures in children (European Pediatric Advanced Life Support - EPALS). Due to MEDEVAC HUB's

activities in Jasionka, which involves assisting patients transported from Ukraine, the team has undergone specialized training in counteracting CBRNE threats (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear agents, and explosives).

EMT maneuvers were organized twice to simulate rescue missions. These exercises provided an opportunity to test equipment, verify procedures, assess logistics, and integrate into the Team. Throughout the year, two recruitment drives were held to bring in new doctors, rescuers, and logisticians. Several dozen people signed up for each recruitment, resulting in a total of 45 new team members joining.

Specialists from Poland Emergency Medical Team PCPM also support projects implemented by the PCPM Foundation in various countries. In September Polish specialists conducted training in outbound logistics for the Ethiopian EMT.



They demonstrated how to organize a field hospital and work effectively under such conditions. The training was attended by local medics, pharmacists, and logisticians selected by the head of the Ethiopian EMT. In November maneuvers were organized to assemble and dismantle field hospitals and connect them in various configurations. Additionally, consultations were held on the operational procedures of ambulances and the emergency medical team system. In Palestine a Polish EMT rescuer trained candidates for PATLS instructors.

The PCPM rescuers were on standby to respond to disasters and emergencies worldwide. This was particularly evident in February 2023 when Turkey and Syria were struck by the most devastating earthquakes in Turkey's modern history. As a result of this catastrophe, at least 55,700 people died, and approximately 130,000 were injured in both Turkey and Syria.

The PCPM Foundation promptly responded to these events. Initially, a fundraiser donating the funds to the victims of the disaster was launched. Simultaneously, two experienced rescuers who had previously participated in post-earthquake missions were dispatched to Turkey. The PCPM Foundation organized the transport of 54 modular houses, which were eventually sent to Syria, providing shelter for those who had lost their homes.

In collaboration with the British medical team operating in the Türkoğlu region the Foundation also sent a gynecologist from the Polish EMT to support the British team's work in the field hospital.

Poland Emergency Medical Team PCPM has been operating continuously since 2015. It stands as the sole medical group in Poland and one of several across Europe certified by the World Health Organization (WHO) for rapid response to humanitarian crises and natural disasters. This dedicated team also functions under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, ensuring their readiness to travel to zones affected by natural calamities (such as earthquakes) or humanitarian crises within 24 hours.

In 2021 the Polish Center for International Aid Foundation further strengthened its commitment by joining the global HERoS program (Health Emergency Response In Interconnected Systems). This program aims to effectively respond to pandemics and their far-reaching effects.

Poland Emergency Medical Team PCPM comprises proven and experienced volunteers, including doctors, paramedics, nurses, medics of other specialties, firefighters, logisticians, and other specialists, totaling 150 dedicated individuals.



POP Fund

Polish Organizations Pooled Fund

"International organizations have reduced support for Polish institutions assisting Ukrainians by up to 80%. Despite this, several hundred thousand people in our country still require help, including women, children, and the older persons."

Wojtek Wilk PhD, CEO of the Polish Center
for International Aid

In October 2023 the Polish Organizations Pooled Fund (POP Fund) was established. This collaborative initiative within the third sector emerged after consultations with UN agencies, donors such as Google, Meta, banks, and other international companies operating in Poland. The Fund's primary objective is to finance projects that support refugees through open grant competitions. The allocation of grants is determined by the fund's Steering Committee, which includes representatives from non-governmental organizations, government, local government administration, and the private sector. Unlike similar funds coordinated by the UN in Lebanon, Yemen, and Ukraine, the POP Fund primarily operates based on private sector funds.

The Fund will support a range of project sizes. Small projects (grants up to PLN 50,000) can be implemented by entities such as volunteer fire brigades, rural housewives' clubs, or parishes, medium-sized projects (grants PLN 50,000 to 200,000) will involve

Polish foundations and associations, large projects (over PLN 200,000). Funding is available for projects that support Ukrainian refugees residing in Poland and fall under one or more of the six priorities. These priorities include:

- improved living conditions of refugees residing outside of the main metropolises and in the rural areas, including support for voluntary relocation of refugees from metropolises, where the cost of living is high, to smaller towns, with lower cost of living;
- supporting voluntary relocation of refugees from the mass accommodation centers;
- support to refugees facing barriers in accessing the labour market, including refugee women with children until the age of 7;
- support to older refugees, and/or persons with disability;
- supporting inclusion and continuation of education of refugee children in the Polish schools;
- support for refugees from other groups at risk of social exclusion, including ethnic minorities and sexual minorities.

In the first edition of the grant competition, concluded in December 2023, 135 applications were received from organizations from all over Poland. 16 grants were awarded for the so-called "small projects" for a total amount of PLN 784,000. At the end of the year, the second edition of the competition was announced with a budget of PLN 6 million.





About us



The Polish Center for International Aid Foundation has been operating since 2006. During this time, the world, society, and the non-governmental organization sector have undergone significant changes. The Foundation itself has also evolved.

Credibility, transparency, and environmental consciousness, as well as care for partners and employees, are not mere slogans for the PCPM. Our goal is to work and support beneficiaries at the highest level. Consequently, we continually develop procedures to meet the highest international standards.

The Foundation also monitors its carbon footprint and optimizes operational costs. We manage resources in a way that allows us to support as many people as possible in the most appropriate manner, given the available funding. A prime example of this approach is our “Cash for Work” program, which provides longer-term employment opportunities instead of short-term intervention jobs. This not only ensures greater stability for refugees but also addresses challenges faced by local authorities.

Internally, we focus on building effective communication and maintaining strong relationships with our partners. Additionally, we have issued supplementary reports, such as the one on assistance to older individuals. These efforts reflect our commitment to employee well-being and the quality of support we provide both in Poland and abroad.

The highest priority for the PCPM is to create a work environment free from any abuse, violence, discrimination, or neglect by employees, volunteers, and partners. Therefore, the foundation adheres to the “Code of Ethical Conduct and Policy to Prevent Abuse and Sexual Violence (PSHEA).” This document outlines the fundamental principles and values of the organization, as well as guidelines consistent with the interagency policy of the United Nations Standing Committee on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse during humanitarian crises. It also includes procedures for child protection and reporting and addressing violations.



How you can help



“Credibility, effectiveness and transparency” - these are the qualities most often mentioned by our Partners and Donors when we ask them why they decided to support our activities. These values are incredibly important to us, and we are deeply grateful to every donor who made a donation or decided to support us regularly every month.

We are supported by both private individuals and companies. Our partners include local non-governmental organizations, international humanitarian organizations and UN agencies.

Every contribution, big and small, translates into specific assistance that we provide to people in need. On their and our behalf, we thank you.



Make a donation



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You can make a direct donation to our bank account number:

Donations in PLN: 18 1140 1010 0000 5228 6800 1001

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If you live or pay taxes in the USA, and wish to deduct the donation from your taxes, we encourage you to donate through CAF America. If you want to donate in GBP, EUR, AUD, CHF or any other currency, you can contribute through the Benevity Community Impact portal.



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We warmly invite individuals, companies, and institutions interested in cooperation to contact us at: fundraising@pcpm.org.pl



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