



## **Annual Report**

**2002**

### **Polish Humanitarian Organisation Foundation**

Polish Humanitarian Organisation  
ul. Szpitalna 5/3, 00-031 Warsaw  
Phone No. + 48 22 828 88 82  
Fax No. + 48 22 831 99 38  
E-mail: [pah@pah.ngo.pl](mailto:pah@pah.ngo.pl)

# The structure of this report

## **Chapter 1**

### **General information about the PHO Foundation**

Address; Authorities including the Board members; regional offices; PHO mission, employment

## **Chapter 2**

### **Humanitarian Assistance: Helping victims of natural disasters**

Assistance to flood victims in Poland; Assistance to flood victims in Germany and Czech Republic; Aid for the victims of the flood in Siberia

## **Chapter 3**

### **Humanitarian Assistance: Helping victims of armed conflicts**

PHO Field Mission in Ingushetia and Chechnya; PHO Field Mission in Afghanistan

## **Chapter 4**

### **Humanitarian Assistance: Helping the victims of structural poverty**

Supplementary feeding project – "The Wooden Puppet"; Assistance in Lithuania

## **Chapter 5**

### **Helping the refugees and repatriates**

Refugee Counseling Center; Repatriate Integration Programs

## **Chapter 6**

### **Humanitarian Education Program**

## **Chapter 7**

### **Those who help the PHO: volunteers and companies**

Volunteering with the PHO; Fundraising Department

## **Chapter 8**

### **Other initiatives of Polish Humanitarian Organisation**

## **Chapter 9**

### **Reports of the regional branches and local groups of volunteers**

Report by Regional Branch in Krakow; Report by Regional Branch in Lodz; Report by Pomeranian Branch in Torun; Wroclaw PHO Volunteer Group; Opole PHO Volunteer Group

# Chapter 1

## General information about the PHO Foundation

Name of organization:	Polish Humanitarian Organisation
Address:	Szpitalna Street 5/3, 00-031 Warsaw
Tel/ Fax:	+48 (22) 828 88 82, +48 (22) 828 90 86, +48 (22) 831 99 38
e-mail:	<a href="mailto:pah@pah.ngo.pl">pah@pah.ngo.pl</a>
Internet site:	<a href="http://www.pah.org.pl">www.pah.org.pl</a>
PHO Bank and account number:	BPH PBK Branch in Warsaw 56 1060 0076 0000 4011 0000 1906
PHO Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council of Sponsors</li><li>• Board of Directors</li><li>• Auditing Commission</li></ul>
Registration date and number:	December 20 1994, Warsaw, Regional Court for City of Warsaw, XXI Commercial Court – Commercial Registration Department Registration transcript no 4443 010849302
REGON NR: (Head Office for Commercial and Institutional Statistics)	
Board of Directors:	President: Janina Ochojska,  Board Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Włodzimierz Sarna</li><li>• Grzegorz Gruca</li><li>• Małgorzata Gebert</li><li>• Aleksandra Rezunow</li></ul>

### Organizational structure – regional offices

- 90-423 Lodz, Piotrkowska Street 85, tel. +48 (42) 630 34 28; tel./fax +48 (42) 630 34 27
- 87-100 Torun, Wielkie Garbary Street 2, tel./fax +48 (56) 652 13 74
- 31-010 Krakow, Rynek Główny 29, tel./fax +48 (12) 421 57 71, fax. +48 (42) 422 08 19

### Employees

Warsaw Office	President - 1 Managing Director - 1 PHO missions – 10 Humanitarian Education Program – 2 Polish Hunger Site - 1 PR and Fundraising - 2 Refugee Assistance Center – 5 Accountancy - 4 Warehouse – 3 Secretarial staff – 1
Lodz Office	Director - 1 PHO Day Care Center - 4
Torun Office	Director - 1 Day Care Center & The Wooden Puppet Campaign - 3
Krakow Office	Director - 1 Education - 1

## **Chapter 2**

### **Humanitarian assistance: Helping victims of natural disasters**

This chapter reports on assistance provided to the victims of floods in Poland (follow-up on 2001 programme), Germany, Czech Republic and Siberia.

#### **2.1. Assistance to flood victims in Poland**

##### **2.1.1. Floods 2001, Poland – continued assistance**

###### **House reconstruction**

In July and August 2001, as a result of torrential rains, 6 voivodships in Poland suffered from floods. Hundreds of families found themselves without a roof over their heads.

The “Floods 2001” aid programme covered, *inter alia*, construction of houses to replace those destroyed by the floods. Some of them were put to use already in December 2001. In April 2002, additional 13 houses for flood victims were completed: 5 in Malopolskie voivodship, 4 in Swietokrzyskie voivodship, 3 in Mazowieckie voivodship and 1 in Podkarpackie voivodship. Overall, PHO constructed 25 houses for flood victims for total value of USD 684,606,40.

###### **“Restore Joy” – scholarship programme**

This PHO programme focuses on schools, children and youth affected by 2001 floods in Malopolskie and Swietokrzyskie voivodships. “Restore Joy” consists of various projects, some of them implemented already in 2001.

In 2002 a scholarship programme for children from areas affected by 2001 floods, who graduated from grammar school in the school year 2001/2002 and wished to continue their education in the secondary school. The programme’s budget totalled USD 36,312.47. Monthly scholarships of USD 39,00 are granted for one school year (10 months) and are to be utilized for purposes related directly to ensuring the possibility to continue school education.

Out of over 300 applications, a joint commission selected 223 most needy students.

##### **2.1.2. Floods 2002, Poland**

In July 2002, the village of Muszyna (in Malopolskie voivodship) suffered three inundations that affected nearly 80 families. On 22 July, a convoy of donations for Muszyna was organised jointly with Krakow media. The shipment consisted of 5 tonnes of goods worth USD 28,706.47 (1,000 blankets, towels, detergents, sleeping bags, clothing, about a dozen of gas cookers and vacuum cleaners, vitamins and food). In total, the aid reached 250 beneficiaries.

#### **2.2. Assistance to flood victims in Germany and Czech Republic**

The action took off on 13 August, 2002 with an appeal of Polish Humanitarian Organisation where we pointed out to the huge losses suffered by the affected countries and the assistance provided to Poland by others during the floods in 2001. The appeal generated very strong response from the public. The payments made of PHO account by the end of December 2002 totalled USD 158,365.04.

##### **2.2.1. Immediate assistance**

On 30 August, 2002, a truck was dispatched to Prague. In accordance with the request of the city mayor, the cargo consisted mostly of cleaning accessories: rubbish bags, shovels, buckets, Wellington boots, gloves, dust-masks, etc. All goods were acquired as donations. The total shipment value was USD 66,696.92. On special request of the Czech party, additional air shipment was sent on 4

September, 2002, with 750 vaccines against hepatitis A (posing a threat after major land contamination) for total value of USD 13,166.02.

Regional PHO Office in Torun organised an initiative titled "Torun–Dobrichovicom" (Czech Republic). The Municipality of Torun donated USD 13,020.83 for organisation of aid. On 2 December, 2002 the flood victims received household appliances (vacuum cleaners, irons, toasters, electric kettles) and bed-linen for total value of USD 11,458.33.

### **2.2.2. Reconstruction support**

Polish Humanitarian Organisation decided to allocate the funds from public collection for the following purposes:

- Set of doors for sports hall at primary school in Prettin (Wittenberg, Germany) Euro 17,517.16 (approx. USD 18,854.17) – disbursed in February 2003.
- Co-financing of refurbishment of Hals kindergarten in Passau (Lower Bavaria, Germany) Euro 6,750.00 (approx. USD 7,265.63) – disbursed in February 2003.
- Refurbishment of 2 gymnasiums and the sports ground of a primary school in Prague approx. Euro 95,000.000 (approx. USD 101 562,50) – execution scheduled for July-August, 2003.

### **2.2.3. Achieved results**

The immediate assistance covered around 2,000 people in Prague plus 750 persons who received vaccinations. The lasting results consist in reconstruction of a school and kindergarten in Germany (about 1,000 children in total). The programme also contributed to building the image of PHO as an organisation operating not only in Poland.

## **2.3. Aid for the victims of the flood in Siberia**

After the aid had been provided to flood victims in Krasnoyarsk Territory in 2001, further payments for total value of USD 3,289.69 were made to "Siberia" account. With this money PHO helped to purchase bed linen for school and dormitory for orphans in Kyzyl, the capital of the Republic of Tyva and funded one-off benefits for flood victims in villages of Sut-Chol, Ottuk-Dasz and Bayan-Kol. The capital of Tyva Republic suffered major losses during the 2001 floods when waters of upper Yenisey overflowed a large part of the city.

## **Chapter 3**

### **Humanitarian Assistance: Helping victims of armed conflicts**

This chapter describes assistance to victims of armed conflicts. The first report covers the activities of PHO Mission in Chechnya and Ingushetia, the second report covers the activities of PHO Mission in Afghanistan.

#### **3.1. PHO Assistance Programs in Ingushetia and Chechnya**

##### **– PHO Field Mission**

Permanent PHO mission to Ingushetia and Chechnya has been up and running since April 2000, with its head office in Nazran (Ingushetia).

Initially, the Mission's staff consisted of 2, and starting from the second half of 2002, of 3 officers from Poland who were responsible for project preparation, fundraising, project management and auditing. Local people were hired as field program officers, they coordinated and supervised the mission in the field. In total, 148 people worked for the mission – Chechen nationals and Chechen refugees in Ingushetia.

##### **3.1.1. Needs**

The water supply and sewage system in Grozny has not been rebuilt as yet. The municipal Water and Sewage Company started the overhaul of 6 water stations in Grozny only in the Spring of 2002.

Clean drinking water is the priority issue for inhabitants of the city. According to tests carried out by the sanitary and epidemiological station in Grozny, 99% of the water available in public intakes fails to meet basic epidemiology standards. The citizens can purchase contaminated water (50-80 roubles per cubic meter) from private drivers. The water is contaminated with chemicals – phenols, ammonia, sulfacides and pesticides.

The concentration of pollutants in Grozny is 10 times higher than the level permitted by sanitary standards of the Russian Federation – this is particularly true of pesticides and organic matter, which exceed the allowed limits by 24 and 13 times, respectively. Infant mortality rate is five times higher than in other regions of the Russian Federation.

Waste and garbage disposal services for private and public sector are insufficient. The municipal sanitation services lack professional equipment and sufficient funds for employee salaries. From many districts in the city garbage is not being removed at all.

The refugees returning to the city do not have any other option but throw away the rubbish on the ground, near residential buildings. Thus piles of garbage are building up around houses, along the streets, close to hospitals and schools. It is a mixture of rubble, discards, glass, plastic bags and food remains, which makes these spots a potential starting point of an epidemic, particularly in case of children who pass their spare time in the street. Moreover, these places serve as a source of food for cows, dogs, cats and rats transmitting diseases.

The post-war destruction of the municipal sewage system makes it impossible to use the existing public and private sanitary facilities. As a result, the people build provisional and spontaneous "latrines", which do not meet sanitary standards. These places have not been cleansed for the last three years. The content matter penetrates into soil and water and contaminates the latter.

The increasing volume of medical waste presents one of the most serious sanitary problems in Grozny. The incineration units for utilization of hospital waste were destroyed during the war and have not been reconstructed yet.

According to the monitoring carried out by PHO in 19 hospital of Grozny, medical waste (used medicines, dressings, minor body organs, needles, syringes) is partly burned up in dug pits. The remains are buried or disposed of together with garbage. Due to inadequate waste utilisation, sometimes it gets carried away by dogs around areas adjacent to hospitals. This presents a potential epidemiological threat for patients, visitors and the neighbouring residential building, particularly in the summer when the waste becomes a nutrient medium for flies and mosquitoes.

The research of the Sanitary and Epidemiological Station carried out in November 2001 revealed that the number of children infected with intestine virus increased by six times.

### **3.1.2. Goals**

- Redeploy water bladders from regions that have access to water (Mikrorejion, Leninsky, Oktiabrsky) to areas that are completely lacking artesian wells or where water is contaminated with crude oil.
- Focus on opportunities to increase water supply for the public sector, i.e. for hospitals, schools and kindergartens, in view of their growing numbers.
- Ensure supply of drinking water for refugees returning to Grozny.
- Regularly test the quality of filtered water in the bladders and water cisterns through two sanitary stations in Grozny and Nazran.
- Carry out a monitoring campaign among the local community regarding the quality of water supplied by PHO, citizens' responsibility for bladders located in their neighbourhood and free access to filtered water.
- Remove accumulated waste from areas surrounding schools and hospitals.
- Regularly remove garbage and faecal matter, primarily from the public sector.
- Dismantle the existing toilets, build new ones in hospitals, schools and maintain them in clean condition.
- Implement and launch a medical waste utilisation system: build and operate hospital incineration facilities, train local staff on operation and hygiene principles.

### **3.1.3. Implemented actions**

#### **• January**

Continued supply of filtered drinking water for inhabitants, monitoring campaign among about 700 inhabitants of Grozny.

#### **• February**

Removal of rubble and garbage from 4 areas adjacent to hospitals in Grozny, purchase of 120 garbage containers (outdoor), each with capacity of 1 cu.m. Deployment of 100 containers in 25 locations near hospitals, garbage truck received from UNHCR.

#### **• March**

Garbage truck starts operation in the public sector of the city.

#### **• April**

Toilet cleansing in Grozny, hiring hospital staff members to disinfect and keep the new toilets in clean condition, distribution of approx. 17 thousand plastic water containers and 4.5 thousand buckets among inhabitants of Grozny.

#### **• May**

Purchase of metal and plastic buckets, brushes, shovels and plastic bags, and distributing them to the largest hospitals in the city.

#### **• June**

Training on sanitary standards provided to 25 employees of Grozny hospitals.

#### **• September**

Construction of 8 toilets in two schools of Grozny started and completed.

#### **• October**

Construction of 10 incineration units in 9 hospital locations, preceded with monitoring of sanitary situation in hospitals, signing of agreements with hospital management for construction and location of incineration facilities and hiring construction brigade, training employees in operation of the incineration facility.

#### **• November – December**

Inspection of operation of the incineration facilities by sanitary and epidemiological stations in Grozny.

### **3.1.4. Results**

Direct results: access to free drinking water, improved sanitary and epidemiological situation in the health care sector, increased awareness among patients and doctors.

- 150 water distribution points in the public and private sector (30 at educational institutions, 29 at hospitals and clinics and 91 in the private sector)
- 440 thousand litres of water supplied on average each day to inhabitants of Grozny. In 2002 PHO delivered 14,140 cu.m of water to the public sector (hospitals and schools) and 123,162 cu.m of water for inhabitants of Grozny
- improved quality of drinking water
- 48 new latrines
- on average 167 cu.m of garbage and 80 cu.m of faecal matter disposed of weekly
- introduction of waste management aspects in health care institutions
- 10 new incinerators for utilisation of hospital waste in 9 locations.

### **3.1.5. Partners**

Cooperation with Partners in project implementation consists in:

- content input and consultations – local administration of Grozny, managements of hospitals and schools covered by the programme, sanitary and epidemiological services, Wodnokanal water and sewage utility, WHO
- logistic support (e.g. facilitated circulation of cisterns distributing water, garbage truck and waste removal truck around Grozny, or delivery of materials to construction sites),
- material support – UNHCR (providing 6 cistern trucks and a garbage truck, water bladders), ICRC (pumps, tankers), UNICEF (water containers, bladders).

### **3.1.6. Sources of financing**

The programmes in Chechnya were funded primarily (90% of the funds) from a UNICEF grant and from own resources of the organisation. In total, USD 663,979.19 was spent on programme activities.

## **3.2. PHO Assistance Program in Afghanistan**

### **– PHO Field Mission**

PHO mission in Kabul was established in June 2002. Its task is to rebuild and fit out the Music and Arts School in Kabul. The reconstruction work started in September 2002.

#### **3.2.1. Need**

The key objective of the project is to restore the Afghanistan's culture, which was devastated by both 23-year war and the Talibs. The destroyed infrastructure needs to be rebuilt and the refurbished educational and cultural centres have to be provided with equipment necessary for development of talented Afghani children and youth. The talented children and youth should have opportunity to pursue their education and develop skills in such areas as Afghani music, painting, drawing, ceramics, design, miniature, calligraphy or embroidery. Acquiring these skills is not only a means of artistic growth, but also provides an opportunity to learn a profession, and thus earn one's living.

#### **3.2.2. Goals**

- reconstruct and fit out the only one Music and Arts Secondary School in Afghanistan
- provide individual departments of the school with equipment and materials necessary to run specialized classes
- encourage artistically endowed boys and girls to enrol in the school
- improve teachers' skills.

#### **3.2.3. Implemented actions**

Between November 2001 and March 2002 the initiative "One Zloty for Children in Afghanistan" was carried out in Poland. The total collected amount reached USD 75,480.80. With this money the assistance programme in Afghanistan could be launched. In March 2002, Polish Humanitarian



Organisation sent out a reconnaissance mission which established contacts and assessed situation of schools. In June, a permanent PHO mission was established in Kabul.

In July, PHO signed an agreement with the Ministry of National Education of Afghanistan, in which the organisation undertook to rebuild the Music and Arts School in Kabul. The technical documentation was also prepared. In August, the tender for performance of construction works was announced. Out of 17 bidders a local construction company OMARI was selected as the one that presented the best bid. The company undertook to take care of rebuilding the main building, latrines, the warehouse, the caretaker's lodge, water tank, as well as reconstruction of the walls and tidying up the sports ground. Furthermore, an agreement was signed with UNDP concerning co-financing of the reconstruction.

The construction work started on 14 September, 2002. The site was cleared and the rubble was removed by the British CIMIC – Civil-Military Cooperation. By December 2002, 95% of the works described in the contract with OMARI were completed.

The school was also provided with basic supplies: the President of Poland, Aleksander Kwaśniewski visited the school on 23 October, 2002 and donated paper materials, easels and canvas stretchers. The Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs donated paper materials, and the British CIMIC – paper materials and paints.

#### **3.2.4. Results**

- The only Music and Arts Secondary School in Afghanistan will reopen in March 2003 (beginning of the school year). The process of recruiting students already started. The school will be attended by 200 students – talented boys and girls from all over Afghanistan.
- PHO Mission implemented the first project in Kabul. The acquired experience, information and contacts will facilitate implementation of further projects. There were 3 persons from Poland stationed in the Kabul mission: 2 staff members and 1 volunteer.
- The activity of the mission enjoys positive reception and reviews from the authorities of Afghanistan and the international humanitarian community
- The public in Poland, international organisations, and even another country – collection of donations for the school organised in Bulgaria, were successfully involved in the aid initiative.

#### **3.2.5. Sources of funding**

Collections: initiative titled “One Zloty for Children in Afghanistan” (Nov. 2001 – Mar.2002): USD 75 480,80

#### **3.2.6. Grants**

UNDP-Recovery and Employment Afghanistan Programme: agreement of 13.08.2002: reconstruction co-financing (USD 16,244).

#### **3.2.7. Volunteers**

The following volunteers were stationed at the mission in Kabul between August and December 2002:

- 03-04.2002 – translator of Farsi and Persian language, member of the reconnaissance visit
- 06-07.2002 – construction engineer responsible for preparation of the technical documentation for reconstruction of the school
- 08-12.2002 – programme assistant who helped in project implementation
- Additional volunteers helped to manage the Afghan mission from the Warsaw office: 1 Afghani engineer who helped to develop the technical documentation, 2 translators, 1 person responsible for documentation of mission activities, 1 person assisting the mission coordinator.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Humanitarian Assistance: Helping the victims of structural poverty**

This section describes “The Wooden Puppet” supplementary feeding campaign. The program focuses on Poland but PHO has been running a similar initiative in Lithuania, and the relevant report is also included.

#### **4.1. Supplementary feeding project –“The Wooden Puppet”**

The “The Wooden Puppet” project is a supplementary feeding scheme conducted at schools, mainly in the areas where state-owned cooperative farms used to operate. The project has been on PHO’s agenda since 1998. Supplementary feeding scheme features daily distribution of meals among children from poor families.

Most funds for “The Wooden Puppet” came from a nationwide fundraising campaign run by the Warsaw PHO Office. Additionally the local PHO offices have organized public collections in their hometowns.

##### **4.1.1. Need**

Polish Humanitarian Organisation decided to provide supplementary meals for children at schools and after-school activity clubs recognising that the budgets allocated for this purpose by local authorities were and continue to be insufficient. In every school there are children (though their exact number has not been determined as yet) who come to classes without having had their breakfast, and later in the day they do not have a chance to get any hot meal.

##### **4.1.2. Goals**

The overall objective of “The Wooden Puppet” programme is to provide supplementary feeding to the largest possible number of needy children in Polish schools.

Other goals include:

- Supporting schools in their pupil-oriented efforts (additional foreign language classes, remedial, correctional and compensatory classes, individual tutoring, interest groups, school newsletters, sports classes, extended day care, charity events, involving parents and local institutions in school life) and encouraging them to attract “friends” to support these activities
- Creating opportunities for teachers to participate in training on open society development
- Organisation of events and projects associated with the core programme to ensure involvement of the school and the children in local community work
- Promotion of schools affiliated to the programme and their didactic and educational syllabuses.

##### **4.1.3. Where is “The Wooden Puppet” programme executed?**

In many regions of Poland, entire families have been out of work for many months or, in some cases, even years and the children in these families suffer from malnutrition. In areas where collective farms were closed down it is not uncommon to see the unemployment rate reach even 80%. Local authorities, despite being obliged by law to operate food programs, do not attend to all children in need because of tight budgets and rigid eligibility criteria. PHO strives to fill in this gap, or at least a small part of it.

##### **4.1.4. Guiding principles of “The Wooden Puppet” programme**

The supplementary feeding is provided to children in difficult life situation who for various reasons do not have a chance of getting any assistance from local welfare centres. The supplementary meals are distributed exclusively through schools and activity clubs. PHO pays for meals prepared in these locations.

#### **4.1.5. School selection and children recruitment procedure**

The information about the programme rules and the application forms are sent out to interested schools. Based on the received information (technical conditions in the school, its social environment, number of children and the cost of one meal) PHO decides on the value of the grant. An agreement is signed between PHO and the school. It includes a name list of children to be covered by the program and the terms of money transfer. The list of names is not available to the public (only for PHO internal use), in order to protect the privacy of the children. PHO has the right to monitor the program (information and expenses).

#### **4.1.6. Implementation of “The Wooden Puppet” programme in year 2002**

##### **School recruitment**

In January 2002, a committee composed of 3 members allocated the available budget of about 260,400.00 USD for supplementary feeding in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the school year 2001-2002, in 62 additional schools. Among the locations that received grants there were also schools from areas affected by floods in Summer 2001. Accordingly, in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the school year 2001-2002, supplementary meals were provided to 4,903 pupils in 116 schools in 12 voivodships.

In August 2002 the programme committee appropriated the amount of approx. USD 170 thousand for supplementary feeding in the school year 2002-2003. It was decided that free meals would be provided to 1,767 pupils in 46 schools in 9 voivodships. Overall number of meals co-sponsored by the end of 2002 reached 85 thousand.

##### **Inspections at schools**

In June 2002 employees and volunteers from the Torun office of PHO carried out inspections of programme implementation in 26 schools, which had not been previously inspected. The visits consisted of interviews with headmasters, teachers, and, occasionally, parents, as well as employees responsible for catering and accounting. Each inspection was concluded with drafting a protocol and a report.

##### **Wooden Puppet Football Championship**

On 11 April, 2002 the first games marked the inauguration of the Wooden Puppet Football Championship. The tournament gathered 18 schools affiliated to the programme and representing Warminsko-Mazurskie, Malopolskie and Podkarpackie voivodships. The quarter-finals and semi-finals were held in parallel and selected two finalist teams: the Grammar School in Banie Mazurskie and the Grammar School in Szczawa. The final match was played on 18 May 2002 on the sports ground of Legia football club in Warsaw and preceded a game between the national teams of Poland and Estonia. The winner of the Wooden Puppet Football Championship was the team of the Grammar School in Banie Mazurskie. The event inspired proactive attitudes among local communities – the inhabitants and local authorities got involved in organisation of the tournaments. For the children, the participation in such a prominent undertaking was a thrilling experience and the trip to Warsaw – an extraordinary reward.

##### **“Children for the Wooden Puppet”**

“Children for the Wooden Puppet” initiative was launched before Christmas. Pupils from the affiliated schools organised fairs, lotteries and auctions of art works and home-baked cakes for their colleagues and parents, and then paid all or a part of the proceeds to the Wooden Puppet account.

##### **Other initiatives**

In February 2002 the kitchen and canteen in the primary school in Przydonica were equipped. The facilities had been destroyed by floods and were reconstructed thanks to a donation of USD 17,257.86 received from the employees and management of Philips Consumer Electronics Industries Poland Sp.z o.o

On March 9-10, 2002, training for 20 rural teachers from Warminsko-Mazurskie voivodship was held for the second time in Primary School No. 3 in Goldap. The training was run by Pomeranian Office of PHO (grant from Batory Foundation of USD 1,422.32) and prepared volunteers of the Wooden Puppet programme to raise funds for local community activities.

In addition, the schools affiliated to the programme received IT equipment (initiative titled "A Computer for the Wooden Puppet"). Thanks to sponsoring companies MSD and Kosmepol and the support from BRD and Microsoft, 60 computers reached children in Wisniowo Elckie, Brodnica, Torun, Obrowo, Rydzewo and Dzierzaniny.

#### **4.1.7. Sources of funding**

The value of collections in 2002 was USD 642,793.36. Out of this amount, USD 343,504.75 was spent, of which USD 280,148.38 for supplementary meals and kitchen and canteen equipment, and USD 63,356.37 for programme support.

The funds for supplementary meals come from corporate donors (donation agreements), from payroll deductions in companies (employees and companies), from revenues generated through the Polish Hunger Site ([www.pajacyk.pl](http://www.pajacyk.pl)) and from individual donations.

#### **Agreements with corporate donors**

PHO works together with multiple companies. In case of the Wooden Puppet programme, the relationships are often long-standing ones (including Unilever Polska SA, Nestle Polska, Pliva Kraków, Pryzmat Sp. z o.o., NESTA-BIS, Totalizator Sportowy, Bank BZ WBK S.A., IMS Poland Sp. z o.o., Volkswagen, BP). Payroll deductions for the Wooden Puppet programme were effected by Nestle, BISE and ING Group.

#### **Initiatives supporting the Wooden Puppet programme**

In May and June 2002, Gazeta Bankowa and Life+ organised a collection of funds within the insurance community with the slogan "Insurance Agents for the Wooden Puppet". In August 2002, the Municipal Centre of Culture in Tychy organised a concert of sailors' songs for the benefit of the programme.

#### **"Christmas Table of the Wooden Puppet" – initiative of Krakow PHO Office**

As a part of the initiative, on 8 December 2002, restaurants, pubs and hotels in Krakow supported the Wooden Puppet programme by donating 10% of their revenues on that day. The initiative was undertaken jointly with all Krakow media. Promotional television and radio spots with Janina Ochojska were recorded and a poster was produced and distributed to location that decided to take part in the initiative. Overall, 68 restaurants and pubs from Krakow signed up. Eventually, we received payments from 45 restaurants for total value of USD 1 786,80.

#### **Polish Hunger Site – [www.pajacyk.pl](http://www.pajacyk.pl)**

On 19 February 2001 the Foundation launched the Polish Hunger Site [www.pajacyk.pl](http://www.pajacyk.pl) which is meant to collect funds for the food program and provide information on the Wooden Puppet campaign. The site features banners inserted by the Wooden Puppet sponsors. This is the way of rewarding companies that have supported the campaign with major contributions. One donation is equivalent to the cost of meals for one child throughout the school year. Since its creation, the site has been enjoying a great interest and popularity among Internet users. Currently, about 15 thousand people access it each day.

As of 15 July 2002, with the establishment of the Friends of PHO Association, companies can advertise by placing a banner in the Wooden Puppet site. The income goes to the Wooden Puppet programme. Each day the site is visited 15 thousand times, and the total number of Internet users who clicked on the Wooden Puppet's belly reached 6,066,912 by 31 December 2002. Between 1 January and 31 December, 2002 the Polish Hunger Site generated USD 12,890.63.

During year 2002 there were 27 companies appearing in the Wooden Puppet site.

## **4.2. Assistance in Lithuania**

### **4.2.1. Supplementary feeding programs in Lithuania's schools**

The program has been carried out since March 1997 and consists in funding and distribution of hot meals for school children from poor families. The program covers those who, for various reasons, are unable to properly substantiate their actual poor financial standing, as well as other families whose income per person only marginally exceeds the minimum level.

In 2002 the programme covered 14 schools and 117 children in Solechnicky region with the spending value of USD 20 239,74. Due to insufficient cash inflow, the meal funding was suspended in October 2002. Should the necessary funds become available, the effort will be continued.

#### **4.2.2. Convoy to Lithuania**

On 19 March, 2002, Polish Humanitarian Organisation dispatched its eight shipment with aid for schools in Lithuania. The goods were received by Solechnicky Department of Education – a long-standing partner of PHO in implementation of assistance programmes for schools. The shipment included books (about 3,000), maps and atlases, binders and copybooks and 760 satchels. All goods were donated by private companies and publishers. Total value of donations – USD 432,21.

## Chapter 5

### Helping the refugees and repatriates

This chapter includes report on the Refugee Counselling Centre, assisting the refugees in Poland as well as the Repatriate Integration Program addressed to the Poles from Kazakhstan.

#### 5.1. Refugee Counselling Centre

Poland acceded the Geneva Convention on Refugees only in 1991. From that moment on, the country began adaptation of its legal and social system the new international obligations. Despite protracted efforts of both the government, the UNHCR representative and NGOs, no comprehensive and efficient refugee treatment system has been developed to date. Many foreigners still do not know their rights, do not know how to avail themselves of the same, or are prevented from doing so.

The lack of lodging, serious difficulties in finding employment, low and irregularly paid wages are among the most severe problems of those who receive refugee status. The fact that the same problems also afflict millions of Poles comes of little comfort to them. Since Poland adhered to the Convention, almost 27 thousand foreigners (including citizens of the US, France and Germany!) had applied for, and 1,540 were actually granted, the refugee status.

##### 5.1.1. Basic social assistance

In 2002 there were about 400 new people requesting assistance for the first time, including foreigners who received or were currently seeking the refugee status and foreigners trying to legalise their stay in Poland. Out of those newly signed up ones, 220 people received our assistance each month.

Citizens of the Russian Federation of Chechen nationality	97 persons	44.1%
Citizens of Afghanistan	27 persons	12.3%
Citizens of Ukraine	27 persons	12.3%

The remaining ones included citizens of Belarus, Russian Federation, Armenia, Georgia, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Congo, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Pakistan, Bosnia, Moldova and other countries.

##### 5.1.2. Basic social and legal counselling

RCC provides foreigners with legal counselling and information on their rights and obligations. Thanks to the donations granted by UNHCR and a network of medical practitioners-volunteers, RCC is also able to provide medical care. Furthermore, RCC mediates between refugees and state officials, assists in preparation of documents and exchange of letters.

##### 5.1.3. Integration programme

Integration programme is available for refugees with legal refugee status. In 2002 it covered 225 recognised refugees. As a part of the programme, 11 flats were rented for the refugees. The yearly cost of rent was USD 41,435.35. In total, 64 refugees benefited from the flats in 2002.

In 2002, PHO signed agreements with two language schools for classes of Polish language, which were attended by 47 recognised refugees.

##### 5.1.4. Integration activity club

Programmes for 40 refugee children in the age of 3 to 14 years were carried out throughout the year in Warsaw. The children were meeting at the club 2-3 times a month, on Saturdays. Art classes and educational activities at the club were organised by 8 volunteers – WSPS students and graduates.

### **5.1.5. Integration summer camp for little refugees**

The participants of the integration summer camp included 37 refugee children (from Chechnya, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia, Somalia, Liberia and Guinea) and 9 volunteers of the PHO children integration programme. The activity program was full of excursions; the children visited Krakow, Wieliczka, Nowy Sącz, enjoyed rafting down Dunajec river, mountain hiking and other sports.

The summer camp was funded by UNHCR USD 1,249.59), from a grant received from "SOS" Foundation (USD 2,083.33) and a donation from Coty (USD 1,427.50 in 2001) and the proceeds from art auction held by PHO in June 2001 (USD 422.40). Total cost of children's travel and stay in the integration summer camp amounted to USD 5,182.82. The average cost of travel and stay per person was USD 112,66.

### **5.1.6. Individual work with children**

Five volunteer students provided individual care for 14 school age children of refugee. Seven of them were children of the residents of the Refugee Shelter, the other seven live on their own with their families. The role of the volunteers is to help in doing homework, contacting the school, language exercises, organising joint games and excursions.

### **5.1.7. Integration activity club**

Integration activity club for adult refugees has been operating since the beginning of 2002. The idea is based on the "Refugee Clubs" programme implemented jointly with the Hungarian organisation "Menedek" and financed from PHARE-Access and partly from UNHCR budget. Adult refugees could attend free Polish classes, learn to use the computer, receive specialist assistance in job searching, read Polish and foreign newspapers or borrow books; they also could use a sewing machine or meet together and talk over a cup of coffee or tea. In the new location, this offering was broadened with English classes. All activities at the club are conducted by PHO volunteers. In December 2002, the club started to hold regular monthly meetings of refugee-women.

### **5.1.8. Refugee Shelter**

In 2002, Refugee Shelter at Marywilka Street 44 was functioning thanks to donations from the Department of Social Affairs at Mazovian Voivodship Office and UNHCR. The residents of the Refugee Shelter take care of basic maintenance themselves. They also organised a Christmas party for all RS friends and representatives of institutions involved in RS project: UNHCR, Department of Social Affairs at Mazovian Voivodship Office, Helsinki Human Rights Foundation and PHO. As a result of the extensive refurbishment work and equipment provided for the Refugee Shelter in 2001, the monthly cost of living per resident of the Refugee Shelter was significantly reduced and in 2002 was USD 85.72. In 2002 there were, on average, 26 residents from Chechnya, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Lebanon, Pakistan and Palestine.

### **5.1.9. Refugee Day**

On 16 June, 2002 the usual concert and picnic was held to celebrate the International Refugee Day. The event was organised jointly by UNHCR and PAH. The advertising agency TESTARDO-BATES designed and produced posters and information leaflets free of charge. The event took place in the Agrykola park in the centre of Warsaw. We estimate the turnout at about 10,000 guests. As usually the occasion evoked strong media interest in the issues concerning refugees in Poland. In the "debate" tent there was a meeting between Janina Ochojska and a journalist of Rzeczpospolita daily dedicated to the situation in Chechnya and the operation of PHO mission in Nazran. At the same time the refugee day was celebrated in all cities where PHO offices or volunteer groups exist. At the Gallery-Club "Kuriozum" in Krakow there was a reception to mark the opening of an exhibition of photographs and UNHCR posters from the "Refugee's Suitcase" educational package. The exhibition was held between 8 and 26 June, 2002.

### **5.1.10. Refugee Guide**

In view of frequent changes in legal regulations concerning foreigners, including those relevant to refugees in Poland, and taking into account the alignment of the Polish immigration regulations with EU legislation expected in 2003, we started publishing a new guide for refugees.

With a subvention from the Mazovian Voivodship Office (USD 3,906.25) and the UNHCR agreement, we could prepare, print and translate to Russian and English language a brochure with selection of the current legislation that is most relevant to refugees. Also, a binder was produced (3,000 pieces), which we expect to fill up in 2003 with further brochures to inform refugees on their rights and obligations, as well as the opportunities emerging for them in Poland.

### **5.1.11. Co-operation**

The Refugee Counselling Centre is a member of ECRE (European Council for Refugees and Migrants). It participates in the Migration Policy Forum – a network of organisations dealing with migration issues established by Migration Policy Group from Brussels, and in the activities of the governmental task force that prepares the implementation of the EQUAL programme of the European Community (combating discrimination in the labour market). It also takes part in activities of the joint working party that develops the “National Programme Against Social Exclusion”.

## **5.2. Repatriate Integration Programmes**

As demonstrated by the survey carried out by PHO among the newcomers from Kazakhstan, the repatriates are faced with a number of problems in Poland. Lacking basic knowledge of the Polish law and access to essential information, and due to poor command of the Polish language, repatriates are prone to become a socially excluded group, even though they are granted Polish citizenship on arrival. They are still experiencing problems with finding a job also find it difficult to interact socially. PHO Programme is designed to support their integration with the mainstream society, and make this process less painful for the repatriates. So far, in the framework of the program, a repatriate handbook has been published and a family support project has been undertaken.

### **5.2.1. “Support Volunteers” Project**

The project is aimed to prepare the repatriates and their families to living in Poland and integrate them into the Polish society. PHO performs a coordination role and provides content support for the project. PHO trains the volunteers who work together with repatriate families. By December 2002, 10 repatriate families and 10 volunteers took part in the project. The volunteers assisted, among other things, with day-to-day contacts with officials, helped the families learn Polish, establish contacts in professional communities, find a school or university matching the interests of the repatriates, obtain a disability benefit, and made sure that all tax payments were on time. Using their personal contacts the volunteers managed to find jobs for 6 repatriates. The volunteers and repatriate families participated in social and cultural life. Together, they visited museums, went to the theatre, organised trips to places of historic interest and hiking excursions. The project funding came entirely from PHO public collections.

### **5.2.2. Adaptation courses for repatriates**

Between 15 November and 22 December 2002, adaptation courses for repatriates in Warsaw were organised by PHO jointly with the Higher School of Social Psychology and on request of the Ministry of National Education and Sport. The courses were addressed to repatriates and their families from Mazowieckie voivodship, who came to Poland as repatriates after November 2000. The total cost of the courses amounted to USD 21,786.46 and was covered in full by the Ministry. The number of participants totalled 115 repatriates. The 40-hour agenda covered:

- Sessions with lawyers concerning, among other things: employment, unemployment, welfare assistance, social insurance, health care, assistance for repatriates.
- Sessions with cross-cultural psychologists on communication and assertiveness
- Sessions with experts in Polish history and culture on the latest history of Poland and Polish customs.

The course was free of charge. The organisers provided food, reimbursement of travel cost and accommodation for the participants. There were 15 persons conducting the sessions and 30 students of the Higher School of Social Psychology helped the organisers with the course logistics.



## **Chapter 6**

# **Humanitarian Education Program**

This chapter presents a report on the humanitarian Education Program, launched in the 1994 and aimed at working with the youth towards development of an open and helping society.

### **6.1. The need for humanitarian education**

It was only recently (since 1989) that Poland became a free country where serious human rights violations do not take place and where ordinary citizens do not have to rely on humanitarian aid from Western Europe or the USA to help them survive. Since the Poles, having relied themselves on such aid for many years, do not have an established humanitarian aid tradition, the emerging non-governmental organizations have difficulty finding volunteers.

### **6.2. Goals and practice of humanitarian education**

Since 1993, when PHO was founded, it has been our goal to instil a sense of responsibility and democracy in Polish society. The Humanitarian Education is a program that offers interactive workshops, encourages free expression through writing, and creates opportunities to gain hands-on experience through participation in PHO's humanitarian campaigns.

At the core of the Humanitarian Education Program is the belief that young people can take an active role in shaping their society. In order to prepare them for such a role, we organise various educational events providing information about the necessity of humanitarian aid, particularly in areas affected by war or natural disasters or stricken by poverty. Through this kind of education we are building tolerance and fighting prejudices and stereotypes.

### **6.3. Humanitarian Education Program description**

Through its Humanitarian Education Program, PHO has created opportunities for teachers and students alike to learn and benefit from new developments in educational theory. For more than six years now, we have been striving to create a responsible, open and caring society.

The Humanitarian Education program is centered primarily around schools and offers special programs for teachers and their students. In our work we also target and collaborate with volunteers and other organisations.

PHO program aims to encourage more group-work during school lessons, more space for individual student creativity, and the use of new technologies within schools and universities. Through workshops, we introduce teachers to new teaching concepts and techniques, which are easy to integrate into the existing curriculum. We provide the teachers with access to new resources, especially those addressing the issues of refugees, tolerance and humanitarian aid in general.

### **6.4. A network of PHO trainers-volunteers**

Since 1999 r. a nationwide network of PHO trainers-volunteers has been operating. Their task is to run workshops in schools and in youth centres in their hometowns. In 2001, PHO reached approximately 10 thousand young people in Poland through this network. This group organises, among other things, workshops, seminars, educational projects, events and awareness campaigns. The workshops are aimed at primary, lower and upper secondary school students. In total, 243 workshops took place in 2002. The most frequent themes were:

- "Racism – an everyday problem" - 109 sessions
- "Human dignity – a cliché or a fundamental right" – 7 sessions
- "The volunteer – the hero of our times" – 10 sessions
- "Refugees" – 22 sessions,
- "Human Rights" – 12 sessions
- "Humanitarian aid for Afghanistan" (as part of the "One Zloty for the Children of Afghanistan" project) – 9 sessions,

In November, the fourth training course for trainers-volunteers was held. The four-day session was attended by 15 volunteers. The training was made possible by a donation from Levi Strauss Polska.

### **6.5. “Humanitarianism” – an optional school subject**

In the framework of incorporating humanitarian education into school curricula, PHO has developed a new school subject called “Humanitarianism”. Since June 2001, PHO offers the handbook “Humanitarianism”.

In the handbook the teachers and students can find 19 lesson scenarios divided into three themes: human rights, tolerance, and social activity. The handbook was published thanks to the donation from the Ministry of Education. In 2002 PHO sent out the handbook with scenarios to 1,090 teachers from all over Poland. The teachers who actively participate in “Humanitarianism” proposed new issues to be covered: unemployment, drug-addiction, AIDS, euthanasia, helping the elderly, corruption. The teachers also suggested use of the Internet in the program.

### **6.6. Teachers training**

Since February 2000, PHO has been training teachers who are willing to run humanitarian education workshops. In 2002, PHO organized 12 training sessions for 282 teachers.

### **6.7. “Humanitarian School” – pilot project**

In 2002, a pilot project titled “Humanitarian School” was implemented in two grammar schools in Warsaw. The schools committed to carry out a number of charity and humanitarian initiatives during one semester. Both schools demonstrated excellent performance and were awarded the title of Humanitarian School. This involved leaving a permanent mark in the school premises to commemorate the project implementation and encourage younger classes to its continuation. The award of the Humanitarian School title was accompanied by a ceremony that recognised the effort of pupils and teachers.

Each school:

- developed a Humanitarian School Code which was signed by teachers and pupils,
- held training sessions for teachers,
- conducted lessons based on the scenarios proposed by the PHO humanitarian education programme,
- created humanitarianism library,
- held a meeting of pupils with Janina Ochojska.

### **6.8. “We Are Helping” modern volunteer magazine**

A free volunteer magazine titled “Pomagamy” (We Are Helping) is being published by PHO. The main goal is to encourage young people to effort for the benefit of those in need and inform about opportunities to provide assistance. In 2002, one edition of the magazine was issued in 3,000 copies. The printing and distribution costs were covered by the U.S. Embassy.

In 2002, an Internet site of the magazine was created at [www.pomagamy.pl](http://www.pomagamy.pl). Its content was gradually expanded and as of April the team started to regularly publish articles on humanitarian issues. The audience was constantly growing and by November it reached 3,126 unique users per month. The site became one of the best Polish sources of information on humanitarian topics available in 2002. We see more and more websites publishing the content from our magazine.

### **6.9. We are helping in English**

“We are helping in English” is an educational website developed by PHO in cooperation with Pearson Education Poland. Its aim is to combine teaching English with humanitarian topics. Throughout 2002 a team of volunteers was working on the project. The underlying idea is to encourage young people who learn English to develop interest in issues related to humanitarian aid, human rights, refugees, tolerance and volunteer work. In January 2003, an Internet service will be launched at <http://angielski.pomagamy.pl>

### **6.10. Youth initiatives**

The main youth initiative undertaken in 2002 as a part of the Humanitarian Education Programme was the PHO's joining of the initiative undertaken by "Never More" Society, which consisted in collection of signatures under a petition to the Chairman of the Polish Football Association regarding racist behaviours at stadiums.

In response to PHO appeal, over 17 thousand signatures were collected in 93 schools, which, together with 10 signatures collected by "Never More" Society, were sent to the Chairman of the Polish Football Association in October 2002.

Another youth initiative with educational aspects was "One Zloty for the Children in Afghanistan". As a part of PHO educational activity, lesson scenarios on humanitarian situation in Afghanistan were developed and distributed to 2,000 schools.

### **6.11. "Bridge" Project**

In 2002, implementation of "Bridge" project was undertaken to familiarise young people with Jewish culture and act against anti-Semitism in Poland. In June the project was presented to representatives of Jewish organisations. As a part of the project, class scenarios on Jewish issues and a set of other educational materials were developed.

### **6.12. Volunteers**

Most activities within the Humanitarian Education Programme are carried out by volunteers. They are involved at every stage of individual projects. Many ongoing initiatives (such as the trainer-volunteers network) are executed with participation of volunteers from different parts of the country. It is estimated, that about 90 volunteers worked permanently for the Humanitarian Education Programme in 2002. In addition, several dozens of them were working on ad-hoc basis.

## Chapter 7

### Those who help PHO: volunteers and companies

This chapter provides information on PHO volunteers and companies co-operating with PHO, including the strategic donors.

#### 7.1. Volunteering with PHO

There are people of various ages, backgrounds, skills, knowledge and experience among PHO volunteers. PHO initiatives are supported by school youth, college students, pensioners as well as active professionals, top class experts, IT specialists, translators, lawyers, artists and others. Some volunteers get involved in short-term projects that require more people, while others work with PHO on continuous basis and coordinate various programs or co-operate with project officers. All PHO activities are supported by large numbers of volunteers.

Working together on partnership terms in an age-diversified environment is enriching for both the young and the elderly ones. Volunteering is not only inherent to the philosophy of PHO work but it is also a necessity. Without volunteers PHO would not be able to carry through most of its projects. The difference between a PHO employee and a PHO volunteer consists merely in the fact of being vs. not being remunerated. All other rules and principles concerning scope of responsibilities, authority, etc. are alike.

#### 7.2. Fundraising Department

The task of the Fundraising Department is to win donations of cash, services and goods for PHO initiatives. Commercial companies are the primary source of funding.

The main objective of the fundraising department is to gain regular supporters and donors for PHO initiatives that agree to co-operate either on a given programme or by making regular contributions to cover the ongoing administrative expenses of the organization. Strategic Donor of PHO is a title awarded to companies that regularly contribute sums toward administrative expenses incurred by PHO.

Payments to the foundation's account are made by private individuals and companies. In 2002, the total value of payments made to PHO account was USD 1,151,290.47.

#### Companies

At present there are 6 Strategic Donors of PHO:

- **Schenker Sp. z o.o.** – leases a warehouse in Warsaw free of charge, co-operation since 1997– value in 2002 – USD 13,018.16
- **PTK Centertel Sp. z o.o.** – provides 14 mobile phones for free use including monthly allowance of 480 minutes, co-operation since February 1999 (Value in 2002 – 6,729 min. = USD 1,458.33 per month, USD 17,500.00 p.a.)
- **Servisco Sp. z o.o.** – provides free freight services in the entire territory of Poland. Agreement signed in 1996; value of services donated in 2002 – USD 12,239.58
- **TUIR WARTA S.A.** – provides full insurance coverage of PHO activities, both in and outside Poland. Value of discounts USD 1,079.51 and donation from Warta Foundation – USD 2,343.75.
- **PLL LOT S.A.** – each year sponsors a package of free LOT airline tickets for PHO staff – value USD 13,020.83.
- **Deloitte&Touche Sp. z o.o.** – conducted financial and organisational audit of PHO, value of services USD 70,000.

### **Collection of bonus-points for lunch meals at British Petrol stations – “BP Partnerclub” program**

Co-operation with BP for the benefit of the “Wooden Puppet” project started in June 2000. BP Partnerclub program offers a possibility of receiving various gifts for the points collected when filling up at the BP stations. Since 2000, instead of exchanging the collected points for gifts, BP clients can choose to donate them to the “Wooden Puppet” campaign. 100 BP points equal one lunch meal for one “Wooden Puppet” sponsored child. The amount collected in PHO account in 2002 was USD 79,349.61.

### **Inter Mind Company – “Give the Emptied One to the Wooden Puppet” campaign**

Inter Mind Company deals, among others, with recycling of used laser printer cartridges. In December 2000, Inter Mind signed an agreement with PHO on transferring part of its profit from the products sold in January 2001 and proposed financial support in exchange for help in collection of used laser printer cartridges. In 2002 the company contributed USD 22,916.67.

### **Unilever Polska SA**

Selected brands such as Delma margarine and Saga tea were labelled with the Wooden Puppet and PHO logos. A part of the profits from sales of these products was contributed to the Wooden Puppet account. The co-operation lasted during the entire year 2002.

### **Publishing House Nowa Era Sp. z o.o.**

A part of the profits from sales of school handbooks through the direct channel was contributed to the Wooden Puppet account. The value of contribution received in 2002 was USD 20,833.33.

### **Credit Suisse Asset Management Sp. z o.o.**

The company contributed USD 3,776.04 for organisation of the Wooden Puppet Football Championship in May 2002.

### **Bank Zachodni WBK SA**

Since October 2002 Bank Zachodni WBK SA., to make its easier for its customers to make payments to the Wooden Puppet campaign, has implemented a modern web-based payment mechanism called [Przelew24](#). It enables direct money transfer from the customer's account to PHO account, without the hassle of filling out the transfer form. Bank Zachodni WBK SA. does not charge any fees for transactions performed with Przelew24. In 2002, the value of contributions was USD 7,031.25.

### **Initiative “No longer hungry thanks to your shopping” in Geant Shopping Centres**

PHO involved Apsys Polska, a company that manages 14 shopping centres in Poland, and owners of shops located in those centres in a joined initiative of fund collection for the Wooden Puppet. Between 7 and 17 November, 2002, the shops contributed a part of their sales revenues to help the children covered by the Wooden Puppet campaign.

### **IMS Poland Sp. z o.o.**

The company conducts research of the pharmaceutical market in Poland. All doctors who filled out and returned a questionnaire was offered a shopping voucher worth USD 13, which they could succumb and contribute to the Wooden Puppet campaign. Over 50% of the surveyed doctors support the initiative. In 2002, the contributions amounted to USD 15,963.54.

### **Payroll**

The payroll system is not very well known in Poland yet. It is a voluntary declaration of a regular monthly contribution from the employees of a given company in form of an automatic wage deduction transferred to PHO account. Any participating company can withdraw from the payroll agreement or change the amount of deduction or its purpose at any point in time. Some companies, in appreciation of their employee's involvement in charity actions, decided to double the amount of donations to PHO. The invitation to participate in this form of cooperation was accepted by both the employees and the company itself: Nestle Polska SA, Bank BISE and Bank ING Bank Śląski SA.

### **Donations of goods and services**

In 2002, the value of goods donated reached USD 700,996.44, and the value of services totalled USD 129,097.15.

## **Chapter 8**

### **Other initiatives of Polish Humanitarian Organisation**

#### **8.1. “One Zloty for Children in Afghanistan”**

The educational initiative “One Zloty for Children in Afghanistan” lasted between November 2001 and March 2002, and was a response to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. It was inspired by the appeal of the U.S. President George W. Bush asking American children to donate one dollar from their pocket money for children in Afghanistan. PHO concluded that Polish children could donate one Polish zloty in the very same way. The objectives of “One Zloty for Children in Afghanistan” were twofold:

- Collect funds to provide humanitarian aid in Afghanistan
- Show the children that their contribution is important

An information package was sent out to 900 schools. It included an appeal of Janina Ochojska to help the children in Afghanistan, information for the pupils explaining how they can become involved in the initiative and information for the teachers. In addition, PHO organised a promotional campaign in Polish media.

Humanitarian Education officers prepared lesson scripts for teachers in primary and grammar schools. The scripts were intended to encourage the children to understand what had happened in New York and what was currently taking place in Afghanistan, motivate them to help the people in need and teach effective ways of organising support.

PHO issued also a special edition of “Pomagamy” magazine dedicated to the terrorist attack in New York and humanitarian aid for Afghanistan, also available online at [www.pomagamy.pl](http://www.pomagamy.pl).

The initiative generated impressive response with 2,215 schools taking part. Although, in principle, it was addressed to primary and grammar schools, high schools, universities and even kindergartens also joined. It worth noting that among participating schools there were 29 schools covered by PHO’s assistance under the Wooden Puppet programme. Their involvement proves that even those who do not have much have something to share with others.

The schools that joined the initiative paid the money to a dedicated bank account. The amounts paid in by individual schools ranged between USD 0.80 to USD 162, depending on the size and geographical location of the school. The total collected amount was USD 75,480.80. With this money, the only Music and Arts School in Afghanistan was rebuilt.

#### **Other associated initiatives**

##### **Exhibition: “America, Afghanistan ... People Stories”**

The exhibition consisted of nearly 50 photographs that presented the tragic events of September 11, as well as the civil population of Afghanistan threatened by the war. The exhibition was first presented in Warsaw and then in other cities in Poland.

##### **Documentary film**

In November 2001, PHO and Polish Medical Mission organised a reconnaissance visit to assess the situation in refugee camps at the border with Iran and identify humanitarian aid opportunities. The visit was documented in a film. By courtesy of Gutek Film the documentary was distributed together with copies of “Kandahar” movie and shown all around Poland before its projection. Gutek Film also helped PHO organise a fund collection at cinemas and contributed a part of the income from tickets sold to assistance for Afghanistan.

##### **Results**

There were 2,215 schools taking part in the initiative. Although, in principle, it was addressed to primary and grammar schools, high schools, universities and even kindergartens also joined. The total collected amount was USD 75,480.80. The initiative had an important educational dimension. It focused attention of children to the problems of their peers who live in areas affected by humanitarian crisis. The broad response from schools, as well as the received letters and drawings prove that

children are do care about the well being of children all over the world, strongly identify with their problems and are willing to help.

### **8.1. “Natashka”**

This is a joint initiative of PHO and Gazeta Wyborcza. Natashka is a 11 years old girl who, on 23 October 2002, together with her mum, went to see the Nord-Ost show in the Dubrovka theatre in Moscow. The girl was released by the terrorists together with a group of other children. Her mother died poisoned by gas as special forces stormed the theatre. Natashka was orphaned.

By end of 2002, Polish Humanitarian Organisation raised US\$ 10,981.95 through public collection. The money will be used to set up a special fund to ensure future education of Natashka. The money will be handed over in 2003.

### **8.2. Project “Hope”**

It is a cyclical nationwide initiative of PHO, intended to provide school kits for children from families in difficult situation. The total value of goods and cash collected was USD 9,610.92.

The initiative was implemented in Warsaw, Lodz, Krakow and Torun. School accessories were provided to 53 refugee children, 80 children from PHO community centre in Lodz, 3,000 children from Krakow schools and 420 children in Torun. There were 42 volunteers involved.

## **Chapter 9**

### **Reports of the regional branches and local groups of volunteers**

This chapter presents a collection of reports on the activities of PHO regional offices in Krakow, Lodz and Torun, as well as the group of volunteers from Wroclaw.

#### **9.1. Report by the Regional Branch in Krakow**

In 2002 there were two persons employed on a full-time basis. In their daily work they were assisted by 5 full-time volunteers responsible for specific tasks, plus about 100 volunteers involved who supported *ad-hoc* projects (e.g. money collections).

##### **9.1.1. Participation in PHO nationwide actions**

###### **Aid for flood victims**

The floods affected southern Poland in July 2001. Ad-hoc assistance had been provided until September, and longer-term support continued throughout Spring 2002. Representatives of the Regional Branch in Krakow assisted with completion of construction of 15 houses managed by the Foundation and finalised the last refurbishments. There were 3 volunteers involved in this effort.

###### **Other initiatives**

Regional Branch in Krakow participated in Project Hope, raising total donations of USD 5,204.89. It also organised the eliminations of the Wooden Puppet Football Championship. Within the framework the Humanitarian Education programme, 55 workshops were held in 16 schools.

##### **9.1.2. Regional actions**

###### **2nd Music and Painting Workshops for Roma and Polish children**

The idea to organise joint workshops for Polish and Roma children originated in 2001. This was when the first edition of the workshops was held in Bukowsko. The workshops are intended as yearly meetings of Polish and Roma children from Poland and Slovakia. The goal is to get to know each other and overcome mutual prejudices and stereotypes.

In 2002 the workshops were held on 15-23 September in Stobrava in Opole region. The participants included the children from the primary school in Stobrawa (the entire school community), children from the primary school in Bukowsko (4 persons), the School of Alternative Education Society from Opole (4 persons) and Zakladna Skola in Jarovnice (Slovakia) (10 persons).

The participants and volunteers from Opole jointly created a website [www.jagori.prv.pl](http://www.jagori.prv.pl). The final event of 2<sup>nd</sup> Music and Painting Workshops for Polish and Roma Children was held in the Youth Culture Centre in Opole. It featured an art exhibition displaying the works of workshop participants, a concert of "Jagori" group and a panel discussion on "Joint Education in Multi-Culture Environment".

###### **Christmas Table of the Wooden Puppet**

On December 8, 2002, restaurants, pubs and hotels in Krakow had the opportunity to support the Wooden Puppet campaign. The idea was to contribute 10% of the turnover from that day to the programme. Contributions from 45 restaurants amounted to US\$ 1,786.80.

#### **9.2. Report of PHO Regional Branch in Lodz**

The branch office has 2 full-time staff members who are supported by a team of 10 volunteers. The main focus of the regional branch in Lodz is to provide assistance to children who find themselves in



difficult financial situation. The day-care centre employs 4 educators and looks after 75 children aged from 7 to 16.

### **9.2.1. Participation in PHO nationwide actions**

Employees and volunteers from Lodz Branch of PHO were collecting school accessories for Project Hope. They were also involved in the assistance programme for flood victims and raised US\$ 2,031.25 in donations of goods.

### **9.2.2. Regional actions**

#### **A day-care centre for children**

Since 1997, the Regional Branch in Lodz has been providing therapeutic treatment in a day-care centre for children from the poorest dysfunctional families. The facility looks after 75 children who are taken care of by a psychologist, a child educator, a counsellor and a therapist. In addition there are 10 supporting volunteers. The children receive an afternoon snack, do their homework, play, and attend therapy and computer workshops in the computer room, take part in winter and summer-break camps and take part in extracurricular activities during winter holidays. Museum visits as well as cinema and theatre outings are also organised.

The centre can operate thanks to donations from institutions, firms and private persons, *inter alia*: Co-operating Netherlands Foundation for Central and Eastern Europe, the City of Lodz – Social Services Centre, the City Hall – Department of Education and Sports, Division of Civic Affairs.

#### **Financial support for associations and organisations in the region**

The Regional Branch in Lodz has been long providing financial support for many associations and institutions in the region. In 2002 the value of donations amounted to USD 26,637.16.

## **9.3. Report by the Pomeranian Branch in Torun**

In 2002, in the staff of the Pomeranian PHO Branch consisted of four employees and a conscript who performed the community service as an alternative to the military service. Beside the activities enumerated below, the Pomeranian Branch coordinated efforts, and acquired donations, which were subsequently passed on to various Torun institutions.

### **9.3.1. Participation in PHO nationwide actions**

The Pomeranian Branch took part in Project Hope and collected donations for total value of USD 3,224.84.

#### **Wooden Puppet campaign**

The Pomeranian branch of PHO coordinates the effort to provide supplementary meals to children.

#### **Flood 2002**

The Municipality of Torun provided a dedicated subvention of USD 13,020.83 for organisation of aid for inhabitants of Czech town of Dobrichovice who lost all their possessions as a result of the floods. The flood victims from Dobrichovice received household appliances and bed linen.

### **9.3.2. Regional actions**

#### **PHO Child Care Centre**

The facility has been operating since January 2001, five days a week. The classes were held for 50 children aged 7-13. Children do their homework and take part in sports, computer, dance, and music activities, as well as speech therapy. The necessary funds to run the centre were provided by sponsors.

In 2002, the staff consisted of four educators, a sports coach, a therapist and foreign language teachers. As part of volunteer work, speech therapy workshops, individual therapy, games, and sports activities were also available. The volunteers were also involved in preparing meals. Since October 2002, the children have been editing and issuing their own newsletter "Umiliskowa Gazetka".

### **Happy Summer for Children of Torun**

The Pomeranian Branch of PHO arranged summer camps for 80 children. The participants spent 11 days in one of the schools in Goldap where meal distribution had been set up. Among the main attractions there were sightseeing tours in the Mazury and Suwalki regions and a bonfire party, as well as painting, dancing and drama classes. The children were also provided with psychological help.

### **Family-Assistance Centre – Community Information Office**

Since its opening in 2002 the Community Information Office has been serving those who struggle with official procedures either due to lack of understanding of the regulations and their rights or because of financial limitations. The main objective of the Community Information Office is to provide access to free information and legal advice. Between 1 February and 30 November 297 people benefited from the assistance offered by the Office. There were 12 volunteers involved in execution of the programme.

### **After-school activities**

In March 2001, the Torun Branch of PHO began implementing a project titled "After Classes" with the aim to provide extra funding for extracurricular activities at schools. A free workshop for 130 teachers was organised, which focused on writing applications for grants and a website <http://strony.wp.pl/szkolapolekcjach> was set up; 300 applications were drafted and donations appropriated. The total budget of USD 20,833.33 was allocated among 49 applicants.

The programme was concluded with a conference held on 24 May, 2002 at Grunwald Auditorium in Torun. The gathering was an opportunity to present achievements of children, exchange experiences from implementation and listen to presentations of the invited pedagogy specialists.

### **Training of volunteer-guardians for handicapped university students**

In collaboration with the Representative for handicapped persons at Nicholas Copernicus University (Torun), a series of training sessions was arranged for 31 student volunteers willing to assist handicapped students. After completion of the course, the students, in accordance with the instructions of the Rector's Representative for handicapped students, help their handicapped colleagues.

## **9.4. Wroclaw PHO Volunteer Group**

### **9.4.1. Participation in the nation-wide PHO actions**

#### **Wooden Puppet project**

In order to collect funds for feeding school children, the local volunteers organised a number of actions with the slogan "December – the Month of Wooden Puppet in Lower Silesia. The initiatives included a short drama festival, concerts and fundraisings at institutions of higher learning.

#### **Humanitarian Education**

In 2002, 20 workshops were run in Wroclaw grammar and high schools dedicated to the topics of "Refugees" and "Racism as an everyday problem". The programme of the European

Week against Racism held between 16-24 March, included debates, concerts and film projections. An exhibition titled “America, Afghanistan ...People Stories” was also organised.

### **9.5. Opole PHO Volunteer Group**

The Volunteer Group in Opole was established in February 2002. Its main activity consists in supporting the Wooden Puppet and Humanitarian Education programmes through organisation of fund collections and workshops. The group also implements its own projects focused on assistance for ethnical, religious and national minorities in Poland and other countries, as well as refugees.