

## 1. General information about the Foundation

Name:	Polska Akcja Humanitarna [ <i>Polish Humanitarian Action – PAH</i> ]
Registered office:	ul. Szpitalna 5/3, 00-031 Warsaw
Telephone / Fax:	+48 22 828 90 86, 828 88 82, 831 99 38
e-mail:	<a href="mailto:pah@pah.org.pl">pah@pah.org.pl</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.pah.org.pl">www.pah.org.pl</a>
Bank serving the organisation and bank account number:	Bank BPH S.A. Branch in Warsaw, ul. Nowy Świat 6/12 00-400 Warsaw 56 1060 0076 0000 4011 0000 1906
Authorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foundation's Council</li><li>• Foundation's Management Board</li><li>• Audit Committee</li></ul>
Registration date and number:	The first entry was made on 20 December 1994 by the District Court for the Capital City of Warsaw, Business Court, 19 <sup>th</sup> Business and Registry Division, number 4443; Registration number: KRS 0000136833, entry on 28 October 2002 Public Benefit Organisation – 19 March 2004.
REGON statistical number:	010849302
Foundation Management Board:	President of the Management Board: Janina Ochojska-Okońska, residing in Krakow, ul. Siemiradzkiego 15 m. 3.  Members of the Management Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Włodzimierz Sarna, residing in Podkowa Leśna, ul. Cicha 27.</li><li>• Grzegorz Gruca, residing in Warsaw, ul. Czereśniowa 49.</li><li>• Małgorzata Jasiczek-Gebert, residing in Warsaw, ul. Gałczyńskiego 3 m. 2.</li><li>• Aleksandra Rezunow, residing in Warsaw, ul. Czerwonego Krzyża 6 m. 8.</li></ul>
Statutory objectives:	Organising and providing humanitarian and development, benevolent and charitable, socially beneficial and educational aid as well as counteracting social exclusion

## 2. Principles, forms and scope of statutory activities and implementation of statutory objectives

The mission of the Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH) is to make the world a better place by alleviating human suffering and promoting humanitarian values.

The Polish Humanitarian Action helps people (communities) in crisis situations to become self-reliant and assume responsibility for their future as soon as possible, it forms humanitarian attitudes and creates a modern aid culture. The guiding principle of PAH is to act efficiently in due respect of human dignity.

The statutory objectives of PAH are implemented in particular by:

- Research and collecting information on the needs for aid;
- Acquisition, transport and distribution of means of aid;
- Establishment of permanent and temporary aid missions;
- Establishment and support of aid centres;
- Running publishing and training activities;

- Organisation of cultural and educational events as well as information campaigns;
- Organisation of public charity collections;
- Organisation of conferences and seminars;
- Humanitarian and development education;
- Organisation of leisure and free time for children and young people.

The work of PAH is based on two pillars: aid and education. PAH provides aid where the needs exceed the abilities of local authorities to satisfy them and when it has relevant resources in place, guaranteeing effective provision of aid. PAH makes an assessment of needs and abilities itself. The principle of PAH is not only to provide aid to the biggest possible number of people but also to maximise society's involvement in helping those in need.

### Implementation of statutory objectives

Humanitarian and development aid provided through PAH's foreign field missions and the Refugee and Repatriates Centre in 2009 covered the following areas:

- providing access to water,
- proper sanitary conditions and promotion of hygiene,
- supporting the beneficiaries in their aspiration for self-reliance:
  - communities in the area of activities of PAH's foreign field missions,
  - refugees and repatriates in Poland,
  - children and educational units – The *Pajacyk* [Wooden Puppet] programme,
- providing children and adults with the access to education.

Emergency relief covered all types of first-aid intervention in crisis situations:

- access to water and proper sanitary conditions,
- rebuilding of public utility buildings,
- rebuilding of agriculture households and livestock.

Educational activities focused on raising social awareness among children, youths, students and the groups which have impact on increasing awareness in the society (e.g. teachers, politicians, journalists) for its responsibility for the surrounding world, by way of:

- co-operation with schools,
- training of volunteers,
- social campaigns.

### Water

Access to clean water is the basic need of every person and thus it constitutes a basic human right said Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees every man access to the sources that are life necessities. Among these is water access for personal and household use.

Today 884 million people do not have access to water that satisfies basic purity standards. Every seventh man suffers from thirst and diseases caused by drinking contaminated water. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) 1,5 million children die every year because of diseases caused by a lack of drinkable water.

Access to drinkable water is also a necessary condition for the development of societies and the struggle with poverty. Addressing this necessitates the need for aid and development in other sectors: education, agriculture and public health.

PAH launched programs in the water supply and sanitary sector in 2000. It has guaranteed access to water to hundreds of thousands of people through its emergency assistance in crisis situations as well as through its field missions e.g. in the Chechen Republic (Russian Federation), Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Southern Sudan, Darfur and the oPt.

PAH builds and renovates water wells, water supply and sanitation systems. It also trains local pump mechanics on how to supervise the use of these wells. PAH distributes the necessary water well equipment and organises training sessions on hygiene and its meaning for the health of the community. In 2009, this type of aid was implemented in the oPt, Southern Sudan, Burma and Poland.

### **Supporting beneficiaries in their aspiration for self-reliance**

The ultimate goal of each assistance program should be building the beneficiaries' independence from the humanitarian aid.

War conflicts, natural disasters and poverty drastically limit the ability to self-reliance both at an individual and state level.

Projects aimed at making beneficiaries stronger and self-reliant aim to allow people and communities to take over the responsibility for their own lives, adapt to new realities and recover faith in one's own capabilities.

All aid activities of PAH contain an element of building the beneficiary's potential and are based on the tenet of 'wise assistance' that is achieved by engaging a local community at each aid stage.

PAH also runs projects that aim at increasing professional competencies, theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to deal with life difficulties and new situations.

In 2009, PAH ran such projects in Afghanistan, Southern Sudan and Poland to help refugees, repatriates and foreigners who came to Poland in search of a better life.

### **Access to education**

Each person has a right to education. However, as much as 93 million children all over the world do not attend primary school and over 780 million adults cannot read or write.

PAH has been implementing projects that provide children from the poorest countries with a chance for education. This stems from the belief that education is one of the methods to reduce poverty.

PAH rebuilds and provides equipment to schools; it distributes school accessories for children; PAH organises reading and writing classes, foreign language and computer courses; the organisation finances the production of educational material e.g. books and films.

In 2009, PAH implemented projects that aimed at guaranteeing access to education in Afghanistan and Southern Sudan.

### **Education, volunteering and social campaigns**

Each of us – irrespective of age and wealth – can and should help. In order to make aid effective, one needs to help wisely i.e. to know the needs, use international rules and standards of aid, act with respect for the dignity of the beneficiaries.

PAH provides information on the aid needs in Poland and abroad through various types of activities including those addressed to schools (training sessions, school mentoring, assistance to teachers, organising school activities, preparation of educational materials and organising school actions) as well as advocacy and campaigns directed at society.

PAH's educational initiatives contribute to the building of civil society in Poland as well as human, social and economic development of the countries where PAH has been present.

In 2009, PAH cooperated with various groups: children and school youth, teachers, students, volunteers, journalists, politicians and with the society in its entirety.