



GEFÖRDERT DURCH DIE
BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

20 April 2010

ASB DEMINES THE AREA OF 660,000 SQUARE METERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA WITH FUNDS FROM THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT

The Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) in the Republic of Croatia has recently finalised mine-clearance of 660,000 m² in the municipality of Petrinja, Sisačko-Moslavačka County; the municipalities of Sodalovci, Osiječko-Baranjska County; the municipalities of Stari Jankovci, Markušića and Jarmina, Vukovarsko-Srijemska County, in the municipality of Gospić, Ličko-Senjska County, and in the area of the town of Šibenik, Šibensko-Kninska County. This project was carried out in close co-operation with the Croatian Centre for Demining (CROMAC). The total value of this project amounted to € 800,000.

In these areas, ASB carried out demining in agricultural areas, ditches and roads, houses and yards, and community areas which contributes to the further normalisation of life and increases the security in these war-affected municipalities. As well, it promotes further social and economic development.

On 2 December 2009, H.E. Dr. Bernd Fischer, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Croatia, Lt. Colonel Ralf H. Mayer, military attaché, Mr. Wolfgang Raschka, Head of the ASB Office and Dr. Mirko Ivanušić, CROMAC Deputy Director, visited the settlement of Njegovani in the Gospić region where ASB demined the area of 149,524 m² in conjunction with the Croatian demining company "PIPER" from Požega. The demining of this area provides safer living conditions and improves the quality of life which also encourages tourism and agricultural development in the wider Gospić area which remains the most mine-affected area in the country. On 28 January, the German Ambassador visited Mr. Goran Pauk, Prefect of the Šibensko-Kninska County. The aim of this visit was to inspect the sites of the investment by the FR of Germany. In addition, the planned visit to the recently completed demining project on the southern embankments of the Guđuča canyon, south-west of the Prokljan Lake, had to be cancelled due to bad weather. On this occasion, the German Ambassador agreed with Mr. Pauk on the importance of past, present and future assistance of the German Government to Šibensko-Kninska county in decreasing the problems from landmines and its affect on living conditions and development opportunities.

Since 2001, ASB has been carrying out extensive humanitarian mine-clearance activities to secure sustainable return and reconstruction and to ensure stable communities throughout war-affected areas in Croatia. From 2001 until 2009, the German Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allocated € 6.6 million to ASB for humanitarian mine-clearance of more than 5 million m² of war-affected areas of



A project funded by
the German Foreign Ministry

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P R E S S R E L E A S E



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Croatia. In this period, ASB disposed 75,000 explosive devices. However, according to CROMAC there are still 945,5 km² of mine-suspected areas presenting a constant threat to everyday living for residents in those areas and hampering regional development. Along with mine-clearance, the German Government has been supporting projects such as the reconstruction of houses in categories 1-3 and the provision of humanitarian aid proving to be a valuable partner in Croatia over the past number of years.

For further information, please contact:



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