

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



GEFÖRDERT DURCH DIE
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ASB IMPLEMENTS ANOTHER MINE-CLEARANCE PROJECT IN 2010 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 received funds from the German Foreign Ministry to implement mine-clearance of approximately 450,000 m². It is envisaged to conduct several mine-clearance and survey projects in the municipality of Petrinja, Sisačko-Moslavačka County; the municipality of Sodolovci, Osiječko-Baranjska County; the municipality of Markušica, Vukovarsko-Srijemska County; the municipality of Gospić, Ličko-Senjska County; the municipality of Poličnik, Zadarska County, and in the municipality of Vodice, Šibensko-Kninska County. This project will be carried out in close co-operation with the Croatian Mina Action Centre (CROMAC). The total value of this project amounts to € 530,000 and will be implemented until the end of 2010.

In these areas, ASB will demine agricultural land, homes and yards, cemeteries and community areas all which will contribute to the return process, normalisation of life and bring a much needed increase of security in these war-affected municipalities which is also essential for further social and economic revival and development. Residents in these mine-affected settlements have to contend with problems of being injured or killed while walking through their yards or homes, and especially while farming. In particular, agriculture has been the main income generating activity for residents in these areas, as other income opportunities in these areas are barely existing. Therefore, this project will increase their opportunities to generate more income by enabling them to work in their yards and on their land which is an effective way to bring them out of poverty and improve their future prospects.

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 2008, the German Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allocated € 6.6 million for humanitarian mine-clearance of more than 5 million m² of war-affected areas of Croatia. However, according to CROMAC there are still 887 km² of mine-suspected areas out of which a quarter is still presenting a constant and severe 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 this region over the past number of years.

For further information, please contact:



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