



GEFÖRDERT DURCH DIE
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GERMAN MILITARY ENVOY BURKHARD KÜHNAPFEL VISITS ASB MINE WORKSITE IN PODGRADINA, ZADAR COUNTY

On Friday, 27 February 2009, Lt. Col. Burkhard Kühnapfel, Military Envoy of the Federal Republic of Germany, visited the ASB mine worksite in the settlement of Podgradina, the county of Zadar, accompanied by Mr. Wolfgang Raschka, Head of the Office of Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) in the Republic of Croatia. This visit was also attended by Mrs. Nevenka Marinović, Member of Parliament, Dr. Mirko Ivanušić, Deputy Director of the Croatian Centre for Demining (CROMAC), Stipe Zrilić, County Prefect of the Zadar-Šibenik County, Mr. Davor Lonić, Demining Trustee of the Zadar-Šibenik County and Mr. Ivica Juričević, Head of the Municipality of Posedarje.

This visit was organised in order to inspect the implementation of the mine-clearance activities within the ASB's 2008 Humanitarian Mine Clearance Project funded by the German Government. The mine-clearance works and mine survey of an area of 37,458 m² in the hamlets of Nekići, Gospić and Žuže, settlement of Podgradina valued at HRK 340.600,00 are carried out by the demining company Demin-ka Ltd. from Karlovac. ASB selected this project after an urgent request from the county of Zadar once it was determined that a lack of communication between involved actors resulted in an incorrect rating of mine-clearance priorities in this county. The high degree of flexibility and support on the side of the donor made it possible for ASB to include this area into mine-clearance activities.

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 € 5.9 million for humanitarian mine-clearance of more than 5 million square meters of war-affected areas of Croatia. In this period, ASB disposed 70,000 explosive devices. However, according to CROMAC there are still 920 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 1-4 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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