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**GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND ASB CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT
HUMANITARIAN MINE-CLEARANCE IN 2008 IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

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 650,000 m² in the municipality of Pakrac, Pozesko-Slavonska County; the municipality of Sunja, Sisacko-Moslavacka County; the municipality of Stari Jankovci, Vukovarsko-Srijemska County; the municipality of Antunovac, Osijecko-Baranjska County and several municipalities in the Sibensko-Kninska County. The total value of this project amounts to € 800,000 and will be implemented until the end of 2008.

In these areas, ASB will carry out mine-clearance of agricultural areas, individual yards and houses which will contribute to normalisation of life in these war-affected municipalities and to their further social and economic development. This project will be carried out in close co-operation with the Croatian Centre for Demining (HCR).

From the very beginning of its return and reconstruction programme in Croatia, ASB has been providing an extensive humanitarian mine-clearance in order to secure sustainable return and reconstruction, and to ensure stable local communities throughout the war-affected areas.

Since 2001 until 2007, the German Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs allocated € 5,042,650 for humanitarian mine-clearance of 3,720,000 m² in war-affected areas of Croatia. In this period, ASB disposed 70,000 of explosive devices. However, according to HCR, there are still 997 km² which are suspect to be mine-contaminated in Croatia presenting a constant threat to everyday living in these areas. Along with mine-clearance, the German Government has been supporting projects such as reconstruction of houses of categories 1-3 and the provision of humanitarian aid proving to be a valuable partner of ASB in this region over the last years.

For further information please contact:



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