

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



Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa  
Gefördert durch Deutschland  
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe  
Sponsored by Germany

10 February 2006

## German Government completed mine-clearance of the area of 702,782 m<sup>2</sup> in the Republic of Croatia

With funds of the German Government under the auspices of the Stability Pact, the Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund in the Republic of Croatia has recently completed mine-clearance of a total surface of 702,782 m<sup>2</sup> in the Counties of Ličko-sinjska, Sisačko-moslavačka and Karlovačka valued at € 793,500. In these Counties, ASB conducted mine-clearance of agricultural and industrial areas, individual yards and houses and other areas which will be used for the activities such as the reconstruction or construction of technical infrastructure. This project was 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. Until now, ASB conducted mine-clearance of approximately 3.2 million m<sup>2</sup> in Croatia. However, according to HCR, there are still 1,174 km<sup>2</sup> which are suspect to be mine-contaminated, out of which 10% is contaminated with land mines and 90% with unexploded ordnances. Farmers, hunters and children are the predominant mine-victims.

Therefore, through its mine-clearance projects ASB especially worked on mine risk education of these risk groups trying to raise a mine-awareness especially among inhabitants living in the mine-contaminated areas and at the same time to prevent mine-accidents in the future.

Since 1996 until 2005, the German Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the auspices of the Stability Pact allocated € 3,404,600 for humanitarian mine-clearance of 2,528,575 m<sup>2</sup> in war-affected areas of Croatia. 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 years.

For further information please contact:



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A project funded by  
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The Stability Pact is based on key experiences and lessons from worldwide international crisis management. Conflict prevention and peace building can be successful only if they start in parallel in three key sectors: the creation of a secure environment, the promotion of sustainable democratic systems, and the promotion of economic and social well-being. Only if there is progress in all three sectors can a self-sustaining process of peace be achieved. In the founding document, more than 40 partner countries and organisations undertook to strengthen the countries of South Eastern Europe "in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity in order to achieve stability in the whole region". Euro-Atlantic integration was promised to all the countries in the region.