



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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The Mine Action Strategy of the Swiss Confederation for the Period 2008 to 2011





Preface

Anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war continue to pose a serious threat, to mangle and to kill without discrimination - even years after hostilities have ceased. Furthermore they hinder post-conflict reconstruction and economic recovery. They prevent humanitarian and development aid reaching affected communities and countries. And they can be found anywhere, for example, on roads, on farmland, in forests, in deserts, or in the vicinity of schools.

Prompted by civil society and a number of international organisations, various governments have reacted to the humanitarian crisis caused by anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war, notably by banning anti-personnel mines under the terms of the Ottawa Convention. The implementation of this treaty has had a significant effect, and the situation has improved considerably in the countries involved: the number of new victims has fallen, extensive areas have been cleared of mines, and aid programmes for survivors have been put in place.

But this is still not enough. We need to keep up our efforts to convince countries to sign the Ottawa Convention and to maintain our support for those that have not yet fully implemented their obligations. In addition, the use of anti-personnel mines by non-state armed groups, and the need to reinforce international regulations on protecting people against the dangers posed by explosive remnants of war are major challenges we face today.

In order to take up these challenges it is important that we maintain the level of resources dedicated worldwide to the fight against mines.

As far as Switzerland is concerned, the fight against anti-personnel mines and the humanitarian consequences of explosive remnants of war is a priority - part of our deep-rooted humanitarian conviction that civilian populations as well as soldiers need to be protected from the dangers of anti-personnel mines and the explosive remnants of war, and that they deserve a minimum of human security both during and after armed conflicts.

The Swiss Confederation's new anti-mine strategy reiterates our commitment and sets out our programme at the international level in collaboration with the international community, international organisations and non-governmental organisations.

I should like to express my appreciation and to encourage all those who have committed their lives to achieve a world where there will be no new victims of mines and explosive remnants of war. Through their work they enable displaced persons to go back to their homes, they enable farmers to work the land once again, and children to go back to school.

Bern, 21 December 2007



Micheline Calmy-Rey
Swiss President
Head of Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

The Mine Action Strategy of the Swiss Confederation for the Period 2008 to 2011

Introduction

The mine action strategy of the Swiss Confederation for the period 2008 to 2011 covers all aspects of mine action, including the field of explosive remnants of war (ERW). The strategy has been developed following intensive consultation within the federal administration. It defines Switzerland's main lines of action over the next few years aimed at contributing towards the global struggle against anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war. It follows the path defined by the previous strategy while focusing on the progress of the implementation of the Ottawa Convention throughout the world, the problem of explosive remnants of war and the current efforts to more effectively combat these scourges. Switzerland intends to retain the current level of financial commitment while gradually merging its mine action activities with its development programmes.

In the course of the past decade, Switzerland has consistently supported efforts at the global level aimed at improving the conditions for the population living in affected areas through direct civilian and military co-ordination, namely with its humanitarian programmes and its efforts to promote peace and human security,

Switzerland aims to continue pursuing these efforts in an increasingly effective manner until such time as this problem, which causes so much suffering, has been eliminated.

1. Outline of the problem: Landmines and explosive remnants of war

More than a quarter of all countries are confronted with problems relating to the exposure of their population to the dangers of anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war. This situation creates major humanitarian problems, since landmines and explosive remnants of war kill or mutilate more than ten thousand people per year, mostly civilians.

Apart from causing human suffering, landmines and explosive remnants of war also give rise to immense social costs. They represent an obstacle to development, to political stability, humanitarian aid, peacekeeping operations and to the peaceful transformation of conflicts. They hamper the repatriation of displaced persons and refugees and severely slow down the processes of reconstruction and rehabilitation, and thus prolong the dependency of the affected population on international aid. The presence of landmines and explosive remnants of war slows down development, causes destabilisation, prolongs crises and may give rise to the risk of the re-emergence of conflicts.

Since the end of the Cold War, the international community has confronted this problem within the framework of integral co-operation. According to the international definition of mine action (including anti-personnel mines, other landmines and explosive remnants of war), this comprises the following five complementary categories of activity:

- Mine Risk Education
- Mine clearance, including survey, mapping, marking and clearance of mines and explosive remnants of war
- Victim assistance (medical assistance, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration)
- Stockpile destruction and
- Advocacy against the use of anti-personnel mines

Over the course of the past decade, the international community has greatly intensified its efforts to resolve the problem of anti-personnel mines throughout the world.

- **Legal obligations:** In the course of the 1990s, the international community pursued significant efforts aimed at limiting the grave humanitarian consequences of the problems associated with landmines and explosive remnants of war. New legal instruments were created that restrict the use of landmines or introduce precise regulations facilitating demining and the clearance of affected zones. A breakthrough was achieved in 1999

when the Ottawa Convention¹ entered into force, which called for a total ban on anti-personnel mines and has meanwhile been ratified by more than 150 states. This move led to the stigmatisation of the use of anti-personnel mines and succeeded in exerting a positive influence on states that have not yet ratified it, as well as on some non-state armed groups.



- **Implementation of the Ottawa Convention:** Since the Ottawa Convention entered into force on 1 March 1999, the States Parties and various humanitarian organisations have achieved some notable successes²:
 - Almost 40 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines have been destroyed (including 385,000 in Switzerland), and expansive areas of land have been cleared from mines and thus been handed back to the population for safe use.
 - Most states have stopped the production, whereas more than 50 were producing anti-personnel mines 10 years ago.
 - More than 30 million people have received mine risk education, and tens of thousands of victims and their families have received assistance in various forms.
 - An integral approach for victim assistance, heavily supported by Switzerland, has been adopted at international level, and a number of projects aimed at providing assistance ranging from medical care through to rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of victims have been implemented.
 - Since the Ottawa Convention entered into effect, donor countries have poured up to two billion USD into mine action programmes .
 - The humanitarian aspect of the problem has been reduced significantly: the number of victims has constantly decreased.

¹ Full name of the Ottawa Convention: Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. It was initially submitted for signature and ratification on 3 and 4 December 1997 in Ottawa, Canada.

² Source: 2006 Landmine Monitor

› The States Parties work for a comprehensive implementation of the Ottawa Convention: Four permanent committees have been created for this purpose: The Standing Committee for the General Status and Operation of the Convention, for Stockpile Destruction, for Mine Clearance and for Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance.

- **Professional approach:** During the 1990s, mine action programmes were often characterised by an aspect of improvisation, but since the turn of the century decisive improvements have been achieved in terms of professionalism and standardisation. International standards have been created (*International Mine Action Standards*) by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) under a mandate provided by the United Nations. These standards contain numerous provisions that define the framework for all activities in the area of mine action. They have not only created a uniform vocabulary, but also facilitate the exchange of know-how. In addition, the introduction of a comprehensive information management system (*IMSMA, Information Management System for Mine Action*) by the GICHD contributed towards a higher level of professionalism in the area of mine action efforts³ In particular, it facilitated the planning and allocation of resources for each mine action programme, and defined a standardised reporting system that encompasses the requirements and management of information.
- **Responsibility on the part of the involved countries:** During the 1990s, the majority of experts directly engaged in mine action programmes came from English-speaking countries. In the meantime, however, major efforts have been undertaken in order to create local capacities and promote a sense of responsibility among the populations of involved countries. This approach is particularly necessary as the problems associated with landmines and explosive remnants of war affect several generations. It is therefore important for the associated priorities are defined by those who are directly affected.
- **Integral approach:** Initially, mine action was regarded as an isolated operation, but since the inception of the Nairobi Action Plan in 2004, donor nations have realised that humanitarian mine action needs to be integrated into the processes of peace promotion, reconstruction and development⁴. It is only by adopting an integral approach that effective use can be made of the limited resources.

³ The development of the IMSMA is being financed through contributions by Switzerland to the GICHD.

⁴ The Nairobi Action Plan was adopted by the signatory states on the occasion of the First Review Conference on the Ottawa Convention held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2004. For further details please visit the following web site: <http://www.reviewconference.org/documents/overview/>

In addition to the positive developments outlined above, a number of less pleasing trends should also be noted here. Mine action is a slowly progressing process, creating the risk that the overall problem of anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war could become marginalised to a certain extent. This would have an adverse effect on the readiness of donor states to provide the necessary financial, technological and human resources for meeting the international commitments. In recent years, a certain tendency towards a reduction in funds provided by donor states and by countries exposed to the hazard of anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war has become apparent.



2. Legal bases

Switzerland's commitment in the area of mine action and the clearance of explosive remnants of war is based on instruments of public international law that have been ratified by the Federal Parliament. Here the following three instruments are of particular importance:

The **Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**, generally referred to as the Ottawa Convention, entered into force in 1999. Switzerland was one of the first countries to sign this treaty, which has meanwhile been ratified by more than 150 states⁵. As its name implies, it prohibits the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines, and obliges its States Parties to assist in mine action efforts in affected countries, support mine risk education efforts and provide assistance to victims. States Parties are obliged to destroy their own stocks within four years after ratification. Furthermore, the territory of each State Party must have been complete-

⁵ 156 signatory parties as of 1 December 2007.

ly cleared of anti-personnel mines within ten years after ratification, although affected countries may apply for an extension of this deadline.

Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices of the 1980, Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (*Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, CCW*): This protocol dated 3 May 1996 calls for prohibitions and restrictions on the use of landmines and other weapons that endanger the civilian population. It has been effective for Switzerland since 3 December 1998.

Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War of the 1980, Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (*Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, CCW*): This protocol forms the basis on which signatory states undertake to remove, extract or destroy explosive remnants of war (abandoned or unexploded ordnance). It defines a framework for co-operation and international aid in this area, and became effective for Switzerland on 12 November 2006.

The Swiss Federal Government's contribution towards mine action is also based on its competencies as specified in Article 54, paragraph 2 of the Swiss Federal Constitution and in accordance with the Message of the Federal Council concerning its programme for the period from 2008 to 2011 relating to measures to promote civilian peacebuilding and the observance of human rights.

3. Short-term and medium-term challenges

Even though more than 150 states have accepted the ban on anti-personnel mines, and considerable progress has been made with respect to the implementation of the Ottawa Convention, some countries continue to deploy anti-personnel mines and the humanitarian and development problems caused by landmines and explosive remnants of war have therefore still not been resolved:

- **Universal application of the Ottawa Convention:** Although progress has been achieved following the ratification of the Ottawa Convention by more than 150 states, there is still a long way to go before the goals of this treaty can be met. In practice, more than half the world's population is unable to benefit from this treaty since some of the most powerful nations in the world have refused to ratify it. Additional intense efforts are therefore required in order to achieve universal application of the Ottawa



Convention.

- **Fast stockpile destruction, but slow progress with demining:** During the review conference on the Ottawa Convention in Nairobi in 2004, the States Parties approved an action plan that defines the way in which the objectives of the Convention could be achieved within the specified deadlines. This plan provided the States Parties with an instrument for implementing the Convention that also enables progress to be monitored on a year-by-year basis. While the stocks held by States Parties have been destroyed fairly quickly, clearing activities have progressed at a much slower pace, and several states have reported that they will not be able to meet their obligations by the deadlines stipulated in the Convention.
- **Modest technological progress:** Despite the consistent provision of financial resources at the international level, technological innovations have so far only had a minor impact on the pace of mine action operations. While it has proved possible to enhance the degree of safety for demining personnel, a large number of modern tools have been found to be unsuitable in practice and are unable to handle the often tough conditions in the field. Since there is little likelihood of a major leap forward in terms of technological development in the near future, it will be necessary to find ways in which the existing tools and methods can be put to the most effective use in order to achieve the objectives of the Ottawa Convention.

- **Armed non-state actors:** A large number of armed non-state groups continue to deploy anti-personnel mines or improvised explosive devices within the sovereign territory of states that have ratified the Ottawa Convention, as well as in other countries that have not done so. A few dozen armed non-state actors have in fact signed the Geneva Call “Deed of Commitment”, but countless other users of such weapons still have no intention of following suit.
- **Needs of survivors:** Anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war continue to maim or kill more than ten thousand people every year (according to best estimates). Thus the needs of between 350,000 and 500,000 or more survivors and their families have to be met, and the involved states have to fulfil certain obligations in this respect⁶. The Nairobi Action Plan stipulates an obligation to provide suitable assistance for victims and to support their socio-economic reintegration. It also underscores the necessity for donor states to provide the required financial resources for achieving these objectives. In the near future, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2006, is likely to become one of the main instruments at the international level for securing assistance for victims and for future policies to assist persons with disabilities in general.⁷
- **Economic and social development:** Mine action efforts were regarded for many years as a specific activity, and its links with relevant development programmes were therefore rather weak. In the meantime, the need for increased co-ordination has been recognised, and various efforts are now being made. However, this problem remains acute in rural areas where the poorest and most marginalised communities (often ethnic minorities) risk discrimination on two fronts: on the one hand due to the presence of landmines, and on the other through the lack of development programmes in their favour. For these groups, an evaluation of their specific social and economic needs need to precede the development of mine action programmes.
- **Explosive ordnance and explosive remnants of war:** The magnitude of the existing humanitarian problems caused by certain weapons and explosive ordnance (e.g. cluster munitions) has underscored the necessity

⁶ Estimates by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) in its Landmine Monitor Report 2006, Toward a Mine Free World, Mines Action Canada, July 2006, pp. 43-47. These estimates include victims of explosive remnants of war.

⁷ At the time the strategy described in this document was being formulated, Switzerland also examined the compatibility of its national (federal and cantonal) legislation with the provisions of this Convention. In the view of the Federal Council, Switzerland should sign and ratify this Convention and its optional protocol (statement by the Federal Council dated 9 March 2007 concerning motion 06.3820).

for comprehensive and urgent action, and for a commitment at all levels, in order to put a stop to the unnecessary suffering and indiscriminate harm such devices may cause.

4. Switzerland’s strategy for the period from 2008 to 2011

4.1. Vision:

Over the long term, Switzerland follows the vision of a world without new victims of anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war – a world in which the process of economic and social development progresses smoothly and the needs of the affected populations are adequately met.



4.2. Switzerland’s role: guiding principles of the federal government

During the period between 2008 and 2011, Switzerland will contribute substantially towards this vision by actively campaigning for a world that is free of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war, and by supporting affected countries in their efforts to eliminate these devices. As one of the first signatories of the Ottawa Convention and in line with its humanitarian tradition, Switzerland already renounced the use of anti-personnel mines and destroyed its last existing stocks in 1999. A large majority of the Swiss population is fully behind the Federal Government’s mine action and humanitarian commitments, for which the following guiding principles have been taken into consideration:

- **Human security:** Anti-personnel and other landmines, as well as explosive remnants of war, represent a grave threat to civilians in their natural surroundings and have a negative impact on human security. In view of this, mine action activities are among Switzerland's main priorities in its concept for implementing human security.
- **Multilateral dialogue:** At international level, Switzerland strongly supports efforts relating to mine action and advocacy activities against landmines. It actively participates in periodical meetings of the States Parties of the Ottawa Convention, as well as in the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) – a group of donor countries that regularly debates thematic and operational aspects of the problem together with the UN co-ordinating body, UNMAS. Switzerland also participates in international dialogue aimed at more effectively integrating mine action into development efforts, within the OECD/DAC as well as the LMAD.
- **Diversity of partners:** Switzerland maintains an open approach in its efforts against landmines and explosive remnants of war, and works together with a broad variety of actors who can help achieve the declared objectives in this area. Here it takes into account the efforts of the United Nations and its specialised agencies, the programmes of the ICRC, bilateral co-operation with other states, as well as projects of non-governmental organisations.
- **Local capacity building:** Switzerland's activities against landmines and explosive remnants of war are dominated by this principle. In practice this means supporting civilians and governments in affected countries with the strengthening and creation of structures and local capacities so that they can take effective action against landmines and explosive remnants of war. The goal is to enable those affected to overcome the associated problems autonomously and on a sustainable basis.
- **Distribution of tasks within the federal administration:** For almost a decade now, the Swiss Federal Administration has been co-ordinating the use of the different instruments available in a coherent and efficient way. Switzerland's mine action policy is co-ordinated at inter-departmental level by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), while operational activities are co-ordinated by the Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports (DDPS). To the outside world, the various activities are presented as a coherent effort by Switzerland.
- **Integration of the gender aspect:** It is women who suffer the most dire consequences of landmines and explosive remnants of war, either as victims themselves, or as widows or mothers of victims. In the first case they are often rejected by their own social circle, and in the second case they have to provide for their families on their own, without having access to an adequate source of income. Switzerland wants to promote the integration of the gender aspect into its mine action activities, as well as into international forums and projects.
- **Promotion and support of the GICHD as a competence centre:** Within the scope of its peace and security policies, Switzerland favours the creation of specific competence centres, and in line with this policy it supported the foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in April 1998. Since its establishment, the GICHD has become widely recognised and respected at the international level by major actors as one of the leading competence centres in mine action. Under a mandate provided by the States Parties, the Centre also hosts the secretariat (Implementation Support Unit) of the Ottawa Convention. Today, the GICHD is financed by a large number of donors. It is also an important partner of the Federal Government. In view of this fact, Switzerland's continuous financial support is one of the main pillars of the Swiss mine action strategy. Thanks to the academic and institutional networks, its important role in the implementation of the Ottawa Convention, and its outstanding services (for example in direct collaboration with the United Nations, in the definition of standards and regulations governing actions against landmines and explosive remnants of war, and in the area of information management), the GICHD makes a major contribution towards the reputation of Geneva as an international humanitarian centre. It recently broadened its area of expertise by integrating action against landmines into development activities with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency.

4.3. Strategic goals:

Within the context of the existing challenges and its own lines of action, Switzerland has defined the following six strategic goals in mine action and related activities for the period between 2008 and 2011:

1. Implementation and universal application of the Ottawa Convention.
2. Implementation and universal application of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War and Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 of the CCW.
3. Strengthening the protection of the civilian population against the humanitarian consequences of anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war.
4. Clearance of affected areas of land.

5. Provision of assistance to victims in order to alleviate suffering by securing better access to medical care, supporting the socio-economic reintegration of victims and promoting observance of their rights.
6. Integration of mine action (including explosive remnants of war) into development. Creation of an environment that is favourable for development, humanitarian aid and human security by reducing the impacts of anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war.

4.4. Political and operational objectives:

The Federal Government has set itself the following political and operational objectives based on the six strategic goals cited above:

1. Implementation and universal application of the Ottawa Convention:

- Active involvement in efforts to implement the Ottawa Convention within the scope of conferences organised by the States Parties, for example by assuming responsibility as co-rapporteur or co-chairs of Standing Committees within the implementation process.
- Financing of inter-session meetings of States Parties in Geneva.
- Organisation of the 9th Meeting of the States Parties of the Ottawa Convention in Geneva in 2008 under Swiss chairmanship, and in this capacity contributing towards the preparation of the second Review Conference to be held in 2009.
- Contribution towards the Sponsorship Programme of the Ottawa Convention.
- Promotion of efforts to incorporate armed non-state groups into the prohibition of anti-personnel mines, especially within the scope of the implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan. Switzerland will continue to support the efforts that have been made to date, especially within non-governmental organisations such as Geneva Call, to persuade armed non-state actors to renounce the use of anti-personnel mines.
- Promotion of the universal application of the Ottawa Convention by taking action on a number of fronts, e.g., within the contact group on universalisation, in bilateral discussions in countries in which it has a strong presence in the areas of development co-operation and/or peace promotion, within the framework of multilateral organisations such as the UN, and by supporting organisations that are actively involved in the promo-

tion of compliance with the Ottawa Convention (International Campaign to Ban Landmines, national campaigns, etc.).

2. Implementation and universal application of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of war and Protocol II to the 1980 Convention as amended on 3 May 1996.

- Contribution to the Sponsorship Programme of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).
- Promotion of the universal application of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.
- Supporting the implementation of Protocol V by promoting international mine action standards in the areas of marking, removal and destruction of explosive remnants of war.
- Revitalisation of the conference of signatory parties to Protocol II to the 1980 Convention as amended on 3 May 1996, under the chairmanship of Switzerland in 2008.

3. Strengthening the protection of the civilian population against the humanitarian consequences of anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war:

- Participation in conferences and international processes aimed at optimum implementation of existing international humanitarian law, and, where necessary, the formulation of new standards.
- Active involvement and support of international activities concerning the potential creation of new international legal instruments for regulating the production, stockpiling, transfer and utilisation of landmines and other explosive ordnance (e.g. cluster munitions) that cause unacceptable harm to the civilian population. Switzerland is interested in finding ways in which the grave humanitarian problems caused by such weapons can be eliminated by achieving the highest possible level of global political acceptance for such new measures.

4. Clearance of affected land:

- Contribution to projects in States Parties that can meet the deadline of 10 years stipulated in the Ottawa Convention 8.

8 More than 80 countries are still affected by anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war. Of the 45 countries that are required by the Convention to clear mined areas within a period of 10 years, 20 have to accomplish this by 2009. Some countries are struggling to meet their obligations, partly because of a decline in interest among donor states once a major portion of the task has been carried out. National authorities face a major residual problem that they can only overcome if they have the necessary national capacities at their disposal. With the approach of the deadline for the clearance of mined zones, some countries now find themselves having to ask for increased co-operation or an extension of the deadline stipulated by the Convention. Rigorous criteria have been defined for examining such requests.



- Contribution to projects in States Parties that can in all likelihood not meet the deadline of 10 years stipulated in the Ottawa Convention, but which set out to fulfil their obligations while taking account of their limited possibilities.
- Contributions to mine action projects that are within the priorities of Switzerland's policies for promotion of peace and human security, development co-operation and humanitarian aid.
- Financial and material contributions to the GICHD for the development of international mine action standards and their translation into national standards.
- Financial and material contributions to the GICHD for the development of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and for the development of related products.
- Contribution (including within the GICHD) towards the promotion of development instruments aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian demining.
- Contribution (in particular within the GICHD) towards the promotion of the integration of action against mines into Switzerland's commitments in favour of peace promotion and development.

5. Victim assistance, prevention of suffering:

- Support for the development of objectives and national plans relating to assistance for victims as a component of national policies in support of disabled persons, in particular by financing expertise within the GICHD and the UNDP.
- Campaigning for assistance for victims within relevant forums, and promotion of an integrated approach to aid for victims, in line with the Nairobi Action Plan (2004 to 2009) and subsequent documents.
- Support (upon request) for the co-chairpersons of the Permanent Committee on Aid for Victims and Socio-economic Reintegration, and chairpersons of meetings of signatory states.

- Implementation of specific victim assistance projects that set out to improve medical aid, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration, especially in countries in which the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) is active.
- Accessibility to humanitarian aid and development aid programmes for victims of landmines and explosive remnants of war, and other disabled persons.
- Financial support for projects to educate people in affected countries about the risks associated with landmines in accordance with the priorities of the SDC.

6. Integration of mine action into development:

- Participation by the SDC in the LMAD, and taking the necessary steps for practical implementation within its own programmes, in countries in which the presence of mines constitutes a major obstacle to development.
- Contribution towards the deliberations of the LMAD on the basis of experiences obtained from projects it finances, e.g. in Laos and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and promotion of good practices within international forums.
- Support for the development of national and local capacities for confronting the remaining problems associated with landmines and management of the related risks, and integration of these efforts into other development activities in the countries concerned.
- Promotion of community development projects that incorporate the management of risks associated with mines and mine action objectives into a strategy of socio-economic development at the local level.
- Ensuring that development projects, especially those that focus on public health, micro-finance, employment and education, as well as all other relevant areas, are accessible to survivors and disabled persons.



5. Implementation

5.1. Distribution of tasks:

The FDFA and the DDPS are to adopt the following tasks in a complementary manner:

DDPS: Provision of personnel, expertise and equipment for mine action programmes of the UN, affected states, and for organisations that are actively involved in respective activities, and financial support for the GICHD.

FDFA: Programmes focusing on assistance for victims (including medical care, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration), mine risk education and humanitarian demining; programmes aimed at increasing national and local capacities for mine action operations, aid for victims, and sector policies that incorporate victims and disabled persons by SDC.

Demining projects and mine risk education campaigns, financial support for the GICHD by Political Division IV. Commitment based on contribution towards mine action and explosive remnants of war aimed at enhancing human security. Specific contributions are preferred, since they can support Switzerland's peace promotion efforts, for example when the issue of anti-personnel mines is included on the agenda of discussions and negotiations.

5.2. Financial resources

Switzerland plans to contribute between 16 and 18 million Swiss francs per annum on mine action and explosive remnants of war projects.

- **Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports (DDPS):** The DDPS currently spends around 2 million Swiss francs for the deployment of military experts in demining programmes. A specially trained unit has become available on 1 June 2007 that is also able to clear landmines and explosive remnants of war within the framework of international peace support operations. Each year the DDPS also provides material worth up to a maximum of 2 million Swiss francs, notably the SM-EOD system for destroying landmines and explosive remnants of war. It also contributes 4 million Swiss francs per annum towards the financing of the GICHD.
- **Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA):** Annual contribution of 6 million Swiss francs, plus a further 4 million as contribution towards the financing of the activities of the GICHD.

5.3. Main partners

Switzerland is to work together with specialised UN agencies (in particular UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF), and with non-governmental organisations in order to provide the best possible services within a given context and in a competitive manner. Through its annual contributions to the ICRC, the federal government indirectly supports programmes of relevance to this organisation.

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) remains a privileged partner. Switzerland will also support the strengthening of local capacities through national institutions that are committed to the struggle against landmines. Finally, Geneva Call is an important partner in connection with issues concerning the integration of armed non-state actors.

5.4. Co-ordination mechanism

In order to secure a coherent mine action policy, inter-departmental co-ordination at the operational and policy levels is to be continued under the guidance of the DDPS and FDFA respectively. All actors within the DFDA and DDPS who are involved at the policy or operational level are to attend co-ordination meetings, and as an important external partner the GICHD will also be invited to such meetings.

5.5. Periodical audits

Federal government projects relating to mine action are to be subjected to periodical audits, by means of which ongoing activities can be evaluated on a periodical basis, and criteria can be defined for improving future commitments by the federal government. The DDPS will provide specially qualified personnel for carrying out these audits.

5.6. Reporting

The FDFA and DDPS are to jointly prepare brief annual reports containing information about deployed funds and the results that have been achieved. These reports should also describe the political and operational progress that has been achieved with respect to the objectives of this strategy.

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