



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

**THE THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Geneva, 02 – 05 December 2013

German Statement on Cooperation and Assistance

Mr President,

In partnership with national authorities and experienced organizations on the ground, the German Government assists countries to clear mines, cluster munitions and unexploded ordnance mainly when such contamination causes immediate threat for local communities. The aim of the support in mine- and UXO clearance as well as victim assistance is to ensure physical safety of civilians and alleviate suffering but also to implement a handover takeover status for promoting development in accordance and cooperation with relevant partners. The assistance is also aiming at helping the countries concerned to fulfil their obligations under the Oslo, Ottawa and UN Conventional Weapons Conventions.

The German Government has for many years made large sums available for humanitarian mine clearance, ERW and UXO clearance and victim assistance. Since 1992 it has provided some 244 million euros for such projects in 45 different countries.

2013 Germany allocated an amount of 19.9 million euros for mine action projects, including several victim assistance and MRE projects.

Up to now Germany was funding the following projects in affected states which addressed all three threats – landmines, unexploded ordnance and cluster munitions:

- Afghanistan – four projects are funded with an amount of approx. 3.3 million euros,
- Africa – eleven projects – 3.67 million euros,
- South America – three projects in Colombia – 450,000 euros,
- SE-Asian – five projects – 2.1 million euros,
- Central Asian – one project in Tadjikistan 830,000 euros,
- Balkan region – three projects with an amount of approx. 1.6 million euros,
- Middle East region – one project – 350,000 euros,
- Support for GICHD and ICBL/CMC activities – five projects – 600,000 euros,
- Support of victim assistance and mine risk education for the states Afghanistan, Cambodia, Columbia, Eritrea, Libya, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Syria – one MRE project for refugees conducted in Jordan – and Uganda with an amount of approx. 1.89 million euros,
- Specific projects which addressed mainly cluster munitions are supported within Lao PDR, Lebanon and Vietnam.
- In November 2013, Germany funded a seminar about the Ottawa Convention in the Centre for Regional Security – called RACVIAC – in Croatia, thus enhancing regional cooperation in implementing the treaty and raising awareness about its goals.

Furthermore, Germany understands that Mine and ERW/UXO clearance as well as victim assistance is a process involving a holistic and integrated right-based approach rather than a series of separate actions. That means that all efforts should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks related to risk

reduction, disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction. Additionally, in many developing countries the strengthening of the health sector is a focus in the development cooperation. The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development assists its partner countries with specific programmes to help people with disabilities and therefore conceptualize its development cooperation respectively. Anti-Personnel Mine and UXO survivors benefit from these measures. An age and gender sensitive orientation is part of the main principles of all German funded measures.

Based on an internal audit Germany changed its strategy for humanitarian Mine Action. In 2014 only 10 out of 28 countries will remain in a closer focus for humanitarian mine action support. However, Germany will not reduce its contribution; moreover we are actively trying to increase our budget in order to be more focused on achieving mutually set goals.

Germany would like to encourage all States Parties to face the still existing challenges in the field of demining and victim assistance.

States affected by mines and explosive remnants of war should live up to their responsibility stipulated in the obligations of the respective Conventions. Building up efficient and sustainable local capacities is of utmost importance, since responsibility for mine action lies exclusively in the hands of the affected countries. In the long term, national ownership is one of the keys to the success of all our activities.

All States Parties should accept their obligations to assist affected states in their efforts related to humanitarian demining and demining and ERW/UXO disposal. Germany welcomes all efforts to achieve an intensified co-operation and co-ordination among the affected states and donor states, and encourages all partners to

identify and use practical synergies to implement the Ottawa and Oslo Conventions as well as the CCW.

In this regards the continuation of providing funds is not seen as the key for being more successful in fulfilling all challenges humanitarian Mine Action stakeholders are faced with, however it is a crucial aspect. We see the five “P” Philosophy reinforced with profound funds as the key to success.

Germany will stay committed to humanitarian mine action based on the implementation of the Cartagena and Vientiane Action Plan, and will remain a reliable partner to the affected states supported by Germany.

Thank you, Mr. President.