



Second International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Tuesday, 28 February 2017

The Federal Foreign Office of Germany has made **significant contributions to mine action in 2016** in the context of both humanitarian assistance and stabilization efforts. Those concrete measures are the backbone for the full implementation of the APLC until 2025.

27 projects in 13 countries or regions have been funded with almost 18 million euros. The projects covered the whole spectrum of humanitarian mine action, from risk education, victim assistance, survey and clearance to local capacity building and advocacy.

The beneficiaries were international NGO's, UN organizations (UNMAS and UNICEF), the ICRC, the G.I.C.H.D. (Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining), the International Campaign to ban Landmines and Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC) as well as the ITF.

Additionally, Germany has provided 15 million euros for IED disposal and demining in support of its stabilization efforts for Iraq, bringing the total to about 33 million euros for mine action projects in the financial year 2016.

In 2016 Germany has also implemented its new strategy for humanitarian mine action that focuses on 10 priority countries, but also leaves room to address urgent needs in acute crises like Syria, Ukraine or Libya. The reason for this change was to focus the support on larger projects that have a more significant impact rather than a large number of smaller projects. Another result of Germany's revised approach is that more projects can be funded over a longer term spanning multiple financial years, to help to create more financial and planning security for our partners and to avoid unnecessary gaps in funding. For 2017, Germany aims to maintain the 2016 funding level.

Germany seeks to continue its support for the 10 priority countries, and hopes to increase its support in Iraq, Syria and Libya. The focus lies on recently liberated areas formerly occupied by the IS to enable safe access for humanitarian assistance and facilitate the return of displaced persons.

Worth mentioning in this context is Germany's quick response and increase in funding for the Mosul response last November, which helped kick starting clearance of improvised landmines, booby traps and explosive remnants of war as soon as access was possible.

Germany also remains committed to continue its support for the peace process in Colombia by funding projects covering the whole spectrum of humanitarian mine action.

Furthermore financial support for the publication of the Landmine Monitor and Cluster Munition Monitor as essential publications for the sector will continue.

The GICHD receives funding to support capacity building of five national demining centers of German priority countries to help improve coordination and raise standards.

In addition to being one of the largest financial donors, Germany also remains committed to the universalization of the relevant international conventions.

Thank you very much.