



Federal Foreign Office

Federal Foreign Office Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy within the framework of Federal Government humanitarian assistance

2022 – 2023





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Glossary of acronyms and abbreviations

APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction)	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions	NMAA	National Mine Action Authority
CCW	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons)	QM	Quality Management
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	SADD	Sex and Age-Disaggregated Data
EO	Explosive Ordnance	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal	UN	United Nations
EORE	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education	WHS	World Humanitarian Summit
FFO	Federal Foreign Office		
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining		
GMAP	Gender and Mine Action Programme		
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons		
IED	Improvised Explosive Device		
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross		
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards (International norms for humanitarian mine action programmes)		

Foreword

Humanitarian mine action is a key component of the Federal Government's civil engagement in crises and conflicts. Explosive remnants of war such as landmines and improvised explosive devices pose a major threat to millions of people. The Federal Government's engagement is however rooted not just in the humanitarian imperative, it is also based on commitments from the relevant international conventions, such as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction which Germany signed 25 years ago. Assisting other States Parties in their efforts to implement the conventions is thus a further priority for the Federal Government. Moreover, humanitarian mine action is closely linked to the spheres humanitarian assistance, disarmament, stabilisation, reconciliation and development cooperation and thus in many areas translates nexus thinking into action.

The first Federal Foreign Office Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy within the framework of Federal Government humanitarian assistance was drawn up in 2015. Since then, the sector has evolved further and global needs in the sphere of humanitarian mine action have surged – not least due to the widespread use of improvised landmines and explosive devices in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Colombia and increasingly in West Africa. In the sphere of humanitarian mine action, Germany is today the second-largest bilateral donor, providing support to the tune of ca. 44 million euros in 2021.

In this continuation and update of the 2019 – 2021 Strategy, new developments have been fed in and priority countries defined. The regional focus reflects Germany's current engagement. Germany will continue to work as a principled stakeholder acting in a spirit of partnership. Whether politically or through concrete projects, the Federal Government will play its part to curb the threat of landmines and other explosive remnants of war and enable the people affected to live a life in dignity.

The Strategy shows how humanitarian mine action fits into the broader context of German humanitarian assistance and civilian crisis engagement. It also outlines priorities and methods and describes how Germany, as a donor, supports projects and wants to help shape the sector.

Introduction

With this Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy, the Federal Foreign Office is defining a strategic framework for the period 2022 – 2023 in which measures to support and promote humanitarian mine action can be identified and priorities set. The Strategy also forms the basis for the constant exchange with partner organisations in Germany and at international level. Partners whose activities are supported from the humanitarian aid budget play a part in realising the goals of the Strategy through their projects. The Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy supports the Federal Foreign Office's overarching humanitarian and foreign policy objectives, as outlined in its *Strategy for Humanitarian Assistance Abroad*¹ and the *German Government policy guidelines: Preventing crises, managing conflicts, building peace*².

The Strategy is based on compliance with the following international conventions to which the Federal Republic of Germany has acceded:

- [Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction \(APMBC\)](#)
- [Convention on Cluster Munitions \(CCM\)](#)
- [Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War \(Protocol V\) of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons](#)
- [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.](#)

The Federal Foreign Office will continue to support countries affected by explosive ordnance in fulfilling their obligations under international conventions. This includes the implementation of the Oslo and Lausanne Action Plans and is in line with demands made at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul, Turkey, where Germany committed to promoting universal adherence to relevant international instruments, including the APMBC and the CCM.

This Strategy builds on the Federal Foreign Office Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy within the framework of Federal Government humanitarian assistance, last updated in 2019. The projects implemented during the period covered by the Strategy benefited populations affected by mines and ERW and were carefully adapted to local conditions. This included systematic support for clearance and survey, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and supporting victims in each of the countries concerned. Furthermore, targeted efforts were made to ensure these projects were tailor-made to the specific needs of particularly vulnerable population groups, for example persons with disabilities, the elderly and children, and implemented in a gender-sensitive and conflict-sensitive manner.

Innovative components were often promoted in the projects, for example the use of drones to investigate ERW contamination. Moreover, new strategic approaches were supported, such as cross-border mine clearance. Both the use of new technical possibilities and the integration of connected goals, such as that of cross-border reconciliation, are to be extended in the future and increasingly prioritised.

Germany assumed responsibility for donor coordination with international partners during Germany's chairmanship of the informal Mine Action Support Group 2020 – 2021. Attention was paid here to aspects such as linking humanitarian mine clearance to other political fields such as development, stabilisation, reconciliation or complex clearance of improvised explosive devices in fragile conflicts. The Federal Government will build on these approaches over the next two years.



Rehabilitation project in Yemen
© ISNA Agency, Handicap International

Humanitarian mine action aims to protect the lives and livelihoods of people in countries and regions that are affected by ERW with a view to directly reducing and preventing human suffering while laying the foundation for return and reconciliation within society, reconstruction, as well as long-term economic development. Infrastructure, housing and agricultural land is to be made usable once more. To this end, the Federal Foreign Office supports the detection and clearance of a wide range of ERW, for example mines³, cluster munition remnants (CMRs), unexploded remnants of war and improvised mines. Humanitarian mine action also comprises a wide range of other activities, including mine/ERW survey⁴ and clearance⁵, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD)⁶, EORE⁷, victim assistance⁸, advocacy work and efforts to strengthen humanitarian mine action's normative and strategic framework.

What is humanitarian mine action?



Clearing ERW in Afghanistan © HALO Trust

Humanitarian mine action in context

Context and challenges

Global conflicts have continued to increase in recent years, becoming more complex and intensive and lasting longer. An intensified use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and growing violence in densely populated areas can be observed in these conflicts resulting in considerable human suffering, including deaths, injuries and population displacements. The number of recorded global mine/ERW casualties and injuries more than doubled between 2013 and 2020 totalling 7073. The year 2016 when a total of 9440 people lost their lives was a tragic climax.⁹ The reason was more intensive use of these perfidious weapons in combination with the challenges in accessing and clearing contaminated areas in active conflicts. According to the Landmine Monitor, the number of states and other areas in which there were mine/ERW casualties increased from 41 to 54 between 2018 and 2020 and these included 38 States Parties to the APMB. ¹⁰ 30 APMB States Parties reported that they had had to secure care for a large number of landmine survivors.¹¹ Also, 11 CCM States Parties have reported taking Victim Assistance measures under Article 5.¹²

The security situation which is becoming more difficult in many countries together with widespread ERW contamination also often hinder peace missions, humanitarian aid organisations, stabilisation efforts and development policy work. ERW contamination also prevents refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) from returning to their homes and communities and from building sustainable livelihood activities.

Many countries, particularly those experiencing long-term conflict, also suffer from legacy contamination, that is, minefields some of which were laid several decades ago. They pose a threat to life and limb of people of all ages, particularly vulnerable groups and are an impediment to the socio-economic development of the communities affected. Humanitarian mine action is thus a harbinger of humanitarian protection, stabilisation,¹³ peace and long-term development.¹⁴

Taking account of mine action programmes for stabilisation, development and humanitarian planning and programming at an early stage – as part of a comprehensive nexus – is crucial when it comes to dealing efficiently and sustainably with the threat posed by ERW and furthermore creates a link to other instruments. This link is to be more pronounced in future.

Many mine/ERW-affected states have almost reached their target of identifying and clearing all anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions. Through greater adherence to the land release methodology¹⁵, by using non-invasive techniques (non-technical surveys, for example by interviewing the local population and using innovative technology such as drones), noteworthy progress has been made on efficiently identifying and clearing contaminated areas and clarifying the remaining contamination problem. Yet numerous other States Parties are requesting extensions to their clearance obligations under the APMBC and the CCM.¹⁶

Furthermore, many affected countries still struggle to define the extent of contamination. A particular challenge is the often poor data situation with regard to IED contamination, also due to poor access in conflict contexts and the complex nature of surveying IED contamination. Efficiency and effectiveness could be improved in this sector. Here, the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) provide a solid framework.

The impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the sector remains palpable, including the interruption of various mine clearance missions and the re-channelling of funding at international level.

Responsibility for clearance programmes is borne primarily by ERW-affected states. It is therefore important to further strengthen capacity development in national programmes and bolster national ownership.

What is more, improvements still need to be made firstly when it comes to coordinating mine action activities – both within the states affected and between donors – and secondly when it comes to anchoring these more successfully in overarching political strategies. Concrete endeavours by all affected actors are required here, for example through initiatives on country-specific approaches (e.g. in the form of so called country coalitions) and better use and networking of existing coordination fora (e.g. the Mine Action Support Group).

Federal Foreign Office priorities

Humanitarian mine action is part of humanitarian assistance and follows humanitarian principles in its implementation. Against this backdrop, the Federal Foreign Office will continue to focus its work on addressing the humanitarian impact of ERW in close cooperation with capable humanitarian aid organisations and with UNMAS. ERW survey, detection and clearance remain the focus of engagement to reduce the negative humanitarian impact of mines and ERW.

Federal Foreign Office partner organisations must fully comply with relevant international and national mine action standards, including updated standards on land release. Partners are strongly encouraged to embrace and share good practices and lessons learnt. New approaches, including the use of innovative technical equipment, such as drones or remote-controlled machinery are to be used where possible to increase effectiveness and reduce dangers.

Unfortunately too many fatalities are still caused by ERW – particularly amongst the civilian population. Thus, increasing awareness of the dangers posed by ERW (EORE) remains an urgent task. Projects must be appropriately tailored and targeted depending on the age, gender¹⁷ and diversity dynamics¹⁸ of affected communities. Ensuring that sex and age-disaggregated data (SADD)¹⁹ are collected, analysed and used for operational planning is a prerequisite for effective and efficient EORE. Partner organisations are called upon to test and where appropriate to embrace new methods of awareness-raising – for example using digital communication media – also with a view to best dealing with the often dynamic population shifts in conflict areas.

It is furthermore important that survivors of mine/ERW accidents have access to appropriate medical care, physical and sensory rehabilitation, psychosocial support, education and skills training, income generating opportunities and social reintegration. The Federal Foreign Office will continue its strong engagement in this field.

Specific mine/ERW victim assistance efforts are merely a short-term solution and should be implemented only until victim assistance is effectively integrated into broader government healthcare sectors and frameworks of affected countries, thereby guaranteeing necessary assistance.²⁰ The long-term goal has to be the full, equal and effective participation of mine/ERW victims in society.

The Federal Foreign Office backs the Oslo Action Plan²¹ on the APMBBC and the goal contained therein to make the most progress possible by 2025 on the road to a mine-free world. The Federal Foreign Office will support efforts to fully implement the Convention, including in countries with legacy contamination as this continues to have humanitarian impacts. The success of the Convention is based on the combination of national ownership and international cooperation. National authorities and centres for humanitarian mine action in the countries affected are always to play a central role in all planning, implementation and follow-up, supported by robust quality management systems. The capacities of such authorities and centres are to be strengthened – also through international support. When it comes to project implementation, account is to be taken of national strategies and plans in the field of humanitarian mine action.

Furthermore, contamination with mines and ERW often has regional and also cross-border effects, for example on refugee and migration flows. Cross-border approaches and cooperation between neighbouring countries therefore needs to be extended and supported and there is considerable potential in doing so.

Advocacy work also remains crucial to promote the global application of the relevant international conventions and thus to uphold the norms contained therein. Regular meetings and conferences on humanitarian mine action provide important platforms for these discussions and efforts. Civil-society organisations play a central role here. As part of its public diplomacy work, the Federal Foreign Office will underscore the importance of humanitarian mine action and the German contribution in this sector to politics, the public and media in Germany and abroad.

The coordination of project work and donor activities in the field of humanitarian mine action also needs to be further improved. The Federal Foreign Office will therefore again step up its activities to strengthen cooperation between affected states and other donors. Country-specific initiatives such as the Country Coalition Concept²² will play a central role here. With its chairmanship of the Mine Action Support Group 2020 – 2021, Germany has made an important contribution here.

Given their specific background, all people are affected differently by ERW contamination and have varying needs. Humanitarian mine action projects consequently need to reflect the specific needs of different age groups, genders or people with disabilities. The Federal Foreign Office thus takes care to ensure that partner organisations mainstream gender and diversity considerations throughout

the planning, implementation and monitoring stages of all humanitarian mine action activities. They must, for example, ensure that all mine/ERW accident data are collected and analysed in a sex and age-disaggregated manner to allow for detailed reporting and effective targeting of activities and assistance. The Federal Foreign Office also takes account of the gender and age-sensitive measures of the Oslo and Lausanne Action Plans and corresponding SADD reporting obligations.

The various guidelines on how to effectively mainstream gender considerations in humanitarian mine action, for example the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) and the UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes, also provide important guidance for the Federal Foreign Office partner organisations.

Also in the future, the Federal Foreign Office will work to ensure that existing standards, methods and tools are adapted in line with most recent developments.

Mine action's normative and strategic frameworks have a considerable influence on the sector's operational effectiveness and efficiency. These frameworks (including the IMAS and other systems), methods and tools in the sphere of standards, information management and quality must be updated and enhanced on a continual basis. Thus, for example, in many current conflicts, conventional, industrially produced landmines are barely being used. Instead, improvised mines and explosive devices (IEDs) are being deployed which often function in the same way as anti-personnel mines. In 2020, IEDs were for the fifth year in a row responsible for around half of all globally registered mine casualties.²³ There is thus a need to put these standards that have been updated at international level into practice in a manner sensitive to the context and to close current gaps in data collection so that projects can be tailor-made to needs.

Furthermore, the Federal Foreign Office supports the provision of (digital) information and training measures to support the global implementation of international norms and standards.

Core values

Federal Foreign Office support to humanitarian mine action and its partnership with the relevant stakeholders is guided by the following core values:

- The **humanitarian principles** of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence must be followed, promoted and respected when implementing measures. This is the only way to guarantee that humanitarian actors on the ground – who often face a difficult political environment and a problematic security situation – are able to operate.
- Humanitarian mine action must above all be **needs-focused, transparent and accountable**, based on solid assessments of humanitarian needs, transparent communication and accurate reporting, thus contributing to sustainable results.
- All humanitarian mine action activities should be **results-oriented**, supported by effective quality management systems, measured through appropriate monitoring and information management systems and communicated through clear, evidence-based reporting processes. External evaluations are beneficial here.
- **Good practice and lessons learnt** should be documented and shared with other stakeholders with a view to encouraging transparency, facilitating learning opportunities and accelerating progress.
- The **principle of national ownership** (as local as possible, as international as necessary) needs to underpin all measures. In particular, support should be granted in particular to affected countries which are willing and able to assume ownership for dealing with ERW and which are in a position to coordinate and ideally (co-) finance the respective national programmes. Such national ownership is to be promoted.
- **Coordination with relevant development, humanitarian and stabilisation partners** must be improved to enable humanitarian mine action to be integrated effectively into these sectors.

- **Gender and diversity** considerations should be taken into account in all aspects of mine action projects, including planning, implementation and follow up, to take all communities into account and improve the quality of results.
- The principle of **non-discrimination** must guide all victim assistance efforts, ensuring all injured and impaired persons are guaranteed equal treatment, regardless of the cause of their injury or impairment.²⁴



Minesweepers in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka
© Mines Advisory Group

The Federal Foreign Office as a donor

The Federal Foreign Office has made significant contributions to the sector since it began supporting humanitarian mine action in 1992. Working with implementing partners and partner governments, it has assisted 56 mine/ERW-affected countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and South America.

Germany has been among the top ten donors since 2007 and in 2020 Germany was the second-largest bilateral donor in the field of mine/ERW action after the United States. In 2021, Germany's engagement totalled some 52 million euros.

The Federal Foreign Office uses a flexible funding approach, enabling it both to firmly commit to longer-term humanitarian mine action strategies and projects and to react quickly to meet acute needs. This approach has also provided the Federal Foreign Office's partner organisations with greater planning security and flexibility, allowing for more effective strategic planning and resource allocation.

Networking with other instruments

Humanitarian mine action facilitates effective humanitarian assistance and promotes stabilisation, peace and security, as well as development. The Federal Foreign Office seeks to further maximise its positive impact on affected communities. It advocates better integration of humanitarian mine action in the international humanitarian system, for example within the framework of Humanitarian Response Plans coordinated by the United Nations and international humanitarian donor conferences. The Federal Foreign Office partner organisations are therefore called upon to link their operations appropriately to other humanitarian interventions. Where possible and fitting, activities are also to contribute to post-conflict peacebuilding, stabilisation and development cooperation.

Priority countries

The Federal Foreign Office will support humanitarian mine action projects primarily in a total of ten priority countries. Priority countries are selected using proven criteria which fall into four main categories (cf. Annex II):

- [Humanitarian needs/impact](#)
- [International convention obligations](#)
- [National ownership](#)
- [Effectiveness & efficiency](#)

Support for individual projects in non-priority countries remains possible on a case-by-case basis.

Country Coalition Concept

The *Country Coalition Concept* was developed under the German Presidency of the CCM in 2016/2017.²⁵ The idea is that a donor country particularly helps an affected country fulfil their convention obligations by better structuring cooperation between humanitarian mine action stakeholders.

The Federal Foreign Office is committed to further developing and actively applying this Concept and will seek to expand its scope from originally a sole focus on cluster munition remnants to the entire ERW spectrum.

By means of this country-focused approach, the Federal Foreign Office seeks to achieve the following:

- Address humanitarian mine action challenges in affected countries in a targeted fashion
- Make available more adequate victim assistance
- Enhance cooperation/coordination and mobilise additional donors
- Underscore the importance of national ownership

Important partners

The Federal Foreign Office will continue to work closely with partners that have unique expertise and knowledge in the fields of mine/ERW survey and clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance, advocacy and capacity development. These will include: humanitarian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in the field of mine action, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and other relevant UN agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

Quality profiles for NGO implementing partners

NGO partners are first subject to pre-qualification review (“quality profile”) in order to ensure that they meet the administrative and qualitative prerequisites for possible project funding. Aid organisations are assessed in line with accepted international standards and review mechanisms. Among other things, their financial and administrative capacities are evaluated; their international connections and involvement in the sector are reviewed; and their technical expertise and regional presence and priorities are assessed.

Not only are the necessary funding conditions reviewed on the basis of these profiles – cooperation based on partnership and exchange on relevant issues are also bolstered. The findings of this review have a direct impact on cooperation with the partner organisation. In addition to meeting the Federal Foreign Office’s duty to check an organisation’s creditworthiness, these findings also provide guidance on the organisation’s strengths and thus help define cooperation priorities. This qualification process is constantly reviewed, expanded and thus adapted to current international processes.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of humanitarian mine action projects supported by the Federal Foreign Office is conducted using the concept on Monitoring and Evaluating the humanitarian assistance provided by the Federal Foreign Office. Monitoring and evaluation is part of comprehensive performance assessment and provides a systematic, ongoing and final review of the objectives achieved and the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the funded measures. Monitoring means progress and compliance with quality standards are reviewed continuously. This enables the Federal Foreign Office and its partners to adapt projects and instruments to contextual change, improve performance, build on success and adjust projects as necessary. As is highlighted in the German Government policy guidelines: Preventing crisis, resolving conflicts, building peace, this is in line with the principle of identifying and averting unintentional effects during engagement at an early stage (the “do no harm” principle).

A theory of change with planned activities, indicators and targets drawn up prior to project launch, regular communication between the Federal Foreign Office and its partners including standardised reporting, as well as regular project visits above all by recipients, form the basis of effective monitoring. Evaluations examine and assess processes, results, achievement of objectives and also impacts and can be implemented for ongoing or completed projects, programmes and strategies. They contain recommendations and thus enable the Federal Foreign Office and its partners to apply the lessons learnt to future projects. When selecting projects to be supported, care is taken that project proposals match the theory of change of the aforementioned priorities of the Strategy (see Annex III). Furthermore, individual projects are examined with regard to the theory of change described in the project application and their evaluability.

An external mid-term evaluation of this Strategy was drawn up in mid-2020. As part of this evaluation process, interviews were conducted with partners and country case studies drawn up to take stock of progress made. As a result, a number of results and recommendations were presented that will influence the Federal Foreign Office's future role and contribution. In 2022-2023, individual projects are to be evaluated – also with a view to generating findings for future priorities.



Explosive Ordnance Risk Education in Afghanistan
© HALO Trust

Federal Foreign Office Strategic Orientation 2022 – 2023

Vision

A mine-free world in which above all vulnerable communities are protected, their humanitarian needs are met and their dignity is secured.²⁶

Overview of strategic objectives

Close consultation with partners and those affected have shown that the strategic objectives that have been set are valid and correct. We thus uphold these objectives while making minor amendments:

- **Objective 1: Reduce ERW threats**
Hazardous areas are effectively and efficiently rendered and declared safe through IMAS-compliant survey and clearance activities, facilitating the protection of civilians, safe refugee and IDP returns and the reconstruction of infrastructure.
- **Objective 2: Reduce vulnerability and improve resilience**
The population is made aware of the threat posed by ERW taking due account of societal diversity. Victims receive support through victim assistance with particular attention being paid to their rights.
- **Objective 3: Enhance advocacy and promote universalisation of relevant international conventions**
Universal application of relevant international conventions is promoted through advocacy efforts, enhanced coordination and intensified partnerships.
- **Objective 4: Develop and implement Innovative methods, standards and tools**
Methods, standards and tools are being further developed and innovative approaches supported, for example the use of new technologies, facilitating more effective and efficient humanitarian mine action.



HI Demining-Team in Iraq
© Shwan Nawzad, Handicap International

Annexes

Annex I: Footnotes

- 1 Strategy of the Federal Foreign Office for Humanitarian Assistance Abroad 2019 – 2023, 21 November 2018
- 2 German Government policy guidelines: Preventing crises, managing conflicts, building peace, p. 89
- 3 The Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations (IMAS 04.10) perceives EO to be mine action projects involving the following types of munitions: mines, cluster munitions, unexploded remnants of war, abandoned remnants of war, improvised explosive devices, other devices (in line with CCW APII definition) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs)* Note: IEDs which correspond to the definition of mines, booby-traps or other devices are considered relevant to mine action if they are cleared for humanitarian purposes and situated in areas in which there is no longer combat.
- 4 IMAS 07.11, Land Release, (February 2019). The term “non-technical survey” refers to the collection and analysis of data, without the use of technical interventions, about the presence, type, distribution and surrounding environment of ERW contamination, in order to define better where such contamination is present, and where it is not, and to support land release prioritisation and decision-making processes through the provision of evidence. The term “technical survey” refers to the collection and analysis of data, using appropriate technical interventions, about the presence, type, distribution and surrounding environment of ERW contamination, in order to better define where such contamination is present, and where it is not, and to support land release prioritisation and decision-making processes through the provision of evidence.
- 5 In IMAS 07.11, *ibid*, the term “clearance”, in the context of mine action, refers to tasks or actions to ensure the removal and/or destruction of all ERW hazards from a specified area to a specified depth.
- 6 In IMAS 04.10, *ibid*, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) (2005), the detection, identification, evaluation, render safe, recovery and disposal of EO. EOD may be undertaken:
 - a) as a routine part of mine clearance operations, upon discovery of ERW;
 - b) to dispose of ERW discovered outside hazardous areas (this may be a single item of ERW, or a larger number inside a specific area);
 - c) to dispose of ERW which has become hazardous by deterioration, damage or attempted destruction.
- 7 IMAS 12.10, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), September 2020, 04.10, *ibid*, comprises activities designed to reduce the risk of injury through ERW by increasing the awareness of women, girls, boys and men depending on their different levels of threat, roles and needs and promoting changes in behaviour. The core activities include providing information to the public, education and training.
- 8 IMAS 13.10 Victim Assistance in Mine Action, October 2021, defines the term “Victim Assistance (VA)” in connection with mine clearance as a number of activities dealing with the needs and rights of victims of weapons of mass destruction including emergency and ongoing medical care, rehabilitation, psychological and psychosocial support, as well as socio-economic integration, known as “VA-Service”. Victim Assistance also includes data collection, as well as legislation and strategies.
- 9 Landmine Monitor 2021, p. 42.
- 10 Landmine Monitor 2021, p. 2.
- 11 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/status-of-the-convention/>
- 12 CCM Victim Assistance Concept Note, 8th Meeting of States Parties.
- 13 cf. Federal Government policy guidelines: Preventing crises, managing conflicts, building peace, p. 89.
- 14 cf. Resolution 2365 (2017) of the UN Security Council on mine action, 30 June 2017.

- 15 International Mine Action Standards (07.11) defines land release as ‘the process of applying all reasonable effort to identify, define, and remove all presence and suspicion of ERW through non-technical survey, technical survey and/or clearance. The criteria for “all reasonable effort” shall be defined by the NMAA. Land release is an evidence-based decision-making process that helps determine with confidence which land needs further processing and which does not.
- 16 Article 5 of the APMBC: destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas and Article 4 of the CCM: clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants and risk reduction education.
- 17 UN Women, OSAGI Gender Mainstreaming – Concepts and definitions: Gender refers to the roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society at a given time considers appropriate for men and women. In addition to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, gender also refers to the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learnt through socialisation processes. They are context/time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context, as are other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis including class, race, poverty level, ethnic group, sexual orientation, age, etc.
- 18 Global Protection Cluster: Diversity refers to different values, attitudes, cultural perspectives, beliefs, ethnic background, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, health, social status, skill and other specific personal characteristics. While the age and gender dimensions are present in everyone, other characteristics vary from person to person. These differences must be recognised, understood and valued by humanitarian actors in each specific emergency in order to ensure adequate protection for all people.
- 19 Sex and age-disaggregated data SADD refers to making a distinction between females and males of different age groups: women, girls, boys and men. Adults are generally seen as those 18 years and older.
- 20 CCM, Article 5, paragraph 2(c).
- 21 Oslo Action Plan, adopted on 29 November 2019.
- 22 Concept designed to ensure the successful coordination and country-specific adaptation of the necessary measures with the help of a tandem consisting of the State Party concerned and a donor, cf. p. 15.
- 23 Landmine Monitor 2021, p. 44.
- 24 CCM, Article 5 paragraph 2.
- 25 2cf. German Presidency of the Convention on Cluster Munitions: <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/aussenpolitik/themen/abruestung-ruestungskontrolle/-/207146>.
- 26 Theory of Change for FFO’s strategic orientation 2022 – 2023, see Annex III.

Annex II: Federal Foreign Office Criteria Framework for Priority Country Selection

Category	Humanitarian Impact	International Convention Obligations	National ownership	Effectiveness & Efficiency
Criteria	To what extent could humanitarian mine action facilitate safe refugee and IDP return?	Is the country a State Party to the APMBC?	To what extent does the country have an established, functional national humanitarian mine action institutional architecture, or is it willing to establish one?	Is the national environment conducive to achieving positive results and implementing the Federal Foreign Office Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy?
	To what extent could humanitarian mine action reduce ERW accidents and deaths?	Is the country a State Party to the CCM?	To what extent does the country have a national humanitarian mine action strategy that is developed according to best practices, or is it willing to develop one?	How likely is this country to achieve results with less effort/cost/time required than other similarly affected countries?
	To what extent could humanitarian mine action facilitate humanitarian actors' access, for the purpose of delivering assistance?	Is the country a State Party to Protocol V of the CCW?	To what extent does the country have IMAS-compliant humanitarian NMAS, or to what extent is it willing to develop/review/update such standards?	
	To what extent is humanitarian mine/ERW action linked to other humanitarian and development activities in the country (e.g. inclusion of mine action in humanitarian response plans (HRPs))?	Is the country a State Party to the CRPD?	To what extent does the national government provide budgetary support to the national humanitarian mine action programme?	
		Does the country submit annual transparency reports under Article 7 of APMBC and CCM in a timely manner?		

Annex III Federal Foreign Office Strategic Orientation in the sphere of Humanitarian Mine Action 2022 – 2023: Theory of change

Vision

A mine-free world in which above all vulnerable communities are protected, their humanitarian needs are met and their dignity is secured..



Strategic objectives		Strategic objectives	
Reduce ERW threats	Reduce vulnerability and improve resilience	Increase advocacy work and promote universalisation of international conventions	Develop and implement innovative methods, standards and tools
Hazardous areas are effectively and efficiently rendered safe through IMAS-compliant survey and clearance activities, facilitating safe refugee and IDP returns, the protection of civilians and the reconstruction of infrastructure.	Humanitarian impacts of ERW are addressed and reduced through age and diversity-sensitive risk education, as well as rights-based victim assistance.	Universal application of relevant conventions is promoted through advocacy efforts and enhanced coordination and partnerships.	Methods, standards, strategies, systems and tools are developed and innovative approaches promoted, facilitating more effective and efficient humanitarian mine action.

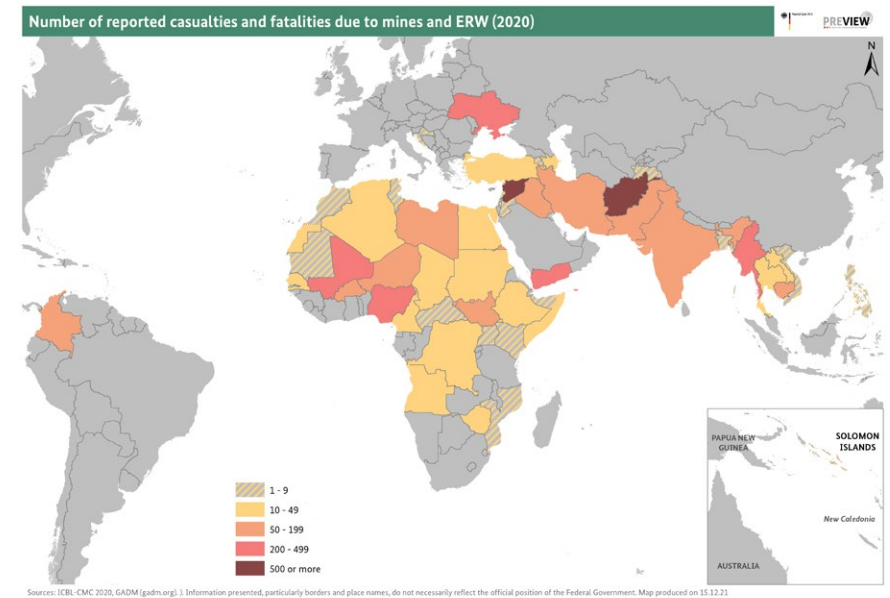
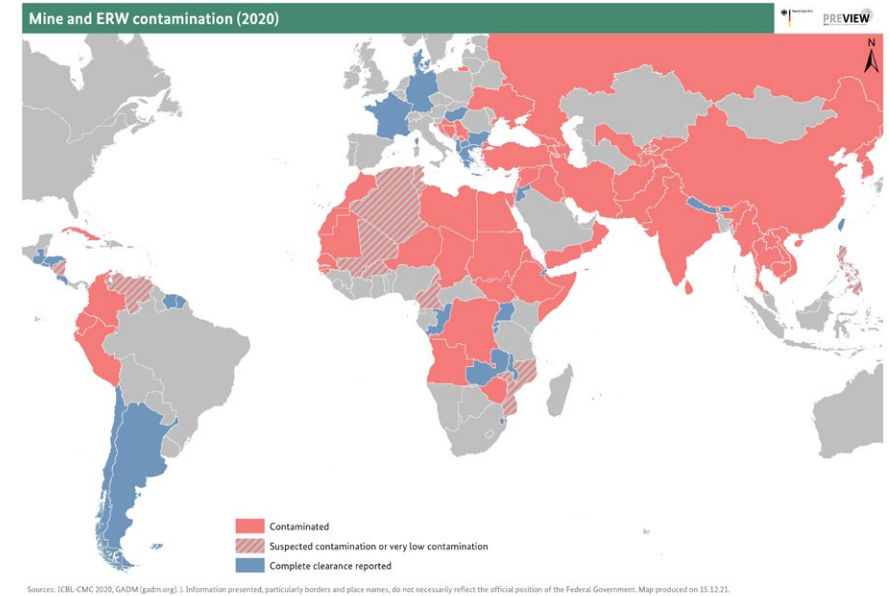
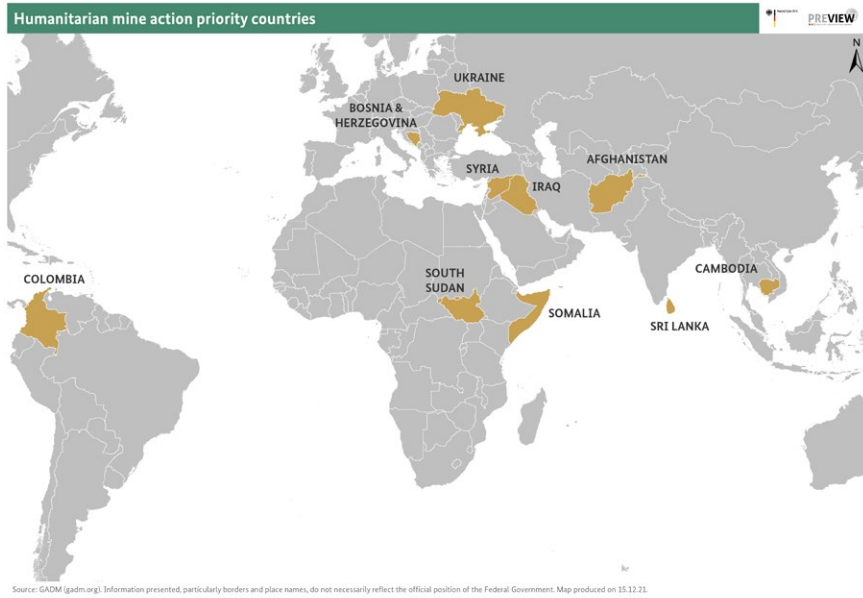


Measures		Measures	
Survey, clearance and EOD	risk education and victim assistance	Advocacy, coordination and partnerships	Development of methods, standards, strategies, systems and tools

Annex IV: List of current priority countries

- Afghanistan
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Iraq
- Cambodia
- Colombia
- Somalia
- Sri Lanka
- South Sudan
- Syria
- Ukraine

Annex V: Maps



Published by

Federal Foreign Office

Werderscher Markt 1

10117 Berlin

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Cover photo

Minesweepers in Colombia © Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas

Editorial

Division S07

Layout

www.kiono.de

Printed by

www.zarbock.de