



Federal Republic of Germany  
Foreign Office

**FOURTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES  
TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Lusaka, 9–13 September 2013

**Statement by Germany on Cooperation and Assistance**

Mr. President,

In partnership with experienced organizations on the ground, the German government assists countries to clear mines, cluster munitions and unexploded ordnance mainly when such contamination causes dangerous and lethal threats for local communities. The aim of the assistance is to ensure people's physical safety and alleviate suffering. The assistance is also intended to help the countries concerned to fulfil their obligations under the Ottawa, Cluster Munitions and UN Conventional Weapons Conventions.

The German government has for many years made large sums available for humanitarian mine and ordnance clearance. Since 1992 it has provided some 244 million Euro for such projects in 47 different countries.

2013 Germany has allocated an amount of nearly 20 million Euros for mine action projects including several victim assistance and Mine Risk Education projects.

In 2013 Germany funds projects in affected states addressing all three treats – landmines, unexploded ordnance and cluster munitions – these countries are:

- Afghanistan – Three projects are funded with an amount of approx. 3.39 million €,
- Africa – sixteen projects – 5.21 million €
- South America – two projects in Colombia – 400,000 €
- Southeast Asia – ten projects – 4.05 million €
- Central Asia – one project in Tadzhikistan 788,000 €
- The Balkans – three projects with an amount of 1.6 million €,
- Middle East – seven projects – 2.16 million €,
- Support for GICHD and ICBL/CMC activities – six projects – 641,000 €,
- Support for victim assistance and Mine Risk Education for Afghanistan, Cambodia, Columbia, Eritrea, Libya, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Syria – one MRE project for refugees conducted in Jordan - with an amount of approx. 1.89 Mio. €
- Specific projects which address mainly cluster munitions are supported within Lao PDR, Lebanon and Vietnam.

All in all, in 2013 Germany supports 48 humanitarian demining projects.

Furthermore, in many developing countries the strengthening of the health sector is a focus of development cooperation. The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development assists its partner countries with specific measures to help people with disabilities and designs its development cooperation increasingly inclusive. Victims of cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines and of other kind of explosive ammunition benefit from these measures. An age and gender sensitive orientation is part of the main principles of all measures.

States affected by mines and explosive remnants of war as mentioned above should live up to their responsibility not only based on the obligations of the 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 the key to the success of all our activities.

All States Parties should accept their obligations to assist affected states in their efforts related to humanitarian mine action. Germany welcomes all the efforts to achieve a deeper co-operation and coordination among the affected states and donors. Germany encourages all partners to identify and use practical synergies in order to effectively implement the Ottawa and Oslo Conventions as well as the Convention on Certain Weapons.

Germany will stay committed to humanitarian mine action and will continue to be a reliable partner for countries contaminated with explosives. In this spirit Germany is currently in the process of reviewing its humanitarian aid strategy and its mine action strategy, to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.

Thank you, Mr. President.