



**FSD**

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2024





ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

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**FSD**  
Avenue Giuseppe-Motta 14b  
1202 Geneva - Switzerland  
+41 22 731 14 79  
info@fsd.ch  
www.fsd.ch





Humanitarian demining not only saves lives, but also allows

## humanitarian organisations

to reach people in need as quickly as possible.



ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

## OUR IMPACT IN 2024



# FSD IN 2024



**934**  
staff members  
of which 90% were recruited and trained locally

**278,210**  
people  
educated about the danger of mines and unexploded ordnance

**294**  
conflict victims  
and their families supported through socio-economic projects

**6,637,289**  
square metres of land  
cleared of explosive ordnance and handed over to communities

**6,794**  
landmines  
and explosive remnants of war located and destroyed



Humanitarian demining not only saves lives, but also allows

## conflict-affected communities

to rebuild vital infrastructure.



ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

## OUR PROGRAMMES



# AFGHANISTAN



## Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance in Afghanistan

Afghanistan remains one of the most heavily contaminated countries in the world due to decades of armed conflict. In 2023 alone, more than 650 people were injured or killed by landmines and unexploded ordnance, with children accounting for 80% of the victims. Not only does this ongoing threat endanger lives, but it also has far-reaching consequences: agricultural production is disrupted, as vast areas of farmland remain unsafe; contaminated roads hinder transportation, trade, and humanitarian aid delivery; and many families are forced to relocate, limiting their access to education, healthcare, and other essential services. Shepherds, who often graze their livestock in remote areas, are particularly at risk, as they unknowingly enter contaminated fields, leading to frequent and tragic accidents.

## FSD's Activities in Afghanistan in 2024

FSD has been working in Afghanistan for over two decades. In 2024, FSD's mine action teams operated in two key provinces in the northeast of the country: Badakhshan and Kunduz. Both are littered with explosive ordnance, mostly PFM-1 anti-personnel mines, or "butterfly mines" —small plastic devices that are difficult to detect and often mistaken for toys by children. Despite harsh weather and mountainous terrain, FSD teams worked systematically to locate and destroy these deadly devices, making the region safer for local communities.

In May 2024, severe flooding in Baghlan province displaced thousands of people. Given its presence in the region, FSD assisted with emergency medical support, providing first aid, distributing essential medicines, and helping with evacuations. A total of 62 women, 41 men, and 23 children

received medical assistance from FSD.

## Humanitarian Impact: Restoring Safety and Livelihoods

Despite a reduced programme scope following the withdrawal of a major donor, FSD made significant progress in 2024. Six minefields, covering more than 210,000 square metres, were cleared and officially returned to local communities. Close to 120 anti-personnel mines, 84 unexploded ordnance items, and more than 130 other dangerous munitions were identified and neutralised. Additionally, eight emergency explosive ordnance disposal tasks were completed, eliminating immediate threats posed by newly discovered explosive devices. These efforts have allowed farmers and shepherds to regain access to safe land, enabled children to walk to school without risking their lives, and improved road safety for transportation and commerce.

## Ensuring the Future of Mine Clearance in Afghanistan

Funding shortages posed serious challenges to FSD's operations in 2024. Mine risk education initiatives, which play a crucial role in teaching communities how to recognise and avoid explosive hazards, had to be suspended. Support programmes for mine survivors, which previously provided vocational training and financial assistance, were also discontinued. Additionally, increasing administrative restrictions on NGOs in Afghanistan further complicated humanitarian efforts, causing delays and obstacles in project implementation. Despite these challenges, FSD remains committed to supporting Afghan communities affected by landmines and unexploded ordnance.

In 2024, FSD's programme in Afghanistan was supported by the United States Department of State and private donors. Continued financial support is essential to sustain mine clearance operations, resume risk education initiatives, and help restore livelihoods in Afghanistan's most affected regions.



## KEY FIGURES 2024

43

FSD staff members working in Afghanistan, all Afghan nationals

40

football fields' worth of surface cleared of explosive hazards

379

explosive ordnance items located and rendered safe



# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



 SUPPORT TO THE  
PEACE PROCESS

 SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
ASSISTANCE

## From Conflict to Stability: The Long Road Ahead for the Central African Republic

Despite some recent progress, years of conflict in the Central African Republic have left many communities grappling with persistent challenges and inadequate access to essential services. Displacement and instability have exacerbated food insecurity, preventing families from cultivating their land. Women and youth face significant barriers to economic opportunities and financial independence, while former armed group members struggle to reintegrate into civilian life and often resort to banditry and other forms of criminality. Most children, especially orphans and those with disabilities, have limited access to education and basic care. With humanitarian needs far exceeding available resources, sustained support is crucial for long-term stability and resilience.

## FSD's Activities in the Central African Republic

In 2024, FSD continued its mission to assist vulnerable communities in Bouar and Bangui, with a particular focus on empowering women and promoting income-generating activities. Initiatives included organic agricultural training, literacy programmes, computer skills workshops, sewing and knitting classes, and shea butter processing. These activities aimed to foster economic independence and skills development. In addition, FSD provided substantial support to orphans and schoolchildren, offering health checks and organising extracurricular activities. FSD's ongoing work in rural areas, such as Vouin, involved agricultural training to enhance food security and promote income generation. Over six months, 48 local farmers were trained in sustainable farming techniques,

including soil revitalisation, water management, and post-harvest processing.

In January 2024, FSD concluded its reintegration project for ex-combatants in support of the disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration process, helping individuals transition to civilian life by providing sustainable livelihood opportunities. The project, carried out in five locations (Bouar, Paoua, Bria, N'dele, and Kaga-Bandoro), involved vocational skills training for 276 ex-combatants. These skills included sewing, electrical installation, information technology, masonry, mechanics, carpentry, soap-making, and welding.

## Humanitarian Impact: Building Resilience and Empowering Communities

In 2024, FSD's educational and recreational activities supported dozens of children from various backgrounds, improving literacy and communication skills while promoting social cohesion. These programmes provided a safe space for children to learn, grow, and regain a sense of normality, despite the challenges posed by ongoing conflict and instability.

FSD also contributed to empowering persons with disabilities, notably 14 deaf teenage girls in Bouar, who participated in sign language classes and vocational sewing training. This initiative, developed with local advocates and families, has helped integrate these girls into the community both socially and economically, promoting greater inclusivity.

In rural areas such as Vouin, organic agricultural training has helped strengthen farmers' economic resilience, providing them with long-term skills to support themselves and their communities.

## Challenges and the Future of FSD's Work in the Central African Republic

In 2024, FSD's programme in the Central African Republic was supported by the European Union (EU), Swiss communes, and private donors. With the conclusion of EU funding for the reintegration of ex-combatants in January 2024, FSD is now exploring new funding opportunities to ensure the continued empowerment of vulnerable groups, in particular women and children. By focusing on vocational training, agricultural development, and social inclusion, FSD is helping individuals build sustainable livelihoods and strengthening community resilience, contributing to the Central African Republic's recovery and long-term stability.

## KEY FIGURES 2024

10

years of continuous engagement in the Central African Republic

48

farmers trained in organic subsistence farming

14

deaf teenage girls provided with sewing training



# COLOMBIA



## Landmines, Displacement, and the Path to Recovery

Colombia has endured nearly six decades of armed conflict, leaving the country heavily affected by landmines and unexploded ordnance. Although the 2016 Peace Agreement marked a major step towards peace, ongoing violence and the rise of non-state armed groups continue to impact communities. More than eight million Colombians remain displaced, and thousands of mine survivors face significant social and economic challenges. While the number of mine casualties in 2023 and 2024 was lower than in previous years, accident survivors continue to struggle with injuries, unemployment, isolation, and stigma. FSD's programme in Colombia focuses on improving the lives of conflict victims by supporting their socio-economic reintegration.

## FSD's Activities in Colombia in 2024

FSD has been working in Colombia since 2004, focusing on a range of mine action projects, including building the capacity of national authorities. In 2022, FSD launched a new initiative to support the socio-economic reintegration of conflict victims through urban gardening. This programme was tailored to meet the needs of mine survivors and displaced individuals living in the Bogotá region. In partnership with the Colombian Victims' Unit, FSD identified beneficiaries and helped them establish hydroponic vegetable gardens on their balconies, providing an opportunity to improve their livelihoods through sustainable agriculture.

Hydroponics is a technique that allows plants to grow in a water-based nutrient solution rather than soil, making it ideal for urban areas or locations with limited resources. Initially, the project involved

installing hydroponic systems on survivors' balconies and training them to cultivate vegetables and herbs. Mentors also assisted the beneficiaries in selling their produce to local markets and restaurants. Due to the success of this initiative, FSD expanded the programme in 2023, shifting from individual to community-based gardens. Five victim assistance centres across the capital Bogotá are now equipped with hydroponic structures, including the Suba and Patio Bonito centres, as well as the Lourdes centre, which specifically assists Afro-Colombian victims of conflict. In 2024, close to 300 conflict victims and their families benefited from the initiative, gaining practical skills while improving their access to nutritious food and income opportunities.

## Humanitarian Impact: Growing Opportunities for Conflict Survivors

FSD's urban gardening programme has significantly improved the lives of many mine victims and other conflict survivors, who often face economic hardship and social exclusion. Participants not only gained a source of income but also found a renewed sense of purpose and autonomy. Many now grow vegetables for personal consumption and sale, directly enhancing food security while generating revenue. Afro-Colombian communities also use these structures to grow key ingredients for ancestral medicine.

The project also fosters social interaction and emotional well-being, crucial for individuals recovering from trauma. Through training in organic farming and small-scale business management, participants acquire valuable skills that support their long-term reintegration into society. Participants in this programme have not only improved their

livelihoods but also reclaimed their dignity and cultural roots.

## Looking Ahead: Expansion and Sustainability

In 2025, FSD plans to expand its urban gardening initiative, reaching more beneficiaries with large-scale community structures across the country and exploring new sustainable farming techniques such as aquaponics - an integrated system combining plant cultivation with fish farming to enhance food production while conserving resources. FSD will also strengthen collaborations with local and national authorities to ensure sustainability through community agreements and handover processes.

In 2024, FSD's programme in Colombia was supported by private donors.

## KEY FIGURES 2024

**5**  
victim centres across the country now equipped with community hydroponic gardens


**294**  
conflict victims and their families supported through FSD's urban gardening initiative



# IRAQ



 HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

 RISK EDUCATION

 CAPACITY BUILDING

## The Tragic Legacy of the Islamic State (ISIS)'s Improvised Landmines

The aftermath of ISIS's occupation compounded Iraq's already severe landmine and explosive remnants of war contamination, making it one of the most affected countries in the world. From 2014 to 2017, ISIS planted hundreds of thousands of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) around villages, key infrastructure, roads, fields, and schools, creating a persistent threat to civilians. These IEDs continue to endanger the lives of returning displaced people and hinder the rebuilding of communities.

### FSD's Activities in Iraq in 2024

FSD began working in Iraq in 2016, focusing on clearing IEDs and ensuring the safety of communities in areas liberated from ISIS. In 2024, FSD continued operations in Nineveh and Kirkuk, making steady progress despite

administrative challenges and a volatile security situation worsened by regional tensions. Six manual demining teams operated in Qayarah, Makhmur, and Dabes, supported by a mechanical team, clearing nearly 1.4 million square metres of land. Shielded construction machines were used to assist manual demining, especially when clearing rubble, while remote-controlled vehicles inspected hazardous buildings.

In parallel, risk education activities reached over 13,300 children and 4,400 adults through face-to-face sessions in schools and villages. FSD also ran targeted online awareness campaigns on Facebook and TikTok.

In January 2024, FSD concluded its capacity-building project with Shareteah Humanitarian Organization (SHO), which is now the only Iraqi NGO carrying out humanitarian mine action operations.

The project's final phase focused on strengthening SHO's governance and financial systems, enabling it to independently secure funding and carry out mine clearance operations.

### Humanitarian Impact: Eliminating Explosive Threats, Enabling Recovery

In 2024, FSD teams located and rendered safe close to 1,000 explosive devices, including 648 IEDs and 339 items of unexploded ordnance. Mechanical assets enabled the inspection and clearance of 26 damaged buildings, removing IEDs as well as unexploded ordnance. Since starting operations in Iraq in 2016, FSD has safely cleared a total of 22,500 IEDs. This work has had a transformative impact on local communities, significantly reducing the risk of accidents in areas once too dangerous to live in or use. The clearance has allowed people to return home, access farmland, use roads, and engage in daily activities without fear of injury. Additionally, it has opened space for reconstruction, enabling the rebuilding of infrastructure, schools, hospitals, and markets.

FSD's risk education activities are also crucial in reducing accidents caused by IEDs and other explosive devices. By teaching communities to identify and avoid dangers, FSD helps protect lives and prevent injuries. This awareness empowers individuals, particularly vulnerable groups such as children and displaced people, to make safer choices and reduce exposure to life-threatening hazards.

### Navigating Challenges: FSD's Path Forward in Iraq

Despite reduced funding and fewer teams on the ground, FSD remains fully dedicated to its mission in Iraq. While ongoing ISIS activity still renders some areas unsafe for

survey and clearance operations, continued collaboration with local communities, partners, and stakeholders allows FSD to adapt and make sustained progress. Through these efforts, FSD is committed to improving safety, strengthening local capacity, and creating a lasting impact on the lives of those affected by landmines and explosive hazards.

In 2024, FSD's programme in Iraq was supported by the United States Department of State, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the Canton of Geneva, GGL Austria, and private donors.



## KEY FIGURES 2024

987

explosive devices located and cleared

17,727

people educated on the danger of mines through face-to-face sessions

86

staff members, including 82 Iraqi nationals



# PHILIPPINES



 HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

 RISK EDUCATION

 CAPACITY BUILDING

## Mindanao's Explosive Legacy

The Island of Mindanao, in the southern Philippines, has endured decades of conflict between government forces and rebel armed groups, resulting in a deadly legacy of unexploded ordnance (UXO). Explosive remnants of war are widespread, particularly in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), where insurgents repurpose unexploded or abandoned ordnance to serve as main charges in improvised explosive devices (IEDs), amplifying the risks for local communities. These IEDs are often hidden in high-traffic areas, such as schools, roads, and marketplaces, posing a grave danger to the population.

## FSD's Activities in the Philippines in 2024

In 2024, FSD surveyed close to 250 villages and conducted spot checks in high-risk

areas, including schools and government buildings. When explosive devices were identified, FSD collaborated with the Philippines Armed Forces to ensure their safe neutralisation.

During these operations, FSD identified 49 survivors of explosive ordnance, including many children, and facilitated their referral for medical and psychosocial care.

To prevent future accidents, FSD ran hundreds of risk education sessions, reaching over 45,000 people in schools and villages in 2024. FSD also worked with local authorities to incorporate mine risk education into school curricula, ensuring lasting community awareness. Additionally, FSD continued to support the establishment of a regional operations centre in BARMM to aid the efficient and effective coordination of explosive ordnance disposal tasks in the region. After two years of preparation,

the centre was refurbished and equipped in 2024, with plans to begin operations in 2025.

## Humanitarian Impact: Promoting Trust, Peace, and Security

The presence of explosive ordnance continues to endanger civilian lives and claim victims every year in Mindanao. However, efforts to clear these hazards are not only about making the land safe, but also about rebuilding trust and fostering cooperation in a region scarred by conflict. By removing explosive hazards, communities can work towards long-term peace, strengthening relationships and promoting stability in areas that have long been divided.

Additionally, the programme directly supports survivors of explosive incidents, ensuring they have access to the care they need to heal physically and mentally. These efforts are key to helping families and communities recover and regain a sense of safety, ultimately contributing to the resilience and well-being of the population.

## Towards Lasting Peace: Strengthening Explosive Risk Management in Mindanao

While significant progress has been made in 2024, there are still many challenges ahead. Moving forward, efforts will focus on formalising the process used to help mine and UXO incident survivors access care, ensuring that local systems can identify and support them more efficiently. A key next step is to ensure the operational success of the newly established operations centre. This centre will be staffed and operational in 2025, playing a critical role in managing explosive hazards more effectively in the region.

There will also be continued work to integrate mine risk education into school curricula, thereby reaching future generations and creating a culture of safety. In 2024, FSD's programme in the Philippines was supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the City of Geneva, and private donors.



## KEY FIGURES 2024

246

villages potentially contaminated with explosive hazards surveyed

35,146


children educated on the danger of mines and explosive devices



# TAJIKISTAN



 HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

 RISK EDUCATION

 ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

## Security and Environmental Challenges in Tajikistan

Tajikistan continues to face significant security risks from minefields and explosive remnants of past conflicts. While demining efforts have made notable progress, explosive ordnance still pose a substantial threat, particularly along the borders with Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. However, with continued dedication and progress, the goal of making these areas safe for communities is within reach, with Tajik authorities anticipating completion by 2032.

Another hidden danger in Tajikistan is obsolete pesticide stockpiles, including hazardous DDT from Soviet-era agriculture. These pesticide remnants have contaminated both soil and water in several regions, leading to severe long-term health risks. The limited resources available for addressing these environmental hazards

have left many communities vulnerable to both explosive and environmental dangers.

## FSD's Activities in Tajikistan in 2024

In 2024, FSD significantly expanded its humanitarian demining programme, growing from a single clearance team in January to four by December, making it the largest demining operator in Tajikistan. Over the course of the year, FSD teams cleared more than 500 anti-personnel mines, 100 items of unexploded ordnance, and 450 small arms and ammunition. Beyond demining, FSD conducted numerous explosive ordnance risk education sessions in high-risk areas, reaching over 2,900 people, including farmers, herders, and schoolchildren. The operations were concentrated along the borders with Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

FSD maintains a gender-inclusive approach, ensuring all demining teams are mixed,

promoting inclusivity in a traditionally male-dominated sector. In 2024, FSD also launched a socio-economic baseline assessment along the Kyrgyz border to analyse demographics, behaviours, and mine risk awareness. The results mapped gender disparities and identified the specific needs of women and men in the surveyed areas, providing valuable insights for future interventions, such as expanding employment and vocational training, improving mine risk education with a gender-sensitive focus, and addressing systemic challenges in water access and infrastructure.

In addition to demining, FSD continued tackling environmental concerns, particularly obsolete pesticide contamination. Efforts in 2024 focused on phytoremediation, including large-scale tree planting to absorb and neutralise harmful chemicals.

## Humanitarian Impact: Restoring Safety, Health, and Food Security

The clearance of two minefields along the Afghan border and a former battlefield near the Kyrgyz border directly benefited farmers, traders, and communities by restoring safe access to land that had been unusable for decades. In a region where land scarcity is a key conflict driver, this clearance work plays a crucial role in promoting stability. Additionally, several small-scale clearance tasks were completed, safely removing unexploded bombs and ammunition and ensuring the safety of nearby residents.

On the environmental front, phytoremediation efforts through tree planting projects significantly reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals, improving health outcomes for local communities.

## Expanding Reach and Supporting Communities in the Years Ahead

Looking ahead, FSD plans to adopt a regional approach in Central Asia, expanding operations into Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan while integrating demining with gender inclusion, environmental protection, and socio-economic support. FSD is also exploring the use of drones and advanced mapping tools for mine surveys in northern Tajikistan.

In 2024, FSD's demining projects was supported by the United States Department of State, the U.K. Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, PATRIP Foundation, and private donors. Environmental initiatives were funded by the Global Environment Facility and private donors.

## KEY FIGURES 2024

**224,374**

square metres of land cleared and handed over to the communities

**1,070**

explosive ordnance items located and rendered safe

**59**


staff members, including 58 Tajik nationals



# UKRAINE



 HUMANITARIAN  
DEMINEING

 RISK  
EDUCATION

 CAPACITY  
BUILDING

## An Unprecedented Scale and Variety of Explosive Contamination

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has left millions of landmines and unexploded ordnance scattered across the country, making it one of the most heavily mine-contaminated regions in the world. It is estimated that one-third of Ukraine's territory may be affected. These explosive ordnance not only pose a grave threat to lives, but also obstruct humanitarian efforts, disrupt reconstruction, and prevent displaced people from returning home safely. This contamination has also resulted in the abandonment of vast agricultural lands, severely impacting food production and economic stability. Clearing these hazards is a monumental task, given the scale and diversity of contamination across the country.

## FSD's Activities in Ukraine in 2024

In 2024, FSD expanded its operations in the provinces of Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Kherson, and Donetsk, covering survey activities, minefield and battle area clearance, risk education, and local capacity building. By December 2024, FSD employed around 650 staff, becoming one of Ukraine's largest humanitarian mine action organisations. FSD operated 19 survey teams to assess hazardous areas, while 32 demining teams focused on locating and clearing explosive devices. Specialised machinery, including armoured construction vehicles, were used for rural area clearance and clearing damaged infrastructure. Additionally, 12 mine detection dogs and local handlers started training for deployment in 2025. In 2024, FSD cleared nearly 2.2 million square metres of land, including agricultural fields, towns, and critical infrastructure, rendering

safe thousands of explosive devices.

In parallel, FSD also initiated a capacity-building partnership with a local NGO to mark and fence hazardous areas, and continued its collaboration with Ukraine's State Emergency Service, providing logistical support and technical expertise for the use of 22 ground-preparation machines to assist in their demining operations.

FSD's risk education initiatives have reached more than 210,000 individuals, equipping them with critical knowledge in keeping safe in explosive hazard environments. These sessions were conducted in schools and villages, complemented by digital campaigns on social media platforms.

## Humanitarian Impact: Clearing Threats, Rebuilding Lives

FSD's demining efforts have had a direct and significant impact on local communities. By clearing agricultural fields, urban areas, and critical infrastructure - including the vicinity of power lines - FSD has enabled farmers to resume their work, facilitated reconstruction, restored freedom of movement, and allowed displaced families to safely return home, helping to restore stability in affected regions.

In parallel, FSD's risk education initiatives have significantly lowered the risk of accidents, creating safer environments for all. Additionally, through capacity-building programmes, FSD has enhanced local expertise, equipping Ukrainian mine action stakeholders with vital skills and ensuring the long-term sustainability of demining operations.

## Challenges and Future Outlook: Innovation and Local Empowerment

The scale of contamination presents major challenges, but FSD is committed to continuing efforts and further increasing its impact through creative and innovative

solutions.

In 2025, FSD will test drone technology equipped with ground-penetrating radar, in collaboration with the FindMine project, to improve non-technical surveys and hazardous area identification. FSD will also further local capacity building through partnerships with national organisations, including an initiative with a newly formed local mine action NGO, to ensure their long-term, sustainable progress.

In 2024, FSD's programme in Ukraine was funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the United States Department of State, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and various private donors.

## KEY FIGURES 2024

639

staff members, including  
595 Ukrainian nationals

2.2 million

square metres of land cleared of  
mines and explosive remnants of  
war

212,485

people educated on the danger  
of mines and explosive ordnance  
in face-to-face sessions



Humanitarian demining not only saves lives, but also allows

## displaced families

to return to their homes.



ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

## ABOUT HUMANITARIAN DEMINING



# WHAT ARE MINES & EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR?

## Mine

A mine is a munition designed to be placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area and to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person or a vehicle. *(Ottawa Treaty, 1997)*



Anti-tank mine



Anti-personnel mine



Improvised explosive devices

## Explosive remnants of war

**Unexploded ordnance (UXO):** refers to explosive ordnance that has been primed, fused, armed, or otherwise prepared for use and used in an armed conflict. It may have been fired, dropped, launched or projected and should have exploded but failed to do so. *(CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War, 2006)*

**Abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO):** means explosive ordnance that has not been used during an armed conflict, that has been left behind or dumped by a party to an armed conflict, and which is no longer under control of the party that left it behind or dumped it. *(CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War, 2006)*



Shells



Mortars



Grenade

... and many more.

# HOW TO LOCATE THESE HIDDEN THREATS?



## Manual clearance

Using their detectors, deminers scan the ground for signals, carefully excavating and neutralising any dangerous items they find. This is the main method used in humanitarian demining, ensuring the land is thoroughly cleared of explosive devices. Different types of detectors are used depending on the nature of the device and the depth required.



## Mechanical clearance

Mechanical demining is conducted using specialised armored machines. These machines clear vegetation and prepare the soil, allowing large areas to be inspected more efficiently. Armoured machines can also be used to remove rubble contaminated with explosive items.



## Mine detection dogs

With their powerful sense of smell, mine detection dogs offer valuable support which complements metal detectors. Like machines, they are deployed before deminers to identify contaminated areas. FSD currently has a dedicated team of mine detection dogs in Ukraine, helping return safe land to communities.



# THE PILLARS OF HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION

Humanitarian mine action is the core mission of FSD. It encompasses five pillars: demining, risk education, stockpile destruction, mine victim assistance and advocacy.

## Humanitarian demining

Demining includes: the preliminary surveys aimed at determining the location of contaminated areas, the mapping and marking of these areas, the neutralisation and disposal of explosive devices.

To date, FSD deminers have identified and destroyed nearly 1.4 million mines and unexploded ordnance.



## Risk education

Mine clearance is long and arduous. Until the land is safe, the best way to prevent accidents is to educate people living near contaminated areas about the risks of explosive ordnance so they can adopt safe behaviour.

Through presentations given by FSD in villages and schools, more than 3.3 million people have so far learned to spot mines and unexploded ordnance and to stay safe facing this danger.

## Stockpile destruction

Some countries retain large quantities of old weapons and obsolete ammunition, often stored in inadequate conditions. This can lead to accidental explosions, posing a serious risk to surrounding populations and the environment, as well as fall into the hands of criminal groups.

Since 1997, FSD has destroyed around 117 tonnes of obsolete weapons and ammunition.



## Victim assistance

Mine victim assistance is not limited to emergency care and medical treatment. It also includes measures to improve the social, economic, and psychological situations of mine survivors and their families.

FSD conducts tailor-made interventions, helping mine and conflict victims access jobs and training suited to their disability.

## Advocacy

In the context of mine action, advocacy involves public support, recommendations, and positive publicity aimed at eliminating or reducing the risk and impact of explosive ordnance.

As part of these efforts, FSD participates in various mine action forums and working groups. Additionally, FSD provides support to countries in fulfilling their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.





Humanitarian demining not only saves lives, but also allows

## farmers & shepherds

to cultivate their land and graze their cattle.

OPERATIONS, IMPACT AND CHALLENGES

# LEARN MORE ABOUT HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION

## Check out our YouTube channel!

Follow our deminers in the field, hear their stories, explore their work, and revisit media reports or archived operations. Our YouTube channel is full of insightful videos, most of them available with subtitles.



## Could you be a deminer?

If you were on the minefield, would you be able to take the right step, to stay safe, and to neutralise the danger? Step into the shoes of a deminer through our quiz.



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**FSD**  
Avenue Giuseppe-Motta 14b  
1202 Geneva - Switzerland  
+41 22 731 14 79  
info@fsd.ch

PHOTOGRAPHY  
@FSD (Fondation  
suisse de déminage)

EDITION  
Alexandra Brutsch  
Orlane Lagarde

[www.fsd.ch](http://www.fsd.ch)