



FSD



FSD's Humanitarian Programme in Tajikistan

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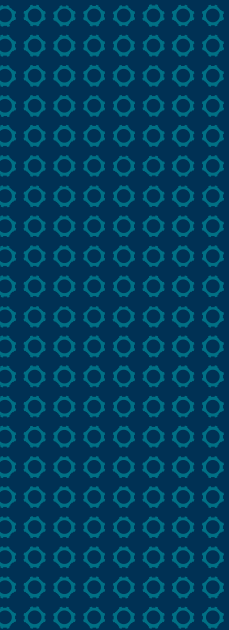


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About FSD

FSD is a Swiss non-profit humanitarian organisation that has been working since 1997 to create a safer and more sustainable future for communities affected by war and instability. Its core mission is to protect civilians from landmines and explosive remnants of war.

Since its founding, FSD has operated in around 30 countries and currently employs nearly 1,000 staff across four continents.

DEMINING

Locally recruited and trained FSD teams detect, identify, and dispose of landmines and unexploded ordnance, sometimes using specialised machines, drones, and dogs.

RISK EDUCATION

In parallel to all its mine clearance operations, FSD educates local populations about the dangers of explosive ordnance to raise awareness and prevent potentially lethal accidents.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

FSD provides socio-economic support and facilitates access to medical care for survivors of landmine and explosive remnants accidents. This enables them to resume income-generating activities adapted to their situation and promotes their socio-economic reintegration.

CAPACITY BUILDING

FSD trains and mentors local mine action authorities and NGOs to ensure the sustainability of demining work and its ownership by stakeholders in the concerned countries.

WEAPONS & AMMUNITION DESTRUCTION

FSD disposes of obsolete and abandoned weapons and ammunition to prevent accidental explosions and misuse by armed non-state actors.

ADVOCACY

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

OUR IMPACT IN 2024



6,637,289

m2 of land cleared and secured



278,210

people educated on the risks of explosive ordnance



334

mine & conflict victims supported



6,794

explosive ordnance located & destroyed



378

weapons and ammunition disposed of



An FSD deminer carefully excavating a potential explosive threat from the ground. (Tajikistan, June 2024)

Where We Work

AFGHANISTAN



Humanitarian demining

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



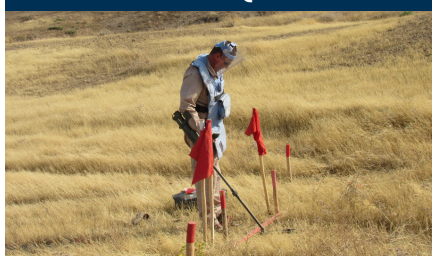
Support to the peace process ·
Socio-economic support

COLOMBIA



Mine victim assistance

IRAQ



Humanitarian demining · Risk
education

PHILIPPINES



Humanitarian demining · Risk
education · Capacity building

TAJKISTAN



Humanitarian demining · Risk
education · Environmental
remediation · Socio-economic support

UKRAINE



Humanitarian demining · Risk education · Capacity building



FSD deminers using a large loop detector to locate unexploded ordnance buried deep underground. (Tajikistan, July 2024)

Background of FSD's Involvement in Tajikistan

After the dissolution of the USSR, Tajikistan, like several other former Soviet states, gained independence. In the years that followed, landmines were laid along the Tajik-Afghan border, while the civil war left behind vast amounts of unexploded ordnance, posing an ongoing threat to communities. In the early 2000s, additional landmines were planted along the Tajik-Uzbek border, further endangering civilians and restricting access to farmland and critical infrastructure. More recently, renewed violence along the Tajik-Kyrgyz border has led to new contamination with unexploded and abandoned ordnance, putting local population at risk.

FSD began operations in Tajikistan in 2003, focusing on clearing landmines and explosive remnants of war along the Afghan border. For over 15 years, our deminers worked extensively to make the land safe, destroying more than 30,000 landmines and items of unexploded ordnance. However, in 2018, operations were forced to pause due to a lack of funding. In 2009 FSD launched a stockpile disposal project to prevent accidental explosions and reduce the risk of munitions falling into the hands of non-state armed groups. Our teams safely destroyed over 40 tonnes of obsolete Soviet-era small arms and ammunition, protecting communities from the dangers posed by ageing and unstable stockpiles.

Beyond explosive hazards, Tajikistan also faces environmental contamination from toxic pesticides left over from the Soviet era. In 2016, FSD launched a project to address this issue, excavating contaminated soil and relocating it to a secure site in Vakhsh, away from residential areas and water sources. To further rehabilitate affected areas, FSD planted thousands of trees, restored irrigation systems in three towns, and built community greenhouses to support food security. Today, we continue to mentor local communities in sustainable farming, fostering long-term environmental and agricultural resilience.

In 2023, with renewed funding, FSD relaunched its humanitarian demining programme along the Afghan border, expanding operations to new areas, including the Tajik-Uzbek and Tajik-Kyrgyz borders in the north. Efforts intensified in 2024, with additional demining teams recruited and deployed in the Sughd region. Risk education campaigns also resumed, equipping local communities with the knowledge to stay safe from explosive hazards.



An FSD liaison officer conducting an interview to assess the socio-economic impact of mines and unexploded ordnance on communities. (Tajikistan, October 2024)



An FSD deminer carefully scanning the ground with his detector, looking for signals indicating the presence of buried explosive ordnance. (Tajikistan, October 2024)



An FSD deminer working in a clearance lane, ensuring safety as she advances her base stick. (Tajikistan, April 2024)

Our Programme in Tajikistan

In Tajikistan, border regions with Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan remain heavily contaminated with landmines and unexploded ordnance. These deadly remnants of past conflicts continue to pose a daily threat to local communities, restricting access to farmland and vital infrastructure.

As of January 2025, FSD’s programme in Tajikistan employs 60 staff members. Four demining teams are actively working to clear the remaining 12.5 square kilometres of hazardous land in the country, supporting Tajikistan’s goal of meeting its obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty by 2032. Alongside clearance operations, FSD conducts risk education campaigns to raise awareness about explosive hazards, equipping local populations with the knowledge to stay safe. In 2024, we also launched a socio-economic baseline assessment along the Kyrgyz border to better understand local demographics, behaviours, and mine risk awareness. Currently the largest mine clearance operator in Tajikistan, FSD prioritises a gender-inclusive approach. All demining teams are mixed to promote diversity in a traditionally male-dominated sector.

In parallel, FSD continues to address environmental concerns, particularly food security, resilience to climate change, and the contamination caused by obsolete Soviet-era pesticides. Our efforts focus on phytoremediation—using large-scale tree planting to absorb and neutralise harmful chemicals—helping to restore ecosystems and safeguard public health.

FSD’s mine clearance operations in Tajikistan are supported by the PATRIP Foundation and UK International Development, while our environmental initiatives receive funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and private donors.



An FSD risk education team explaining the dangers of unexploded ordnance to a group of children. (Tajikistan, August 2024)



FSD team members preparing the controlled explosion of obsolete ammunition. (Tajikistan, September 2024)



An FSD deminer carefully excavating rugged, mountainous terrain. (Tajikistan, August 2024)



FSD's Expertise



27 YEARS OF DEMINING OPERATIONS AND WORLD-RENOWNED EXPERTS

FSD has decades of expertise and experience in survey and demining operations, stockpile destruction, explosive ordnance risk education, and victim assistance.

The organisation launched its first mine action project in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1998. Since then, our deminers have cleared 1.4 million explosive devices worldwide. Our teams include several internationally recognised mine action experts who regularly contribute to key mine action publications.

FSD has designed and led mine clearance operations in around 30 countries, including Sudan, Laos, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Several large-scale programmes involving the recruitment and on-site training of hundreds of deminers have been successfully implemented, including in Sri Lanka and Ukraine.



CONSULTING & LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING

FSD regularly advises government institutions and supports the establishment of demining coordination centres. We also run capacity-building projects to empower local demining NGOs, ensuring they can eventually take over operations independently.



INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGIES

For years, FSD has been at the forefront of research and development in humanitarian mine action. As a hands-on organisation operating in the field, we are frequently consulted by universities and companies for research and development projects and we also assist organisations in field-testing new demining technologies. In Switzerland, we collaborate closely with the Urs Endress Foundation (Arlesheim) and the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) to drive innovation in the sector.



A STRONG PRESENCE IN TAJIKISTAN

FSD has been active in Tajikistan for over 20 years, running the country's largest humanitarian mine action programme. With extensive experience and strong partnerships with local authorities and communities, we clear hazardous land, making it safe for agriculture, infrastructure, and daily life. Our long-standing presence has also enabled us to engage in environmental initiatives that reduce health risks and promote sustainable livelihoods, contributing to a safer and more resilient future for the region.



More information



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