

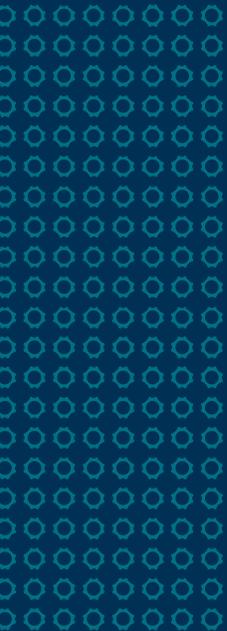


# FSD's Mine Action Programme in Ukraine

March 2026

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





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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 over 700 staff across four continents.

## **DEMINING**

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

## **RISK EDUCATION**

In parallel with 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**

The training and mentoring of local authorities and NGOs is essential to ensure the sustainability of demining work and its ownership by the stakeholders in the countries concerned.

## **WEAPONS & AMMUNITION DESTRUCTION**

FSD destroys obsolete or abandoned weapons and ammunition to prevent accidental explosions and their potential use 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 2025



**4,935,992**

m2 cleared and secured



**200,513**

people educated on the risks of explosive ordnance



**417**

mine & conflict victims supported



**2,073**

explosive ordnance located & destroyed



FSD clearance team fully equipped, with safe lanes established, preparing to begin demining operations in Kharkiv region (September 2025).



# Where We Work

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



Support to the peace process ·  
Socio-economic assistance

## COLOMBIA



Victim assistance

## ETHIOPIA



Risk education

## IRAQ



Survey · Clearance

## KYRGYZSTAN



Capacity building

## PHILIPPINES



Survey · Risk education · Capacity  
building

## TAJIKISTAN



Survey · Clearance · Risk education ·  
Victim assistance

## UKRAINE



Survey · Clearance · Risk education ·  
Capacity building



FSD deminer working with a mine detection dog during clearance operations in Kharkiv region (September 2025).

# Background of FSD's Involvement in Ukraine

**FSD began working in Ukraine in early 2015, focusing on the Donbas region along the line of contact between areas controlled by the Ukrainian government and those under separatist control.**

Our risk education teams initially launched emergency campaigns in schools and villages, teaching residents how to stay safe near landmines and unexploded ordnance. At the same time, survey teams assessed and mapped areas contaminated by explosive remnants of war.

In 2016, FSD started clearance operations, recruiting, training, and deploying around 50 local staff from an operational base in Sloviansk. Over the following years, our deminers surveyed dozens of former battlefields and identified hundreds of unexploded ordnance items. Simultaneously, FSD supported Ukrainian institutions in establishing a national mine action authority.

At the end of February 2022, as the armed conflict escalated, FSD temporarily suspended and reoriented its activities to allow staff to ensure the safety of their families and provide emergency humanitarian aid to communities affected by the conflict. By June 2022, the improved security situation enabled FSD to establish a new operational base in Chernihiv, followed by another in Kharkiv province in November, allowing the resumption of demining activities.

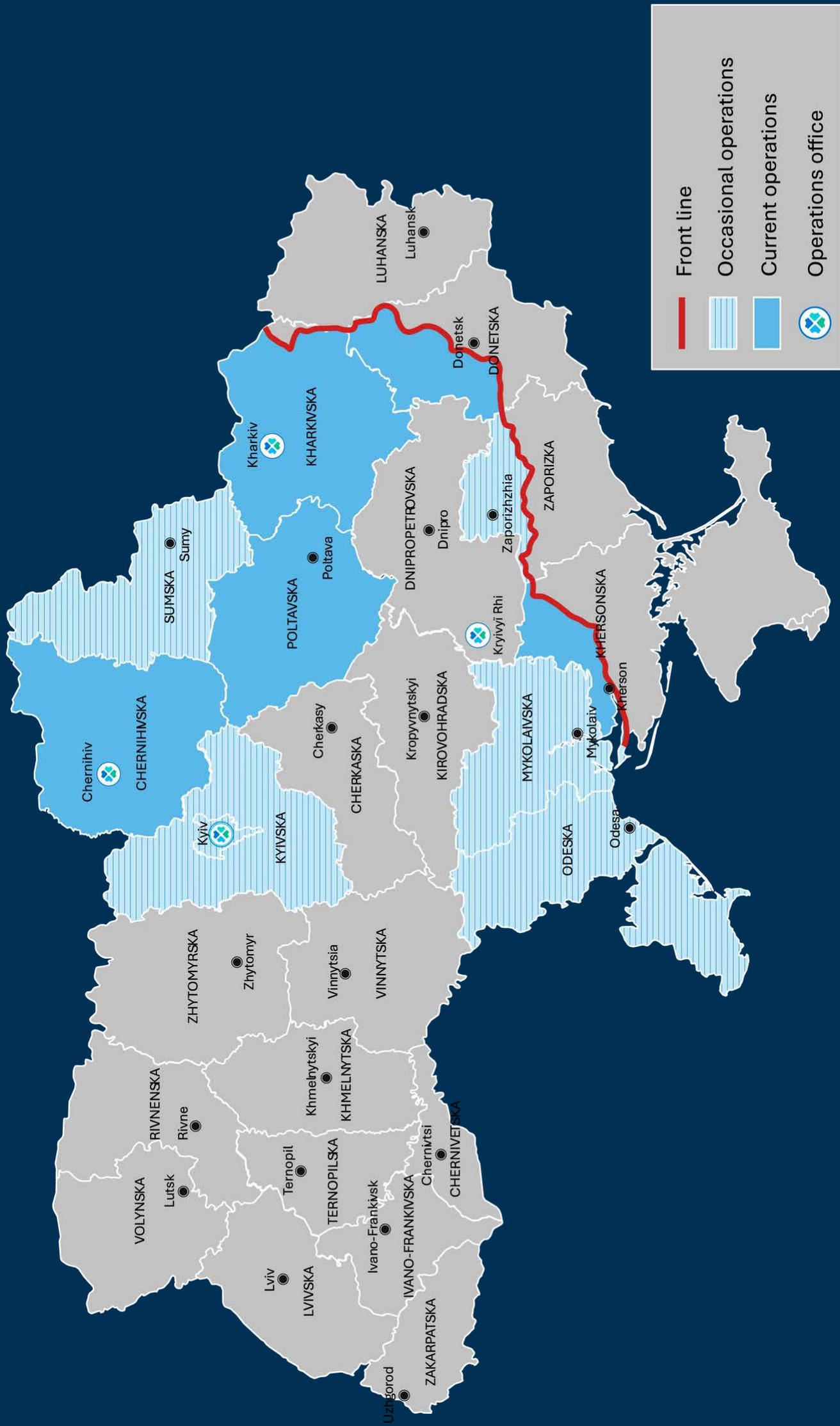
**In 2023, FSD strengthened its operational capacities through the recruitment and training of staff, as well as the acquisition of equipment. Two satellite operations offices were opened in Donetsk province and in Kryvyi Rih to support the northeastern part of Kherson province.**



This drone is being used for non-technical surveys to identify hazardous areas (November 2025).



An FSD team member delivering a risk education session in Kharkiv region (November 2025).





# FSD's Mine Action Programme in Ukraine

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has left millions of mines and unexploded ordnance scattered across the area, making it one of the most heavily contaminated countries in the world. More than a quarter of Ukraine is potentially affected. These hazards pose a grave threat to civilian lives, hinder humanitarian efforts, delay reconstruction and agricultural recovery, and prevent the safe return of displaced people.

As of March 2026, more than 450 FSD staff members are actively engaged in the provinces of Chernihiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson and Poltava.

Twelve teams are currently conducting surveys of suspected hazardous areas, while thirty-three demining teams are focused on locating explosive devices in minefields and former battle zones. Specialised machinery is being used to prepare rural areas for clearance, and armoured construction vehicles assist in clearing rubble from structures damaged or destroyed by ordnance. The first mine detection dog team was deployed in mid-September 2025. In parallel, nine teams are delivering risk education in schools and villages, complemented by online sessions and digital campaigns across social media platforms.

**Since June 2022, FSD has cleared more than 4 million square metres of land, encompassing agricultural fields, village areas, towns, and critical infrastructure. During the same period, FSD teams have surveyed over 130 million square metres of land. Additionally, more than 500,000 individuals have participated in FSD's risk education sessions, learning how to identify hidden explosive devices and adopt safe behaviours in their environments.**

From 2023 onwards, FSD has been providing logistical support and expertise to the explosive ordnance disposal teams of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine and is currently strengthening their capacities in mechanical demining through training and the rehabilitation of a workshop for the repair, maintenance and modernisation of demining machines.

FSD also supports the local NGO Ukrainian Center for Humanitarian Protection (UCHP) in developing its operational and institutional capacities in mine action, with the aim of enabling it to independently conduct humanitarian demining operations in the future.



Students attending an explosive ordnance risk education session delivered by FSD at a school in Kharkiv region (November 2025).

# Objectives for the Next Twelve Months

# 1

## EXPANDING HUMANITARIAN REACH

In 2026, FSD mine action operations will continue at full speed across the four provinces of Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Kherson, and Donetsk while geographic expansion within established areas of operation and into neighbouring provinces is planned for the coming months.

# 2

## INCREASED USE OF DOGS AND TECHNOLOGY

In late 2025, our first mine detection dog team was deployed to support FSD’s manual demining activities and will be joined by a second dog team in 2026.

In parallel, FSD will continue to work with non-profit start-up FindMine to test their UAV-based remote sensing system in Ukraine. The UAV is equipped with a ground-penetrating radar and can detect buried objects such as mines and unexploded ordnance.

FSD is piloting an innovative digital hazard marking system. Signs with QR codes have been installed in village centres and along routes leading to areas contaminated with explosive ordnance. By scanning the codes, people can access up-to-date digital maps showing contamination risks, helping them understand their surroundings and avoid danger. The system is currently being tested and will be refined based on user feedback and field experience.

# 3

## REINFORCEMENT OF LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS

FSD will continue to support its local NGO partner, the Ukrainian Center for Humanitarian Protection (UCHP), in strengthening both its operational and structural capacities. This includes the development of key support functions such as logistics, finance and human resources. UCHP has already secured accreditation for explosive ordnance risk education, non-technical survey and clearance activities, and trained teams are currently in the process of being transferred to its management. The technical expertise of FSD’s national staff will also be continuously strengthened through regular training programmes delivered by FSD’s in-house training centre, which is accredited to provide the standard deminer training course required in the country.

# 4

## RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR RECONSTRUCTION

The widespread contamination from mines and unexploded ordnance demands sustained support as new regions are liberated and new challenges emerge for humanitarian deminers. FSD remains committed to maintaining and expanding activities in its operational areas to maximise humanitarian impact and advance the clearance of explosive hazards. FSD is also working with stakeholders to leverage its demining expertise and the use of existing mechanical assets in support of reconstruction efforts, paving the way for safe and sustainable recovery in affected communities.





Destroyed building surveyed by our teams in Chernihiv region (November 2025).

# Our Funding

As of March 2026, our mine action activities in Ukraine are supported and funded by the following donors:

## Switzerland

Fully-fledged SDC-funded mine action programme in Kharkiv and Kherson provinces; project to rehabilitate a workshop for the repair, maintenance and modernisation of demining machines of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, funded by SECO.

## United States of America

Fully-fledged mine action programme in the provinces of Chernihiv and Donetsk.

## World Food Programme & Food and Agriculture Organisation

Fully-fledged mine action programme focusing on small farms of up to 300 hectares and household garden plots in Kharkiv province.

## Other foundations, Swiss cantons and cities, and private donors

General support for FSD’s mine action activities in Ukraine.

FSD Ukraine’s operational budget for 2026 amounts to approximately 28 million Swiss francs. Proposals are currently being examined by various institutional partners to expand our operations and speed up demining in the country.



An FSD information panel featuring a QR code as part of a new explosive ordnance risk education initiative (November 2025).



Controlled disposal of explosive ordnance by low-order deflagration conducted by FSD staff in Chernihiv region during the training (December 2025).





One of FSD's ground preparation machines working in a potentially contaminated field (November 2025).



# FSD's Expertise



## 28 YEARS OF OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

FSD has implemented comprehensive mine action operations internationally for close to three decades, including survey and demining operations, stockpile destruction, explosive ordnance risk education and victim assistance.

Our first demining project was launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1998. Since then, FSD deminers have cleared more than 1.4 million explosive devices worldwide. Our teams include several internationally recognised mine action experts who regularly contribute to key mine action publications and events.

FSD has conducted mine action operations in around 30 countries, including Sudan, Laos, Iraq and Afghanistan. Several large-scale programmes involving the recruitment and on-site training of thousands of deminers have been successfully completed, such as in Sri Lanka.



## LOCALISATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

FSD regularly advises and trains government institutions — currently in Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines and Ukraine — and supports the establishment of demining coordination structures. We also implement capacity-building programmes for local demining organisations to strengthen national ownership and enable long-term transition.



## INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGIES

For years, FSD has been engaged in research and development projects focused on the application of technology in mine action. As a field-based organisation, we regularly collaborate with universities and private sector partners on innovation initiatives and support the testing of new tools and equipment. In Switzerland, FSD works closely with partners such as the Urs Endress Foundation (Arlesheim) and the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) to advance practical solutions for mine action.



## A LONG-STANDING ENGAGEMENT IN UKRAINE

FSD has been active in Ukraine since 2015, demonstrating a sustained commitment to supporting humanitarian mine action across the country. Over the years, we have established operational bases, recruited and trained hundreds of local staff, and worked in close coordination with Ukrainian authorities and national and international partners to adapt our operations to evolving needs.

## More information



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