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PRESS RELEASE

FSD INSTALLS A "MINED MAZE" IN GENEVA TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND – 26 JUNE 2026

From Friday 26 to Sunday 28 June 2026, the Swiss mine action NGO, FSD, will take over the Rotonde du Mont-Blanc in Geneva with *The Only Way Out*, an immersive public installation.

Through this "mined maze", FSD aims to shine a light on a humanitarian issue that is too often overlooked: the tens of millions of people around the world who live alongside landmines and explosive remnants of war.

Nearly 100 Million People Threatened Every Day

As conflicts multiply and intensify, notably in Ukraine, the Middle East and Sudan, anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines continue to be used in many war zones. For civilians, the danger does not end when the conflict is over: once laid, mines remain active until they are removed or destroyed.

This threat is compounded by "duds": bombs, rockets, shells, missiles and other munitions that fail to explode as intended. On average, between 10% and 20% of all munitions fired or dropped remain unexploded and can later be triggered by simple contact.

Buried in the ground, on roads or in fields, mines and unexploded ordnance continue to kill and maim civilians for decades.

"The problem is not limited to ongoing conflicts. In countries such as Iraq, Cambodia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, explosive remnants of war continue to claim lives and prevent communities from rebuilding their future," explains Hansjörg Eberle, Director of FSD. "Children are still being killed by munitions left behind from conflicts that even their parents never experienced."

Today, an estimated 100 million people in 58 countries live in areas affected by this threat.

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When Every Step Is a Gamble

The concept behind *The Only Way Out* is simple: in our daily lives, we rarely think about the ground beneath our feet. For millions of people around the world, that certainty does not exist.

“Statistics help illustrate the scale of the problem, but they cannot convey what it truly means to live in a contaminated area,” says Alexandra Brutsch, FSD spokesperson. “With this installation, we want to highlight the human reality behind the numbers: the constant uncertainty, the fact that every step becomes a gamble. Like in a maze, you move forward hesitantly. In a contaminated area, that apprehension is part of everyday life, and one wrong step can have irreversible consequences.”

For a few minutes, visitors will be immersed in an environment where each step forward is marked by uncertainty and hesitation. Reaching your field. Going to work. Rebuilding a home. Sending children to school. In a contaminated area, every journey can represent a deadly risk until clearance operations have taken place. For visitors, the maze is a temporary experience. For millions of people, this reality is permanent.

A Nationwide Awareness Campaign

The Geneva event marks the launch of a broader awareness campaign that will continue across Switzerland throughout 2026 and 2027 through additional public events and a digital campaign. The choice of Geneva as the starting point is symbolic. As an international city, home to numerous international organisations and NGOs, including FSD, and a historic centre of humanitarian action, Geneva provides an ideal setting to engage a wide audience in this conversation.

With *The Only Way Out*, FSD aims to raise awareness among the Swiss public of a major humanitarian reality that remains too often overlooked. Today, nearly one in three countries is affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war. Following armed conflict, humanitarian demining is essential. It enables displaced communities to return home, supports the reconstruction of critical infrastructure, allows farmland to be cultivated again, and helps local economies recover.

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ABOUT FSD

FSD is a Swiss humanitarian non-governmental organisation that has been protecting civilian populations from landmines and explosive remnants of war since 1997. Since its foundation, FSD has operated in nearly 30 countries and currently employs more than 700 people across four continents. Its activities are made possible through the support of institutional donors, including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), several Swiss cantons and municipalities, as well as foundations and more than 17,000 private donors.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Rotonde du Mont-Blanc
Quai du Mont-Blanc 10, 1201 Geneva



Friday 26 June to Sunday 28 June 2026
Free admission, open to the public from 10:00 am to 07:00 pm

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Press kit
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MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FSD WWW.FSD.CH

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