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# Mine Action Strategy of the Swiss Confederation 2012 – 2015

Towards a world free of anti-personnel mines,  
cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war





## **Preface**

*More than 15 years ago and prompted by international and non-governmental organisations, a number of states initiated the Ottawa-process, which led to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). The effects of these weapons are indiscriminate and have grave humanitarian consequences, which seriously hamper socio-economic development.*

*Today, anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war still pose a serious threat and constantly claim new victims. The international community continues to vigorously tackle these challenges and the APMBC can certainly be considered a success story. The implementation of the Convention is closely monitored by the States Parties, on the ground many square kilometres of land have been cleared, comprehensive policies and programmes for the survivors established and stockpiles destroyed. In addition, the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), a very important additional instrument in the fight against weapons with indiscriminatory effect, entered into force in August 2010.*

*It is of utmost importance, and we owe this to all those people affected by mines and other explosive remnants of war, that we maintain our efforts to implement these important instruments of humanitarian law and continue to mobilise the necessary resources needed to achieve a world without mines.*

*The universalisation of the norms and respective instruments necessary to systematically fight the threats posed by mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war remains a work in progress.*

*The work already being undertaken with non-state armed groups needs to be continued in order to protect the civilian population in areas under their control. In addition, the integration and mainstreaming of gender aspects in mine action needs to be enhanced in order to address the different needs of men, women, boys and girls.*

*Switzerland's firm commitment to the fight against anti-personnel mines and the consequences of cluster munitions as well as other explosive remnants of war is based on its longstanding and highly-regarded humanitarian tradition. It is our conviction that the civilian population as well as*

*combatants deserve a minimum of human security and protection from the danger posed by these weapons not only during, but also after conflicts. This is why we must continue to include these important aspects in our peacebuilding and development endeavours.*

*Over the past ten years, Switzerland has spent more than 150 million Swiss francs on mine action, has helped to set up the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and has played a crucial role in implementing and universalising legal norms. The revised mine action strategy of the Swiss Confederation ensures the continuation of our efforts and lays a basis for an even more effective contribution to a mine free world. It reiterates our commitment to enhance human security through a coherent and well co-ordinated set of policies and programmes in close co-operation with our international partners. As Jodie Williams, the Nobel Prize Winner of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, put it: "Emotion without action is irrelevant".*

*We therefore welcome this strategic basis for further action by Switzerland. The aim is to make a real difference on the ground, to reduce the number of new victims and to change the lives of survivors for the better.*

*Bern, February 2012*



*Didier Burkhalter*  
Head of Department  
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



*Ueli Maurer*  
Head of Department  
Federal Department of Defence,  
Civil Protection and Sport

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## Introduction

Twenty years after mine action first became a topic at international level, considerable progress has been made on the way towards achieving a mine free world; nonetheless, significant challenges remain. Switzerland continues to be a committed and active player and to make significant contributions to these processes. Since 1991 large areas have been cleared, international standards have been introduced at a technical level, new instruments of international law have been created and effectively implemented, and – last but not least - a better understanding between the humanitarian, civilian and military actors has developed within international peace operations on mine action.

However, every year sees new victims of anti-personnel mines, of cluster munitions as well as of other explosive remnants of war (ERW). Communities continue to be affected by these legacies of war and their deplorable indiscriminate effects. Many states – among them many of the least developed countries – are still confronted with problems related to anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other ERW in particular the obstacles they present to socio-economic development, to peacebuilding efforts and to political stability. These inhumane weapons prolong and exacerbate crises, continue to claim new victims long after armed conflicts have ended, and have a hugely negative impact on the human security of millions of people and on the implementation of the millennium development goals (MDG).

Over the past decade, the international community has intensified efforts to tackle these challenges, firstly by implementing existing and establishing new international legal instruments, and secondly by under-

taking projects aimed at having a tangible and sustainable impact on the ground. Switzerland has been at the forefront of these important endeavours and will continue to be so.

The mine action strategy of the Swiss Confederation for the period 2012–2015 defines the framework for political and operational activities with regard to anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other ERW.

The strategy outlines the current challenges as seen from Switzerland's perspective, and defines the main strategic priorities, the relevant goals as well as the guiding principles and benchmarks for implementation. It follows the clear path adopted by the previous 2008–2011 strategy whilst also including recent developments and adaptations to new realities.

Switzerland will remain committed to promoting the implementation of the relevant instruments of international law. Switzerland will also continue to support activities aimed at banning anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions as well as to alleviating the humanitarian suffering and socio-economic consequences caused by mines and all types of ERW. Mine action is of direct relevance for the implementation and the achievement of the millennium development goals (MDG), which serve as an important reference point for Switzerland.

This strategy was developed by all relevant stakeholders of the Swiss Federal Government, using the principles of whole of government and the 3C<sup>1</sup> approach, and involved consultation with important partner organisations, who provided highly valuable input for this strategy.

## 1. Definitions and legal bases

For the purpose of this document **mine action** is defined as:

All activities intended to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of **mines**, and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) including unexploded sub-munitions<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Coherent, co-ordinated and complementary approach.

<sup>2</sup> According to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), 4.10 Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviation, second edition, 1 January 2003, with update on 30 June 2009: [www.mineactionstandards.org](http://www.mineactionstandards.org).

ERW include abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO), forgotten ammunition, improvised explosive devices (IED), etc. These devices have the same indiscriminate effects as anti-personnel mines and are often used at the same time in the same context. For obvious practical reasons these devices are dealt with simultaneously, for example in clearing operations they are all removed together.

Mine action is not just about technical demining; it is first and foremost about people and societies, and how their lives are affected by mine and ERW contamination. The objective of mine action is to reduce the risk from landmines and ERW to a level where people can live safely, and to create the conditions in which economic, social and health development can occur free from the constraints imposed by landmine and ERW contamination, and in which the victims' different needs can be addressed. Mine action comprises five complementary groups of activities:

- a) mine risk education;
- b) humanitarian demining, i.e. surveys, mapping, marking and clearance;
- c) victim assistance, including rehabilitation and reintegration;
- d) stockpile destruction; and
- e) advocacy against the use of mines and ERW.

Switzerland's mine action policy and activities are based on the Swiss Federal constitution, national legislation and various instruments of international law that have been ratified by the Swiss Federal Parliament, in particular:

**The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention or Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, APMBC)**<sup>3</sup> became effective, including for Switzerland, in 1999. After ratification, States Parties are obliged to destroy their own stocks within four years and to clear their entire territory of anti-personnel mines within ten years, with the possibility of requesting an extension period if needed. In addition, States Parties in a position to do so are called upon to assist mine-affected countries in their efforts to fulfil their respective obligations.

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<sup>3</sup> [www.apminebanconvention.org](http://www.apminebanconvention.org)

Under the **Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects** (Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, **CCW**)<sup>4</sup>, which came into effect in 1983, there are two relevant protocols:

- **Amended Protocol II** on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices of 1996, entered into force for Switzerland in 1998;
- **Protocol V** on Explosive Remnants of War became effective including for Switzerland in 2006.

The CCW is important for several reasons: it includes categories of weapons that are not necessarily covered by the two other legal instruments (concerning anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions). Secondly, some countries that for the time being are not prepared to accede to the two instruments providing for total bans are States Parties to the CCW. Within the framework of the UN it is, therefore, the instrument that offers the best chance to achieve universalisation and also includes many important states in the area of global security policy. Moreover, it provides important guidance for military doctrine and practice.

In 2008, Switzerland signed the **Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)**<sup>5</sup>, which prohibits all use, stockpiling, production and transfer of cluster munitions. The CCM entered into force on 1 August 2010. As this strategy was being drafted, Switzerland was still in its national ratification process.<sup>6</sup>

With regard to domestic law Switzerland's contribution to mine action is based on its competencies as specified in article 54, paragraph 2 of the Swiss Federal Constitution and subsequent provisions including the Federal Act on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, the Federal Act on Measures for Civilian Peacebuilding

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<sup>4</sup> [www.unog.org/disarmament](http://www.unog.org/disarmament)

<sup>5</sup> [www.clusterconvention.org](http://www.clusterconvention.org)

<sup>6</sup> Even though it cannot yet be considered as a legal frame in strictu sensu, as it has neither been signed nor ratified yet by Switzerland, the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, which entered into force in 2008, is an important reference frame when it comes to victim assistance. For this reason, as soon as it is ratified by Switzerland, this Convention will apply as a legal basis for Swiss mine action just as the APMBC or the CCW does.



and for the Promotion of Human Rights and the Federal Act on the Military. The relevant bills to Parliament form the additional bases for the provision of resources (including the bill to Parliament regarding support – inter alia – for the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)).

At a policy level, the Swiss Federal Council (Government) has underlined the importance of mine action in several reports, e.g. in its report on Swiss Foreign Policy, on Swiss Security Policy and on the Swiss Armed Forces.



Swiss Ambassador Jürg Lauber (m) as Secretary-General of the 10th Meeting of States Parties of the APBMC, next to Peter Herby (l) of the ICRC and Ambassador Gazmend Turdiu of Albania (r), President of the 10th Meeting of States Parties © AP Mine Ban Convention

## 2. Global Achievements and Challenges

Considerable progress has been made in the ten years since the **APBMC** came into existence. The following facts are noteworthy:

**Application and Universalisation:** As of the end of 2011, 158 states had ratified the APBMC. However, the ratification rate has been rather slow in recent years. Consequently, further action is necessary to convince the remaining 20% of world states to accede to the APBMC. Since the

norm was established, the use of anti-personnel mines has become very rare. Nonetheless, it is alleged that they have been used by four governments and in six countries, where use related to non-state armed groups in 2011. The work with non-state armed groups will remain one of the challenges for the coming years, including with those groups – up to 41 so far – who have signed the Deed of Commitment of Geneva Call<sup>7</sup>.

**Implementation:** The Cartagena Action Plan adapted by the States Parties at their Second Review Conference in 2009 provides an ambitious five-year roadmap for the implementation of the APMBC. One of the challenges for the years to come will be to translate this political will into reality, especially given the scarce resources and competing priorities. Global financial crises lead to a general tendency to decrease the funds available. It has been increasingly recognised that activities related to anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and ERW, have to be integrated in a holistic manner in comprehensive development plans and have to be based on the specific needs of the affected countries and their populations. This has led to the establishment of an additional Standing Committee on Resources, Co-operation and Assistance under the APMBC.

At 56% compliance with the reporting and transparency obligations under the APMBC is too low. It will be one of the challenges of the coming years to keep up the momentum and to further commit to the full implementation of the reporting and transparency processes in order to make an effective and efficient impact on the lives of the affected populations.

**Victim assistance:** The recorded number of additional victims has steadily decreased<sup>8</sup> in recent years. However, out of approximately 622 million US\$ donated worldwide for mine action in 2009, only around 10% was provided for victim assistance. Furthermore, the reported participation of victim groups in the design and implementation of programmes for survivors remains at a low level.

**Stockpile destruction:** All but three States Parties have fulfilled their obligations regarding stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, over 45 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed.

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<sup>7</sup> [www.genevacall.org](http://www.genevacall.org)

<sup>8</sup> For all figures in this chapter, see land mine and cluster monitor 2011 ([www.the-monitor.org](http://www.the-monitor.org)). Roughly 4000 anti-personnel mine and ERW casualties as well as 17 000 cluster munitions casualties have been recorded for 2010.

**Clearing land:** Progress in demining and in fulfilling the obligations under the APMBC to ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under a States Parties jurisdiction or control has slowed down in recent years. Whilst 19 states have become mine free, 37 out of 158 States Parties still have outstanding clearance obligations. More than half of them had to submit extension requests for a prolongation of the 10-year-deadline under the APMBC, and many of the states granted an extension are clearly falling behind their new clearance plans.

The negotiation and the entry into effect of the **Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)** are major achievements. So far, 111 states have signed the CCM and 66 states have ratified it. Out of 28 countries affected by cluster munitions 16 have signed or ratified this Convention. Based on the Vientiane Action Plan the implementation process has rapidly gained momentum and eleven states have already completed the destruction of their stockpiles. In total nearly 600 000 cluster munitions have been destroyed so far.

There were two serious allegations of the use of cluster munitions in 2011. As a result of unreported cases, the number of victims of mines, cluster munitions und ERW reported to be 17'000 up to the end of 2010 is almost certainly too low.



Cleared road in unsafe environment, © Dan Church Aid (DCA) 2009

### 3. Switzerland's role – Achievements and Challenges

Switzerland aims to play a leading role in the fight against anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other ERW. As one of the first signatories to the APMBC and in line with its humanitarian tradition, Switzerland is actively involved at policy and operational level. As the host state of many international and non-governmental organisations in Geneva, Switzerland has a specific interest in promoting disarmament issues and gains added value from it.

For Switzerland, the implementation of the mine action strategy 2008-2011 has been a success. The leadership and political will for the implementation of the Conventions is in full conformity with the set goals and has been greeted with appreciation by external actors. Major results have been achieved:

**Switzerland was active in the implementation process of the APMBC in several areas:** Switzerland held the presidency in 2008 and served as Co-Chair in the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance in 2006 as well as on Mine Clearance in 2011. It also prominently addressed the topics of non-state actors and gender issues in mine action. Furthermore, Switzerland contributed actively to the evaluation of the work of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), a process which resulted in an improved set up and in an updated agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD hosting the ISU.

**GICHD:** Switzerland supported the work of the GICHD by providing substantial financial contributions. The GICHD is one of Switzerland's most important partners in mine action and is one of the main pillars of the Swiss mine action strategy.

**Financial contributions:** Switzerland maintained its financial contributions to mine action at a constant level: some 16 million Swiss francs have been attributed annually to the mine action activities of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS).

**Whole of Government approach:** The co-operation between the different agencies of the Swiss Federal Government involved in mine ac-

tion continued to function well. This approach facilitates internal decision-making and allows effective and efficient work.

Despite the fact that the attention of some countries tends to shift away from mine action, Switzerland will continue to oppose this trend and to support the momentum to implement the relevant conventions, in particular in the run-up to the next review conferences<sup>9</sup>.

Additional synergies between mine action and relevant areas of development co-operation, peace building and security policy should be identified and developed. Switzerland will continue with its political leadership and be available to assume official functions, also in regard to the Convention on Cluster Munitions as soon as this instrument has been ratified by the Federal Parliament. Switzerland also intends to support the establishment of the secretariat of the CCM hosted by the GICHD. Switzerland foresees enhancing its commitments in the area of monitoring and evaluation of mine action activities, including in the area of impact assessments.

Switzerland strives to remain a constructive, critical and reliant donor, with close relationships to its partners, as well as with the capacity to act quickly and to tackle difficult questions.



Quality management by an expert of the Swiss Armed Forces in Lao PDR, © DPFS

<sup>9</sup> APMBC: 2014, CCM: 2015, CCW: 2016.

## 4. Guiding principles

Switzerland's policies and operational activities within the framework of this strategy will follow the six guiding principles below:

1. The decisive factors for Swiss assistance and donations will be inter alia the commitment or the progress made by a state towards ratification and implementation of the relevant international conventions, taking into account enhanced domestic engagement and national ownership. Switzerland will strive to lobby for enhanced co-ordination and ownership where necessary.
2. Humanitarian or socio-economic needs and the principle of “do no harm” will be important criteria. Switzerland will take into account respect for and the promotion of human rights, the degree of respect accorded to diversity and an inclusive approach to mine action with the active participation of the affected populations.
3. Assistance will be provided for capacity building in which South-South co-operation is encouraged and supported, taking into account the local context and local priorities. Whenever possible, Switzerland will engage in commitments of mid- and long-term duration, and will remain engaged in countries until their respective obligations with regard to the conventions have been fulfilled.
4. Mine action will continue to be undertaken in countries, where Switzerland is already present. Making use of possible synergies of mine action activities with development co-operation, humanitarian aid and peacebuilding activities is crucial. Mine action is an important element of the relevant policies on security and disarmament policy, development co-operation, peace promotion and human security.
5. Switzerland will seek to promote the mainstreaming of gender issues in its policy and operational activities, taking into account the UNMAS Gender Guidelines for Mine Action<sup>10</sup> and the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security as well as the relevant provisions of the National Action Plan.

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<sup>10</sup> [www.mineaction.org/downloads/1/MA%20Guidelines%20WEB.pdf](http://www.mineaction.org/downloads/1/MA%20Guidelines%20WEB.pdf)

6. Switzerland will use multilateral and bilateral instruments to promote mine action as appropriate in a specific context. Switzerland's positions and actions will be guided by the relevant action plans of the Review Conferences.

## **5. Vision**

Over the long term, Switzerland will continue to pursue the vision of a world without new victims of anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war – a world in which economic and social development progresses smoothly and the needs of the affected populations are adequately met.

## **6. Strategic objectives**

After giving consideration to the current challenges as well as to the comparative advantages and its own lines of action, Switzerland has defined the following four strategic objectives for the period 2012–2015:

1. Switzerland will contribute actively to the strengthening, the implementation and universal application of all international legal instruments in this domain ratified by Switzerland.
2. Switzerland will aim to alleviate the suffering and to improve the living conditions of populations affected by anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.
3. Switzerland will enhance the integration of mine action into other relevant policy fields and operational activities; and develop instruments for the measurability of change.
4. Switzerland will contribute proactively to new instruments, policies and activities in mine action and in related areas.

## 7. Activities

The concrete priorities of the activities below will be regularly co-ordinated and fine-tuned in the interdepartmental steering groups (see chapter 9). Furthermore, the concretisation of the objectives and activities will be broken down in a working instrument for monitoring and evaluation (see chapter 10).

The following activities are regarded as priorities with regard to the implementation of the above listed strategic objectives:

1. Switzerland will actively contribute to the strengthening, the implementation and universal application of all international legal instruments in this domain, ratified by Switzerland, by
  - Providing political leadership in the implementation of the conventions, including a proactive involvement in universalisation and implementation efforts as well as assuming effective official functions and responsibilities.
  - Promoting the universal application of the conventions between governments at bilateral and multilateral level as well as by supporting international and non-governmental organisations.
  - Providing contributions and political support for activities aimed at facilitating the adherence of non-state armed groups to humanitarian principles and the norms of international humanitarian law.
  - Contributing to the GICHD and to the Implementation Support Units (ISU), including, if possible, respective Sponsorship Programmes and other activities.
  - Supporting further inclusion of gender aspects in mine action, including by applying the UNMAS Gender Guidelines for Mine Action and UN Security Council Resolution 1325, inter alia by contributing to the activities of the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP).
  - Promoting Geneva as an important centre of competence for disarmament issues and specifically for mine action.



2. Switzerland will aim to alleviate the suffering and to improve the living conditions of populations affected by anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war; by
  - Providing contributions in the form of expertise, equipment, material, finances and political support to programmes and projects aimed at stockpile destruction and other relevant aspects of Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM), as well as for the release of land through survey and clearance; the latter includes activities to identify contaminated land, to implement appropriate land release methodologies, to strengthen national capacities as well as to evaluate and to contribute to efficient and cost-effective programme implementation.
  - Providing support for mine risk education programmes in coordination with other mine action activities for populations at risk.
  - Providing support for appropriate initiatives and efforts aimed at integrating victim assistance as a component in national policies and plans; implementing specific victim assistance projects (medical aid, rehabilitation and socio-economic inclusion) as well as enhancing victims and disabled persons' accessibility to humanitarian and development co-operation programmes.
  - Providing contributions to the GICHD and field programmes with the aim of – inter alia – enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of land release through survey and clearance processes, including the strengthening of national ownership and national capacities.
  - Providing support to the GICHD for the development of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and their translation into national standards and into the field of Information Management in mine action, including the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).
3. Switzerland will enhance the integration of mine action into other relevant policy fields and operational activities and develop instruments for the measurability of change; by

- Supporting the development of national and local capacities to manage the remaining challenges and risks associated with mines, cluster munitions and ERW and the related risks, and their integration into other development activities in affected countries.
  - Promoting community development projects and strategies that integrate the management of risks and problems associated with mines, cluster munitions and other ERW.
  - Ensuring that development projects are accessible to survivors and disabled persons impacted by mines, cluster munitions and other ERW.
  - Actively seeking possible synergies for mine action activities with development co-operation, humanitarian aid and peacebuilding (e.g. protection of civilians, resolution 1325, armed violence and development, Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM), etc.).
  - Enhancing the capacities to measure results and the impact of mine action activities e.g. by including mine action activities in the monitoring and evaluation of programmes.
4. Switzerland will contribute proactively to new instruments, policies and activities promoting mine action and in related areas; by
- Participating in efforts to optimise the existing instruments.
  - Contributing to the formulation of new standards and policies, where necessary.



Landmine Victim, DRC © Arne Hodalic / UNMAS

## 8. Main partnerships

Switzerland works in close partnership with other countries, international and non-governmental organisations and other partners towards achieving the vision, the goals and objectives of this strategy. Switzerland implements its policies and operational activities on the basis of a participative and needs-based approach. Switzerland will aim to remain a reliable partner for bilateral and multilateral projects, as well as for multilateral policy activities, by providing political leadership, by working in close co-operation with like-minded partners, and also by adopting a constructive approach towards those difficult to reach. Switzerland will aim to remain a reliable donor, that develops close relationships with its partners by adopting a critical-constructive attitude towards common endeavours.

The main partners will continue to be the specialised UN agencies (UNMAS, UNDP, UNODA, UNOPS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as the GICHD as a strategic partner. Among the non-governmental partners in the role of operators, the most suitable organisations are chosen for a given context (e.g. FSD, MAG, The HALO Trust, NPA, HI). Enhanced co-operation with national and local governmental and non-governmental actors is to be sought when appropriate in a given context.

Furthermore, specific contributions are provided to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines / the Cluster Munitions Coalition / the Monitor (ICBL, CMC, the Monitor), GMAP Association and to Geneva Call, as a strategic partner.



Mine Risk Education Training in DRC © MAG / JB Russell

## 9. Distribution of tasks and co-ordination mechanisms

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) will continue to lead political efforts and policy-making in this field.

The Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) will focus mainly on victim assistance, mine risk education and local capacity building

in mine action. Within the framework of its country programs, the SDC undertakes mine action in order to enlarge the space for humanitarian and development action. The Political Directorate / Human Security Division will principally maintain a specific focus on clearance and on the contributions to the GICHD.

The DDPS will continue to deploy experts of the Swiss Armed Forces to UN field programmes and – if feasible – the OSCE. These experts will be active in supporting field programmes and local authorities in the management of their activities and structures, in carrying out field tasks in a safe and efficient way and in providing up-to-date know-how and skills. In addition, the Swiss Armed Forces remain prepared to support delicate clearance activities in mine action programmes by providing the SM-EOD system free of charge. The SM-EOD is a system for selective and contact-free disposal of mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and IED that is either covered with soil or underwater.

Finally, the DDPS will carry out training courses within the framework of the Partnership for Peace (PfP) together with the GICHD.

Switzerland's co-ordination mechanisms for mine action follow the principles of a whole of government approach. It functions well and will be



Linking Mine Action with Development in Lao PDR: Demining supported by the DDPS, agricultural extension for the use of the cleared fields supported by SDC © Robert Amsler / DDPS

maintained. The inter-departmental co-ordination groups at operational (lead: DDPS) and at policy level (lead: FDFA) will therefore be continued.

Mine action is not an isolated domain: in most cases it is integrated in country programmes or has strong links to other thematic domains. Therefore, co-ordination with other strategic frameworks and the relevant working groups will be increased and additional synergies sought with country programmes in development co-operation, humanitarian aid and peacebuilding.

## **10. Resources**

Switzerland plans to continue to contribute some 16 million Swiss francs per annum within the framework of this strategy.

The FDFA will cover the contribution to the GICHD (2012: around 9 million CHF including in-kind contributions) and will continue to spend at least 6 million Swiss francs on policy and operational activities divided between the Swiss Agency for Development Coopération and the Political Directorate / Human Security Division. Over the medium term the DDPS foresees a doubling of the number of experts deployed compared with 2011. Its contributions, including the provision of SM-EOD, will therefore gradually increase, starting from 2.3 million Swiss francs in 2012.

Additional resources depend on the approval of the respective bills by Parliament.

## **11. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting**

Monitoring and evaluation of mine action policies and projects should be generally strengthened; this is a matter which is being increasingly discussed, for example among donors, in the Standing Committee on International Co-operation and Assistance of the APMBC, and between recipient countries and donors. Switzerland intends to actively contribute to meeting these challenges. Consequently, the policies and operational activities within the framework of this strategy will be concretised,

monitored and evaluated on a regular basis and the relevant working instruments will be developed. The DDPS may provide specifically qualified personnel, and the extensive expertise of the GICHD may be used for this purpose. The aim is to enhance the establishment of lessons learned as well as of efficient and impact-oriented programme- and project cycles. An annual report jointly prepared by the FDFA and DDPS will summarise the results of these endeavours.

An external evaluation of this strategy, led by FDFA, will be concluded by the end of 2014 at the latest in order to include the relevant recommendations in the development of the next revised strategy.



With friends again, Landmine Survivors Initiatives © Paul Jeffrey

Bern, February 2012



*Claude Wild*

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs  
Political Directorate, Human Security Division



*Maya Tissafi*

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation



*Christian Catrina*

Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport  
General Secretariat, Security Policy



*Erwin Dahinden*

Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport  
International Relations Defence



## Glossary

<b>APMBC</b>	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
<b>AXO</b>	Abandoned Explosive Ordnance
<b>CCM</b>	Convention on Cluster Munitions
<b>CCW</b>	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
<b>CMC</b>	Cluster Munitions Coalition
<b>DDPS</b>	Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport
<b>ERW</b>	Explosive Remnants of War
<b>FDFA</b>	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
<b>FSD</b>	Fondation Suisse de Déminage
<b>GC</b>	Geneva Call
<b>GICHD</b>	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
<b>GMAP</b>	Gender and Mine Action Programme
<b>HI</b>	Handicap International
<b>ICBL</b>	International Campaign to Ban Landmines
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross
<b>IED</b>	Improvised Explosive Devices
<b>IMAS</b>	International Mine Action Standards
<b>IMSMA</b>	Information Management System for Mine Action
<b>MAG</b>	Mines Advisory Group
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>NPA</b>	Norwegian Peoples Aid
<b>OSCE</b>	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
<b>PfP</b>	Partnership for Peace
<b>PSSM</b>	Physical Security and Stockpile Management
<b>SALW</b>	Small Arms and Light Weapons
<b>SDC</b>	Swiss Development Co-operation
<b>SM-EOD</b>	Swiss Made Explosive Ordnance Disposal System
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNMAS</b>	United Nations Mine Action Service
<b>UNODA</b>	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UXO</b>	Unexploded ordnance

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- Premedia:** Electronic Media Center EMC, DDPS
- Orders:** Information FDFA  
Phone: +41 (0) 31 322 31 53  
E-mail: [publikationen@eda.admin.ch](mailto:publikationen@eda.admin.ch)
- Specialist contacts:** Division for Human Security, Directorate for Political Affairs, FDFA  
Phone: +41 (0) 31 322 30 50  
E-mail: [pd-ams@eda.admin.ch](mailto:pd-ams@eda.admin.ch)
- Humanitarian Demining, International Relations Defence,  
Armed Forces Staff, DDPS  
Phone: +41 (0) 31 324 49 75  
E-mail: [HRM.ASTAB@vtg.admin.ch](mailto:HRM.ASTAB@vtg.admin.ch)

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