

## UKRAINE – how to finance Mine Action

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Large scale contamination with mines, cluster munitions and other EO in Ukraine has made it the most heavily mined country in the world today. That has a large impact on Ukrainian economy, but also on the global food supply and price increase of food. Confronted with many challenges, with regard to mine action Ukraine relies on international assistance from donors. Financial support from donor countries, international organizations and financial institutions plays a key role in gathering the necessary resources for Ukraine's comprehensive mine action efforts and for restoration of agricultural production on mine-affected territories. How to secure substantial financial support for Mine Action in Ukraine?

## Women in Mine Action

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Gender equality in Mine action is no exception. Ukraine is an excellent indicator because women in Ukraine took the initiative and stand alongside men in demining operations. Reality and long-term studies show that women are completely equal to men in demining, and according to some parameters even better. Furthermore, one of the biggest challenges in mine action is increasing the number of women in technical roles – roles that still require explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) certifications. How much and in what way do women improve demining processes?

## R&D

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The scientific community has made a significant contribution to the development of new tools, equipment and procedures in mine action. Numerous scientific projects have been validated and implemented in mine action systems and as such represent a huge contribution to the mine action community.

## Mine detection dogs and their role in humanitarian demining

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Mine clearance aims to clear land so that civilians can return to their homes without the threat of landmines and unexploded remnants of war. Because of their incredible ability to find specific scents of explosive substances, trained dogs have a crucial part in mine detection. How important is the Quality Management System in developing reliable mine detection K9 teams, and which operational standards can define additional special search services for mine detection dogs?

## Mine Action and environmental impact

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The main aim of mine action is land clearance and safe return of the population. Due to that fact, environmental management and mitigation has not always been a priority. Today, changes to improve this are advancing within humanitarian demining, as well as action across the whole mine action. Environment in that light must stand out and spark positive discussions about what is already being done and what more can be done to improve environmental performance across mine action. What can we do to improve the environmental impact of mine action?

## National achievements in Mine Action

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The process of mine action is enormously difficult and time consuming, but it is the only way to guarantee that all mine contaminated areas have been systematically searched and cleared of mines. Mine action processes are unique in each affected country, that is why the national resonances are different. We are witnesses that developments in managing and levelling up national mine action responses are remarkable.