



TEAM EUROPE

**INITIATIVE ON MINE ACTION
IN AZERBAIJAN**

3 May 2024



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Team Europe Initiative on mine action in Azerbaijan

An umbrella of projects and initiatives in the area of mine action, demining is pre-condition for sustainable regional development, having a crucial impact on the daily life and income of individuals in affected areas, securing access to natural resources and rebuilding devastated livelihoods.

Clearing explosive hazards in the contaminated areas of Azerbaijan will contribute to creating conditions for a safe, dignified and voluntary return of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Landmine contamination is also one of the main obstacle for achieving the objectives of the 2030 national priorities of Azerbaijan, in particular the priority regarding the return to the territories impacted by conflict.

The EU is a global leader committed to humanitarian mine action across the world. Mine action in Azerbaijan is one of the top priorities in EU-Azerbaijan cooperation.

The EU has been active in the three pillars of mine action: (i) the area of mine awareness, (ii) building capacity in Azerbaijan as well as (iii) providing assistance to victims of landmines.

The EU has played a leading role in establishing the first women demining team in the country in the spirit of promoting the values of the EU, where women and men enjoy equal opportunities, capabilities, and knowledge.

Through our support to mine action, the EU remains committed to promoting peace, stability, and sustainable development in the region.

Examples of European Union past assistance related to the problem of landmines in Azerbaijan

The EU Rehabilitation programme (1997-2004) focused on rehabilitation of the war-damaged infrastructure of the regions Fuzuli, Aghdam and Aghjabedi.

- Schools, houses and community centres were reconstructed
- Roads, hospitals, electricity and water networks were rebuilt

“Azerbaijan Landmine Socio-Economic Impact Survey” (2002-2003) surveyed 643 affected communities in 18 regions, 970 dangerous areas were identified.

The EU supported ANAMA in 2004 in establishment of the mechanical demining capacity.

Most recent EU Assistance in the area of mine action in Azerbaijan

Since 2020, the EU, through its Delegation, has emerged as the largest international donor to Azerbaijan, in response to the significantly increased needs.

To address the urgent mine action requirements in Azerbaijan, the EU and the EU Member States have already mobilized over EUR 8 M, including over EUR 6 M from the EU budget. These funds have been utilized until now through partnerships with international organizations, including:

- A contribution of EUR 1.5 M towards post-conflict humanitarian demining, in collaboration with the UNDP,
- An allocation of EUR 450,000 for mine risk education, partnering with UNICEF,
- In 2022, the EU further increased its support for humanitarian demining by providing an additional EUR 4.25 M for Azerbaijan. This funding is allocated to an 18-month programme implemented in close cooperation with the ANAMA, UNDP, MAG (Mines Advisory Group), APOPO, and IEPF (International Eurasia Press Fund).

Most recent EU Member States contributions

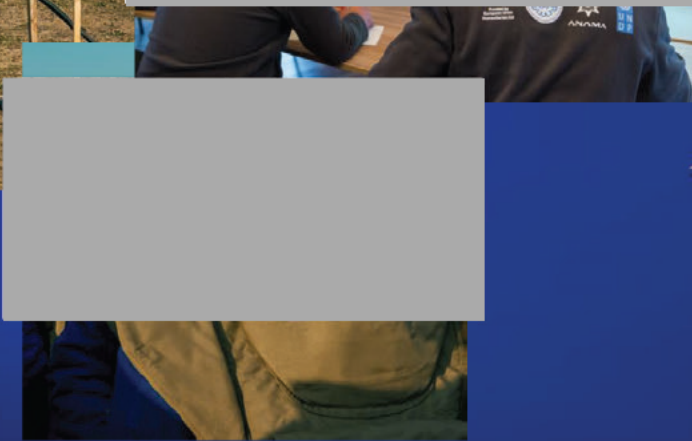
- Italy: Operational donation to the ICRC (EUR 500 000)
- Germany: Project promoting the ban on landmines in South Caucasus & accession to the Ottawa Convention (EUR 560 000)
- France: Provision of metal detectors and 310 demining kits to ANAMA (EUR 500 000)
- Slovenia: Cooperation agreement signed with ANAMA in April 2022 (EUR 50 000 project)
- Estonia: Donation to the demining activities carried out by the ICRC (EUR 50 000)
- Hungary: Operational donation to ANAMA (EUR 25 000)
- Belgium: Support to APOPO's demining activities (EUR 250,000)
- Croatia: Mine-detecting dogs

Upcoming contributions

EUR 2 M through the Annual Action Programme 2022 for Azerbaijan

Planned further contributions from EU Member States in the total amount of around EUR 2,75 M: Italy, Germany, France, Croatia, The Netherlands, Lithuania

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