



ANNUAL REPORT 2015



WELT OHNE MINEN
WORLD WITHOUT MINES
MONDE SANS MINES





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Who we are

World Without Mines (WWM) is a private, politically independent and non-denominational Swiss foundation with headquarters in Zurich. For 18 years, we have been involved in the creation and preservation of livelihoods for people threatened by anti-personnel landmines. We are committed to reduce the social, economic and ecological impact of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war to ensure safety for the affected people.

What we do

World Without Mines is involved in the following fields of humanitarian mine action:

- We **support demining projects**, including locating anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war, mapping, marking and clearing of the contaminated areas.
- We **raise awareness in the affected population** by explaining the dangers caused by anti-personnel mines, so that people can adapt their behaviour to the situation.
- We **inform the Swiss people** and increase attention to and awareness of the problems of anti-personnel mines.

How we work

World Without Mines works with local, well-established and widely-accepted partner organisations that work in compliance with international standards of humanitarian mine clearance in the countries of operation. Support is only given to manageable, well-controlled projects where our financial resources produce the greatest possible benefit to the affected population.

The office and foundation board of World Without Mines monitor and evaluate the projects, with the involvement of external mine action experts. The foundation board works on a voluntary basis.







Dear Readers,

In 2015, World Without Mines can already look back on 18 years of involvement in the field of humanitarian mine action. The foundation was established in 1997, the same year as the Ottawa Convention on the banning of anti-personnel landmines was opened for signature. Since then, 162 nations have undertaken to outlaw these weapons.

The foundation has developed continuously, reconsidered its approach and adapted to the new realities of humanitarian mine action. In the process, the organization has always remained flexible and non-bureaucratic.

This flexibility and a lean organizational structure helps World Without Mines re-

spond to urgent needs and occasionally support smaller projects and initiatives that were not included in the annual budget. At the same time, we focus on continuity and trustworthy partnerships. Building up projects over several years and deepening partnerships are important to us. In doing so, our focus is also on “forgotten minefields” that have not made headlines for years and are seldom the centre of attention for other donors.

This includes, for example, the community of Donji Vakuf in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Since 2005, we have cleared almost 900,000 m² of anti-personnel mines, which amounts to about one third of the mine clearance work carried out there. The Democratic Republic of Congo is a further example: We financed the start-up of “Afrilam”, an organization recently established by Congolese deminers.



Since then, “Afrilam” has been able to significantly expand its capacities and expertise, and is also valued as a reliable partner by other international organizations.

Probably the most striking example of a “forgotten minefield” is the northeast of Zimbabwe. The country was shunned internationally due to mismanagement by the regime. Regardless of this, the people still suffer from the impact of minefields laid in the 1970s. Our involvement here helps in a very targeted way: We provide the men and women with safe access to their fields, children can again go to school safely and the water sources can be used again without risk.

We are dependent upon recurring revenues to continue our involvement and enter into solid partnerships. The

many regular contributions reflect the conviction of donors that humanitarian demining is, and remains, the basis of sustainable development of former war zones.

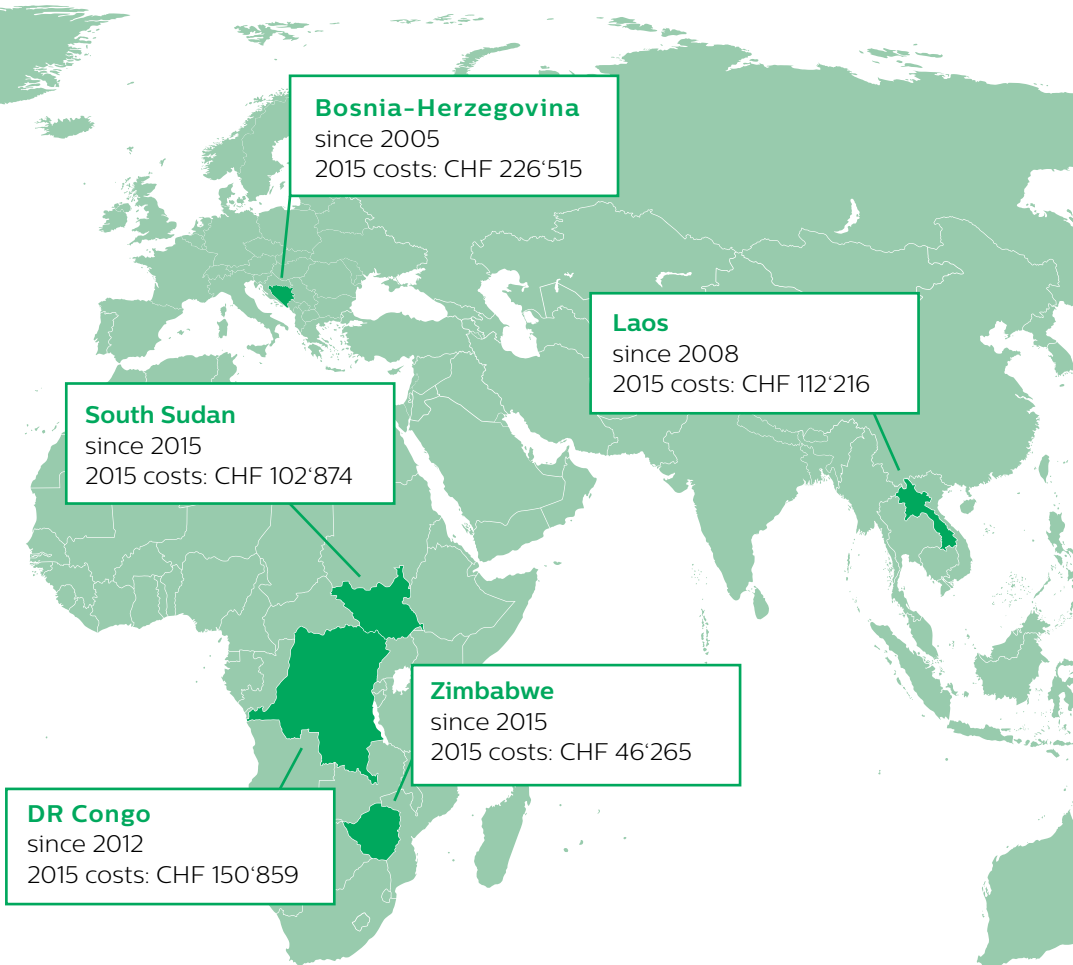
At this point, I wish to thank the approximately 18,000 donors and every institutional contributor for their trust and loyalty. Our work would be impossible without this support!

C. Bolay Zraggen

Claudine Bolay Zraggen
President of the foundation board

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2015, we added projects in Zimbabwe and South Sudan to our existing areas of operation in Laos, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



In cooperation with our partner organisations, we make sure that available resources are put to use where they will have the greatest possible impact. Our mine clearance projects and risk education activities contribute to a long term improvement in the socio-economic situation and increased safety for the affected population.

Zimbabwe

Valentine (far right in picture) is 68 years old and has a large family to feed. He makes his living from maize and cotton farming. His fields are situated only a few metres away from a minefields laid that contained up to 5,500 anti-personnel mines per kilometre.

Valentine: “We planted very close to the minefields laid, but were always afraid since we did not know how close we were to the danger area”. Although the war of independence had been over for decades, Valentine’s son constantly felt like he was living in a war zone. “We are happy that people have remembered us. I thank the deminers for finally freeing us from this great danger.”



Laos

“Next year, my family and I will plant rice in the cleared field.” Mae Thep from ThaKachan village is happy that her land is finally safe again. In November 2015, 42 tennis ball-sized BLU-26 cluster munitions, 7 BLU-42 cluster munitions and other munitions were found here. It took 7 days before the explosive remnants of war could be deactivated and removed.



Bosnia-Herzegovina

The Susic family with their two children, Nejla and Amar, own 3,000 m² of land in Rosulje, which they inherited from their grandmother. Everything was mined at the end of the war. As soon as the anti-personnel mines were cleared by WWM, they planted raspberries on 1,000 m². 1200 kg of raspberries were harvested in 2015. Expansion of the plantation to 3000 m² is planned for next year.

“We are very satisfied with the income achieved by the sale of raspberries. It is a very special feeling to be able to produce something on your own soil. We have never been outside the country, and wish to stay in our home and make a better future possible for our children.”



Bosnia-Herzegovina

Situation

The war in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1992-1995 left behind about 1 million scattered anti-personnel landmines in addition to cluster munitions. Bosnia-Herzegovina is considered to be the European country with the greatest contamination from explosive remnants of war. 1,176 km² (2.3% of the land area) remain contaminated. The remnants of war prevent the use of agricultural areas that would be enormously important for the further socio-economic development of the country.

In the wake of the war, 1,733 individuals were killed or severely injured by anti-personnel landmines or unexploded ordnance. Many accidents occur because villagers in need enter a mined area despite markings in order to gather firewood for the winter or fruits and mushrooms for sale.





Local partner

WWM is registered in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a non-governmental organization and is locally represented by Timka Opardija. She coordinates the mine clearance and risk education projects with the responsible local authorities and the national Mine Action Centre (BHMACH). The anti-personnel mines are cleared by our local partner organization Pazi Mine Vitez in accordance with applicable international standards. BHMACH is responsible for final inspection and certification of the work.

WWM activities in 2015

WWM carried out a total of three mine clearing projects in the Donji Vakuf community in 2015. We also continued to organise risk education events for selected target groups. Thus, a workshop on the subject of anti-personnel mines was held with secondary school students in February 2015. As a result, the students prepared two plays and performed them

in Donji Vakuf on the International Day for Mine Awareness (4 April 2015). WWM also regularly participates in sporting events and points out the risk of mines with promotional material.

Results



37 anti-personnel landmines and 34 other explosive remnants of war were disposed of.



200,000 square metres of land were cleared. This area can be used for agriculture again and contributes to improved income and food security.



1,500 young people and adults were educated about the mine problem and are now more aware of the risk.

Laos

Situation

No country in the world – measured in terms of population size – was bombarded so heavily as Laos during the Vietnam War. The United States Air Force made 580,000 attacks in the course of nine years. In the process, a total of 270 million units of cluster munitions, so-called bombies, were dropped, many of which did not explode. In many areas, therefore, agriculture or development is all but impossible. The threat is everywhere: in rice paddies, farmland and routes to school buildings or hospitals. Over 50,000 people have become victims of anti-personnel mines and cluster munition since 1964. Approximately 60% of them were killed. Children are still affected particularly frequently.





Local partner

Since 2008, WWM has worked with UXO Lao, which plays an important role as the largest national player in humanitarian mine clearance. The national supervisory body, National Regulatory Authority, coordinates all mine action activities and guarantees compliance with international standards.

Our local focal person is the international expert, Olivier Bauduin, who conducts an annual monitoring visit on behalf of WWM.

WWM activities in 2015

The annual contributions from WWM have enabled approximately a quarter of the mine action activities in Khammouane Province in recent years. This year's contribution of CHF 112,216 was used to finance two demining teams. Since February 2015, all humanitarian mine action players in Laos are working with a new approach: Now, first the areas with the highest cluster munition contamination are identified, in order to clear them as first priority. Mine clearing always takes place in accordance with

the national development plans that promote rural development and the fight against poverty. In the long term, this will guarantee an increase in efficiency, better use of available resources and a contribution to development.

Results



3,028 explosive remnants of war, including 1,530 bombies, were identified and disposed of. An average of 12 bombies per hectare were found (more than twice as many compared to 2014).



112 hectares of land (including 94 hectares of agricultural land) were cleared and can be used for agriculture again.



9,652 individuals can safely use the released land again.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Situation

Despite abundant natural resources, Africa's second largest country is one of the poorest nations in the world and faces enormous challenges. Although officially at peace since 2002, armed conflicts repeatedly arise in the eastern part of the country. The wars left behind extensive contamination by anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war as well as poorly secured arsenals. One estimate shows that approximately 1.8 million square metres are still contaminated. Since 1964, 2,694 individuals became victims of anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. Although the number of victims declined from 47 to 16 in 2015, 80% of the victims were children.





Local partner

Since 2012, WWM has worked with the local partner organization Afrilam, which has developed continuously and expanded its capacities in the area of clearing remnants of war in 2014. In April 2015, WWM commissioned an evaluation of projects and management structure by an external GICHD consultant. Afrilam was given a very good overall report. Afrilam is the only local organization in the DR Congo accredited for explosive ordnance disposal.

WWM activities in 2015

Bad roads and the fluctuating security situation make the work on-site difficult. Despite this difficult environment, Afrilam implements various field missions in the northeast of the DR Congo, making a contribution to improvement of the security and livelihood of the local population. By means of systematic surveys – so-called NTS (Non-Technical Surveys) – in the Punia, Irumu, Beni and Aru districts, 13 contaminated risk areas were marked and secured. Parallel to this, 163 risk education events took place in 115 villages.

Explosive ordnance was removed at a total of 26 zones (so-called EOD, Explosive Ordnance Disposal).

Results



195 anti-personnel landmines and other explosive remnants of war were identified, partly taken away and disposed of.



26 zones (approx. 260 square metres of released land) were handed over to the population. These zones and the surrounding areas can immediately be used productively again.



10,104 individuals were educated about the mine problem and can now deal more adequately with the risk. 50% of these were children, many of whom were reached through informational events in schools.

Zimbabwe

Situation

The war of independence in the 1970s left in Zimbabwe one of the densest minefields in the world along the northern and eastern border with Mozambique. Although not officially documented, estimates assume that there are even more anti-personnel mines in Zimbabwe than in Afghanistan. For the local population, this means that there is an immediate danger for their livelihood, even 40 years after the war. Animal breeding, agriculture and access to drinking water are at risk, because the settlements are often located only a few metres away from the minefields.





Local partner

Our partner organization, HALO Trust, has been a pioneer in humanitarian mine clearance since 1988 and has also been accredited in Zimbabwe since 2013. Their great experience guarantees reliable, highly professional implementation of projects.

WWM activities in 2015

WWM has supported HALO Trust's mine clearance activities in the region east of Mukumbura since April 2015 with a nine-person mine clearance team that now also includes women. Wherever possible, mine clearance personnel are recruited from the surrounding villages and trained. The possibility of a regular employment is very welcome. An approximately ten-kilometre section of the minefield was cleared jointly with other clearance teams. This gave 8,196 villagers renewed, secure access to their agricultural areas, water sources and social infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals.

Parallel to the mine clearance work, the population, especially children, was informed about the risk of mines. In this environment, boys and men are at greatest risk when looking after animals, girls and women primarily when collecting water or searching for wood and fruits.

Results



508 anti-personnel landmines were secured and disposed of.



162,209 square metres of land were examined. 25,344 square metres were cleared of anti-personnel mines and handed over to the population.



1,018 residents (including 13 men, 9 women, 509 boys and 487 girls) were educated about the risks.

South Sudan

Situation

South Sudan, the world's youngest nation, plunged into civil war again, only two years after the euphoria of independence. The ongoing conflict since 2013 has destroyed the livelihood of millions of South Sudanese and caused over 2 million people to flee their homes. This is referred to as one of the world's greatest humanitarian crisis. The contamination with explosive remnants of war and anti-personnel landmines means additional risk for the already needy and vulnerable population. How many individuals become victims of mine accidents remains unclear, because accidents are not systematically reported and registered.

60% of the land is difficult to access in the rainy season. In the dry season, whole communities are in search of new livelihoods, water for their animals or grazing land.





Local partner

Our partner organization, DanChurch Aid (DCA), has been involved in all areas of humanitarian mine clearance since 1999 and has also been active in South Sudan since January 2013.

WWM activities in 2015

WWM has supported a DCA risk education team since March 2015. Depending on need and the security situation, the specific extent of contamination is ascertained in highly contaminated zones or even in remote havens of refuge for the displaced. Risk areas are marked and the data is communicated to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). However, individuals are primarily made aware of the risks with age or gender-specific methods. In order for the training to remain sustainable, local contacts, known as Community Focal Points, are trained to continue this risk education and familiarise new arrivals or children again and again with the correct behaviour patterns. To more effectively reach young men, the

most endangered target group, a song and video was produced this year with a popular local band. The song warns about anti-personnel mines and promotes risk-conscious behaviour.

Results



25 risk areas were marked and reported to UNMAS.



13,780 internally displaced individuals (including 4,985 boys, 3,802 girls, 2,630 men, 2,363 women) were trained in risk prevention.



Training of 173 Community Focal Points (116 men, 57 women)



16 safety briefings for UN and NGO staff, so they recognize explosive ordnance and can take the necessary measures.

Bodies and development

The senior body of the World Without Mines foundation is the **Board**, consisting of six members. Thanks to the voluntary commitment of the board members in diverse strategic and operational areas, the structure of the foundation continues to remain streamlined. The foundation board works voluntarily. Some 250 hours were contributed in 2015.

After six years of active involvement, Peter Schaffner left the foundation board in June 2015. We extend our sincere thanks to him for his very valuable service and wish him all the best. We are fortunate to have Thomas Fluri as a new foundation board member. As a business economist and graduate auditor, he has been responsible for financial affairs since June.

The operational activities of World Without Mines are taken over by the **main office in Zurich**. The office has been organised since 2015 based on a job-sharing model: Gabriela Fuchs and Sandra Montagne equally share the 100 % position. During Sandra Montagne's maternity leave, the office operated at only 60% capacity for six months in 2015. Timka Opardija will continue to head the WWM branch office in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The third body of the foundation is the **statutory auditor**. The TAXBARGAIN AG firm has carried out World Without Mines audits since 2015.

WWM updated its foundation mission and by-laws in 2015. The definition of

humanitarian mine clearance and the legal instruments have changed since the founding of WWM in 1997. The change was approved by the Federal Foundation Supervisory Authority (within the Federal Department of Home Affairs) and the by-laws were adapted accordingly.

The purpose of the foundation is the support and promotion of humanitarian mine action in Switzerland and abroad.

Humanitarian mine action includes all activities with the goal of reduce the social, economic and ecological impacts of anti-personnel mines, cluster munition and explosive remnants of war (ERW) and increasing the security of the affected population. Included in these activities are the effects of small arms and light weapons (SALW), physical security and stockpile management (PSSM).

The foundation can undertake all actions and orders necessary for the achievement of its purpose, in particular, informing the Swiss population about the mine problem. It can buy, sell, rent, let and administer properties.

Networking with other humanitarian mine action players, both in Switzerland and internationally, was further intensified this year. This expert exchange enables further development of our approaches and projects. This is the only way that we, as a small organization, can fill gaps that otherwise go unnoticed.

Foundation board and staff



Foundation board

From left to right:

Emanuel Christen

(since 1997)
orthopaedic specialist

Thomas Fluri

(since 2015)
business economist

Carol Hofer

(since 2003)
member of the municipal council

Claudine Bolay Zraggen

(since 1997)
psychotherapist

Christian Schmidt

(since 2011)
journalist

Monique Bolay Arnold

(since 1997)
ethnologist



Staff

From left to right:

Gabriela Fuchs

(since 2014)
co-manager 50%

Sandra Montagne

(since 2012)
co-manager 50%



Timka Opardija

(since 2005)
*representative
in Bosnia*

Balance sheet as per 31 December

	2015	2014
Assets		
Current assets		
Liquid assets	762.684,20	608.581,64
Receivables	0,00	27.568,30
Prepaid expenses	70.515,26	28.600,00
Fixed assets		
Property, plant and equipment	915,00	1.500,00
Intangible assets	1,00	1,00
Total assets	834.115,46	666.250,94
Liabilities		
Outside capital		
Financial liabilities	42.031,10	78.532,60
Deferred Income	72.458,15	0,00
Bosnia-Herzegovina fund	20.000,00	26.000,00
DR Congo fund	75.000,00	50.000,00
Laos fund	75.672,45	50.000,00
Zimbabwe funds	50.000,00	0,00
Public relations work fund	50.000,00	50.000,00
Organisation capital		
WwM organisation capital	50.000,00	50.000,00
Voluntary retained earnings		
- profit brought forward	361.718,34	333.401,22
- year-end result	37.235,42	28.317,12
Total liabilities	834.115,46	666.250,94

Operating statement from 1 January to 31 December

	2015	2014
Earnings		
Donations	22.540,00	6.409,00
Income from fundraising campaigns	890.138,95	797.180,97
Legacy	59.995,00	0,00
Earmarked donations	329.138,00	331.297,52
Other operating income	975,70	0,00
Total income	1.302.787,65	1.134.887,49
Expenses		
Direct project expenses		
Bosnia-Hercegovina	-226.515,15	-303.899,67
DR Congo	-150.859,27	-199.565,70
Laos	-112.215,55	-165.575,80
South Sudan	-102.873,80	0,00
Zimbabwe	-46.265,16	0,00
Public relations work	-314.602,71	-321.637,15
Exchange differences	2.446,47	2.292,95
Total project expenses	-950.885,17	-988.385,37
Procurement of funds		
Annual report	-9.342,00	-7.266,80
Benefactor support postage	-231,05	-236,60
"myhappyend" association	-21.600,00	-21.600,00
Benefactor support secretariat	-17.674,20	-16.220,40
Total procurement of funds	-48.847,25	-45.323,80
Administrative expenses		
Personnel expenses	-128.225,15	-111.755,20
Rental expenses	-12.977,55	-14.179,70
Office and administrative expenses	-24.555,17	-15.989,10
Depreciations	-585,00	-970,00
Asset management	-4.863,76	-4.183,81
Total administrative expenses	-171.206,63	-147.077,81
Financial income	59,27	216,61
Result prior change of fund capital	131.907,87	-45.682,88
Withdrawal from funds	76.000,00	100.000,00
Allocation to funds	-170.672,45	-26.000,00
Annual result I (surplus)	37.235,42	28.317,12
Allocation to organisation capital	37.235,42	28.317,12
Annual result II following allocation	0	0

Statement on the change in capital

	Opening balance	Allocation	Use	Closing balance
Internal resources				
Capital	50.000,00			50.000,00
Retained earnings	361.718,34			361.718,34
Year-end result		37.235,42		37.235,42
Organisation capital				448.953,76
Funds from the fund capital				
Bosnia-Hercegovina	50.000,00	20.000,00	-50.000,00	20.000,00
DR Congo	50.000,00	75.000,00	-50.000,00	75.000,00
Laos	50.000,00	25.672,45		75.672,45
Zimbabwe	0,00	50.000,00		50.000,00
Public relations work	50.000,00			50.000,00
Total Fund Capital				270.672,45



Annex to the financial report

Principles

General

The present annual report consists of the balance sheet, operating statement and annex and also contains the prior-year figures. It has been prepared and classified in accordance with the provisions of Swiss accounting law (Title 32 of the Swiss Code of Obligations). The significant valuation principles used are described below.

Valuation principles

- Assets and liabilities are carried at their nominal values.
- Tangible assets are depreciated in accordance with the maximum permissible Swiss Federal Tax Administration rates.
- Intangible assets (database) are stated in the balance sheet pro memoria at 1 Swiss franc.
- Appropriate provisions have been created to take account of potential risks.

Details of positions in the balance sheet and income statement

Liquid assets

The liquid assets include cash on hand and postal check account deposits.

Public relations expense

The expenses for public relations work concern our newsletter, which is published

periodically and is aimed at informing the Swiss public about the current and ongoing problems with mines.

Further disclosures

Full-time positions

The annual average number of full-time positions in the reporting and prior years did not exceed 10.

Events after the balance sheet date

There were no significant events after the balance sheet date that have affected the book value of the reported assets or liabilities or need to be disclosed here.

Compensation for members of the foundation board

All members of the board are reimbursed for expenses in conjunction with their task, subject to presentation of receipts. Such receipts must be approved. Every year, the amount of CHF 300 is paid out in compensation for attendance at meetings, i.e. CHF 150 per meeting. Some members of the board waive such compensation in each case in favour of the foundation.



Abbreviations

Afrilam	Afrique pour la Lutte Antimines (African Mine Action Organization)
BHMAC	Bosnia-Herzegovina Mine Action Centre
DCA	DanChurchAid
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
NTS	Non-Technical Survey (surveys/inquiries among the local population)
NRA	National Regulatory Authority
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
WWM	World Without Mines Foundation



Imprint

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Gabriela Fuchs, Sandra Montagne, Carol Hofer, Christian Schmidt

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Kathrin Budde (b2c-design)



Every defused anti-personnel mine
means one life saved

Operational office:

Foundation WORLD WITHOUT MINES
Badenerstrasse 16, 8004 Zurich, Switzerland
Tel. +41 44 241 72 30
info@wom.ch | www.wom.ch
Donations account: 87-415116-3
IBAN: CH800900000087415116 3



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