

Introduction

Since Russia attacked Ukraine on 24 February there has been immense suffering for millions of ordinary people across the country. Over five million have fled to neighbouring countries and millions more have been internally displaced, finding refuge in Western Ukraine. Many fear returning home both due to the constant risk of attack and the landmines scattered across their country. It has been reported that the Russian and Ukrainian Forces have extensively used anti-vehicle mines to deter the advancement of the other's troops across regions as far-reaching as Donetsk, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Odesa, Sumy and Zaporizhzhia. Clearing these landmines to ensure civilian safety will be a mammoth task.

Devastation by landmines

Every day across the planet, people die or lose limbs from stepping on landmines. Men, women, and children who have often not been involved in active conflict suffer life-changing injuries or even death. Landmines restrict the movement of people and humanitarian aid, make land unsuitable for cultivation, and deny communities access to water, food, and trade.

Since the invasion of Ukraine, it is estimated that over 40,000 landmines and sea mines have been planted across the country and the Black Sea. It is difficult to get rid of landmines, meaning they can cripple communities and hinder reconstruction for decades. Clearance is painstaking, expensive, and must be carried out by professionals, often by hand due to the terrain where the mines are laid and the nature of the debris. It is also a slow process, with an area as big as the Buckingham Palace gardens taking up to a year to clear. The last of the landmines planted by the Argentinian forces in 1982, during their invasion of the Falkland Islands, were only removed in October 2020.

The need is huge, and with your support, we can ensure that the people of Ukraine will no longer have to fear that the next step they take could be their last.

To take action today, please contact Keith Kibirango, Director of Philanthropy and Private Sector Engagement



Support of Crown Agents

Crown Agents has close working relationships with several ministries in Ukraine, and we have been informed that one of the most practical ways we can work in the country is through the removal of unexploded mines. As an award-winning procurement and supply organisation, Crown Agents can procure and deliver landmine clearance equipment, making a proactive step towards the reconstruction of Ukraine, saving countless lives and allowing people to return safely to their homes.

We are urgently seeking to raise £1,300,000. This will allow us to procure and deliver 1,000 pieces of landmine clearing equipment to Ukraine.

How you can help

We can help save lives in Ukraine by providing much-needed landmine clearing equipment in the most time-efficient way possible. We are ready to procure, inspect and transport this equipment to Ukraine though we can only do so with your help. We seek your support by urgently donating to Crown Agents to help us procure this vital landmine clearing equipment.

