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Mechanical demining operations are gaining momentum in Mykolaiv Oblast

On 20 April, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) held a demonstration of a demining machine in Mykolaiv. This is the first machine of this type that the organisation is starting to use in Ukraine.

Thanks to funding from the German Federal Foreign Office, DRC will be able to clear mines and other explosive ordnance with special machines. The first machine of the GCS-200 series is already in Mykolaiv. Training for mechanical operators is underway and preparations for the mechanical accreditation are also progressing well, so DRC will soon be able to start working in contaminated areas with demining machine support.

The machine is remotely controlled and can clear up to 12,000 m² per day, which is 200 times more than a group of deminers that clear about 60 m² per day.

“Every step forward in clearing land from mines is a step towards more security, a step towards reestablishing normal and peaceful life. I am proud that Germany is making such a significant contribution to demining contaminated land in Ukraine. We do this in close cooperation with the Ukrainian Government and with the outstanding support of our international partners,” said **Martin Jäger**, the German Ambassador to Ukraine.

DRC has been engaged in humanitarian mine action in Ukraine since 2014, but until now, the clearance has been carried out manually by deminers. Thanks to the demining machines, the process becomes much faster—in the areas where they are used, deminers only check the quality of the machine work.

“I am very happy that DRC can add a new tool to its demining toolbox which will greatly improve the efficiency of land release operations. Getting this machine to Ukraine was long and complicated, and I am proud that we have finally crossed this threshold. Now the demining teams in Mykolaiv Oblast will be able to work faster, which is critical given the scale of mine contamination in Ukraine. We expect to receive another demining machine next month,” adds **Roxana Bobolicu**, Head of DRC's Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding Sector.

The UN reports that over 1,000 civilians have been killed or injured by mines and explosive remnants of war since February 2022. Contamination continues to risk the lives and livelihoods of more than 6 million Ukrainians. Accelerated demining makes it possible to save lives and start rebuilding Ukraine faster.

Note: The Danish Refugee Council is an international humanitarian organisation that assists people affected by displacement. The first DRC office in Ukraine was opened in 2014 and currently provides support to IDPs and war-affected people in 19 oblasts. Under the project funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, DRC carries out various humanitarian mine action activities, ranging from educating the public about the risks of explosive ordnance to directly clearing contaminated areas.

Further information:

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The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is a leading, international humanitarian displacement organisation, supporting refugees and internally displaced persons during displacement, in exile, when settling and integrating in a new place, or upon return. We provide protection and life-saving humanitarian assistance. DRC has been operating in Ukraine since 2014. After 24 February 2022, DRC launched a multi-sectoral response to the large-scale humanitarian crisis.