

# Regional Campaign Landmine Free South Caucasus Appeal



## Solidarity with the victims of landmines and their communities

The South Caucasus remains one of the areas most infected with contamination by landmines and other unexploded remnants of war in the world. Apart from the thousands of casualties caused directly or indirectly by landmines and other unexploded ordnance over the last three and a half decades, including several hundred in the last year, this contamination negatively impacts whole communities across the region, affecting their economic well-being, and exposing them to the constant threat of risk and danger.

In 2019 and in 2021, the regional campaign **Landmine Free South Caucasus** was successfully implemented across the region. Government officials, demining organisations and civil society, together with representatives of the international community, actively discussed the threat that landmines pose, and action that could be taken to eradicate them. The campaign took the message for a landmine free South Caucasus to schools and communities across the region.

We are pleased to announce the launch of the 2022 Regional Campaign Landmine Free South Caucasus which this year will be launched on 30 November with a "Day of Solidarity with the victims of landmines and other unexploded remnants of war, and their communities, in the South Caucasus".

As in the past, the campaign will be delivered in five languages: Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Russian and English. Starting on 30 November, the campaign will run until 30 June 2023, with activities focusing on the heavy human and economic cost of unexploded remnants of

war, and to increase awareness of the need for their swift eradication. By reaching out in solidarity to communities affected by landmines we want to assure them that they are not alone. We also recall that hundreds of deminers across the region risk their lives on a daily basis as they work tirelessly to rid the region from this scourge. We hail their efforts and say thank you for their precious work. As land is rehabilitated and returned to its proper use, care should be taken to make sure that it is the communities affected that should benefit first from its economic exploitation.

Finally, we appreciate the support of the international community in the quest for eradicating all landmines and other unexploded remnants of war from the South Caucasus. However the magnitude of the challenge facing the demining community is such that a much bigger level of support is required so that the capacity of local demining efforts is increased to a level where it can respond adequately to the tasks at hand. This support should be forthcoming quickly and at levels that would make a real difference.

### We appeal to the people of the South Caucasus and to the international community:

- Join us in expressing our solidarity with individuals and communities that are victims of landmines and other explosive remnants of war
- Join us in saying thank you to deminers!
- Join us in calling for a landmine free South Caucasus by the end of this decade, or soon after.

## The Regional Campaign Landmine Free South Caucasus 20 November 2022

The campaign Landmine Free South Caucasus is a regional effort with the participation of organisations in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, working together with international partners. The campaign is co-ordinated by LINKS Europe and supported by the European Union. For more information please contact Patrick Norén: [patrick@links-europe.eu](mailto:patrick@links-europe.eu).

**#LandminefreeSC22**

