

## About us

We are a Humanitarian Mine Action Unit in the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), a non-profit organisation that works worldwide to help and protect refugees, internally displaced and other conflict affected persons.

DDG's mission is to recreate an environment free from the threat of landmines, unexploded ordnances, other remnants of war, small arms and light weapons; an environment where people can live safely and have access to their land.

We work to enable post conflict communities (re-) gain access to their assets and support the efforts of governments, relief and development organizations to enable recovery and community transition into social and economic development.

Our work is based on the ethical standards and humanitarian values of DRC.

## Contact us:

We want to hear from you how to improve our work.  
Your advice is important

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COMMUNITY SAFETY IN SOMALILAND

## How we work

We began our humanitarian mine action programme in Somaliland in 1999 and have since cleared more than 10,000 landmines and 110,000 explosive remnants of war and delivered mine risk education to more than 30,000 persons.



We take a comprehensive approach to the impact of conflict by also reducing the threat of other remnants of war, such as small arms and light weapons.

We believe that responses should be locally owned and locally driven to have sustainable impact.

This led to the 2008 launch of our community safety programme, which is based on a people-centered approach emphasizing participatory visioning, planning and implementation.

By bringing community members together to identify and develop solutions to their safety needs, we strengthen their resistance to pressures and capacity to prevent and resolve behavior which contribute to armed violence.

## What we do

We establish community safety through the following activities:

- ◆ *Building community capacity to enhance safety* through participatory community safety plan processes and

training of existing management structures in target communities to enable them to actively use the community safety plans to improve their safety situation;



- ◆ *Advocacy with community leaders* for reduction of armed violence, safe handling and storage of firearms, handover and destruction of explosive remnants of war and cooperation with the police;
- ◆ *Production and distribution of safe storage devices for firearms* to introduce a systematic firearm management regime, prevent thefts by criminal elements and restrict accessibility for children and others who are vulnerable to accidents;



- ◆ *Firearms safety education* for firearm owners and dependants to encourage safe behaviour when handling and storing firearms in order to prevent accidents and foster a wider ethos of responsibility;

- ◆ *Removal and destruction of explosive remnants of war* to prevent accidents and future use of these items as tools of violence;
- ◆ *Mine risk education* for community members to teach safe behaviour in potentially contaminated areas,
- ◆ *Conflict management education* for community members to enable settlement of minor conflicts peacefully and discourage the use of armed violence,
- ◆ *Strengthening of relationships between security providers and communities* through advocacy activities and establishment and training of community based policing committees who facilitates improved communication and corporation (implemented in conjunction with our institutional partner - the Danish Refugee Council).

In line with our principles of participation and sustainability, all our activities are flexible and tailored to the needs of target communities.

## Our impact

We envision that by improving the safety situation in our target communities, we create the foundation for sustainable peace.

A safer environment facilitates social and economic development and paves the way for other programmatic interventions.

