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GERBERA Gmbh

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Comprised of a staff comprehensively trained in international operations involving project management and mine clearance, GERBERA Gmbh strives to offer a range of services to mine-affected countries. These services include the following:

- Mapping and analyzing mine-contaminated areas;
- Preparing and implementing and inspecting "tendered documents";
- Providing emergency assistance against mine hazards;
- Detecting, neutralizing and removing mines;
- Performing quality assurance tests; and
- Training and supervising local deminers and EOD workers.

To ensure its deminers operate at maximum efficiency and skill, GERBERA provides its deminers with computer aided data acquisition and evaluation equipment for land and water mine detection and removal. While some mine clearance organizations are limited to land work, GERBERA distinguishes itself as an organization capable of both land and water mine retrieval.

Mine Awareness
GERBERA emphasizes the need to increase mine awareness programs tailored to the children and parents inhabiting mine-affected areas, as education is a primary means of preventing future casualties. The organization has offered classes in many of its project countries in an attempt to generate mine awareness knowledge among the most severely affected populations.

Mine Clearance Projects
In 1996 and 1997, GERBERA's projects took its deminers to Angola where demining specialists performed quality assurance tests on approximately 4,800 km of primary roadways. During a U.N. Peacekeeping Mission in Angola (UNAVEM-III), GERBERA experts worked as regional mine officers and supervisors for the Angolan Demining Brigades and as U.N. Quality Controllers for the demining and UXO clearance efforts. Deminers for GERBERA endure strenuous, tedious work. Often, they confront UXO dating from resolved wars. In Laos, deminers located a variety of UXO, some of which was dated as far back as the 1940s. Consequently, GERBERA supplies its deminers with advanced technology to succeed in its mine clearance and awareness missions.

In addition to mine clearance efforts, GERBERA also trains local deminers to continue demining efforts. In Vietnam, GERBERA instructed locals to serach and clear mine-affected areas in order to quicken the resettlement of two villages.

Equipment
GERBERA stresses the value of innovative technology in demining efforts. In an attempt to restore the national infrastructure in Croatia, GERBERA deminers combined machinery, manual demining techniques and mine detecting dogs to clear heavily mined areas. GERBERA also utilizes computer software to assist in underwater detection. In addition to detection, the software is also able to measure the extent of pollution and the related dangers prior to GERBERA's initial demining efforts.

History: INTERSOS is an Italian based organization founded in 1992, by a group of individuals who had already dedicated years of aid and understanding to victims in developing countries. INTERSOS is a non-profit, independent organization that works to support public and private institutions that share its perspective in aiding the victims of humanitarian tragedies across the world.

It is also a member of the European Coordination VOICE (Voluntary Organizations In Cooperation in Emergencies) and a member of the project SOLIDA that is a part of the Italian Trade Unions special interelations. The organization's primary goals focus on the appropriate skills needed to help the victims of landmine and other disasters. The group is based upon solidarity "and professionalism" so that it can work quickly and efficiently to cover as much ground as possible. Since 1992, INTERSOS has been recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the European Commission. Both of these organizations, along with several other humanitarian organizations, support the gallant efforts of these individuals.

Primary Goals: The main goal of INTERSOS is to immediately respond to all types of disasters and to bring aid to the victims of armed conflict, drought, famine and landmine explosions. Through its fight to save more lives, INTERSOS also works to restore the normalcy of everyday life before these conflicts arise. INTERSOS believes the most efficient way to enlist outside help is to tell the public and let them contribute to the local associations as well as the overall cause. One aspect that INTERSOS prides itself on is following a strict non-sexual, racial or ethnic discrimination policy. All of the people involved work hard to spread the word of these disasters and enlist as much humanitarian aid as possible.

Resources: INTERSOS is an organization supported by several different pillars of contributors, such as doctors, nurses, logisticians, administrators, educators and technicians in engineering, sanitation, human settlement, agriculture, electronics, and explosive devices. These pillars of INTERSOS work together to attend to the areas devastated by tragedy and left in despair. Financially, INTERSOS is not only supported by its own members' contributions and various individuals but it has also benefited from the help of several different NGOs and other organizations, including:

- European Union—ECHO, DG IA, DG VII
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- UNICHR
- UNICEF
- USAID
- Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI)
- Italian Caritas
- Trade Unions

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