



The Legacy Programme

Overview on Green Cross and its activities addressing military-environmental legacies

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The Green Cross organisation

Green Cross is a not-for-profit environmental organisation dealing with the prevention and the remediation of the environmental consequences of conflicts.

Green Cross was founded in December 1992 by Swiss M.P. Roland Wiederkehr in Berne/Switzerland and merged with an initiative of Mikhail S. Gorbachev in April 1993 in Kyoto/Japan. Today, Green Cross has 26 national affiliates on five continents; the international headquarters are in Geneva.

Guiding principles of Green Cross are:

- **Co-operation** instead of confrontation as an approach to solve environmental challenges;
- **Mediation** between stakeholder groups;
- **Facilitation** of solutions integrating ecological, social and economical aspects;
- **Transformation** of societal values with regard to environment and sustainability;
- **Implementation** of Agenda 21;
- **Combination** of global thinking with local action through 26 national organisations and their local chapters.

Green Cross manages several international programmes:

- Environmental Consequences of Wars and Conflicts;
- Water and Desertification;
- Energy and Resource Efficiency;
- Environmental Education;
- Earth Charter.

For more information on Green Cross, see: www.gci.ch

The Environmental Consequences of Wars and Conflicts Programme

In the wider context of military environmental impacts, the **Environmental Consequences of Wars and Conflicts Programme** promotes

- full implementation of arms control and disarmament agreements;
 - safe and environmentally sound destruction of weapons arsenals;
 - the conversion and clean-up of military facilities;
 - reduced environmental impact of military practices;
 - improvements in the areas of public health, education, and social infrastructure in regions affected by military legacies;
 - public awareness, knowledge transfer and self-responsibility on military-environmental issues; and
 - the building of a civil society.
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Activities aim at involving all stakeholders in decision-making processes, and at precluding harmful impacts from military legacies to public health and the environment.

The Programme is implemented within the framework of two operative units. The **Legacy of the Cold War Programme (Legacy Programme)** addresses technical, scientific, and political aspects, while the **Socmed Programme** focuses on social and medical questions.

For more information on the Programme, see www.greencross.ch

The Legacy Programme

The Legacy of the Cold War Programme (Legacy Programme) addresses and alleviates the consequences of the arms race; facilitates military base clean-up and conversion; promotes safe and environmentally sound destruction of weapons arsenals; and addresses social, medical and educational issues in regions affected by military-environmental legacies. It also aims at increasing awareness on the environmental and health impact of military activities and promotes preventive measures for avoiding or diminishing future impacts.

Working approach

The military-environmental issues addressed in the framework of the Legacy Programme have often have left affected areas underdeveloped or polluted and led to an atmosphere of mistrust between stakeholder groups. These factors create either an unfavourable environment for or make even impossible much needed solutions.

Therefore, as a core activity, the Legacy Programme facilitates in different large-scale disarmament projects the involvement of all stakeholder groups (i.e. on the local, regional, national, and international level) in decision-making processes and in the search for joint, comprehensive solutions.

In order to be able to reach all stakeholders, a co-operative (and not confrontational) approach is pursued. Green Cross acts as a neutral, third-party facilitator and as an information bridge between stakeholders. As a facilitator, Green Cross does not take stands on specific issues except the preclusion of harmful impacts by the disarmament project to public health and the environment.

In general, projects pursued under the Legacy Programme must produce tangible results and meet local demands. The facilitation efforts must also contribute to the building of a civil society, which again helps secure project results.

As the issues at stake are often of global character, the Legacy Programme has been since its beginnings in 1994 a closely coordinated, multilateral effort by Green Cross Russia, Green Cross Switzerland, and Global Green USA, the American affiliate of Green Cross. The Legacy Programme works today together with

several governments as well as local communities and has been widely recognised for its practical and constructive approaches.

Activities

The main areas of activities are at present on public outreach and public involvement in chemical weapons (both Russia and U.S.) and strategic missiles destruction (Russia) as well as on projects on military base management and military environmental training (Russia and U.S.). Projects include:

- **Information and promotion of understanding in all stakeholder groups** through the operation of seven public outreach offices in five Russian chemical stockpile regions (Shchuch'ye, Kurgan, Chelyabinsk, Kizner, Kirov, Pochev, and Penza) and one public outreach office on missile destruction in Votkinsk (Russia); publication of brochures and fact sheets; regular informational meetings with all stakeholder groups as well as legislators and administrators in Russia, the U.S., and different European countries (for more information on chemical weapons related questions, see www.greencross-cwc.ch)
 - **Facilitation of public involvement** through so far five public hearings; the introduction of Citizens' Advisory Commissions in Russia, a model of public involvement used in the American chemical weapons destruction programme; representation of the stockpile communities' views and interests in the Russian State Commission on Chemical Weapons Disarmament (the President of GC Russia is member of the State Commission) as well as in numerous discussions with key governmental decision-makers; membership in the American ACWA Dialogue (= National Dialogue on alternatives to incineration for destroying chemical weapons).
 - **Promotion of improvements in the health and social infrastructure sectors** through training of medical doctors on the treatment of poisoning inflicted by chemical weapons; donation of medical equipment; improvement of the regional public health sector; assistance to local Russian emergency response forces in informing and training the population on proper reactions during an emergency at local chemical weapons facilities.
 - **Independent and non-partisan scientific investigations** answering public concerns and aiming at increasing trust in the chemical weapons destruction process. Those are, for example, risk assessments of chemical weapons stockpiles and destruction facilities; assessment of the environmental impact of open pit burning sites; or the risk assessment and clean-up at an oil-polluted nuclear missile base.
 - **Educational activities on military-environmental legacies** like the clean-up at an oil-polluted nuclear missile base
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combined with a lessons-learned programme; or the participation in the American National Dialogue on Military Munitions.

The Socmed Programme

The Socmed Programme offers assistance to the population affected by activities of the military-industrial complex, and especially to children, teenagers and mothers with young children. Socmed activities aim at improving public health services and social infrastructure and at providing education and training on health, environment and nutrition.

The Socmed Programme is co-ordinated by GC Switzerland and represents a multilateral effort by GC Switzerland, GC Belarus, GC Russia, GC Ukraine, and partner organisations in Vietnam.

Working approach

The Socmed Programme aims at strengthening local initiatives and at building self-sustainable, local structures in the area of public health.

Activities

Socmed in Belarus

GC Belarus directs activities in favour of the population living in the areas contaminated by the Chernobyl catastrophe. Two regional affiliates are now working in Grodno and Mozyr.

IN 2001, the children therapy camps hosted 1'025 children, and more than 600 mothers and their children received treatment and education in the framework of the Mother&Child project. A Family Club opened in Khoinki. Another 540 people were examined in the Family Health Care project, and many events and seminars were organised in the Training and Education project aiming at activating socialisation and education in the contaminated areas. All projects were supported by training and education materials developed and published by GC Belarus.

Socmed in Russia

GC Russia manages therapy and education camps for children from areas with chemical weapons stockpiles through its network of more than 25 regional affiliates. In 2001, around 200 children participated in four Therapy Camps. In the frame of the camps, 25 students were trained in working with children. In a Health Monitoring project in the chemical weapons stockpile area in Penza, 300 people received medical check-ups and tests.

Socmed in Ukraine

GC Ukraine focuses its activities on the radioactively contaminated areas in the north (Shitomir region). It organised 13 Therapy Camps for 970 children suffering from serious diseases like diabetes and asthma. The first Mother&Child project hosted 25 mothers with 25 diabetic children, three Family Clubs were opened. In the framework of the Diabetes pilot project, 75 children suffering from

diabetes underwent treatment, another 315 children were examined, and the Green Cross Diabetes Center's team received 252 patients.

Socmed in Vietnam

In a joint project with the Vietcot Training Centre, GC Switzerland provided in 2001 278 children with appropriate orthotic/prosthetic devices. Assistance included transportation, accommodation, and where necessary surgery, adaptation, training and regular re-adjustment of the devices. Two Mother&Child projects were started in chemically polluted areas, five grants for orthopedic technologists were financed, a training seminar for 35 doctors was organised and training courses for ortho-therapists were implemented in different villages.

Donors

The Legacy and Socmed Programmes have been supported in the last few years by grants from the Swiss Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the U.S. Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the British and Dutch Embassies in Moscow, as well as by a series of American and Swiss foundations and numerous private donors.

Programme turnover in 2000 was 2.25 million USD and in 2001 2.65 million USD. All books are audited.

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