

**Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
on the involvement of children in armed conflict**

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRIA

(Covering the period February 2002 to April 2004)

(Date of Ratification 1 February 2002)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Austria ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter: "CRC" or "the Convention") on the involvement of children in armed conflict (hereinafter: "the Optional Protocol") on 1 February 2002. It entered into force also in respect of Austria on 12 February 2002. This is Austria's first report pursuant to Article 8 para. 1 of the Optional Protocol.
2. The Austrian National Defence Act was amended prior to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to explicitly prohibit the direct participation of persons under 18 years of age in direct hostilities. The amendment came into effect on 1 January 2001¹.
3. During the parliamentary debates on the Optional Protocol, it was welcomed as an important instrument for the protection and promotion of the rights of the child. It was thus unanimously approved by all parties in the parliamentary process.
4. Neither incidences of hostilities nor armed conflicts took place in Austria in the last decades. Detailed statistical information or relevant research on children in armed conflict are therefore not available. The relevant legal provisions are attached in Annex 1.
5. Relevant government and non-governmental agencies were consulted on the preparation of the present report.

**II. INFORMATION RELATING TO ARTICLES 1-7
OF THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL**

6. For the purposes of Articles 1-3 of the Protocol two Austrian laws are applicable:
 - a) The National Defence Act, which regulates compulsory and voluntary recruitment in the Austrian Armed Forces (*Bundesheer*) for the purpose of Defence of the Austrian territory.
 - b) The Act on Dispatching of Soldiers for Assistance Abroad² regulates recruitment for deployments outside Austria, which is voluntary only.

¹ Federal Law Gazette, Vol. I, No. 140/2000.

A. Article 1

Legislative measures to prohibit the involvement of persons who have not attained the age of 18 in direct hostilities

7. It is recalled that, upon ratification of the Convention, Austria entered the following declaration: “Austria will not make any use of the possibility provided for in article 38, para. 2, to determine an age limit of 15 years for taking part in hostilities as this rule is incompatible with article 3, paragraph 1, which determines that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.”

8. Section 41, para. 2 of the National Defence Act³ states that the direct participation of soldiers who have not attained the age of 18 years in hostilities shall not be admissible.⁴

9. With respect to the meaning of “direct participation”: the wording of the relevant part of section 41, para. 2 of the National Defence Act (in German: „Eine unmittelbare Teilnahme von Soldaten, die das 18. Lebensjahr noch nicht vollendet haben, an Feindseligkeiten im Rahmen eines Einsatzes ist nicht zulässig.“) mirrors closely the respective wording of Article 1 of the Optional Protocol „... ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take a direct part in hostilities.” The term “direct participation in hostilities” is interpreted in a restrictive manner and does not include acts such as gathering and transmission of military information, transportation of arms and munitions, provision of supplies etc. In practice, no specific questions as to the meaning of this provision have arisen so far.

10. Section 2, para. 2 of the Act on Dispatching of Soldiers for Assistance Abroad provides that a voluntary request for deployment abroad may not be lodged prior to the completion of the 18th year of age.⁵

11. No one serving in the Austrian Armed Forces irrespective of age was taken prisoner. Austrian soldiers are not taking part in direct hostilities as they are only deployed in peace keeping missions.

B. Article 2

Compulsory recruitment

12. Pursuant to section 18, para. 4 of the National Defence Act, male Austrian nationals of the calendar year in which they complete their 18th year of age are, as a rule, called up for registration (*Stellung*).⁶ During registration a commission consisting of an officer, a physician

² Bundesgesetz über die Entsendung von Soldaten zur Hilfeleistung in das Ausland (Auslandseinsatzgesetz 2001), Federal Law Gazette Vol. I No. 55/2001 (last amendment Federal Law Gazette Vol. I No. 137/2003)

³ Federal Gazette Vol. I No. 146/2001 as amended by Federal Gazette Vol. I No. 137/2003.

⁴ The relevant provision is attached in the Annex 1.

⁵ The relevant provision is attached in the Annex 1.

⁶ The relevant provision is attached in the Annex 1.

and a psychologist decides on the fitness for service of the person concerned on the basis of medical and psychological examinations.

13. Upon registration, the following documents have to be presented

- a proof of identity, e.g. passport, a national I.D. card (*Personalausweis*) or driver's licence,
- certificate of citizenship,
- birth certificate,
- proof of registered residence (*Meldezettel*),
- social security card and,
- if applicable, a certificate of marriage.

14. Pursuant to section 24, para. 1 of the National Defence Act, a person may be called up for military service either by a recruitment order or by a general notification of the Federal Minister for Defence classified as an “ordinance” (*Verordnung*). The recruitment order may be issued no earlier than 6 months after the first decision on fitness for active service.⁷

15. According to section 9, para. 1 of the National Defence Act, only persons who have turned 18 years and are fit for military service shall be recruited (on a compulsory basis) into the armed forces⁸ (“physical integration into the armed forces” as to the *Guidelines regarding initial reports of States Parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.*⁹)

16. There are no legal provisions enabling the age of conscription to be lowered in exceptional circumstances (e.g. state of emergency).

C. Article 3

Article 3, paragraph 1

17. The declaration made by Austria upon ratification of the Optional Protocol reads as follows: “Under Austrian law the minimum age for the voluntary recruitment of Austrian citizens into the Austrian army (*Bundesheer*) is 17 years. According to paragraph 15, in conjunction with paragraph 65 (c) of the Austrian National Defence Act 1990 (*Wehrgesetz 1990*), the explicit consent of parents or other legal guardians is required for the voluntary recruitment of a person between 17 and 18 years. The provisions of the Austrian National Defence Act 1990, together with the subjective legal remedies guaranteed by the Austrian Federal Constitution, ensure that legal protection in the context of such a decision is afforded to volunteers under the age of 18. A further guarantee derives from the strict application of the principles of rule of law, good governance and effective legal protection.”

⁷ The relevant provision is attached in the Annex 1.

⁸ The relevant provision is attached in the Annex 1.

⁹ CRC/OP/AC/1, 12 October 2001.

18. Due to subsequent amendments the references to “paragraphs 15 and 65 (c)” in the Declaration presently refer to sections 9, para. 2 and 57 of the National Defence Act as amended.¹⁰

19. Section 9, para. 2 of the National Defence Act provides that persons, who have attained the age of 17 but not yet 18, may do their military service earlier

- (a) on the basis of a voluntary application with the explicit consent of their parents or other legal guardians, and
- (b) following the registration procedure described in para. 11 and 12 above and
- (c) after ensuring that volunteers are knowledgeable about their duties as recruits.

20. Volunteers under 18 years are only recruited for the purposes of training. Deployment for under 18-year-old recruits outside Austria is not admissible.

21. Since the 2003 amendment to the National Defence Act women may volunteer for military training for a period of 12 months, voluntary armed manoeuvres (for training purposes) and functional services (to fulfil other military tasks in the interest of fast, economical, cost-effective and purposeful discharge of duties). Women are excluded from involvement in armed conflicts and not liable to do military service.

22. Currently (as of June 2004) 273 male recruits are enlisted on a voluntary basis. 2 female recruits under 18 are currently in training.

23. Given that all male Austrian nationals are liable for military service, the statistical information on recruits reflects, in most cases, the statistical information of the general average of the Austrian (male) population. The origin of volunteers from rural/urban areas cannot be inferred from the registered residence (*Hauptwohnsitz*) as young recruits often change their residence after leaving their parents’ home. Detailed statistics on volunteers under 18 by region, rural/urban areas are only available as regards the number of recruits in the federal states (*Bundesländer*). This data is attached in Annex 3. Statistics on social origin is not available as data on school education and professional training of the recruits are only collected once employment is taken up with the Armed Forces. Regarding data on ethnic origin, only Austrian male citizens are liable for military service. Data on recruits who are members of ethnic minorities with Austrian nationality are not collected separately.

Article 3, paragraphs 2-4

Declaration on minimum age for voluntary recruitment

24. The Austrian Declaration (see para. 17 above) reflects existing Austrian legislation before and after ratification as well as well-established practice considered useful for the further careers of the persons concerned.

¹⁰ The relevant provisions are attached in the Annex 1.

25. No systematic or comprehensive debate took place in Austria prior to the adoption of the declaration given that the existing Austrian legislation reflected a general consensus on the minimum age.

26. The possibility to register voluntarily from age 17 serves to enable under-18-years-olds, who have completed their secondary education, to do their compulsory military service before starting to work or to study at university or colleges. This is closely connected to the fact that children who complete their sixth year of age in September through December of any given year may start primary school in that year and that school years end in June. After 12 years of education, which is the standard for many secondary and vocational education types statistically a significant portion of the school leavers is under 18.

27. Some Austrian children's rights NGOs advocate for a higher minimum age for voluntary recruitment.

Article 3, paragraph 3

28. For the registration/recruitment procedure see para. 12, 13, and 19 above.

29. Like every person starting his/her service a volunteer undergoes a medical examination when actually joining the armed forces so as to check his/her fitness for service.

30. The effective minimum service time is 8 months, i.e. 6 months military training and 2 months armed manoeuvres (for training purposes). Recruits may serve these 8 months without interruption, or first 7 months and the remaining month in field exercises within 2 years.

31. Recruits are discharged if a medical examination shows that s/he is physically or psychologically unfit for military service.

32. The rules governing military justice or discipline apply equally to recruits irrespective of their age. There are no military courts in Austria.

33. Pursuant to section 4 of the National Defence Act, a complaint commission in military matters has been established. The commission is composed by members nominated by the National Parliament as well as by the parties represented in parliament in proportion to the number of their seats. The commission may receive complaint *inter alia* by volunteers and other recruits. The commission may also conduct *ex officio* investigations into presumed shortcomings, deficiencies or abuses in the military realm.

34. During the reporting period February 2002 to April 2004, no recruits under 18 years of age have been under trial or in detention.

35. The minimum and maximum sanctions foreseen in case of desertion are governed by the Military Penal Code. The general penal provisions governed by the (civil) Penal Code and (civil) Penal Procedure Code, including all norms relating to juveniles governed by the Juvenile Court Act (*Jugendgerichtsgesetz*) as well as the special sentencing regime for juveniles (see below para. 37), are applicable as long as the Military Penal Code does not provide for special rules.

36. Section 9 of the Military Penal Code makes it punishable to desert from the Armed Forces while already in active service. The minimum sentence is 6 months and the maximum 5 years imprisonment. For first offenders, who turn themselves in voluntarily within 6 weeks the maximum sentence is 6 months imprisonment or a fine of up to 360 daily rates¹¹; in case of absence of more than 8 days, a sentence of up to a year imprisonment.

37. For juvenile offenders the sentences are reduced to half; minimum sentences are not applicable.¹²

38. The Armed Forces do not use any incentives to encourage volunteers to join the ranks. There are no recruitment offices in Austria.

39. The Austrian Armed Forces provide comprehensive general information about their activities, the registration procedure and other issues concerning compulsory military service or the substitute civilian service. The Ministry of Defence operates an Internet website providing information on careers and compulsory military service in the Armed Forces. Specific information is made available to parents or legal guardians upon request.

Article 3, paragraph 5

Military schools

40. The Austrian Armed Forces do not operate schools.

41. However, the so-called *Militärrealgymnasium* in Wiener Neustadt offers students from age 14 a higher secondary education with a specialisation in natural sciences and a military-led boarding school.¹³ The school is supervised by the general school authorities in all relevant aspects. The boarding school is governed by internal rules (*Hausordnung*) under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Defence.

42. The school concludes with a school-leaving examination (“*Matura*”) after 4 years, which entitles students to attend university. In addition, but not exclusively, the school aims to prepare students for a military career (military officers). Students of the *Militärrealgymnasium* are not members of the Austrian Armed Forces; they have the right to leave school at any time and not to pursue a military career.

43. The proportion between academic education and military training in the curriculum is 4 (academic):1 (military training). Currently (as of May 2004) there are 8 military and 40 civil staff; 170 students, among them 16 girls, attend the school.

44. The school curriculum includes the main features of international humanitarian law.

45. The general (civil) rules governing school discipline apply. Teaching staff are forbidden to resort to disciplinary means which violate the human dignity of pupils, such as corporal

¹¹ The specific amount of the fine is composed of a given fine per day or daily rate (*Tagessatz*) which is to be determined according to the delinquent’s personal situation and according to his income or financial capacity.

¹² For more details on the administration of juvenile justice, see Austria’s 2nd report to the United Nations Pursuant to Article 44, para. 1 b of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, June 2002, pp. 118-119.

¹³ See for further information, albeit in German only, at <http://www.milrg.at/> (as accessed in June 2004)

punishment, abusive remarks or collective punishment pursuant to section 47, para. 3 of the School Education Act (*Schulunterrichtsgesetz*).¹⁴

D. Article 4

Armed groups and legislative provisions

46. No armed groups have operated on/from the territory of Austria for decades.

47. Austrian law prohibits and criminalises the recruitment and use of persons of any age in hostilities by armed groups that are distinct from the Austrian armed forces. Pursuant to section 279 of the Austrian Penal Code, a person who sets up an armed group, arms or leads it, recruits members for an armed group or trains them in a military way, provides for weapons, means of transportation, telecommunication facilities or money or assists an armed group in another relevant way, is to be sentenced to imprisonment up to three years.¹⁵ There has been no conviction pursuant to this provision since 1999.

48. In addition, section 280 of the Code makes it a crime to collect and possess weaponry, munitions and other warfare material in order to provide a greater number of persons with equipment for armed combat. There has been no conviction pursuant to this provision since 1999.

49. Moreover, the Austrian Penal Code covers treason and other attacks against the Austrian state, and contains provisions *inter alia* with respect to treason acts against foreign governments criminalising the undertaking of activities in Austria aimed at changing the constitutional order of a foreign state or at separating territories belonging to a foreign state, as well as prohibiting the support of parties in armed conflict (in which Austria is not partaking) from Austrian territory). Since 1999 there has been one conviction regarding the commission of treason against the Austrian state, in 2002. There has been no conviction regarding the commission of treason against foreign governments since 1999.

E. Article 5

Ratification of other relevant international instruments and other multilateral activities

50. Austria has ratified the following international conventions:

- The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977. The Geneva Conventions were promulgated in the Austrian Federal Law Gazette Vol. I No. 155/1953; the Additional Protocols in the Austrian Federal Law Gazette Vol. I No. 527/1982.

¹⁴ The relevant provision is attached in the Annex 1.

¹⁵ The relevant provision is attached in the Annex 1.

- The Rome-Statute on 28 December 2000, implemented by the Act on Cooperation with the International Criminal Court, Austrian Federal Law Gazette Vol. I No. 135/2002.
- International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention concerning the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Convention No. 182), Federal Law Gazette Vol. III No. 41/2002.

51. Austria has taken inspiration from the global goal to “bridge the gap” and has made children in armed conflict a priority in Austrian human rights policy. Consequently, Austria’s presidency in the Human Security Network from 2002 to 2003 had children in armed conflict as a central focus. Under Austria’s chairpersonship, this network of thirteen foreign ministers from all five continents elaborated and subsequently endorsed a Support Strategy on Children Affected by Armed Conflict at their meeting in May 2003 in Graz. The strategy identifies a set of operative principles, including strengthening monitoring, reporting and training, and an alarm function in cases of child rights violations.

52. The Human Security Network also developed as a corollary to the Support Strategy a Child Rights Training Curriculum that serves as a comprehensive check list containing relevant principles, guidelines and references, as well as exemplary training modules so as to be adaptable to specific situations on the ground and target groups to be trained. This programme has been made available to the U.N. Secretary-General, and other organisations and NGOs. The Training-Curriculum can be downloaded from the website of the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.¹⁶ A French translation, sponsored by the Government of Canada is forthcoming.

53. Austria has carried forward this cross-regional political commitment and successfully stimulated debate within the European Union that ultimately led to the adoption of the EU Guidelines on Children Affected by Armed Conflict.¹⁷ The implementation of these Guidelines and their immediate, effective and sustained mainstreaming throughout all relevant EU policies and actions now is a priority of all members of the European Union.

54. Austria has been a longstanding partner of UNICEF on the multilateral level and is member of the UNICEF Administrative Council from 2004 to 2006. Austrian priorities, such as children in armed conflicts or the implementation of the resolutions of the World Children Summit, will be put on the agenda. Austria currently funds a Junior Professional-Officer working in the child protection unit of UNICEF.

F. Article 6

Article 6, paragraphs 1 and 2

Implementation and enforcement of the Optional Protocol

55. The Austrian National Defence Act 1990 was amended in 2001 to provide full compliance with the Optional Protocol in respect of Article 1.

¹⁶ http://www.bmaa.gv.at/view.php3?f_id=49&LNG=en&version (as accessed in June 2004)

¹⁷ See http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/human_rights/child/ (as accessed in June 2004)

56. Austria has not entered any reservations to the Optional Protocol.

57. The Austrian Ministry of Defence is responsible for managing the recruitment and selection of service personnel in conjunction with the armed forces. Members of the armed forces responsible for recruitment are required by law to comply with the National Defence Act. They may face disciplinary action and under certain circumstances penal sanctions for abuse of authority for any failure in complying with the Act.

58. For the complaint commission in military matters see para. 33 above.

59. The Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture is responsible for the relevant provisions of the Optional Protocol concerning schools in Austria.

60. Austrian civil society has been invited to actively participate in the comprehensive process of elaborating a National Action Plan for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the Optional Protocol.¹⁸ This process has started in 2003 and brought together some 100 experts from governmental and non-governmental organisations. This on-going process is intended as a dynamic forum for the continuous improvement of the implementation of the CRC. In addition to the experts meeting a wide range of children participation projects have been carried out. Internet fora for discussion and information have been created. A database documenting the measures related to child rights undertaken by ministries has been set up.

61. Training courses for soldiers in deployment abroad contain international law, including the rights of the child. The specific content of training when posted abroad on a peace-keeping mission depends also on the place of deployment. For instance, 2 members of the Austrian Armed Forces were deployed to a mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They received a tailor-made training programme which took into account the special circumstances of the situation, including the situation of child soldiers, in the country.

62. During and after of the national parliamentary process for ratification, the Optional Protocol has been widely disseminated and discussed.

63. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has worked actively on the international level to promote the ratification of the Optional Protocol and in particular has contributed within the framework of the European Union to the development of EU-Guidelines on Children Affected by Armed Conflict (see para. 53 above).

64. For Austria's commitment in the framework of the Human Security Network to bring about concrete added value for the protection of children in armed conflict see paras. 51 and 52 above.

¹⁸ See <http://www.yap.at>; <http://www.kinderhabenrechte.at>

G. Article 7

Technical cooperation and financial assistance

65. The primary aims of Austria's development cooperation are: Poverty reduction, preventing conflict and securing peace, and environmental protection. Austria's endeavours are primarily concentrated on underprivileged groups in the least developed countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. In the Cooperation with Eastern Europe (*Ostzusammenarbeit*) with 19 countries focuses on South East Europe with several reconstruction programmes.

66. Section 1, para. 4 of the Development Cooperation Act sets out the principle, among others, that measures shall take into consideration, in a suitable manner, the needs of children.¹⁹

67. The tri-annual programme 2004-2006 on Austrian development cooperation policy sets out as two main priorities human rights training and the protection of children in armed conflict.

68. The Austrian Development Cooperation has conducted several reintegration and demobilisation programmes (for a list of projects see Annex 2).

¹⁹ The relevant provisions concerning Austria's development cooperation policy are attached in Annex 1.

Annex 1: Relevant Austrian Legislation (Unofficial translation)

1. National Defence Act 2001

Complaint Commission in military matters

§ 4. (1) (Constitutional provision) A complaint commission in military matters is to be established at the Federal Ministry of Defence. (...) The chairperson is to be appointed by Parliament pursuant to paragraph 9, the other members by the political parties as represented by mandates in the general committee of Parliament. Moreover, the political parties shall nominate a substitute member for each member and for the chairperson proposed by them.

(...)

(4) The complaint commission shall accept complaints either lodged directly or indirectly by person who have registered and applied to be enlisted for military service voluntarily, by those persons liable for registering with the Armed Forces (*Stellungspflichtige*), by soldiers as well as for persons liable for military service of both the militia and the reserve, those who have served (compulsory) military service, and shall examine these complaints – unless the commission finds the grounds of the complaints to be too insignificant – and adopt recommendations. (...) Moreover, the complaint commission is entitled to examine *ex officio* shortcomings and drawbacks in the military realm.

Conditions for Entry

§ 9. (1) Only Austrian nationals shall be drafted into the Austrian Armed Forces, who have completed their 18 year of age and who possess the necessary physical and psychological fitness for military service.

(2) Persons, who have completed their 17th year of age and, moreover, who fulfil the conditions as provided for in para. 1, may do military service earlier following a voluntary application.

Duty of Registration (*Stellungspflicht*)

§ 18. (4) Persons who are liable for military service are, as a rule, to be called up for registration in the calendar year in which they complete the 18th year of age.

Call for Military Service (*Einberufung*)

§ 24. (1) Persons who are liable for military service are to be called by decision (*Einberufungsbefehl*) to military service according to the respective military interests. The decision shall not be delivered prior to the expiry of 6 months after the first finding of fitness for military service. (...) The call for drafting may, insofar as military considerations require, also be effected by general notification by the Ministry of Defence.

General Matters

§ 41. (2) (...) A direct participation of soldiers in hostilities who have not completed 18 years of age is not admissible.

Legal capacity to act of Minors

§ 57. The legal capacity of a person to act in matters of this federal act is not affected by the [person's] minority. This does not apply to persons who register voluntarily for military service prior to the completion of 18 years of age.

3. The Act on Dispatching of Soldiers for Assistance Abroad Service in Deployment Abroad

§ 2. (2) (...) A voluntary application [for a deployment abroad] may only be lodged after completion of 18 years of age.

4. School Education Act

§ 47. (3) Corporal punishment, insulting remarks and collective punishment are forbidden.

5. Penal Code

Armed Groups

§ 279. (1) A person who sets up an armed group or a group that is aimed to be armed without authorisation, or arms or leads an existing group, recruits members for an armed group or trains them in a military or any other way for combat, provides for weapons, means of transportation, telecommunication facilities or financial means or assists an armed group in another relevant way, is to be sentenced to imprisonment up to three years

6. Federal Act on Development Cooperation (2002), including its Amendment (2003)

§ 1.

(1) The Federal Government, in the context of its international development policy, shall perform development cooperation.

(2) Development policy shall comprise any measure by the Federal Government that aims at promoting sustainable economic and social development of the developing countries or preventing any impairment to such a development. In particular, it comprises development cooperation.

(3) Austria's development policy shall primarily pursue the following objectives:

1. combating poverty in the developing countries by promoting economic and social development that is aimed at a process of sustainable economic activity and economic growth combined with structural, institutional and social change;
2. ensuring peace and human security, especially by promoting democracy, rule of law, human rights and good governance; as well as
3. preserving the environment and protecting natural resources that form the basis for sustainable development.

(4) Austria's development policy is primarily based on the following principles. Any measure adopted shall take into consideration

1. the aims of the respective governments and populations in the developing countries, with regard to the speed and kind of development process in question and their right to choose their own way of development;
2. the integration of measures into the social environment, with specific regard being paid to cultural aspects and use of appropriate technology,
3. equality between women and men as well as,
4. in a suitable manner, the needs of children and of people with disabilities.

Annex 2: Relevant Projects funded by the Austrian Development Co-operation

Northern Uganda

Rehabilitation and reintegration of former child soldiers; currently being devised in co-operation with UNICEF and SOS-Kinderdorf, an Austrian NGO with specific expertise in the care of orphaned children.

Iraq

Psychosocial support for children and families affected by armed conflicts or post-war situations (2003-2004); Austrian-Slovenian initiative within the framework of the Human Security Network.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo

Human Security Network - Child Rights Protection Centre. Establishment of a municipal centre for children with psychosocial problems and war-related traumata (2002-2003). The target group also included parents, teachers and representatives of other professions dealing with children- and youth-related work. The centre is also tasked with disseminating information on children's rights and co-operating with schools, kindergartens and medical institutions as well as sensitising municipalities with respect to children's rights and their needs.

Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Cambodia, Ethiopia and South Eastern Europe

Mine clearance/de-mining of land mines and rehabilitation of victims in co-operation with the ICRC and UNOCHA and others (since 2002).

Afghanistan

- "Establishment and rehabilitation of child-care centres" in partnership with UNHCR (since 2002)
- "Ensuring Women's Rights" and "Accelerated Learning Program for Girls (since 2002) in partnership with UNICEF. In this context, UNICEF has been working with the line ministries of Afghanistan Transitional Authorities (ATA) in areas of education for girls and women, safe motherhood, and protection of women's rights at the policy level, among other areas.
- "Integrating population and development concepts in the formal and non-formal education system in Afghanistan" in partnership with UNFPA (since 2003); in particular supporting girls who had no access to education under the Taliban regime.

Mozambique and Rwanda

Country programmes with integrated human rights-related components (2000-2003).

Uganda

- Promotion of administration of justice
- Funding of Uganda Human Rights Commission (UNRC)'s magazine "Your rights"
- Corruption, Human Rights and Good Governance Awareness and Sensitization Programme in SW Uganda (Transparency Uganda)
- Support to the UHRC Basket Funds
- Support to the Justice, Law and Order Sector
- National Civic Education Programme and support of the budgets of Donor Democracy and Good Governance

Burundi

- contribution to the peace process in Arusha (Nyerere Foundation).
- Promotion of human rights (OHCHR)
- Project "Pour une légale protection devant la loi"

Annex 3: Data on the number of volunteers in the *Bundesländer*

Land	Male volunteers	Women in training
Burgenland	14	
Carinthia	16	
Lower Austria	78	
Upper Austria	28	
Salzburg	17	
Styria	41	1
Tyrol	13	1
Vorarlberg	6	
Vienna	60	
Total	273	2