Bosnia and Herzegovina

Country Profile

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Bosnia and Herzegovina  

by Katja Fitzgerald [Mine Action Information Center | ]

Mine/UXO Clearance

Nongovernmental organizations (such as Norwegian People’s Aid), the Bosnian Armed Forces, and civil-protection and commercial companies carry out mine clearance and technical surveys in the country. In 2005, 4,009,051 square meters (991 acres) of land and unexploded ordnance, with an estimated 123 minefields recorded in 2005. The United Nations in BiH, along with the global mine-action community, wanted to draw more attention to the problem of landmines and explosive remnants of war in this area and to emphasize their commitment to strengthening their response.

The role of Mine Action Day is to recognize the importance of mine action in the country and to continue taking action. The vision behind the development of Mine Action Day is to day by day set people living in a country that is safe and mine-free.

Chechnya  

by Katedla Sharan [Mine Action Information Center | ]

Mine Action in Chechnya

Due to the lack of a mine-action authority in Chechnya and the surrounding region, UNICEF has assumed the position as the coordinating body for mine action in both periods since 1996. UNICEF has had a strong presence in both Chechnya and neighboring Ingushetia since 2001 when the conflict in Chechnya again worsened due to the ongoing conflict. The political sensitivities surrounding the conflict are illus- trated in the example of The HALO Trust, which they cleared 61 hectares (151 acres) of land in 1997, 1998 and 1999, however they did not report the time of planting. Their main focus has changed from school-based MRE to working in the community, especially with adult males.

The United Nations Assembly declared the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on April 4, 2006, and the second annual observance of the day was marked in Bosnia and Herzegovina where local authorities and international organizations analysed past achievements in the area of mine action and reiterated their commitment and willingness to solve the issue of presence of landmines and the danger they represent in the country as soon as possible. The United Nations in BiH, along with the global mine-action community, wanted to draw more attention to the problem of landmines and explosive remnants of war in this area and to emphasize their commitment to strengthening their response.

UNICEF has worked as an Editorial Assistant for the Journal of Mine Action since May 2005. She graduated in May 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts in print journalism.

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