**Call For Papers**

*Journal of Mine Action*

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### RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT IN MINE ACTION

The *Journal of Mine Action* is soliciting articles for its peer-reviewed Research, Technology and Development section, which appears in every issue of the JMA. All articles on current trends and developments in R&D will be considered for this section. Topics will include but not be limited to:

- Detection and Neutralization
- Mechanical Equipment
- Manual Equipment
- Data Fusion
- Bionessors (including dogs, rats and bees)
- GIS, Mapping and Terrain Analysis
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Demining Tools
- Metal Detectors
- Needs of Users
- Lessons Learned in the Field
- Test and Evaluation
- Information Technology
- Mine-detection Test Facilities
- Landmines, ERW and Ordnance

#### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

**Article length:** 1,000–2,000 words, submitted in digital format (i.e., Microsoft Word). R&D articles can be up to 2,500 words.

**Images/photos:** Must be scanned at 300 dpi or better. Line art, graphics and charts should be scanned at 600 dpi or better. Submit all images/graphics by CD, Zip disk or e-mail (.zip files cannot be received via e-mail at JMU).

**Important:** Please do not include images in your documents. The quality is too poor for printing. Originals are encouraged and will be returned upon request.

**Contact information/bio:** Articles must contain a title, author and full contact information at the end of the article (i.e., phone, e-mail and mailing address). Please include a head-and-shoulders photo and biography (no more than 60 words) of the author for inclusion at the end of the article. Consider including credentials, books authored and other biographical information.

**Need help?** If you have a story to tell but not the time to put pen to paper, or if English is not your native language, contact us and one of our journalists can help.

For complete submission guidelines, please visit: [http://maic.jmu.edu/journal/index/guidelines.htm](http://maic.jmu.edu/journal/index/guidelines.htm)

Submit all materials to:

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**FOCUS**

**Victim/Survivor Assistance**

*Issue 12.1 of the Journal of Mine Action* will focus on landmine victim and survivor assistance. Articles related to how the Ottawa process and national plans incorporate or enhance victim assistance programs are requested. Articles about how to help survivors and their families, ways to improve survivors’ lives and help them become self-sufficient (especially through entrepreneurship), organizations that work with survivors and victims, and victims’ stories will be considered.

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**FEATURE**

**Local NGOs**

The *JMA* is soliciting articles for *Issue 12.1* about local, as opposed to international or transnational, nongovernmental organizations and their work in the field of mine action. Profiles of local NGOs, articles about how they function, specialties and differences among the various NGOs will be considered.
I am writing to you in my capacity as AusAid’s Mine Action Officer. I have just read with interest your article in the Winter 2006 edition of the JMA. “The Mine Action Express . . . or the ‘Wreck of the ’99.” These indeed are the issues I, along with other mine-action personnel, are hotly tackling and it was very helpful to see you spell it all out so clearly.

James Turton
Mine Action Officer AusAid

As an independent journal, we provide topics that stimulate conversations. We give the mine-action community a place to sound off. Every issue brings us rants and raves—happily, usually many more raves than rants. We’re sharing some of them here.

Letters to the Editor

In the field.

I received a lot of e-mails from many people who read the article, and the article was written in a very interesting and touching manner. I appreciate all of your efforts in mine action.

Virginia, gave me very important knowledge and skills that I still use. We’re finally beginning to make progress!

Elnur Gasimov
TQA Team Leader, ANAMA

In the Journal of Mine Action, Issue 10.2/Winter 2006 on pages 40 to 43 you published the text on “Explosive Remnants of War in the Republic of Croatia” by Mr. Drašen Simunović, but instead of his pressure on the end of the text you put the picture of Mr. Nikola Gambiroza.

Sandra Kuzmic
Organizational Affairs Adviser
CROMAC–Croatian Mine Action Centre

If something we print begs for your comment, submit your own Letter to the Editor. Please keep your response short and to the point—200 words or so. Since we have limited space, we reserve the right to edit the comments to fit the space and have done so here. Send your letters to editor@maic@gmail.com. Visit our online journal at http://snipurl.com/1g3ii.

Editor’s Note: We apologize for posting in the wrong photo for this article. We corrected it in the online edition as soon as we were alerted to the problem. The context photo appears to the right.

The JMA staff also would like to draw our readers’ attention to the profile of Cambodia, which appeared in Issue 10.2 online version of the journal only. Julien Chevillard, former Mine Action Project Manager for UNDP Cambodia, let us know there were several incorrect facts in the original version, and we have not only corrected the problems, but also greatly expanded the article. We wish to thank Mr. Chevillard and Mr. Steve Munroe for helping us correct this article. We encourage you to read the revised profile of Cambodia at http://unpcool.com/lgi3i.

If something we print begs for your comment, submit your own Letter to the Editor. Please keep your response short and to the point—200 words or so. Since we have limited space, we reserve the right to edit the comments to fit the space and have done so here. Send your letters to editor@maic@gmail.com. Visit our online journal at http://snipurl.com/1g3ii.

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The concepts of “capacity” and “capacity development” remain hazy. Perhaps this obscurity is why as a community we have become divided to the point where their definitions have become synonymous with erecting the five pillars of mine action. Drawing on the emerging capacity-development literature, we find that concentrating solely on establishing organizations, constructing institutions and transferring skills might build capacity in the short term, but the pillars need to be rooted deeply if they are to remain relevant. As the general capacity-development community recognized years ago, a focus solely on technical progress or systems creations misses the “softer” side of the process since technical advancements, networks and systems all need to be maintained and nurtured (at the minimum) and are thus dependent on non-technical capabilities (relations, learn- ing, coordination, etc.) that play a major role in determining the success and impact of a project.

Published by JMU Scholarly Commons, 2007

Capacity Building in Mine Action: Are We There Yet?

This article flags some of the major debates within the broader development literature and introduces concepts that might help to better define and identify what is meant by “capacity development.”

by Olaf Juergensen
National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation, Lebanon

T he mine-action industry has made major strides in supporting national efforts to gain ownership and capacity to manage local problems with mines and to develop capacity for action. For more than a decade, the international community has poured significant human and financial capital into developing local capacity to deal with the different problems the presence of landmines poses. So what have we learned as a global community of mine-action practitioners and advisors?

For quite some time now, we have divided the mine action and capacity development into two operational realms. The first realm is the post-conflict theatre where humanitarian relief and infrastructure renewal require an emergency rapid response. Financial and political resources are quickly deployed, often under the gaze of a U.N. peacekeeping mission and all it entails. Capacity building in a war-torn society is seen as a third or fourth rank-order concern—the immediate concern is to provide the “space” for the process of reconstruction and reconciliation to take root. The great obstacle during this fragile phase is the lack of personnel, institutions and time needed to reconstruct local capacity.

The second operational realm is capacity development in what have been termed “mobile” settings. Determining how to proceed with reconstruction and reconciliation, the “softer” side of the process since technical advancements, networks and systems are to remain relevant. However, as the general capacity-development community recognized years ago, a focus solely on technical progress or systems creations misses the “softer” side of the process since technical advancements, networks and systems all need to be maintained and nurtured (at the minimum) and are thus dependent on non-technical capabilities (relations, learning, coordination, etc.) that play a major role in determining the success and impact of a project.
The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction, Vol. 11, Iss. 1 [2007], Art. 1

Drawing on the emergent capacity-development literature, we find that concentrating solely on establishing organizations, constructing institutions and transferring skills might build capacity in the short term, but the pillars need to be rooted deeply if they are to remain relevant.

Analogue to why operations departments undertake reconnaissance, there is more to capacity development than simply providing the tools to start activities. Indicators and benchmarks need to be established that reflect the human context (political/economic) in which things are to be enhanced. Measuring the responsibility of fielding a quality-assurance team, one that can ensure national standards are being applied, is not the same as recruiting and training the QA team and drafting national standards. In other words, a project output (QA team) does not operate in a vacuum and the institutional home (mine-action centre) and organizational setting (society) play the most significant roles in determining the real outcome and impact of the QA team. Measuring its performance, then, is tricky. Capacity might have been built and even unleashed but its potential not fully realized due to local circumstances (political, economic, staff turnover, etc.). So how do we define change, progress and even success?

Conceptual Markers

The current literature argues that capacity development is, first and foremost, a process that builds on the local context.5-7 Thus, many practitioners and analysts have abandoned the term capacity building as they saw it denoting the construction of islands of excellence removed from broader reality. It is argued that capacity development should be measured in terms of outcomes and not merely in quantifiable outputs (e.g., number of managers trained, Geographic Information Systems courses attended, QA inspectors instructed, and so on). As we have indeed learned from national mine-risk education campaigns, accounting for the number of TOLs (training of leaders) does not accurately reflect the degree to which human behavior has changed.

Recently, it has been argued that the lens for analysis should include observations on the intersection of the institutional, individual and organizational environments in which the projects are set.8 Better understanding relationships between these different fields of practice will provide the managers and Technical Advisors of capacity-development programmes a better perspective on what works, why it works and why it doesn’t. This insight, which if measured and evaluated properly throughout the duration of a project’s lifecycle, will also allow for innovation and broader understanding of the impact of mine action on national reconstruction (peace-building) and development (governance) objectives.

Analyzing a cross-section of non-mine-action case studies provides further food for thought.9 For example, robust institutions can be handcuffed by a lack of authority (political leadership or vague legal status) or highly trained individuals remain leaders but thus their hard-earned technical skills remain idle. This raises the issue of scale, impact, sustainability and a raft of other terms that are bandied about in the development literature without much precision.

Despite demonstrable progress being made on a case-by-case basis, there have been ebbs and flows to capacity development in mine action when viewed from a macro perspective. Are individual actors to blame? Economies? Politics? Donor interest? What are the cross-cutting dynamics at play? A recent study released by the European Centre for Development Policy Management identified several useful elements to the concept of capacity which provide a good framework for dealing with the messy reality in which capacity development takes place.10 The study notes the importance of properly aligning the development of an institution or system within the national or regional context in which it is to function. But it also makes the important point that institutions grow and adapt to emerging, more complex realities than originally envisioned and therefore the job of learning (developing) is continual.10 In other words, capacity is elusive and ephemeral—it is not only the ability to perform a function, it is seen as a latent potential that is hard to stimulate and map, given the number of outside forces that can affect its outcome. In a sense, it can be measured by looking at a combination of attributes (values, relationships, networks, systems, skills) that form a potential response to a development problem. The response to any problem will also be shaped by the degree to which an institution and its staff are empowered to act and apply their collective skills to solve new, and often more complex, problems.

Conclusion

Broadening the discourse on how we conceptualize, practice, and ultimately, report on capacity development activities is critical from an applied perspective. Moreover, it is a discussion that we as a community have not had in any meaningful or sustained way. Capacity building is forever being shaped by the urgency of time (Ottawa Convention11) and depletion of resources. Undoubtedly, the “five pillars” of mine action have served as a useful superstructure—and communication tool—for thinking about what we want to help build. But the dearth of discussion on how we conceptualize and actually develop national capacity limits the potential to learn, innovate and contribute to building meaningful and robust national capabilities that benefit a country beyond the niche confines of mine action.

The JCPD’s steady conceptualization is useful as it provides us with a more comprehensive view for designing, implementing and concluding a capacity-support project—or, respectively of whether it is being undertaken in a fragile state or a stable middle-income country. Thinking more broadly—but systematically—about capacity development will allow us to be more flexible and innovative in our approaches. It will allow us as practitioners to speak a common language and use a common set of principles that ensure the results of our work add value to the society for which they are targeted. Mine action’s strengths have been its dogged technical focus on getting the mines out of the ground; it is exactly this type of determination that is now needed in our approach to capacity development. The focus, initially, however, should be on surveying the field of capacity development as a methodology so we can better map and respond to the question, “Are we there yet?”

See Endnotes, Page

Olaf Juergensen is the UNDP Chief Technical Advisor at the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation in Jordan. He was also the CTA to the National Demining Institute in Mozambique. Prior to joining UNDP he worked for the International Development Research Centre in Johannesburg and Ottawa where his focus was on the topic of capacity development. He has a Ph.D. in geography from Queen’s University, Canada.

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References

1. See Endnotes, Page


Mine-action Capacity Development: A Crossroads

Capacity development is a central part of sustainable mine action. As a concept, capacity development has evolved over time but even now there is not an agreed-upon definition. While the mine action sector has made progress in encouraging the development of national capacity in many countries, there is still much that can be done to promote strong, capable institutions—both within the mine-action field and beyond.

I n once knew someone who held a very passionate position on a certain issue,” says Dennis Badon, Mine Action Information Center Director. “After he moved laterally within his organization, his opinions changed radically. I asked a mutual friend what had happened to occasion such a change. He looked at me with one of those ‘Are you for real?’ looks, and said, ‘What you see... depends on where you sit.’”

Capacity development is one of those topics that changes shape and form depending on one’s perspective. And yet it is imperative that those of us involved in mine action and remediation of explosive remnants of war not only have a clear understanding of capacity development but also, by comprehension of other points of view on the topic, derive a common approach to dealing with it.

What is Capacity Development?

It is difficult enough to define specific things (e.g., metal detection) and processes (mine-risk education) within the multi-functional environment that makes up the realm of mine action and ERW, but dealing with a topic as politically and socially sensitive as capacity development is positively daunting. We have noticed that in mine action/ERW development and funding circles, the term capacity development (and its precursors, capacity building) is so popular to use as sustainability, good governance and transparency. Unfortunately, as has been true of national capacity development is a widely used but not widely understood or agreed-upon term. It is treated as both a process and outcome, and it deals with both material applications (e.g., specific skills, knowledge, tasks) and human resources (e.g., ability, process, addressing the system within its environmental context). The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development defines capacity development as “the process whereby people, organizations and society as a whole, un latch, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time.” While descriptive, this concept is operationally too general to guide programs, standards and contracts.

We believe that the United Nations Development Programme is helpful in this regard when it observes that capacity is “the ability of individuals, organizations and societies to perform functions, solve problems, and set and achieve goals, and that capacity development entails the sustained creation, utilization and retention of that capacity, in order to reduce poverty, enhance self-reliance, and improve people’s lives.”

Barakat and Chard, in Third World Quarterly, conclude that a review of the use of the term capacity gives the impression of “constantly shifting, unclear and contested definitions” and has “added to the confusion by masking contradictory aims under the banner of a common rhetoric.”

Capacity Development in the Mine-action Arena

Lest we appear churlish and unappreciative of efforts to come to grips with the term by the mine action community in particular, we have observed that mine action efforts have actually employed a wide range of efforts: Similarly, Donor- and government-funded programs have marked a well and created models and approaches that the rest of the development community would do well to emulate.

In its beginnings, capacity building was seen as a technical process involving the transfer of knowledge about preferred concepts, such as certain organizational models or public-sector institution-building skills, from the global North to South. Typically, the broader political and social context was not considered. Since the 1990’s, understanding of capacity building has emphasized the importance of country ownership, leadership and the role of political and governance systems. Each country is expected to recognize, accept and determine appropriate strategy and outcomes in partnerships with donors. The most recent change in terminology from capacity building to capacity development has reflected this shift to national ownership, rather than understanding capacity as “constructed” via externally directed models, it has been recognized that “capacity building would be ineffective so long as it was not part of an endogenous process of change, getting its main inspiration from within.”

It is here that we believe mine action programs and plans over the last decade have played a key role in the evolution of capacity development as a central element in advancing goals and objectives of countries at risk. We credit the emphasis on capacity building to donors and organizations such as the UNDP, the United Nations Mine Action Service, the European Union and the United States Department of State. For instance, in Quang Tri province of the People’s Republic of Vietnam, two national committees—the Women’s Union and the Committee for the Care and Protection of Children—conducted a mine-risk education campaign assisted by James Madison University and sponsored by the United States Department of State, which made use of new software packages and daunpung skills, capabilities that became core competencies of both Vietnamese organizations after the initial mine-awareness campaign had concluded.

However, many of the efforts involved in capacity development remain tied to specific mine detection and transfer of technical skills, without trying to relate and integrate those capabilities with the national segment of host nation development or infrastructure. Perhaps even worse is the myopia of some mine-action professionals and donors who do not understand that in a country at risk from many threats, firing the capabilities developed for mine action to apply to other spheres of life is a misused and not failure.

Liable and Ferri observe in a report for the United States Agency for International Development that “much of capacity building has been designed around specific project efforts that have been used to fund long-term projects and donors. This project-focused capacity building stresses the building of capacities that will help protect the users from failure (such as financial management), project success (such as project planning and evaluation).”

We believe these comments are germane to some in the mine action/ERW community including donors, NGOs, Technical Advisors, and host-government agencies. Each country is expected to recognize, accept and determine appropriate strategy and outcomes in partnerships with donors. The U.S. Department of State’s Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement is also emphasizing the long-term sustainability integration of capabilities developed as a result of mine action programs.

Mine action is a challenge with an end in sight—mine-action programs will not continue indefinitely. The legacy of any mine action program should be to strengthen and promote skills and institutions that can outlast the finite technical demining tasks. This long-term goal requires that attention be paid to assuring capacities are designed and sustained for a specific mine action or ERW program but also applied to other challenges in the national or local context if their applications may be helpful. This situation is not one that will happen without deliberate analysis, nor will it likely happen with only one stakeholder “buying in.” In its occurrence will depend on a concerted effort of all major organizations involved in mine-action and ERW programs.

See Endnotes, Page 6

by Dennis Badon and Daniele Ressler [Mine Action Information Center]
Best Practice Strategy: Speak with One Voice

In this article, the Public Relations Officer of ANAMA discusses how successful communication with the public has been critical to the success of the mine-action program in Azerbaijan. As part of its public-relations efforts in 2006, ANAMA organized a mine-action workshop for local journalists.

by Sabina Jalilova [Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action]

ANAMA’s PR policy and procedures have been in place since 2003. They have significantly improved the agency’s internal and external communication, raised public awareness and also improved the overall image of ANAMA. “Speak with one voice” is one of the key strategies of the ANAMA public-relations efforts. Everyone involved in ANAMA activities is provided with relevant guidelines to ensure this strategy is followed. The ANAMA staff is given guidance about how to perform and provide information about their individual work and ANAMA’s general activities, making it easier for them to speak with one voice.

The PR Support Group of ANAMA is comprised of one representative from each department designated to assist in organizing and highlighting major events. Introducing the group to the media during a special event for journalists proved to be a time- and cost-effective way to present newsworthy story ideas for distribution to the media.

A Web site Management Committee has also been established. A roadmap was developed and introduced to regularly maintain and update ANAMA’s Web site. As a result, this has improved the coordination and interaction between departments.

ANAMA’s publicities successes are well documented, including:

• 88 press releases distributed
• 60 articles and interviews issued in local media
• More than 30 media site-visits organized
• A number of interviews with the Director of ANAMA and TV show appearances organized
• More than 50 events received wide mass-media coverage

ANAMA PR Project: Workshop for Journalists

It should be mentioned that close cooperation with journalists is one of the main tenets of PR. In fact, PR professionals are significantly less successful if they don’t develop good relationships with journalists. The days of mailing or e-mailing a news release are long past. Few in public relations are successful with that technique anymore.

Therefore, ANAMA, in close cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Azerbaijan Campaign to Ban Landmines, held a mine-action workshop for local journalists. The ANAMA staff was given guidance about how to perform and provide information about their individual work and ANAMA’s general activities, making it easier for them to speak with one voice.

The workshop was a success. The journalists were introduced to the main challenges of the ANAMA PR program. Everyone involved in ANAMA’s public relations was able to communicate effectively and understand the importance of their role in raising awareness to reduce the problems caused by mines and explosive remnants of war.

During the workshop, presentations were made on preventive mine action and mine-victim assistance, as well as on the International Standards’ related to mines and ERW. Journalists also had an opportunity to witness mine clearance conducted by ANAMA, as well as to visit a mine-victim reintegration project in Azerbaijan and learn about vocational rehabilitation and an association of mine survivors.

Following the media workshop, Tofiq Yusif, Chief Editor of Xərr Tərter newspaper, said, “During this workshop I became aware that the [mine] problem is a serious problem for the civilian population and attention should be paid to this issue constantly. Apart from providing information to the public, which we did so far, we should educate people about safe behavior and how to be protected. As journalists have a moral responsibility to support mine victims and therefore we have to present their problems to the society. As of today, I have decided that this issue should be regularly on the agenda of our newspaper bearing in mind the high level of risk existing in Tərter region.”

Communication is Key

Creativity, initiative and the ability to communicate effectively are essential goals of ANAMA’s public relations. One of the main challenges of the ANAMA PR professionals is not only to pass information to the mass media but also to raise awareness, disseminate safe behavior rules and protect people from the threat of mines and UXO. These endeavors are being undertaken in accordance with objectives of the government of Azerbaijan.

Timely information sharing and openness of the Agency to cooperation with media and other social institutions not only allows ANAMA to publicize its activities but also serves as a sign of transparency. Transparency, in turn, is crucial to developing and maintaining an ethical image of an organization.

In public-relations terms, ANAMA has ideally positioned itself to be viewed as an ethical organization striving for a better world. Other mine-action organizations can do the same by following these best practices.

See Endnotes, Page 7
A n association between landmine/unexploded ordnance contamination and poverty is generally as-sumed and is often conspicuous and straightforward in anecdotal evidence such as victim case studies or community livelihood vignettes. Its strength and causal direction are more difficult to establish. With data from previous Landmine Impact Surveys, it has been demonstrated that poverty, in terms of lack of livelihood alternatives to using polluted land, renders community adaptation more difficult; in contrast, externally created new alternatives may reduce contact with the explosive devices and the number of new incidents and victims. For example, affected communities in Thailand with more diversified financial services stood better chances of remaining entirely incident-free than communities with no such assets.2 While greater income growth and diversity plausibly help to reduce incidents, there is little knowledge of how local economic development ultimately contributes to the definitive resolution of the problem by accelerating the removal of explosive remnants of war. Moreover, there may also be an indirect link between pre-war poverty levels and contamination. Terrain and accessibility may be the intervening variables. For example, communities in high-altitude, difficult-to-reach mountain areas may have been structurally poor for some time prior to the events causing the contamination. Later, during the conflict, their strategic location may have predisposed some of these communities to military uses, defended with mines, and later with unexploded ordnance. After the conflict, the contamination makes them less amenable to reconstruction and poverty-alleviation programs than other post-conflict communities that are not contaminated and thus do not present the same kind of access and resource blockage problems.

The standard LIS methodology does little to shed light on the relationships between poverty and contamination, let alone on the question of how direction causal effects are stronger—from poverty to contamination or from contamination to poverty. The survey covers all suspected and confirmed affected communities, but collects no substantive information on non-suspected ones. As such, the LIS fails to support strict case-control analytic approaches. However, variation in impact severity can be a degree be used in studying the association with poverty. From a strategic perspective, the lack of comparison with unaffected communities makes it harder to mainstream mine action into broader development programming. Such mainstreaming is one of the recommendations that a recent LIS evaluation made.3 The poverty data itself has to be acquired from outside sources and only a small number of country Landmine Impact Surveys have been able to obtain useful data bodies in time to be considered in their analyses and reporting. Lebanon provides a first example. By fusing agro-climatic census data with LIS data, we were able to demonstrate that affected communities in the south, generally poorer and freed from hostilities later than other regions, tended to have higher active-land-use ratios while controlling for the agro-climatic ecology and landmine impact severity.4 A plausible interpretation was that poverty and lack of alternatives obliged local residents to use land more extensively regardless of contamination.

In Vietnam, the LIS conducted in three central provinces obtained data from a poverty-mapping project of the International Food Policy Research Institute. Contrary to common wisdom, however, poverty was not found to be associated with higher victim numbers, except in certain mountainous areas.5 A possible interpretation of this finding is that while collectively, at the commune level, the association between poverty and ERW victimization has weakened over time, individually it remains high, with poorer residents taking higher risks, particularly with the collection of scrap metal and explosives.

A further opportunity to relate LIS data to poverty information has presented itself in Armenia. It arose because the LIS implementing organization, the United Nations Development Programme was also conducting several interlinked surveys as parts of efforts to help formulate national poverty-alleviation strategies. The particular attraction of this information within the LIS analysis is that it lets survey users compare the positions that affected and non-affected communities took on a number of development issues. Thus communities are not only seen as a problem to be fixed, but as a collection of human beings voicing their own priorities in the wider poverty-alleviation context.

The Armenia LIS

The European Union and the United States Department of State’s Office of the US Coordinator for Mine Action provided technical expertise. The Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (now Veterans for America) provided technical expertise. The UN Mine Action Service has since certified the LIS.6

The Landmine Impact Survey identified 60 impacted communities within the internationally recognized borders of Armenia. These areas were located in five of the 11 provinces and in areas where Armenia borders Azerbaijan. In the 60 communities, 14 persons were killed or injured in the two years prior to the survey. Based on the configuration of recent victims, impacted

Weapons Removal and Abatement funded the 2004–2005 LIS in Armenia, and the UNDP Armenia Humanitarian Demining Project was responsible for implementing it. The funds were channeled through RONCO and covered the cost of technical support activities. The Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (now Veterans for America) provided technical expertise. The U.N. Mine Action Service has since certified the survey.7

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Industrial employees per 1,000 residents 10.52 14.69 Affected communities have fewer employees, p = 0.07

Landless households (as fraction of all households, estimated by community leaders) 25% 18% Affected communities have more very poor households, p = 0.07

Out-migration (during 2002, as percent of population) 5% 11% n.s.

Services and facilities score 0.65 0.88 n.a.

Industrial enterprises per 1,000 residents 0.42 1.10 Affected communities have fewer enterprises, p = 0.07

Landless households (as fraction of all households) 21% 13% n.a.

Out-migration (during 2002, as percent of population) 5% 11% n.s.

Communities compared 26 17

Population (mean) 1,006 1,155 n.a.

Distance from border (mean) 3.0 km 3.9 km [n.a.; cut-off distance]

[Population-weighted means:]

Distance from border (mean) 3.0 km 3.9 km [n.a.; cut-off distance]

Population (mean) 1,006 1,155 n.a.

Industrial employees per 1,000 residents 10.52 14.69 Affected communities have fewer employees, p = 0.07

Table 1: Shows indicators and affected and non-affected communities and impacts of those indicators and whether it is statistically significant.

Figure 2: Line graph of affected and non-affected communities and proximity to the border. The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction, Vol. 11, Iss. 1 [2007], Art. 1

Figure 3: Graph of poverty rates and how connected to landmine-affected regions.
Clearing the Way in Azerbaijan

The expansion of clearance activities in Azerbaijan has been largely due to the creation of an Emergency Response Team and the implementation of new tools. Thanks to these additions, ANAMA has been able to respond quickly to requests for clearance in residential areas and in the field.

ANAMA continuously receives requests from affected communities as well as humanitarian aid organizations for clearance of houses from mines and unexploded ordnance. Due to the absence of a specialized team able to react quickly and eliminate such problems, a limited amount of explosive ordnance disposal tasks were dealt with until late 2005, when a 12-man ANAMA Emergency Response Team was established. The U.S. European Command and ArmorGroup EOD Specialists trained the team. During this training, basic principles of booby-trap and house-clearance operations were covered. Since completion of its training, the ERT has been actively deployed to fire-wausted districts of Azerbaijan to perform house-clearance operations.

Residential Area Clearance

Initially, 95 houses in Yukhari and Ashagi Kurdmahmudli villages of Fuzuli region that were requested by Norwegian Refugee Council for further reconstruction activities were cleared of explosive remnants of war. This operation allowed reconstruction of houses for more than 100 local families, who then could live free from the threat of explosive devices. Besides this operation, ANAMA continues to react to a number of requests for the removal of UXO fired during the war and lodged in the basements of houses, in the walls or in the adjacent yards. Normally, clearance of one house takes about three working days. House-clearance operations are very labor-intensive. The majority of UXO is found subsurface, which requires excavation efforts sometimes to the depth of five meters (16.4 feet). Clearance of residential areas is also complicated by the large amounts of metal contamination that slow progress due to the high

See Endnotes, Page
number of false signals. During clearance operations, local authorities and police help evacuate the inhabitants to ensure their safety. Establishment of the Emergency Response Team has allowed ANAMA to respond more effectively to requests from affected families and local authorities. All those who benefited from the project had been living with explosive devices in their houses or yards for more than 12 years. In one case, a man and his family had left their house after the war and believed they would never be able to come back. This family returned to their village immediately after their house was cleared. The presence of explosive devices in yards has also prevented locals from cultivating their land. House clearance was quite beneficial in terms of socioeconomic impact on affected families as well as their psychological rehabilitation after years spent with fear of unexploded ordnance.

High-priority Clearance

Besides house-clearance operations, ANAMA is currently implementing a de-mining project in support of governmental initiatives to repatriate internally displaced persons. Last year ANAMA signed a contract with the Social Development Fund for IDPs concerning clearance of 19 million square meters (6,695 acres) of suspected mined area in Zobjug, Fizuli region. This project is a high priority for the government, as cleared land will be used to construct a huge settlement that will allow more than 2,000 displaced families to leave temporary residences in tent camps and move to Zohibag. The duration of clearance for the project is projected to be 19 months.

Since the beginning of the project, 53 deminers, 17 mine-detection dogs and five mechanical demining machines have been involved in operations. This mined area has been identified by General Survey and Landmine Impact Survey. Several mine incidents have occurred in the northern part of the area; however, most of the land is classified as a low-threat, suspected anti-tank mined area. In order to ensure operations are conducted in the most efficient manner, ANAMA has conducted a field test of various clearance methods and developed a new system where all three tools are integrated in a most time- and cost-effective manner. The system stipulates 100-percent clearance where demining machines cut lanes (every 10–15 meters [32–50 feet]) with a subsequent quality-assurance check by dogs or magnetic locators in between the lanes (see photo X). The Fortune magnetic locator with four probe attachments, known as the FEREX 4.02 DLG, is continuously used for clearance of Zohibag area. This tool continues to show excellent results—daily productivity of the locator can reach 15,000 square meters (33.7 acres). As a result of the employment of a new area-reduction methodology, overall productivity at the Zohibag site has reached approximately one million square meters (247 acres) per month.

Based on past experience with demining machines in Azerbaijan, ANAMA’s mechanical demining specialists compiled a comparative analysis of the machines’ performance. Table 1 reflects summary results of the analysis undertaken.

Table 1: Comparative analysis of mechanical-demining machines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Models of machines</th>
<th>Date of deployment</th>
<th>Total operational hours</th>
<th>Total period of exploitation (months/working days)</th>
<th>Area cleared (sq.m)</th>
<th>Total fuel consumption (metric tons)</th>
<th>Missed working days</th>
<th>Exploitation expenses for the machine (AZN)</th>
<th>Fuel cost per sq.m. (cleaned) (AZN)</th>
<th>Total cost per sq.m. (cleaned) (AZN)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bozena-4 (1)</td>
<td>09/2004</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>28/448</td>
<td>1,746,384</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>77,353</td>
<td>0.0025</td>
<td>0.044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bozena-4 (2)</td>
<td>05/2006</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>8/128</td>
<td>488,800</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22,542</td>
<td>0.0033</td>
<td>0.046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bozena-5</td>
<td>06/2005</td>
<td>1,032</td>
<td>19/304</td>
<td>1,035,845</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>86,321</td>
<td>0.0055</td>
<td>0.064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vale</td>
<td>05/2005</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>4/64</td>
<td>61,500</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>5,690</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>0.097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine</td>
<td>09/2005</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>16/256</td>
<td>237,800</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>58,427</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.245</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

Following the war, hundreds of Azeri families were unable to return home due to mine and UXO contaminations in residential areas. New clearance projects from ANAMA, however, have helped make Azerbaijani safer by eliminating the threat of UXO and landmines from affected houses, yards and villages. A combination of technology and human commitment has been necessary for the successful clearance of residential areas as the safe return of displaced families.

A

In order, new initiatives, approaches and precedents are what make up the style of the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action’s Mine Risk Education Team. Over the years, the ANAMA MRE Team has become one of the most progressive MRE programs because of its initiatives. For example, the signing of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between the Minister of Education, the UNICEF/Azerbaijan Country Office, Head and the ANAMA Director allowed the integration of MRE into the school curricula and formed community-based MRE committees in targeted districts that are currently acting as volunteer representatives of ANAMA in front line and bordering areas.

Integration between different aspects of mine action in Azerbaijan can be seen as another initiative, and this year was no exception. As part of the MRE School Programme, ANAMA conducted 13 successful MRE train-the-trainer programs for 200 teachers at 100 schools, sponsored by UNICEF, the United States European Command and ANAMA. The ANAMA MRE Team works together with the Ministry of Education organized and supported the process technically and ANAMA/UNICEF Master Trainers executed the trainings.

A unique aspect of the trainings was that they were monitored directly by donor organisations’ MRE experts and thus emphasized a new approach in the implementation of MRE programmes in Azerbaijan.

Benefits of Integrating MRE into School Curricula

When MRE is integrated into the curriculum of schools, not only does financial support from the government increase for MRE activities, but also the importance of mine-clearance issues among the population rises. Therefore, ANAMA recommends this initiative be considered a priority task for MRE programme implementers in any country.

Currently, 1,520 teachers at 790 schools teach the MRE course in Azerbaijan, reaching 32,500 students. The Ministry of Education pays the expenses for the training, and the heads of district education departments are responsible for supervising the classes. The responsibility of teachers and schools increases and thus the attitude towards MRE changes. For the teachers and community leaders it becomes a humanitarian task, or, rather, a noble duty which they perform in order to help and protect their communities and fellow citizens.

Since integrating MRE into schools, students have become more sensitive to the problem. After being taught MRE, they begin to inform the authorities and their teachers when they find mines, unexploded ordnance and unknown objects and they share where these items were found.
Function of MRE Committees

Another phase or a “core competency” of the ANAMA programme is the establishment of community-based MRE committees in 60 villages and settlements, welcomed by local communities. All activities of these committees are performed by volunteers who do not receive financial support from ANAMA for their generous work. They report monthly to the district MRE coordinators, who are appointed by the heads of district executive authorities. ANAMA headquarters, in turn, receives reports on a monthly basis. This structure works and has been accepted by all targeted community representatives. ANAMA provides them with MRE materials whenever there is a need.

ANAMA is a unique service in Azerbaijan that is being implemented using various tools, which we think can be of great help in countries that also have mine/UXO-contamination problems. We have established a “hotline” by simply adding the office and mobile phone numbers of the national and regional ANAMA offices to the bottom of posters and billboards erected in, around or close to contaminated areas. The posters have helped people become more informed. People now understand the real danger posed by mines and UXOs and actively inform ANAMA deminers about what they encounter.

The role of ANAMA implementing partners—Relief Azerbaijan, the International Eurasia Press Fund or the teams working under the umbrella of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society—Close collaboration with PPTI provided funds for our programme which were used to produce promotional materials (pens and stickers) that had safe behaviour messages written on them. The materials are an effective means of communicating the MRE messages during trainings for different categories of populations, especially for children. As an experienced MRE team, ANAMA organizes and implements various types of projects among schoolchildren in contaminated communities. For example, a painting contest project, funded by UNICEF, was very successful in raising students’ interest in mine action. They learned about safe behaviour rules and formed a hatred of mines/UXOs and of the war itself. The result of the contest showed that, as in all suffering children, the Azeri kids also want to strive for a safe and peaceful world.

Survey Helps ANAMA Realize New MVA Projects

Following a Mine Survivors Needs Assessment Survey in 2004, the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action and several nongovernmental organizations are working closely to bring victim assistance to mine and unexploded ordnance survivors throughout Azerbaijan. Since 2005, victim assistance in Azerbaijan has included five needs-based projects, as well as individual assistance provided to survivors, such as treatment sponsorship and wheelchair provision.

by Dr. Rauf Mamedov [Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action]

The new ANAMA database was created as a result of the Mine Survivors Needs Assessment Survey in 2004 and serves as a reliable and useful source of information on mine/UXO survivors’ needs. It has proven itself with a number of successful pilot projects, which are now being realized and put into practice under the leadership of ANAMA.

Under the project, researchers have interviewed 1,883 mine survivors living in 65 areas of Azerbaijan about their needs. A special questionnaire form, created by ANAMA specialists, reflects various needs of victims in the following areas: medical care, economic and educational assistance, physical and professional rehabilitation, psychosocial support, suitable sports and other activities. Using the newly created database, ANAMA recognizes the particular needs of survivors; therefore, it has become easier to plan and realize new projects.

Recent VA Projects in Azerbaijan

Organization of summer camps. One of the first projects in the field of mine-victim assistance was the project “Organization of Summer Camps” for injured children and children from mine-victims’ families. This project started in 2005 in cooperation with UNICEF, the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the United States and the United Nations organization Right to Play. One hundred twenty children from war-affected and borderline districts spent their rest and leisure time over a two-month summer break at a boarding school in the Garabakh district. The children enjoyed relaxation and fun activities while staying at the school.

At the beginning of 2006, four more projects began. National NGOs, which are active participants of the ANAMA MVA Working Group and given grants by ANAMA through the bidding process, were responsible for implementing all projects.

Organization of sanatorium treatment. The project with the NGO Shehri Elit (“Healing Hands”) in English) on “Organization of Sanatorium Treatment” for 120 mine survivors, was successfully completed recently in the Masalak settlement (one of the suburbs of Baku), in a boarding house subunit to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection.

This MVA project, sponsored by the European Commission, is actually the first project ANAMA has implemented in cooperation with local NGOs. Mine survivors are delivered from their residences to a boarding house where they rest and receive medical care, mostly physical-therapy treatment, and then are brought back to their residences. The majority of survivors express their gratitude for the organization of such services; they also emphasize the usefulness of the treatments and their hope that they will continue to receive this and other services. In light of this positive response, ANAMA intends to continue implementation of such projects in the future.

Establishment of Mine Victims Association. The NGO International Eurasia Press Fund initiated the project to establish the Mine Victims Association in the Terter district, which is still ongoing. The U.S. Department of State’s Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement is sponsoring this project for a period of three months.

The project’s goal is to mobilize internal resources of the community through the establishment of the Mine Victims Association to meet survivors’ needs in medical care, physical and psychological rehabilitation, education, social and vocational adaptation, economic assistance and financial support. The sustainability of this project will strengthen the community’s capability to solve problems they face and improve civil society. The skeleton of the organization consists of 10 mine survivors (in total, there are about 2,500 mine survivors in the Terter district). It is anticipated that the project will expand the activities of the association to a national level.
Revision of disability degrees. In August 2006, two projects started at once, the Revision of Disability Degrees and Integration of Mine Survivors into Society through Vocational Rehabilitation in Ganja Regional Resource Centre. The European Commission sponsored both projects with additional support from the United Nations Development Programme. The project Revision of Disability Degrees is being conducted by two NGOs, Dutchelish (“Revival” in English) and Protection of Human Rights.

Of 1,883 mine survivors interviewed during the Needs Assessment Survey in 2004, 400 persons expressed the need for a review of their disability status. It is crucial for many of them because:

- In many cases, disability pension is a substantial part of family income.
- Official recognition of disability opens doors to other opportunities in social care.
- Submission of documents to respective commissions is a time-consuming and complicated issue for disabled and needy people.

As a country in transition, the population of Azerbaijan is experiencing some adjustments in social life that are not always positive. The Needs Assessment Survey reflected that some people with disability status have some unresolved social issues largely due to the current level of family income and lack of social services, including peer support systems. Some of the issues expressed included lack of documentation at the time of injury and bias against disabled people on the part of government employees providing care. Consequently, ANAMA decided to provide a solution to these problems, to find and eliminate reasons for social tension and discontent among mine survivors. As a result of the Revision of Disability Degrees, the following will be achieved:

1. Strengthening mine survivors’ social protection
2. Growth of real income of families over their lifetimes
3. Acquisition of knowledge on mine survivors’ rights and opportunities through the network
4. Increased care by society toward the problems of disabled people and opportunities for the disabled to be integrated into society
5. Participation of mine survivors in mine-risk education delivery and training
6. Acquisition of real knowledge about implications of current legislation and recommendations developed

Vocational rehabilitation in Ganja. The project called “Integration of Mine Survivors into Society through Vocational Rehabilitation in Ganja Regional Resource Centre” is implemented by the NGO Org (“Fire” in English) from Ganja city. In this project, mine survivors will learn new professions. The ultimate goal of the project is to integrate mine survivors into society through vocational rehabilitation and facilitate income-generation for their families. With this goal in mind, 20–25 mine victims—either disabled people or their family members—are trained in carpet weaving and tailoring over a period of four months.

Successful trainees are provided equipment and materials for self-employment and self-sufficiency. The materials are purchased with funds received for carpets and clothes the trainees have made and sold during special events arranged for donors and other interested parties.

Individual Assistance

In addition to carrying out projects, ANAMA also provides individual help to especially disadvantaged mine survivors. At the given stage of national agency activity, this help may include sponsoring surgical treatment of survivors and provision of wheelchairs to them.

There is work on new MVA projects in such fields as providing ophthalmologic care to all identified mine survivors in the country who need it (about 433 people), providing microcredit loans, creating collective farms and other agricultural opportunities, etc. Besides these, ANAMA, in collaboration with foreign partners, made it possible to share experiences obtained in this field. These experiences include visits of professionals working in the sphere of MVA as well as mine survivors themselves visiting other countries and receiving some treatment there. The main purpose is to increase knowledge of MVA specialists and to increase access for intercommunication of mine survivors.

An example of individual MVA can be seen in the case of assistance to mine survivor Mr. Elman Aliyev. With the assistance of the government of Slovenia and support from the Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia in Azerbaijan, Mr. Aliyev, a landmine survivor from Azerbaijan, will undergo rehabilitation treatment at the Institute for Rehabilitation, Republic of Slovenia.

Thanks to the financial support of ANAMA, Mr. Rashid Velijyev, who suffered an injury from an anti-tank mine, had two operations—above-the-elbow resurgery and extraction of a fragment from his right eye. Mr. Aliyev will receive a prosthesis and complete rehabilitation treatment through support of International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance and IR-RS. Sponsors for the initiative are a number of local and international organisations in Azerbaijan.

Conclusion

Researching and recording the needs of mine and UXO survivors has helped ANAMA to plan, implement and coordinate several new projects in the field of mine victim assistance. By giving the Azerbaijani voice, ANAMA has been able to provide more focused victim assistance in areas such as medical treatment, economic support and socioeconomic rehabilitation, achieving very positive results for almost five years. As always, ANAMA staff is ready to share their experience with any colleagues interested.

See Endnotes, Page
Regional Mine Action as a Confidence-building Measure

The mine-action cooperation through regional workshops described in this article tested the effectiveness of this cooperation as a confidence-building measure among neighboring states and former combatants.

Mines represent one of the most significant security, humanitarian, environmental, economic, and development problems of the international community. Areas covered with mines directly and indirectly impact a community. Mined areas potentially manifest themselves in a large number of civilian casualties and influence the population’s health in terms of losses in livestock, arable land, supplies, production and trade. Civilians have a constant fear and a feeling of animosity, distrust and intolerance as a result of mines.

Developing a Regional Approach

A regional approach to mine action has been slowly growing in southeastern Europe and the southern Caucasus. Slovenia, through the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance, has been actively involved in mine-action activities in southeastern Europe since 1998, using a regional approach. Then, in November 2008, three national mine-action centres (Albania, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the ITF established the South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council, a technical body whose goal is to create a southeastern European free of mines. By 2004 other countries, including Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, Sofia, Albania and Macedonia, from the region joined the initiative and started to cooperate on joint regional projects as well as on the exchange of knowledge, technologies and equipment. Being a technical body, SEEMACC is providing an arena for countries in the region to discuss solutions to the landmine problem, one of the major factors preventing normal socioeconomic development in affected countries.

With good regional cooperation and proposed joint projects, affected countries managed to attract additional donor support, which is necessary in order to achieve the common goal—a mine-free region by the end of the decade. Similar initiatives should be started in other mine-affected regions to enhance confidence building and strengthen cooperation and trust among neighboring countries.

To speed the pace of reducing the landmine threat that endangers populations in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and to strengthen confidence and security in the southern Caucasus, in 2004–2005 the U.S. Department of State implemented the “Reccroft Initiative,” an innovative multilateral program. Under this initiative, U.S. military personnel conducted joint humanitarian demining training of select groups of Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani soldiers and civilians. The government of Georgia hosted this training program at the Gori military base near Tbilisi, Georgia. Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan each contributed 20 soldiers and civilians (for a total of 60 students) to be educated about modern humanitarian demining techniques by U.S. Army demining experts.

Regional Workshops Begin

The second initiative was the successful implementation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Cooperation and Capacity Building Seminar, held 1–2 October 2002, in Yerevan, Armenia, and co-chaired by Jernej Cimperšek [Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the OSCE] and Iztok Hočemar [International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance], which formed the basis for discussion on how regional cooperation and capacity building could improve the overall socioeconomic situation in the respective regions that would ultimately lead to the eradication of mines and an improved socioeconomic situation in each region, contributing to better dialogue and cooperation among nations.

The workshop was also an occasion for the OSCE to examine how mine-action activities could improve the overall socioeconomic situation in the region, complement OSCE core activities and, therefore, strengthen the OSCE’s advocacy role in the respective regions. A secondary goal of the workshop involved starting discussions among responsible authorities in the respective regions that would subsequently lead to the eradication of mines and an improved socioeconomic situation in each region, contributing to better dialogue and cooperation among nations.

This workshop gathered over 80 military and diplomatic representatives from countries of the South Caucasus area, central Asia, Canada, Europe and the United States. Representatives from the European Commission attended, along with the OSCE, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, Geneva Call, Landmine Survivors Network, the Slovenian Institute for Rehabilitation and various local embassies and non-governmental organizations.

At the workshop, several examples of confidence building and regional cooperation in other mine-affected regions were presented, which formed the basis for discussion on how regional cooperation might be achieved. For example, in the first part of the workshop, the Slovenian experience with SEEMACC managed to depoliticize the mine-action issue, establish a firm dialogue among members and stimulate joint cooperation. Slovenia sincerely believes regional cooperation and confidence building can be achieved to a significant extent through mine action and can also lead to other implementations of aid throughout the country, i.e., reconstruction of infrastructure. When countries start to cooperate after the war, they are much more attractive for donors in all other fields.

Workshop in Tbilisi

On 5–6 October 2005, the OSCE sponsored a regional workshop in Tbilisi, Georgia, with the intention of establishing the proper environment for dialogue among the nations of the South Caucasus and central Asian regions. The workshop focused on “Confidence Building and Regional Cooperation through Mine Action.” Previously, cooperation in the region has been limited to some attempts at joint training.

This workshop was organized by the OSCE Centre in Tbilisi and the ITF, and was sponsored by Canada, the Netherlands, Slovenia and OSCE. The specific objectives of the workshop were to create an open exchange of information on the issue of landmines and to promote successful models of regional cooperation for countries in the southern Caucasus and central Asian regions. The workshop contributed to confidence building among nations and the possibility of accession to the AP Landmine Ban Convention by non-signatory states from the respective regions.

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Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia presented the landmine and UXO problem of the South Caucasus. Many workshops such as this one are full of some successes and many failures. The key is to keep pushing the workshops because success is being achieved, even if change is gradual.

Some consensus was observed on the desirability for all countries in the region to work toward becoming States Parties to the Ottawa Convention once peace agreements to regional conflicts are reached. Georgia and Azerbaijan have already made positive steps by announcing a moratorium on the use, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. The main obstacle for accession to the Convention is dealing with territory not controlled by national authorities. In the South Caucasus there are unresolved conflicts in the OSCE areas, including conflicts in Georgia (South Ossetia and Abkhazia) and Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh). A suggestion to include mine-action activities on the agenda of peace negotiations within the OSCE Minos Group was widely supported, as well as the option to meet jointly in Georgia’s offices with Georgia acting as a mediator between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In the second part of the workshop, the representatives from three central Asian countries (Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan) presented the mine problems in their countries. Common problems are mines that lie on state borders, especially on the border with Uzbekistan. Only Tajikistan has joined the Ottawa Convention, possibly serving as a role model for other countries in the region. Largely because of its status as a State Party to the Ottawa Convention, Tajikistan’s mine-action program receives financial support from several donor countries. All three delegations from central Asia supported the idea of developing a follow-up regional workshop in the near future. The Tbilisi workshop ended with a roundtable discussion in which participants discussed possible next steps in mine action. The following cooperation was suggested:

- Continuation of joint training
- Cooperation in mine-victim assistance
- Encouragement to announce a moratorium on the use of anti-personnel mines and to voluntarily submit reports on each country’s respective landmine situation in accordance with Article 7 of the Ottawa Convention
- Marking of all known minefields
- Including the mine problem in negotiations within the OSCE Minos Group
- Developing a follow-up workshop in Central Asia in the near future.

Conclusion

Cooperation in mine action among countries is one of the first steps for confidence building in the region, as experience from southeastern Europe shows.

A simple conclusion can be drawn from the Tbilisi workshop: Demining is considered a complementary activity of the OSCE, and not a central one. However, since demining makes way for the core activities of the OSCE—primarily disarmament, human rights and environmental issues—to be truly exercised, it is crucial that mine-action activities are essential for OSCE.

On the basis of one conclusion of the Tbilisi workshop, Canada and Slovenia, supported by Kazakhstan, prepared a follow-up workshop for central Asia in the framework of the OSCE. The workshop was held 26–27 March 2007 in Kazakhstan, but specifics were not available at the time of this writing.
Economy, Finance, Industrial Policy and Defense to coordinate program activities. Project financing is provided by Ukraine. The main executor of the work is Ukroboronservice State Company. The specialists of Ukroboronservice conducting the clearance task proposed a problem-solving strategy comprising several stages:

1. Thorough investigation
2. Ensuring access to unexploded ordnance
3. Localization
4. Maximum clearance

Thorough investigation. The first stage took place from 2002 to 2004. During this time the working group hired a special group of guards to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing the adits. The working group cleared unexploded ordnance from the ground surface up to 0.25 centimeters (0.1 inch) in depth and determined a scheme of probable adit locations before the explosion. A specialized Crimean team conducted speleological investigations while a local institute made inspections using such technologies as impulse electromagnetic reconnaissance. Ukroboronservice conducted engineering and technical investigations. The lack of reliable information regarding the adits’ layout and stockpiled ammunition before the explosion has caused problems for specialists at the Centre for Humanitarian Demining. According to the results of this stage, Ukroboronservice has determined the location of most of the unexploded ordnance, their nomenclature, approximate quantity, condition and the possibility of accessing them. Ukroboronservice decoded the following:

- To make five vertical excavations (with areas no less than five square meters [54 square feet] deep, 25–35 meters [82–115 feet] each), to reinforce the walls of passages with concrete braces so that less than 30 centimeters (12 inches) in width to prevent soil dislocation
- To move the ammunition and in case of an emergency evacuation make up to 100 running meters (329 feet) of underground horizontal passage, which can provide access to explosives in the places where they are most concentrated.
- To reinforce the overhang layer with wooden or concrete supports and protective constructions to prevent collapse
- To destroy on a special range all ammunition allowed to be transported
- To preserve the ammunition that cannot be transported by pouring concrete in special places under the ground.

During this stage the state company Ukroboronservice provided its expertise, collaborating with the private company ATIK. Project completion is expected before the end of 2010. Ensuring access to unexploded ordnance. From 2004 to 2006 Ukroboronservice and ATIK carried out the second stage. During this stage, Ukroboronservice did the main preparations to start the extraction of unexploded objects. Also, ATIK placed nine deep vertical shafts (25–30 meters [82–99 feet]) and horizontal shafts (30 meters [99 feet]) towards the place where the objects were concentrated. The engineer of safety monitored this step, ensuring that deminers cautiously transgressed the UXO by hand and machines safely destroyed the ordnance. ATIK constructed additional concrete supports to protect against landslides.

Taking into account all safety regulations, teams executed the task of demining at an intensive and dangerous rhythm. Speleologists and deminers worked out a special system that considerably increased efficiency and safety. To reduce risk, the deminers of Ukroboronservice State Company constantly made engineering and technical inspections during the construction of vertical and horizontal excavations. Teams made wide use of mine-detector Vallen EL 1303D with the Vallen EL/2000 Module Bore Hole and Surface software. With its help deminers detected large-caliber aerial bombs and were able to confirm and refute information concerning the ammunition’s main location. While accompanying adit excavations during this stage, deminers detected and destroyed more than 2,000 unexploded objects, including shells, mortar mines, aerial bombs and the different types of blasters.

One of the difficulties of adit excavation is the fact that the rock and soil are constantly in motion. In time new holes and cracks appear that give access to the underground section. To control ground movement a Crimean team of specialists conducts constant speleological investigations of the working site. Based on the results, the safety engineer takes the appropriate measures to ensure the staff is protected against a possible landslide.

Localization. A group of deminers from Ukroboronservice have been executing the third stage since mid-2006. The third stage marks the start of intensive extraction of unexploded objects from underground obstructions. During detonation of the ordnance concentration of a 20 metric tons (22 U.S. tons) of TNT equivalent, a camoufla’ explosion may happen and during larger ones, a blower. That is why the working group believes that reducing the scale of possible accidental explosions is important. Deminers must ensure safety last, dividing excessively mine-laden areas into smaller, more manageable quantities of UXO.

During this stage (which at the time of writing was still ongoing), the teams have extracted more than 20,000 pieces of ordnance. This total includes munitions of varying types and calibers: aerial bombs from 10 to 1,000 kilograms (22 to 2200 pounds), shells from 37 to 180 millimeters and mortar mines from 50 to 122 millimeters. Also during this stage Ukroboronservice has prohibited unauthorized access of the “black diggers.” Maximum clearance. The working group will execute the fourth stage from 2007 to 2010. Ukroboronservice plans to construct two more vertical shafts in order to extract a maximum quantity of UXO. Paying attention to safety at this stage of the work, the group will implement a system of actions: • Collaborating with state services such as labor protection, ecology, fire safety, etc.

- Constantly monitoring the rocks, supporting the walls of passageways with concrete and inspecting equipment condition constantly.

- Controlling the ammunition’s condition, defining the level of damage and handling it carefully.

- Communicating reliably between cave-tailing teams and surface-level teams.

Conclusion. Besides the Inkerman Adits, the state clearance program of unexploded objects from Sevastopol and Kerch also takes place in six areas: the Makeyev Mountains, near the Pyatnaya battery, the villages of Geniyvskoe and Bondarenkov, Adzhymbilik quarries and the Black Sea. Ukroboronservice believes that carrying out this program will help eliminate many dangerous explosive remnants of WWII.

Ukroboronservice’s four-stage plan for clearance of the Inkerman Adits requires prompt and complete action from the state; however, Ukraine has only paid half of the total amount necessary to complete the task. Incomplete program financing will adversely impact the time it takes to complete the work. With every passing year the clearance of the Inkerman Adits becomes increasingly more expensive. Insufficient financing forces individuals involved with the project to increase their working hours while the threat of an accidental explosion escalates.

See Endnotes, Page 15

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International Eurasia Press Fund Works in Azerbaijan

Problems with explosive remnants of war in Azerbaijan stem from employment of mines by the Soviet Union between 1988 and 1994. Mines were used along Azerbaijan’s expansive border region and military installations. More recently, ERW have been left behind from Azerbaijan’s battles over territorial integrity. The International Eurasia Press Fund has developed a program to address the needs of mine victims in one of the country’s most heavily mined regions. The Mine Victims’ Association of the Terter district is working to rehabilitate victims in numerous ways, providing participants with the skills and information they need to lead productive, independent lives that take full advantage of their individual talents and interests.

The IEPF has been instrumental in the rehabilitation of a mine-plagued Azerbaijan, providing or facilitating post-conflict remedies to a war-torn country. In the past, the IEPF has conducted Level One Landmine Survey programs in areas affected by war, a Landmine Impact Survey, and several other mine-action programs. With the financial support of the European Commission, the IEPF conducted the “Mine Victims’ Needs Assessment Survey” project in 2004 to determine the most pressing needs of the Azerbaijani people.

Based on its 2004 survey, the IEPF determined that mine victims in the country required more post-rehabilitation assistance; medical services were deemed adequate for mine victims, but support following the survey period seemed lacking.

Extent of the Problem

Surveys were conducted in 629 villages and 29 enclosures in 11 war-torn regions of Azerbaijan. More than 74,000 people were interviewed to accurately define hazardous areas, needs of the population and initial statistics concerning mine victims. Umul Mirzoyez, IEPF Chairman, says the surveys indicated more than half a million people in 643 communities were affected by 970 mine and unexploded ordnance areas.

The Terter district of Azerbaijan was deemed highly contaminated—36 square kilometers (14 square miles) of land in 23 villages were thought tainted by mines and UXO. This contaminated area is the remnant of heavy battles, deeply affected the infrastructure and impeded development. Mirzoyez says 36,291 people out of a total local population of 70,039 were affected by contamination. Ten percent of all Azerbaijani landmine victims lived in the Terter district, he added.

IEPF Focus Areas

Working with several national and international partners, the IEPF devised a solution to meet the needs of the mine-affected populace and created the Mine Victims’ Association of the Terter district. The IEPF used its extensive experience in demining, mine-risk education and other mine-related projects to form the basis of the MVA. ANAMA had contracted the IEPF and Relief Azerbaijan to conduct mine-clearance operations—the IEPF worked predominantly in the Terter district with a 38-member demining team and cleared 758,947 square meters (0.29 square mile) of land in 2005.

The IEPF also conducted 10 MRE sessions in 2005. Tapping into these efforts and other experiences, the IEPF developed a three-point infrastructure: the organization’s focus areas are:

1. Media and civil-society development
2. Peacekeeping and conflict action
3. Refugee/internally displaced person problems and community development

IEPF has facilitated media roundtables, meetings and conferences. Additionally, it has published several books, brochures and other informational materials to provide objective coverage of the ranges of war on Azerbaijan. Coverage has also been directed at the suffering of refugees and internally displaced persons.

Peacemaking and conflictology actions. Peacemaking actions and other projects in this focus area have been directed at protecting human rights in Azerbaijan. The IEPF has spent a large amount of time working on national and military problems with the goal of remediation. The Level One Landmine Survey, Landmine Impact Survey and Mine and MRE Needs Assessment all began as projects implemented through this focus area, ultimately growing to larger endeavors. Several international conferences, seminars and roundtables were also organized or attended.

Refugee/IDP problems and community development. IEPF efforts in this area have included the analysis of migration problems, resolving refugee/MRE problems and working in community-development activities. Working under the direction of the President of Azerbaijan, the IEPF constantly seeks to improve the quality of life for refugees and internally displaced persons, and to provide for their reintegration and employment into society. Evidence of success is seen in the Community Mine Action Team at the IEPF, nearly 40 percent of which is composed of refugees/IDPs.

Genesis of the MVA

In conjunction with the completion of the Mine Victims’ Needs Assessment and their extensive experience in providing humanitarian aid and demining efforts, IEPF sought to further its humanitarian-development activities. The MVA was founded as a three-year strategic plan and outlined goals for the Working and Initiative Groups of the MVA. An Intermediate Report based on the organization’s progress between 15 August and 31 December 2006 was produced and distributed.

The Mine Victims’ Association was established 15 May 2006, and its training and development sessions have been incredibly successful. The Working Group for the MVA provided the professional specialities necessary for seminars and workshops and included legal experts, computer specialists, medical advisors, MRE specialists, accountants, support managers and a project coordinator. Seminars were held for an Initiative Group of 10 landmine survivors selected from the total eligible population of mine victims.

MVA Informational Seminars and Workshops

Intensive training was provided to the Initiative Group in a number of areas, all designed to rehabilitate mine victims, reintegrate them into society and improve standards of living in the region.

Law and management. Legal advisors from the Working Group educated participants on international documents on human rights, advocacy mechanisms for human rights in Azerbaijan and in the international community, juridical standing of mine victims and other necessary legal information. Participants were also advised on the organization, establishment and operation of foundations and other management appearances. Group members are currently active in the process of establishing these managerial infrastructures. Close collaboration with officials has allowed MVA participants to receive necessary assistance from social programs.

First-aid training. Regular instruction was given to participants in the application of first-aid techniques, including fractures/dislocations, nursing patients with amputations, bleeding/wounds, frostbite and sundry burn types. They also were taught about blood-pressure measurements and providing hypodermia, intramuscular and intravenous injections. Information on general hygiene rules, treatment of diabetic patients and other basic medical procedures was provided. The program’s medical advisor regularly visits mine victims and their families, sometimes sending the more seriously injured to treatment centers in Baku.

Small-business development. Initiative Group members participated in extensive training on themes directly associated with developing small businesses. They learned about financing, marketing, opportunity analysis, advertising and other business practices. Participants also had the option of submitting business plans to Working Group staff members for advice and evaluation; all businesses devised were specific to the Terter district. The business plans dealt mostly with grain growing, cattle breeding, poultry raising, beehkeeping and carpet weaving. Further collaboration will help to bring these businesses plans to fruition.

Mine-risk education. General information on the landmine/UXO problem in Azerbaijan was also a component of the MVA education. Participants were informed about the threat to the populace from landmines and the physical, psychological, and economic effects of the mine problem. Members of the Initiative Group expressed interest in learning more about MRE initiatives that were focused on safety around mined areas, which taught officials how to inform about a mine threat and how to conduct MRE activities. Participants also joined Working Group leaders in carrying out MRE sessions in villages of the Terter district—Aghkand, Damirchilar, Jamilly, Seyidlim, Shikikhar and other villages all received MRE as part of this process.

Computer seminars. Initiative Group members also received training on the operation and use of personal computers, beginning with

by Gasin Cox, Mine Action Information Center
Further Collaboration

As an offshoot of their initial training sessions, participants in the Mine Victims’ Association process began collaborating with journalists, doctors, local politicians and representatives of national and international agencies. Group members expressed a desire to improve and expand the initiative among mine victims to provide necessary assistance on a regular basis. Plans were solidified for the future activities of the MVA, including activities in several Terter district villages.

In November 2006, members of the national and international media were invited to the Terter region to become acquainted with the work of the IEPF and the Azerbaijani National Agency for Mine Action. Meetings with orthopedic representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross were held in December 2006 to better understand the needs of mine victims in the Terter region. The dialogue resulted in the recognition of a need for regional specialists in orthopedics since the nearest facility, in Baku, is too distant for many mine victims. In meetings with local political leaders and executive members, mine victims participated in direct dialogue with the authorities responsible for addressing the problem in the Terter district and across Azerbaijan. Authorities noted concerns surrounding the demarcation of territory, provision of social and medical assistance and other issues related to problems facing mine victims.

A meeting between ANAMA and members of the MVA was held in November 2006 to discuss the success of the association to date. The sustainability of the MVA was one of the most pressing issues, including the broader goal of assisting mine victims throughout Azerbaijan.

Mine-victim Entrepreneurs

Many of the participants in the MVA seminars have started or furthered their own businesses in the Terter district based on information and support provided in the workshops. Three participants—Nizami Badzayev, Khalil Hazimov and Mohammad Shosin—are currently involved with seedling initiatives and one—Nuru Gouliyev—with beekeeping. Most of the mine-victim entrepreneurs make four to five times their annual pensions from their salaries.

Despite their disabilities, these mine victims are actively contributing to their local economies—and they are part of a larger trend toward increased personal independence with viral assistance programs. Beyond providing valuable services, these entrepreneurs are integrating into society and serving as models for other mine victims.

Long-term Goals and Enduring Challenges

Umud Mirzyoyev is proud of the accomplishment of the Mine Victims’ Association for the Terter district of Azerbaijan, but much remains to be accomplished in assisting mine victims and their families integrate fully into society.

Mirzyoyev says the MVA will help establish more agricultural units in accordance with mine victims’ business plans, conduct vocational courses for victims and their family members, and provide new job placements to further improve socioeconomic status. All these undertakings will be accomplished “to support the mine victims as they settle their most important problems,” he adds.

Plants are already underway to improve the repair process on prosthetic appliances, Mirzyoyev says. “Mine victims have to leave for Baku or Ganja cities, and, of course, they have some difficulties in doing it,” he says.

The IEPF is currently preparing information on how easy repairs can be made without the need for expensive travel. But all problems have not been that easy to solve.

Mirzyoyev notes that providing assistance to mine victims who must be treated and rehabilitated abroad is incredibly difficult. The MVA also faces difficulty in implementing the prepared business plans for seminar participants. “Great support is needed to improve the mine victims’ socioeconomic state, to establish their farm units, to realize individual business plans and to assign social aid to mine victims in poor living conditions,” he says.

There is also the problem of addressing the needs of mine victims in other regions of the country. Regional branch offices will soon begin to tackle complex vocational, medical, judicial and social problems in other areas of Azerbaijan. The IEPF is looking to expand further to give greater attention to other villages as branch offices of the Azerbaijani Mine Victims’ Association are prepared in Aghstafa, Baku and Fuzuli.

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By Kerry Brinkert

As the 10-year deadline for fulfilling Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention is rapidly approaching for the first States that ratified or acceded to the Convention, each State Party faces the requirement that all known anti-personnel mines be destroyed. The author examines the progress and challenges that remain in Southeast Europe regarding Article 5 implementation.

The Expectations and Challenges Ottawa Presents

The journey referred to involves addressing both external and internal expectations. When a state ratifies or accedes to the Convention, externally, other states expect that state to fulfill the obligations it has freely accepted. In addition, internally, a state’s population will also expect the state to do what is obligated of it to end the suffering and casualties caused by AP mines. In few other instances are the internal and external expectations as high and the challenges as great as they are in Southeast Europe (SEE).3

The expectations in SEE are high because the states of this region have in recent memory experienced the devastation of armed conflict in which anti-personnel mines have been used and have remained as a deadly legacy. As the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina remarked in December 1997, all parties to war in that country supported the Ottawa Convention “because we experienced what the use of AP mines means and we know that we should do everything not to allow this to happen again.”4

The challenges, however, are great, not only due to the magnitude of the problems, but also because fulfilling state responsibilities has been complicated in SEE. For instance, every state in the region has recently been in some form of transition in terms of the establishment or re-establishment of state structures or in terms of transition with information on computer components and continuing with detailed sessions on the use of specific software like Microsoft Windows and Word. They also learned how to perform calculations in Microsoft Excel and other functions in Microsoft Office programs. With this knowledge, group members plan to teach other mine victims. Participants also organized a series of English-language and computer courses for the children of mine victims, conducting 16 lessons in English and 14 lessons in basic computer skills for children in four months.

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from pre- to post-Cold War state structures. Moreover, some SEE states lack the means to completely fulfill state responsibilities on their own.

Challenges notwithstanding, every SEE state has expressed its consent to be bound by the Ottawa Convention. In doing so, each state has created expecta-
tions that significant mine-action progress will be made and that the ultimate desired impact, an end to suffering and casualties for all people for all time, will eventually be realized. On 18 September 2007, a decade will have passed since the Convention was adopted. States Parties are now on the eve of a judgment day for progress in reaching these expectations.

In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, States Parties are expected to do three things: 1. Each State Party must “make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which AP mines are known or suspected to be emplaced.”2
2. Each State Party identifying such areas must “ensure as soon as possible that all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are removed.”3
3. Each State Party identifying such areas must “destroy or ensure the destruction of all AP mines in mined areas as a matter of urgent priority, making its needs for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate.”4

Of course, common sense also dictates that States Parties must establish a high degree of confidence in the accuracy of their mine location data, and Macedonia illustrated its commitment to building such confidence by providing clarity with respect to the standards being applied and the means of verification and quality assurance being used. In doing so, Macedonia alluded to the International Mine Action Standards,5 which states are encouraged to meet in mine action by defining a “defining process” and hence providing guidance to States Parties in proceeding with tasks such as identifying mined areas, establishing a national demining programme, locating and removing mines, and assuring that a high standard has been achieved in mine clearance and related activities.

No state is obliged to use the IMAS as its set of standards; however, should individual States Parties wish, they can use the IMAS as guidance in establishing national standards for operational actions in order to meet expectations in fulfilling their legal Ottawa Convention obligations.

In the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered (after 15 September 2006), the Republic of Macedonia will:
1. Report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share relevant information through any other official means such as the International Work Programme, including the Standing Committee meetings,
2. Ensure the effective exclusion of civilians in accordance with Article 5, and
3. Destroy or ensure the destruction of all AP mines in these mined areas as a matter of urgent priority, making its needs for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate.

Macedonia recently articulated the endpoint for Article 5 implementation in its 15 September 2006, Declaration of Completion, which clearly and unambiguously states, “The Republic of Macedonia declares that it has destroyed all AP mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control in which AP mines were known or suspected to be emplaced, in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. The Republic of Macedonia declares that it completed this obligation on 19 September 2006.”

Macedonia also illustrated that in reaching this endpoint, States Parties can use the common sense that realistically suggests they need not scour every last square metre of their territory to determine the presence or absence of mines. Common sense also suggests that it is impossible to assure with absolute certainty that every last mine has been located and removed from identified mined areas. Macedonia demonstrates this good sense by stating in its Declaration of Completion, “In the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered, it is dangerous due to the presence or suspected presence of mines.”

Hence, the endstate that is expected of States Parties is nothing more or less than that which is stated in the Convention, that is, “establishes baseline data for measuring progress.”6 Consequently, questions that naturally may be on the minds of States Parties evaluating a request for an extension might be:

• What means have been used to verify whether there indeed are mined areas well beyond what can be seen in the field?7 In the process of doing so, what amount of the hazardous areas originally logged has been released within the 10-year period?
• Of the areas identified to contain AP mines, what is the total area in which Article 5 obligations were fulfilled?
• How many AP mines were destroyed and how many other explosive remnants of war were destroyed?
• How much area and which areas remain in which Article 5 obligations must still be fulfilled?8 Of those, which areas have been and have not yet been perimeter-marked, monitored and protected, and what are the means of verification to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians?9
• What is the estimated date for destroying, or ensuring the effective exclusion of, all AP mines of all persons mines contained within each area identified as containing AP mines?
• If area remains in which anti-personnel mines are suspected to be emplaced, what is the estimated continuing suspicion and what is the estimated size of each area?10 What is the estimated date for determining whether mined areas indeed exist in suspected hazard areas?

A template for preparing extension requests has been developed and enhanced by Canada and is ready for consideration by the States Parties at their November 2007 meeting. Ultimately, though, this is a voluntary process and there is nothing stopping States Parties like BiH and Croatia from proceeding with the task at hand. In doing so, it is advisable that States Parties be “M飞扬” as described in the Ottawa Convention, that is, specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. They can articulate matters that are specific and relevant to the actual obligations of the Convention and quantitative matters to the extent possible. In addition, in communicating what will be done in the future, they can again be specific, measurable and relevant, but also communicate matters that are achievable in a time-bound manner.

For a State Party like BiH, its Landmine Impact Survey report may be a good starting point. After all, the report in past claims that “it establishes baseline data for measuring progress.” Consequently, questions that naturally may be on the minds of States Parties evaluating a request for an extension might be:

• What means have been used to verify whether there indeed are mined areas well beyond what can be seen in the field? In the process of doing so, what amount of the hazardous areas originally logged has been released within the 10-year period?
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• If area remains in which anti-personnel mines are suspected to be emplaced, what is the estimated continuing suspicion and what is the estimated size of each area? What is the estimated date for determining whether mined areas indeed exist in suspected hazard areas?

Conclusion

Over the past year, the Convention secretariat has discussed with great interest the Article 5 extension request process. However, it is important to recall a point the Convention’s Political Committee made at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.1 In working on an extension process should not be an end to satisfying Article 5 obligations. That is, the extension process is all about communicating that international expectations have been met and States Parties have truly being in a position to meet Article 5 obligations continuing to carry out the important work of survey, land release, detection and destruction.

Also in this regard, while BiH and Croatia may require the use of the extensions request process, the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties’ Geneva Progress Report26 indicated that Albania has presented to the Committee on National demining plans that are consistent with fulfilling Article 5 obligations by the Convention’s 10-year deadline. Therefore, Albania should soon be able to declare, as Macedonia has, that it has fulfilled its Article 5 obligations, and Serbia may be in a similar position in due course.

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In this article, the authors discuss the use of mine-detecting dogs in the mine-action community as a whole, using the Republic of Croatia as an example. Specifically, they describe guidelines that must be followed to ensure MDDs are employed properly and maintain a high level of effectiveness.

In the Republic of Croatia, a large mine-suspected area covers forests, pastures, agricultural areas and karst.1 The fact that only one-third of the 1,944 square kilometers (1,249 square yards) of mine-suspected area in Croatia is actually mine-contaminated speaks in favor of using dog-handler teams in mine-search operations for the sake of simplicity, faster and more cost-effective work. However, the matters of safety, efficiency and creating the preconditions for their use need to be considered. For these reasons, special attention must be paid to all technical requirements in the process of testing approaches, methods of monitoring, conditioning and training procedures, quality-assurance activities, test-site preparations, daily tests prior to the commencement of works, daily inspections, status of dog-handler teams, and prescribed forms of verifications and efficiency.

Brief Historical Overview

Humanitarian demining as well as wider usage of MDDs have had a relatively short development period. MDDs have been used for 15 years globally and 10 years in Croatia, and their usage and training is a maturing process. In 1998 RONCO Consulting Corporation began training and using mine-detecting dogs. Croatia was the first country where the company used dogs to find mines on a consistent basis. Soon the Croatian Mine Action Centre legally undertook the commitment of using dogs to perform quality control over mine-clearance operations. Development of demining companies from 1999 to 2000 and especially in the period that followed resulted in the procurement of several dogs and creation of teams for area inspection as a second method after mechanical mine clearance. The level of training for the dogs, carried out mostly in foreign countries, depended upon which company trained them. During this time, CROMAC was active in a number of international workshops and assemblies, learning about MDD usage. Leading authorities were visiting CROMAC and setting the guidelines for team usage and competence verification modes. When CROMAC took over the commitment of accreditation and testing of demining teams, it started the process of developing the methodology of testing the teams, monitoring their work in the field and constructing test sites.

During that period, demining companies in Croatia were also trying to upgrade their own methodology by creating standard operating procedures mandatory for the testing and accreditation process. With the assistance of the representatives of the United Nations Scientific Council and members of the Committee for the Establishment of MDD Information, the first test site was built in Sisak on the area called Jodno, which is no longer in use. There had been four more test sites established since then, but only two are currently in use: Cerovac (continental part of Croatia) and Skabrinja (southern coastal part of Croatia).

Sphere and Forms of Dog-handler Usage

Countries today use dogs for mine-clearance operations in a variety of ways. MDDs are used:

- To reduce mine-suspected areas by defining mine-field boundaries primarily in the low-risk areas.
- As the first method during mine detection combined with other manual/detection methods.
- During the MSX search from the safe access lanes on the area of differently marked and defined minefields—safe access lanes are areas of lower risk and a good location for beginner dogs and dog trainers.
- As the second method in mine-clearance projects, mostly on mechanically treated areas after some period of soil stabilisation.
- During mine detection in devastated buildings with significant quantities of metal, along with removal of rubble in layers.
- For mine clearance of railway infrastructure as well as other infrastructure surfaces along asphalt, stone

and concrete systems, and areas with significant quantities of metal (water-supply systems, gas pipelines, etc.).

- For sample search during final quality control over clearance operations.
- To inspect the safe access lane in case of an urgent need to approach a mine victim.

It is important to note that for all activities, CROMAC finds at least two dogs, one by one, into the test site or actual mine clearance area.

Dog-handler Usage Laws

Implemented in Croatia during 2005, the Law on Humanitarian Demining and the Rules and Regulations on Methods of Demining enabled the use of dogs and handlers as an independent method in mine-search projects. The two legal acts that regulate mine action in Croatia are the Law on Humanitarian Demining and Rules and Regulations on Methods of Demining. Several key guidelines regulate dogs and handlers in the mine-detection and mine-clearance process from the Rules and Regulations on Methods of Demining. When search operations are conducted using MDDs, the demining team leader must carry out certain tasks prior to the beginning of work. First the leader must hold a meeting with handlers and define individual tasks. The leader then temporarily sends handlers who are incapable of performing their daily task off the site. After these handlers leave, the leader then directly assigns the remaining handlers to the worksite. Continuous monitoring of handlers during worksite search and the conditions for the work of MDDs is required. A dog handler, who must be accredited by the relevant ministry, directs the dog towards terrain search and gives orders during mine search. Finally the leader must ensure the meteorological characteristics such as surface soil temperature, air temperature at the height of one metre (1.1 yard), and speed and direction of the wind into the record.

In addition to the number of duties of the worksite leader, records are kept of dog conditioning. Prior to the commencement of mine clearance, the authorised legal entity is obliged to carry out test-site markings to prepare it for the work of mine-detection dogs. While MDDs conduct a worksite search, deminers mark off a section of the worksite with red-topped stakes. This is done by the company conducting the operations. Only CROMAC-approved dogs and handlers may be used. The handler who gives the dog certain instructions must be a deminer or a supporting worker. The deminer must also do a second search of the area where the dog detected mines and unexploded ordnance to be positive nothing was missed. When the worksite is searched by MDDs, two different dogs must search the same part of the worksite to ensure the same UXO is discovered and that none is missed.

The Law on Humanitarian Demining and the Rules and Regulations on Methods of Demining, passed in 2005, enabled the use of dogs and handlers as an independent method in mine-search projects. The ultimate goal, after testing and accreditation for dog and handler, is that all other factors in monitoring and com-

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<td>43</td>
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MDD

15 40

52 111 127 129 130

Table 1 The growth of demining companies and MDD teams.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRKO IVANUŠIČ (CROMAC).

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRKO IVANUŠIČ (CROMAC)
The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction, Vol. 11, Iss. 1 [2007], Art. 1

No Working procedures description Prescribed number of points
1 Assessment of level of handler's knowledge-written exam 0-5
2 Obedience exercises 0-5
3 Walking by handler's leg on leash 0-5
4 Walking by handler's leg without leash 0-5
5 Stops, while walking 0-5
6 Absent of the dog 0-5
7 Moving in front of the handler 0-5
8 Rasting dog 0-5
9 Modes to let a dog enter the test field 0-5
10 Evaluation of systematic searching method in accordance to the 0-10
11 Handler's rapport with the dog 0-5
12 Safety of the dog while detecting mines 0-10
13 Reliability of dog's findings and handlers 0-10
14 Distance between an indication and a buried mine 0-5
15 Number of wrong indications 0-5
16 Evaluation of found and indicated UXO fragments 0-5
17 Level of motivation to search 0-5
18 Level of focus intensity during search 0-5
19 Evaluation of overall work quality and behaviour of handler-dog team, total number of points=100

Assessment of Searches and Demining
This SOP defines the efficiency estimates of MDD search and clearance operations in different mine, soil, vegetation and climatic conditions with different work methods. This SOP also clearly defines the situations and limiting factors when dog-handler team usage is not allowed, such as when the air temperature is below freezing. The SOP prescribes other important conditions for working with dogs. For instance, marked boxes can be 50 metres x 10 metres (54 yards by 11 yards), 4 x 25 (4.5 x 27) and '/2 x 10 (1.1 x 11). Also, if there has been a fire on the area previously demined, MDD inspection cannot go forward until two days after the fire so fumes do not disrupt the dog's sense of smell.

It is extremely important to maintain cooperation between the Team Leader, QA Officers and QC Monitors with the purpose of achieving good results and accurate mine detection in the field. If the parties do not work together properly, items may not be found, which could lead to a “worksite fail” rating. In this event, the whole demining process would have to be repeated.

In humanitarian-demining operations is worked for a period of six, nine or 12 months according to a point system. One important precondition is that the dogs detect all buried mines in the boxes assigned. The maximum number of points is 100.

The average number of points in CROMAC’s collective practice is 62, indicating an inadequate quality of work and a need for quality assurance. The results of demining activities conducted by the Committee for Testing Dogs and Handlers in Humanitarian Demining Operations, QA Officers and QC Monitors.

Generally, the aim is to monitor all the processes—accreditation and testing provide the conditions for the work in the field. QA Officers and QC Monitors control the work in the field and after the completion of operations, Quality Control procedures have to determine whether the area remains mine contaminated. According to the Law on Humanitarian Demining and Rules and Regulations on Methods of Demining, the clearance company has to guarantee the complete clearance of mines, UXOs and their fragments.

Other Factors
Besides the large number of limiting factors, experience from around the world shows that even when dogs receive training related to the scent of explosives, there are situations when they do not detect UXO containing the explosive TNT, the type most frequently used. Research and indicators show this anomaly usually occurs with UXO that is hermetically sealed. This was clearly evident from two of CROMAC’s 2005 demining projects. All those involved in the mine-action community should be aware of the fact that MDAs are trained to recognize “the complete bouquet” related to all scents of a “military arsenal.” Also, it has been proven that a soil temperature of 26°C (78°F) is the most suitable for spreading of the explosive particles to the environment, and this range is the most optimal for MDAs.

Conclusion
The training and assessment of the MDDs is not easy, and daily and weekly conditioning conducted by the handler is needed to guarantee quality MDDs. Several factors are responsible for the total quality rating and should be closely connected. The first two involve accreditation and rules and regulations. For accreditation, the handler needs to have a certificate or other type of proof that he passed the test in schools involved in training and dog breeding, which should be compliant with conditions prescribed by the established rules and regulations. The company also should submit breeding, training and performance documents for each dog as per standard operating procedures.

The final factors concern testing and monitoring/quality control. These basic measures should result in wider and safer usage of dog-handler teams in humanitarian demining in the near future. High quality and equitable testing must exist along with field survey to gain an insight into the status of companies’ test sites and prescribed forms of daily, weekly and monthly conditioning and verification. Permanent monitoring and quality control, as well as education of QA Officers and QC Monitors, is necessary. See Endnotes, Page
National Ownership and Partnerships for Capacity Development

Through the lens of Jordan’s mine-action history, the importance of strong leadership, national ownership and partnerships are detailed here as necessary for capacity development.

by Mire R. Z. Al-Hussein (National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation) and Olaf Juergensen (United Nations Development Programme Jordan)

In 1993 His Majesty the late King Hussein bin Talal ordered the Jordanian Armed Forces to begin demining in Jordan. The King was deeply concerned by the disastrous humanitarian impact of landmines, especially in the West Bank and Gaza, and in the vicinity of East Jerusalem. The King committed Jordan to become a Mine Action donor, at a time when many countries were still reluctant or unwilling to provide financial and technical support for mine action.

In 1995, Jordan became a State Party to the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and its OA deadline was set at 1 May 2009.

Since the government of Jordan and UNDP joined forces in 2004, Jordan has achieved much in the operational and managerial arenas. The NCDR has acquired an active, quality-assurance capacity; socioeconomic and victim information is being collected, analyzed and disseminated; and most importantly, Jordan’s Article 5 obligation is within reach.

The UNDP has been committed to Jordan’s ambitious target of becoming mine-free by 1 May 2009, and has been deeply involved in all aspects of the process.

In 2004, the NCDR increased its efforts and took a different approach. Thanks to the direct support of His Majesty King Abdullah and the Jordanian government, the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation, which spearheads mine action in Jordan, has been able to develop into a responsible organization that knows what it wants and how to get it.

Two years ago, the NCDR formulated a national plan for mine action in Jordan, with input from all key local stakeholders and the international donor community. In addition, the United Nations Development Programme supported the NCDR with a capacity-development project, which saw the appointment of an international expert as a Chief Technical Advisor to the NCDR. The result of all these efforts is that Jordan can and will be—God willing—free of mines by its Ottawa Convention deadline, 1 May 2009.

Partnerships and Capacity Development in Jordan

One of the true hallmarks of mine action is the vibrant networks and partnerships that have developed over the past 10–15 years. Such collaborative efforts have focused on mobilizing political, financial and human resources, and today we can point to substantive progress in the sector—be it on the number of countries that have signed the Ottawa Convention or on the number of hectares returned to mine-affected communities. As noted above, capacity development in Jordan has involved all manner of local stakeholders in forging a common system (organizational framework) for mine action to operate in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. NCDR tabled the integrated national mine-action plan two years ago, and for the first time, the country approached mine action from a holistic development perspective. Prior to the drafting of the plan, the landmine problem was being approached from an engineering perspective in Jordan, and it was clear to the local leadership that operationally, the work was not occurring with as much speed, coordination or efficiency as was necessary. At this point the government sought the support of UNDP—there was an internal demand for international involvement to provide strategic and technical assistance in the strengthening of the NCDR.

Since the government of Jordan and UNDP joined forces in 2004, Jordan has accomplished much in the operational and managerial arenas. The NCDR has attained an active, quality-assurance capacity; socioeconomic and victim information is being collected, analyzed and disseminated; and most importantly, Jordan’s Article 5 obligation is within reach.

Clearly, mine action in Jordan can tap a relatively well-trained and educated population, its infrastructure is sound; and its overall mine problem is not large in comparison to other programmes. However, Jordan’s ability to reach out and utilize the existing political and technical knowledge networks has been exemplary. Also, this outreach has allowed Jordan to quickly build strong partnerships with the international community, which has seen Jordan attract significant technical and organisational assistance from many countries.

Looking at Jordan’s approach to capacity development in mine action several lessons can be drawn. First, there needs to be strong leadership coupled with a long-term vision and commitment to what capacity needs to be built and why. Second, partnerships based on an open and balanced relationship—be they government, donor or implementing partner—help promote sustainable and realistic local capacity development solutions.

Olaf Juergensen is the UNDP Chief Technical Advisor at the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation in Jordan. He was also the CTA to the National Demining Institute in Mozambique. Prior to joining UNDP he worked for the International Demining Information Center in Inhambane, South Africa and Ottawa, Canada where he focused on the issue of capacity development. He holds a Ph.D. in geography from Queen’s University in Canada.

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Perspectives on Capacity Development

Richard Kidd, PM/WRA
by Daniele Ressler | Mine Action Information Center

On 5 March 2007, Daniele Ressler interviewed Richard Kidd, Director of the U.S. Department of State’s Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. The interview was conducted to discuss Kidd’s perspectives on capacity development and how it is tied into mine action. Through the course of the interview, Kidd addresses how PM/WRA understands capacity development, successful examples of capacity-development project implementation, lessons learned and the future of capacity development in the mine-action process.

Daniele Ressler: How do you, as a representative of PM/WRA, define or understand capacity development in the context of mine action and what are the underlying things that make this concept important to PM/WRA?

Richard Kidd: While there is no simple or direct definition for capacity development… the United States basically considers that the indigenous capacity exists within a mine-affected country to get itself to an impact-free status and to maintain some form of residual capacity to respond after that as new trends emerge. That’s the closest thing we have to a definition, and it takes on a different sort of form and structure in different countries, based on both the mine threat and the capacity that may have existed in that country so that a government can do its work itself. This belief is what we in WRA operate under as we do our country planning. It’s a very simple rule of thumb, proven throughout the world that if governments have committed resources. It’s a very simple rule of thumb, proven throughout the world that if governments have committed resources. It’s a very simple rule of thumb, proven throughout the world that if governments have committed resources.

DR: Does PM/WRA actually look at capacity development in terms of working at a national level, such as large-scale funding and support for the national mine information centers, or do you view capacity development in terms of a smaller-scale level of application, such as funding and support for specific individual institutions or tasks like technical support?

RK: It depends on the country because for each country we do a country-support plan. And that plan is based on that country’s specific approach to solving their mine-action problem and what that country’s strategic plan contains. As you know, the United States has been a strong champion of strategic planning, and back in 2004 we made our assistance contingent upon countries producing strategic plans. So, we don’t do policy yet that we are going to do national capacity development over a more local capacity development. We say that countries need to articulate how they are going to structure the response to their mine threat and the resources they will commit, including what form that takes. So it sounds like you are seeing progress in this aspect of working on capacity development.

DR: So it sounds like you are seeing progress in this aspect of working on capacity development. From your perspective, what are some examples of successful capacity-development initiatives in mine action and what are the key components leading to this success?

RK: Well, two countries just jump right out in terms of great success stories and they are Yemen and Azerbaijan. What makes them successful is that those governments have committed resources. It’s a very simple rule of thumb, proven throughout the world that if a country, no matter how poor it is, doesn’t choose to commit any of its national resources, it’s not invested in the process. You have a number of mine-affected countries that have basically set up their mine-action programs as the catch-basin for foreign assistance. Now both Yemen and Azerbaijan obviously have some resource constraints, but in both cases they have chosen to put their own government money into the program. And as a result, they have a sense of ownership. They want efficiency and they want accountability, which sadly, seem to be less important when countries don’t commit their own resources toward the problem.

DR: Are there any projects, activities or general initiatives that you are presently doing or planning for the future to promote or sustain capacity development in mine action that you think are particularly interesting for our readers to know about?

RK: More important than any projects or activities is U.S. policy, in terms of assistance. As I mentioned earlier, U.S. policy makes our assistance contingent upon national strategic planning because that forces countries to address hard questions about their future and to hopefully look at their structures, training needs and requirements in a focused, analytical way. I think that has been the United States’ greatest contribution to this issue. We were the first country to expect the existence of a strategic plan, a policy that has been copied, in a related manner, by the United Nations and by the Ottawa Convention. So that has been our biggest contribution to the issue of capacity development. In terms of project specifics, integrated into a lot of our programs are management training, strategic planning training and quality-assurance training for the actual demining. Our assessment in terms of capacity development is that it’s not a matter of technology or technique. The countries have learned how to demine safely. The key issue is one of management, leadership and planning skills, and that’s what we’re focusing our efforts on.

DR: When did the U.S. start moving toward this policy of asking for and requiring strategic plans?


DR: Has there been a large increase since that time in the number of countries that have been providing strategic plans?

RK: Yes… not only an increase in the number of strategic plans but a gradual increase in the quality of those plans. Back in the early 2000s, you had plans that said, “It will take 200 years to clear our country of landmines, please give us [US]$50 million a year to do that.” That was the extent of the articulated strategic vision of a lot of these countries. Fortunately we are well past that and countries are now able to differentiate between the contamination that causes impacts and the contamination that doesn’t. They now prioritize their resources and construct mine-action programs that are matched to the impact.

DR: So it sounds like you are seeing progress in this aspect of working on capacity development.

RK: We are, and the other way you can measure progress is by looking at what is no longer there. Previously, say five years ago, the model was massive U.N. bureaucracies that ran mine-action programs in Cambodia, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Mozambique, and northern Iraq. Those bureaucracies have disappeared and they have not been replaced by an expatriate presence on the same scale. And that alone is indicative of the development of national capacity.

DR: What, if any, innovative lessons learned has PM/WRA identified after working on capacity-development initiatives in mine action?

RK: The lesson learned is this: Is the country making some form of investment? If not, then the capacity-development effort is probably not going to lead...
Massive U.N. bureaucracies that (previously) ran mine-action programs ... have disappeared and they have not been replaced by an expatriate presence on the same scale. And that alone is indicative of the development of national capacity.

perspectives on capacity development

Sara Sekkenes, United Nations Development Programme

Another aspect to consider in mine action is “mainstreaming.” The threat posed by mines should be mainstreamed in the sense that, where you have to build a road you also have to take into consideration other challenges or threats that might hinder or support what you should build that road, as well as planning for any mine activities and costs these considerations may imply. And the landmine issue is just one of those threats. So, in that sense, I believe “mainstreaming” in and of itself needs some capacity development because the mine action community has no clear definition of what mainstreaming means or what we mean by mainstreaming mine action into development.

And, of course, with all these various facets of mine action, we need to define explicit goals. Where are we? Where do we want to go? This should obviously be done together with those who are trying to assist; it’s not something that UNDP can or should do on its own. Rather, this is a constant and progressive dialogue with those affected governments that we assist. We should together draft and develop plans of how we’re going to achieve these goals, including supporting affected governments to abide by the international commitment they have undertaken, and mainstream mine action. We need to establish meaningful relationships between advisers and counterparts. We need to develop and sustain collaborative working alliances. We need to work on counterpart abilities and readiness to change. Capacity development is not only to support change, but it’s also to help all stakeholders to understand what needs to be in place in order to achieve change.

Daniele Ressler: How do you, representing the UNDP, define or understand capacity development in the context of mine action and what are the underlying things that make this concept important to the UNDP?

Sara Sekkenes: In terms of definitions, a development need is the difference between current and required or desired performance. Capacity development would be an ongoing approach and process concerned with identifying or boosting and sustaining national capacity to enhance overall development. That’s the core mandate of what we do.

The whole idea of UNDP supporting mine action obviously stems from the fact that landmines are senseless remnants of war that create obstacles for development and access to social and physical infrastructures. Obviously, something that lies very close to our mandate, in terms of promoting the Millennium Development Goals. What UNDP does is assist national mine-action programs. We may assist to actually establish them and then work, in particular, with capacity development to support mine-affected countries’ ability to manage mine-action institutions and to oversee and coordinate mine-action activities in their respective countries. In mine-action centers, there are many different aspects of capacity development that UNDP works with. Perhaps some of the more obvious aspects are technical and operational issues; for example, we can deploy a Technical Advisor who has map-drawing expertise if that is identified as a need in a mine-action center. Additionally, when we talk about mine action, we talk about so many different factors related to capacity development: the legislative framework for mine action; the national institution and its staff and personnel; administration and financial management; public opinion; operational factors such as mechanical, political, military, and legal factors; the manual clearance; coordination and awareness-raising requirements for survivor and victim assistance; and resource mobilization to determine the plan and strategy for future sustainability of programs, to name a few.

We talk about how mine action fits into the overall development planning of a country in order to facilitate the social and physical infrastructure, access, rehabilitation and expansion. We talk about the ability to perform or to draft national mine-action plans, and to integrate mine into broader development planning agendas, sector planning and budgets. Ultimately, mine action is a very resource-demanding, complex activity and has until now remained quite diverse and separate, which we’re trying to build down by learning the dependency on foreign support to mine action.

Perspectives on Capacity Development

Daniele Ressler is Assistant Editor and Research Specialist for the Journal of Mine Action. She holds a Master of Science in International Relations and has conducted research in the fields of conflict mediation and youth and adult peacebuilding, and Nairobi, Kenya. Daniele has previously worked in the fields of conflict and youth counseling.

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“We’ve significantly improved mine-action clearance operations, but during these 10 years, we’ve also become much better at questioning where we do mine action and why we do it.”

SS: I think we’re talking about optimal activities where we’ve reached the level of desired efficiency and effectiveness. I think many good examples of activities that have reached a level of performance to the full satisfaction of those involved, including national institutions, operational counterparts conducting the programs and donors funding the activity. This requires taking into consideration the challenges and the conducive nature of the environment in which these tasks are supposed to be achieved or carried out. Clearance activities may or may not have been to a full level of the International Mine Action Standards, which require a level of resource mobilization many affected countries will not be able to obtain in the long run. Deservedly, however, we have been able to put best practices with a justifiable and transparent level of efficiency and effectiveness. International, national and local mine-action actors have had an extremely steep learning curve over the years. In countries like Afghanistan, Cambodia and Laos PDR, we’re talking 15, 18 years of humanitarian or development mine action. During that time period, we have seen a narrowing in the gap between the professionals carrying out mine action and the professionals working in development. We’ve also watched a growing understanding of the need for measuring the impact of mine-action activities.

Ten years ago, you had a clear focus on measuring the results of mine action in terms of the number of mines and square meters cleared. However, we have now an understanding that you can have remote mountain areas and border that are mined with mines and high-density minefields, and you can clear as many square meters and mines there as you wish, but there may be little or no impact in terms of facilitating for, or directly improving, the living conditions for civilians and mine-affected communities. Exceptions occur of course, where border areas contain high levels of cross-border activities such as the heavily mined K5 belt on the border between Lao and Vietnam. So over these 10 years, that whole notion has completely changed. I think you will find very few today that would argue that you don’t need to prioritize where you carry out your mine-clearance activities. Too often, we’ve improved every aspect of mine action. We have improved manual demining, mechanical demining, dog demining, the strategic planning, the survey work, the databases. In fact, we’ve significantly improved mine-action clearance operations—but during these 10 years, we’ve also become much better at questioning where we do mine action and why we do it.

DR: Are there any projects, activities or general initiatives that you are presently doing or planning for the future to promote or sustain capacity development in mine action that you think are particularly interesting or edifying for our readers to know about?

SS: During the five years that UNDP has been placed in the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery, there’s been a sharp increase in the requests for assistance from mine-affected countries and a desire to determine what the end goals might be or what we’re looking at ahead; and, together with our national counterparts, use these indicators to identify their desired performance levels that will measure when we can phase out the capacity development support that we’re providing. The intention of this project is to come up with the indicators that will allow us to see different phases in drawing down our support in parallel to the increase of capacity in-country.

DR: So it sounds like this future project is going to be one of the major focal points of your UNDP Mine Action Office.

SS: Yes, it will. We’ve not established indicators for capacity development in the past in UNDP, as I understand, and I don’t think any other operations are doing this project. And I think you only succeed at the annual program managers’ meeting and it was very welcomed.

Of course, the process of measuring indicators and progress is not purely scientific and absolute, but this project is definitely designed to measure the gaps or the challenge in ensuring the funds are used effectively and efficiently in solving the mine problem. We do have a project in the UNDP Mine Action Unit where we’re trying to establish benchmarks for all the countries we’ve worked in, to gauge where these countries are now in terms of the level of capacity development achieved within a huge range of activities as well as determine together with [country] authorities where we are going. The goals of this project are to look at a country’s actual performance—where you are now, project performance to gauge where we’re at now; establish common indicators that will create a uniform methodology and approach to capacity development to achieve desired outcomes in the various countries even though the expectations may differ between countries, depending on how a country wants to address its mine problem.

As of today, I can’t really say that we have anything that proves we’ve achieved what we said we were endeavoring to try to achieve, even though, as mentioned, huge improvements have been made.

DR: What, if any, innovative lessons learned has UNDP identified after working on capacity-development initiatives in mine action?

SS: One lesson learned by UNDP is that you have to document what you are doing, make plans and identify goals to be achieved. This is what we’re looking at a country’s actual performance—what’s being done and projected performance to gauge where we’re at now; establish common indicators something that will create a uniform methodology and approach to capacity development to achieve desired outcomes in the various countries even though the expectations may differ between countries, depending on how a country wants to address its mine problem. We do have a project in the UNDP Mine Action Unit where we’re trying to establish benchmarks for all the countries we’ve worked in, to gauge where these countries are now in terms of the level of capacity development achieved within a huge range of activities as well as determine together with [country] authorities where we are going. The goals of this project are to look at a country’s actual performance—where you are now, project performance to gauge where we’re at now; establish common indicators that will create a uniform methodology and approach to capacity development to achieve desired outcomes in the various countries even though the expectations may differ between countries, depending on how a country wants to address its mine problem.

As of today, I can’t really say that we have anything that proves we’ve achieved what we said we were endeavoring to try to achieve, even though, as mentioned, huge improvements have been made.

DR: Where do you see the greatest areas of hope or promise for future success in capacity development in mine action? What about the greatest challenges for the future?

SS: Future success builds upon the acknowledgement of lessons learned and I think we’re getting there. Another facet of future success is how to ensure that counterparts are willing to mainstream mine action because I think that’s the only way you can actually make it sustainable; ensuring that mine action needs are addressed within the broader development planning and implementation.

The future success of capacity development faces a great challenge in our limited understanding regarding diversification in mainstreaming of mine action. Also, one political challenge is if we don’t see some of the successes that we want to see in 2008 and 2009 in terms of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention it might be difficult to argue to donors to continue supporting mine action directly.

Another challenge is how to ensure that counterparts are qualified, and not political appointees who are less capable and perhaps even less interested in constructively addressing the mine problem. There are a number of examples where undesirable effects of political appointments and corruption stymied development. There has been a huge amount of pressure over the last 15 years for mine action over the last 15 years. That money has been made available, either bilaterally or multilaterally, to governments, national or international organizations and operators in various forms. With that amount of money comes a range of opportunities that can be interpreted in a wide variety of ways, but which requires responsibility in ensuring the funds are used effectively and efficiently in solving the mine problem. There are also a number of cultural differences and other needs to be met, particularly in countries that are going through a major post-conflict phase and/or are facing severe poverty problems with dysfunctional social services. Often, general and specialized education
Building Prosthetics & Orthotics Capacity in the Balkans

The government of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has been working with the Northwestern University Prosthetics/Orthotics Center in developing the Center for International Rehabilitation’s distance learning program to give formal training to experienced prosthetic technicians since 2003. In January 2006, the program’s first students graduated with an International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics Category II certificate. The efforts of the CIR have led to the formation of the BiH Association of Orthopedic Technology, which is in the process of creating an ISPO regional center.

by Nikola Privlak, Justyna Przyjocka and Dr. William K. Smith (Center for International Rehabilitation)

The 1992–1995 war in BiH left the country heavily contaminated with landmines and unexploded ordnance. During the conflict, landmines and UXO were used to protect the front lines. After the war, these devices were set next to roads and around houses to prevent people from returning to their homes. As a result, BiH is among the most mine-affected countries in the world, with the largest and most complex landmine-contamination problem in Europe.

Unbelievable information on minefield locations and a lack of minefield records make this situation extremely dangerous. Since the beginning of the war, there have been 4,921 mine/UXO casualties. 2 Members of the international community and various non-governmental organizations have responded to this urgent humanitarian problem by initiating a variety of programs, working with the local government to clear landmines, promoting landmine education, awareness, and offering landmine assistance programs that provide education, employment and rehabilitation services to landmine survivors.

There are currently 2,280 men, women and children living in BiH who have suffered the amputation of one or more limbs due to mine/UXO incidents. As a result, there is a tremendous need for specialists who are able to provide high-quality prosthetic services quickly and efficiently. To address this demand for more trained prosthetic practitioners, the Center for International Rehabilitation introduced a Distance-Learning Program in prosthetics in BiH in early 2003. The CIR is establishing a regional hub in Bosnia to provide training upgrades to technicians working in rehabilitation centers throughout the Balkan region.

Implementation of the CIR’s Distance Learning Program

In June 2002, the CIR conducted a program assessment as the first step toward establishing a distance learning program in the Balkans. Based on this assessment, the CIR selected a group of centers to participate in network activities. A few of the activities were distance-learning data collection and reporting, technology development and clinical consultation.

The CIR Distance Learning Program was launched in January 2003 and is headquartered in the Prosthetics Department at the University of Washington in Seattle. The CIR students discussing modifications to a plaster mold before making a test socket. All photos courtesy of the CIR/BiH.

For more information on the Helpful Friend rehab center or the organization itself, visit www.helpfulfriend.org or contact info@helpfulfriend.org.

News Brief

“Helpful Friend” Establishes Eco-friendly Rehab Center

Helpful Friend, an organization working to address the problem of landmines and meet the needs of mine victims in Nepal, is establishing an eco-friendly rehabilitation center outside the capital city of Kathmandu. The center will be based on HP’s property in Kakani village. Construction work will be finished by the end of August and the property open for business in January 2008.

Landmines have been a persistent problem in Nepal since its war with the People’s Republic of China. Hundreds of Nepalese citizens are injured or killed every year. Many of these victims become jobless, and the HF rehabilitation center hopes to provide much-needed assistance.

Initially 20 people will be admitted to the center, where they will produce organic vegetables to make the center self-sustainable and provide meaningful labor to the patients. Traditional Nepali cottages from different ethnic groups will be constructed on-site to cater to local expatriates, tourists and other travelers. The center plans to be an eco-tourist site, expanding its appeal with opportunities for bird-watching and pony-trekking.

Residents will not only work on the organic farm but also take advantage of the center’s fishery. They will produce handicrafts and other products such as pottery, jewelry, bamboo products and handmade Nepali paper for center use and profit. Power at the center will be provided by solar panels and cooking will be done using bio-gas.

For more information on the Helpful Friend rehab center or the organization itself, visit www.helpfulfriend.org or contact info@helpfulfriend.org.
software and services company serving the education industry, to develop the first ever Serbo-Croatian (Serbian dialect) language plug-in for WebCT’s Campus Edition 3.8 software. The CIR later switched its on-line platform to a system called Moodie, an open-source distance-education platform that offers over 50 language packages, off-line course-delivery options, and customizable communication and assessment tools.

The CIR’s distance education courses were developed in collaboration with the Northwestern University Prosthetics/Orthotics Center. To date, four courses have been developed: Lower Extremity Prosthetics, Upper Extremity Prosthetics, Lower Extremity Orthotics and Upper Extremity Orthotics. Relevant topics within each course are designed based on module sets, which are comprised of individual modules covering specific topics. For example, the Lower Extremity Prosthetics course is comprised of the transtibial module set, the transfemoral module set, the ischialcontainment module set and the partial-foot amputation module set. The transtibial module set is comprised of 12 modules covering topics such as anatomy, casting and evaluation. ISPO Category II curriculum guidelines were used to develop the course content so that students would be able to obtain Category II certification upon completion of their studies.

The first class to participate in the program included 25 prosthetic technicians from 11 different rehabilitation centers located in BiH and one center in the Republic of Slovenia. These students completed the program in approximately three years. In January 2006, 19 graduates of the program took the ISPO Category II Prosthetic Technologist Certification examination, conducted by the Chairman and one member of the ISPO Education Committee. Independent international examiners from Bosnia, Germany and Macedonia also assisted with the evaluation. The exam was comprised of both theoretical and practical components, and students were required to fabricate a prosthesis device for a patient. Seventeen of the participating students received ISPO Category II Certification in lower extremity prosthetics (transtibial and transfemoral), and the other two students were given the opportunity to successfully complete the exam at a later date. This marked the first time that this certification was awarded to students.

The prosthetic assistant the CIR hired to assist with ISPO studies. The CIR also worked with local and governmental officials to begin the process for national adaptation of its prosthetics curriculum and made strides toward securing professional recognition for prosthetic technicians in BiH. Going forward, the CIR will continue to build capacity in the region by developing new collaborative initiatives with the UKC and government officials. The CIR will provide technical assistance to the UKC to support the development of a PK5 training program and will support the expansion of professional resources and networks such as the Association of Orthopedic Technology in BiH. Ultimately, these efforts will improve the services available to landmine survivors throughout the region and strengthen the rehabilitation infrastructure in BiH.

calls for short courses lasting up to six weeks to be taught to professionals in three different disciplines including physicians, physical therapists and prosthetists/orthotists.

Community participation. Another positive outcome of the CIR’s distance learning program activities in the region was the formation of the BiH Association of Orthopedic Technology, which acts as a representative body for prosthetic technicians working in BiH. One of the association’s tasks is to create a regional chapter of the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics. Once a regional chapter is established, members will be able to participate in ISPO activities and hold regional conferences. An affiliation with ISPO will give local prosthetists access to ISPO resources, including important professional contacts and networks.

Strengthening management and human resources. While running its distance learning program in BiH, the CIR worked closely with administrators from collaborating clinics and centers to discuss management issues, extend the effectiveness of guidance on effective management strategies for prosthetic and orthotic workshops and laboratories.

The prosthetic assistant the CIR hired to assist with ISPO studies was an employee of the UKC who had prior experience in provision of prosthetic services. He provided guidance and instruction to students and assisted with logistics and asset management, evaluation and training of a number of student prosthetists. He continues to work for the UKC and now has the advanced program-management skills to assist the UKC in the implementation of future programs.

The CIR will participate in the CIR’s Train-the-Trainer program, designed to transfer advanced technical and management skills. Through this program, the UKC’s lead prosthetics instructor will travel to the United States for further training at the CIR and Northwestern University.

Summary

From 2003–2006, the CIR successfully ran an innovative distance learning program in prosthetics in BiH. Of the initial cohort of 19 students, 17 received ISPO Category II certification upon completion of their studies. The CIR also worked with local and governmental ministries to begin the process for national adaptation of its prosthetics curriculum and made strides toward securing professional recognition for prosthetic technicians in BiH. Going forward, the CIR will continue to build capacity in the region by developing new collaborative initiatives with the UKC and government officials. The CIR will provide technical assistance to the UKC to support the development of a PK5 training program and will support the expansion of professional resources and networks such as the Association of Orthopedic Technology in BiH. Ultimately, these efforts will improve the services available to landmine survivors throughout the region and strengthen the rehabilitation infrastructure in BiH.
The future looks bright for Bock and Landmines Blow! New ideas and developments are circulating throughout the organization and creating a buzz in the mine-action world. "I think that mine action needs some new blood," remarks Bock. "I think that it needs people who are passionate about it to get out and talk about it. I think that it needs some new champions because it is still a significant problem." New programs are coming soon for the organization, including a new initiative called H2O—Helping Others. Along with this new program, expanding the already successful Project Safe Water to other countries abroad and a goal for the near future. Bock also wants to make strides in advocating for women’s rights. "I’d really like to focus on the promotion of women in the communities that we serve," says Bock.

In the realm of mine action, Bock has had a great impact and still keeps contributing in such a spiritual manner, others can’t help but admire her character. "Like a hero personally, as well as professionally," states Davis. "She is diligent, anxious to follow the rules and regulations and provide the information and carry out responsibilities and requirements of the grant. She’s very easy to work with." Her continuous work in the mine-action community is slowly making the world a little brighter for those whose work has been deprecated by landmines and UXO. "The true heroes are the thousands of survivors out there trying to make ends meet," asserts Bock. "They don’t want handouts. They want the opportunities to support their families—basics things like food, shelter, clean water and an education. They want hope."
Unsung Hero

VANJA JOKIĆ RAŽNJEVIĆ

by Jennette Townsend and Rachel Canfield [Mine Action Information Center]

A s a single mother, Vanja Ražnjević felt that she had no other choice than to apply for a demining position with Norwegian People’s Aid. “I needed a job,” says Ražnjević, “and this job seemed really normal for me because I spent time in Croatia during the war and became accustomed to danger.” Following a series of mistakes that caused hundreds of accidents, many fatal, a new battalion of the National Police of Peru now ensures demining quality for 1,711 power transmission towers.

“Unsung Hero: Vanja Jokic Ražnjević”

by Jennette Townsend and Rachel Canfield [Mine Action Information Center]

T he Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction, Vol. 11, Iss. 1 [2007], Art. 1

The Coordinator of the Provincial Commission on Landmine Action and Humanitarian Aid (CNDH) in Huambo, Angola, announced the formation of a team to monitor demining methods by the end of 2007.

Aspórito Nkaka said the team will work in heavily mined provinces like Bailundo, Huambo, Katchingu and Tombela-Yocholanga. The team will evaluate demining policies and strategies with the goal of alleviating long delays in the monitoring of the quality of cleared areas.

The team members will be incorporated into the demining process as soon as possible and will facilitate clearance operations for the opening of new roads and farmland.

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The Comité Européen de Normalisation has organised workshops to aid the establishment of standard methodologies for demining. This article discusses the workshops and the agreements reached in those workshops. The author includes a list of contacts for additional information on demining equipment and methods.

notes from the field

The increase of humanitarian-demining activities in the late 1990s awakened the need for a standardised assessment of the equipment used in these activities. Although trials of the capabilities of available demining equipment were already taking place, the lack of testing standardisation made it difficult to compare test results to determine which equipment was best suited to any particular need. Therefore, test results were frequently of limited use to the end-user community. It was within this context that the European Commission mandated in 2000 that the Comité Européen de Normalisation establish standard methodologies for humanitarian demining. In order to fulfil this mandate, the CEN Technical Committee created Technical Working Group 126 (CEN BT/WG126) to ensure coordination and generate specific standardisation initiatives.

The CEN Workshop Approach

CEN has introduced the CEN Workshop, a mechanism and approach to standardisation. It is intended to be a process in which clients can bring their standardisation and technical specification requirements and have the opportunity to find a solution in an environment “tailor made” for their needs. The workshop concept provides an opportunity for any party faced with a technical challenge to find others in a similar situation and develop a result by consensus, validated with a technical challenge to find others in a similar situation and develop a result by consensus.

The CEN Workshop Agreements

Two of the completed workshops were on the test and evaluation of mine-action equipment during the July 2005 amendment. During 2006 the following new CEN Workshops started:

- CEN Workshop 26—Humanitarian Mine Action—Personal Protective Equipment—Test and Evaluation
- CEN Workshop 7 (revisited)—Humanitarian Mine Action—Test and Evaluation—Metal Detectors—Part 2: Soil Characterisation for Metal Detector and Ground Penetrating Radar Performance

Both Workshops will publish final CEN Workshop Agreements by the end of 2007.

Published CWAs for Test and Evaluation of Humanitarian Demining Equipment

CWA, Test and Evaluation of Metal Detectors (CWA 14747, June 2003). CWA 14747 provides guidelines, principles and procedures for test and evaluation of metal detectors. As far as possible, procedures for testing have been closely specified. The agreement applies to all handheld metal detectors for use in humanitarian demining and is intended to be used for commercial off-the-shelf detectors, but many of the tests specified could be applied to detectors under development. It should be noted that few users of the document are intended to be used for commercial off-the-shelf detectors, but many of the tests specified could be applied to detectors under development. It should be noted that few users of the document are intended to be used for commercial off-the-shelf detectors, but many of the tests specified could be applied to detectors under development.

CWA 14747, “Test and Evaluation of Metal Detectors,” and CWA 15444, “Survivability Testing: Testing of the explosive forces on the machine and operators. The explosive force used is based on the level of threat against which the machine is designed.”

The procedures for setting up and operating CEN Workshops are deliberately kept to a minimum and all the decision-making powers rest with the participating parties themselves (i.e., the workshop participants). They cover their costs and are responsible for the direction of the workshop as well as the approval of the deliverables.

The main activity of a CEN Workshop is the development and publication of the CEN Workshop Agreement. The CWA is a technical agreement endorsed and adopted by interested parties on a voluntary basis. Published CWAs are publicly available on the International Test and Evaluation Program for Humanitarian Demining Web site, among others, and can be used free of charge. They are promulgated in the International Mine Action Standards after consideration by the IMAS Review Board.

Since the creation of the CEN BT/WG 126, the following CEN Workshops have been completed and the associated CWAs published:

- CEN Workshop 2—Humanitarian Mine Action—Test and Evaluation—Metal Detectors

The main objective of the recomenced Workshop 7 will be to produce an addition to the CWA 14747 that incorporates new scientific knowledge on testing procedures and provides user guidance on key performance tests for field use as well as for laboratory testing. The CWA, Test and Evaluation of Demining Machines (CWA 15044, July 2004). The aim of CWA 15044 was to create industry-accepted criteria for the testing, evaluation and acceptance of COTS mechanical equipment used in humanitarian demining.

It should be noted that few users of the document are intended to be used for commercial off-the-shelf detectors, but many of the tests specified could be applied to detectors under development. It should be noted that few users of the document are intended to be used for commercial off-the-shelf detectors, but many of the tests specified could be applied to detectors under development. It should be noted that few users of the document are intended to be used for commercial off-the-shelf detectors, but many of the tests specified could be applied to detectors under development.
The International Mine Action Standards are guidelines set by the United Nations to implement mine-action programs safely and effectively. The author discusses the purpose and processes of the IMAS as well as provides various references for those interested in learning more about the IMAS.

by Paiz M. Pakian | Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining |

B
dack in March 1997, the United Nations Mine Action Service issued the first edition of international standards for humanitarian mine clearance. These standards have since been expanded to include the other components of mine action and to reflect changes to operational procedures, practices and norms. The original standards were redeveloped and renamed as International Mine Action Standards with the first edition produced in October 2010. Therefore, 2007 marks the 10th anniversary of the original mine action standards.

The IMAS are standards the United Nations has issued to guide the planning, implementation and management of mine action programs. They have been developed to improve safety, quality and efficiency in mine action. The IMAS follow the International Mine Action Standards.

The International Mine Action Standards are guidelines set by the United Nations to implement mine-action programs safely and effectively. The author discusses the purpose and processes of the IMAS as well as provides various references for those interested in learning more about the IMAS.

Franciska Barry has been working for the Secretariat of the International Test and Evaluation Program for Humanitarian Demining since June 2003. She provides advice, assistance and coordination services to the ITF Executive Committee. She is further responsible for the maintenance of all ITF information databases and serves as the point of contact for any communication with ITF.

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Points of Contact

The contacts listed below are available to provide advice on the planning and conduct of an evaluation according to the described CEN Workshop Agreements. Please do not hesitate to contact them when considering a trial of demining equipment or demining methods.

- **ITEP Secretariat**: secretariat@itf.ws
- **ITEP Working Group on Test and Evaluation of Mechanical Assistance Clearance Equipment**: Geoff Cole, Geoff.cole@drdc-rddc.gc.ca, or Chris Weickert, Chris.Weickert@drdc-rddc.gc.ca
- **ITEP Working Group on Test and Evaluation of Dual (Multi) Sensors**: David Lewis, dwlewis@gninet.com
- **GICHD**: Erik Tollfesen, e.tollfesen@gichd.ch
- **United Nations Mine Action Service**: Noel Mulliner, mullinfer@un.org

More information can be obtained from the IMAS homepage.

### News Brief

**Burmese Separatist Group Signs Statement Against Landmines**

The National Democratic Front of Burma signed a statement against landmine use at its January 2007 Central Executive Committee meeting. The statement directs various member organizations, which claimed landmines were an effective self-defense tactic, to find ways to minimize mine use.

The NDF also directed members to apply strict usage rules, regulate/supervise mine activity and ensure villagers in NDF areas are not harmed by the use of landmines. Formed in 1976, the NDF is an umbrella organization for armed opposition groups of Burma/Myanmar’s various ethnic nationalities. More than 2,000 people are estimated to be members of the National Democratic Front.
I am in Ecuador, a Latin American country of 13.3 million people, at the invitation of the Office of Humanitarian Demining of the Organization of American States. The OAS oversees demining projects throughout Latin America. Some of you may remember that two years ago I went to Nicaragua on a similar mission. This time I was asked to conduct trauma-training seminars in Quito and then do a field assessment.

The purpose of my field visit was to evaluate the emergency medical capabilities and evacuation process in the unlikely event of a demining injury. I spent time visiting the worksites and medical facilities, interviewing deminers and medical personnel, and gaining a full understanding of the situation. Overall it was a very productive mission and I received substantial positive feedback.

A Little Background

Ecuador is one of the smallest countries in South America and sits astride the equator—hence its name. There are four distinct regions: the coast, the Andes highlands, the Oriente (the east) and the Galapagos Islands. Quito, the capital city of 1.4 million people, sits in the Andes at about 9,000 feet (2,743 meters) in a long valley surrounded by mountains and volcanoes. The recently renamed Centro Histórico (historical center) is the old part of town designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site; it is quite impressive. The new part of town is quite modern, and plenty of American chain restaurants are visible on numerous street corners. With a per-capita gross domestic product of US$3,700, Ecuador is better off than many of the countries I have visited recently, but still has a long way to go. Interestingly, in September 2000, Ecuador switched its currency and began using the U.S. dollar. Now I don't mean that their currency is pegged to the dollar; they actually only use real U.S. dollars. U.S. coins, including the Sacarwaya dollars that have all but disappeared from use in the States, are also in circulation.

Ecuador's history includes colonization by the Incas in the early 15th century and later by the Spanish in 1535. The country gained independence in 1822 and soon after, a long border dispute began with Peru. Wars and skirmishes were fought every few years until 1935. A compromise was finally reached and a peace treaty signed in 1998 when Ecuador gained a square kilometer (0.4 square mile) of land that was previously considered Peru's. One of the unfortunate lasting results of the conflict, however, is an estimated 11,000 unexploded ordnance (UXO). No one wants to live in a minefield. Some of the more remote areas of the country have not been demined. These areas are now used for farming, ranching, and tourism.

Santiago's Situation

Since the humanitarian mine-action programs began in Ecuador in 1999, there have been no demining injuries, however, one civilian death and two injuries have been reported in the region around Santiago. The sites we visited most recently began operations in 2004. Santiago's Situation

Clearing is expected to continue until 2008 or 2009. Although clearing of old landmines will not have a lasting result, the work has saved lives in the short term. The overall process of demining is an important part of the mine-action process. It also provides information on Ecuador's own mine problem.
MITS Training

My first week in Ecuador was spent teaching the Mine Injury and Trauma Seminar to Ecuadorian, Peruvian and Colombian military paramedics, nurses and physicians. This seminar, which I created from numerous sources, provides a review for medical personnel working in demining units and concentrates on the basics of trauma care, including the “ABCs.” Airway, Breathing and Circulation. Airway, breathing and circulation are the cornerstone of the MITS, which is sponsored by the OAS’s Office of Humanitarian Mine Action.

During May 2004 in Nicaragua and again in November 2006 in Ecuador, with OMS support, I ran the seminar for military and civilian paramedics, nurses and physicians. The seminar is designed as a short refresher course for medical personnel with specific emphasis on treating mine victims.

MITS is held over two days, with the first day consisting of lectures, videos, and discussions and a second day devoted to skills practice and role-play scenarios. I taught two full sessions, and all the participants stated that they learned a great deal. Apart from the Quito presentations, in Santiago I was able to teach an abbreviated version of MITS to the paramedics, squad leaders and physicians. The seminar is designed for military and civilian paramedics, nurses and physicians. The seminar was very useful for those practicing airway skills.

The seminar focuses on understanding the principles behind the causes of wounds. As many injury-prevention experts say, injuries are not accidents; there are identifiable and preventable risk factors. Prevention is the optimal therapy, but by understanding the mechanisms of injury, differing patterns of wounds, forces involved, and anatomy and physiology, many injuries can be predicted and efforts made to anticipate the needs of the victims.

The seminar is not designed to certify personnel, substandard outcomes can result. The seminar focuses on understanding the principles behind the causes of wounds. As many injury-prevention experts say, injuries are not accidents; there are identifiable and preventable risk factors. Prevention is the optimal therapy, but by understanding the mechanisms of injury, differing patterns of wounds, forces involved, and anatomy and physiology, many injuries can be predicted and efforts made to anticipate the needs of the victims.

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Ecuadorian and Peruvian doctors and paramedics practice airway skills. The Ecuador seminar and was very useful for those practicing airway skills.
Angola LIS: Guidelines for Using LIS Results in Mine Action Annual Planning

The Survey Action Center and Comissão Nacional Intersectorial de Desminagem e Assistência Humânita carried out the Angola Landmine Impact Survey. In July 2006, SAC sent the author on the first of three planned missions to Angola as Technical Advisor to the independent LIS. The article explains the Provisional Provincial Reports, which contain a section of guidelines on the use of LIS results for operational planning. The National Mine Action Strategy for Angola was developed based on interim LIS results, and the detailed data supporting those results are made freely available to all interested parties.

Summary

LIS results for operational planning. The National Mine Action Strategy for Angola was developed based on interim LIS results, and the detailed data supporting those results are made freely available to all interested parties.

Guidelines for the Use of LIS for Operational Planning

The PPRs contain a section of guidelines on the use of LIS results for operational planning, developed by the author and reproduced in the following paragraphs. The guidelines are meant to provide practical guidance to make greater use of the LIS information. Comments and suggestions to improve these guidelines and make them more useful are welcome. These guidelines are also available as a Word file from the author.

Introduction

The National Mine Action Strategy for Angola was published in 2005 and updated in 2007. The strategy was developed based on LIS results and is aimed at solving the landmine problem in Angola by focusing on resources to eliminate the blockage of community and development activities, mark other areas that do not impact community or development activities and eventually remove all explo- sive hazards. The identification of commu- nities impacted by landmines comes primarily from the LIS, while the identification of development projects generally comes from the respective ministries, provincial authori- ties and local communities. These factors should be reviewed in open discussions of the landmine problem and its solutions at the provincial, national and local level to arrive at the mine-action plan. The key points of the National Mine Action Strategy include:

1. Identify all LIS high-impact communities in the province and include them in the annual and medium-term plans in order to eliminate all impact and minimize further risk in all high-impact communities with a given impact score under 50.
2. Identify all LIS medium-impact communities in the province and include them in the annual and medium-term plans in order to eliminate all impact and minimize further risk in at least 50 percent of medium-impact communities within three to five years.
3. Identify all high- and medium-impact communities in the province and re- focus on priority high- and medium-term plans to address risk according to impact, particularly by reducing risky behav- ior of populations and reconfiguring blockages. This task should include prompt response to new incidents with a high or medium impact.
4. Ensure CNIDAH has accurate information reflecting changes in circum- stances and mine action accomplished since the beginning of the project.
5. Investigate and provide LIS updates to CNIDAH on all new landmines found, landmines cleared or affected communities or SHAs and changes to previous information.
6. Submit quarterly progress reports and task completion reports to CNIDAH.

Conclusion

To ensure realism and a greater chance of success, each task should include a quantifi- able indicator (e.g., number or percentage of cleared villages) for each year. These indicators must be reviewed promptly as would be preferred. In the LIS scores provide a measure of the impact of mine action; it is a measure of “outcome” and not merely of “output” like measures of area cleared or number of anti-personnel mines removed. The National Mine Action Strategy for Angola has been developed based on interim LIS results, and CNIDAH has made the de- cision that the scores are likely insufficient to respond to all these factors as promptly as would be preferred.

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11.1 | winter 2012 | journal of mine action | notes from the field | 33
Charles Downs has worked in mine action since 1989 when he became the Chief of the Mine Action Unit of the United Nations Office for Project Services Mine Action Unit. Current assignments include: SAC Technical Advisor for the Angola LIS, professor of international project management at New York University’s Wagner School, assessment of the impact of management training for national mine-action managers and development of practice based guidelines to increase the effectiveness of UNMAP capacity development efforts under projects funded by the Global Fund for AIDS/HIV, TB and Malaria.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE KENDLEN
LIS community interview by UNIC/Trust in Benguela province
PHOTO COURTESY OF WARKA AMRAN

News Brief

Canadian Mine Survivor Gets Custom Motorcycle

When Canadian Master Corporal Jody Mitic lost both his feet after stepping on a landmine in Afghanistan, Mitic never thought he would be able to ride a motorcycle again. After months in recovery at Toronto's St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital, Mitic had two new prosthetic feet and was walking with just a cane but still had little hope of ever riding a motorcycle. Having contacted the Barrie Harley dealership before his accident about purchasing a bike, Mitic had to wait 260 hours in labor to build Mitic’s perfect custom Harley.

Community organizers heard of Mitic’s situation and raised more than CN$50,000 for the custom bike, which includes a hand-operated shifter and a hand brake that works both front and rear brake. To supplement the funding shortfall, bike builders from the Barrie Harley dealership donated 260 hours in labor to build Mitic's perfect custom Harley.

News Brief

Child-to-Adult Method in Mine Risk Education

The child-to-adult method is an approach to learning that involves children as full participants in learning about and promoting MRE messages and instructions. The aim of this approach is to establish a community-based MRE program and to make use of the emotional relationship between the child and his/her parents in order to get parents and other adults to change their attitudes toward mines and ERW.

After IKMAA tested the Child-to-Adult method in a mine-affected village, it became clear that children not only looked after younger siblings but that they could also have a powerful influence on their peers, their parents and even the communities in which they live. The way in which messages are transmitted from children to others differs greatly depending on the experience and skills of the children and the group they may be asked to influence. The easiest group for children to reach is generally their peer group and the hardest is their parents. It is not normal in most cultures for children to "teach" their parents; however, children can involve their parents in activities that indirectly help to educate the parents or inspire them to seek further information. The situation may be different if parents ask their children for information, for example in communities where parents are not literate and they regard their children as important sources of information.

Child-to-Adult: A Different Approach to Learning

The child-to-adult method is a program carried out at the community level in which MRE operators exchange information with the community to help reduce the risk of death or injury by mines or explosive remnants of war. In many communities, children may not count as the group at highest risk as young men often face the most danger from ERW. However, the risk from mines/UXOs may be one that becomes more relevant to the children as they get older, and it is easier to reach them and influence their behavior while they are young.

What is Child-to-Adult?

Child-to-Adult is an approach used to train children to be teachers in their homes teaching family members about MRE messages and instructions. The aim of this approach is to establish a community-based MRE program and to make use of the emotional relationship between the child and his/her parents in order to get parents and other adults to change their attitudes toward mines and ERW.

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Child-to-Adult: A Different Approach to Learning

The child-to-adult method is an approach to learning that involves children as full participants in learning about and promoting MRE messages to their families, friends and communities. It demands that the children:

1. Participate in developing and designing activities
2. Link what they are learning with problems they face
3. Involve their family members and others outside the immediate learning environment

Child-to-Adult method has powerful links to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is a practical way in which a child's right to participate in decisions that affect him or her can be truly implemented.

MRE risk education is a program carried out at the community level in which MRE operators exchange information with the community to help reduce the risk of death or injury by mines or explosive remnants of war. In many communities, children may not count as the group at highest risk as young men often face the most danger from ERW. However, the risk from mines/UXOs may be one that becomes more relevant to the children as they get older, and it is easier to reach them and influence their behavior while they are young.

What is Child-to-Adult?

Child-to-Adult is an approach used to train children to be teachers in their homes teaching family members about MRE messages and instructions. The aim of this approach is to establish a community-based MRE program and to make use of the emotional relationship between the child and his/her parents in order to get parents and other adults to change their attitudes toward mines and ERW.

After IKMAA tested the Child-to-Adult method in a mine-affected village, it became clear that children not only looked after younger siblings but that they could also have a powerful influence on their peers, their parents and even the communities in which they live. The way in which messages are transmitted from children to others differs greatly depending on the experience and skills of the children and the group they may be asked to influence. The easiest group for children to reach is generally their peer group and the hardest is their parents. It is not normal in most cultures for children to "teach" their parents; however, children can involve their parents in activities that indirectly help to educate the parents or inspire them to seek further information. The situation may be different if parents ask their children for information, for example in communities where parents are not literate and they regard their children as important sources of information.

Child-to-Adult: A Different Approach to Learning

The child-to-adult method is an approach to learning that involves children as full participants in learning about and promoting MRE messages to their families, friends and communities. It demands that the children:

1. Participate in developing and designing activities
2. Link what they are learning with problems they face
3. Involve their family members and others outside the immediate learning environment

Child-to-Adult method has powerful links to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is a practical way in which a child's right to participate in decisions that affect him or her can be truly implemented.
Implementation of Child-to-Adult

Child-to-Adult approach is well-suited for implementation under conditions in which adults are unable to meet. For example, if there are difficulties or problems in gathering or meeting with adults due to their occupation with daily activities or because they are civil government officers, members of the military or policemans, the Child-to-Adult method is applicable. Other adults such as shepherds, farmers, smugglers and hunters are usually out of the village and thus unable to participate in traditional MRE activities. Sometimes there may be social, religious or security reasons, or restrictions in some communities preventing the MRE team from meeting with adults. Also, adults are not generally able to meet the MRE team for long hours or consecutive days of MRE sessions.

Many conditions must be satisfied to use the Child-to-Adult approach. The first condition involves designing a special MRE curriculum and educational materials such as posters and leaflets for distribution. Next, an area and group to work with the children (who will be chosen using the aforementioned criteria) should be selected. Seven to 10 days of training are necessary. A prepared CED containing information about mines and MRE distributed to the participating children as an educational tool will assist the children later in explaining MRE messages and instructions to their families. It is important that there be strong coordination among the MRE operator, local authorities and the child’s family for the task to succeed.

While implementing MRE instructions, the child has to:
- Respect his/her family members and assist them.
- Perform daily chores so his family can rely on him/her.
- Try to play his/her role in the family as an MRE instructor and teach them messages in convenient times.
- Be patient and kind in relaying the MRE messages.

The Child-to-Adult Approach

For many children, mine-risk education is a vital and sensitive topic. Teaching about the risk of mines has to:
- Start with finding out what children already know and their feelings about mines. Learning activities must be based on the children’s resourcefulness, on the knowledge they have and on their creativity and ability to understand the dangers. Children behave responsibly when adults trust them and foster in them self-respect and respect for others.
- There is great potential for children to become involved in MRE programs. The child-to-adult approach can use helpful local culture and tradition to reinforce messages. It can also challenge local culture and tradition when those traditions lead to unsafe behaviour by involving children and their families in exploring the problems as they apply to the local context. This forms the basis for the design of appropriate interventions.

Advantages of the Child-to-Adult Approach

In rural communities, children are mostly forced to go out either individually or with the adults to perform daily activities such as grazing animals, collecting herbs or wood and to participate in dangerous actions such as dismantling mines or ERW to sell for scrap metal. In this case both of them will be in real danger, but the trained child can help the adults to recognize dangerous items (mines and ERW) and warn them not to touch them because they may detonate. In addition to recognizing mined areas by becoming aware of mine warning signs, children warn the adults not to conduct the mentioned activities in mined areas.

Thus the child helps the adults to stay away from the danger of mines and that reduces mine accidents.

Training the Child to be a Teacher

The Child-to-Adult approach can be used to train the child to be a teacher in his/her home as follows:

Step 1: Understanding activities
Step 2: Finding out more
Step 3: Discussing and planning
Step 4: Taking action

Step 5: Evaluating what was done
Step 6: Doing it better

- The adults are asked to satisfy and support the idea of the children as “little teachers” or “little instructors.” In such cases, selected children are asked to assume the role of an adult, and they are trained to teach other children in much the same way as an adult instructor teaches.

Difficulties with Using the Child-to-Adult Approach

Participation and cooperation. The Child-to-Adult approach needs teachers who believe in the ability of children to participate in their own learning. The approach is different from formal teaching methods. Teachers need training and/or exposure to good practice. The approach needs ongoing support not just by outsiders but by the children’s parents and other important people in the community.

Children’s self-esteem and communication skills will be greatly developed through participation in child-to-adult activities, but as the start of a project they need plenty of encouragement and careful guidance.

Attitude of adults. Children’s lack of skills in this kind of approach must not be overlooked. It is remarkable how quickly children adapt to having their ideas and opinions taken seriously. Observers are often amazed and delighted at how easily and freely children discuss problems and solutions during these sessions, which suggest that the key problem to working with children in this way is the attitude of the adults, not the abilities of the children.

Habits of some communities. In some communities, the adults do not accept their children as instructors or advisers. Their culture and habits do not allow the child to sit with the adults, especially in the nomadic and tribe families; however, some progress has been made due to the effect of media and the technology on the communities and especially general (rural communities in particular). This point has to be taken into consideration and it becomes a challenge for the operators.

Messages must not be wrong. As children are powerful communicators of messages to others, it is essential they get the messages right. If the messages are incorrect, children will effectively learn and repeat the wrong information.

Conclusion

The child is like clay; you can mold him into anything you want by preparing him with the appropriate teachings or instructions. In this case, you train the child and prepare him or her to be an instructor for his/her peers and parents at the same time.

The Child-to-Adult method is an effective approach when the child has the right to participate in decision-making in matters that have an effect on his or her life. It is also an appropriate method when MRE officers cannot meet with adults because of security reason, like in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries. IKMAA has found that children are not only easier to meet with for MRE lessons, but they also have a powerful influence on their peers, family members and others in the community.

See Endnotes, Page

Mudharar Aziz Hamad

Mudharar Aziz Hamad graduated from Salahaddin University in 1989. After that, he worked with the Mines Advisory Group and then with the United Nations Office for Project Services as an MRE Officer. Since 2004 he has been working as the Director of MRE at IKMAA. Mr. Aziz has had more than 50 articles published in the Iraqi press in Arabic, Kurdish and English. He is also Editor-in-Chief of Agama magazine, a periodical aimed at creating regional awareness among children in Kurdistan about mines and ERW.

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Armed Non-state Actors: Their Contribution to Solving the Landmine Problem

This article presents some findings and lessons learned from a report on armed non-state actor involvement in mine action. The report shows that it is possible to engage in humanitarian mine action with NSAs. The main conclusion is that engaging NSAs in mine action has significant benefits since their involvement supports the implementation of the main objective of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention; to reduce the humanitarian impact of AP mines and unexploded ordnance.

by Anki Sjöberg [ Geneva Call ]

Armed non-state actors are currently involved as fighting parties in conflicts all over the world; hence, for a true universalization of the rules and principles of human rights and international humanitarian law, the involvement of NSAs must be considered. This is equally true for prohibiting the use of AP mines because NSAs currently employ these devices. As NSAs are part of the problem, any solution must include them.

This article presents some of the main findings of a 2006 report, Armed Non-State Actors and Landmines. Volume II: A Global Report of NSA Mine Action, which maps and analyzes mine action by NSAs. The report is the second part of a wider project, following a 2005 report that focused on the negative aspects of the involvement of NSAs in the landmine problem. The 2006 report presents:

• Some general findings concerning involvement by NSAs in mine action, separated into the five mine-action pillars: mine-ban advocacy (also including mine-ban policy), stockpile destruction, mine clearance, mine-risk education and victim assistance.
• The findings of an analysis of mine action globally by NSAs—examining mine action, the advantages, difficulties and lessons learned.

NSAs’ Involvement in the Five Mine-action Pillars

The report found practical mine-action examples in the areas of each of the five mine-action pillars. A total of some 50 groups was documented as involved in some type of mine action, which was more than expected. The mine-action activities recorded were not entirely conducted by non-state actors. They were also performed by independent or local or international organizations but facilitated by NSAs.

These are important differences in the numbers of NSAs involved in the different mine-action pillars. The greatest numbers of NSAs were involved in activities related to the mine-ban policy—35 NSAs have banned AP mines. Of these, 31 had signed Geneva Call’s Deed of Commitment, and at least an additional 14 had allegedly introduced some type of limitations (temporal or applied) to their mine use. At least six NSAs, all of them signatories to the Deed of Commitment, have reportedly been involved in promoting the mine ban to other non-state actors.

NSAs are rarely involved in stockpile destruction, although this has occurred in a total of 10 instances. Sometimes NSAs do not destroy stockpiles because they have not yet agreed to a total ban on AP mines. In some cases, the failure to destroy their stockpiles has also been due to circumstances beyond their control—a lack of funds or non-cooperation by a concerned state, for example.

Thirty-one NSAs have participated in mine clearance and related activities. In 10 cases, these activities formed part of a mine-action program. The remainder participated on a spontaneous or ad hoc basis, involving activities such as clearing camps when leaving them, clearing mines on the request of the population and adopting policies to map the mines employed.

Few NSAs have been directly involved in large-scale MRE programs; four groups were conducting mine-risk education programs themselves and 12 were facilitating programs or projects. NSAs engage more frequently in ad hoc MRE by providing information about mines to civilians (14 cases documented).

NSAs have reportedly directly provided assistance to civilian victims of landmine accidents in 20 cases and have allowed or facilitated outside organizations to provide victim assistance in areas controlled by the NSAs (15 such cases were documented). While not always reported, it can be assumed that NSAs generally provide their own combatant victims with assistance to the extent possible. Assessment of NSAs’ Involvement in Mine Action and Its Advantages

Generally, NSAs that have banned mines are more likely to be involved in mine action than groups that have not. Some mine-action practitioners (as well as Action 46 of the Nairobi Action Plan) suggest that there should be greater support for mine-action activities when the concerned NSAs have committed to a mine ban.

There are different reasons why NSAs become involved in mine action. Recurring themes are humanitarian and development concerns and self-interest. Community pressure is sometimes highlighted as a main factor. An NSA’s decision to engage in mine action could also be motivated by a combination of factors.

The primary benefits of mine action by NSAs are considered to be the same as those arising from other forms of mine action, i.e., principally humanitarian and developmental. Nevertheless, the complementary effects of NSA mine action (employment and stability; peace-building; security and disarmament; and openness to discussing other humanitarian norms) are different, and these are often perceived to be as important as—or even more important than—the primary benefits of working with NSAs. In addition, the primary benefits for the population in an area controlled by or influenced by NSAs may be relatively more significant, given that these areas generally lack developmental and humanitarian activities.

The main factors that appear to make humanitarian mine-action organizations regard involvement by NSAs as necessary, rather than merely desirable, are:
• The group’s military training.
• Its possession of information about the mines in the area (and possibly maps)
• Its links to the territory and the population.
• The security and cost-effectiveness of working with these actors.

Challenges, Tentative Solutions and Lessons Learned

The Armed Non-State Actors and Landmines. Volume II: A Global Report of NSA Mine Action report showed it is possible to work with NSAs in humanitarian mine action, although various difficulties and challenges involved were identified. The following sections present some of the tentative solutions and lessons learned:

Need to understand and adapt to the political and conflict situation. The report found the need for flexibility and understanding of the circumstances in which mine action by NSAs takes place to be particularly important. This open-mindedness requires the situation to be carefully analyzed in detail, taking into account local knowledge.

Although it has sometimes been argued that a ceasefire, or even a peace agreement, is a necessary condition for comprehensive mine-action operations, it is generally agreed that some mine-action opportunities may present themselves before the end of the conflict. In fact, a step-by-step approach taking certain minimum actions may not only save lives, but also facilitates larger-scale mine-action activities following the cessation of hostilities.

Flexibility and adaptability are crucial features for security-related problems, a major concern for mine action involving NSAs. Mine-action organizations introduce new security procedures and use local guards to overcome such problems. Another possible solution, at least on a temporary basis, has been to work at a distance by training staff in a safer environment and undertaking other aspects of mine action that can be performed at a distance (e.g., certain parts of the de-militarization process).

Need for cooperation by the concerned state. One of the main conclusions of a workshop on mine action in the midst of conflict held in Zagreb, Croatia, in 2005 related to the allocation of legal responsibility for mine action in areas under control by NSAs. It was found that States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention

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https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1717&context=jiss
Such measures may also avoid unnecessary tensions between mine-action organizations and NGOs.

Need for increased support. In general, mine-action practitioners have found third-party states and the international community quite supportive of mine-action efforts involving NGOs, although not sufficiently so. Third-party actors could make greater contributions in raising funds and pressuring non-cooperating states. Both the financial and political aspects of support are crucial; however, despite the problems related to funding for NSA mine action, it has been argued that some governments are only interested in supporting mine-action work with NSAs largely because of the expected peace-building gains. It has also been claimed that humanitarian actors themselves ought to make greater efforts to convince governments of the need for mine action and the humanitarian benefits it brings. Need for confidence-building, commitment, and cooperation. To work in difficult situations, mine-action practitioners need to build relationships of trust, not only with the NSAs, but also with the local communities and authorities. In some cases, a mine ban on behalf of the NSAs (such as the Deggendorf Declaration) could help to ensure non-state actors’ cooperation with mine-action organizations. Since some NSAs have begun mine-action activities on their own before enrolling in international programs, this may facilitate the commencement of such programs. Mine-action issues should also be included (but not exclusively) in exploratory discussions and peace negotiations between governments and NSAs.

Implementing mixed demining teams (made up of NSAs and government forces), aimed at confidence and peace-building, is likely to require communication among all parties and leadership by an independent NGO to facilitate the process. Need for transparency. One key practice to facilitate mine-action activities in difficult situations is transparency. By being open and clear about their activities, humanitarian actors can convince NSAs and concerned states of their neutrality in order to avoid accusations of complicity and restrictions on the execution of their work. In return, NSAs and the concerned state(s) also need to be transparent with humanitarian actors in order to maximize the benefits from mine action since restrictions on the sharing of information may cause delays or lead to the cancellation of projects. When NSAs are involved in ad hoc mine-action activities, it is especially important that mine-action practitioners deal with them by consulting, considering, and including them in the execution of the mine-action program to avoid tensions between international/national and local efforts. In addition, involving NSAs in mine action is relevant to the issue of accountability, since the people who demine stay in the area afterwards and would therefore have a vested interest in the program’s success. It can be beneficial to include affected communities in the processes of dialogue and negotiation with NSAs since their relationship with the NSAs allows the communities to put pressure on the armed actors. It may also put the population at risk. In these cases, it is of utmost importance to carefully analyze the situation and, if necessary, take measures to protect the communities or to limit their involvement in NSA mine action.

Elements of Analysis

When considering involving NSAs in mine-action activities, there are several relevant parallels that can be drawn to the involvement of the regular military in mine action. As for the regular armed forces, such NSAs and NGOs have an interest in supporting the government in order to avoid accusations of complicity and restrictions on their activities. Humanitarian actors should also work with civil authorities to solve common problems with joint solutions. Finally, the main parties (NSAs and states) should ideally be as forthcoming as possible with each other in terms of sharing relevant information about mined areas and the progress of mine-action activities.

Need for organization and coordination. When strong NGOs serve as implementing or intermediary agencies, the process works. The donors provide the funding to the NGO, which works directly with the NSAs. It requires coordination, information-sharing and open communication among all the parties. Need to involve the local communities. Mine-action practitioners are increasingly working with local communities, notably in so-called community-liason roles. NSAs are sometimes part of these local communities. When NSAs are involved in ad hoc mine-action activities, it is especially important that mine-action practitioners deal with them by consulting, considering, and including them in the execution of the mine-action program to avoid tensions between international/national and local efforts. In addition, involving NSAs in mine action is relevant to the issue of accountability, since the people who demine stay in the area afterwards and would therefore have a vested interest in the program’s success. It can be beneficial to include affected communities in the processes of dialogue and negotiation with NSAs since their relationship with the NSAs allows the communities to put pressure on the armed actors. It may also put the population at risk. In these cases, it is of utmost importance to carefully analyze the situation and, if necessary, take measures to protect the communities or to limit their involvement in NSA mine action.

Conclusion

In conclusion, armed Non-State Actors and Landmines, Volume II: A Global Report of NSAs Mine Action,1 shows it is possible to engage in humanitarian mine action with NSAs. Given the benefits of such engagement, it is important not to discriminate against populations in areas under the control or influence of NSAs, which, as compared to populations in areas controlled by a state, benefit less frequently from mine-action programs. The main conclusion of the research is that engaging NSAs in mine action has significant benefits, since their involvement supports efforts to reduce the humanitarian impact of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Anki Sjöberg received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Södertörn University in Stockholm, Sweden. She is a doctoral candidate at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Sjöberg has authored The Involvement of Armed Non-State Actors in the Landmine Problem: A Call for Action, Armed Non-State Actors and Landmines, Volume I: Global Report Profiling NSAs and Their Use, Acquisition, Production, Transfer and Stockpiling of Landmines and Armed Non-State Actors and Landmines, Volume II: A Global Report of NSAs Mine Action, which was published in November 2006. The report can be downloaded from Geneva Call’s Web site at http://www.genevacall.org/home.htm. Hard copies can be obtained by writing to info@ge

In this article, the authors analyze the role of armed non-state actors (NSAs) in mine action and the challenges they face in working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and states. They argue that involving NSAs in mine action can bring significant benefits, including closer cooperation with local communities and increased transparency. However, they also highlight the challenges, such as the need for coordination and communication among all parties, and the importance of involving local communities in the decision-making process. Overall, the authors advocate for a more inclusive approach to mine action, recognizing the potential of NSAs to contribute to the humanitarian goals of mine clearance and mine awareness education.
I n January 2007, the GICHD unveiled a new look for its Web site and publications. The GICHD implemented these changes to give the organisation a modern, fresh appearance, and to increase the utility of the Web site as well as reduce the cost of publications. The redesigned Web site can be seen at www.gichd.org and includes a number of new features such as shortcuts buttons, an improved search function, an evaluation repository and a training calendar.

One of the first publications to be issued in the new style was the Metal Detectors and PPE Catalogue,1 published in March 2007. This catalogue features handheld, large-loop and vehicle-mounted detectors, as well as the relatively new multi-sensor systems. In April, the third edition of the Guide to Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War was published. This edition provides updated information, such as the text of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons’ Protocol III and updated information on the conduct of mine action evaluations, as well as undertake selected evaluations itself. Early in 2007 the GICHD undertook an evaluation of the United Nations Development Programme’s capacity-building project in Albania and also completed an independent assessment of the residual threat in Kosovo on behalf of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. Later in the year, the GICHD will undertake a thematic evaluation in the Caucasus as part of a rolling series of evaluations for the European Commission.

by Ian Mansfield | Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining |

Evaluations

The GICHD continues to provide training and advice on the conduct of mine-
that this aspect of ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System alone is enough to gener- ates fast quality improvements in an organisa- tion. So, it is the responsibility of management by genuine management commitment.

Operations people must realise that they are responsible for quality—good or bad. Quality-assurance/quality-control person- nel are only responsible for reporting on the state of quality, not for generating quality. Product Realisation

The product realisation process is no longer the same as the core business process of man- ufacturing in its production (or service) activities. It is self-evident that the best practise dictates that this process should be properly planned and developed to meet the requirements of the product and of the customer. This statement is further supported by Oakland who found in his research that “identifying key-business processes” was one of the best practices found among award-winning companies. In demining, all processes in the mindfield are described and guided by stan- dard operating procedures. However, the

The Standard is even more useful for demining organisa- tions in developing countries, as it can be a framework to direct the organisation’s activities without having to pur- chase management expertise from developed countries.

The Standard encapsulates the essence of those variables in the production/service process and seeks to impose the discipline on them that is required to prevent these as- pects from drifting into chaos.

Measurement, Analysis and Improvement

Customer satisfaction not only relates to the end user or external customer, it is also applicable for internal customers, i.e., those various people who develop the product through the different stages of the processes. The product must fulfill certain require- ments before it can be passed on to the next

and their causes in order to take preven- tive action. Oakland supports this view and expands it to include a focus on prevention rather than cure. Quality is about preven- tion—you cannot “inspect” quality into a product. It has to happen before the inspec- tion process.

Conclusion

The ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System requirements are an extremely useful set of tools that cover the full spectrum of management best practice as evidenced cur- rently. The Standard is even more useful for demining organisations in developing coun- tries, as it can be a framework to direct the organisation’s activities without having to purchase management expertise from devel- oped countries.

The Standard is a clear way to guide such organisations to world-class status. There is, however, a prerequisite to all these state- ments, and that is management commit- ment—if the top management team is not totally committed and accepts re- sponsibility for quality improvement, efforts will be short-lived.

Oakland contends that any organisation, in essence, competes based on its reputation for quality, reliability and price. Of the three, quality is the most important. It is extremely difficult to change a reputation from bad to good, but very easy to go from good to bad. The Standard provides transparent proof to customers that an organisation is serious about its business and takes the customers’ requirements seriously. In a donor-driven en- vironment, transparency and effectiveness of organisations are the basis on which donors choose to get involved. Organisations wish- ing to obtain sustainable, long-term donors will need to have a reputation that will be associated with the Standard and will provide donors with confidence and will- ingness to engage in lasting partnerships.

The ISO 9001:2000 System is fully compatible with and supported by interna- tional best practice. Any demining organisa- tion that seeks to improve its standards and achieve world-class recognition should seri- ously consider taking a strategic step forward and adopting a quality-management system based on the ISO 9001:2000 standard.

See Endnote, Page

This article is published posthumous- ly. Charles Loxton passed away, Kabul, Afghanistan, in February 2006. The United Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan is proud to pay a tribute to Mr. Loxton in approving the publication of this article, written during his last assignment. Charles Loxton is remembered for his dedication, hard work and joy to serve.

Charles Loxton was born in South Africa in 1940 and served in the South African Army for more than 15 years. Building on his strong military and managerial background as Lieutenant Colonel, he was working with UNMACA when he started a new career in mine action. Between 1999 and 2004 Mr. Loxton worked for commercial demining companies in South Africa, working before joining UNMACA and the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan in 2004 as Chief of Quality Management. He was certified ISO 9001:2000 in 2001.

Mr. Kerei Ruru


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Mr. Kerei Ruru

infectious diseases, and how and where people gained knowledge about UXO.

The results of the KAP were used to develop qualitative survey tools then administered to two provinces using content analysis, the qualitative phase of the research enabled a better understanding of the individual circumstances, motivations and contributing factors which lead to voluntary and deliberate and unintentional exposure to live ordnance. It also allowed for a more detailed understanding of the range of contributing socioeconomic, psychological, cultural, political and legal factors that contribute to risk behaviours and exposure to live ordnance. Qualitative data was gathered from MAG personnel—technical staff and programme managers using semi-structured and unstructured interviews to gain an “expert” perspective.

Findings

The assessment found overall a high level of UXO awareness and understanding among both adults and children. For example, 82 percent of the adult respondents indicated that no UXO is safe and provided a range of correct responses regarding common events that cause UXO to denature—of the children surveyed, 99.6 percent considered UXO to be dangerous, with most of them reporting being afraid of UXO.

Despite these known risks however, many people, including women and children, reported continuing to interact with or potentially live ordnance on an almost daily basis. Respondents rationally defended this apparent inconsistency, even their view were often at odds with “experts” views. The assessment also found the general categories often used to characterize at-risk populations, that is, the uninformed, the unaware, the reckless and the intentional, were less relevant to the context of Lao PDR. Instead, the study distinguished between intentional exposure (i.e. voluntary) to live ordnance—where actors aware of the risk purposefully expose themselves to live ordnance—and unintentional exposure (involuntary). Voluntary exposure may include for example moving items of UXO to another location or tampering with ordnance for economic gain. Voluntary exposure included groups identified as high risk, for example:

- Adult scrap-metal collectors
- Adults who move UXO out of farming land
- Scrap-metal dealers
- Adults who deliberately dismantle UXO
- Children who collect scrap metal
- Children who play or tamper with UXO
- Adults and children who work on agricultural land
- Out-of-school youth and young children

Unintentional exposure. Unintentional exposure to UXO injury is when a person’s live ordnance is unplanned and may include exposure due to inattention or lack of knowledge. While some of the preventive activities may be the same, inattentionality is an important variable and particularly relevant in Lao PDR where UXO injury due to intentional exposure to live ordnance (for example through the deliberate tampering of ordnance for the scrap-metal trade) is known to be increasing.

Involuntary exposure, such as exposure to sub-surface UXO while farming, is generally feared due to the lack of control people have over the situation. People have reported voluntarily exposing themselves to UXO—for example, removing items from farming land—in order to avoid possible unintentional exposure later.

The most common ways in which people voluntarily expose themselves to UXO were often rooted in poverty, it was rarely perceived by communities or individuals as the only option. More commonly intentional UXO risk-taking was found to be based on a rational decision-making process involving weighing the potential costs and benefits of a range of available options.

The most common ways in which people voluntarily expose themselves to UXO risk is through collecting or dealing in scrap metal, moving UXO from farmland and dismantling UXO. The following quote from one of the female respondents illustrates how contamination levels combined with the need to uphold basic food security and manner to reports of UXO on farming land, UXO removal being sometimes perceived as the removal of a legitimate cash crop, and a certain level of social and paternal acceptance of UXO risk-taking behaviour, even where a UXO incident may have economic and social consequences for families and communities. Reinforcing factors include food-security problems, which motivate people to engage in the collection of scrap metal, lack of alternative income-generating activities, price of scrap metal and lack of access to alternative farming land that is not contaminated with UXO.

A respondent stated, “I moved three bombs from the bottom of a bomb crater. When I was digging I hit one of the bombs so I slowly
picked it up and moved it out from the bomb crater to a nearby area. I was afraid when moving the bomb but I needed the money. In one crater I could get 60 kilograms (88 pounds) of scrap metal. Currently, scrap metal is approximately 1,700 kip per kilo (approximately US$0.08). However, nearly all UXO contamination in is rural Lao where most people—about 80 percent of the population—are subsistence rice farmers and have limited options for generating a cash income if they stay within their communities and labor organizations. Almost all respondents who reported voluntary exposure to potentially live ordnance were able to provide examples of the risk-reduction strategies they took. These indigenous risk-reduction strategies are often at odds, however, with expert views of safe handling of UXO. Indeed, some respondents also recognized that their strategies might still result in injury or death and tried to learn more by watching village experts or newspaper observatory UXO clearance teams to learn from the way they handle UXO. Scrap-metal collectors, including men, women and children using locally-pressed metal detectors also had a number of risk-reduction strategies including those described in the following statements: "I feel safer when digging, more confident walking across a UXO when I hear the beep."

The system of the detector is that if we find a small piece of scrap, we get a different sound, if we find a large piece of metal, we get a loud sound." When a number of responders were able to describe strategies they use for distinguishing between safe and unsafe ordnance, responders identified accurate recognition of safe areas as one of the few that they needed more knowledge, according to one scrap-metal dealer: "I don’t know it, I have bought many things from village- ers—BLU’s with explosives, hand grenades with no pins, bullets, mortar shells with gunpowder inside."
The survey also identified a number of contradictions. For example, scrap-metal collection on the one hand was seen to be very potentially risky but on the other hand is not necessarily correlated with accidents. This may be due to a cognitive coping strategy whereby the risk is explained away as being exaggerated or a belief that the person has the necessary skills to remain in control.

The assessment found UXO risk-takers, including women and children, are generally aware of the risk and engage in some form of risk-assessment process, which they use to make rational and deliberate decisions regarding acceptable risk. However, from other stakeholders’ perspectives such as humanitarian mine-action experts, regular ordnance bodies, educators and decision makers, there are different views on acceptability and rationality of local risk-assessment processes. This conflict is largely about a divergent definition of risk, differences in how problems are structured and solved, differences in judgments about the probability of an accident, and different kinds of knowledge.

While awareness is an important prerequisite to change and ongoing awareness campaigns may be essential for children, the assessment did not identify it as a major determinant of risk behaviour. Focusing on traditional message-based approaches to MRE is likely to result in an intervention that does not address the major underlying determinants of behaviour. Traditional messages on perceived positive behaviours common in MRE programmes may include “Don’t touch UXO” and “If you see UXO, report it to a mine-action agency!” However, this approach could be ineffective in MRE planners falling into the common pitfall of developing an intervention that does not address the major determinants of high-risk behaviour.

To be effective, the MRE programme will have to take into account the determinants of behaviour identified in the assessment. Such an approach may include a life skills and communication training. It should also take into account the information and skill-development needs of at-risk communities as identified by responders in this assessment. In this sense, it represents a paradigm shift from current “export” HMG, practice and message-based MRE. With its emphasis on standards, safety, technical expertise, and zero- or minimal risk, implementing such an approach, which actively engages high-risk populations and builds on current coping strategies and knowledge, is likely to be challenging. Such an approach will require a change from zero- to risk minimization and recognition of the often valid risk-assessment processes and risk-reduction strategies indigenous communities employ. It may also involve a more meaningful and useful transfer of knowledge from experts to laypeople. As M. Worden noted, speaking in the field of health promotion, even when it is known to undertake successful prevention activities and the people are aware of the preventative tools, such interventions are often unpolished with policy makers, lobby groups, the public and even practitioners themselves. Recent examples of risk-mine-risk interviews show that they are often like safe needle exchange and safe injecting practices may provide some insight into effective strategies in taking a pragmatic approach to UXO risk reduction.

An example of the complex milieu in which behavioural decisions are made calls for a shift to a risk-minimisation approach. A range of integrated interventions that aim to address the underlying vulnerabilities of UXO-affected communities is also needed. From this perspective, UXO contamination in Laos PDR requires a collaborative, multi-sectoral and multi-level response that includes a range of legislative and regulatory strategies, improved UXO clearance methodology and targeting of resources, skills training, MRE and an integrated approach to UXO action that enables the implementation of broader poverty-alleviation and sustainable-livelihood strategies. Such an approach will save lives, reduce injuries and promote economic growth and development, which in turn will contribute to addressing underlying vulnerabilities and reduce UXO risk.

The Mine-action Process in Iraqi Kurdistan

The Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency has been working to clear Kurdistan of landmines and unexploded ordnance that were placed by the former Iraqi government over the past 40 years and the Iranian Army during the Iran-Iraq War from 1980–1988. The Agency is overcoming many challenges and has cleared a vast number of minefields so that the land can be handed back to the owners. Casualties from explosive remnants of war are extremely high but a new mine-risk-education program will inform people who live in dangerous areas how to minimize the threat of explosive remnants of war.

by Jamal Jalal Hussein | Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency |

The existence of landmines and unexploded ordnance in any community has a direct impact on the MRE is likely to result in an intervention that does not address the major underlying determinants of behaviour. Traditional messages on perceived positive behaviours common in MRE programmes may include “Don’t touch UXO” and “If you see UXO, report it to a mine-action agency!” However, this approach could be ineffective in MRE planners falling into the common pitfall of developing an intervention that does not address the major determinants of high-risk behaviour. To be effective, the MRE programme will have to take into account the determinants of behaviour identified in the assessment. Such an approach may include a life skills and communication training. It should also take into account the information and skill-development needs of at-risk communities as identified by responders in this assessment. In this sense, it represents a paradigm shift from current “export” HMG, practice and message-based MRE. With its emphasis on standards, safety, technical expertise, and zero- or minimal risk, implementing such an approach, which actively engages high-risk populations and builds on current coping strategies and knowledge, is likely to be challenging. Such an approach will require a change from zero- to risk minimization and recognition of the often valid risk-assessment processes and risk-reduction strategies indigenous communities employ. It may also involve a more meaningful and useful transfer of knowledge from experts to laypeople. As M. Worden noted, speaking in the field of health promotion, even when it is known to undertake successful prevention activities and the people are aware of the preventative tools, such interventions are often unpolished with policy makers, lobby groups, the public and even practitioners themselves. Recent examples of risk-mine-risk interviews show that they are often like safe needle exchange and safe injecting practices may provide some insight into effective strategies in taking a pragmatic approach to UXO risk reduction. An example of the complex milieu in which behavioural decisions are made calls for a shift to a risk-minimisation approach. A range of integrated interventions that aim to address the underlying vulnerabilities of UXO-affected communities is also needed. From this perspective, UXO contamination in Laos PDR requires a collaborative, multi-sectoral and multi-level response that includes a range of legislative and regulatory strategies, improved UXO clearance methodology and targeting of resources, skills training, MRE and an integrated approach to UXO action that enables the implementation of broader poverty-alleviation and sustainable-livelihood strategies. Such an approach will save lives, reduce injuries and promote economic growth and development, which in turn will contribute to addressing underlying vulnerabilities and reduce UXO risk.

Clearance Goals

The vision of the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency is to rid Kurdistan of ERW. Currently the mission is to reduce the impact of mines and unexploded ordnance in the affected communities of Kurdistan. This will be achieved through the demining process (survey of contaminated communities, mapping, marking of hazardous areas, and destruction of mines and UXO), mine-risk education and victim assistance. It is a great challenge to clear mines from Kurdistan due to the difficulty of the demining process, the large areas that were contaminated and the approximate quantity of emplaced mines numbering in the millions.

Achievements

There are 3,512 registered minefields in Kurdistan. From the beginning of the demining process in Kurdistan early 1999 to 2007, 567 minefields and battle areas have been cleared and returned to local people. Approximately 5,655,889 square meters (2.17 square miles) of mined areas have been cleared, with 25,226 anti-personnel mines, 890 anti-tank mines and 273,404 pieces of UXO destroyed. Throughout 2005 and 2006 a total of 100,083 people have directly benefited from IKBAs clearance, mine-risk education and MRE efforts.

Factors Influencing Demining Difficulties

Experience shows many factors directly affect the clearance process and lead to a slowdown in the progress. The age of the minefields, as they are already 20–26 years old, leads to a number of complicating factors and difficulties in conduct- ing demining operations. Some of these factors are related to Kurdistan’s natural terrain and topography while other factors stem from the difficulty of mine clearance, the risks associated with mine clearance and difficulty of implementing the International Mine Action Standards due to safety concerns. Specific factors that affect mine clearance are:

• Limited period of time to work in some minefields due to weather
• Hard ground
• High, dry vegetation in most mine areas
• Lack of desire by deminers to work in mine clearance because of the threat of dealing with suspected areas
• The existence of high numbers of metal fragments that slow progress because mine-clearance personnel must check each square meter of ground with metal detectors. Most of Kurdistan’s large minefields were battle areas during the Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988).

jo Durham has worked in mine action for the last five years. she is currently the country Programme Manager for mine action in Kurdistan.

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IKMAA was presented via a number of manuals, mechanical and mine-detecting surveys, demining assets used in Kurdistan played, such as explosive ordnance disposal, 2006 at Media Gallery in Erbil, the capital city of Kurdistan. The organization has handed over 39 cleared minefields (more than one million square meters [0.4 square mile]) to the landowners. There has been significant work toward reducing the impact of ERW in contaminated communities. For instance, the organization has found that while there is a significant amount of casualty data collected by various entities around the world, it is often not effectively used to inform the decision-making and planning processes in mine action. It is the use of the data that is really driving this guidebook, which will be published in September 2007.

Some countries and programs are challenged to effectively collect needed landmine/UXO casualty data; others collect the data and then seem to do little with it. Many programs collect and use landmine/UXO “accident” data to inform their mine-risk education and clearance programs. For instance, the legislation’s 23 articles are in five sections that cover IKMAA Definitions, Establishment and Objectives, Structure and Responsibilities, Finance and Final Provisions. The MRE section at IKMAA has conducted and provided mine awareness to communities affected by landmines. MRE materials and publications were displayed. Additionally, the role of mine-victim assistance in one of the mine-action pillars was demonstrated through presenting prosthetic limbs and orthopedic devices to mine victims. An outdoor demonstration of the demining process was also given. It highlighted the difficulty of the deminer’s job. The organization has handed over 39 cleared minefields (more than one million square meters [0.4 square mile]) to the landowners. There has been significant work toward reducing the impact of ERW in contaminated communities. For instance, the organization has found that while there is a significant amount of casualty data collected by various entities around the world, it is often not effectively used to inform the decision-making and planning processes in mine action. It is the use of the data that is really driving this guidebook, which will be published in September 2007.

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The Mine Action Information Center staff enjoys providing useful, needed products to the mine-action community as well as partnering with like-minded organizations to develop and deliver the projects. For more information about any of these projects, please contact Dr. Suzanne Fiedlerien at sfiederi@jmu.edu or Lois Carter Fay at editormaic@gmail.com.

The Adaptive Technology Catalog project was inspired by Purdue University’s Breaking New Ground Resource Center Agricultural Project, which was developed to help farm accident victims from the United States. For more information about this resource, visit: http://aginjury. com/TA.html.

The Adaptive Technology Catalog will be available as a DVD/CD or PDF in September 2007. It will incorporate low-use, low-technology products that can be used directly off-the-shelf or be easily modified by local vendors. It focuses primarily on the agricultural and mechanical sectors, and is designed to help landmine/ERW survivors become gainfully employed using simple, inexpensive technology. There are also several products related to kitchen work, computers, personal hygiene or grooming and transportation. Most of the tools are under US$50; a few are about $1,500. With about 800 tools listed, organized by tool function—auto, agriculture, construction, kitchen, mobility, recreation, etc.—there are ideas for overcoming many disabilities. Two of the supplying company owners are active and accomplished upper-extremity amputees themselves.

It is expected that the Adaptive Technology Catalog will be an excellent resource for survivor-assistance personnel, governments and organizations planning rehabilitation projects, donors and physical trauma survivors.

There are many benefits to a catalog of this type, including that it:

• Allows people to get back to work
• Gives donors something specific to fund
• Creates survivor independence

Ms. Lois Carter Fay joined the Journal of Mine Action as Editor-in-Chief in 2005 and recently Motron has also served as Project Manager of the Adaptive Technology Catalog project. Her project management, writing, public relations and editing skills have been a solid addition to the MAC’s staff. Lois can be contacted at public_relations@poluscenter.org.

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Dr. Suzanne Fiedlerien joined the MAC in 1999 as a faculty associate and currently serves as the Victims’ Assistance Team Leader. She has worked on projects related to International Mine Action Standards, victim and survivor assistance, mine-action database systems (specializing in casualty data), mine action in Latin America, and program evaluation. In addition, she has coordinated the curriculum for the UNDP Mine Action Senior Manager Course. She holds graduate degrees in Latin American studies and political science and has served on the faculty of James Madison University and Virginia Commonwealth University.

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Field Day

The most interesting presentation at the conference was the demonstration held 25 April. Participants were shuttled to the outdoor demonstration site and seated comfortably upon stadium chairs to safely view the demonstration without exposure to the hot sun or flying debris.

The International Symposium Draws 170 Participants

Numerous key figures in mine action recently gathered in Croatia to attend the international symposium, "Humanitarian Demining 2007-Mechanical Demining." The symposium featured several presentations on demining, including a live field demonstration, discussed in detail here.

This machine and quality-control demonstration took place offshore in a very dry, hard, light-vegetation, dirt terrain that had been specially readied for the demonstration with two detonation imitations prepared for remote activation—blown up with pyrotechnics and airbags. The conference was hosted by the Croatian Mine Carrett Company, in cooperation with the Croatian Ministry of Defence, Development and Training (HCR-CTRO), with assistance provided by the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Programme Management Unit. This was the fourth symposium in a series of meetings hosted by Croatia.

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by Lois Carter Fay [Mine Action Information Center]

The symposium, “Humanitarian Demining 2007-Mechanical Demining,” held in Sibenik, Republic of Croatia, at the end of April 2007, had something for everyone. There were 170 people from 35 countries registered for the week-long conference, and each presentation drew a minimum of 100 participants. The donor, manufacturing, governmental, research and development, testing and evaluation, and user communities were represented at the symposium.

Topics covered use of demining machines in area reduction, cost-effectiveness of using demining machines, risk management, machine methods and use in combination with other demining methods, along with a few miscellaneous subjects.

Everything was presented in Croatian and English using live translators and state-of-the-art audio headings in the Congress Center of the Solaris Holiday Resort. An exhibit room housed posters and trade booths for various demining machines and the respective manufacturers.

The conference was hosted by the Croatian Mine Carrett Company in cooperation with the Croatian Ministry of Defence, Development and Training (HCR-CTRO), with assistance provided by the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Programme Management Unit. This was the fourth symposium in a series of meetings hosted by Croatia.
The author would like to express a special thanks to Jesse Vahala and Nikole Pantazis of HCR CTEO and Carl Fringer of MineWolf Systems for their assistance in clarifying details of the demonstration.
From an operational point of view, the clearance was fairly straightforward, although the majority of the area was thinly covered with trees, bushes and tall grass. There were rocky outcrops and steep slopes that made manual clearance very difficult. The area was divided into blocks, and each block was cleared in accordance with priorities determined by the INP. One of these blocks surrounded an old reservoir, dating from the same period as the temple, with an earthen dam at one end.

The clearance was initially managed by van Zyl, and later supervised by Yusaka Koki, aided by Raungy Lengvong, Triporn Timakda, and Commander Rabiah Mamat. They had a team of 24 deminers and five surveyors. Introduced to integrated demining by van Zyl at Sadok Kok Tom, the JAHDS team made extensive use of hand-held geosensors, a Hexagon vegetation cutter and a Boeing 4 flail. In addition to their clearance duties, JAHDS staff carried out mine-risk education in local schools and communities, which was effective, and soon the MRE was passed to the locals by deminers from their own communities.

The area cleared was 668,000 square meters (165 acres), and there were some difficulties in delays of UXO demolition, the work proceeded on schedule. Quality Assurance was carried out by the Thailand Mine Action Centre, but the INP was confident enough with the clearance that redevelopment of each site was commenced as soon as JAHDS left the block. It was heartening to see how quickly previously mined areas were developed for civilian purposes.

JAHDS also funded the building of a perimeter-safety barrier beside a walkway near the temple cliff edge. It overhung Cambodia from this walk is breathtaking, but the cliff is almost vertical at this point, and there was a need to prevent people from falling off.

And they Finished with a Temple

Despite its successful demining experience, JAHDS ceased operating as an NGO at the end of 2006. Its mission had been achieved, the land had been cleared, and the mine threat was no longer a problem. However, the clearance had also been an opportunity for JAHDS to strengthen its relationship with the local community and to foster a sense of mutual respect and understanding.

In Summary

The Japan Alliance for Humanitarian Demining Support had six years as a research and development NGO for GPR mine detectors and nearly two years as a mine-UXO clearance NGO in Thailand. Of the clearance teams, it could fairly be said, “They started with a temple, and they finished with a temple.” It was a short life perhaps, but a good one.

References

Phra Viharn National Park came from private donors in Japan. Thailand is seldom seen by international donors as an underdeveloped country because foreign visitors see only major cities like Bangkok or the well-developed tourist resorts on Phuket Island. Much of the funds for the clearance of Sadok Kok Tom and Kha Phih Vihan National Park came from private Japanese donors, but the burden of seeking such donations became too high for the small group of enthusiasts involved. Future Plans

Although JAHDS’ NGO operations have ceased, it is expected that the mine-clearance capacity it created will not. A Thai civilian NGO called the Peace Road Organisation (NGO called the Peace Road Organisation) for GPR mine detection and removal.

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The area cleared was 668,000 square meters (165 acres), and there were some difficulties in delays of UXO demolition, the work proceeded on schedule. Quality Assurance was carried out by the Thailand Mine Action Centre, but the INP was confident enough with the clearance that redevelopment of each site was commenced as soon as JAHDS left the block. It was heartening to see how quickly previously mined areas were developed for civilian purposes.

JAHDS also funded the building of a perimeter-safety barrier beside a walkway near the temple cliff edge. It overhung Cambodia from this walk is breathtaking, but the cliff is almost vertical at this point, and there was a need to prevent people from falling off.

And they Finished with a Temple

Despite its successful demining experience, JAHDS ceased operating as an NGO at the end of 2006. Its mission had been achieved, the land had been cleared, and the mine threat was no longer a problem. However, the clearance had also been an opportunity for JAHDS to strengthen its relationship with the local community and to foster a sense of mutual respect and understanding.

In Summary

The Japan Alliance for Humanitarian Demining Support had six years as a research and development NGO for GPR mine detectors and nearly two years as a mine-UXO clearance NGO in Thailand. Of the clearance teams, it could fairly be said, “They started with a temple, and they finished with a temple.” It was a short life perhaps, but a good one.

References

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Armenia has been gaining strength since recovering from the 1988 Spitak earthquake, the collapse of the Soviet government, and the economy around, creating positive growth rates from 1995 to 2006. As a member of 35 international organizations, the country is moving out of the post-Soviet era and onto the international stage. Part of becoming a modern nation is removing all possible threats to development. Landmines and unexploded ordnance are a threat to every aspect of development in Armenia.

Current Landmine Situation

The majority of Armenia’s landmines and UXO are a result of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict (1988–1994) over the Nagorno-Karabakh region in southern Armenia. Following the ceasefire, the Armenian Army surveyed the border where most landmines were placed and estimated that there were from 50,000 to 80,000 active landmines. The two countries have not signed a peace treaty and Armenia reports security issues to be the reason the country has not signed a peace treaty.

In 2005 a Landmine Impact Survey was conducted in Armenia. It did not include areas under the control of Armenia that are considered landmine affected, such as Nagorno-Karabakh.1 The United Nations Development Program, the European Commission and the Armenian government financed the LIS. It concluded that there were 560,000-770,000 active landmines that covered a combined 521.7 square kilometers (124.3 square miles), including 20 “UXO hotspots.” The majority of these communities had a total population of 68,737 live close enough to the 102 sites to be directly affected. The Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Departments of State and Defense. The Ministry of Defense is a part of the Armenian Ministry of Defense and is in charge of mine action in Armenia. UNDP-Armenia, as the driving force behind much of Armenia’s mine action, is in coordination with the national government and humanitarian organizations to create a "safer, more efficient, and effective implementation of mine-action components." The Inter-Agency Governmental Committee on Mine Action is responsible for the processes of becoming the management body of all branches of mine action in Armenia. The UNDP has appealed for funds that will strengthen the organization’s ability to function effectively.4

Looking Ahead

Armenia has set up a mine-action strategy for 2006–2011, based on the assumption that the nature of the mine problem requires more effective risk management through continuous assessment of the situation and effective planning and coordination.5 Few of the specific goals being accomplished through cooperation with the international organizations listed above include enabling continuous and efficient humanitarian-demining operations; establishing improved capacities for risk management and information and coordination; and working in conjunction with local and international research and development centers to create conditions for more effective mine action.6

See Endnotes, Page

Azerbaijan

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From 1988 to 1994, Azerbaijan was engaged in an armed conflict with its neighboring country Armenia and Armenia reports that there were about 321.7 square kilometers (135 to 320 square miles) of land contaminated with unexploded ordnance along the ceasefire line and the border of Armenia. The survey recognized a significant amount of contamination. The extent of the threat in the occupied territories is unknown, although the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action estimates the amount of contaminated land could be anywhere between 300 and 750 million square meters (3.35 to 80 square miles).2 The types of mines found in Azerbaijan include not only anti-personnel landmines but also anti-tank mines and field mines.2

In addition to mines, remains from the abandoned Soviet depots and stockpiles are scattered throughout the area. The most serious contaminations involves a mass burial of victims in a former Soviet military cemetery that is the center of controversy.7

In response to the challenges in Aghstafa, ANAMA launched the Saloglu Project jointly with the NATO Mine Action and Supply Agency, a U.S. government agency. The project is designed to support partners in Azerbaijan by providing engineering, training, mine risk education, and the clearance of the contaminated land. Following the start of the project in 2007, the project has worked in close coordination with the Ministry of Defense to help clear the land in coordination with the Ministry of Defense. The project has worked closely with the Ministry of Defense to help create 10 safe play areas for children in several local communities with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross in addition to the 15 safe play areas that were created in 2005. In 2007 ICRC reports plans to implement safe play areas in 10 more communities throughout Azerbaijan.

Victim Assistance

In 2006 there were several mine-victim-assistance projects implemented in Azerbaijan. One of the projects being implemented by the IEPE is the support of the U.S. State Department involves the socioeconomic reintegration of local survivors. An initiative group of 10 survivors received training in management, medicine, small business, mine-risk education and computer literacy. An additional 20 mine survivors also volunteered to help with the project, which ended in May 2007. In 2007, with the financial support of the U.S. DOS, the IEPE plans to establish other branches of the Azerbaijan and to ensure their sustainability.8

In 2007, a mine-victim-assistance project implemented by the IEPE and the Ministry of Defense involved the clearance of landmines and UXO near the village of Aghstafa. ANAMA and other NGOs also organized several recent MVA projects in Azerbaijan.9

Conclusion

With the existence of such an organized and dedicated mine-action program, the mine and UXO threat in Azerbaijan is slowly disappearing. ANAMA and other organizations are helping to make Azerbaijan safer by ensuring the recovery of survivors and the prevention of new landmine and UXO accidents, one project at a time.

See Endnotes, Page

References

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See Endnotes, Page
MINE ACTION

The Future

The United Nations Assembly declared the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April 2006, and the second annual observance of the day was marked in Bosnia and Herzegovina where local authorities and international organizations analyzed past demining efforts. Non-governmental organizations and mining companies struggle with funding challenges.

In 2004, mine clearance in BiH will cost a projected US$2,469,356.

15 percent of the munitions used in Grozny by Russian forces in 1994 to 1996 were landmines and the danger they represent in the country as soon as possible.

The vision behind creating an annual Mine Action Day is to one day see people living in a country that is mine-free.

Chechnya

by Kateland Shane | Mine Action Information Center

More than a decade of conflict between the Chechen separatists and the Russian military has left Chechnya heavily contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance, with an estimated 127 minefields recorded in 2003.

The group was forced to leave Chechnya in 1996 but returned to perform local UXO clearance along the main roads and railways of Chechnya.

Mines Free Chechnya, to be held on two occasions, which will involve youth and media to heighten awareness of the need for clearance activities.

MINE ACTION

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Endnotes

1. United Nations Assembly.

2. UNICEF.

3. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.


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Croatia

by Adam Gosney [Mine Action Information Center]

Since 1991, Croatia has been a mine-affected country. In 1998, about 1,400,000 square meters were mine-suspected, an area of 250 square kilometers (98 square miles). While not directly included in these discussions, Croatia’s substantial mine-affected areas are seen as a humanitarian concern.

Mine/ERW Problem

The primary focus of mine action in Croatia centers on agricultural land and areas near population centers, while most of the unexploded ordinance from the war re-sides within mountainous and high-wilder-ness areas. Since 1991, over 1,880 victims have suffered as a result of explosive rem-nants of war. By 2007 the number of ERW-related victims was 273, with 101 being killed. As of 2004, 14 of 21 counties were below 90% demine-ed areas containing mined areas equaling 1,174 square kilometers. Landmines and other explosive remnants of war 1 also remain following the war. In 2005, 128 square kilometers (403 square miles) were declared mine-affected areas. The ICBL–Georgian Committee has installed over 40 play-grounds in 14 counties since 2001. Using technology to identify MSAs at a rate of 101 per cent, it is working to join the AP Mine Convention. Although the landmine situation in Georgia is of relatively low impact, “there is an ongoing conflict between Georgia and Chechnya, which will see the territory declared impact free” in 2008. Georgia also runs the Arab Mine Action Center, which manages and disseminates all information regarding mine action and victims within the territory.

Future Prospects

It is difficult to predict what will happen in Georgia. It is still in transition and the continued unrest with Abkhazia and South Ossetia affects each party’s willingness to destroy mines. Factors prevent Georgia from being able to join the AP Mine Ban Treaty. The Georgian government has expressed “an official organiza-tion to demine the country. But there are signs of hope for the country as it tries to resolve its differences with the two ter-ritories. Georgia is currently lobbying to join NATO and the European Union, and thanks to the help of organizations such as HALO and the U.S. Department of State, the territory of Abkhazia will be declared mine-free in the near future.

Conclusion

Croatia has made significant gains in mine action. With such CROMAC projects as the Geo Information Project database and the Scan Center, Croatia is developing and using technology to identify MSAs at a rate never seen before. Several factors depend on 100% percent removal becoming a reality, but CROMAC is optimistic that with this ongoing work in mine-risk education, Croatia is on its way to becoming completely mine-free.

See Endnotes, Page

Georgia

by Jina Kim [Mine Action Information Center]

Since Georgia claimed independence from the USSR, the country has experienced both sides of war and unrest have disrupted the country, particularly within the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. During these conflicts, all sides used anti-personnel mines and other anti-vehicle mines and 5,409 items of unexploded ordnance. Within that region has some significance in relation to nature preservation, protection of plants and animals, and economic development. This means that mines have been laid by both sides in the conflict. At present time, the safety conditions and political climate in South Ossetia are not conducive to mine-risk education. In Georgia there is also a significant problem of abandoned explosive remnants of war left in fitting ranges and former Russian military bases and unexploded ordinance from the 1992–1993 conflict in Abkhazia. Additional mined locations are cause for concern as well. The borders between Georgia and Chechnya, Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Roman regions of Ingushetia and Daghestan have a record of re-mains.

Mine action

Mine action in Georgia has been unstable due to lack of a formal mine-action program and no single coordination body for mine action. Inefficence of mine-action programs is also due to the fact that “land in Georgia has been mined without any reg-istration, mapping, or other records.” In May 2006, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that, in addition to the current ongoing massive working group on landmines under the National Security Council, “but due to recent reorganization of the Council, the is-sue is still open.”

Another contributory factor to the unor-ganized mine-action program in Georgia is the country’s refusal to join the Mine Ban Convention. Georgia states that it is un-able to sign the Convention because of lack of jurisdiction concerning the civil unrest with South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and thus would be unable to fulfill the Convention’s requirements. The HALO Trust is the biggest mine-ac-tion organization in Georgia and in the final stages of implementing a fully integrated mine-action program in Abkhazia, which will see the territory declared impact free7 in 2008. HALO also runs the Arab Mine Action Center, which manages and disseminates all information regarding mine action and victims within the territory.

In response to accidents occurring within the territories of abandoned military bases in Georgia, mine-risk educa-tion programs were carried out by the ICBL, CICR, and the ICRC in 2003 and 2004. However, “given the lack of support HALO received in Georgia, it decided to suspend MRE operations in early 2006.” In February 2004, Georgian First Lady Sandra Roelofse-Bashkirov launched a kilometer-long road to conduct an emergency survey of abandoned military bases. Clearance could not occur due to political reasons, and the fact that some of the bases were still used by the Georgian military. In order to minimize the number of accidents occurring in these areas, HALO conducted emergency MRE operations with the support of the Georgian Ministry of Education. This program has since been suspended.

Civic Implications

The lack of an organized mine-action program in Georgia also makes it difficult for authorities to compile an accurate list of casualties and injuries caused by mines or ERW. The ICBL–Georgia Committee has been collecting data on UXO-related accidents and deaths since 2001. In 2005 alone, the Committee collected the data on that year. In 2006, there have been reports by the Georgian press of four mine accidents in South Ossetia and one new mine accident in Abkhazia. These statistics may not be entirely accurate due to unreported accidents and lack of an official mine-action program. In the territory of Abkhazia, HALO keeps an accurate mine/ UXO related database, and recorded the names of 683 mine and UXO victims in the territory as of May 2007.

See Endnotes, Page

Georgia

by Jina Kim [Mine Action Information Center]
The threat was limited to certain areas and II, left Macedonia with contamination conducted surveys to assess the ERW (155-mile) border with Greece, was found to be rife with mines and other explosive remnants of war along the northern border with Kosovo and Albania and the southern border with Greece. In 2005, five years after the end of the internal conflict, Macedonia completed landmine clearance and continues to work towards clearance of other ERW.

Landmine/Unexploded Ordinance Contamination

After the fighting between the NLA and Macedonian forces ended, the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre and the International Trust Fund for Demining conducted surveys to assess the ERW threat. The northern region of the country, specifically the northern border between Kosovo and Albania, was found to be rife with landmines. Whole villages posed a serious threat, the surveys established that “the greatest threat ‘by far’ came from UXO.” According to government authorities, mines and UXO from the conflict contaminated 80 villages, including the regions of Kumanovo, Tetovo and Skopje. During the conflict, 70,000 people fled their homes, and mine contamination hindered their safe return. A United Nation Mine Action Office was established in September 2001 after the UNSMCC surveys, and the Ministry of Defense took over in 2003. Shortly thereafter, the Protection and Rescue Directorate was formed, becoming the only body responsible for mine/UXO clearance in Macedonia. The Directorate began its work in 2005. The Directorates role in mine clearance involves surveys, clearance, deconstruction, marking and fencing minefields, and medical treatment of victims.

Mines Education

The 2001 conflict and resulting border contamination created a need for mine-risk education campaigns in the northern region of the country. The International Committee of the Red Cross led MRE efforts with the assistance of ICRC’s two years of activities along with UNICEF’s involvement in 2001 resulted in over 17,000 individuals being reached.

The Road to Clearance

Macedonia became a State Party to the Ottawa Convention 1 March 1999 and is a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Macedonia completed stockpile clearance two and a half years before the Ottawa Convention-managed deadline. In September 2006, four years after starting, Macedonia declared landmine clearance. The Macedonian government set priorities for mine clearance, which began in 2002. Among the greatest concerns were areas that prevented internally displaced persons from returning home and斯Church, because a hospital was to be built there. Organizations that participated in clearing of the region included Care International, Handicap International, TechTech International (contracted by CARE International) and the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance. The U.S. Department of State also contributed to mine action in Macedonia through the ITF and by funding the deployment of six demining teams from Bosnia and Herzegovina. By the end of 2004, 200,000 mines/UXO had been found and destroyed.

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The Future

Even though the breakup of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia led to the formation of new countries, relationships have not been severed. Organizations such as the South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council have helped all the countries in the region share the burden of the landmine problem. Bucholtz states, “If the organization currently seeks to make all the countries in Southeast Europe ‘mine free’ by 2010.”

Serbia and Montenegro, under Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention, must destroy all AP mines under their control no later than 1 March 2004. Serbia plans to clear all anti-personnel and anti-tank mines by the end of 2008, which could be achieved given that the country is well underway with minefield clearance. A meeting in Sarajevo in April 2003 resulted in a commitment by Serbia and Montenegro to declare landmine free. Montenegro should be declared landmine free, if the government will achieve that goal by the end of 2008.

Serbia and Montenegro

by Matthew Voegel [Mine Action Information Center]
The Mine Action Express, Barry [from page 8]


5. It was used extensively during the first Gulf War to defend against Iraqi Scud missiles and is still in service today. See IUPAC Compendium of Chemical Technology, Electronic Version. http://snipurl.com/10w9j. Accessed 31 October 2006.

6. Hydrogen, H2, is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and highly reactive gas. It is composed of two bound hydrogen atoms forming a single covalent bond. The bond is formed by the breaking of the hydrogen molecule’s outer-shell electrons into orbitals with the electrons becoming associated with the positively charged nuclei of the atoms. The bond is held by strong chemical bonds. (i.e., polymeric molecules—long molecules constituted by repetition of the same chemical unit) and thus is commonly known as the Ottawa Convention.

7. Some countries and mine-action organizations are urging the use of the term “mine free,” while others are preferring the term “mine-safe,” or “impact free.” The former is more convenient since landmines are a blanket term that includes UXO, abandoned explosive ordnance and other explosive devices. However, since mines are explosive devices that have similar effects to other ERW and it is often impossible to separate the two during clearance operations, some in the community have adopted a “working definition” (as opposed to a legal one) of ERW in which it is a blanket term that includes UXO, abandoned explosive ordnance and other explosive devices.


9. Norse, I.M. (2003). “Impact free” may mean different things in different contexts. For example, a deminer or mine action officer working in a community might use the term “mine free” to mean that there are no mines in the area. However, some community leaders would use the term “impact free” to refer to the condition in which landmines no longer pose a credible threat to a community or country. Thus, both terms can be acceptable depending on the context.


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The MV-4 Mini Flail is a remote-controlled demining machine designed to clear anti-personnel landmines. The 25 percent reduction was over the previous system we used. We have weekly reports covering a four-month period which include the steaming times for the various sized projectiles; however the information is not in an individual table.


Edited by the Germans in World War II to increase efficiency of aerial attacks against “soft” targets (personnel), first one called the “butterfly bomb.”

Cluster munitions and their effects in Lebanon

Most of the submunitions were dropped in final 12 hours of conflict “when we knew there would be an end” (source: Jan Egeland, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs). Many were composed of shrapnel, mixtures of steel, lead, and BBs. About 171,000 submunitions in Lebanon were involved, according to United Nations Mine Action Service: MAG, Swedish Rescue Services Agency and BACTEC.

Clearing Tests with Live Mines in March 2004

The Cleanness Test was a test of a mine detector. The procedure was performed in March 2004 at the T2T Test Facility. Since the tests were performed with live mines, they were classified as a controlled test. The Mine Detection System was tested at the T2T Test Facility. The test was a measure of the system’s ability to detect mines.

Fact Sheet: Recent Use of Cluster Bombs in Lebanon

Background

Cluster munitions work

Small bomblets called submunitions; these submunitions are designed to explode, maim and kill as they scatter across a target area from the air and hit the ground.

Developed by the Germans in World War II to increase efficiency of aerial attacks against “soft” targets (personnel), first one called the “butterfly bomb.”

Unguided munitions deployed by, aircraft, rocket launcher or artillery and containing—depending on type—from anywhere from two to over 2,000 submunitions.

Wide area of effect (about that of two football fields).

Almost always leave behind unexploded submunitions—2–40 percent failure rate (range and variations due to factors such as type and age of munition, environmental conditions, deployment technique and testing conditions).

Different kinds of cluster munitions are produced by about 30 countries.

Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS)

Multiple Launch Rocket Systems were used in the 2006 Israeli-Hizballah conflict.

One of the most lethal mini-rockets on the market, can deploy high numbers of cluster munitions very quickly, spreading submunitions over a large area.

Track- or tire-carried mobile rocket-launching platforms with 12 rockets.

Can send rockets up to 20 miles away.

In one minute after deployment.

MLRS launched.

Cluster munitions and what’s happening since August 14, 2006

Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCW), Protocol V international law regarding post-conflict clean-up of unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive remnants of war (CEREW or weapon that landmines and bomblets which are caused by Amended Protocol III);忽略 voluntary measures. Protocol V came into force November 2006.

Discussions continue on many issues that need to take in order to restrict use of cluster munitions and decrease fatalities (dead and injured).

Third CCW Review Conference was held November 7–17, 2006, and during that time efforts were made to address cluster munitions and the threat unexploded submunitions hold for civilians. The conference failed to reach a deal to restrict the use of cluster munitions, instead agreeing only to keep talking about the issue.

After failing to reach an agreement within the framework of the CCW, civil society activists and countries (by-law for Norway) have called for a new international treaty separate from the CCW that would control or ban cluster munitions.

Two U.S. senators, Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT), tried to stop U.S. production of cluster bombs, but the measure was defunct on Senate floor.

The United Nations’ Landmine Tendering in partnership with the Mine Action Coordinating Centre South of Lebanon is collecting information and offering the response to cluster munitions.

Continued clean-up by many individuals and organizations including the Lebanese Army, United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon, and groups contracted under the United Nations Mine Action Service: MAG, Swedish Rescue Services Agency and BACTEC.

UNICEF is supporting the National Demining Office to implement mine risk education.

Along with many other donors, USAID humanitarian assistance to Lebanon is being provided. http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/middle_east/
Errata

The editorial staff of the Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction goes to great effort to make sure that what is printed in our magazine is accurate, properly documented and unbiased. However, in Issue 10.1, we expanded a short caption to fit the story and we should not have done so. In the editorial, “An Alternative Perspective on Landmines and Vulnerable Populations” by Dr. Shelby Weitzel, the caption of the photo, which was used with ICRC’s permission, was modified without ICRC’s permission to state: “Minesfields can be used to create barriers to defend vulnerable populations.” The original caption accompanying this photo reads “Champs de mines,” and means “minesfields” in English.

We also failed to properly credit the photo used on the cover of issue 10.1. The photo was provided by Vinicius Souza and Marisa Eugênio Sá.