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
- Biorremovers (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

Submit all materials to:
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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.

EASTERN EUROPE and the CAUCASUS

Plus: National Ownership/Capacity Development Feature Section
Letters to the Editor

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.

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. “TheMine A ction Express ... or the ‘Wreck of the’ 99.’ These indeed are the issues Laling with other mine-action practitioners, are having to tackle and it was very helpful to have you spell it all out so clearly.

- James Turson Mine Action Officer AusAid

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- Virginia, given me very important knowledge and skills that I still use and leadership responsibilities.

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Once again, on behalf of Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action, I highly appreciate all of your efforts in mine action.

- Elnur Gasimov, TQA Team Leader, ANAMA

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- Sandra Kuzmic, Organizational Affairs Adviser CBM/MAC—Croatian Mine Action Centre

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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.

Analysing a cross-section of non-mine-action case studies provides further food for thought. For example, robust institutions can be handcuffed by a lack of authority (political leadership or vague legal status) or highly trained individuals remain leaderless and thus their hand-crafted 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.

Conceptual Markers

The current literature argues that capacity development is, first and foremost, a process that builds on the local context. 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 T-shirts 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.

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 umbrella—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.

ECDPM’s study’s conception is useful as it provides us with a more comprehensive view for designing, implementing or concluding a capacity-support project—in respective 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 has 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?”

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

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Colombian Armed Forces and Police receive training from a member of the OAS-IADB. PHOTO COURTESY OF JUAN CARLOS RUAN.

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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.
Mine-action Capacity Development at 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.

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 complex as capacity development is positively daunting.

We have noticed that in mine action/ERW development and funding circles, the term capacity development (and its precursor, capacity building) is as popular as it is confusing. What is capacity development? It is widely used but not widely understood or agreed upon. It is treated as both a process and a outcome, and it deals with both material applications and societal systems. Each country is expected to take responsibility and determine appropriateness of country ownership, leadership and the role of political and governance change. Each country has its own unique history and circumstances, and capacity development has been widely used as a tool to look at those differences and similarities. Often it has been seen as a bridge to holistic community development. But it is not an easy tool to use as it is constantly shifting, unclear and confusing.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development defines capacity development as “the process whereby people, organisations and societies as a whole, unleash, 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 sustainable 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

Let us appraise conclusively and unappraisably of efforts to come to grips with the term by the mine action community. In particular, we have observed that current efforts have actually employed the engagement of a number of well-read and clear 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 the South. Typically, the broader political and social context was not considered. Since the 1990s, 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 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 derived 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 impulse 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 Peoples’ Republic of Vietnam, two national committees—the Women’s Union and the Committee for the Care and Protection of Children—conducted a mini-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 demining skills and capabilities 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 capabilities, without trying to relate and integrate those capabilities into other segments of host nation’s development or infrastructure. Perhaps even worse is the myopia of some mine-action professionals and donors who do not understand that a country at risk from many threats, firing the capabilities developed for mine action to apply to other spheres of life is a mismatch, 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-centric, non-environmental organizations are funded to implement with or for their international partners and donors. This “project-focused capacity building” stresses the building of capabilities that will help protect the area at hand (such as financial management), none of which are sustainable in the long-term. These kinds of projects are funded by the United States Department of State’s Foreign Military Sales, the European Union, the United Nations Mine Action Service, the Women’s Union and the Committee for the Care and Protection of Children, and the United Nations Mine Action Service, the Women’s Union and the Committee for the Care and Protection of Children.”

How does one assure that a capability that has been developed by a small staff or national entity is not simply switched from its birth organization? Many mine-action programs now work to shift from technical skill transference to institutional reform and improved management in particular. This shift can be seen as a part of a long-term process that should result in increased sustainability and national ownership of any number of skills and capabilities. It is now up to the senior leadership of the major mine-action and ERW organizations, donors and decision-makers of the sovereign countries to facilitate rather than inhibit the application of advances in mine-action capacity development to other spheres of development and prosperity in the host country.

In this regard, the UNDP has developed strategies and documents related to capacity development: capacity assessment and diagnostics, knowledge services and learning, leadership and strategic management, institutional reform and change management, mutual-accountability mechanisms, multi-stakeholder engagement, and institutional assessment. The U.S. Department of State’s Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement is also emphasizing the long-term sustainability and 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 last for decades to come. This long-term goal requires that attention be paid to ensuring 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 “buy-in.” Its occurrence will depend on a concerted effort of all major organizations involved in mine-action and ERW programs.

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Once knew someone who held a very passionate position on a certain issue,” says Dennis Barlow, 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 comprehending other points of view on the topic, derive a common approach to dealing with it.
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 newsworthorthy 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 publicity 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 workshop for local journalists to raise awareness about the importance of the media 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, Tofig Yusif, Chief Editor of Yeni Terter 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. We 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 Teter 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.

Sabina Jalilova has been working as the Public Relations Officer at the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action since June 2005. From September 2005 to June 2006, she participated in an internship with the United Nations Office in Azerbaijan. During the internship, Salama provided aid to the Communications Manager and the Assistant Librarian working with the Web Coordinator of the Department of Public Information Web site. She graduated from the Azerbaijan University of Languages with a bachelor’s degree in 2003 and earned a master’s degree in 2005 from the same university.

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Joint Analysis of Landmine Impact and Human Development Surveys in Armenia

In Armenia, the UNDP implemented a Landmine Impact Survey as well as a Human Development Survey, although separately from each other. The authors, by linking the two data bodies, demonstrate new findings about mine-affected communities in a poverty-alleviation perspective.

A n association between landmine/unexploded ordnance contamination and poverty is generally assumed 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 thereby lower 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 vantage points. 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 minefields and littered 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 may have higher victim numbers, except in certain mountainous areas.

A plausible interpretation of this finding is that while collectively, at the commune level, the association between poverty and ERW victimization has weakened over time and 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 part of efforts to help formulate national poverty-alleviation strategies.

The Armenia LIS

The European Union and the United States Department of State's Office of 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.

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 communities and contaminating munitions, the survey classified four communities as high-impact, 31 as medium-impact and 25 as low-impact.

Affected Communities and the Human Development Survey

Officially, the last known emplacement of landmines on Armenian soil took place in 1994. UXO from the conflict with the Soviet Union still dot the landscape. In a small number of communities surveyed, key-informants related instances of local people planning mines as recently as 2003. The impacted population has long been aware of the dangers of UXO and landmines, giving the people time to adapt. Proof of this adaptation is found in the reduced number of mine and UXO victims.

In LIS countries with several hundred affected communities, it is feasible to relate the degree of community adaptation, indexed by the ability to avoid incidents, to various social and contamination factors. In Armenia, with only 60 surveyed communities found to be affected, such effects cannot be reliably estimated. However, almost half of the 60 affected communities were sampled during the survey itself, to the effect that a poverty-mapping project of the International Food Policy Research Institute. The Armenia LIS was therefore rather fortunate that the two survey staffs, headquartered in different countries, were not aware of the LIS data collection phase and asked the LIS staff to obtain copies of the NHDS data. Neither survey had been designed in conjunction with the other. In particular, the NHDS communities and household samples were not stratified on landmine/UXO presence. The community guerrities used by the two surveys were not ideal and the overlap between the two sets of surveyed communities could only be established approximately. Moreover, the NHDS was designed in the tradition of World Bank/UNDP-sponsored Living Standards Measurement Surveys with a focus on sample surveys of household behavior rather than community surveys. It was therefore rather fortunate that the two survey data bodies could be linked.

Poverty Differences

The overlap between LIS and NHDS community samples permits comparisons between mine-affected communities and non-affected ones on a small number of poverty levels. Included in the questionnaires were a considerable number of items concerning facilities and service provision, importance rankings for development issues, as well as demographic changes.

Figure 1: Political map of Armenia showing impact near battlefronts.

by Aldo Benini and Charles Conley [Veterans for America]
Table 1: Shows indicators and affected and non-affected communities and impacts of those indicators and whether it is statistically significant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Landmine-affected (26)</th>
<th>Not affected (17)</th>
<th>Is the difference statistically significant?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POPULATION (mean)</td>
<td>1,006</td>
<td>1,157</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance from border (mean)</td>
<td>3.0 km</td>
<td>3.9 km</td>
<td>(n.a.; cut-off distance)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Percentages of importance concern affected and not affected individuals placed upon certain issues. Showing the percentages of people and which percentage answered a topic of interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Landmine-affected (26)</th>
<th>Not affected (17)</th>
<th>All 185 in poverty survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social exclusion</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition of roads</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural lands</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural disasters</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking water</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2: Line graph of affected and non-affected communities and proximity to the border. A dashed line represents the distance to the nearest contamination or distance from the border.

Figure 3: Graph of poverty rates and how connected to land-mine affected regions.

Conclusion
The findings of the Armenia LIS, as far as they resulted from the analysis conjointly with human development survey data, warrant a substantive as well as a methodological conclusion. Substantively, poverty-alleviation policies and humanitarian mine-action strategies should be seen as mutually dependent. This dependency, however, is nuanced and cannot be thought of as a simple linear association between contamination and poverty or poverty alleviation and ERW mitigation. While both aim to inform national strategies, the suitability of particular project types for local community development has to be assessed by looking at several factors such as poverty or poverty alleviation and ERW contamination. Issues are arranged by the importance they registered within the entire LIS community samples accessible to this analysis.

Overall, the importance profile among landmine-affected communities and non-affected communities was similar. Some exceptions, however, are significant:

- Mine-affected communities are more isolated. They emphasize social exclusion, poor roads and marketing problems as important issues more often than other communities. It is noteworthy that the greater importance given to social exclusion and road access persists even when surveyors control for population size (larger communities are less isolated), distance from the border (no effect) and extreme poverty (no effect).
- Mine-affected communities complain significantly less about lack of agricultural land than their mine-free neighbors do in affected provinces and areas close to the border. This may seem paradoxical. In many cases, however, agricultural land to which landmines and UXO are hampering access forms part of restricted military zones. The local community may not think of these areas as accessible and therefore may not formulate the problem as a lack of a particular type of land.
- Fewer mine-affected communities than was expected identified natural disasters as an important issue. Drinking water is far less important an issue than among the 17 non-affected communities in the same state but has the same importance as in the large sample. These differences cannot be explained with the available data, as shown in Table 2. The greater emphasis on isolation and the somewhat surprising de-emphasis of agricultural land may suggest that, given limited development budgets, for many of the landmine-affected communities, clearance may not be as productive an effort as other rehabilitation and development investments. Their relative lag in industrial employment appears to reinforce this conclusion.

Importance of Development Issues
Some of these wider concerns stem from the importance that landmine-affected and non-affected communities attach to a variety of development issues rated in the NHDS. In Figure 3 the percentage of communities that considered an issue important is shown for landmine-affected and non-affected communities close to the border in the contaminated provinces. Issues are arranged by the importance they registered within the entire LIS community samples accessible to this analysis.

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activities within the total reconstruction and development effort; living standards and human development surveys are not capable of rating the severity of the local landmine and UXO impacts. It is their combination with participatory methods that leads to better insights and policies.

This last remark hints at methodological practices desirable on both sides that LIS and poverty-research share. The LIS has benefited from the discipline of using standardized community gazetteers and managing its data in a global information system framework that links up with other spatially denominated data bodies—a practice yet to be widely adopted in the sample-survey-based tradition of poverty research. Conversely, in order to release the constraints of “selecting on the dependent variable” (i.e., collecting data on affected communities only), LIS implements need to reach out to institutions holding data on both affected and non-affected communities more aggressively and earlier, starting in the survey setup phase. And both survey traditions can benefit enormously from participatory assessments that elicit the voice of local communities. The Armenia LIS and human development surveys, while planned and conducted separately, offer a glimpse of the potentials from participatory assessments that elicit the voice of local communities. The Armenia LIS and human development surveys, while planned and conducted separately, offer a glimpse of the potential benefits that mainstreamed mine action when affected communities are looked at through both prisms simultaneously.

See Endnotes. Page 1025 Vermont Avenue, NW, 7th Floor Washington, D.C. 20005 / USA Tel: +1 202 483 9222 Fax: +1 202 483 9312 E-mail: abenini@vi.org Web site: http://www.veteransforamerica.org/

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.

by Samir Poladov [Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action]

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-war-affected districts of Azerbaijan to perform house-clearance operations.

Residential Area Clearance

Initially, 95 houses in Yukhari and Ashagi Kurdmahmudli villages of Fizuli 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
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 never been 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 socioeconomics impact on affected families as well as those who benefited from the project had a safe return of displaced families.

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 (4,695 acres) of suspected mined area in Zobjug village, Fizuli region. This project is a high priority for the government, as cleared land will be used to construct a huge number of additional houses for more than 2,000 displaced families to leave temporary residences in tent camps and move to Zohbag. 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 Ministry of Education organised and supported the procurement of the machines’ initial equipment. These machines have participated in a comparative analysis of the machines’ performance, showing excellent results—daily productivity of the locator can reach 15,000 per sq.m. (AZN) 3,750 with a further 25 percent increase in productivity of the locator can reach 15,000 per sq.m. (AZN) 3,750 with a further 25 percent increase in productivity of the locator can reach 15,000 per sq.m. (AZN) 3,750 with a further 25 percent increase in productivity of the locator can reach 15,000 per sq.m. (AZN) 3,750 with a further 25 percent increase in productivity of the locator can reach 15,000 per sq.m. (AZN) 3,750 with a further 25 percent increase. The system stipulates 100-percent clearance accuracy in subsurface UXO and landmines from affected houses, yards and villages. A combination of technol- ogy and human commitment has been necessary for the successful clearance of residential areas in the safe return of displaced families.

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 Azerbaijan 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 in the safe return of displaced families.

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 heads of 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 in order to help and protect their communities and fellow citizens.
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 uses. Using the newly created database helped ANAMA recognize 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 Sport of the United States 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 Gerevanoy 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 Shefali Elite ("Healing Hands") in English) on “Organization of Sanatorium Treatment” for 120 mine survivors, was successfully completed recently in the Masdan 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, economical 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). At the end of the project, the goal is to expand the activities of the association to a national level.

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Revisions 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 sponsors both projects with additional support from the United Nations Development Programme. The project “Revision of Disability Degrees” is being conducted by two NGOs, Dirchelish (“Revival” in English) and Protection of Human Rights. 

4183 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 activities, 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 Consulare of the Republic of Slovenia in Azerbaijan, Mr. Aliyev, a landmine victim from Azerbaijan, will undergo rehabilitation treatment at the Institute for Rehabilitation, Republic of Slovenia. Thanks to the financial support of ANAMA, Mr. Rashid Velijey, who suffered an injury from an anti-tank mine, had two operations—above-the-elbow resection 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 organizations 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 Azeri survivors a 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 12
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 neighbouring 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 a southeastern Europe free of mines.

By 2004 other countries, including Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, 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 neighbouring 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 “Beecroft 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-hosted by the Armenian and Canadian governments. Here all countries of the region expressed consensus in suggesting the need for landmines to become a depoliticized issue and the need for a common strategy to approach local concerns.

The ITF continued promoting regional cooperation, incorporating observations from this first OSCE seminar. The result was the first Regional Management Training for Middle Managers of the Mine Action Program. This training of managers included participants from all countries of the region, improving their knowledge in mine-action management. Even more importantly, it established relations and raised confidence among participants. In concluding lectures, participants realized and suggested several points of possible cooperation on the regional level. This included joint training, cross-border mine-action projects, sharing of equipment, etc.

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.

The workshop was also an occasion for the OSCE to examine how mine-action activities could improve the overall socioeconomic situation in the regions, 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 ultimately 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 discussions on how regional cooperation might be achieved. For example, in the first part of the workshop,
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 Minog 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 Minog 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, but 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, all mine-action activities are essential for OSCE.

See Endnotes, Page 26

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.

Demining of Underground Adits in Ukraine

During World War II the Soviet Union established ammunition depots with over 10,000 metric tons (11,023 U.S. tons) of explosives around the Ukrainian towns of Sevastopol and Kerch. Stored in adits, these explosives threaten the peaceful lives of present-day Ukrainians. In 2002, teams began the task of removing unexploded ordinance, landmines and detonators. They encountered many problems while pursuing their goal of eliminating these stockpiles by 2010. Their efforts are described in this article.


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The main area that needs to be cleared of explosives within the framework of this program is the destroyed Inkerman Adits located two kilometers (1.3 miles) from Sevastopol. The Inkerman Adits were destroyed due to an ammunition explosion in June 1942. Before the explosion, they served as the Soviet Army ammunition depot, storing more than 10,000 metric tons (11,023 U.S. tons) of ordnance. A considerable amount of ammunition (approximately 1,000 to 3,000 metric tons (1,012 to 3,307 U.S. tons)) did not detonate during that explosion and until now access to it has been obstructed. The intact body of the galleries’ are practically inaccessible. The majority of the ammunition that did not detonate has been mechanically and thermally damaged as well as affected by weather, such as erosion and the periodic influence of ground heave.

Examination of the destroyed adits has shown that the rock mass over them consists of separate blocks (more than 1,000 cubic me...
actions or chemical reactions that can occur in the dam-
aged ammunition during long-term storage. Several op-
tions for solving this problem include the following:
• Prohibiting access to the objects by guarding them
• Filling up the adits with bulk material or concrete
• Extracting and neutralizing unexploded objects on
speciﬁcally designed areas
The ﬁrst two options cannot completely solve the problem, and the expenses are approximately equal to
the third option. Thus, it was decided to clear the adits
of unexploded objects. At the same time, the question
of whether to use horizontal or vertical excavations to
access the underground was raised. Vertical excavations
were more acceptable technologically and ﬁnancially and was
given preference.
The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine have set up
an interdepartmental working group, with repre-
sentatives from Ukraine’s Ministries of Emergency,
Economy, Finance, Industrial Policy and Defense to coordinate program activi-
ties. Project ﬁnancing is provided by Ukraine. The main executor of the work
is Ukroboronservice State Company. The specialists of Ukroboronservice con-
ducting the clearance task proposed a problem-solving strategy comprising several
stages:
1. Thorough investigation
2. Forming an area of 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 unau-
thorized persons from accessing the adits. The working group cleared unexploded ordnance from the surface up to 0.25 centimeters (0.1 inch) in depth and
determined a scheme of probable adit locations before the explosion. A special-
ized Crimean team conducted geological investigations while a local institute
made inspections using such technologies as impulse electromagnetic transmis-
sion. Ukroboronservice conducted engineering and technical investigations.
The lack of reliable information regarding the adits’ layout and stocked ammuni-
tion 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 de-
cided the following:
• To make free vertical excavations (with areas no less than 5 square

meters [54 square feet] deep, 25–35 meters [82–115 feet] each) to
reinforce the walls of passages with concrete braces no less than 30 centimeters (12
inches) thick to prevent soil dilaceration
• 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 pro-
tective 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 con-
crete 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 be-
fore 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 has made three vertical shafts (25–30 meters [82–99 feet]) and horizontal offshoots (30 meters [99 feet]) towards the place where the objects were concentrated. The engineer of safety monitored this step, ensuring that deminers cautiously trans-
poted the UXO by hand and machines safely destroyed the ordnance. ATIK con-
structed additional concrete supports to protect against landslides.
Taking into account all safety regula-
tions, teams executed the task of demin-
ing at an intensive and dangerous rhythm. Speleologists and deminers worked out a special system that considerably increased efficiency and safety. To reduce risk, the de-
miners of Ukroboronservice State Company constantly made technological and
management inspections during the construction of vertical and horizontal excavations. Teams made wide use of mine-detector Vallen EL
1303D with the Vallon ELV2000 Module Base Hole and Surface software. With its
help deminers detected large-caliber aerial bombs and were able to conﬁrm and refuse information concerning the ammunition’s main location. While accompanying adit ex-
cavations 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 con-
tinuously in motion. In time new holes and cracks appear that give access to the under-
ground section. To control ground move-
ment a Crimean team of specialists conduct 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 pos-
sible landslide.
Localisation. A group of deminers from
Ukroboronservice have been executing the
third stage since mid-2006. The third stage
includes the start of intensive extraction of
unexploded objects from underground ob-
structions. During detonation of the ord-
nance concentration of a 20 metric tons (22
U.S. tons) of TNT equivalent, a cannonball-sized explosion may happen and during larger ones, a blowout. That is why the working

group believes that reducing the scale of possible accidental explosions is important. Deminers must create safety lanes, dividing excessively mine-laden areas into smaller, more manageable quantities of UXO.
During this stage (while at the time of writing was still ongoing), the teams have ex-
tracted 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 2,200 pounds), shells from 37 to 180 millimeters and mortar mines from 50 to 122 millimeters. Also during this stage Ukroboronservice has prohibited unau-
thorized 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 atten-
tion to safety regulations, the working 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
continuously
• Controlling the ammunition’s condi-
tion, deﬁning the level of damage and handling it carefully
• Communicating reliably between cave-
going teams and surface-level teams

• Doubling exits in vertical shafts to
provide easier evacuation for cave-go-
ning teams
• Prompt ﬁrst aid to victims and evacu-
ation to the medical center in ac-
cordance with International Mine
Action Standards

Conclusion
Besides the Inkerman Adits, the state
 clearance program of unexploded objects from
 Sevastopol and Kerch also takes place in six areas: the Makenzy Mountains, near the
Pyatnaya battery, the villages of Genioupke and Bondunskoe, Adzhimushky quar-
ties 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 involvement from the state; however, Ukraine has only paid half of the total amount necessary to complete the

task. Incomplete program funding will ad-
versely impact the time it takes to complete the
work. With every passing year the clear-
ance of the Inkerman Adits becomes increas-
ingly 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 29

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JOURNAL: The Journal of ERW and Mine Action Issue 11.1

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International Eurasia Press Fund Works in Azerbaijan

Problems with explosive remnants of war in Azerbaijan stem from emplacement 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.

by Gary Cox [Mine Action Information Center]

T

he IEPF has been instrumental in the rehabilitation of a mine-plagued Azerbaijan, providing or facilitating countless 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 most 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 populace and initial statistics concerning mine victims. Umud Mirzoyev, IEPF Chairman, says the surveys indicated more than half a million people in 643 communities were affected by war on Azerbaijan. Coverage has also been directed at the suffering of refugees and internally displaced persons.

Peacemaking and conflict resolution activities, 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 identifying and prioritizing problems with the goal of remediation. The Level One Landmine Survey, Landmine Impact Survey and Mine Victims’ Needs Assessment all began as projects implemented through this focus area, ultimately growing, so large endeavors. Several international conferences, seminars and round-tables 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/IDP problems and investing 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 empowerment and reintegration 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 laid out 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, fistulous and sutured burn types. They also were taught about blood-pressure measurements and providing hypodermics, intravenous and intra-venous 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, opportunities 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, beekeeping and carpet weaving. Further collaboration will help to bring these business 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 espoused interest in 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—Aghsarak, Daminchalar, Jamilly, Seydimly, Shikharkh 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 basic computer operation and including development of word-processing and spreadsheet skills.

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

Media and civil-society development.

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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 demining organizations. 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 IEFP and the Azerbaijan 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 need of 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 both external and internal expectations as high and the challenges as great as they are in Southeast Europe (SEE)? 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 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 expected what the use of AP mines means and we know that we should do everything not to allow this to happen again.”

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 establish ment 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.

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 Badary, Khalil Hatamov and Mohammed Shimos—are currently involved with seedling activities and one—Nuru Gouleri—with beekeeping. Most of the mine-victim entrepreneurs make four to five trips annually from their salaries.

Despite their injustices, these mine victims are actively contributing to their local economies—and they are a part of a larger trend toward increased personal independence with vital 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 Miryzoyev is proud of the accomplishment of the Mine Victims’ Association in the Terter region of Azerbaijan, but much remains to be accomplished in assisting mine victims and their families integrate fully into society.

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

Miryzoyev 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. 3

There is also the problem of addressing the needs of mine victims in other regions of the country. Regional business efforts will soon begin to tackle complex vocational, medical, juridical and social problems in other areas of Azerbaijan. The IEFP is looking to expand further to give greater attention to other villages as branch offices of the Azerbaijan Mine Victims’ Association.

Conclusion

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.

by Kerry Brinkert | Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining |
from pre- to post-Cold War state structures. Moreover, each state has expressed its consent to be bound by the Ottawa Convention. That is, while in frequent use, are operationally ambiguous—or “mine safe” or “impact free”—all of which are terms that naturally may be on the minds of States Parties evaluating a request for an extension might be.

Macedonia: Meeting the Expectation of Completion

Macedonia recently articulated the endpoint for Article 5 implementation well in advance of 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 mines under its jurisdiction or control to which the Convention entered into force.” Please note this is a statement of a de-mining operation near Petrich, Macedonia, taken 19 November 2006.

Challenges notwithstanding, every SEE state has expressed its consent to be bound by the Ottawa Convention. In doing so, each state has created expectations 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 realised. 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 meeting these expectations.

In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, States Parties were 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. Each State Party identifying such areas must “embrace as soon as possible all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all AP mines contained therein have been destroyed.”

3. Each State Party identifying such areas must “destroy or ensure the destruction of all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all AP mines contained therein have been destroyed.”

Macedonia also illustrated that in reaching this endpoint, States Parties can illustrate 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, which state that a high standard has been achieved in mine clearance and related activities. No States Parties are expected to do so, and 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.

BiH and Croatia: More Time is Required

While Macedonia was able to fulfill its obligations in a 10-year period, it was understood when the Convention was adopted that some States Parties may need more time “to destroy or ensure the destruction of all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control.” In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, States Parties may request an extension for a period of up to 10 years. Indeed, this understanding was made clear by the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1997 when he stated that “we are aiming to comply with the 10- year time limit and do not want to consider an extension for reasons of our problem may make this the only solution.”

BiH and Croatia have indicated that their challenging environment means they will not reach Article 5 completion in a 10-year period. This, however, does not represent a failure to meet expectations; claiming such would ignore the legal framework of the Convention. States Parties at the Convention have considered these States’ considerable efforts to date in proceeding to fulfill their obligations.

Rather, BiH and Croatia are well-placed to claim success in meeting expectations given the challenging environment in which they find themselves. It is clear that a detailed plan is in place to enable each to declare completion in as short a time period as possible after 2009. Being able to claim interim success in meeting expectations, though, will be no easy matter. Making decisions on whether to grant extensions will be a serious affair for States Parties. As Croatia itself remarked in September 2006, “the extension possibility is not to serve as an excuse to mine-em- fected States Parties for making every effort ‘to destroy or ensure the destruction of all AP mines in mined areas under their jurisdic- tion or control’ but as a necessary tool”… “a vehicle for the full implementation of the Convention and not a means for getting around it.”

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Safe and Efficient Use of Mine Dogs in the Republic of Croatia

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.

by Mirko Ivanušić, Davor Laura and M. Sc. Željko Šarić [Croatian

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 1,044 square kilometres (1,249 square yards) of mine-suspected area in Croatia is actually mine-contaminated speaks in favour of using dog-handler teams in mine-search operations for the purpose of simple, 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 preconditions required 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 verifying 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 35 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 several dogs and creation of teams for area inspection as a second method after mechanical mine clearance. The level of training for the dogs, trained mostly in foreign countries, depended upon which centre trained them. During this time, CROMAC was active in a number of important 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 Stock on the area called Jutrosse, which is no longer in use. There have been four more 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 firm 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 sends 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 enter 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 mine 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 conduct 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-
Trainability Verification and Dog-Handler Team Evaluation

Most of the world shows that even when dogs receive training related to demining work, clearance of mines, UXOs and their fragments.

Demining operations are assessed for a period of six months, nine months or one and a half years depending on the number of points reached during testing.

In order to recognize “the complete bouquet” related to all scents of a “military mine” there are four points must be taken into consideration before giving a rating. The first two points deal with the presence of UXO containing the explosive TNT, the type most frequently used.

If these conditions with different work methods. This SOP also clearly describes the 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/or 10 x 10 (11 x 11). Also, if there is been fire on the area previously demined, MDD inspection cannot go forward until two days after the fire so fumes do not disrupt the dogs’ sense of smell.

The insect-robot recently participated in a live-fire test at the Yuma Test Grounds in Arizona and performed well, according to reports. The robot sought out landmines, purposefully stepping on pyrotechnics at the Ministry of Defence and in the Ministry of the Interior as both a Plan and Operations Adviser and as the commander of the civil protection emergency unit for protection from mines and UXO. He is also the director for the work with Official MDDs.

New Bug-like Demining Robots Tested in Arizona

Explosives investigation is a common task for remotely operated robots, but Mark Tilden has developed a new kind of robot with a unique approach to explosives. The robotics physicist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory built a demining robot resembling a stick insect that is nearly autonomous.

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News Brief

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Left with only one leg, the machine continued to pull itself forward and demine the field. At this point, the Army colonel in charge of the test ordered the exercise stopped.

The colonel, it seemed, could not watch the scorched, crippled robot dragging itself through the desert minefield with just one leg. He said the test was just too inhumane.

Table 2: Point system for rating MDD teams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Working procedures description</th>
<th>Prescribed number of points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Assessment of level of handler’s knowledge-written exam</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Obedience exercises</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Walking by handler’s leg on leash</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Stops, while walking</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Abort of the dog</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Moving in front of the handler</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rasting dog</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Modes to let a dog enter the test field</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Evaluation of systematic searching method in accordance to the</td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Handler’s rapport with the dog</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Safety of the dog while detecting mines</td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Reliability of dog’s findings and handlers</td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Distance between an indication and a buried mine</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Number of wrong indications</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Evaluation of found and indicated UXO fragments</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Level of motivation to search</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Level of focus intensity during search</td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Evaluation of overall work quality and behaviour of handler-dog team, total number of points=100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Miro Ivanušič is the Deputy Director of the Croatian Mine Action Centre. He is a member of IMA Review and the Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Testing Dogs and Handlers in Humanitarian Demining Operations. He worked with CROMAC from its founding and has taken several management posts in the United States, including the UNDP Senior Manager, his current position through the Mine Action Information Center.

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

I
n 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 landmines were having upon innocent Jordanians and believed prior to the signing of the Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty1 and four years pact landmines were having upon innocent Jordanians and believed I before Jordan joined the Ottawa Convention. 2 King Hussein and his wife Queen Noor set the trend for years to come by emphasizing this issue. Mine action became a national priority and was consequently viewed not only as a humanitarian imperative, but as a goal intrinsically tied to development.

Jordan’s Lessons

To date, several lessons have been learned from the Jordanian experience in mine action. The most vital is the recognition that without political will and leadership from the top, such initiatives will fail. Mine action is slightly different from other humanitarian causes due to the great number of stakeholders involved. For instance, mine action in developing countries demands the involvement of a wide cross-section of society, including key government ministries, the military, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Defence, Planning, Social Development, Agriculture and Tourism. Jordan’s Article 5 obligations require the involvement of the Jordanian government, success in mine action is sustained by strong leadership that requires all players share a common vision and objective. Without such direction, mine action will be subjected to bureaucratic obstacles and delays and will be thrown into a basket with numerous other national priorities. What is required early on is how to get it in the right hands.

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 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’s 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—he is on the number of countries who 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 obligations are 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 make rapid impact and organizational advances on the dual objectives of meeting its Ottawa Convention target and providing the space for human development to occur in some of the most fertile and agriculturally important areas of the country. Although Jordan’s landmine problem is not large in size, the scope of its impact is great because the country has one of the highest populations in the world, and less than 25 percent of its territory is suitable for agriculture.

UNDP Helps Find Resources

UNDP’s role in the case of Jordan’s mine action development has been to help introduce and draw upon the international resources that are available to mine-affected countries. First and foremost, strategic technical partnerships were built that allowed for customization of general guidelines to what fits the needs of Jordan. Finding the best fit has included working closely on a host of operational matters with international technical experts, such as the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, James Madison University’s Mine Action Information Center, the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNICEF, the United Nations Mine Action Service and Norwegian People’s Aid. On issues related to the Ottawa Convention, words of encouragement and direction have come from civil society, as well as the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and ICRC have been valuable partners. In perhaps the most important area of cooperation—donor partnership—the NCDR has gone from almost negligible support in 2004 to today with more than 19 donors supporting mine action in Jordan. The regular flow of information (quarterly donor meetings, newsletters, etc.) and succinct and clear reporting have helped this assistance develop.

Nontraditional donors such as China, Monaco and South Korea are now mine-action partners to Jordan as well. Looking at Jordan’s approach to capacity development 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.
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 underlining 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 to begin with. This belief is what we in WRA operate under as we do our country planning: impact-free status—can the country get there? What is the key component leading to this success?

DR: Does PM/WRA usually 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 by policy say 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 then we will support them within that structure.

DR: In your opinion, 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.2 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 targeted 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.

Sara Sekkenes, United Nations Development Programme

Perspectives on Capacity Development

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 measure 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, it’s 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 we 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 addition, 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 their staff and personnel; administration and financial management; public opinion or what we mean by mainstreaming mine action.

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; 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 commitments they have undertaken, and mainstream mine action.

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 why you should build that road there, as well as planning for any 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, importantly, ownership? I think that is a fair question to start being asked by the mine-action community.

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SS: I think we’re talking about optimal activities where we’ve reached the level of desired performance and capacity. There are many, many good examples of activities that have reached a level of performance to the full satisfaction of those involved, including national institutions, international operators, and local communities conducting the programs and donors funding the activities. This requires taking into consideration the challenges and the conducive environment of the activities in terms of facilitating for, or directly improving the impact of mine-action activities.

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 deliberate effort 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 have not established indicators for capacity development in the past in UNDP, as I understand, and I don’t think any other organizations are doing this. As I mentioned, we’re recently at the annual program managers’ meeting and it was very well-received.

So of course, the process of measuring indicators and progress is not purely scientific and absolute, but this project is definitely needed.

We also have to make up our mind on how far we want to go with our long-term commitment to projects and programs, as you can easily create expectations and dependency if you aren’t able to say that you’re going to stop. National governments in mine-affected countries also have to decide how they ultimately are going to address the mine-action program because many of them are under binding international obligations that clearly specify the end goal.

I think another lesson learned is that we still believe that mine action requires specific expertise and educational training that most deminers commonly acquire in the military. I think military training is fully valid in terms of some of the tasks that are carried out in mine-action. But I think we have also learned that we need so much more than that as well. And I want to emphasize “as well” because without the clearance and EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) capacity, you’re otherwise obviously a little bit lost. But we’re also lost if we don’t acknowledge the contributions from other sectors such as the affected communities themselves, development, administration and management, and specific expertise on community needs, management, administrative, financial, logistical and outreach skills, to name a few. I think that mine action would perform better if we just acknowledge that we do need a diverse pool of personnel to staff institutions that are going to address the mine-action problem.

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 the emphasis on transition and mainstreaming the 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 of us not to see 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 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 progress over UNDP’s history 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 lot of cultural differences and other needs to be met, particularly in countries that are going through a major post-conflict phase and/or facing severe poverty problems with dysfunctional social services. Often, general and specialized education levels are low, health is poor, income generation is low and so on. For example, I worked with a mine-action center database once where my counterpart literally did not know how to switch on a computer and had no interest of learning to do so, either. He was also rarely present as the state salary he received was not enough to sustain his family. Consequently, he spent more time abstractly engaged in other means of income-generating activities. That’s a challenge.

In terms of “capacity development” or “capacity building,” what if there isn’t enough money? Where do we start? And at what level do we start? Do we start by giving extremely basic computer-literacy training? Or do we count on at least computer literacy being one requirement in terms of requirements for recruitment? That doesn’t mean that it’s impossible, but there are many challenges out there that we have to be acknowledged.

“SS’s: 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.”

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. This comes from mine-clearance activities that we’ve carried out in the region 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.

Working group considering the process of capacity development and transition in Geneva in March 2007 during the Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Program Advisers meeting, March 8-9 2007. Photograph courtesy of UNDP.
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 Certificate 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)

T he 1992–1995 war in BiH left the country heavily contami- nated 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 prob- lem in Europe.

Unreliable 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 cas- suaries. Members of the international community and various nongovernmental organizations have responded to this urgent hu- manitarian problem by initiating a variety of programs, working with the local government to clear landmines, promoting landmine education and 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 the 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 cen- ters 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 cen- ters to participate in network activities. A few of the activities were distance-learning data collection and reporting, technology develop- ment and clinical consultation.

The CIR Distance Learning Program was launched in January 2003 and is headquartered in the Prosthetics Department at the University Klinicki Centar in Tuzla, BiH. A Category I International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics certified prosthetic educator was hired to develop the capacity of the prosthetic services and staff at the UKC. Four local individuals were employed in sup- porting roles as a prosthetics assistant, IT specialist, translator and regional administrator.

The CIR’s program was designed for prosthetic technicians who had three to five years of experience providing prosthetic services but had not received any formal training. This innovative education program stresses collaborative, interactive learning and is designed to be adapted to different cultures, learning styles and technologi- cal resources. The online portion of the program is supplemented with hands-on instruction, periodic evaluations, weekly quizzes and theoretical and practical examinations. The content incorporates text, graphics, photographs, case presentations, videos and hybrid CD-ROMs. To facilitate online communication and interaction, the CIR initiated a cooperative agreement with WebCT, an enterprise...
from 11 different rehabilitation centers lo-
cared 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 pro-
gram took the ISPO Category II Prosthetic 
Technologist Certification examination, 
conducted by the Chairman and one mem-
ber of the ISPO Education Committee. 
Independent international examiners from 
Bosnia, Germany and Macedonia also as-
sisted with the evaluation. The exam was 
comprised of both theoretical and practi-
cal components, and students were required 
to make a case presentation and fabricate 
a prosthetic device for a patient. Seventeen 
of the participating students received ISPO 
Category II Certification in lower extremity 
prosthetics (transfemoral and transfemoral), 
and the other two students were given the 

software and services company serving the 
education industry, to develop the first ever 
Serbo-Croatian language plug-in for WebCT’s Campus Edition 3.8 software. The CIR later switched its on-
line platform to a system called Moodle, an 
open-source distance-education platform 
that offers over 30 language packages, off-
cline course-delivery options, and customi-
able 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 ex-
ample, the Lower Extremity Prosthetics course 
is comprised of the transfemoral module set, 
the transfemoral module set, the transfem-
oral foot amputation module set and the partial-
foot amputation module set. The transfemoral 
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Once Landmines Blow! took off, I never looked back.”

There was no hesitation, just a whirlwind of action, and go to school, so I put [my education] on hold. However, when it came down to choosing between her education and her work, Bock chose the latter. “There was no choice for me,” she said. “I had to work and make a difference.”

It was hard in the sense that it required a lot of time, but it was also a wonderful experience. “I designed the logo and started selling T-shirts online and that is how we paid the bills for the first year.” At the time, Bock was also attending school, and she continued to travel and teach about landmines, all while holding a grade-point average of 3.8 and intending to graduate from the University of Illinois in 2006.

“Once I started Landmines Blow! in August 2003 and the mission was to make a positive difference in this world” are what make her story so inspiring. “It was an overwhelming feeling of purpose and a sense of urgency to get involved and make a difference,” reveals Bock. “I designed the logo and started selling T-shirts online and that is how we paid the bills for the first year.”

Along with a different focus and approach, the organization’s name has also changed, becoming “Landmines Blow!” The organization’s name change has been a conscious decision, and it is something that Bock is proud of. “The name change reflects our commitment to addressing the problem of landmines and helping survivors out there trying to make ends meet,” asserts Bock. “It is the most rewarding thing I have ever experienced in my life.”

Since Landmines Blow! is completely volunteer-run and non-profit, Bock also holds a full-time job. “I like my day job,” she said. “I have a full-time job and still keep working. ‘MS was a temporary setback, [but] it gave me new eyes and, if anything, a sense of urgency to get out there and do as much as possible while I have the ability,’ declares Bock. “None of us knows what tomorrow will bring but we don’t think that today is any different from any other day.”

Bock was selected as a Volvo for Life Award semi-finalist from the state of Illinois because of her work to educate young Americans about the landmine crisis abroad and also to assist survivors, refugees and internally displaced persons. However, Landmines Blow! also brings something new to the mine-action community: the name of my paper and then my presentation and the word ‘blows’ to describe his relationship with his girlfriend,” reveals Bock. “I was in the middle of doing a research project for a cultural anthropology course on landmines, and I said loud and clear, ‘landmines blow,’ because they really do. That became the name of my paper and then my presentation and then my organization.”

Since the beginning, Landmines Blow! has pushed the organization to reach new heights. Landmines Blow! now has over 1,000 subscribers to its newsletter and has sold hundreds of T-shirts, hats and coffee mugs throughout the world to raise money for the cause. The organization’s Web site receives thousands of hits a day and was found in one of the top 10 Google searches under the term “landmines.”

“We met at a summit on Mines Free World in Nairobi, Kenya in 2004. When we started the journey, it was the first time I met real landmine survivors from everywhere,” says Bock. “I was overwhelmed at how many people needed help and wondered how I could really make a difference. That feeling was no different than today.”

At the time, she was a landmine survivor from Cambodia, who told me to focus on making a difference in the life of one person at a time. You can make a difference in one life, so I did and the rest, as they say, is history.

“The true heroes are the thousands of landmine survivors out there and do as much as possible while I have the ability,” declares Bock. “I’d really like to focus on the promotion of women in the communities that we serve,” says Bock.

The future looks bright for Bock and Landmines Blow! However, Bock knows that there is still much work to be done. “We are just beginning to make a positive difference in this world” are what make her story so inspiring. “It was an overwhelming feeling of purpose and a sense of urgency to get involved and make a difference.”

Bock started Landmines Blow! in August 2003 and worked her way from the bottom up with her organization. “I started the organization with about $500 from my spa business,” reveals Bock. “I designed the logo and started selling T-shirts online and that is how we paid the bills for the first year.”

At the time, Bock was also attending school, holding a grade-point average of 3.8 and intending to graduate from the University of Illinois in 2006. However, when it came down to choosing between her education and her work, Bock chose the latter. “There was no way I could work full-time, find and run a nonprofit organization and go to school,” she said. “I put my education on hold.”

“Once Landmines Blow! took off, I never looked back.”

The organization’s mission is to raise awareness about landmines and unexploded ordnance, and help victims all over the world. In the eyes of many people, Bock is truly an Unsung Hero.

by Matthew Voegel [ Mine Action Information Center ]
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.”

During the war, Ražnjević lived in Benkovac, a little town close to Zadar. The town was a part of former Krajina, a region in Croatia where Serbs live; therefore, Benkovac was on the front line of the war. As a civilian, she encountered danger every day. “Bombs and grenades were all around,” says Ražnjević.

Landmines are still a pervasive problem in Croatia, and Ražnjević’s children are learning about them as a result of their mother’s job. “I always talk with them about the landmine situation and about my job. They understand what I am doing and they know the dangers of demining.”

It has been six years since Ražnjević attended the Croatian Ministry of Interior’s national demining training course in Zagreb. She was the only woman in the group of trainees. She graduated from the course as one of the best participants and started working in the field alongside veteran male deminers. “In the beginning I was inexperienced,” says Ražnjević, “but my more experienced colleagues taught me the demining procedures that I was not familiar with. I can say that I have not received any criticism for my work as a deminer. It is not permissible to make a mistake in this job.”

Ražnjević’s calm confidence and her ability to coordinate her personal and professional life have won admiration from her colleagues. Silvija Bogdany, Ražnjević’s former team leader, says of Ražnjević, “She is under much more pressure than the rest of us, and she is always on our mind. For me, things are rather simple. I don’t have as much responsibility. I think that her children are always on her mind. For me, this job is not different. It is hard to be a mother and a deminer at the same time.”

Likewise, Ražnjević expresses respect for her co-workers. “The courage of my colleagues has made an impression on me,” says Ražnjević. She recalls one time when a fire started in a mined area. “It was very dangerous, but we did not run. We fought the fire and we won, of course.”

In the past six years, Ražnjević has learned a lot about demining and about teamwork. “I can help build the foundations for good relations between us deminers,” says Ražnjević. Even with all the knowledge she has already gained, she still wishes to learn more about mine action. In 2007 she will finish her studies in psychrotechnology, which largely includes subjects such as anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance, explosion physics, management and humanitarian demining. “I think that it is important for deminers to be adequately educated and I think that it is important to develop deminers’ rights.” Her vision for the future of demining is optimistic: “I believe that we will find a more effective way to remove the problem. I hope that I will still be working in this field when we do,” says Ražnjević. “In the future I wish to work as a leader of demining projects all over the world. To do that, I will need practical work experience as an assistant to a person who already is doing this type of work,” she says.

Reflecting on her career as a deminer, Ražnjević says her experiences with demining have been good: “I can say that I have found myself in this job. I am clearing landmines with pleasure. I feel happy when I can destroy something that can destroy somebody’s life. I am ready to continue demining in the future, but I will never do the opposite—I mean I don’t want to lay mines. I will never do the opposite—I mean I don’t want to lay mines. There is no politician, no idea and no money that can pressure me to do that!”


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Angolan Landmine Commission Establishes Monitoring Team

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

Agostinho Nyaka said the team will work in heavily mined provinces like Bailundo, Huambo, Katchiungo and Tchicala-Tcholohanga. 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.

http://digitalcommonwealth.org/jmu/journalofmineaction/11.1/11.1

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The CEN Workshop Approach to ensure coordination and generation of standard methodologies for humanitarian demining. Therefore, test results were frequently of limited use. Since the creation of the CEN BT/WG 126, 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 in an open arena.

The procedures for setting up and operating CEN Workshops are deliberately kept to a minimum and aim to be "client making" rather than "client resisted" 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 13: "Humanitarian Mine Action—Competency Standards\(^3\)
- CEN Workshop 14: "Demining Machines—Characteristics of COTS Demining Machines,\(^3\) have been included in the IMAS on test and evaluation of mine-action equipment\(^4\) during the July 2005 amendment. During 2006 the following new CEN Workshops started:

  - CEN Workshop 7 (reactivated)—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 documents will wish to be or able to perform all of the tests specified. Different parts of the CWA are intended to be used by research and development laboratories, manufactur- ers and organisations needing to procure metal detector equipment, mine-action centres and metal-detector users in the field. A user in the field, for example, may perform the detection reliability test, some of the tests of operational performance characteristic, and some of the basic in-air and in-soil sensitivity measurements. Furthermore, users of the CWA who wish to conduct a trial of various metal detectors using the tests specified may also conduct a pre-trial assessment to establish that devices do not meet their requirements from the start. Such a pre-trial would include one or more of the tests specified in the CWA, with acceptance levels set by the users according to their own requirements.

In order to help different users get the maximum benefit from the CWA, guidelines are provided under the form of a matrix\(^5\) as to which CWA tests are considered appropriate for different categories of trials. At the time of the publication of CWA 14747 (June 2003), it was stated that further work was needed on the understanding of the effect of the soil and how to best characterise it, as well as on the design of a practical approach to measure detection reliability. In the meantime, the CWA 14747 test protocols have been verified during several trials, among others, the comparative trial of commercial, off-the-shelf metal detectors.\(^6\) A list of CWA 14747 updates is now being proposed and plans exist to reconvene CEN Workshop 7 in 2007. The main objective of the reconstituted 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.\(^7\)

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. Among other things, it should help users find the key technique or combination of techniques best suited to a given mine-clearance operation. In CWA 15044, demining machines are defined as those machines whose stated purpose is the detonation, destruction or removal of landmines. It should be noted that this does not necessarily mean a full demolition or following passage of the machine. The machine could be a ground-preparation machine, primarily intended to improve the efficiency of subsequent demining activities. CWA 15044 provides a standardised methodology for test and evaluation of demining machines using a systematic and stepwise approach. It includes provisions and technical criteria for:

- Performance testing: Testing to establish whether the machine and its tool(s) are capable of performing the role for which they are intended under comparable and repeatable conditions, and to evaluate the manufacturer's specifications.
- 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.
- Acceptance testing: Testing to ensure the machine is able to work in the environment in which it is intended to be used. The criteria provide guidelines for local authorities when accepting (field testing) machines.
- Test targets: The criteria provide testing agencies with guidelines to develop standardised test targets.

CWA 15044 also provides a list of all information that should be provided by the manufacturer before testing. It further recommends a pre-trial assessment, but does not include specific guidelines. This assessment is a qualitative examination of the equipment looking at the different design parameters, capabilities and manufacturer specifications and should answer the question: "Is it suitable for continued testing?" The ITEP testing community recommends a pre-trial assessment for all demining equipment considered for testing prior to embarking on a full-scale trial.

It is acknowledged that the current version of CWA 15044 is written with an apparent bias toward Rolls and similar machines; however, it is noted that other machines including rollers could be tested equally well using the same procedures. In addition, machines intended to remove mines (versus triggering or breaking them), such as sifting, could be tested using the same procedures.

At the time CWA 15044 was published (July 2004), it was recognized that the CWA concentrates on the testing of machines to clear mines and there is a need...
The IMAS are a framework to assist the development of National Mine Action Strategies as well as providing general information on existing regulations and conventions that affect mine action, particularly those referring to international humanitarian law, clearance requirements, hazard marking and general safety issues. The IMAS are a framework to assist the development of National Mine Action Standards that can more accurately reflect specific local situations in a given country. The IMAS can be adapted as national standards where the United Nations, or another international body, temporarily assumes the responsibility of a mine-action authority. IMAS can also provide the framework for legal contracts between donors and implementing organisations.

There are currently a number of IMAS covering a wide range of issues from establishing to evaluating mine-action programmes. They include not only general guidelines for mine action but also standards for specific field activities such as clearance requirements or marking of hazards in demining operations. New IMAS are produced periodically based on requirements realised either in the field or at the management levels in mine action. The existing IMAS are reviewed every three years and amended or replaced with a new edition as needed.

UNMAS has the mandated responsibility for development and maintenance of the IMAS. The work of preparing, reviewing and revising the IMAS is conducted by technical committees, with the support of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining coordinates this process at the request of the United Nations. There is a Review Board of the IMAS that is responsible for overseeing the review and

2007 Marks 10th Anniversary of 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.

by Faiz M. Pakian | Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining |
Faiz Paktian is the Head of Standards and Stockpile Destruction at the GICHD and is responsible for the continual development and review of the International Mine Action Standards and the associated Technical Notes for Mine Action. He has been involved in mine action in a variety of roles for the last 17 years in several mine-affected countries. He holds a Master of Engineering and a Master of Business Administration.

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The Mine Injury and Trauma Seminar: A Way to Save Lives

The author describes his journey to Ecuador for a seminar he was invited to teach for medical personnel working in or around demining sites. Working with the Organization of American States, the author developed a seminar to teach mine-clearance experts what actions to take if someone is injured by a mine, enabling personnel to react to multiple types of stimuli while working in the field. The author explains the details of this seminar and why it is an important part of the mine-action process. He also provides information on Ecuador’s own mine problem.

by Adam Kushner, MD, MPH

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 deniers 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 Galápagos 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 renovated 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 it 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 Sacajawea 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 1533. 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 1995. 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 Peruvian. One of the unfortunate lasting results of the conflict, however, is an estimated 11,000 unexploded landmines.

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. Clearing is expected to continue until 2008 or 2009. Although clearing landmines is usually a slow, arduous and dangerous task, working in the jungle presents even more complex problems. Unlike minefields I have seen in Azerbaijan, Kosovo, Bosnia and, in Ecuador the mountainous terrain mixed with the thick jungle vegetation, humidity and high temperatures present even greater challenges.

News Brief

Investment in Cluster-bomb Manufacturers Criminalized

Belgium is the first country to criminalize the investment in companies that make cluster bombs. The Belgian Senate passed legislation in early March to make such investment illegal and the Parliament will publish a list of companies that manufacture cluster bombs. Several Belgian banks terminated their investments in such companies, as the new law prohibits Belgian banks from owning shares in cluster-bomb manufacturers or offering them credit.

More than 40 countries have pledged to develop new international agreements to ban the use of cluster bombs by 2008. Belgium was also the first country to entirely ban cluster munitions, which at least 23 countries have used.
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 OAS 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 pre-sessions, in Santiago I was able to teach an abbreviated 1-day version of MITS to the paramedics, squad leaders and physicians. This seminar focused 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 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.

According to data from the International Committee of the Red Cross, landmine injuries occur in three distinct patterns. Pattern I injuries result from a person stepping on a bliss mine and suffering a traumatic amputation of the foot or leg. Pattern II injuries can affect the entire body, particularly the abdomen and chest, and occur from activation of a fragmentation or bounding mine. Pattern III injuries affect the face and hands (often leading to blindness) and result from handling mines.

Although MITS was designed for military medical personnel working with demining units, I also cover issues relating to all types of trauma in general. When I am in the field, I eagerly strive to include civilian personnel whenever possible; they are the ones more likely to treat traumatic injuries on a daily basis, unlike the military personnel who are on standby and see few victims.

The goal of the seminar is not only to review procedures to keep an injured victim alive and to facilitate transfer to a hospital for definitive care. These goals are accomplished through teaching basic trauma principles, such as the ABCs, which include life-saving measures for getting oxygen to the lungs and stopping bleeding. 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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MITS is designed for military medical personnel working with demining units and specifically for treating landmine victims, the principles which are taught are applicable for all types of traumatic injuries. Students not only learn how to care for mine injuries, but also how to care for injuries resulting from motor-vehicle crashes, gunshot or stab wounds, assaults or falls.

The primary philosophy of the MITS program is to emphasize the principles of airway, breathing and circulation, thereby optimizing immediate survival for mine victims by allowing stabilization and facilitating transport to a hospital for emergency surgery to begin the long road to recovery and rehabilitation.

See Endnotes, Page
Summary, maps, tables, a short analysis of the results of each province and a CD-ROM with the full survey detail. CNIDAH completed this report and provided it to the Provincial Vice-Governors (responsible for mine action) at a national plenary meeting in October 2006. The report is freely available to the mine action operators and other interested parties. The National Mine Action Strategy and these interim LIS results were key elements in the development of the 2007 provincial operational plans.

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 from those familiar with similar guidelines that may have been developed in other countries.

Using LIS data to develop annual provincial plans. The annual provincial plans implement the national strategy and consider the best available local information. These notes provide suggestions of targets and a wide range of factors that may be relevant; the list below (see Table 1) is not exhaustive, and, in a time-lag gap a high-impact and about 5 percent as low-impact. These results have generated discussion about the sounding system and how impact is measured, including the role the number of recent victims has in accounting for high impact. SAC has welcomed this discussion on alternative sounding systems and has kept attention on the high- and medium-impact communities. CNIDAH used the interim results from the first 14 provinces for the basis for the Angolan National Mine Action Strategy 2006–2011, adopted by the Council of Ministers in September 2006.

Provisional Provincial Reports

With the invitation from CNIDAH to continue joint responsibility for the ALLS SAC, SAC recommissioning from Germany and sent the author as Technical Advisor on the first of three planned missions to Angola as Technical Advisor on the first of three planned missions to Angola.

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.

by Charles Downs | Survey Action Center |
Minesetik 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/UXO 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 influence 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 teaching 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 policemen, 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 CES 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 family members. It is important that there be strong coordination among the MRE operators, 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 should start with finding out what children already know and feel 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 situations (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 six-steps of the Child-to-Adult approach can be used to train the child to be a teacher in his/her home and are as follows:

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

The six-steps approach to Child-to-Adult method.

Table 1: The six-step approach to Child-to-Adult method.

### Step 3: Discussing and planning

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 is this way 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 people in 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 approach 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 reasons. In Iraqi, Afghan and other countries, IKMIA 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.
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 ]

A rmed 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 analyses 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, 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 30 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 international organizations but facilitated by NSAs.

There 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 projects or programs. 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. This is equal to the benefit of using AP mines and unexploded ordnance.

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 cessation of hostilities. In fact, a step-by-step approach is often recommended.

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...
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 NSAs, 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 offers.

Need for confidence-building, commitment, and coordination. 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 Decree of 2001 in Morocco) has served 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 mine 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 making the process open and clear about their activities, humanitarian actors can convince NSAs and concerned states of their neutrality in order to avoid security problems and the constraints of “spying.” In return, NSAs and the concerned party(s) also need to be transparent to humanitarian actors in order 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 NGOs, which work 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-union roles.11 NSAs are sometimes part of these local communities. When NSAs are involved in host-mine-action activities, it is especially important that mine-action practitioners deal with them by consulting, advising 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 community representatives to put pressure on the armed actors. However, it can also put the population at risk. In this case, 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 some relevant parallels that can be drawn to the involvement of the regular military in mine action. As for the regular armed forces, the political situation and the NSAs link to the population determine whether:

- NSAs should be involved in mine action during or after armed conflict;
- It is more advantageous to work with demobilized rather than active NSA soldiers;
- Civilian actors are preferred;
- Sensitive issues that need to be carefully considered in different conflict and post-conflict situations include:
  - Whether the population trusts the NSAs;
  - The nature of the relationships between the NSAs and other relevant armed actors in the area.

The possible outcomes of the actions

Conclusion

In conclusion, Armed Non-State Actors and Landmines, Volume II: A Global Report of NSA Mine Action 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.
Quality Management in Demining Organisations

In this article, the International Standards Organization 9001:2000 Quality Management System is compared to what leading actors in quality management and business management deem to be current best practice. The aim of this paper is to show the universal application of the ISO 9001:2000 system as a quality-management system and that it complies with best practises in business and quality management around the world. This article will highlight a few of the most important ISO clauses and show how they are supported by best practises.

by Charles Lecon | United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan

Management Responsibility

Leadership and top management responsibilities are singled out by all the literature reviewed as the most important aspects of any attempt to implement or enhance a quality-management system in an organisation, or to even just enhance current quality standards in an organisation. Any attempt to introduce quality into an organisation that is not wholeheartedly and actively supported by the top management team is bound to be short-lived and doomed to failure. In defining the exact role of top managers and their detailed responsibilities in and to a quality-management system, the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System leaves no hiding place for top management, which may explain why so many organisations are hesitant to fully adopt it.

Philip B. Crosby, in Quality Without Tears: The Art of Hassle-Free Management, states that the credibility of management commitment is the biggest problem that management faces and that just talking about quality is not enough; managers have to continually reinforce the message of their commitment through actions. Crosby further states that the key to success in making quality improvement lies with the top management team but that management is also the biggest cause of the problem.

How often is it found that non-conformities in the minefield are directly attributable to management? Too often!

Other masters of quality agree with Crosby on this matter. As noted in Oakland on Quality Management, Deming argues that senior management is responsible for 94 percent of quality problems, while Joseph M. Juran is a bit more forgiving and says that workers are responsible for less than 20 percent of quality problems. The author, John S. Oakland, is of the opinion that the CEO of an organisation must really believe in the quality policy as well as accept responsibility for it. This responsibility for quality should then be shared by all levels of the organisation until an attitude of pride in the job and teamwork has permeated all aspects of the operation. Each worker has to really believe in the quality policy and says that workers are responsible for less than 20 percent of quality problems.

The ISO 9001:2000 Standard: General Requirements

The scope of the system is explained in the Standard as follows: “This International Standard specifies requirements for a quality management system where an organization: 13
- Must demonstrate its ability to consistently provide a product that meets customer and applicable regulatory requirements.
- Aims to enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system, including processes for continual improvement of the system and the assurance of conformity to customer and applicable regulatory requirements.”

The usefulness of these general requirements is reflected in the words of Dr. Masahiko Imai, “The Japanese perception of management boils down to one principle: Maintain and improve standards.”

Another supporter of standards is W.E. Deming, considered by many as one of the quality masters. He states, “We must use standards as the liberator that relieves the problems that are currently being solved to the field personnel, and leaves the creative faculties free for the problems that are still unsolved.”

T he International Mine Action Standards, although not prescribing the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System, strongly recommend organisations involved in mine action implement a quality-management system. Still a handful of organisations have done so; for reasons that are as yet unclear, some mine-action organisations haven’t adopted the ISO 9001:2000 system.

The requirements of the ISO 9001:2000 system are stated in the Standard: “All requirements of this International Standard are generic and are intended to be applicable to all organizations, regardless of type, size and product provided.” Why is it then that organisations are hesitant to utilise ISO as a management tool? If demining organisations are following best practice, then they are automatically practising ISO principles.

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The Standard has also identified management commitment and responsibility crucial to quality management; hence the detail on this particular topic. I believe

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 shortcut 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 Personal Protective Equipment Catalogue, published in March 2007. This catalogue features handheld, large-loop and vehicle-mounted detectors, as well as the relatively new multisensor 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 V on explosive remnants of war; it also includes new chapters on mine action and development, as well as capacity building and evaluation.

Tenth Annual Meeting of Programme Directors and U.N. Advisers

In March 2007, the GICHD hosted the “Tenth Annual Meeting of Programme Directors and U.N. Advisers” on behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Service. The meeting brought together over 200 people from 53 mine-affected countries, along with representatives from the various U.N. agencies, nongovernmental organizations and donor countries involved with mine action. Since the first annual meeting was held, attendance has increased tremendously; in March 1998 only 40 people from seven countries attended. The idea for the meeting came about as there was a growing need for better standardization, coordination and sharing of experiences among the emerging mine action programmes. Over the years, the topics discussed at the meeting have included U.N. policy updates, as well as all evaluation, assessment and consultancy activities. Mansfield holds a Master of Business Administration and a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering.

Ian Mansfield is the Operations Director at the GICHD and is responsible for all operational, technical and research activities of the Centre. He is also responsible for analysing existing and potential areas of activity for the Centre, as well as all evaluation, assessment and consultancy activities.

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By Ian Mansfield | Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining

The GICHD provides operational assistance to mine-action programmes and operators, creates and disseminates knowledge, works to improve quality management and standards, and provides support to instruments of international law. The author discusses changes that have occurred at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, including a redesigned Web site and new publications.

by Ian Mansfield | Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining

The GICHD continues to provide training and advice 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.

See Endnotes, Page 38

Ivan Mansfield is the Operations Director at the GICHD and is responsible for all operational, technical and research activities of the Centre. He is also responsible for analysing existing and potential areas of activity for the Centre, as well as all evaluation, assessment and consultancy activities.

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that this aspect of ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System alone is enough to gener-
ate vast quality improvements in an organiza-
tion, purely through the domino effect caused 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 none other than the core business process of man-
ufacturing its product(s) or service(s). It is self-evident 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 “identify-
ing 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
stage of the process. It must be measured to
ensure that problems do not occur further
down the process. Oakland calls these inter-

tag: This article is published posthumous-
ly by Jo Durham [Mines Advisory Group] in memory of Mr. Kerei Ruru who
was a key figure in mine action in the 1990s.

Needs Assessment in Lao PDR

This article describes the needs-assessment process and finds for mine-risk education in Lao PDR.

Specific issues that arise are identifying those who are at risk, why they are at risk, and what can be

found at www.uchicago.edu/dean/health/safety/reports/indochina.pdf

Facts about UXO in Lao PDR

- 80% of newborn children in Lao PDR have been exposed to live ordnance.
- UXO kill or maim more than 200,000 people every year.
- UXO victims include children, women, and elderly.

By Muskur (Globetrotter) - Licence: Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.5 India

1973, there is a widespread contamination of UXO, which continues to act as a barrier to socioeconomic development and impedes agriculture and children's education. These injuries result in long-term medical and psychological aftereffects as well as a huge financial burden to affected individuals, families, their communities and health services.

The government of Lao PDR, with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF, established the Lao PDR Trust Fund for UXO in 1995 to finance a national programme of clearance and education. A National Survey on the Socio-economic Impact of UXO was conducted and reported UXO contamination in 25 percent of all Lao PDR villages. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Lao PDR, as well as other government and donor documents, identify UXO and the threat it continues to pose to both livelihood security and personal safety as cross-cutting issues in tackling poverty.

As with other mine-action programmes, the Lao MRE programme aims to promote safety in UXO-contaminated communities and has been primarily underpinned by psychological theories of behaviour change, such as the Health Belief Model. More specifically, UNICEF has supported MRE for children in several at-risk communities in 12 of the most heavily contaminated provinces. In preparation for its next five-year strategy, UNICEF commissioned MAG to undertake a risk assessment to ascertain who is currently at risk and why, as well as what can be done to mitigate the risk.

Methodology

The assessment took an eclectic approach to the risk assessment combining ecological approaches to health promotion and injury-prevention and risk-management approaches to environmental health. The study was also informed by the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Mine Risk Education Best Practice Guidebook 2, Data Collection and Needs Assessment for MRE: 6, as well as the other IMAS for MRE Best Practice Guidebooks and the UNICEF technical note Children Participating in Research Monitoring and Evaluation – Ethics and Your Responsibilities as a Manager. The assessment consisted of four main components: a literature review; development, testing and administration of a quantitative Knowledge, Attitude and Practice questionnaire; a qualitative assessment; and data analysis. An analysis of the available accident data was also used to inform the assessment, which was conducted by a MAG research team.

The KAP questionnaire was administered in five UXO-contaminated provinces. Multistage cluster sampling, probability proportional to size to determine the sampling size and random sampling to identify the sampling units, was used to select the research team. The MAG research team analysed the KAP questionnaire using a statistical analysis software package, the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), and provided broad contextual information on a level of community UXO awareness, attitudes, behaviours, assessment of risk associated with certain behaviours, and how and where people gained knowledge about UXO.

The results of the KAP were used to develop qualitative survey tools then administered in 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 or 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 UXO operators—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 detonate—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 live or potentially live ordnance on an almost daily basis. Respondents rationalized this apparent inconsistency, even though their view was 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 are aware of UXO risk and express their own views on the UXO risk environment—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
• Scare-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 exposure to UXO is unplanned and may include exposure due to inattention or lack of knowledge. While some of the preventive measures may be the same, inattention is an important variable and particularly relevant in Lao PDR where UXO injury due to 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 potential unintentional exposure later.

Contributing factors to involuntary exposure include the inability of clearance agencies to respond to the needs of farmers and a lack of alternative agricultural land. The following quote expresses a view shared by many farmers and helps to illustrate the farmers’ plight as well as highlighting the higher level of fear that surrounds involuntary exposure: “No clearance team comes and helps us, so even though UXO is not safe to move, when we need to move them, otherwise the following year when we farm again we don’t know where they are.”

Intentional exposure. The assessment identified a number of perceptual, cognitive, pragmatic and economic market factors that informed respondents’ rational defence of voluntary risk-taking behaviour. Respondents reported weighing bene-}

http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal/vol11/iss1/1

Fifty-two percent of children surveyed reported collecting scrap metal.
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 bomb crater I could get 60 kilograms (88 pounds) of scrap metal." Currently, scrap metal is approximately 1,700 kip per kilo (approximately 585 kip per 100 grams). Scrap metal is heavily contaminated with UXO contamination in diverse areas of Lao PDR, meaning that more than 80 percent of the population—substance rice farmers and have limited options for generating a cash income if they stay within their communities—have UXO contamination. Almost all respondents who reported voluntary exposure to scrap metal to create a cash income 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 and that they tried to learn more by watching village experts who are disproportionately observing UXO clearance teams to learn from the way they handle UXO. Scrap-metal collectors, including men, women and children using locally-pressured metal detectors also have a number of risk-reduction strategies including the one described in the following statements: "I feel safer when digging, more confidently, and I always use a UXO when I hear the small 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. While a number of respondents were able to describe strategies they use for distinguishing between safe and unsafe ordnance, respondents identified accurate recognition skills as an area in which they feel they need more knowledge, including one scrap-metal dealer: "Without knowing it, I have bought many things from villagers—BLU105 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 has led to increased UXO contamination potentially risky but on the other hand is not necessarily associated 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. Nevertheless, this belief is exaggerated or a belief that the person has the necessary skills to remain in control. 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. Awareness is an important pre-requisite 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 UXO is likely to fail in developing an intervention that does not address the major underlying determinants of behaviour. Traditional messages on expert-perceived positive behaviours common in UXO programs may include ‘Don’t touch UXO’ and ‘If you see UXO, report it to a mine-action agency!’ However, this approach could make matters worse in UXO planers 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 life skills and communication training. It should also take into account the information and skill-development needs of at-risk communities as identified by respondents in this assessment. In this sense, it represents a paradigm shift from current ‘expert’ HMA 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. Wundenbader noted, speaking a rural media 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 unpopular with policy makers, lobby groups, the public and even practitioners themselves. Recent examples of risk-management strategies include the pressurization of live ammunition as a safe needle exchange and safe injecting practices may provide some insight into effective strategies in taking a proactive approach to UXO risk reduction. As shown, the complex milieu in which behavioural decisions are made calls for a shift to a risk-minimisation approach. An approach of integrated strategies that aim to address the understanding of vulnerabilities of UXO-affected communities is also needed. From this perspective, UXO contamination in Lao 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.

See Endnotes, Page 5

Special thanks to Luis Otaguerre, International Team Leader for the project and designer of the detector; and to UNICEF for its support in the implementation of the assessment.

Almost all respondents who reported voluntary exposure to scrap metal to create a cash income, according to community leaders, had the knowledge from experts to laypeople. As such, a more meaningful and useful transfer of knowledge is likely to be challenging. Such an approach will require a shift from the current ‘expert’ HMA 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 shift 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. Wundenbader noted, speaking a rural media 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 unpopular with policy makers, lobby groups, the public and even practitioners themselves. Recent examples of risk-management strategies include the pressurization of live ammunition as a safe needle exchange and safe injecting practices may provide some insight into effective strategies in taking a proactive approach to UXO risk reduction. As shown, the complex milieu in which behavioural decisions are made calls for a shift to a risk-minimisation approach. An approach of integrated strategies that aim to address the understanding of vulnerabilities of UXO-affected communities is also needed. From this perspective, UXO contamination in Lao 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.
Other Activities

- Unavailability of minefield information and maps—the former Iraqi regime did not release them to the United Nations or Kurdish demining organizations so there is no reliable information on the exact location of contaminated areas.
- Unreliable estimation of minefields—villagers transferred mines from mined areas to previously safe areas. Most of the minefields have been disrupted; in some cases, local villagers have attempted to clear their land by collecting or disposing visible mines or by removing the mines from the minefield and stockpiling them in another area.
- Emission of mines from unsecured or steep ground, especially in mountains due to rain and snow.
- Shortage of modified clearance machines such as front-end loaders and excavators within the demining program.
- Qualified and well-skilled deminers have left the program for better salaries or easier jobs—it is a challenge to recruit veterans or skilled deminers to replace those leaving.

Other Activities

IKMAA presented its achievements and activities via a comprehensive demonstration at a photography exhibition on 4–5 July 2006 at Media Gallery in Erbil, the capital city of the Kurdistan region. Photographs of all aspects of IKMAA activities were displayed, such as explosive ordnance disposal, surveys, demining assets used in Kurdistan (manual, mechanical and mine-detecting dogs), cleared minefields in Kurdistan and the handing over of land to owners.

The role of mine-risk education in IKMAA was presented via a number of photographs which were taken as MRE teams 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 miles)) to the landowners. There has been significant work toward reducing the impact of ERW contaminated communities by returning them to their Kurdish owners and reviving the socio-economic infrastructure of the region. In 2006 IKMAA held four ceremonies to transfer the 39 cleared minefields. It is worth mentioning that the 39 minefields were cleared by local deminers from mine-affected communities. Direct beneficiaries of landowners signed the transfer-of-land documents and accepted the cleared lands during special ceremonies.

The MRE section at IKMAA has conducted three summer-school courses on mine UXO-contaminated villages. The courses aim to: enhance the awareness of children and people regarding the danger of mines/UXO; teach children skills such as using a computer, painting, learning music, acting, protecting the environment, administering first aid and understanding children’s rights while also using the summer holiday to provide information in the form of special classes, rather than spending time inside dangerous areas around the children’s villages.

Conclusion

The Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency is proud of its accomplishments, clearing all that it can to make Kurdistan safe from landmines. IKMAA will continue to demine dangerous areas, educate people the risks of mines and assist mine victims. Despite many difficulties, IKMAA strives to inform the Kurdistan people of the dangers of landmines and UXO.

The IKMAA legislation was formally announced and approved by the parliament of the Kurdistan Regional Government on 7 May 2007. The legislation’s 25 articles are in five sections that cover IKMAA Definitions, Establishment and Objectives, Structure and Responsibilities, Finance and Final Provisions.

Table 1: Mine and UXO victims in four Kurdish governorates from 1992 to 2003.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mine Accidents</th>
<th>UXO Accidents</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mine Action Expert, IKMAA

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Contact Information

M A I C S u i v i o r A s s i s t a n c e P r o j e c t s

New projects under way at the Mine Action Information Center are described here, including a best-practices guidebook on casualty data, survivor-assistance training and a catalog of adaptive technologies.

by Lois Carter Fay and Dr. Suzanne Fiederlein

Mine Action Information Center

M ost of our Journal of Mine Action readers know the MAIC at James Madison University as an information clearinghouse, complete with a robust Web site, training programs and various publishing ventures including this journal. And our newest projects are no exception.

Recently, the Mine Action Information Center was chosen to work on three survivor-assistance projects:

1. Casualty-data best-practices guidebook
2. Survivor-assistance training
3. Adaptive Technology Catalog

All three projects being conducted at the request of the U.S. Department of State Office of Mines Removal and Abatement Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. The survivor-assistance training is being conducted under the leadership of The Polus Center for Social and Economic Development.

Casualty-data “Guidebook” Project

Many in the mine-action/landmine-ordinance community have trouble effectively gathering, managing and interpreting casualty data, although some mine-affected countries have created good casualty-data systems and planning procedures. In our research, we have 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. The guidebook will show that there is more to one or more casualties in a particular location, the country’s mine-removal authority will assume there is a pocket of landmines or unexploded ordnance located there and consequently choose to mark and clear the area. More recently, with the increased focus on developing mine-affected countries’ mine-removal authorities, national authorities are more interested in obtaining additional information about accident survivors in order to plan and deliver rehabilitative services. The guidebook will re-examine what is actually being done in selected mine-affected countries and assess which post-casualty conclusions regarding which approaches should be considered “best practices.”

The guidebook will be comprised of lessons learned and identified “best practices,” instructive, detailed case studies, and a set of recommendations to guide planners, which will be short and broadly applicable to most situations.

Survivor-assistance Training

In a recent survey conducted by the MAIC (as a follow-up to the Senior Managers Course we have presented for the United Nations and various other organizations), national authorities are more interested in obtaining additional information about accident survivors in order to plan and deliver rehabilitative services. The guidebook will re-examine what is actually being done in selected mine-affected countries and assess which post-casualty conclusions regarding which approaches should be considered “best practices.” The guidebook will be comprised of lessons learned and identified “best practices,” instructive, detailed case studies, and a set of recommendations to guide planners, which will be short and broadly applicable to most situations.

Sample-instructional materials from the Economic Reintegration Training Workshop.

Sample-courtesy materials from the Polus Center for Social and Economic Development.

The Polus Center is a social and economic development organization focused on providing sustainable, person-centered projects for full social integration of landmine survivors.

Polus began working internationally in 1997 in Nicaragua and later expanded to El Salvador, Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico. These collaborative efforts have resulted in two community-based prosthetic outreach projects, an accessibility project, a disability leadership center, a regional wheelchair-manufacturing project, and a series of capacity-building mini-grants to local organizations and individuals. The Polus Center uses a locally based, holistic approach to ensure that project beneficiaries are the ones driving services forward, and broad support is created in the community where they live.

The MAIC staff and JMU’s faculty consist of subject-matter experts in survivor assistance, mine action and management; and we are also experienced in developing and delivering curricula for a variety of constituencies, including program planners and project implementers, such as those for whom this survivor-assistance training program is designed.
The Adaptive Technology Catalog project goals for the Adaptive Technology Catalog are to as-
sist communities and nations recovering from conflicts in providing econom
cial assistance. Communities and nations who have become burdened by land-
mines and other explosive remnants of war. We will do this by find-
ning and compiling into a catalog a variety of tools to help survivors get back to work and gain independence.

The Catalog was researched with the help of the Canadian firm, Project Assistance, and will be published in September 2007. It will incorporate low-cost, low-technology products that can either be used directly off-the-shelf or can be easily modified by local vendors. It focuses primarily on the agricultural and mechanical sectors, and is designed to help landmine/EW survivors become gainfully em-
ployed 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$500; a few are about $1,500. With about 800 tools listed, organized by tool function—auto, agriculture, construction, kitchen, mobility, recre-
ation, 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:

• 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 2004 and recently retired. She also served as Project Manager of the Adaptive Technology Catalog project. Her project management, writing, public relations, and editing skills have been a solid asset to the MAC’s staff. Lois is an accredited public relations professional (APR) and holds a B.A. in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

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Dr. Suzanne Fiederlein 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 as-

sistance, mine-action database systems (specializing in casualty data), mine action in Latin America, and program evaluation. In addition, she has coordinated the cur-

riculum for the ERW Mine Action Senior Managers 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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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.

T he symposium, “Humanitarian Demining 2007–Mechanical Demining,” held in Split, Republic of Croatia, at the end of April 2007 1 had something for everyone. There were 170 people from 35 countries registered for the week-long confer-
ence, 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 ma-

chines, 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 headsets in the Congress Center of the Solaris Holiday Resort. An exhibit house rooms and trade booths for various demining machines and the respective manufacturers.

The conference was hosted by the Croatian Mine Action Centre, the Centre for Training, Development, and Training (HCR-CTRO), with assistance provided by the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Programme Planning Commission. 2 This was the fourth symposium in a series of meetings hosted by Croatia.

The Adaptive Technology Catalog will be available as a DVD/CD or PDF in September 2007. More information can be found at http://www.poluscenter.org.

Table 1: Preliminary results of the equipment demonstration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Machine Model</th>
<th>Total Time (min)</th>
<th>Average Depth (cm)</th>
<th>Average Speed (km/h)</th>
<th>Machine Capacity (m2/h)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MineWolf</td>
<td>5.35</td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>1.193</td>
<td>3,327.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R6-KA 02</td>
<td>9.50</td>
<td>17.83</td>
<td>0.708</td>
<td>1,791.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bozerna-5</td>
<td>16.53</td>
<td>25.06</td>
<td>0.374</td>
<td>975.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samson 300</td>
<td>11.26</td>
<td>12.14</td>
<td>0.562</td>
<td>1,367.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MV-10</td>
<td>11.25</td>
<td>17.71</td>
<td>0.571</td>
<td>1,400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>M-FV 2 600/770</td>
<td>13.41</td>
<td>15.25</td>
<td>0.492</td>
<td>962.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MineWolf</td>
<td>12.39</td>
<td>22.05</td>
<td>0.532</td>
<td>1,206.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MV-4</td>
<td>5.31'</td>
<td>10.38'</td>
<td>0.540'</td>
<td>891.89'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bozerna-4</td>
<td>26.10</td>
<td>19.44</td>
<td>0.239</td>
<td>523.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This machine and quality-control demonstration took place offsite 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 em-

placed to varying depths and three fiberboard boards buried to a depth of at least 20 centimeters (7.87 inches) in each 50-meter (55-yard) lane. The temperature that day was 25°C (77°F), with a 20 centimeter (7.9 inches) of rain. The wind was 7 mph.

Seven of the machines demonstrated were remote-controlled, three were manned. The manned machines tested divided into categories as follows:

• Heavy Machines:
  • MineWolf (tanks, manned)
  • Medusa Machines:
  • DOK-KING MV-30 (tanks and tiler)
  • Bozerna-5 (tanks)
  • RM-KA 02 (tanks)
  • Samson 300 (tanks, manned)
  • Mini MineWolf (tanks)
  • MV-4* (tanks, manned)
• Light Machines:
  • MV-4 (tanks)

Testing proceeded one machine at a time, with each traveling down and back in its 50-meter (55-yard) lane, clearing two rows. The machines’ performances were timed, and when all completed the demonstration, the fiberboards used for testing were dug up and measured. The clearance-depth goal for each machine was 20 centimeters (7.9 inches).

The Results
Preliminary results were presented at the conference; see Table 1 for average ground-penetration depth of the equipment demonstrated. 3 CROMAC plans to publish the final results in its Book of Papers during the summer 2007, which will be sent to participants and posted simultaneously on its Web site, www.ctro.hr.

Ms. Lois Carter Fay with Jawher Omer of the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Centre at the demonstration

Chair: by Lois Carter Fay [Mine Action Information Center]

1. The adaptive technology catalog was presented by Lois Carter Fay with Jawher Omer of the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Centre. The catalog was developed to help landmine victims and included a variety of tools to help survivors get back to work and gain independence. The catalog includes low-cost, low-technology products that can either be used directly off-the-shelf or can be easily modified by local vendors.

2. The adaptive technology catalog is a series spread over five days with workshops focused on different aspects of mine action. The catalog provides a resource for donor, manufacturing, governmental, research and development, testing and evaluation, and user communities.

3. This machine and quality-control demonstration included seven machines out of which three were remote-controlled and three were manned. The machines were specifically readied for the demonstration with three detonation imitations prepared for remote activation. The demonstration was conducted in a dry, hard, light-vegetation, dirt terrain with a well-defined ground-penetration depth goal of 20 centimeters in each 50-meter lane.
Conclusion

The organizers followed a very strict testing procedure in accordance with international testing standards, which contributed to the overall results being regarded as representative under testing conditions. In these conditions, there was an astonishing difference between the trial and the tiller. It became apparent in the case of the trial that under dry conditions the operations are heavily affected by limited visibility due to dust. Whether the machines were remote-controlled or manned, lack of visibility affected the performance of the operators because they couldn’t see where to “drive” the machine.

The two Bozena flail machines both adequately cleared the test lanes, although the Bozena-4 was the slowest machine, clearing to an average depth of 19.44 centimeters (7.67 inches). The Bozena-5 cleared its lane to an average depth of 25.06 centimeters (9.87 inches) in 16.53 minutes. Both Bozena machines were unmanned. The superiority of the two MineWolf tillers in terms of clearance capacity was indisputable among observers. The larger MineWolf and MiniMineWolf demonstrators demonstrated superior results under these test conditions, the use of a flail is sometimes preferred in certain circumstances, for example, shallow top soil over bedrock. For this reason the MineWolf machines may also be fitted with a flail, according to the manufacturer.1

"Humanitarian Demining 2007—Mechanical Demining" was a well-organized and important symposium for the international mine action community. In just one week, participants from 35 countries learned the value of various demining technologies and had the opportunity to witness several demining machines in action. Several people commented that the controlled nature of the testing made it very easy to follow and comprehend. Each participant of the symposium will take this experience back to his or her country to continue making progress in the field of humanitarian demining. ♥

The idea of forming the Japan Alliance for Humanitarian Demining Support was conceived by Hiroshi Tomita in November 1991 when it was discovered that a ground-penetrating radar tool developed by his company, Geo Search, which was used for the detection of sinkholes under roads in Japan, could detect an anti-personnel mine in a sandbox. This discovery started a period of research that led to the development of a mine-detecting GPR tool called Mine Eye. Since Geo Search was too small a company to fund a large-scale development programme, Tomita recruited the moral and practical support of major industrial companies operating in Japan such as Toyota, Honda, IBM, Ontron and Seicom Co. to help with development.

Practical Experience Needed for Product Improvements

JAHDS was founded as a nonprofit NGO to support mine action in March 1998 and donated funds and equipment to existing mine-action NGOs. In return, the NGOs were asked to assist in Mine Eye development by providing access to minefields and trials reports, but such support was difficult to obtain. Consequently in January 2001, JAHDS set up its own small mine-clearance team, preferring to work in Thailand. It created a clearance team in alliance with the General Chartchai Choonhavan Foundation, a Thai NGO. Since the border demarcation adjacent to the Preah Vihear (Khan Ploa Vihear) temple area was still contested by Thailand and Cambodia, the first demining task JAHDS undertook was at Sadok Kok Tom, another temple near the main road between Thailand and the Anghor Wat complex in Siem Reap, a main artery between Thailand and Cambodia. This site was identified by Norwegian People’s Aid in 1991 as being of high priority for clearance, and this was endorsed by both the Thailand Mine Action Center and provincial authorities. Clearance began in December 2002 and was JAHDS first demining experience. It was carried out successfully and without incident.

JAHDS Makes Use of Clearance Skills

After the successful clearance of the temple at Sadok Kok Tom, the situation at Preah Vihear was sufficiently resolved for JAHDS to work there. The JAHDS demining team reformed itself, splitting off from the GCCF, and recruited another group of deminers from the Karnataka district of India. These deminers undertook a six-week basic course at the Thai Army Engineer School in Ranchoi province and were then added to a field team by Johan van Zyl, an experienced mine-clearance manager who had also trained the deminers at Sadok Kok Tom.

The new team set up camp on Khan Ploa Vihear, part of the land belonging to the Thailand Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plants Conservation (DNPP) in the Kamrathak district of Sisaket province, near the famous temple of Preah Vihear on the other side of the Cambodian border. It began clearance work on ground known to be contaminated with mines and unexploded ordnance. The DNPP needed the land for the development of a cultural heritage site, camping ground and educational facility, all connected with the temple and its construction.

Built circa 900 A.D., the temple is 900 metres (984 yards) in length and six atop a cliff with a sheer drop of about 400 metres (437 yards) on three sides. The temple itself lies in Cambodian territory, but the easiest access is from Thailand because in many places the cliff forms the international frontier between Thailand and Cambodia. The temple is usually open from the Thai side because the temple is a candidate to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.2

Mines and UXO were placed at the site when the border area was contested from 1969–1998. The temple is a threat from Pol Pot’s former headquarters. The Thai Army, Vietnamese Army, Khmer Rouge,3 Cambodian Army and some irregular militias fought over the area, leaving behind many mines. A number of army militia camps were set up, and some local valleys were used for rifle- and rocket-propelled-grenade-firing practice, which left an abundance of scrap metal and some UXO. These were also bounding and fragmentation mines and at least one artillery shell rigged as a trip and toy booby-trap.

The author would like to express a special thanks to Sereey Vathola and Nibole Pankrome of HCR-CTRO and Carl Fenger of MineWolf Systems for their assistance in clarifying details of the demonstration.

PHOTO BY LOIS CARTER FAY

About 150 people watched the outdoor demonstration of demining machines.

The Samson 300 is a manned machine that became totally engulfed in dust, making it nearly impossible for the operator to see where he was going.

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Luis Carter Fay is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Mine Action and more recently has also served as Project Manager in the Adaptive Technology Catalog project. His management, writing, publishing and editing skills have been a solid addition to the MAG staff. Lois is an accredited public relations professional and holds a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

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PHOTO BY LOIS CARTER FAY

The flail machines really stirred up the dust as shown in this photo of the Samson 300 in action.

Pho...
From an operational point of view, the clearance was fairly straightforward, although the majority of the area was thickly 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 JHDS. 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 Kooi, aided by Raunoluf Lugaro, Tripop Tsimakka, and Commander Rabih Manerat. They had a team of 24deminers and five surveyors. Introduced to integrated demining by van Zyl at Sadok Kok Tom, the JHDS team made extensive use of household gas-cylinders, a Hamburger de-mining cutter and a Bozena 4S. In addition to their clearance duties, JHDS 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 metres (165 acres) and, although there were some differences 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 began as soon as JHDS left the block. It was heartening to see how quickly previously-mine-infested areas were developed for civil purposes.

JHDS also funded the building of a perimeter-security barrier beside a walkway near the cliff edge. The view over 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, JHDS ceased operating as an NGO at the end of October 2006. The decision to cease, 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.  

...And They Finished with a Temple

Paddy Blagden started demining in 1991. The United Nations recruited him in 1993 and joined the Department of Key Peacekeeping (which eventually became the United Nations Mine Action Service). Blagden also helped start the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining in 1997 and later served as its Technical Director until June 2002. He is currently working with the organization that became UNMINE ACTION International Mine Action Service, a consultant, he now works for a number of organizations, mostly carrying out progress evaluations.  

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The Journal of Mine Action 11.1

Albania

For many citizens of Albania the current mine problem is a haunting reminder of the Kosovo Crisis of 1999. Upon returning home after an evacuation of the Albanian Kosovo border area, residents discovered the border polluted with mines and unexploded ordnance.  

The Landmine/UXO Problem

The threat now facing Albania stems from anti-personnel and anti-tank mines laid by forces of the former Republic of Yugoslavia as well as from UXO released from NATO cluster clusters during Operation Allied Force. There is also an abandoned explosive ordnance problem resulting from looting during internal civil unrest in 1997. Affected areas of Albania include 39 villages located in the districts of Kukes, Lezar, and Tropojca. After the Kosovo Crisis ended, the Albanian Armed Forces’ Level One Survey concluded there were 1,032 areas or 15.3 square kilometres (5.9 square miles) of mine-affected land along the border of Albania.  

The mine threat presents an obstacle to Albania’s potential for development. Restricted access to valuable farmland has had a negative impact on the local economy of the border areas, which rely heavily on agriculture. Contaminated areas have only recently been passable to some drinking water sources and prevented land development for ecosystems. The contamination problem has also been linked to incidents of crime and human trafficking along the Albanian/Kosovo border. Since 1999, 3,000 police officers have suffered casualties while patrolling the mine-affected border.  

From 1999 to 2005, 272 mine/UXO-related casualties have occurred in Albania with 34 resulting in death. There were no casualties reported in 2006. Today, Albania no longer produces anti-personnel landmines. On 8 September 1998, the Republic of Albania signed the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention; on 29 February 2000. Destruction of APM stockpiles began on 15 January 2001 and ended on 4 April 2002, two years before the specified Ottawa deadline.  

Albania is also a party to Amended Protocol II and has consented to Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.  

Institutional Development for Mine Action

The Albanian Government established the inter-ministerial Albanian Mine Action Committee in October 1999 as the policy-making and supervisory body for mine action. The Albanian Mine Action Executive was established to carry-out, coordinate, and monitor the mine action program under the direction of the AMAC.  

Albania MA Completion Plan, 2006-2010

The Albanian Mine Action Plan for completion is a five-year plan developed by the Albanian Mine Action Executive. The overall goal of the Mine Action Completion Plan is to clear all suspected hazardous areas and release all contaminated land back to the community by 2010. That time, all mine-clearance operations in Albania will come to a close. In addition, the AMAE hopes to maintain mine casualties to zero and build its capabilities in survivor assistance.  

Mine Clearance

Major challenges in mine action lie in the area of clearance; there is currently only one demining organization in the country and the working season is only from April to November. DanChurchAid is currently the sole demining organization conducting clearance activities under the supervision of the AMAE. RONCO Consulting Corporation, the German non-governmental organization HELP International and Fondation de Déménage are other organizations that have previously conducted clearance operations in Albania. A fundamental requirement of its mine clearance strategy is that 90% of the EAEM reported that 1,360,853 square metres (536 acres) were cleared and released to the community that year, leaving only 2.1 million annually) from corporations and 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 Phuket Island. Much of the funding needed for the clearance of Sadok Kok Tom and Kho Pha Viham National Park came from private

Albanian NGO, also administers a revolving loan fund for a pilot project assisting mine survivors in becoming socioeconomically independent through home-based businesses in areas of mine impact.  

A Hopeful Future

Thirteen of the original 15.3 million square metres (5.9 square miles) of affected land have already been cleared according to national mine-action standards, thanks to organizations such as RONCO, HELP, Fondation Suisse de Démégne, DanChurchAid and with the financial support of the international community and Albanian government. Last year the number of mine casualties dropped from 152 in 1999 to 15 in 2006. At the same time, DanChurchAid and RONCO has already assisted more than 100 persons in the Demina residents have already been cleared according to national mine-action standards, thanks to organizations such as RONCO, HELP, Fondation Suisse de Démégne, DanChurchAid and with the financial support of the international community and Albanian government. Last year the number of mine casualties dropped from 152 in 1999 to 15 in 2006. At the same time, DanChurchAid and RONCO has already assisted more than 100 persons in the Demina communities. MRE activities such as de-mining actions have blocked passage to some drinking water sources and prevented land development for ecosystems. The contamination problem has also been linked to incidents of crime and human trafficking along the Albanian/Kosovo border. Since 1999, 3,000 police officers have suffered casualties while patrolling the mine-affected border. From 1999 to 2005, 272 mine/UXO-related casualties have occurred in Albania with 34 resulting in death. There were no casualties reported in 2006. Today, Albania no longer produces anti-personnel landmines. On 8 September 1998, the Republic of Albania signed the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention; on 29 February 2000. Destruction of APM stockpiles began on 15 January 2001 and ended on 4 April 2002, two years before the specified Ottawa deadline.  

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Azerbaijan

by Katalin Shane | Mine Action Information Center

From 1988 to 1994, Azerbaijan was engaged in an armed conflict with its neighbor, Armenia, and the territorial and human costs of the war were devastating. In 2005; no reports have been made since.3 Armenia is one of 43 nations to participate in a workshop organized by the IEPF with the support of the U.S. Department of State. The workshop was initiated by the IEPF to establish a center to ensure the sustainability of mine clearance projects. The workshop included representatives from 43 nations, including the United States, the European Union, and several NGOs. The participants discussed the challenges of mine clearance and the need for international cooperation to address the issue. The workshop was successful in raising awareness of the issue and in identifying potential solutions. The workshop also helped 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.

Conclusion

With the presence of such an organized and dedicated mine-action program, the mine and UXO threat in Azerbaijan is slowly being addressed. Although the number of UXO casualties was at a 10-year high in Azerbaijan, there have been no reports of UXO-related accidents reported in Agstafa, mostly in the Safi district. The number of UXO-related accidents is decreasing, and the number of UXO-related injuries is also decreasing. In 2007, there were 12 reported UXO-related accidents in the country. In addition, all low-impact areas are to be deminerized by 2008. Local non-governmental organizations, such as ANAMA and other NGOs, also organized several recent MVA projects in Azerbaijan.

Miniclearance

In addition to mines, there are still some unexploded ordnance and UXO in Azerbaijan. One of the projects being implemented by the IEPF 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, 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. Department of State, the IEPF plans to establish 25 branches of the Association of Men and Women in Azerbaijan. The NGO is also involved in several recent MVA projects in Azerbaijan.

Victim Assistance

Azerbaijan

Early in 2006, there were several mine-victim assistance projects implemented in Azerbaijan. One of the projects being implemented by the IEPF 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, 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. Department of State, the IEPF plans to establish 25 branches of the Association of Men and Women in Azerbaijan. The NGO is also involved in several recent MVA projects in Azerbaijan.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina
country profile

by Katie FitzGerald [Mine Action Information Center]

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Georgia

Since Georgia claimed independence from the USSR, the number of landmine accidents almost doubled, with 2007 still seeing a record number of 16 new mine accidents. In May 2006, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia released a report on the continued landmines problem, stating that the number of landmines in Georgia were more than 25,000. The report also stated that the majority of landmines are in the western part of Georgia, particularly in the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The report stated that the number of landmine accidents in Georgia in 2006 was 16, which is a significant increase from the previous year.

Conclusion

In 2007, there was a significant reduction in the number of landmine accidents in Georgia. This reduction can be attributed to the efforts of the Georgian Red Cross, the ICRC, and other organizations involved in mine action.

Future Prospects

It is difficult to predict what will happen in Georgia. It is still in transition and the continued unrest in Abkhazia and South Ossetia affects each party’s willingness to pursue a career in nonprofit organizations.

Croatia

In February 1998, the Croatian government signed the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Cultural Areas, Houses and Yards, Infrastructural Mine-Suspected Areas

In February 1998, the government of the Republic of Croatia established the Croatian Mine Action Center to manage and coordinate mine-action activities in Croatia. Several organizations are involved in mine action in Croatia. Some of these groups include Adopt-A-Minefield, the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance, Norwegian People’s Aid, the Croatian Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Rembo Association of mine-clearance companies, and the NPA, which has 583 deminers, 45 mining machines and 10 mine-detonation dogs to perform demining.

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 before seen. Further studies depend on 100 percent removal becoming a reality, but CROMAC is optimistic that with this amount of MSA cleared over the past ten years, Croatia is on its way to becoming completely mine-free.

See Endnotes, Page

Endnotes

1. Croatian Red Cross, “Playgrounds without Mines,” has installed over 40 playgrounds in mine-suspected areas in Croatia.

2. Croatia signed the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention on 4 December 1997 and became a State Party to this international treaty on 12 December 2005. Croatia served as president of the Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention on December 3–10, 2005. Croatia is also a member of the 60MP, president. Croatia focused on the need to be strict in regards to all ERW.

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**Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

by Rachel Canfield | Mine Action Information Center |

T
ten years after gaining independence, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia faced the uprisings of an armed conflict that destroyed the country along with greater civil rights. The hostility between the ethnic Albanians—who called themselves the Albanian Liberation Organization (ALO) and the Macedonian government lasted seven months and ended with the signing of the Mokra Gora Agreement on August 2001. This conflict, in addition to World Wars I and II, left Macedonia with contamination from landmines and other explosive remnants of war along the northern borders with Kosovo and Albania and the southern border with Greece. Ten years after the end of the internal conflict, Macedonia completed landmine clearance and continues to work towards clearance of other ERW.

**Landmine/Unexploded Ordnance Contamination**

After the fighting between the NLA and Macedonian government forces, the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre and the International Trust Fund for Mine Action began to conduct surveys to assess the ERW threat. The northern region of the country, specifically the northeastern border with Kosovo and Albania, was found to be rife with landmines.

Despite landmines 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. In November 2002, the United Nations Mine Action Office assessed the UXO problem in the southern region of the country, which led to the establishment of the UNMACC survey.4

The Road to Clearance

Macedonia became a State Party to the Ottawa Convention in 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-mandated deadline. In September 2006, four years after starting, Macedonia declared landmine clearance.7 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 Shupeh village, because a hospital was to be built there.

Organizations that participated in clearance of the region contaminated after the 2001 conflict were Handicap International, MineTech International (contracted by CARE International) and the International Committee of the Red Cross. In 2006, 4,000,000 mines/UXO had been identified and destroyed.8

Although landmine clearance has been completed, UXO still pose a threat to the southern region of the country, and the MacTech International UXO Clearance Plan. This contamination is expected to be cleared by 2009.

**Landmine and UXO Problem**

The 2001 conflict and resulting border contamination created a need for mine-risk education campaigns and a traveling theater program. The International Committee of the Red Cross ended its MRE work in Macedonia in 2003. ICRC’s two years of activities along with UNICEF’s involvement in 2001 resulted in over 17,000 individuals being reached.

The Road Ahead

The Directorate formulated an action plan in 2005. The plan details the period 2006 to 2010 and involves three phases: 1. Developing national capacities and obtaining equipment. This phase is set to take two years and be completed by 2008. 2. Conducting surveys to establish future priority areas. This phase is set to take two years and be completed by 2008. 3. Developing operationally and establishing international and national partnerships. This phase is a continuing process.

Mine-risk 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 ICRC’s two years of activities along with UNICEF’s involvement in 2001 resulting in over 17,000 individuals being reached.

**Serbia and Montenegro**

by Matthew Voegel | Mine Action Information Center |

The State Union of Serbia and Montenegro has faced many political and social difficulties since the dissolution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. On 18 September 2003, the then-unified country of Serbia and Montenegro acceded to the Ottawa Convention, thus becoming a State Party on 1 March 2004. In June 2006, Montenegro declared independence from Serbia and subsequently acceded to the Convention as a separate country; Serbia remained bound by the original agreement. Both Serbia and Montenegro are party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, having assumed the obligation of the Ottawa Convention. In 2006, a significant legislation bill was drafted by the foreign ministry and sent to the defense ministry for finalization while Serbia and Montenegro were united, neither country has yet to become party to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on landmines.

Landmine/Unexploded Ordnance Contamination

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The Mine Action Express: Barrels [from page 8]


3. Editor’s Note: Some organizations consider mines and ERW to be two separate entities, since they are regulated by different legal documents (the former by the Ottawa Convention and Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Conventional Weapons, the latter by CCW Protocol V). 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 mines, UXO, abandoned explosive ordnance and other explosive devices.

The Rise of ERW as a Threat to Civilians, Nema [from page 10]

An editor’s note on a recent publication and how the EC Mine Action Strategy and Multi- Regional Approaches have affected and shaped the community.


Editor’s Note: In accordance with the ANBP Project Document, Annex 2.

CLOSING THE GAP [from page 14]


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Quality Assurance for Mixed and Survey Areas, Backlund and Schröder [from page 17]


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Protection of Soft Vehicles Against ERW, Bilingual [from page 22]

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International Ammunition Stockpiles Recovery, Laurin et al. [from page 29]


2. Neo/Nixons are biologically degradable, and are often produced as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other chlorinated hydrocarbons that are regulated by different legal documents (the former by the Ottawa Convention and Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Conventional Weapons, the latter by CCW Protocol V).


Cluster Munitions and ERW in Lebanon, Ressler and Wise [from page 39]


Background

The “second war” in Lebanon and northern Israel, occurring from July 22 to August 14, 2006.

- Israeli government vs. Hezbollah (Lebanese Muslim military group).
- Large number of casualties in Lebanon and there are allegations Hezbollah used cluster bombs in Israel.
- Cluster bombs were used in many ways before this, including in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo and Vietnam as well as previous conflicts in Lebanon.

How 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 “butterbomb.”

- Unguided munitions deployed by aircraft, rocket launcher or artillery and containing—depending on type—anything from submunitions to 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 distribution due to factors such as type 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 System were used in the 2006 Israel-Iraq conflict.

- Over 830 cluster munition strike sites with up to one million unexploded submunitions are estimated, covering over 32 million square meters (7,900 acres) as of December 14, 2006 (source: United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre—South Lebanon).

- To 200,000 displaced Lebanese cannot return due to danger from UXO as of November 1, 2006 (source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees).

- Discussions continue on new steps to take in order to restrict use of cluster munitions and decrease failure (dud) rates. 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.

- 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 defeated on September 29, 2006.

- Lebanon’s National Donors’ Conference in partnership with the Mine Action Coordinating Centre of South Lebanon is collecting information and coordinating the response to cluster munitions.

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

- UNICMAC-US is preparing to take on additional responsibilities of the US.

- Along with many other donors, USAID humanitarian assistance to Lebanon is being provided.

For an overview of cluster munitions and their use in Iraq, go to http://snipurl.com/1h0f5

Interactive, day-by-day map of 54-war dead available at http://msip.org/1564


Fact Sheet: Recent Use of Cluster Bombs in Lebanon

Cluster munitions and their effects in Lebanon

- Most of the submunitions were dropped in final 72 hours of conflict “when we knew there would be an end” (source: Jan Egeland, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs). In “effect, 12 of the most lethal mine-submunitions launch systems, 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 day, 123 MS rockets can be fired, each containing 644 M77 submunitions (U.S.).

- Total ~7,282 submunitions in one minute.

- Reported failure rate for M77 submunitions range from 5–25 percent, which means hundreds or thousands of potential duds after MLRS launched.

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


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- The confer- ence 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 (led by Norway) have called for a new international treaty separate from the CCW that would control or ban cluster munitions.

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The editorial staff of the Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction, Vol. 11, Iss. 1 [2007], Art. 1 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. Shelley Weitzel, the caption of the photo, which was used with ICRG's permission, was modified without ICRG's permission to state: "Mainteledes can be used to create barriers to defend vulnerable populations." The original caption accompanying this photo reads "Champs de mines," and means "minefields" 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 Maria Eugênia Sá. On page 54 of issue 10.1, we gave an incorrect URL for additional references pertaining to the article by Daniele Ressler. The proper URL should be http://snipurl.com/15lqm.