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Multi-Year Strategic Plan for the Kosovo Mine Action Programme (2008-2010)

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**UNMIK
OFFICE OF KPC COORDINATOR
(O/KPCC)
MULTI YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE
KOSOVO MINE ACTION PROGRAMME
2008-2010**

UNMIK OKPCC



EOD Management Section

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Introduction

1. The Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2008-2010 for the Kosovo Mine Action Programme (MYSP 2008-2010) aims to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of mines and UXOs (Unexploded Ordnance) on Kosovo and its people. The plan is based on four precepts:
 - a. Most of the mine and UXO problem in Kosovo has been resolved through the work of the UN, partners, donors and national institutions from 1999 to 2007.
 - b. There is a residual mine and UXO problem with UXO causing the most casualties in recent years.
 - c. Kosovo has the appropriate national institutions and mechanisms to deal with the residual mine and UXO problem over time.
 - d. Donors are prepared to support mine action 'surge' activities by funding local NGOs on tasks proposed by the national mine action coordination authority.
2. There are three parts to this strategy:
 - a. Part 1: Situation Analysis
 - b. Part 2: Strategic Direction
 - c. Part 3: Implementation Guidelines
3. The need for the development of a coherent strategy of mine action in Kosovo arose from a number of factors of which the following are the most important:
 - a. The transfer of responsibility for mine action in Kosovo from the international community to the Government of Kosovo's mine action coordination authority.
 - b. The long term management of the residual impact of mines and UXO on the people of Kosovo.
 - c. The long term management of the threat from the residual UXO and mine problem in Kosovo on national reconstruction and development plans.
4. MYSP 2008-2010 is the strategic-level document for the conduct of all elements of mine action in Kosovo. Integrated Work Plans (IWP) will be produced annually to deliver the goals and objectives of the strategic plan. IWP will be submitted through the OKPCC EOD successor mine action coordination authority as part of the standard budgetary cycle. IWP will form the basis of a resource mobilization strategy designed to meet the requirements of mine action in Kosovo.

Part 1: Situation Analysis

The Nature of Mine Action

5. The objective of mine action is to reduce the risk from landmines and UXOs to a level where people can live safely; in which economic, social and health development can occur free from constraints imposed by landmine or UXOs contamination; and in which the victims needs can be addressed. Mine Action in Kosovo is conducted in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Removal of the mine and UXOs threat is one important precondition for the reconstruction of the country and its natural and economical resources, and for the return of displaced persons and refugees. Sustainable life with an appropriate level of safety and quality is not possible without resolution of the mine/UXO problem.
6. Mine Action seeks the re-establishment of a safe environment in currently contaminated areas thereby allowing a return to normal life and development. It is a set of activities containing the appropriate balance of:
 - a. Humanitarian mine action operations, which may include clearance, survey, marking, quality assurance and mapping.
 - b. Mine Risk Education (MRE).
 - c. Advocacy.
 - d. Assistance to mine victims.
 - e. Destruction of stockpiles of AP mines as well as prevention of their transport.

Phases of Mine Action in Kosovo (June 1999 – March 2008)

7. Mine action in Kosovo can be separated into four discrete phases. MYSP 2008-2010 addresses phases three and four:
 - a. Phase 1: June 1999 – July 2001. Large scale MRE, survey and clearance operations throughout Kosovo by a combination of bilaterally funded and UN-contracted mine action assets coordinated by the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC).
 - b. Phase 2: July 2001 – June 2008. UNMIK OKPCC led mine action programme:
 - i. national capacity developed with the EOD Management Section as the coordinating body and seven KPC EOD teams as the field capacity,
 - ii. national mine action management strategy implemented,
 - iii. reduction of residual threat,
 - iv. MRE, and
 - v. victim assistance.

8. Phase 3: June 2008 – June 2009. Transition phase from UNMIK through NATO to Government of Kosovo control:
 - a. EOD Management Section evolved into a successor organisation, most likely a National Mine Action Authority(NMAA),
 - b. national KPC EOD field capability maintained,
 - c. surge capacity through local NGOs and donor funding,
 - d. demining cooperation on Albania and Macedonia borders,
 - e. verification of initial reports on new suspected hazard areas, and
 - f. area reduction through cancellation policy.
9. Phase 4: July 2009 onwards. NMAA under Government of Kosovo control:
 - a. NMAA assigned to appropriate ministry.
 - b. KPC/KSF field capacity under the ministry of KSF,
 - c. surge capacity,
 - d. national management plans and processes to manage to ongoing residual threat and impact

Results of Mine Action 1999-2008

10. The demining statistics from 1999 to 2008 are as follows:

Contamination	Situation as at Jun 99	Situation as at Mar 08
Recorded military cluster strikes	1300	49
Military marked minefields	630	8
UXO spot reports	2600	Average 150 per year
Known dangerous areas ¹	4520	57
Average number of new suspected hazard areas reported annually	N/A	Average 5-8 per year
One-off newly reported suspected hazard areas requiring verification ²	N/A	73

¹ This included unrecorded small mined areas laid by paramilitary forces

² An organization reported 115 suspected hazard areas to the EOD Management Section in 2006/7. The verification process has identified so far that 35 were false alerts and five require further analysis by technical survey.

11. The victim statistics are as follows:

Year	Death	Injury	Comment
1999 - 2002	104	373	Mixture of mines, cluster bombs and UXO. Last mine fatality was in 2001
2002 - 2005	7	37	Mixture of mines, cluster bombs and UXO
2006	1	10	All accidents were UXO or cluster bomb related. Most common cause – tampering by youth.
2007	0	14	All accidents were UXO or cluster bomb related. Most common cause – tampering by youth.

Residual Threat and Impact Assessment as at 2008

12. Kosovo has a low threat, residual UXO and mine threat that has a minimal impact on communities and people. The national institutions are capable of addressing this threat for the foreseeable future. With donor support, small scale surges of mine action operations can be undertaken using local NGOs to address specific issues. For example, a current priority is to verify the abnormal recent spike in newly reported suspected hazard areas.
13. The two main problems that remain in Kosovo are:
- The presence of mines in areas in areas not recorded on minefield records. This problem is confined mainly to remote and inaccessible areas along the border with Albania, along the border with Macedonia or in eastern Kosovo.
 - The presence of large numbers of cluster bombs and items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in areas of dense vegetation. These were not part of the original UNMACC clearance plan of 1999 and 2001³.

The Development of National Capacity

14. Since June 1999, domestic capacity to deal with mine and EOD survey and clearance has improved substantially:
- There is a national coordination agency, the UNMIK OKPCC EOD Management Section.
 - There is a national field capacity. There are seven EOD teams within KPC. These provide a nationwide mine and EOD survey and clearance capability.

³ UNMACS report on the current landmine and cluster bomb threat in Kosovo 14 May 2006

The teams are equipped and trained in mine clearance, Battle Area Clearance (BAC), clearance of house and booby traps, community liaison, technical surveys, and Level 3 EOD, all accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

- c. There is a national surge capacity using a partner NGO, Mine Awareness Trust.
- d. There are arrangements in place with neighboring countries to address mined border areas using a common mechanism.

UNMAS and GICHDD Assessments

- 15. The mine action programme has been assessed by UNMAS and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on three separate occasions. Both organisations have reported that favorably on the progress of the programme, the structure of mine action in Kosovo and plans for the future:
 - a. In May 2006, UNMAS conducted an assessment of the remaining mines/UXO problem, and concluded that *"...the KPC explosive ordnance disposal teams will be capable of addressing the residual landmine and UXO threat in Kosovo and beyond."*⁴
 - b. In mid-2006, the OKPCC requested the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) to carry out an assessment of the mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) operations in Kosovo, with a focus on information management functions.⁵ GICHD subsequently undertook two assessments. The concluding comments were that OKPCC EOD Management section has made excellent progress in implementing the recommendations arising from the 2006 mission.⁶ *"Even if the true extent of contamination is more extensive than previously understood, its impact remains modest. An appropriate strategy might simply be to extend the duration of the programme rather than to further increase capacity. However, if Kosovo authorities decide that the capacities of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) EOD teams should be further augmented, it would be easy to accomplish this. The EOD Management section seems quite capable of coordinating the demining programme, even if the number of KPC teams is expanded."*⁷

⁴

⁵ GICHD Assessment into Operational Mine/UXO clearance Activities in Kosovo during August 2006

⁶ GICHD report on the follow -up Assessment into Operational Mine/UXO Activities in Kosovo, July 2007

⁷ GICHD report on the follow -up Assessment into Operational Mine/UXO Activities in Kosovo, July 2007

Part 2: Strategic Direction

Vision

Kosovo: a country not contaminated with mines and UXO, where communities can live a safe, peaceful and normal life, and development can take place unimpeded.

Mission

During the period from 2008 to 2010, the authorities of Kosovo shall, in cooperation with national and International parties, conduct the necessary Mine Action in order to ensure the re-establishment of a safe environment for the citizens of Kosovo hereby allowing a safe return to the conditions of normal life and development.

Strategic Goals

- Strategic Goal 1: Establish an effective national co-ordination mechanism to direct mine action operations.
- Strategic Goal 2: Complete the identification, marking and recording of areas of risk.
- Strategic Goal 3: Develop national mine and EOD clearance capacity in line with internationally recognized best practice.
- Strategic Goal 4: Conduct mine and EOD clearance activity to reduce, and where possible eliminate, threats to public safety and support re-development of Kosovo.
- Strategic Goal 5: Maintain high levels of mine and EOD awareness in 'at risk' populations.
- Strategic Goal 6: Contribute to international mine and EOD clearance activity through the sharing of experience, technical expertise and, within means, resources.

Outline Concept

16. The use of national capacity is of fundamental importance for the realization of this Strategy. The OKPCC / EOD Management Section and the KPC EOD teams have the capacity to address the remaining contamination. The EOD Management Section has been the de facto national mine action authority since 2002 in all regards. The KPC EOD teams, based strategically throughout Kosovo, have recently taken over the role of EOD response from KFOR. The teams are able to undertake all clearance activities, namely EOD response tasks, technical survey and mine/CBU clearance. The teams have been successfully operating in Kosovo since 2002.

17. By removing the mine/UXO threat, the number of mine casualties should reduce to the point where mine incidents are a rare and/or exceptional occurrence. Activities in the reconstruction, agriculture and forestry sectors will no longer be impeded, and mine awareness education in schools will be a routine activity. The remaining clearance activities to deal with the expected residual threat will not differ from similar activities conducted in other parts of Europe and will not require large scale inter-departmental coordination. These long-term arrangements for mine action are further outlined in the remainder of the document.
18. Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2010 will be achieved through yearly Individual Work Plans (IWP) coupled with a resource mobilization strategy designed to meet the requirements of mine action in Kosovo. The OKPCC EOD Management Section, and its successor, will formulate annual work plans based on the multi-year strategic plan and incorporating new information that arises over time.
19. The strategic plan for mine action comprises six strategic goals. Each Strategic Goal has a defined aim and a range of supporting objectives. The Strategic Goals are mutually supporting but the relative emphasis on each goal will vary as the Strategic Plan develops through its life. The relative emphasis on each goal, and the allocation of resources to support it, will be governed through the implementation of Individual Year Plans.
20. In the preliminary stages of its implementation, the Strategic Plan places particular emphasis on the establishment of the executive structure that will be responsible for delivery and development of the Strategic Plan. This authority will regulate all Mine and EOD Clearance in Kosovo, whether conducted by internal or external organizations, ensuring that activity is conducted in accordance with the plan. It will develop the Individual Year Plans in conjunction with national broader policy interests.
21. Subsequent stages of the Strategic Plan will focus on the actual processes of identification, confirmation and clearance of mined or EOD contaminated areas. As the plan develops, emphasis will naturally switch from survey to clearance, but will not entirely disappear as renewed economic development, particularly in agricultural and forestry industries will likely result in the discovery of new suspected hazard areas, leading to further survey requirements.
22. Throughout all stages of the Strategic Plan, mine and EOD clearance activities will be supported by a programme of Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities. This will include both public information and the education of impacted communities and other layers of society.
23. Continued collaboration with the international mine action community as well as all mine action centres in the region is critical. By remaining abreast of mine action best practice, the national capability that could deploy to provide EOD support on international operations outside Kosovo.

Strategic Goals, Operational Objectives and Key Activities

24. **Strategic Goal 1 – Establish an effective national co-ordination mechanism to direct Mine and EOD Clearance operations**

a. Purpose. To ensure that mine and EOD clearance is managed effectively and that appropriate economic and other resources are generated in accordance with national priorities for the development and re-construction of the national economy

b. Operational Objectives:

Obj 1.1	<i>Establish a single national co-ordination center at National governmental level, to take over full control of mine and EOD clearance from International Agencies.</i>
Obj 1.2	<i>Develop a resource strategy to secure funding for the implementation of the Mine Action Programme.</i>
Obj 1.3	<i>Direct data collection activity, including associated survey work.</i>
Obj 1.4	<i>Direct the delivery of mine and EOD clearance in accordance with national priorities.</i>
Obj 1.5	<i>Regular meetings with all stakeholders of demining activities.</i>
Obj 1.6	<i>Kosovo is in compliance with its obligations under the Ottawa Treaty</i>

c. Key Activities:

- i. Transfer the role, responsibilities and personnel of the UNMIK EOD Management Section to the successor national mine action coordination authority.
- ii. Prepare the MOU for assistance from UNMAS.
- iii. Establish the necessary cooperation with the government agencies and KFOR Engineers to develop the legislative framework concerning handling of explosives in Kosovo and reduce risks.
- iv. Review the transition of mine action law from UNMIK to the Government of Kosovo to ensure that obligations relating to the Ottawa Treaty are met.

25. **Strategic Goal 2 – Complete the identification, marking and recording of areas of risk.**

a. Purpose. To develop a comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date record of areas of risk, in order to target resources and to reduce the risk of accidental injury to the general population.

b. Operational Objectives:

Obj 2.1	<i>All suspected areas surveyed to confirm existing contamination; new information recorded according to national and international standards.</i>
Obj 2.2	<i>Both cleared and dangerous areas mapped in a continuous process according to national and international standards.</i>
Obj 2.3	<i>All residual known dangerous areas marked according to national and international standards using a sustained marking system and capability until clearance occurs.</i>
Obj 2.4	<i>Post clearance activities completed according to national standard for cleared land and follow-up information handed over to appropriate actors.</i>

c. Key Activities:

i. Mine Risk Assessment.

1. Reporting standard operating procedures are known and correctly implemented.
2. Information flow from municipalities' Directorates of Civil Protection and Emergency Preparedness (DCPEP) is collected appropriately for the identification, marking, and recording of areas of risk to be put into task dossiers.

ii. Operations and de-mining activities are planned and prioritized.

iii. IMSMA (Information Management System for Mine Action) is used as the main tool for:

1. Analyzing minefield, dangerous, socioeconomic, and victim data.
2. Monitoring, analyzing, and updating the progress of technical survey and clearance operations.
3. Developing mapping products for suspected hazard areas and known danger areas in addition to clearance progress and victim data.
4. Maintaining all archived information on mine action in Kosovo.

26. **Strategic Goal 3 - Develop national mine and EOD clearance capacity in line with internationally recognized best practice.**

a. Purpose. Build capacities capable of supporting the planned scope of mine action.

b. Operational Objectives:

Obj 3.1	<i>Ongoing training and development for KPC EOD teams, including induction training of new staff.</i>
Obj 3.2	<i>Professional development programme for the staff of the EOD Management Section and its successor.</i>
Obj 3.3	<i>Ensure that the mine action programme in Kosovo remains current with the development of global mine action in Kosovo and new technological achievements throughout the world.</i>
Obj 3.4	<i>Establish technical cooperation with relevant domestic and foreign institutions working towards the improvement of mine action.</i>
Obj 3.5	<i>Update and improve SOPs in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and best practice.</i>
Obj 3.6	<i>Conduct regular external Quality Assurance checks to ensure UXO and mine clearance as well as BAC and EOD are carried out in compliance with SOPs.</i>
Obj 3.7	<i>Continue to seek funding for surge demining operations using local NGOs as the situation demands.</i>

c. Key Activities:

- i. National technical guidelines, procedures, and protocols will be developed on the basis of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
- ii. Mine action administrative, technical and operational policies and procedures will be developed in accordance with national laws and standards and include application of international mine action standards.
- iii. Instructors of EOD Teams need to be registered as TRADOC, School of Civil Protection instructors and as such need to be supported by KPC HQ J7.

27. **Strategic Goal 4 - Conduct mine and EOD clearance activity to reduce, and where possible eliminate, threats to public safety and support re-development of Kosovo.**

a. Purpose. To preserve life, prevent injury and enable the utilization of land needed for redevelopment, reconstruction and economic development.

b. Operational Objectives:

Obj 4.1	<i>By 2010, through general mine/UXO clearance and technical survey and risk area clearance eliminate all suspected areas significantly affecting communities.</i>
Obj 4.2	<i>Undertake necessary mine action interventions on risk areas regardless of priority categorization in order to significantly reduce the threat from identified mine fields.</i>
Obj 4.3	<i>Successful clearance of all known Dangerous Areas and a reduction in the number of accidents and incidents to members of the public.</i>
Obj 4.4	<i>Continue to seek US Government support for the deployment of mine detection dogs to Kosovo from MDDC Konjic, BiH.</i>

c. Key Activities:

i. The EOD Management Section will oversee the mine action programme in Kosovo through:

1. maintaining the accreditation process,
2. certification of accredited organizations' work programmes,
3. quality assurance of the work of accredited organizations,
4. priority setting, tasking and securing funding.
5. issuing the annual IWP.

ii. Systematic update of the mine UXO threat in Kosovo through:

1. maintaining the list in IMSMA of known danger areas,
2. verification process of newly-reported suspected hazard areas,
3. reduction of SHAs through technical survey and clearance where required,
4. cancellation of SHA and danger areas in accordance with the policy on cancellation,
5. ensuring that community liaison keeps the community involved and informed.

28. **Strategic Goal 5 – Maintain high levels of mine and EOD awareness in ‘at risk’ populations.**

a. Purpose. To reduce the risk of injury, particularly those assessed as most likely to be at risk.

b. Operational Objectives:

Obj 5.1	<i>Develop an MRE campaign targeted at the primary at-risk group and their behaviour: youths aged 14-23 playing or tampering with UXO</i>
Obj 5.2	<i>In conjunction with the Ministry of Education, develop an annual MRE plan as part of the IWP.</i>
Obj 5.3	<i>Improve and maintain coordination between all MRE stakeholders, including focusing the work of socially orientated organizations and citizen associations involved in MRE.</i>
Obj 5.4	<i>Engage local media in order to improve the dissemination of MRE information.</i>
Obj 5.5	<i>Upskill KSF EOD teams in the delivery of MRE through courses, seminars and development of additional MRE materials.</i>

c. Key Activities:

- i. By the end of 2008, develop a system for setting priorities and quality assurance in relation to mine risk education activities.
- ii. Re-communicate Kosovo EOD reporting and communication lines regularly.
- iii. Continued coordination of all actors involved in Mine Risk Education (MRE) with regular monthly coordination meetings with the Red Cross of Kosovo (RCK), KFOR, KPC, the Institute of Public Health (IPH), the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MEST), and the MCOs' MRE representatives.
- iv. Ensure that the IWPs focus MRE effort on the right communities, noting that geographical and target audience will change as progressive clearance takes place. Costs associated with this area should decline as clearance programme moves towards completion, though some threshold level education will probably have to remain in place beyond planned completion date of clearance ops to protect against inevitable late discoveries.
- v. Develop the new reporting procedures regarding the first responders to EOD call-outs received from the police or members of the public, taking over these responsibilities from KFOR.

29. **Strategic Goal 6 – Contribute to international mine and EOD clearance activity through the sharing of experience, technical expertise and, within means, resources.**

a. Purpose. To support Foreign Policy activity in the promotion of Kosovo as a contributor to the international community.

b. Operational Objectives:

Obj 6.1	<i>Develop cooperation with MAC centres in the region through South Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC) and other associations. Contribute to further development of mine action through the exchange of experience.</i>
Obj 6.2	<i>Establish mechanism for conducting timely and effective donor and public relation in the field of mine action.</i>
Obj 6.3	<i>Develop the awareness about the specific nature of the problem of mines/UXO and mine/UXO incidents as a consequence of conflict.</i>
Obj 6.4	<i>Building a national capacity to provide internationally certified expert assistance to other mine actions programs.</i>

c. Key Activities:

- i. As the national mine action coordination authority, the EOD Management Section and its successor will represent Kosovo at regional and international mine action forums and organisations.
- ii. Regional cooperation will be achieved through:
 - 1. Kosovo's continued participation in the South East Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC) regional forum.
 - 2. Developing close relationships with neighboring countries' Mine Action Centres where a common threat exists on the border, namely Albania and Macedonia.
 - 3. Participation in regional training and information-sharing programmes and events.
- iii. Regular engagement with donors to ensure that they remain aware of the ongoing residual mine/UXO problem in Kosovo and to garner their support for surge activities.
- iv. Seeking to give back to the international community by ensuring that the national EOD capability is of a standard that could deploy to provide EOD in operations outside Kosovo in time.

Part 3: Implementation Guidelines

Role and Purpose of Individual Year Plans

30. MYSP 2008-2010 will be delivered through yearly Integrated Work Plans (IWP) that will be established by the EOD Management Section and its successor in accordance with national priorities. IWP will outline Kosovo-wide EOD and UXO clearance operations, capacity building activities and resource mobilization from in-country sources and external donors.
31. External stakeholders will be engaged in the development of the yearly IWP. The relevant Government ministries and other stakeholders will also be engaged in the development of the supporting MRE and Victim Assistance annexes to the IWP.
32. The EOD Management Section and its successor will advise the timetable for the development of the yearly IWP and sponsor its production and dissemination.

Role of Other Government Departments and Agencies

33. Mine Action needs the support of other Government agencies in three areas: victim assistance, MRE and demining operations.
 - a. Victim Assistance participants:
 - i. Ministry of Health.
 - ii. Institute of Public Health.
 - iii. Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.
 - b. MRE participants:
 - i. Ministry of Education.
 - ii. KPC/KSF.
 - c. Demining activities participants:
 - i. Ministry of Internal Affairs
 - ii. KPC/KSF.
34. Roles and responsibilities are outlined in the three sections below. The EOD Management Section and its successor will continue to be the focal point for planning, reporting and stakeholder management.

Victim Assistance.

35. Although it is not expected that there will be a large number of victims in the future, it is essential that any incidents are reported and appropriate follow-on care is provided.
36. Additionally, as the victims of landmines typically require long-term treatment and ongoing replacement of prosthetic limbs, those who have sustained injuries during the past 8 years will require continued assistance.
37. Accordingly, the broad allocation of responsibilities for activities associated with victims of unexploded ordnance or landmines in the future is as follows:
 - a. The Ministry of Health. Collection of mine victim data through the Institute of Public Health.
 - b. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Mine victim assistance, including rehabilitation, reintegration and support.
 - c. EOD Management Section and its successor. Investigation of mine / UXO victims/ incidents in co-operation with the Kosovo Police Service. Annual planning, reporting and stakeholder management.
 - d. Other local organisations will also continue to provide support through the implementation of victim assistance and rehabilitation activities.
38. The correct flow of information is extremely important to ensure that additional hazards are identified and cleared, and the appropriate support is provided to persons who may need it. Data collection for victim assistance will be coordinated as follows:
 - a. The Ministry of Health, using the Institute of Public Health (IPH) as the implementing institute, will be the focal point for data collection on new victims in the future. The data collection will be part of the Kosovo Information System. The Institute of Public Health will be responsible for the implementation. As such their responsibilities will include the following:
 - i. Gathering data on the victims of Mine/UXO incidents that occur.
 - ii. Ensuring that the confidentiality of the victim data collection system is retained.
 - iii. Informing the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Department of Civil Security and Emergency Preparedness of any new mine / UXO victims that may occur.
 - iv. Liaison with all Non-Government Organisations that are directly involved in the rehabilitation of mine / UXO victims.

- v. Provide statistical information on request to other agencies, whilst ensuring that the confidentiality of the victims' is maintained.
- b. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) is currently responsible for providing social assistance to War Invalids. In the future, the MLSW will be responsible for the following:
 - i. Liaison with national and international Non Government Organisations that are directly involved in the rehabilitation of Mine/UXO victims.
 - ii. Liaison with the MHESP, specifically the IPH, to ensure that information on new victims will be provided to the MLSW.
- c. National Mine Action Authority has the following responsibilities regarding victim assistance:
 - i. Liaison with the MHESP, specifically the IPH to ensure that the National Mine Action Authority will be updated on new Mine /UXO incidents.
 - ii. Investigation, in co-operation with the Kosovo Police Service of any new Mine/UXO incidents that occur, in order to ascertain the reason for the incident, to and to see if further clearance is needed in the area.
 - iii. Data collection. As the future focal point for matters pertaining to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) matters in the future, the National Mine Action Authority must play a leading role in ensuring that the information collection mechanism is both effective and enduring.

Mine Risk Education

39. The future requirements for MRE in Kosovo will consist of:
- a. Continued education in schools through the school curriculum, sponsored by the Ministry of Education with advice from the EOD Management Section and its successor.
 - b. Periodic public information announcements to remind the population to report suspicious objects and to whom the information can be passed.
 - c. The KPC/KSF will require a limited number of MRE instructors to train their own personnel who may encounter mines/UXO as a normal part of their duties.
 - d. Continued provision of mine awareness to international organisations operating in Kosovo.
 - e. Integration of MRE with community liaison, survey and clearance to ensure an integrated approach to mine action at the community level in Kosovo.

40. It is of paramount importance that communities acknowledge the remaining residual threat that exists from the presence of UXO and mines in Kosovo as the rate of clearance and the discovery of new areas mean that mines and UXO will have an impact on communities for the foreseeable future.
41. A key at-risk group is youth and their behaviour with UXO (i.e. playing and/or tampering with UXO). The Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MEST) is responsible for implementing an awareness campaign through the school curriculum. Specifically, MEST is responsible for the following activities:
 - a. Teacher training together with pupil education through the means of compulsory or optional courses in accordance with local needs.
 - b. Monitoring the development and production of UXO awareness education materials in schools.
 - c. Monitoring and approving courses provided by education bodies in mine awareness at all levels in schools and.
 - d. Liaison with the EOD Management Section and its successor to update the mine/UXO message on a regular basis so that accurate information is disseminated in the schools.

Demining Activities

42. The Ministry of Internal Affairs supports demining activities through the provision of the following Police support:
 - a. Continues procedures of information flow in the reports received by member of public in case,
 - b. Cordon and clear following incident /UXO discovery in populated area, and
 - c. Investigate support when is needed.
43. The seven EOD teams of the KPC/KSF will continue to be the primary means of undertaking demining activities and other mine action activities in Kosovo. The work of the EOD teams will be coordinated through the yearly IWP.

Partnership and Cooperation

44. Internal cooperation from all the participants is essential in resolving the mine/UXO problem in Kosovo. The coordination of the activities of all parties must lead to the efficient and successful achievement of established objectives.
45. The main players in the delivery of the Mine Action Strategy for Kosovo are the Government, the International Community, country and organisational donors, and national demining institutions. The basic responsibility and authority for

implementation of the Mine Action Strategy will lie with the EOD Management Section and its successor to ensure compliance with the Strategy, Demining Law and National Priorities.

Surge Activities in Mine Action in Kosovo

46. A success of mine action in Kosovo in the past has been donor support for surge activities using a partner NGO, Mine Awareness Trust. The type of work covered under these surge activities has included MRE, community liaison, survey and training to address specific issues.
47. An example of a surge activity is a current proposal in the UN Mine Action Portfolio seeking donor support. Under this proposal, Mine Awareness Trust would deploy assessment teams to verify the 73 remaining one-off newly reported suspected hazard areas requiring verification.
48. Another example of a surge activity in the future could be a collaborative effort with the Albania and Macedonia mine action centres to have a common approach to clearing the minefields on the border. It is envisaged that this would entail using the in-place NGO currently undertaking some of the work to ensure the most effective and efficient programme of work.
49. The EOD Management Section and its successor will sponsor resource mobilization for these types of surge activities.