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Multicriterial Analysis Application in Mine Action

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Mine Problem in the Region of Southeastern Europe: International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) and the Southeastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEMEC)

SE Europe is one of the most mine-affected regions in the world. This article examines the extent of the mine and UXO problem in each of the mine-affected countries in SE Europe, as well as the efforts being taken by various organizations in order to solve the mine-related problems in the region.

By Damir Gorseta, SEEMAC and Eva Veble and Sabina Beber, ITF

Mine Problem in the Countries in SE Europe

Unlike other multilinques, the former Yugoslavia has fallen apart as a result of war conflicts, which have left large mined areas all over SE Europe. Mine contamination has impacted all countries of the former Yugoslavia and also Albania. Consequently, SE Europe has become one of the most mine-contaminated regions in the world. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Croatia, Macedonia and Yugoslavia face considerable mine and UXO problems, with BiH and Croatia being the most affected.

The table to the left shows the extent of mine contamination in each of the respective countries. Most of the landmines in SE Europe are of Yugoslav origin (i.e., they are the mines that were stockpiled by the Yugoslav army before the disintegration of former Yugoslavia). The following mines were most frequently used in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia:

- AP mines TMM 1, TMA 5, TMA 4, TMG 5
- APLs: PMI-1, PMI-2, PROM-1A, PROM-2A, PMR

Albania

Conflict in Kosovo contributed to destabilizing this part of the region. During the Kosovo crisis in 1998-1999, a large number of mines were laid along the Kosovo-Albanian border and into Albanian territory. In addition, there were unexploded shells, rockets and mortars left in the area. The mine-contaminated strip contains 85 high-risk areas and 120 km long, stretching from Shkodra in the north to Peja in the north. Thirty-nine villages in Albania are directly affected by mines—27 people have been killed and 216 have been injured by mine-related incidents. In 1999, the government of Albania established the pillar of the Albanian Mine Action Program. The program policy and strategy were developed by the Albanian Mine Action Committee and implemented by the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE). The presence of mines and UXO on the Albania-Kosovo border in the northeast not only poses a physical threat to the population, but also prevents the use of the land.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Besides Croatia, BiH is the most mine and UXO contaminated country in the SE Europe. Mine-suspected area covers approximately 2130.6 sq km in BiH, which represents 4.17 percent of its territory. After the analysis was conducted, it was estimated that there are approximately 670,000 mines and 550,000 tons of UXO in approximately 10,000 locations. Mine-suspected areas are defined as unused areas because of the possible risk of mines and UXO. The mine-suspected area structure is divided into three categories according to demining priority:

- The first category consists of locations for everyday use, areas planned for housing, reconstruction and rebuilding, areas of infrastructure and economic resources. Such areas cover 2,438 sq km in BiH territory, representing 11.36 percent of total mine-suspected area.
- The second category consists of locations for occasional use, nates of contact with the first category, agricultural land and forests. Such areas cover 590.1 sq km of BiH territory, representing 27.5 percent of total mine-suspected area.
- The third category consists of the remaining suspected land. Such areas cover 13,118 sq km of BiH territory, representing 61.14 percent of total mine-suspected area.

The mine action strategy for BiH encompasses the mine action vision and mission, strategic and operational goals, precise strategic plan and strategic projects. The mission is considered to be the creation of prerequisites for the implementation of the Ottawa Convention and the development of economic and natural resources in BiH until 2010. Strategic goals are creating the conditions for constant and efficient implementation of demining: extensive mine risk education (MRE) and marking and fencing; capacity building; development of new technology; international cooperation; revival of donors’ interests; and monitoring the implementation of the Ottawa Convention commitments. The following five strategic projects are presented in the strategy:

- Establishment of the regional center for Mine Detection Dog (MDD) Training
- Creation of a network of journalists involved in mine action
- Systematic mine impact survey
- Permanent training of mine risk teams
- Handover of the agricultural land to the owners

The organizational structure of demining consists of two bodies: the national and international level. The biggest concern in BiH is the slow pace of demining and the large number of mine incidents (80-100 casualties per year).

Croatia

The war in Croatia lasted from 1991-1995, leaving approximately 500,000 mines and 400,000 UXO disposed.
December 1997, Croatia was the 12th country among the signatory states that ratified the Convention. Croatia finished destroying its stockpiled mines by the end of 2002.

Analyzing the mine action situation and the impact of mines on safety, humanitarian, environmental, economic, and development problems of SE Europe, it can be concluded that Croatia in particular is significant resources in mine action and that it achieves good results. The results can especially be seen through:

- Unity of all political, social and state factors involved in mine action activities and observance of the obligations of the Ottawa Treaty.
- Good results in mine-suspected area reduction, in demining and mine-suspected area marking, mine awareness education and mine victims assistance.
- Clearly defined mine action strategy proclaimed by the Croatian Parliament.
- First determination of Croatia to finance mine action programs, which enable its stability.
- Support of the academic community in systematically solving certain problems, assistance in decision-making and monitoring of the development of new demining technologies and their testing and introduction into operative use.
- Development of demining capacities that will provide professional assistance to the countries in SE Europe and beyond.

**Macedonia**

In Macedonia, mine-suspected area covers 21 sq km with 2,000 mines and 70,000 UXO, and spreads along the border with the province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro).

There is no existing mine action system and mine action activities are carried out by Civil Defense Forces. Demining activities started in October 2001 and 30 villages and roads in the area of Tetovo and Kumanovo were cleared. During 2002, the ITF trained a part of the personnel to conduct mine action activities. During the same year, ITF contracted a non-governmental organization (NGO) from Bih that cleared 3.5 million sq m and surveyed 3,000 houses and yards. The fact that the Albanian People's Army demined their minefields is quite unique for Macedonia.

In Macedonia, there are leftover mines from World War I and II along the Greek border near Dajuransko-jetero, where 1,000 mines are located each year. The mine action activities in Macedonia serve as a positive example of a possible regional cooperation with a NGO from Bih conducting a significant part of baseline area clearance activities in Macedonia, in a quite short period of time. ITF’s involvement through a “Train and Equip” training program to swiftly build a mine action capacity in Macedonia, also represents a positive step forward. Due to the small amount of mine-suspected area, well-coordinated activities by the UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) and ITF, training of locals in all aspects of mine action, and arrival of trained teams from Bih, it is likely that the mine impact in Macedonia will be eliminated by the end of 2003.

**Serbia and Montenegro**

Mines and UXO originate from the war in Croatia, from the Kosovo conflict and from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Forces engagement in Yugoslavia. There are many discarded cluster bombs as a direct result of that engagement. Mine contamination covers approximately a 39 sq km area. Twenty-nine sq km are contaminated with cluster bombs in several locations: Nia (total of three sub locations covering the area of two sq km); Kraljevo (total of three sub locations covering the area of one sq km); Sjenica (total of two sub locations covering the area of 16 sq km); Medveja (total of two sub locations covering the area of three sq km); Kostopul (total of two sub locations covering the area of six sq km); Cacak (one location covering the area of 7.0 sq km); and Vladimine (one location covering the area of 2.8 sq km).

The mine-contaminated area consists of 10 sq km and is divided into and along the borderline with the Republic of Croatia with 103 minefields covering 41.5 sq km area that includes approximately 11,000 mines. There were no military actions in this area to the minefields were laid by the army, and on the so-called “tank advancement lines,” as well as to prevent the possible advancement of ground infantry. According to the available mine records of the former Yugoslav army, a number of minefields were “reinforced” by placing APMs (PMA-1) under some mines in the minefields. Serbia and Montenegro signed the Ottawa Convention as the last state in SE Europe and ratified the agreement in June 2003.

The province of Kosovo is also mine-contaminated. Six hundred minefields covering the area of 50.5 sq km have been demined with 18,000 APLs, 5,500 ATMs and around 13,500 pieces of UXO cleared. There are still dangerous areas around former stockpiles that were booby trapped during NATO attacks. The United Nations Office of Project Service (UNOPS) has played an important role in supporting the Kosovo mine action activities. It was UNOPS’s judgment that allowed the mine and UXO problems in Kosovo to be minimized by the end of 2001. Experts say that the level of impact is similar, if not lower than the level of impact in other European countries still disposing UXO from World War I. For example, Slovenia still disposes of approximately 3,000 local items of UXO per year, mostly from World War II. UNMAC has trained several members of the Kosovo Protection Corps (7 teams), thus enabling them to tackle and solve the remaning mine and UXO-related problems.

Kosovo stands out as an example of fast and efficient UN capacity-building activities that led to the first successfully completed mine action campaign in the world. However, there is still a need to continue with mine action activities due to the fact that mine-contaminated areas are still recorded, as well as mine incidents, even though the UN operations have been completed.

Montenegro also has a problem with mine and UXO contamination. The Croatia and BiH borderline areas are contaminated and still not fully surveyed. Cooperation with Croatia started in that particular area with joint survey teams assessing the level of mine and UXO contamination of the Debli-Brig border line area. That was a first and important step in the joint effort of the multi-state survey teams. UXO disposed into the Adriatic Sea also presents a problem for Montenegro.

The **ITF’s Role in SE Europe**

ITF is a humanitarian, non-profit organization dedicated to clearing landmines in SE Europe and the world. When first established by the Slovenian government in March 2003, ITF was designed to assist Bih in solving its landmine problem and help the survives of landmine victims in terms of their physical and socio-economic rehabilitation.
because BIH was not the only country in SE Europe where MVA programs were initiated. It was natural that ITF should spread its activities to other mine-affected countries in the region. Thus, ITF’s area of activity presently includes Albania, BIH, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro.

ITF seeks to attract public and private donors for mine-related activities in SE Europe including mine clearance, landmine survivor assistance, MRE and training. While ITF has adopted a holistic approach to the landmine and UXO problem, we are also striving to meet the needs of mine-affected communities on the ground level. ITF is working closely with national governments and mine action centers (MACs) in the mine-affected countries to ensure that donated funds are spent on providing useful help to the local populations. To this end ITF also initiated the establishment of SEEMACC. The following activities are carried out by ITF:

• Mine Clearance: ITF is funding mine clearance activities in Albania, BIH, Croatia, Macedonia and the Former Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), and has also started its operation in the Caucasus.

• Mine Victims Assistance (MVA): ITF is supporting various MVA programs, focusing on rehabilitation (mainly the Institute for Rehabilitation of the Republic of Slovenia) to socio-economic integration and awareness programs. Training ITF has identified training in different aspects of mine action as one of the priorities for successful demining in SE Europe. ITF has been funding management training courses in relation to mine action as well as explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) training, and implementing Train and Equip programs (in FRY and Macedonia) in addition to providing training courses for medical personnel in the field of MVA.

MRE Programs

One of the main advantages for using the ITF for funding the mine action activities is our experience in the region. The issues involved in the cause are Slavonia, used to be a part of the Socialistic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Unlike the other countries of former Yugoslavia however, Slavonia does not have a mine problem. We understand the history, mentality and language spoken in the territories of the mine-contaminated countries, which makes it easier to coordinate our activities with the relevant national and local authorities. ITF also offers "tailoring" of projects, and provides transparency and visibility in spending donated funds, as well as the matching-fund mechanism. Some of the benefits that ITF provides are briefly discussed below.

Tailor-Made Projects

The donor decides which of the activities is implemented in the field of mine action in the region it wants to support. Consistent with this principle, ITF will further develop a proposal for a project to be funded. The proposal is designed in accordance with the preferences of the individual donor (country, activity, etc.). However, it also takes into account wishes and needs of the mine-affected country as well as the local community.

Coordination with National Authorities

ITF is working closely with the authorities responsible for mine action programs in SE Europe in order to ensure that the help and assistance provided are in fact needed and that the projects implemented are coordinated with the national plans.

Transparency

ITF’s right internal financial management control and annual external audit ensure that donated funds are properly accounted for.

Visibility of Donations

The donor is assured of the visibility of its donation in the field as well as via periodic ITF publications and reports.

Matching-Fund Mechanism

The United States government has instituted a matching-fund mechanism, whereby every dollar raised by ITF is matched by an additional dollar provided by the United States government. The U.S. funds can be spent on the same project as the original donation (if the project has been deemed to qualify for U.S. funds) or in the United States or alternatively, the money in the matching fund can be used to finance other mine action projects in SE Europe.

Monitoring and Evaluating

Prior to clearing, demining sites are inspected by ITF staff from the implementation offices to evaluate the demining priority of a given area. Relevant assessment and other reports must be written, taking into account various factors. Subject to donor request ITF also employs monitors to oversee and monitor the work of the demining company on a daily basis, thus ensuring that the removal of mines is carried out in accordance with local standards. In 2002, ITF employed two monitoring firms—both were selected by tender. In addition, ITF conducts post-clearance checks in order to determine and assess the results of mine-clearance activities. With minor modifications and tailoring, the format used can also be applied to other mine-affected countries, which makes it easier to coordinate our activities in the march of funds have actually gone towards MVA. For that reason, the Workshop on Assistance to Landmine Survivors and Victims in SE Europe was organized July 1–2, 2002. The goal of the workshop was to identify possible strategies and venues for regional resource sharing, cooperation and coordination in the field of landmine survivors and victim assistance. The goal of the workshop was achieved by presentations that included status reports, perspectives on gaps and services in regional approaches, and NGO and donor representatives. The workshop included extensive discussion among the participants on how to meet MVA needs and coordinate efforts more effectively.

The ITF MVA program is thus implemented on three different levels: for Rehabilitation at the Fojnica Centre in Bosnia; for MVA programs in SE Europe at the Slovenian Rehabilitation Institute. From the beginning of the ITF operation until May 2002, 635 mine victims from BIH, Albania, Serbia and Montenegro were treated at the Slovenian Rehabilitation Institute.

• Rehabilitation at the Rehabilitation Centers in BIH. ITF also funded rehabilitation of 127 mine victims at the rehabilitation centers in Fojnica and Mostar in BIH.

Other programs that ITF funded in BIH and Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) include programs of Landmines Survivors Network, International Rescue Committee, Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, Spirit of Soccer and Association for Disabled.

Training

ITF believes that capacity building is crucial for the mine-affected countries of SE Europe to be able to cope with the landmines problem. Therefore, ITF organizes and funds several training courses based on the identified needs that exist in the mine-affected countries in the region. The needs already identified are used to direct the organization of the following training:

1. In the field of demining, EOD training courses and Monitoring and Quality Assurance (QA)/Quality Control (QC) courses are held.

2. EOD training is organized for deminers from SE Europe at the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief in Ig, Slovenia. The courses proved to be useful given the number of deep buried mines, fugases and UXO spread throughout the region—the deminers needed to return to their countries after the successful completion of their studies.

3. The fact is that this kind of training is not provided anywhere in SE Europe. Qualified personnel are solely lacking in the region; therefore, providing training opportunities for the deminers personnel is one of the priorities in the field of MVA.

The development of local structures and capabilities is crucial for the country to take ownership of the problem and provide its people with long-term solutions. Here are a few examples of training sessions underway in SE Europe.

• The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is providing field personnel training and management training programs at Buna for the 285 different experts from BIH, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and Albania trained in 2003, 253 different experts from BIH, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and Albania trained in 2002.

The emphasis was given to the professional cooperation of the organizations involved with the mine problem, within the framework of the common goal of assuring quality, which will be the safety guarantee for demining personnel at future users of the cleared areas.

In the field of mine victim rehabilitation, the technical assistance training and management training was provided by the Slovenian Institute for Rehabilitation. The Slovenian Institute for Rehabilitation is giving special importance to the mine-affected countries in SE Europe, which is crucial for the development of indigenous and sustainable local capacities. Until May 2003, 285 different experts from BIH, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and Albania trained in 2002, 302 different experts from BIH, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and Albania trained in 2001.
action to a great extent depends on sound management skills. UNDP in partnership with Cranfield University (UK) have initiated a series of management training courses for national managers of mine action programs. The first senior management course funded by ITF took place from January 21–March 1, 2002, at the Training Center for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief in Jg, Slovenia. Sixteen senior managers of regional programs from Albania, BiH, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro including the province of Kosovo, Azerbaijan and ITF attended the training. The course was of great importance as it was the first regionally based course of the series of UNDP Mine Action Senior Management Training programs. The participants attending the training course expressed their satisfaction with the course, which was implemented by the Centre for Management Development and Training at the Faculty of Economics (CISEE) at the University of Ljubljana.

• A middle management course for SE Europe was executed at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana from December 7–20, 2001. Seventeen participants from SE Europe attended the course which was again implemented by CISEE.

ITF is also planning to fund the execution of such trainings for the region of Caucasus.

Regional Approach: Does It Present a Value-Added?

Regional cooperation in SE Europe has proven invaluable in many areas of mine action, ranging from a technical type of cooperation like identifying common demining projects on the borders of neighboring countries, to efforts of political significance in the process of post-conflict rehabilitation. The cooperation process was formalized in SEEMACC, in which ITF has become a focal point. It is ITF's firm belief that regional cooperation has contributed, and will continue to contribute even more so in the future, to a more efficient use of resources for mine action in the region, as well as to the sharing of knowledge between the countries in the area of mine action. A regional approach can also be seen as a vehicle for a better utilization of available resources. The work done in the scope of SEEMACC is presented in the next section and the lessons learned in this region could perhaps prove invaluable for the other mine-contaminated regions in the world.

SEEMACC

Several organizations and initiatives are active in SE Europe, which all intend to assist in solving the mine problem in the region. They are, the United Nations, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the Ottawa Convention, the Stability Pact for SE Europe, and the ITF. SEEMACC was also created as a regional mine action experts' initiative. The directors of national MACs in SE Europe have expressed their wish for cooperation in mine action in order to improve the mine action programs. The intent was shown in the agreement on the establishment of SEEMACC, Directors of the Albanian, Croatian and BiH MACs, as well as the ITF, signed in Sarajevo on November 10, 2001. Later, on November 30th, 2001, the agreement was signed by Montenegro and Yugoslavia MACs. On February 14th, 2002, the process was continued when Azerbaijan became a full member of SEEMACC. The signatories emphasized the need for cooperation and support in the following fields:

• Exchange of experience, expertise

and knowledge in the field of mine action in SE Europe and the field of training deminers and managing personnel

• Promotion of the regional approach in the planning of demining programs and in the fundraising for mine action

• Exchange of information on testing of the new technologies in demining

• Promotion of the achievement of common standards with the procedures in the field of demining in SE Europe.

SEEMACC Mission

The mission is to develop sustainable regional programs that will contribute to the mine-contaminated countries developing the capacities to demine and return the land to the local populations and enable economic, agricultural and tourism development. The programs are designed to prevent mine incidents, rehabilitate mine victims, help national programs to raise awareness of the mine problem, develop new technologies for mine detection, reduce mine-aﬀected areas, train and educate experts in the region and raise necessary funds. Assistance to national programs in developing common standards, procedures and techniques of demining through the introduction of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards will be based on the experiences from the region. Also included in SEEMACC's mission is the development of common resources for training of EOD and demining personnel including management, the testing of demining technologies and the training of mine detection dogs (MDDs).

SEEMACC Basic Principles

The principles set the framework for the values and policies that the mine action activities will abide by in SE Europe. Mine action is presenting all the aspects of national strategy for solving the mine problems in each country. The main goal of mine action is to re-establish the safe environment that will enable the rehabilitation, reconstruction, and development of the communities. The basic humanitarian principles of neutrality and humanity have to be respected in solving the mine problem so that the most mine-aﬀected communities are helped first. The principle of partnership includes standardization with the United Nations, especially the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and UNDP, the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and donors in each phase of mine action activities in order to integrate expertise, experience and recommendations into mine action of the region.

SEEMACC Strategic Goals and Tasks

The strategy involves six strategic goals in 27 tasks reflecting the needs expressed in mine-aﬀected communities. The six goals are listed below (see the complete list of tasks, check out the SEEMACC website at http://www.see- demining.org/main.htm and click on the introduction heading and go to "Strategy", where the complete SEEMACC strategy is listed):

1. Retain the donors in SE Europe

2. Develop prioritization methodology

3. Develop and adopt regional operational standards

4. Train personnel in the region

5. Implement a uniform mine information system

6. Test new demining technologies and machines

Conclusion

There is significant public and political awareness of the mine problem and the consequent impact that landmines have on society, as well as on the humanitarian, economic and environmental development of SE Europe. The real victims are civilians—mines heedre the population to their homes and prevent the production of necessary resources, even in the pure areas. Populations living in mine-contaminated areas need to see the mine threat reduced. Then perhaps, the establishment and maintenance of peace, the reintegration of refugees and returnees, the revitalization and reconstruction of communities and even the economic development of SE Europe, will soon become a reality.

The regional approach of SEEMACC presents an important development in the cooperation of the region and it also helps meet this goal.

The regionaJ approach of SEEMACC can be an example to be followed in other regions of the world.

References

1. CD ROM LAND MINE MONITOR REPORT 2000—Toward a mine-free world.

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trained deminers are available. Even the Bosnia and Herzegovina Armed Forces perform demining tasks. Together, they are capable of demining an area of some 30 km² each year. This is quite an effort, taking into account the over-all mine-contaminated area of 2,090 km², it will take another 70 years to demine all of it. Therefore, Technical Surveys (t.s.), use of mine detecting equipment, as well as EOD and demining personnel, would be essential for the lasting demining process. On this account we may estimate to $8 million per year is needed to educat. Funds from the donor community of up to $38 million per year would be needed to meet this goal.

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A middle management course for SE Europe was executed at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana from December 15–20, 2002. Eighteen participants from SE Europe attended the course that was again implemented by CSEE.

ITF also continued to fund the execution of such trainings for the region of Caucasus.

**Regional Approach: Does It Present a Value-Added?**

Regional cooperation in SE Europe has proven invaluable in many areas of mine action, ranging from a technical type of cooperation like identifying common demining projects on the borders of neighboring countries, to efforts of political significance in the process of post-conlict rehabilitation. The cooperation process was formalized in SEEMACC, in which ITF has become a focal point. It is ITF’s firm belief that regional cooperation has contributed, and will continue to contribute even more so in the future, to a more efficient use of resources for mine action in the region, as well as to the sharing of knowledge between the countries in the area of mine action. A regional approach can also be seen as a vehicle for a better utilisation of available resources. The work done in the scope of SEEMACC is presented in the next section and the lessons learned in this region could perhaps prove invaluable for the other mine-contaminated regions in the world.

**SEEMACC**

Several organizations and initiatives are active in SE Europe, which all intend to contribute to solving the mine problem in the region. They are: the United Nations, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the Ottawa Convention, the Stability Pact for SE Europe, and the ITF. SEEMACC was also created as a regional mine action expert initiative. The directors of national MACs in SE Europe have expressed their wish for cooperation in mine action in order to improve the mine action programs. This intent was shown in the agreement on the establishment of SEEMACC. Directly of the Albanian, Croatian and BiH MACs, respectively, this agreement was signed on November 10, 2000. Later, on November 30th, 2001, the agreement was also signed by Montenegro and Yugoslavia. SEEMACC was formalized by an agreement on November 10, 2000. Later, on November 30th, 2001, the agreement was signed by Montenegro and Yugoslavia. It is formally implemented by ITF, which is the lead agency of SEEMACC.

**SEEMACC Mission**

The mission is to develop sustainable regional programs that will contribute to the mine-contaminated countries developing the capacities to demine and return the land to the local populations and create economic, agricultural, and tourism development. The programs are designed to prevent mine incidents, rehabilitate mine victims, help national programs to raise awareness of the mine problem, develop new technologies for mine detection, reduce mine-affected areas, train and educate experts in the region and raise necessary funds. Assistance to national programs in developing common standards, procedures and techniques of demining through the introduction of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards will be based on the experiences from the region. Also included in SEEMACC’s mission is the development of common resources for training of EOD personnel, demining management, the testing of demining technologies and the training of mine detection dogs (MDDs).

**SEEMACC Basic Principles**

The principles are setting the framework for the values and policies that the mine action activities will abide by in SE Europe. Mine action is presenting all the aspects of national strategy for solving the mine problems in each country. The main goal of mine action is to re-establish the safe environment that will enable the revitalization, reconstruction and development of the communities. The basic humanitarian principles of neutrality and humanity have to be respected in solving the mine problem so that the most mine-affected communities are helped first. The principle of partnership includes contributions of governments, the United Nations, especially the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and UNDP, the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and donors in each phase of mine action activities in order to integrate expertise, experience and recommendations into mine action of the region.

**SEEMACC Strategic Goals and Tasks**

The strategy involves six strategic goals in 27 tasks reflecting the needs expressed in mine-affected countries. The six goals are listed below (to see the complete list of tasks, check out the SEEMACC website at http://www.se­ demining.org/main.htm and click on the introduction heading and go to “strategies,” where the complete SEEMACC strategy is listed).

1. Retain the donors in SE Europe
2. Develop prioritization methodology
3. Develop and adopt regional operational standards
4. Train personnel in the region
5. Design and implement a regional information system

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trained deminers are available. Even the Bosnian and Herzegovina Armed Forces perform demining tasks. Together, they are capable of demining an area of some 30 km² every year. This is quite an efficient number, taking into account the overwhelming mine contaminated area of 2,090 km², it will take another 70 years to demine all of it. Therefore, Technical Surveys (i.e., use of one method) are planned as beg­in. If nothing is found, the area will be released to the local community.

Nevertheless, it will not be possible for Bosnian and Herzegovina to meet the timeline stipulated by the Ottawa Treaty within 10 years. This is not the only prob­lem the country faces in this area. Funding depends, more or less exclusively, on donor activity and initiatives; only 10% of the overall costs of €32 million for 2003 are borne by the so-called Council of Ministers. For the ensuing years, a total increase of the demining effort is planned and calculated. Funds from the donor community of up to €38 million per year would be needed to meet this goal.

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