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WORK REPORT

1999

Introduction

ITF structural parts

International co operation and visits abroad

The First World Conference on the Use of Dogs in Demining

The Second Donor Conference

Documents

Donations and Memorandums of Understanding

Demining Program

Rehabilitation Program

Finance Report

Conclusions

Appendix A: Finance Report

Appendix B: Demining Program Report

Appendix C: Rehabilitation Program Report

January 2000

Introduction

The International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) acts on principles of humanitarian aid to Bosnia and Herzegovina and political

stabilisation of the country. The work of the ITF in joint international efforts for creation of conditions for the safe return of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina is an active contribution to the implementation of the Dayton Agreement. These efforts are combined and coordinated with the work of the Demining Commission and other authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The main objectives and priorities of the ITF in 1999, adopted by the Managing Board meeting in March 1999:

- start a demining program and survey and demine up to 2.500.000 square meters of terrain in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- start rehabilitation program in the Federation BH and, in both entities, rehabilitate 250 mine-victims

Priority tasks in this respect:

- to raise 11 million USD of donations until November 1999
- sign Memorandums of Understanding for demining and rehabilitation programs
- ensure operation of the already existing demining structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina, also in the ITF projects managed by the ITF office in Sarajevo
- personnel employment in the ITF and the start of the work of all of the ITFs structural parts
(most importantly, Managing Board and Board of Advisors)

All of the objectives and priority tasks set for 1999 were accomplished, in some respects even exceeded. The ITF created the necessary work conditions and continued with the priority tasks in demining operations and fund raising defined in 1998. In the year 1999 the ITF accomplished all objectives and met the expectations of its founder, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and earned the trust of the international community.

ITF structural parts

A. Managing Board

In 1999 the Managing Board regularly performed its tasks and created the necessary conditions for ITF operations. In the first few months of the year the Managing Board focused on appointments to the vacant positions in the Board, discussion and adoption of the basic program documents and initial demining operation plans. In the second half of the year the Board focused on the fund raising. The Managing Board held six meetings, one of them in Sarajevo and one of them in correspondence.

The Managing Board members in 1999:

Chairman Mr. Roman Kirm, members Mr. Bojan Ušeničnik, Ms. Zvezdana Veber-Hartman, Mr. Ignac Golob, Mr. Enes Čengić, Mr. Miloš Krstić and Mr. Berislav Pušić.

The ITF briefed on the December 4, 1999 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the ITF operations and the Government decided to financially support the ITF in 1999 with 75 million USD and provide similar assistance in the future.

Some of the most important decisions of the Managing Board:

- Cancellation of the contract with the DynCorp company
- Adoption of the fund raising action plan
- Adoption of the Work Report 1998
- Adoption of the Executive Office proposal to hire an international auditing firm for yearly finance audits
- Adoption of the Work Program 1999 and Demining program 1999
- Ratification of the Memorandum Of Understanding with Croatia along with a decision to expand the ITFs operations to Croatia
- Extension of the mandate of the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Roman Kirn for one year

B. Board of Advisors

The Board of Advisors has been active since the beginning of the 1999. The Board met three times. The representative of the Republic of Slovenia chaired the first meeting, the second was chaired by the representative of the US and the third by the representative of the Czech Republic. The membership in the Board was offered also to new donors and by the end of 1999 the following countries appointed their representatives to the Board: Republic of Slovenia, US, the Czech Republic, Norway, Canada, Germany, Qatar, Japan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, Kuwait, Croatia and United Kingdom.

The primary mission of the Board is to give guidance to the ITFs operations. An example of such decision was the decision to expand the ITFs operations to Croatia and Kosovo.

Some of the most important decisions of the Board:

- approval of the ITF Work Report 1998 and Working Program 1999
- approval of the ITF Finance Report
- approval of the ITF operations expansion to Croatia and Kosovo.

C. Honorary Board

In spite of the effort to initiate the functioning of the Honorary Board, this Board remains to be the only ITF body, which is still not actively functioning. The Chairman of the Honorary Board is Dr. Janez Drnovšek, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia.

D. Executive Office

General

The main characteristic of the past year has been an extraordinary intensity and expansion of the activities:

- Fund raising,
- Preparation of demining projects,
- Preparation of the mine-victims rehabilitation program,
- Active participation in exhibitions in Ljubljana and Kranj,
- Preparation of the experts material
- Issuing calls for tenders and conducting tender procedures
- Demining operations monitoring.

The Executive Office organized numerous press conferences and actively participated at all of the most important international workshops and conferences (Maputo, Zagreb, Sarajevo,...). The Executive Office in the past year also organized The First World Wide Mine Detecting Dog Conference and The Second Donor conference. The rapid expansion of the activities and projects managed by the Executive Office led the Managing Board to decide on the expansion of the organization structure of the Executive Office to 12 posts. In 1999 the Executive Office filled 10 vacant positions (83%).

The decision to expand the ITFs operations to Croatia and Kosovo was one of the most significant also for the work of the Executive Office in the past year. The ITF plans to expand also to Macedonia and Albania. The hired agencies and firms handled the Funds finance, legal services, publishing and public affairs.

ITF Office in Sarajevo

On the April 1, 1999 the ITF opened an office in Sarajevo. At the beginning the main task of the Sarajevo Office was purchasing the equipment and other technical means necessary for the operation of the Sarajevo Office and execution of the ITF tenders. In the middle of September 1999 the appointed term of the first head of the Sarajevo Office ended and another head of the Office took over. The Office employs, besides the head of Office, two administrative assistants and three demining co-ordinators. The personnel expansion was practically directed by the significant increase of the involvement of the Office personnel in demining operations, especially in constant control of demining agencies or firms and hired site controllers and co-operation with MAC structures, PIUs and other entities' and canton institutions. In the past year the Office personnel also actively co-operated with numerous non-governmental organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On November 5, 1999 the Sarajevo Office registered at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a diplomatic agency of the international organisation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

International co-operation and visits abroad

The ITF together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia has intensively informed the international community of the project of demining and mine-victims assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the fund raising efforts.

The diplomatic activities were carried out mainly through the diplomatic agencies of the Republic of Slovenia abroad and governmental representatives. These efforts were supported also with activities of all members of the Managing Board and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Undoubtedly, a great support of some donors, like for example US, Canada, Germany, inspired also other governments and organizations to join the ITF and donate the necessary funds.

The Managing Board members and Executive Office visited Bosnia and Herzegovina on several occasions and traveled also to other countries for fund raising purposes. It is necessary to stress that Slovene and Bosnian foreign minister and the Chairman of the Managing Board of the ITF attended the first meeting of the States parties to the convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and their destruction which was held in Maputo in May last year. The Members of the Managing Board also visited Kuwait. Mr. Golob, member of the Managing Board attended international seminar, organized by the University of Vienna and Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs which was held in the end of November in Vienna. The ITF also received a large number of foreign and Slovenian delegations, representatives of governmental and non-governmental institutions. One of the most memorable visits was the visit of Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Last October the ITF hosted also the members of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency, in the middle of December Mr. Jacques Klein, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In December the US State Department invited the members of the Commission for Demining of Bosnia and Herzegovina, acting also as members of the Managing Board, and the ITF Executive Director to visit US. The mission of the visit was to inform high-ranking officials of the State Department and members of the Congress of the work of the Fund, its results and to raise additional funds, mainly from the private capital sources. In 1999 the ITF became, beside the Slovenian Government, a full member of the Board of Donors in Bosnia and Herzegovina and regularly attended all its meetings.

The First World Conference on the Use of Dogs in Demining

The First World Wide Mine Detection Dog Conference was held in the middle of September 1999 in Ljubljana was jointly organized by the ITF and US State Department and with assistance of James Madison University. The Conference addressed the issues of the use of dogs in mine detection, especially the effectiveness and efficiency of this method and presented a live demonstration of the use of mine detecting dogs. The Conference attended the representatives of 26 countries all over the world. One of the important conclusions of the Conference suggested that it was necessary to continue with organization of the conference on this subject.

The Second Donor Conference

The Second Donor Conference was held on the October 28, 1999 in Ljubljana. The Conference attended the representatives from 29 countries and 9 international governmental and non-governmental organizations: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Qatar, South Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Hungary, Germany, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Slovakia, Holy Sea, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, European Union, Council of Europe, UNHCR Croatia, Red Cross, UNHCR, UNDP, WEU, World Bank, OHR, representatives from BH MAC, Fed MAC, RS MAC, CROMAC and MACC Priština.

The Conference, among other significant trends in demining also reflected the significant role of the ITF as an international actor in demining and mine-victims assistance. The attendance of the high-ranking officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Co-chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Minister of Foreign Affairs) made the Conference even more significant. At the Conference several countries, Republic of Korea, Canada, Switzerland, Denmark and Sweden, pledged to donate to the ITF in total 1.6 million USD, which was undoubtedly a direct result of the Conference. The trust of the governmental structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina, their support and firm belief in the success of the ITF mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina are vitally important and conditions necessary for completion of the ITFs general and specific objectives. However, an understanding that the humanitarian nature of the ITF as an institution and its humanitarian mission bind the ITF to provide its assistance wherever in the region is needed, is equally important.

Documents

In 1999 all of the planned documents were adopted.

I. ITF

- Statute of The International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine-Victims Assistance, January 19, 1999
- Rules of Procedure of the Managing Board, July 23, 1999
- Rules of Procedure of the Board of Advisors, March 31, 1999
- Annex to Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, October 29, 1999

II. Executive Office

- ITF Directive on the vehicle maintenance and use, February 23, 1999
- ITF Directive on the efficiency bonus, March 11, 1999
- ITF Directive on the accounting forms, July 21, 1999
- ITF Directive on the Executive Office Organization Structure, July 27, 1999
- ITF Directive on allowances and reimbursement of outlays, November 30, 1999.

Donations and Memorandums of Understanding

The fund raising activities in 1999 were very successful. The ITF has managed to raise 15.2 million USD, pledges and already signed Memorandums of Understanding included, and thereby achieved and even exceeded the objective to raise 14 million

USD. In 1999 21 countries, 3 non-governmental organisations and 7 business companies joined the ITF.

Table 1: Donations in 1998 and 1999:

Donor	Donation	Date
DAEWOO	29.805 USD	5.01. 1999
Institute of Republic of Slovenia for Rehabilitation	39.541 USD	Nov 1998
Qatar	199.980 USD	23.03. 1999
Lienchenstein	13.628 USD	16.03. 1999
Switzerland	862.527 USD	12.04. and 7.12. 1999
Kuwait	250.000 USD	23.04. 1999
Republic of Slovenia	1,662.335 USD	28.12.98 30.04.,19.07.,7.12. in 9.12. 1999
Norway	2,599.635 USD	3.05. and 19.07. 1999
Canada	746.758 USD	19.05. 1999
Rotary Club Ljubljana	5.235 USD	29.07. 1999
Red Cross Slovenia	59.711 USD	9.08. in 21.10. 1999
Federal Republic of Germany	1,645.463 USD	28.12.98, 3.09., 8.11., 9.11. and 6.12. 1999
United Kingdom	833.000 USD	19.10. 1999
Czech Republic	107.000 USD	28.12.98 , 19.10. 1999
Hungary	3.000 USD	25.10. 1999
Bosnia and Herzegovina	555.555 USD	26.10. 1999
Japan	1,000.000 USD	27.10. 1999
Accord 92	4.543 USD	16. 11. 1999
Republic of Croatia	1,000.000 USD	16. 11. 1999
SPEM	50.102 USD	17. 11. 1999
Luxembourg	51.586 USD	26. 11. 1999
L. Montgomery	42.554 USD	6.12. 1999
CARE Int.	97.557 USD	6.12. 1999
Ireland	64.000 USD	7.12. 1999
SIEMENS	10.737 USD	8.12. 1999
Otto Bock	7.894 USD	8.12. 1999
Denmark	100.000 USD	9.12. 1999
France	93.600 USD	9.12. 1999
Adria Airways	31.718 USD	8.12. 1999
TOTAL 1 1998 and 1999	12,167.573 USD	
USA	12,167.573 USD	
TOTAL 2	24,335.146 USD	

Table 2: Pledges in 1999:

Donor	Pledge	Date
European Union	1,022.400 USD	9.12. 1999

Canada	677.415 USD	9.12. 1999
Republic of Slovenia	35.460 USD	9.12. 1999
Republic of Korea	30.000 USD	9.12. 1999
Republic of Srpska	523.316 USD	9.12. 1999
United Kingdom	814.800 USD	9.12. 1999
TOTAL 1999	3,106.390 USD	

Demining Program

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 1999 the ITF managed to demine 3,156,003 square meters of terrain in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is two thirds of the terrain demined in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1999. In these operations 1001 mines and 815 pieces of other unexploded deadly devices were found. The demining operations were carried out 80% by commercial companies and 20% by non-governmental organizations. Only regular financing from donations enabled the ITF to exceed the plan and demine 2,500,000 square meters of terrain, which is 25% more than planned. For details see Annex A.

In 1999 the ITF carried out two tenders for commercial demining. The first one has been carried out in two parts; by the PIU in the Federation and by the PIU in the Republic of Srpska, and monitored by the ITF Sarajevo Office staff. The call for tenders for the works worth 2.5 million USD was issued in both sides on April 19, 1999. The tender procedure was concluded on May 7, 1999 in the Federation, and May 25, 1999 in the Republic of Srpska.

The works planned to be awarded by this tender was demining of 1,367,500 square meters and later, as specified in the annexes to contracts, 1,868,337 square meters all together. The works contracted were finished by the end of September 1999, together with the annexes, by the end of November 1999. Up till now a surface of 1,755,875 square meters has been cleared from mines and 450 mines and 67 UXOs were destroyed. The works remained to be completed in the Stomorine-Iljaš work site, a demining operation of 4000 square meters of terrain. In the time table of the works completed by this first tender, it is worth noticing, that in July 1999, when Sarajevo hosted the SUMMIT, a governmental directive ordered to stop all operations in all of the work sites for security reasons. The companies were compensated for the delay by the ITF.

The call for a second tender for commercial demining, the worth of the works awarded was 3.5 million USD, was issued on September 24, 1999. The call was issued and the tender procedure handled by the ITF Sarajevo Office staff. The projects awarded are still in progress. Until now about 60% of the project has been completed: 844.080 square meters of terrain cleared from mines, 256 mines and 113 UXOs found and destroyed.

In some of the work sites the work had been stopped because of the bad weather conditions. However the delay could have been avoided, had the Entities' Macc planned the priorities in the southern Bosnia and Herzegovina as advised. Instead the priority sites chosen were situated in the central part of the country where bad weather conditions can and do occur.

In 1999 the ITF co-operated also with non-governmental organizations NPA, WEH, Akcija protiv mina, BH Demining, Stop Mines and ProVita. The demining operations carried out by these organizations cleared 631.042 square meters of terrain, found and destroyed 301 mines and 635 UXOs. In addition, the ITF sponsored with the German donation through the non-governmental organization WEH the training of six mine-detecting dogs and five dog handlers. The handlers and the dogs will be given to local non-governmental organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina at their disposal.

The Canadian donation to SFOR was spent by SFOR but for financing the insurance contracts for deminers in the demining operation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Armed Forces, for purchasing of "Božena" demining machine and five ambulance cars (Toyota).

Republic of Croatia

The ITF activities related to demining have already begun also in Croatia. The works awarded by tender and were issued through CROMAC, 482.280 square meters of terrain was cleared from mines, where 46 mines and 6 UXOs were found. The projects were awarded to commercial companies accredited in Croatia.

In 1999 another project joined the ITF, that is Adopt-a-minefield project, which activated its first work site in Poljno village in the vicinity of Zadar. A call for tenders was issued also for the works in 2000 in several Dalmatian regions (Zadar, Šibenik).

Kosovo

In the second half of the year the ITF representatives visited Kosovo for numerous interviews and field trips in the mine affected areas. On the basis of the findings there, the beginning of demining can be expected in the spring 2000. For the purposes of this project a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the non-governmental organization "HELO Trust" on the demining project in Kosovo worth 500.000 USD. In the framework of the UNMIK mission the Republic of Slovenia has stationed a representative in Priština UNMAC.

Mine-victims rehabilitation program

Centre for mine-victims rehabilitation

The Centre for mine-victims rehabilitation in the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for rehabilitation carried out most of the work in the field of mine-victims rehabilitation. In this humanitarian mission 203 mine victims from Bosnia and

Herzegovina were treated in Slovenia and 50 mine victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the beginning of December 1999 arrived to Slovenia first four children from Kosovo for treatment. For the structure of patients and other activities of the Institute see the Work Report in the Appendix B.

Non-governmental organisations in rehabilitation program

Two of the non-governmental organisations took part in the program, Landmine Survivors Network (LSN) and The International Rescue Committee (IRC).

Finance Report

Demining and mine-victims rehabilitation projects

In 1999 a total of 13,2 million EUROS were used for the ITF projects altogether. For demining projects, 11,3 million EUROS or 85,6% of all funds, in accordance with the Agreement between the ITF and Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, were used. In the use of the financial resources entrusted to the ITF, the principle of “1/3 for the Republic of Srpska and 2/3 for the Federation” was applied very strictly. 8,8% of all of the donated money, which is less than planned 15%, was spent for the mine-victims rehabilitation program. The organisation of The World Conference on the Use of Dogs in Demining cost 0.18 million EUR or 1% of the all of the resources made available to the Fund and 4,6% for the operation of the Executive Office.

Executive Office

Finance business of the ITF and its Executive Office was conducted within the framework of the planned financial resources. The cancellation of the DynCorp contract (which proved to be a very wise decision) of course resulted in changing the ITF mode of operation and expectedly increased the intensity and scope of tasks. This on the other hand increased the operation costs. Since that was the first year of the ITF, costs of organisation, such as purchase of the office equipment, vehicles, personal computers, increased the ITF operation costs. In addition, an office in Sarajevo opened. This required additional costs: an office rent, office equipment purchase and a house rent.

Conclusions

The most important accomplishments in 1999:

- Work Plan 1999 realized, even exceeded
- Fund raising objectives achieved
- Successful execution of the demining program (3/4 of the total surface demined in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1999) at lower cost
- Successful execution of the rehabilitation program (250 mine-victims rehabilitated)
- Low cost management of the ITF (at 4,6%, organization costs included)
- Participation in the Pact of Stability

1. In the second year of the Funds existence all of the ITF bodies are functioning. This was the basis for the successful achievement of the priority objectives in demining and mine-victims rehabilitation.
2. On December 9, 1999 the first year of fund raising according to the fund matching policy ended. The objective was to raise 14 million USD. The ITF has managed to raise more than planned. The financial resources collected in the first fund raising period, together with the matching fund of the USA, came to 28 million USD. In this period, 21 countries, 3 non-governmental organizations and 8 business companies joined the ITF. Until the end of 1999 12,167,573 USD were transacted to the ITF bank account and pledged another 3,106,390 USD.
3. The ITF became an important and recognized actor in the international community and in the Balkan region.
4. One of the most significant decisions in the past year was to expand the ITF operation to Croatia and Kosovo.
5. In the past year the ITF succeeded in demining 3,156,003 square meters in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 480.000 square meters in Croatia.
6. As to the second ITF humanitarian mission, the mine-victims rehabilitation, 203 mine-victims from Bosnia and Herzegovina were treated in Slovenia and 50 in Croatia. The first group of children from Kosovo arrived.
7. The functioning of the ITF bodies, the Managing Board and the Board of Advisors, in the past year, hand in hand with the Executive Office, contributed to the successful work of the ITF.
8. Demining structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina also made an important contribution to the ITF efforts and projects; especially the Demining Commission and we thank them all for that.
9. In the past year, in spite of the low operation costs, the Executive Office of the ITF functioned with success.

Jernej Cimperšek
DIRECTOR

Approved by the Managing Board on 1 February 2000
Approved by the Board of Advisors on 28 February 2000