Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Bosnia and Herzegovina

by Katie Fitzgerald [Mine Action Information Center]

The Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC) is the third largest mine-affected country in Europe, with an estimated 1.3 million people, roughly one tenth of the total population, living in 1,366 mine-impacted communities.\(^1\) The latest government statistics disclose that there are more than 349,000 people registered as mine survivors,\(^2\) and a survey conducted by the Electronic Mine Information Network, in terms of government institutions addressing mine action (namely, the Bosnian Army, Armed Forces and civil-protection authorities), limited funding has caused difficulties in procuring demining equipment and introducing new demining techniques. Nongovernmental organizations and demining companies also struggle with funding challenges. In 2007, mine clearance in BH will cost a projected US$2,469,356.\(^3\)

Mine/UXO Clearance

Nongovernmental organizations (such as NongovernmentalLink.org\(^4\)), limited funding has caused difficulties in procuring demining equipment and introducing new demining techniques. Nongovernmental organizations and demining companies also struggle with funding challenges. In 2007, mine clearance in BH will cost a projected US$2,469,356.\(^3\)

Mine-risk Education

MRE is one of the largest mine risk education programs in the world. BHMAC estimates over 100,000 people received MRE in 2006 through the activities of organizations such as Genesis, Spirit of Soccer and the Red Cross-Society BH.\(^5\) Genesis, genus devoirs its efforts to provide interactive education through live presentations at schools and institutions, discuss and provide information on landmine issues such as geographical, environmental protection, prevention of diseases of addiction, and terrorism. The +\(\text{r}\) Centre of the Red Cross-Society BH.

Chechnya

by Kateland Shane [Mine Action Information Center]

In 2007, UNICEF plans to support the formation of a Mine Information and Coordination Centre in Chechnya, headed by Voice of the Mountains. The center will be the main resource for information concerning mine- and UXO-related casualties, the most mine/UXO-affected communities, and the preparation of MRE and other activities. UNICEF will continue to work with organizations and local demining teams to plan activities in mine-affected communities, such as the Grozny Prosthetic Workshop, which provides prostheses for landmine victims. Chechnya is not an internationally recognized state and therefore cannot participate in any legislation concerning the use of mines or other weapons.

Clearance Activities

Despite the urgent need for mine and UXO clearance in Chechnya, it has been difficult for demining agencies to enter the region for large-scale clearance activities due to the ongoing conflict. The political situation and the military conflict in Chechnya have stunted clearance efforts. The military campaign in October 1999. Today, ongoing violence between Chechnya and Russia continues. The conflict has been so severe that several human rights groups have accused Russian forces of brutality. In 2006, Russia reported that its forces were still laying anti-personnel mines in Chechnya and other parts of the country. Russia has also dropped cluster bombs in several locations in Chechnya during 2005 and 2006, resulting in many civilian casualties and leaving unexploded ordnance. One of the most severe and dangerous consequences of the Chechen conflict has been the destruction of the infrastructure and the economy. In 2005, 177 people died and many more were injured. It is estimated that 15 million people in Chechnya remain in need of assistance. UNICEF has reached children both in and out of schools with the creation of a mine-risk education curriculum and interventions in affected communities in cooperation with the OSCE. UNICEF will also continue to support mine risk education activities in Chechnya, including the formation of a Mine Information and Coordination Centre and Mine/UXO-affected communities, and the preparation of MRE and other activities. UNICEF will continue to work with organizations and local demining teams to plan activities in mine-affected communities, such as the Grozny Prosthetic Workshop, which provides prostheses for landmine victims. Chechnya is not an internationally recognized state and therefore cannot participate in any legislation concerning the use of mines or other weapons.

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