Chechnya

Country Profile
CISR

Follow this and additional works at: http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal

Part of the Defense and Security Studies Commons, Emergency and Disaster Management Commons, Other Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons, and the Peace and Conflict Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal/vol11/iss1/38

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at JMU Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction by an authorized editor of JMU Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact dc_admin@jmu.edu.
Bosnia and Herzegovina
by Katlez Shane | Mine Action Information Center

Shortly after Bosnia and Herzegovina’s 1995 referendum, the country broke into conflict that lasted three years. By 1998, the conflict ended the conflict in 1995, but the country had already become littered with landmines and unexploded ordnance. By 1999, it was the mine-affected country in Europe, with an estimated 1.3 million people, roughly one in four, affected by unexploded ordnament. The mine-poor mine-affected communities. The latest government statistics disclose that there are more than 2 million landmine-related deaths.

The country’s goal of being mine-free by 2051 was set by the National Mine Action Authority (NMMA) in 2002.

Mine Situation in BiH

The Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre reports that from May 2002 to May 2006, there were 187 mine-related incidents. In total, almost 5,000 people have been injured, 1,520 of whom died by the end of the war. In 2011, the number of mine victims significantly increased. Between 2002 and 2008, there were 215 incidents that resulted in 34 victims in 2006 (17 killed, 17 injured). The BHMAC has also recorded more than 18,000 casualties and 650,000 UXO items that remained in war-torn areas. This shows the need for clearance activities. MRE activities in the country and to continue taking action. The vision behind the Chemicals Act is to day to day to day, to the people living in a community that is safe and mine-free.

Mine/UXO Clearance

Nongovernmental organizations (such as NGOs, such as HALO Trust), the Bosnian Armed Forces, and civil protection and commercial companies carry out mine clearance and Technical Survey in the country. In 2005, 4,009,051 square meters (991 acres) of land were cleared of mines in the first six months of 2008. 847,873 square meters (210 acres) were cleared. In accordance with NATO’s Partnership for Peace Trust Fund, the South Eastern Europe Initiative Trust Fund was launched to support the defense reforms efforts of BiH in June 2006. Three projects are being launched to support the transformation assistance to military personnel and members redeployed from the former Yugoslavia. The arms transfer agreement is one of the key points of the FPA. In 2006, 19 more projects to plan and implement two of them in impacted communities in 2007. Although clear- ance has been limited, organizations such as UNIFEC have brought victim compensation and humanitarian assistance to the victims of mine-exploding.

The Future

The United Nations Assembly declared the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April 2006, and the second annual observance of the day was marked in Bosnia and Herzegovina where local authorities and international organizations presented achievements in the area of mine action and “reiterated their commitment and willingness to solve the issue of the presence of landmines and the danger they represent in the country as soon as possible.” The United Nations in BiH, along with the global mine-action community, wanted to draw more attention to the problem of landmines and explosive remnants of war in the area to emphasize their commitment to strengthening their response.

For the Vision of Mine Action Day is to recognize the importance of mine action in the country and to continue taking action. The vision behind the Chemicals Act is to day to day, to the people living in a community that is safe and mine-free.

Mine Action in Chechnya

Due to the lack of a mine-action authority in Chechnya and the surrounding region, UNICEF has assumed the position of the coordinating body for mine action in both periods. In 2001, UNICEF has had a strong presence in both Chechnya and neighboring Ingushetia. Since 2001, UNICEF has received the childen both in and out of schools with the creation of mine-risk education curricula and programs in affected communities with the assistance of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Russian Federation. The most recent efforts in mine-related activities have been focused on creating a network of experts in the country and to continue taking action.

Clearance Activities

Despite the urgent need for mine 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 in the region is not conducive for mine clearance activities. The conflict has been so severe that several human-rights groups have accused Russian forces of brutality. In 2006, Russia, Syria and the United Nations have not been able to conduct any mapping or UXO clearance in Chechnya. The group was forced to leave Chechnya in 1996, after the Federal Security Service of Russia accused HALO of espionage and aiding the Chechen rebels, which had the result of HALO being forced to leave Chechnya. In 2005, the Emergency Committee of Russia entered Chechnya for a short demining mission, in which they cleared 10 hectares (25 acres) of land and located and destroyed 3,845 pieces of UXO. UNICEF also reports that the Ministry of Commerce of Russia has no plans for UXO clearance along the main roads and railways of Chechnya.

MINE Action in Chechnya

More than a decade of conflict between Chechen rebels and the Russian Government in the region has left large swaths of the country landmines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in addition to other UXO. Although clearance has been limited, organizations such as UNIFEC have brought victim compensation and humanitarian assistance to the victims of mine-exploding. MRE activities in the country are ongoing, with the vision behind the Chemicals Act is to day to day, to the people living in a community that is safe and mine-free.

Chechnya by Katlez Shane | Mine Action Information Center

MINE Action in Chechnya

More than a decade of conflict between Chechen rebels and the Russian Government in the region has left large swaths of the country landmines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in addition to other UXO. Although clearance has been limited, organizations such as UNIFEC have brought victim compensation and humanitarian assistance to the victims of mine-exploding. MRE activities in the country are ongoing, with the vision behind the Chemicals Act is to day to day, to the people living in a community that is safe and mine-free.