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Eritrea

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Eritrea
by Megan Wertz
[Mine Action Information Center]

Eritrea’s landmine and unexploded ordnance problem began during World War II when British and Italian soldiers used Eritrean soil. A long struggle for independence (1962–1991) and a border war with Ethiopia (1998–2000) followed, exacerbating the problem. Eritrea has never produced or exported any personnel mines; all mines used in the past were stolen from Ethiopian forces from minefields or storage facilities during the War of Independence. There are no mine stockpiles except for 234 mines retained by the Eritrean Demining Authority National Training Center for training and development. Eritrea acceded to the Ottawa Convention in February 2002.

Extent of Contamination
The Landmine Impact Survey, completed in June 2004, found 481 of 4,176可前往

Ethiopia
by Daniele Bassier
[Mine Action Information Center]

Ethyopia’s 70-year history of internal and international armed conflict, from 1962 to 1995 to the Ethiopian-Eritrean War (1998–2000), has contributed to significant landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination. Ethiopia is one of the 10 most heavily mined countries, with the government estimating it will take decades to clear.

Landmine/Explosive Remnants of War
By the end of the 1998–1999 conflict Ethiopia and the Tigray region had been labeled as a mine-contaminated area and in their home communities.

Humanitarian Challenge
Food security is jeopardized because much of the agricultural land is contaminated with mines. The problem has also impacted building social-support systems for the most vulnerable population groups and creating linkages with recovery, recreation, and development. The scattered nature of the mines and UXOs, combined with changes in weather patterns and seasonal activities, puts the civilian population at particular risk. During the harvest season (April–May) and periods of drought and dramatic crop failure, civilians often migrate far from local areas seeking food and water into areas that may have unmapped mine fields. Due to the mine-contaminated areas, the country is unable to expand its road and transportation network, other infrastructure projects and the tourism industry.

Government Mine Action
In 2000, the United Nations Mission in Eritrea and the Eritrean Mine Action Coordination Center was established. The Center increased the mine action efforts and focused on the mining industry in Eritrea. The MACC is composed of national and international stakeholders, including humanitarian mine action organizations, and the government. The MACC is established to coordinate mine action efforts among the various stakeholders.

Impact Survey in 200.
The Landmine Impact Survey found 1.9 million people were at risk of landmine contamination.

Development.
Eritrea acceded to the Ottawa Convention Aug. 27, 2001, and in 2002, the United Nations Development Program initiated the Mine Action Capacity Building Program. The MACC was designed to assist the Eritrean Demining Authority and Eritrean Demining Operations in building their capacity and implementing programs including mine clearance, victim assistance, and mine-risk education.

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