UNMIK: Mine Action Coordination Center

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In October 1999 when Kosovo Forces (KFOR) entered the Province of Prizina, they were immediately confronted with the problems encountered by a population returning through areas contaminated by unexploded, NATO-dropped, cluster munitions (CBU). NATO advised that as many as 335 areas and expertise of its partners who direct and implement local level activities on a daily basis, coordinating with KFOR personnel on operational matters. Through these “Senior Partners,” the MACC has been able to extend their reach throughout the Province without needing to establish regional offices. Each Mine Clearance organization has been allocated particular municipalities in which to operate. Capabilities have been taken into consideration to ensure that there is an appropriate response available in each of the 29 municipalities.

At present, approximately 330 areas of Kosovo have been identified as being high priority. These priorities are regularly reviewed and amended as necessary, taking into consideration issues such as the seasonal use of land. Furthermore, the ongoing consultation and liaison with other agencies within Kosovo ensures that the requirements of all humanitarian and developmental organizations are taken into consideration. The MACC recognizes that coordination in these matters is especially critical to ensure rapid follow-on activities in cleared areas.

Due, in part, to its successful partnering with these organizations, MACC has realized a lengthy list of accomplishments. In just the four month period following its inception, the MACC has:

- refined the planning process using the results of a province-wide survey of dangerous areas, conducted by HALO Trust.
- gathered survey information at the community level to assist in the identification of mine action priorities.
- established working relationships with mine clearance and mine awareness organizations which act as “Senior Partners” representing the MACC regionally.
- accredited mine action companies and NGOs in accordance with the U.N. International Standard for Humanitarian Mine Clearance Operations and the International Guidelines for Landmine and Unexploded Ordnance Awareness Education.
- assigned geographic coverage to all mine clearance organizations based on their capabilities and capacities.
- recorded Mine Clearance Achievements within the Province.
- recorded Provincial Mine Incidence figures.

MACC will continue to fulfill its current mandate and achieve its goals in mine clearance. In tandem with this work, MACC has identified priorities in the areas of mine awareness and victim assistance. These include providing a stop-gap measure for mine awareness prior to the formal integration of such programs into the school curriculum in November 2000 and introducing a basic psycho-social and advocacy support network to support the reintegration of victims in the workforce or school system. MACC’s work has been generously supported by donor countries.

In addition, the MACC has received in-kind (personnel and equipment) offers and assistance from the governments of Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, New Zealand, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United Nations.

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