October 2003

Geneva Diary: Report From the GICHD

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resulting from the harm or risk of harm caused by mine and UXO hazards and hazardous areas.

Mine Action is the product of:

a) The presence of a mine/UXO hazard in the community.
b) Inherent risk associated with the use of infrastructure such as roads, markets etc.
c) Inherent risk associated with livelihood activities such as agricultural land, water sources and distribution.
d) The number of victims of mine and UXO incidents within the last two years.

Impact Survey

An assessment of the socio-economic impact caused by the actual or perceived presence of mines and UXO, in order to assist the planning and prioritisation of mine action programmes and projects.

Technical Survey

The detailed topographical and technical investigation of known or suspected mined areas identified during the planning phase. Such areas may have not been identified during the general mine action assessment or have been otherwise reported.

Endnotes

1. DMAS OI J. 2. DMAS OII.
3. Defined in this paper as affected communities, mine action operators, national authorities, international organisations and donors.

Mine Action Technologies (continued from page 49)

resolution, much better behaviour in magnetic soils, etc.). Not all soils are suitable for mineralization (Article 7). Some soil types have been identified by geological surveys and are enhanced detection and reduced false alarm rates. Geographical Information Systems (GIS), which analyse geographic data in relation to particular areas or locations, are used to produce maps and displays of information. The benefits include information on the location of mines or other hazards.

A technology information management system: The Information Management System for Mine Action aims to provide a framework for information exchange on mine clearance and removal activities. It includes standard reporting facilities (requesting, reporting and receiving data), which allow for the digitisation of minefield and unexploded ordnance (UXO) data. The system assists governments, mine action organizations and contractors in their daily activities. More over, specialists in one area of expertise may not be aware of developments in other disciplines.

published by JMU Scholarly Commons, 2003
practitioner or scholar in key aspects of mine action. It is intended to reflect current realities in a fast-developing humanitarian context. Again, "A Guide to Mine Action" is available via the GICHD website, and hard copies have been printed in English, French and Spanish, and will soon be available in Russian and Arabic.

Finally, as this edition of the Journal of Mine Action has the theme of "Research, Development and Technology in Mine Action," I am pleased to advise that the Japanese relationship. Chul is hoping to start a youth camp that brings together and helps to establish relationships between Korean and Japanese teenagers. "The older generation carries too many hurts," he explained in Korean. "We must work with the younger generation to help build a better relationship."

As our conversation continued, we spoke about hopes for Korean reconciliation. My parents immigrated to the United States from South Korea and hold a strong distrust of North Koreans. My parents likewise felt resentment and distrust of South Koreans. In our respective homes, we were distinctly South and North Korean. In Caesu, however, where we were the only ones who spoke Korean, there was a Korean food and lived a part of Korean culture; we were of one nation. Because of that encounter at Caesu, the people of North Korea became less of a faceless threat and more of a people to me. I came to a greater understanding of their fears and hopes and gained a greater hope for a better future between our respective motherlands. Ho Chul told me about his one and only visit to North Korea. There he saw a girl who was around the same age as he, standing guard in uniform at a government building. He timidly approached her to ask, "Is it hard living as a soldier?" She responded easily, "Not at all; that's just how it is."

Conclusion

For the older generation in power, there are a myriad of complicated problems and issues to tackle before any sort of progress is made towards a better world. But for the young, there is only the world as we have known it. Through education, we can easily bypass, "how it is" and work towards "how it can be." We can do this because we do not carry many of the wounds of the past. My encounter with "the enemy" made me think about the debates and verbal confrontations we had at the ICBL, as the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHID), and even by members of the Swiss government in Bern about the United States' refusal to sign the Ottawa Treaty. I knew the United States did not wish to sign the treaty mainly because of its use of landmines at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas. Due to my ties to both the United States and South Korea, I could not help but feel responsible for U.S. use of landmines. I also had difficulty seeing a way out towards peace between the two nations. However, through the Exchange for Peace program, I have found that reconciliation may perhaps start with something as little as a mutual understanding between two young people of opposing ethnicities. I met the "enemies" of my nation face-to-face and unexpectedly found an innocence and youthful hope for peace that sparked and mirrored my own.

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by Musa Jalalov and Vagif Sadigov, MRE cell, ANAMA

The activities in the frame of the program have been conducted mainly on the basis of the general survey data on suspected mine/UXO areas and involved with the people involved in 11 war-oum districts of Azerbaijan. The number of mine/UXO victims in surveyed territories since the start of the conflict is estimated to be 1,248. According to the ANAMA Mine Victim Database, 391 people—mainly civilian women and children—became mine/UXO victims since the signing of the ceasefire agreement in May 1994. That was a main reason for making a decision to implement MRE for the civilian population living in frontier and bordering districts.

Fifteen MRE master trainers were trained in February 2001 and they had two refreshing training courses, in March and during July to August 2002, with participation of 18 instructors. During September to December 2001, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Education authorities, ANAMA conducted 30 three-day training sessions for 508 health personnel, and 54 four-day training sessions for 1042 teachers in 12 frontline districts—Berdzor, Agjabadi, Agdam, Aghjabedi, Goygol, Krasnaya, Dashkasan and Gedabey—as well as in internally displaced person (IDP) camps. Four hundred volunteers from the villages of targeted districts were trained in August 2002 to implement community-based MRE.

An MRE Technical Working Group formed in early 2001, consisting of representatives of several related ministries and other governmental institutions, as well as international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have played and are playing an active role in implementation and coordination of MRE activities. Training sessions are aimed to disseminate MRE safety messages and self-behavior rules among the population and to嘞 Korean-U.S. citizens for rules through teachers to schoolchildren.

A total of 220,000 MRE brochures for adults and children, 150,800 children's notebooks, 10,000 training manuals and 7,000 T-shirts were produced for the purposes of the program. MRE materials were distributed to health and education authorities and field and defense headquarters of the targeted districts as well. Ten sets of mine/UXO models were prepared for

Azerbaijani children learn about the dangers of mines through MRE programs. ©/JRPC

Program Activities

According to the Azerbaijani Mine Action Program, MRE is to be supported by and integrated with other forthcoming mine-related activities in Azerbaijan. MRE is considered to be a core pillar of mine action. The first step in decreasing mine/UXO injury and death rates among the younger generation in contaminated areas.

In May 2000, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the U.S. Embassy to Azerbaijan on funding the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) MRE Program for Azerbaijan. The program was implemented and continued in close cooperation with ANAMA during 2001 and 2002.

In March 2000, the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) assumed responsibility for the Mine Risk Education (MRE) Program implemented by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from 1997 to 1999. Through training mine risk educators and implementing an MRE program in for affected communities and refugees, ANAMA is hoping to reduce the number of incidents in Azerbaijan.

In this edition of the Journal of Mine Action, the ICRC has just established a program post of "Technology Officer." This has been made possible through a partnership arrangement with the government of Canada. The post will focus on practical ways that new and existing technologies for mine action can be delivered to the field.

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