



AMAP

ALBANIAN MINE ACTION PROGRAMME



CLUSTER MUNITIONS

In November 2009, Albania became a mine and UXO free country after a decade of clearance operations.

General

The cluster munitions found in Albania are exclusively a result of the Kosovo conflict in 1999. Cluster munitions have been used during this conflict by both the armed forces of Former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and NATO allied forces. The affected areas with cluster munitions were located in northern Albania directly bordering with Kosovo and covering the districts of Kukes, Has and Tropoja.

Based on the results of the General Survey, carried out by the Albanian Armed Forces in 1999, an area of 2.1 million m² was identified as contaminated with cluster munitions. The contamination directly affected about 8,500 people in 13 villages. From 1999 until the end of the operations, 9 people were killed and 44 injured by cluster munitions, making a total of 53 casualties in 32 separate incidents. The types of injuries from cluster munitions varied from slight injuries, loss of limbs, internal injuries, eye injuries, abdomen injuries and severe injuries to loss of life.

Various projects aiming at promoting and strengthening medical support and socio-economic re-integration of cluster munitions' survivors are being implemented in Albania. Several initiatives are undertaken to support directly the injured people and at the same time to build the capacities particularly of the health structures at local and national level to better assist the injured people.

Risk education activities have covered all the affected communities and as a result, no incidents from cluster munitions have been recorded in northern Albania since 2005.

Albanian Government Response

In 1999, the Government of Albania established the framework for the Albanian Mine Action Programme (AMAP). Policy and strategy is developed by the Albanian Mine Action Committee (AMAC) and executed by the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE). In-kind and material support from the Albanian Government from 1999 until 2009 to the mine action and explosive ordnance disposal programmes totals about 2,600,000USD.

Since 2005 to the end of the clearance operations, the Albanian Government through the Ministry of Defense has facilitated the demining operations by providing free of charge explosive materials and stand-by helicopter service for medical evacuation in case of demining accidents.



MEDEVAC support exercise - AAF



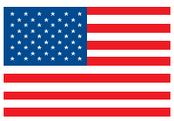
KB1 Cluster Munition found in Northeast Albania



EC Delegation to Albania

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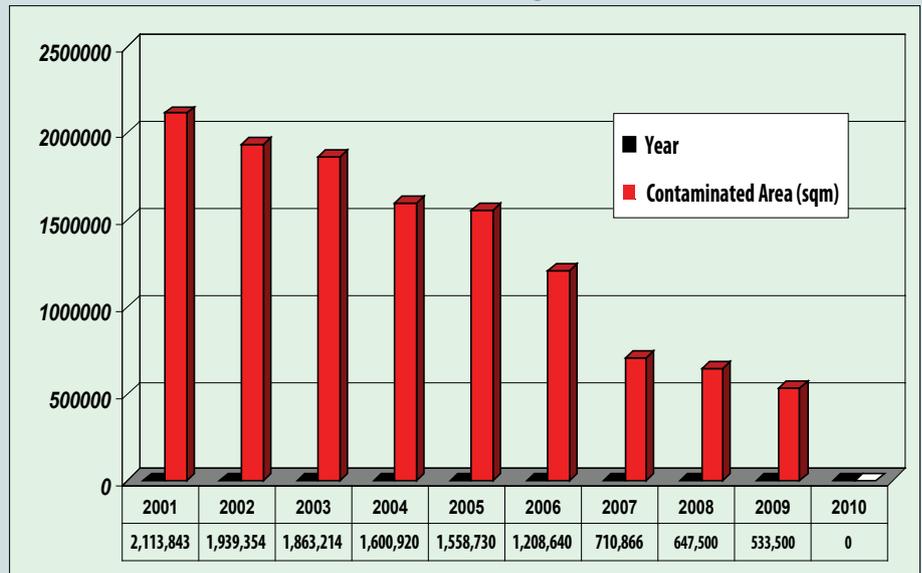


International Support for Cluster Munitions Clearance Operations

The clearance operations in Albania have been strongly supported by the governments of the USA, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Luxembourg, France, Turkey, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom (DfID), Canada, Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia as well as international donors such as the European Commission, International Trust Fund (ITF) and UNDP.

UNDP has played a crucial role in building the capacities of AMAE and of a national clearance capacity, through the provision of adequate technical support and training.

Cluster Munitions Clearance Progress 2001-2009



Planning, Monitoring and Coordination

The National Mine Action Strategy, formulated in 2002 and lastly revised in August 2007, established the vision, mission, priorities and a National Plan for Mine Action, which included cluster munitions. The revised framework of the national mine action plan is:

- **Vision** – Albania free from mines and unexploded ordnance by 2010.
- **Mission** – Implement a sustainable Mine Action Programme in order to fully eliminate the threat of mines and unexploded ordnance in Northeast Albania.



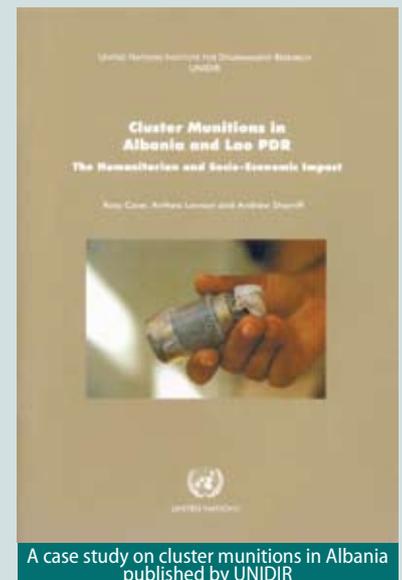
Donors Field Trip in Kukës Region

The Albanian Mine Action Executive is responsible for coordinating and monitoring all mine action activities in the country including the clearance operations of cluster munitions. In this framework and based on the National Mine Action

Plan, AMAE plans, prioritizes, develops, and coordinates the mine action operations. AMAE issues formal accreditation to the mine action implementing agencies, based on written procedures and following an assessment of their practical performance against those

procedures. Additionally, AMAE allocates operational tasks, collects, records and disseminates operational reports, verifies finalized operations and certifies the final product. AMAE with the GICHD support, has established since 2003 the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) through which AMAE provided information on the remaining areas and the progress of clearance operations and informed the implementing partners on mine incidents/accidents. Currently, IMSMA provides useful information on the areas cleared.

In addition, AMAE, with international support, established the capacity necessary to monitor the clearance operations, which included Quality Assurance and Quality Control of these activities. Quality Assurance confirmed that the management practices and operational procedures for clearance were safe, effective and efficient, in accordance with the internationally accepted standards, while Quality



A case study on cluster munitions in Albania published by UNIDIR

Control ensured that the product conformed to the standard. A Regional Office is established in Kukës to directly monitor and coordinate the mine action activities in the field. The European Commission is currently funding the AMAE activities through UNDP Albania.

Clearance Operations

The clearance of cluster munitions was firstly initiated by a EOD unit of the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) during 1999, thus reducing drastically the number of potential civilian casualties. Since 2002 several demining organizations with the financial support from various international donors carried out clearance operations in northeast Albania in accordance with the International Standards. Albania declared in the Cartagena Summit in December 2009 that it is now mine and cluster munitions free. Since 2004 "DanChurchAid" was the only demining operator carrying out mine and cluster munitions clearance operations in northeast of Albania. From 2000 to November 2009, 4,869 cluster munitions were identified and destroyed.



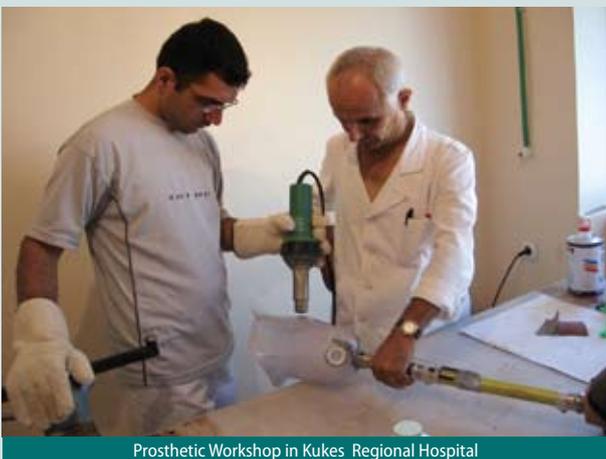
Cluster Munitions Risk Education (RE)

The 13 directly affected villages by cluster munitions were regularly instructed on mine and cluster munitions threat. The effective clearance operations of cluster munitions and Risk Education activities taking place in the region have resulted in zero accidents since 2005. Risk Education strategic objective was to prevent mine and UXO incidents in northeast Albania by reaching all targeted groups.

During these years, risk Education activities have been strongly supported by the governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom as well as international and local organizations such as the European Commission, UNDP, ITF, UNICEF, International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), ALB-AID and Albanian Red Cross.

Victim Assistance (VA)

A broad integrated victim assistance strategy was adopted in 2003 with the goal of building a sustainable Albanian capability to provide health care assistance, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of mine/UXO victims. The main objectives are:



- Fitment of prostheses to lower limb amputees and rehabilitation of sight impaired in Albania and upper limb amputees and difficult cases abroad.
- Build the capacity of the Albanian institutions to fit all types of prostheses by 2010.
- Inform mine/cluster munitions survivors and the communities on the rights of people with disabilities.
- Economic reintegration of mine/cluster munitions victims through vocational training and a micro-financing scheme to establish home-based economies.
- Build a capacity in Northeast Albania to surgically treat trauma and amputee victims and improve the quality of medical, social, and rehabilitative services.

Several initiatives have been taken to achieve victim assistance objectives including:

- The Prostheses Workshop established since March 2005 at Kukës Hospital to conduct repairs of prostheses is supported with raw materials and other equipment by the DFID and the US Department of State. Since 2007, Kukes workshop has been producing new prostheses for lower limbs.
- A Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PMR-Phase I & II) project started in May 2006 with Handicap International and funded by US DoS, to develop a sustainable national response to the PMR needs of mine victims and other people in need.
- ICRC supports the National Prosthetic Orthotic Center (NPOC) in Tirana with raw materials and with monitoring and coaching visits. A specialized technician is back at the NPOC after a 3-years training abroad at ISPO Level II, improving the capacities of the center.
- Equipments and raw materials are supplied to the NPOC with funds provided by the European Commission (EC). Part of these materials is sent to the Prostheses Workshop in Kukes.
- A full set of the physiotherapy equipments is delivered to Kukës Hospital with funding from France and EC and surgical equipments were delivered to Tropoja Hospital funded by EC through UNDP.
- ITF has procured surgical equipments worth 170 000 USD for Kukes Hospital funded by US DoS.
- A Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) network was established in Northeast Albania in 2005. The CBR network is comprised of



Survivors benefiting from social and economic reintegration projects

30 nurses working in the mine affected villages and 2 medical specialists (neurologist and physiotherapist) from Kukës Hospital. Medical kits have been distributed to these nurses in Kukës, Has and Tropoja while 2 physiotherapists and 6 nurses received training abroad, funded by France.

- 17 cluster munitions victims and their families have been assisted in establishing home based economies with animal husbandry.
- 9 mine/cluster munitions survivors and their family members from Kukës, Has and Tropoja completed vocational training courses with funding through AMAP.
- The humanitarian and fund-raising events, "Night of a Thousand Dinners", hosted by the US Embassy in Tirana, assisted 4 child cluster munitions survivors to attend their studies.

Convention on Cluster Munitions

Recognizing the grave consequences caused by the use of cluster munitions and the need for immediate action, a group of states concluded on 3 December 2008 in Oslo, Norway a legally binding international instrument that would prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

Other obligations under this treaty for the State Parties include cooperation and assistance that ensures clearance of contaminated areas with Cluster Munitions, adequate provision of care and rehabilitation to survivors and their communities, risk education and destruction of stockpiles of prohibited cluster munitions. Albania is one of the 94 parties that signed in Oslo the Cluster Munitions Ban Treaty. On 16 June 2009, Albania deposited the instrument of ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions at the United Nations in New York. By ratifying this treaty, Albania demonstrated once more its commitment to promote peace in the region.



A side event on Cluster Munitions was held in the margins of Tirana Regional Workshop on a "Mine Free South Eastern Europe"



Albanian Minister of Foreign Affairs signing the Treaty

contact details

Arben Braha

Director, Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE)
E-Mail: amaealbania@amae.org.al
Website: www.amae.org.al
Tel / Fax: + 355 4 2269 280; Mob. +355 69 20 94 629
Rr. "Donika Kastrioti" Pallati No. 14 Ap 3A
Tirana - Albania

Arian Starova

Deputy Minister of Defence
Chairman of Albanian Mine Action Committee (AMAC)
E-mail: asta@mod.gov.al
Tel: +355 4 240084 Fax: +355 4 225 227

design: cprstudio.com

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