



AMAP

THE ALBANIAN MINE ACTION PROGRAMME



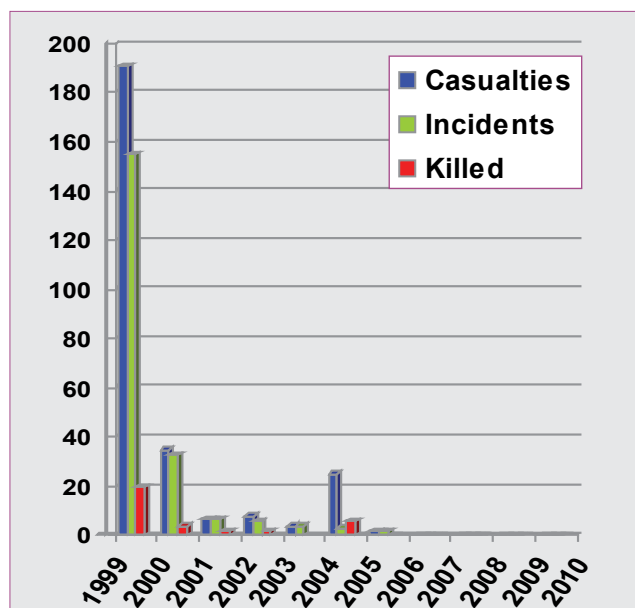
VICTIM ASSISTANCE



Activities from the PMR project in Albania

BACKGROUND

- Mine/UXO threat which emanated from the 1999 Kosovo conflict, focused on Kukes Region, North-eastern Albania. Additionally, abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO) is scattered throughout Albania as a result of weapons looted from ammunition depots during the 1997 uprising as well as remains from WWII.
- 120 km borderline between Albania and Kosovo and up to 20 km inside Albania were initially identified as contaminated, representing 15,250,000 m² in 102 areas.
- 238 people have been injured and 34 deceased in Northeast Albania, in 210 accidents. Additionally, there are 680 people injured all over Albania from abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO).
- Approximately 30% of mine victims were children at the time of their accidents and the majority was bread winning males; only 8% were female.
- AMAE is coordinating and monitoring victim assistance services while UNDP is providing support to AMAE and has directly implemented projects for victim assistance in Albania.



Mine/UXO incidents in Northeast Albania, 1999 - 2010



This brochure has been produced with the assistance of the European Union and UNDP. The contents of this document can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union or of the United Nations, including UNDP, or those of their member states.



Victim Assistance Programme:

Vision: To provide the mine victims with physical rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration into their communities.

Goal: To improve the Albanian capacities in the area of physical/medical rehabilitation and psycho-social and economic empowerment of the mine victims in Albania.

Objectives:

- » Build the capacity of Albanian institutions to fit all types of prostheses in Albania by the end of 2010.
- » Build the required capacities for rehabilitation of sight impaired in Albania.
- » Economic reintegration of mine victims through vocational training and a micro-financing scheme for establishing home-based economies.
- » Build a capacity in Northeast Albania to surgically treat trauma and amputee victims and serve as a level two medical facility for victims of mine accidents.
- » Build a capacity in Northeast Albania to improve mine victims' access to, and the quality of medical, social, and rehabilitative services.

Activities:

- **Data Collection** - Albanian Red Cross and the NGO Alb-AID are the main means of data collection for new incidents and updating the needs assessment database for mine/UXO victims; data collected are passed to AMAE and inserted into the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database and shared amongst all relevant partners. UNDP Albania in cooperation with the National Demilitarization Centre (NDC) and funding from DfID, collected backdated data (IMSMA incident reports) for mine/UXO victims injured as a result of weapons looted during the 1997 uprising and WWII. ARC supported by ICRC is collecting the data on injured people from AXO in 10 prefectures in Albania.
- **Medical Assistance** - 30 nurses residing in mine affected villages received two trainings in emergency first aid and CBR during 2004-2005 by specialists from the Slovenia Institute for Rehabilitation supported by UNDP (DfID/BCPR funds) and US DoS through International Trust Fund (ITF). Surgical equipment was provided to Kukes Regional Hospital as well as 7 medical specialists (including the surgeons and staff of the rehabilita-



Donation from US Department of State through ITF



Physiotherapy Unit, Kukes Regional Hospital



Donation from EC to Tropoja Hospital

tion unit) received medical training from the Regional Hospital in 2003/4 and in 2009, funded by US DoS through ITF. With the support of the French Government 2 physiotherapists from Kukes and Tropoja Hospitals and 6 nurses from mine affected villages received refresher training at the Slovenia Institute for Rehabilitation. Additionally, the nurses working in the mine affected villages as well as the physiotherapists at Kukes Hospital were equipped with medical supplies/equipment.

- **Physical Rehabilitation, Prostheses, and Assistive Devices** - Building the capacity of the National Prosthetic Orthotic Centre (NPOC) by providing training to technicians and physiotherapists and the provision of raw materials and technical assistance visits with EC, DfID and ICRC/SFD support. Handicap International's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation project (PMR phase I & II) supported by US DoS through ITF aims to build a sustainable capacity in developing the area of rehabilitation in Albania through inclusion of a physiotherapy programme in the Faculty of Nursing as well as training of prosthetic technicians in Albania. A Prostheses Workshop at Kukes Regional Hospital is established since March 2005 with DfID/BCPR and US DoS support and regu-



Survivors benefiting from the socio-economic reintegration projects

lar training is provided to the technicians at the NPOC in Tirana, Kukes and Pogradec. Since 2005 more than 300 amputees/cases repaired their prostheses at the Kukes Prosthetic Workshop. Since 2001, with US DoS support through ITF, 130 mine/UXO amputees classified as difficult cases have received prostheses abroad. Nurses in the mine affected villages as well as the physiotherapists and neurologist from Kukes Hospital are part of the CBR network to facilitate mine survivors' access to medical and social services.

- **Capacity building and sustainability** - Training to 6 medical specialists, 6 prostheses technicians, and 30 nurses; infrastructure improvements and provision of equipment to NPOC and prosthetic Workshop at Kukes Hospital. A specialized technician is back at the NPOC after a 3-year training abroad as ISPO level II, by improving the capacities of the center. Sustainability ensured through close involvement of the line ministries and hospitals in all VA programme plans.
- **Psychological and social support** – Nurses trained in CBR provide counseling as well as the neurologist from Kukes Hospital visits mine victims 3x/month in their homes as a part of the CBR network. The NGO-ALB-AID employs a fully integrated mine survivor who regularly liaises with other mine survivors.
- **Socio-economic integration** - During 2003-2009, 84 mine victims and their families received assistance in establishing home based economies in animal husbandry through a revolving loan fund implemented by ALB-AID and funded by US DoS through ITF. In 2006-'09, 95 mine survivors/their family members were assisted with vocational trainings and technical/financial support to open their small businesses with financial support from UNDP with EC and SIDA funds and US DoS funds through ITF.
- **Educational reintegration** - The US Embassy Tirana, in collaboration with UNDP/AMAE, has hosted five "The Night of A Thousand Dinners" (N1KD) events in Albania, one of which co-hosted with the Embassy of the Netherlands. Donations were made by individual donors and Albanian business and matched by US DoS through ITF. N1KD activities were implemented by the NGO ALB-AID. "N1KD 2003" raised a total of 16,275 USD which were used to assist 5 child mine survivors in continuing their studies; 5 mine victims and their families in establishing home-based economies; and 2 sight impaired survivors in receiving medical treatment. "N1KD 2005" raised 21,958,50 USD which were used to support 18 sight impaired mine/UXO survivors in being screened for their eyes and 10 others in receiving surgical interventions for their eye injuries. "N1KD 2006" raised 16,870 USD which were used to assist 8 youth mine survivors to continue their studies as well as provide physical rehabilitation and medical treatment for 2 mine victims. "N1KD 2007" raised 19,070 USD which were used to assist 10 child mine survivors to continue their school and post secondary studies. "N1KD 2009" raised 12,218 USD which are being used to assist 8 child survivors to continue their school and vocational training until June 2011.

- **Regional Workshop** – A parallel programme for victims’ assistance (VA) experts was held in the margins of the regional event “The Tirana Workshop on a Mine-Free South Eastern Europe”, which took place from 7 to 9 October 2009 with the support of the European Union and the AP Mine Ban Convention ISU. Participants in the workshop included representatives from mine-affected countries in South Eastern Europe, landmine and unexploded ordnance survivors, donors, local, international and non-governmental organizations that have contributed to mine action in the region. The VA parallel programme aimed to highlight challenges and successes in addressing the rights and needs of mine survivors in the region. The programme included discussions on medical and physical rehabilitation, psycho-social support and economic empowerment of the survivors.



Parallel Programme for Victim Assistance at Tirana Regional Workshop on a Mine Free Southeastern Europe, October 2009

Plans for 2010:

- Further reinforcing and upgrading capacities for physical rehabilitation to treat mine victims and other people with disabilities at local and national level.
- Develop a sustainable physical and medical programme in Albania, with specific focus to the orthotic training.
- Continue treatment and socio-economic reintegration of mine/UXO victims and their families.
- Implement income-generation activities for the socioeconomic reintegration of victims.
- Assist survivors and/or their family members with vocational training.
- Reconstruct NPOC to ensure accessibility and quality treatment for all amputees in Albania.
- A detailed assessment of the physical, medical and socio-economic conditions of at least 680 victims injured in abandoned ammunitions (AXO) accidents in Albania.
- Contribute to the fulfillment of the National Strategy for People with Disability (2005-2015).



Night of 1000 Dinners 2009 hosted by US Embassy in Tirana



Children supported with extra classes through N1KD projects

CONTACTS

Arben Braha

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

Arian Starova

Deputy Minister of Defence
Chairman of Albanian Mine Action Committee (AMAC)
E-mail: asta@mod.gov.al
Tel: +355 4 2240084 Fax: +355 4 2225 227

Veri Dogjani

Victim Assistance & Risk Education Coordinator
Albanian Mine Action Executive
Rr "Donika Kastrioti", Pallati 14, Ap 3A.
Tirana, Albania
Tel/fax: +355 4 22 69 280; Mob: +355 69 20 64 362
E-mail: mava@amae.org.al
Web: www.amae.org.al

Brochure updated as of May, 2010.

Design: CPR Production