



# AMAP

THE ALBANIAN MINE ACTION PROGRAMME



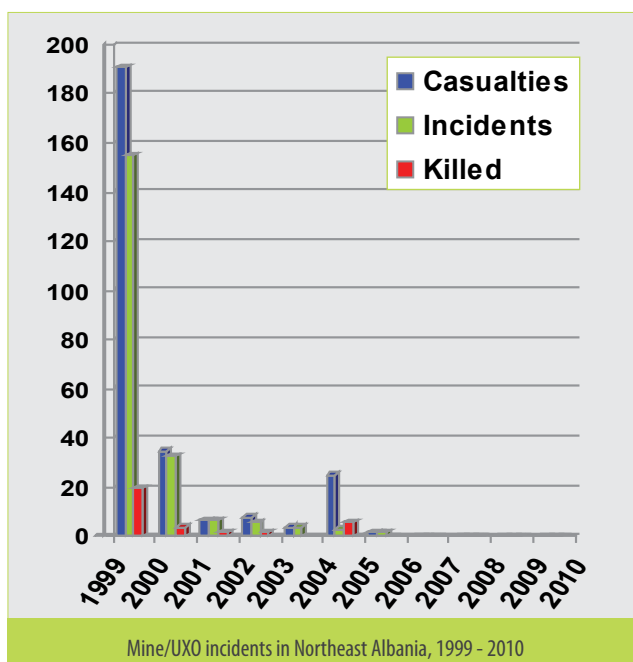
## VICTIM ASSISTANCE



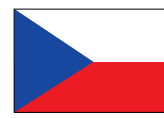
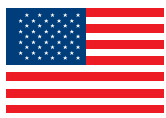
Activities from the PMR project in Albania

## BACKGROUND

- Mine/UXO threat which emanated from the 1999 Kosovo conflict, focused on Kukes Region, Northeastern 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 m<sup>2</sup> in 102 areas.
- 238 people have been injured and 34 deceased only in North-east Albania, in 210 accidents. In addition, there are 686 casualties of mine/unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance all around Albania from 1995 to the end of 2009.
- Approximately 30% of mine victims were children at the time of their accidents and the majority was bread winning males; only 8% were female.
- The Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE) is coordinating and monitoring victim assistance activities while UNDP and ITF are providing support to AMAE and has directly implemented projects for victim assistance in Albania.
- Since 2001 AMAE has maintained records of the landmines/UXO accidents using the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database, which is now serving as an informative tool to implementing partners and other actors.



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# Victim Assistance Programme:

A Mine Action National Strategy was formulated in 2002 in order to determine the vision, mission and the objectives of Mine Action in Albania, including Victim Assistance as one of the obligations of the Mine Ban Treaty which Albania ratified in February 2000 as well as the Convention on Cluster Munitions ratified on June, 2009.

**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.

Albania, since December 2009, is a signatory state of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (CRPD) which provides a new human standard for persons with disability, including mine/UXO victims. Victim Assistance Cartagena Action Plan, which Albania signed at the Cartagena Summit in December 2009, guides the mine affected countries into strengthening the national existing plans regarding the medical and socio-economic assistance for mine survivors.

### Activities:

- **Data Collection** - the NGOs Albanian Red Cross and 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 data on injured people from AXO in 12 prefectures in Albania. There are 686 people injured all over Albania from abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO). AMAE has played an important role in coordinating and advocating support to mine/UXO survivors, especially in the Kukës region.
- **Medical Assistance** - 30 nurses residing in mine affected villages received training in emergency first aid and CBR during 2004-2005 by specialists from the Slovenia Insti-



Equipment for Kukës Hospital



Physiotherapy Unit, Kukës Regional Hospital



Donation from EC to Tropoja Hospital

tute for Rehabilitation supported by UNDP (DfID/BCPR funds) and US DoS through International Trust Fund (ITF). Surgical equipment was provided to Kukës Regional Hospital and 7 medical specialists (including the surgeons and staff of the rehabilitation unit) received medical training in 2003/4 and in 2009, funded by US DoS through ITF. With the support of the French Government 2 physiotherapists from Kukës 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 Kukës Hospital were equipped with medical supplies/equipment.

- **Physical Rehabilitation, Prostheses, and Assistive Devices** - ICRC has contributed to strengthen the capacities of the National Prosthetic Orthotic Centre (NPOC) by providing training to technicians and physiotherapists and the provision of raw materials and technical visits. The Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation project (phase I & II) supported by US DoS through ITF aims to build a sustainable capacity in developing physical rehabilitation in Albania through in-



Survivors benefiting from the socio-economic reintegration projects

clusion of a physiotherapy programme in the Faculty of Nursing and training of 7 prosthetic technicians in Albania. The Prostheses Workshop established at Kukes Regional Hospital since March 2005 with DfID/BCPR and US DoS support has repaired prostheses for about 250 amputees/cases while since 2007, has produced 50 new prostheses. Since 2001, with US DoS support through ITF, 140 mine/UXO amputees classified as difficult cases have received prostheses abroad. Nurses in the mine affected villages as well as the physiotherapists and neurologists 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, 7 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.
- **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/AMAЕ, has hosted five "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 are 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



The amputees getting medical assistance at the Institute of Rehabilitation Slovenia

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 “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's ISU. Participants in the workshop included representatives from mine affected countries in Southeastern Europe, landmine and unexploded ordnance survivors, donors, local, international and non-governmental organizations that have contributed to mine action in the region. The programme included discussions on medical and physical rehabilitation and, 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

### Future Plans:

- Further reinforcing and upgrading capacities for physical rehabilitation to treat mine/AXO victims and other people with disabilities at local and national level.
- Develop a sustainable medical and physical rehabilitation programme in Albania, with specific focus to the orthotic training.
- Continue treatment and socio-economic reintegration of mine/UXO victims and their families through vocational training.
- Support the improvement of the capacities at the NPOC to ensure accessibility and quality treatment for amputees in need in Albania.
- A detailed assessment of the physical, medical and socio-economic conditions of at least 686 victims injured in unexploded abandoned ammunitions (AXO) accidents in Albania.
- Contribute to the implementation 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

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