



# AMAP

ALBANIAN MINE ACTION PROGRAMME



## VICTIM ASSISTANCE



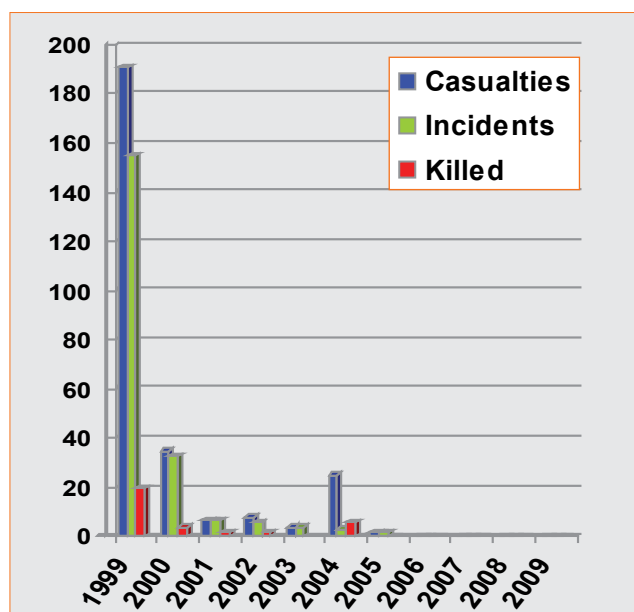
Prosthetic Workshop, Kukës Regional Hospital



Physiotherapy Training

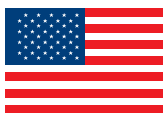
## BACKGROUND

- Mine/UXO threat focused on Northeast Albania (Kukës region) and emanated from the 1999 Kosovo conflict. 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 border between Albania and Kosovo and up to 20 km inside Albania; 102 areas were initially identified as contaminated, representing 15,250,000 m<sup>2</sup>.
- 238 people have been injured and 34 deceased in Northeast Albania, in 210 accidents. Additionally, there are 610 people injured all over Albania from abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO).
- Approx 30% of mine victims were children at the time of their accidents and the majority were bread winning males; only 8% are female.
- AMAE is coordinating and monitoring while UNDP is providing support to AMAE and has directly implemented projects for victim assistance in Albania.



Mine/UXO incidents and casualties in North - East Albania; 1999 - 2009





# Victim Assistance Programme:

**Vision:** Mine victims to be physically rehabilitated and socially economically reintegrated 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:**

- » Building 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.
- » Building 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.
- » Building a capacity in Northeast Albania to improve mine victims' access to, and quality of, medical, social, and rehabilitative services.

**Activities:**

- **Data Collection** - 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 is 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. In the last three years, ARC supported by ICRC is collecting the data on injured people from AXO in 10 prefectures in Albania.
- **Medical Assistance** - Provided 2 trainings (2004-5) for 30 nurses residing in mine affected villages in emergency first aid and CBR by specialists from the Slovenia Institute for Rehabilitation supported by UNDP (DfID/BCPR funds) and US DoS through International Trust Fund (ITF). Surgical equipments provided to the Kukes Regional Hospital as well



Donation from US Department of State through ITF



Physiotherapy Unit, Kukes Regional Hospital



Donation from EC to Tropoja Hospital

as medical training provided to 4 medical specialists (including the surgeons) 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 Hospital and 6 nurses from mine affected villages received refresher training at the Slovenia Institute for Rehabilitation and medical supplies/equipment are provided for the nurses working in the mine affected villages as well as the physiotherapists at Kukes Hospital.

- **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 support visits with ICRC/SFD, DFID and EC support. Handicap International's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation project (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



Survivors benefiting from the socio-economic reintegration projects

DoS support and regular training is provided to the technicians at the NPOC in Tirana, Kukes and Pogradec. Since 2005 more than 250 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 3-years 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-'09, 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** - 10 child mine /UXO survivors are continuing their studies, with N1KD support and funds matched by US DoS through ITF.

## 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.
- Implementing income-generation activities for the socioeconomic reintegration of victims.
- Assisting survivors and/or their family members with vocational training.
- Reconstructing 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 610 victims injured in abandoned ammunitions (AXO) accidents in Albania.
- Contribute to the fulfillment of the National Strategy for People with Disability (2005-2015).



Children supported with extra classes through N1KD projects



Night of 1000 Dinners 2007 hosted by US Embassy in Tirana



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