

Explosive Remnants of War Coordination Center



ERWCC PROVIDES MRE PRESENTATION TO THE EU MONITORING MISSION IN GEORGIA

30 April, 2010

On Friday, April 30th, ERWCC team provided Mine Awareness Presentation to the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM), in Gori. The presentation was performed by Petri Nevalainen – ERWCC Program Coordinator and Lolita Shengelia – MRE/CL/VA Coordinator.



The presentation included materials about ERWCC mission and responsibilities in Georgia, current activities, detailed information and maps of contaminated areas, pictures of ordnances found in Shida Kartli Region, warning signs in Georgia, mine victim assistance, partner organizations and some information about OASIS program – the program operated by iMMAP. EWRCC team distributed informational materials such as maps, brochures, and newsletters among the audience.

In the end of the presentation, Mr. Nicolaus de Silva, EUMM Mission Security Officer, thanked ERWCC team for such endeavor and invited them to give the same type presentation in the near future for new representatives of EUMM who will be working in Gori Region from May, 2010. ERWCC is planning to perform the subsequent presentation for the new EUMM representatives as required.



European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia is an autonomous mission led by the European Union under the EU Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP). Nowadays the EUMM has monitors from 26 Member States.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ERWCC AND ICBLGC SIGN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

5 May, 2010

Explosive Remnants of War Coordination Center (ERWCC) and International Campaign to Ban Landmines Georgian Committee (ICBLGC) signed the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation on May 5th, 2010. Memorandum was signed by Petri Nevalainen – ERWCC Program Coordinator and Maia Buchukuri – ICBLGC Coordinator.



On the base of the Memorandum, organizations will collaborate and share information related to Explosive Remnants of War for free. ERWCC will provide assistance to ICBLGC in installing IMSMA system and assure technical support. Also, ERWCC will train ICBLGC staff in working with IMSMA program and data processing.



ICBLGC takes responsibility to collect accurate data, fill data in the data base and update the information as far as possible.

ICBLGC is working in Georgia on the issue of the Convention on Cluster Munitions; The organizations provides identification of victims from antipersonnel landmines, clusters and other ERW, works on the support projects of victims and social integration programs, also conducts mine awareness programs in the community.

ERWCC MOVES TO NEW OFFICE

7 May, 2010

Explosive Remnants of War Coordination Center will operate in a new office from May10th, 2010. The new office is located on 55 Paliashvili Street, 0179 Tbilisi. Other contact information remains the same:

55 Paliashvili Street;

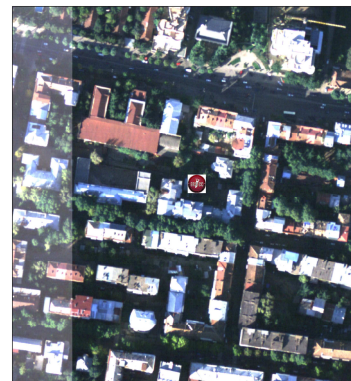
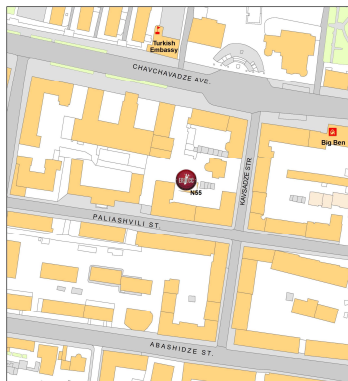
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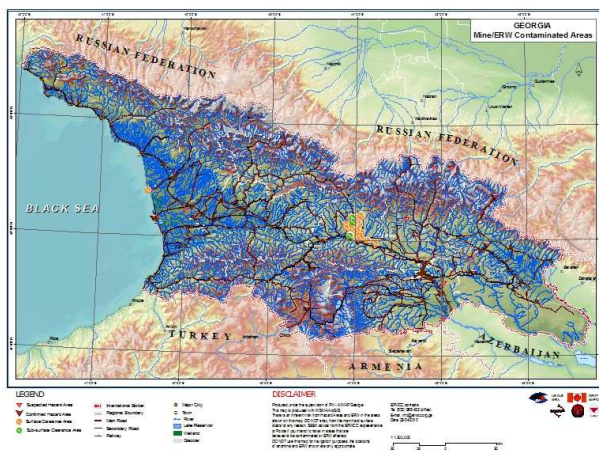
ERWCC HAS PUBLISHED UPDATED MAPS

17 May, 2010

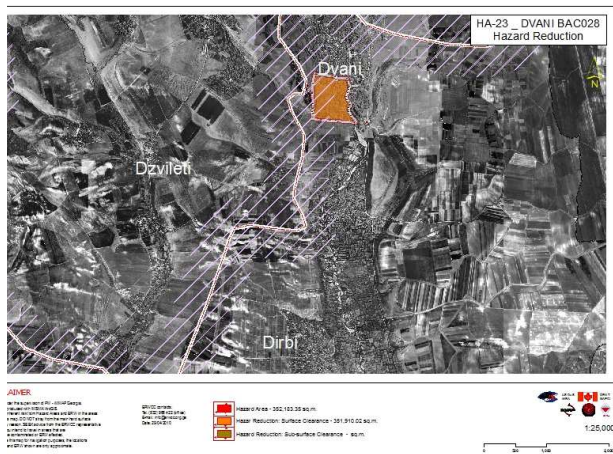
The information Management Department of Explosive Remnants of War Coordination Center has published recently updated maps of ERW contaminated areas.

The maps contain Georgia contamination atlas, 2008 August Conflict Zone and Village Dvani in Gori Region, which was cleared HALO Trust and ERWCC will perform QC in the near future.

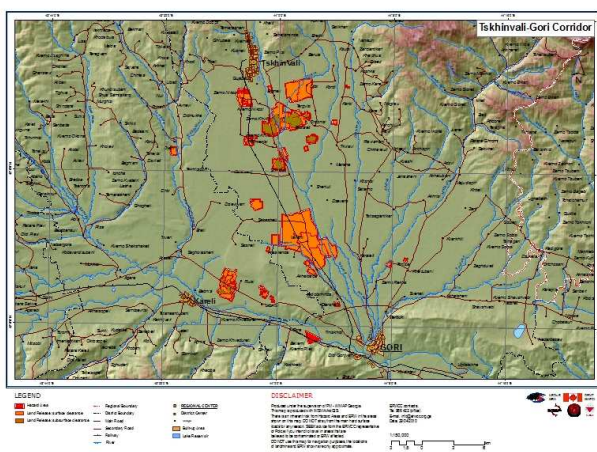
Georgia Contamination



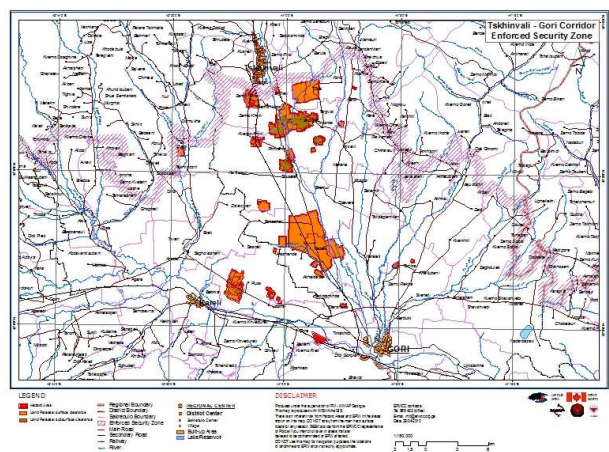
Dvani



Conflict Zone



Conflict Zone



ERWCC OPERATIONS TEAM CONTINUES WORKING ON MINE FIELDS AND FORMER CONFLICT AREAS/BATTLE ZONES

17 May, 2010

Explosive Remnants of War Coordination Center operations team continues Quality Control / Quality Assurance tasks on mine fields and ERW contaminated areas.

In May 2010, ERWCC Operations team has been working on QA/QC in following areas: Mtskheta, Sagarejo, Variani, Brotsleti and Ruisi. In Mtskheta and Sagarejo the team is working on Russian former military base clearance.

Lots of households were located in contaminated areas in Brotsleti and Ruisi, most of which have already been cleared and they are undergoing QA/QC for the time being.

ERWCC is performing QA/QC Assurance missions on the territories that have already been cleared by HALO Trust of Norwegian People's Aid. During the last month, ERWCC Operations team has not found anything hazardous, except from one small part of the explosive ordnance which was not dangerous for life.

Contaminated areas are being cleared according to the International Humanitarian Demining Standards, which means that the land is being cleared on surface and subsurface 20 centimeters deep.

FIRST COORDINATION MEETING WAS HELD IN ERWCC NEW OFFICE

19 May, 2010

On May 19th, Coordination Meeting was Held in ERWCC new office, in 55 Paliashvili Street.

The meeting was attended by representatives of partner organizations of ERWCC - HALO Trust, NPA, ICBLGC, ICRC, GRCS, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Defense.

The attendants discussed ongoing issues and the main topic – visit in Zugdidi on May 27-28. ERWCC plans to visit Zugdidi in order to update IMSMA program and perform mine risk education presentation in border zone.



NORWEGIAN PEOPLES AID RELEASE REPORT ON CONDUCTED UNDERWATER SURVEY AT POTI HARBOR EARLIER THIS YEAR.

21 May, 2010

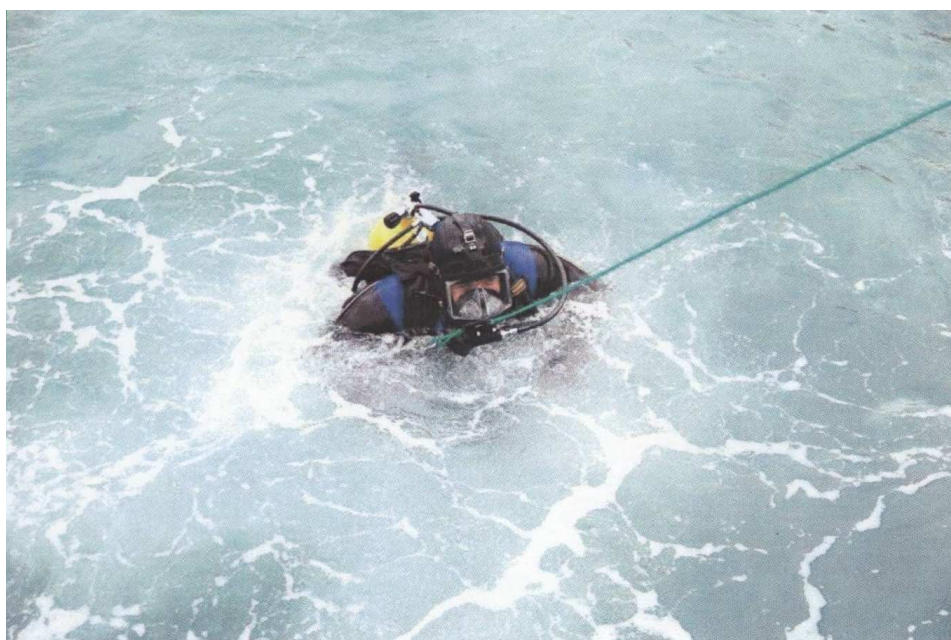
Explosive Remnants of War Coordination Centre partner Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) has released a final report on an underwater survey of Poti Military Harbor earlier this year.

NPA cleared total of 10700 square meters of seabed, 925 square meters of which were of high interest and the QA was performed on that area.

Poti Military Harbor underwater survey was performed in January 2010. The dive team amended the search methodology to a manual search conducted by the divers gently prodding their arms into the mud lying on the seabed. The dive team performed 45 dives totaling 28 hours of dive time.

After conducting the survey, NPA says that cleared area does not contain any cluster munitions of any type and there are no indications of large ammunition dumps in the area. The dive team found 57X30mm and 3X76mm unfired projectiles along the piers. The items have possibly fallen from the sunken vessels.

NPA Mine Action program was established in September 2008 as a response to the Georgian-Russian August conflict.



ERWCC AND GEORGIA RED CROSS SOCIETY CONTINUE COLLABORATION IN ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL DATABASE ON CASUALTIES OF MINES AND EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

21 May, 2010



Explosive Remnants of War Coordination Centre in 2009 together with International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and Georgian Red Cross Society (GRCS), initiated to establish a working group aimed at elaborating and unifying the forms on the collection of data on casualties from mines/ERW and assessment of their needs. This activity was a follow up of the efforts and initiatives started in this direction after the August 2008 conflict in Georgia.

Since April 2010, the GRCS with the financial and technical support of the ICRC has been implementing the data collection and needs assessment throughout Georgia targeting the casualties of mines and explosive remnants of war.

It should be noted that the data collection forms were elaborated in cooperation and coordination with the national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The countrywide data collected is processed through the established IMSMA system at ERWCC. The national and international organizations involved in victim assistance and operating in Georgia will have access to statistical information through IMSMA and ERWCC, to facilitate further support for the victims of Mines/ERW based on their needs.

Acting on behalf and serving the interests of the victims of mines/ERW in Georgia, the ERWCC is cooperating with the ICRC, GRCS and the other national and international organizations operating in this field.