

# MASG

## Mine Action Support Group Newsletter

**Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations**

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# 1. Country Presentation: MASG-Meeting 23. September 2005

## INTEGRATED MINE ACTION PROGRAMME IN BURUNDI

*(a coordinated response to strengthen the mine action capacity development efforts)*

## CURRENT STATUS

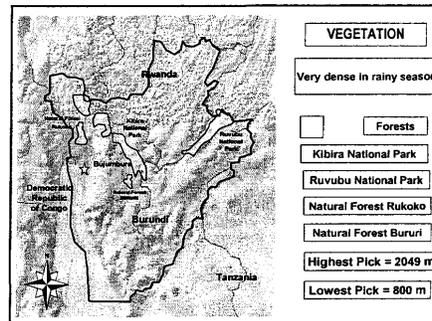
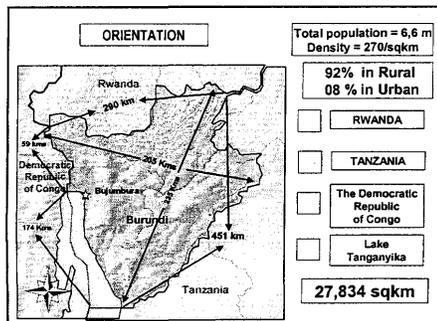
- The Mine Action Coordinated Centre (MACC) established in June 2004 within ONUB mission, is already being programmed as a « National MACC » rather than purely a UNMACC through two phases:
  - > Establish the MACC within the GOB and
  - > Transition from a UN managed to a UN supported programme

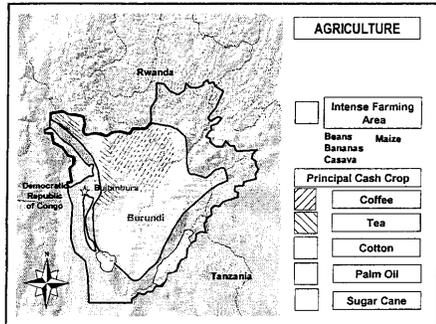
## UN MINE ACTION SUPPORT ROLE

- Technical assistance to the GOB and humanitarian stakeholders on the development of an integrated multi-year mine action strategy and action plan to improve access to vital natural resources and basic social services
- This encompass both:
  - > Current emergency response elements in support of transitional recovery process and
  - > Longer-term national capability development

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- MACC is becoming actively involved in capacity building earlier than anticipated:
  - > The ground is laid for the establishment of a National Mine Action Coordination Centre
  - > Staff training in progress (IMSMA, Strategic Planning, General Community Survey, Mine Risk Education, Victim Assistance and Reporting)
  - > Clearance/Battle area clearance training
  - > IMSMA training (March-July 2005)
  - > Socio-economic approaches to mine action planning and management training (May 2005)
  - > Mine Action Senior Management course (UNDP July 2005)



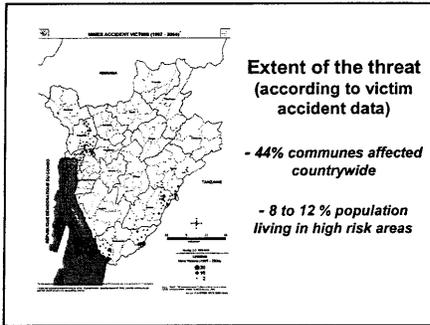


### Strategic Analysis

- Analysis: Where are we now?
- Vision: Where do we want to be?
- Mission : How do we get there?

### Extent of Threat

- Due to the sporadic mine/ERW situation in country, the threat appears to be more serious to the returning populations and the associated humanitarian relief efforts.
- The prioritization of tasks will take into consideration:
  - the needs of communities identified as mine/ERW affected;
  - the national priorities as defined into the national poverty reduction strategy plan (CSLP).



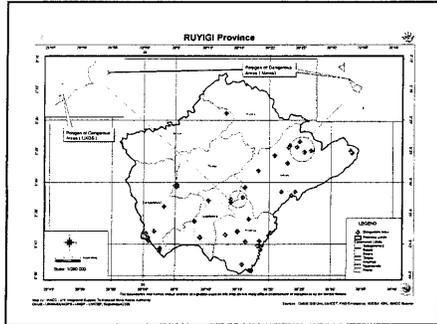
### Current Activities (1)

NGO Danish Church Aid (DCA) has been starting field activities on 23 May 2005 in Burundi / Makamba Province (Province bordering Tanzania). Activities include Community Survey and Demining/EOD

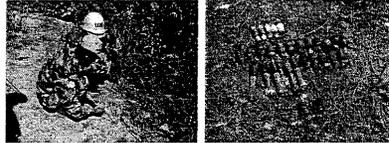
### Current Activities (2)

NGO Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) has been starting activities on 03 May 2005 in Burundi. Activities include implementation of a General Community Survey over the whole territory.

4 Provinces have been surveyed on 15 September 05 and the GCS is expected to be complete by February 2006.



### Current Activities (3)



Segregation and destruction of ammunition are conducted by ONUB EOD teams on a regular basis in the context of the DDR process.

The next phase will include the disarmament of the civilian population

### Strategic Analysis

- Analysis: Where are we now?
- Vision: Where do we want to be?
- Mission : How do we get there?

### Burundi Mine Action Vision:

The Republic of Burundi is committed to the vision of a country free from the impact of landmines and ERW for **2009**

- where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to national development and;
- where landmines/ERW survivors are fully integrated into a society recognizing their rights and needs.

### Burundi Mine Action Strategic Planning 2005 / 2006

- Burundi needs mine action to achieve certain national humanitarian, development, peace-consolidation and human rights objectives; through the following components :
- **Community targeted approach**
- **Development sustainability**
- **Compliance with international requirements (APMBT - IMAS - Gender - Disability person's rights)**

### Burundi Mine Action Strategic Planning

#### GUIDANCE

- **Convert goals into measurable objectives and activities**
- **Apply the national mine action priorities when developing objectives**  
*(mainstreaming mine action into development programming of ministries and national recovery activities)*

Burundi Mine Action End Goals  
2005 / 2006

**1. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

- > Monitor the current General Community Survey (GCS) to determine the socio-economic impact of Burundi's landmine/ERW problem
- > Strengthen a comprehensive information database so as to establish a sound national strategy

Burundi Mine Action End Goals  
2005 / 2006

**3. MINE/ERW RISK EDUCATION (MRE) and SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE (VA)**

- > Improve the capacity of the 110 targeted affected communities to interact with MRE, victim assistance and community development programmes
- > Mine/ERW Survivor assistance is taken over by national entities responsible for social welfare, health, education and employment
- > Improve the skills and dignity of 50 landmine/ERW survivors through income-generating projects

Burundi Mine Action End Goals  
2005 / 2006

**2. CAPACITY BUILDING AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

- > Training of 50 nationals in project management, mine clearance and ordnance disposal and operation monitoring and control to strengthen the mine action capacity development efforts
- > Technical and operational support of 2 international NGOs and capacity building of 5 national NGOs within the MACC, in the areas of planning, coordination, monitoring and quality assurance

Burundi Mine Action End Goals  
2005 / 2006

**4. MINE/ERW CLEARANCE**

- > National mine action standards developed and implemented according to international standards (IMAS)
- > Provision of mine clearance and ordnance disposal in 10 affected communes along the Tanzanian border to support the repatriation of 150,000 Burundians

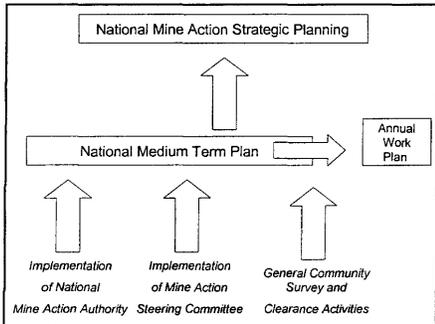
Burundi Mine Action End Goals  
2005 / 2006

**5. STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION and ADVOCACY**

- > All stockpiled antipersonnel mines are destroyed as per international treaty commitments by April 2008
- > Raise awareness in mine action to the new elected Burundian Government officials and provincial/community leaders
- > Establish a sound strategy for a better understanding of the importance of the APMBT treaty

**Strategic Analysis**

- Analysis: Where are we now?
- Vision: Where do we want to be?
- Mission : How do we get there?



***IN CONCLUSION***

**ALL OF US MOBILISED FOR A  
BURUNDI FREE OF THE IMPACT  
OF MINES AND ERW  
BY 2009**

**Thank you for your attention**

## 2. Provisional Agenda MASG Meeting 25 October 2005

1000-1015	Welcome address by the Chair Adoption of the agenda
1015-1030	Address by USG Jean-Marie Guéhenno
1030-1100	Thematic Presentations on the “end-state” <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UK: Donors definitions of an end-state, exit strategies, measures of success leading to the end-state (presented by Alistair Craib, DFID)</li><li>• GICHD: Trends and developments in mine action with a forward-looking view</li></ul>
1100-1130	Discussion
1130-1145	Coffee Break
1145-1200	Country Briefing: Nepal (UNICEF)
1200-1215	Discussion
1215-1230	Technical Presentations on pyrotechnic torch dragon and handheld dual technology mine detector/minehound (presented by Andy Willson and Alistair Craib, DFID)
1230-1245	Q&A
1245-1400	Lunch Discussion on the future format and chair of MASG

## **3. Updates**

### **3.1. Update from UNMAS**

#### **I. POLICY, TREATY IMPLEMENTATION, INFORMATION AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

##### **Policy Coordination**

From 19-21 September UNMAS convened the 8th Annual Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisers, which is hosted by the GICHD and sponsored by the Swiss Government. Some 300 participants representing mine action programmes from around the world, international and local NGOs, UN actors and donor countries met to discuss: the new UN inter-agency mine action policy, practical aspects of risk management and clearance operations, Ottawa Convention and CCW-related issues, the “completion initiative”, the new version of IMSMA, the GICHD study on manual mine clearance, the ICRC mine action policy, LIS mapping and data search machine, a socio-economic mechanism for the prioritization of demining sites (Cambodia case study), revisions to the Landmine Safety Project, and the Database on Demining Accidents. Participants signed up for specialized workshops on topics such as programme evaluations, the evolving positions on cluster munitions, and mainstreaming mine action into development and reconstruction programming. On 22 September representatives of donor countries were invited to join the meeting to present their mine action policies, plans and priorities and to discuss programme evaluations: expectations, methods and sharing of results.

The Steering Committee on Mine Action met on 19 September in the margins of the 8th Annual Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors. Topics included regional approaches to mine action, the upcoming course for technical advisors being developed by Cranfield University on behalf of UNMAS, and emerging mine action programmes in Algeria, Armenia, Mauritania, Senegal and Uganda.

Summaries of the above-described meetings will be available shortly.

##### **Advocacy and Treaty Implementation**

###### **CCW: GGE XI**

UNMAS participated at the 11th session of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE XI) of States Parties to the CCW Convention, held in Geneva from 2 to 12 August 2005, and raised some concerns about proposals on MOTAPM that risk falling short of obligations codified in Amended Protocol II.

###### **Survey on ERW**

UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF in collaboration with the GICHD are undertaking a survey on the humanitarian threat posed by munitions and sub-munitions that have become ERW, to assist States Parties to the CCW in their efforts to examine possible preventive measures to reduce the occurrence and impact of ERW. UNMAS will present the findings of the survey at the GGE-CCW meeting in November 2005.

###### **Preparations for the 6MSP of the Mine Ban Treaty**

UNMAS coordinated and provided written UN input for the Zagreb Progress Report and provided verbal input at the Informal Meeting to discuss preparations for the Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty held in Geneva on 23 September 2005.

## **Victim Assistance**

UNMAS participated in the sixth Ad Hoc Committee of the international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, held in New York from 1-12 August. Prior to the meeting UNMAS briefed the Permanent Missions of Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia, and Eritrea, and urged them to participate in the meeting. UNMAS also encouraged the participation of UN Programme Managers, Chief Technical Advisors, victim assistance officers, and NGOs working in Afghanistan, Albania, Burundi, Cambodia, Iraq, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, and Sudan. As a result, 16 mine-affected countries actively participated and eight mine survivor NGOs received accreditation to participate in the Ad Hoc Committee.

UNMAS participated in a workshop organized by James Madison University (JMU), on "Victim and casualty data collection and analysis modules of IMSMA" from 15 -16 August. Participants discussed an early version four of IMSMA and made recommendations that could be considered before its release.

## **Information**

### **UNMAS launches new E-MINE website**

The United Nations Mine Action Service overhauled and relaunched the Electronic Mine Information Network, or E-MINE, at [www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org), in September. One of the more important but least visible changes is a new back-end platform including an easier-to-use and more reliable content management system, and a completely restructured database. The new system will be more secure, faster, more flexible for new features, and less expensive to maintain.

UNMAS resolved the search problems that made it difficult to find documents, content and data, by restructuring and reorganizing information and by installing a site-specific Google search engine.

The new structure and look were developed by a graphic designer and information architect (whose clients include ABC News, CNN, the New York Times and the Ford Foundation) who took into account the results of a user survey while applying the latest principles in web design and information organization.

Other new features:

- A system for that allows you to sign up for automatic e-mail alerts when there is new or changed content related to a particular topic of country (see the link on the lower left of the home page).

- A central location for photos, maps and other downloadable resources (link is at the bottom of the home page).

- A site map with direct links to content.

- Hundreds of updated contacts for mine-action professionals and organizations.

UNMAS encourages your feedback. Please contact Richard Kollodge at [kollodge@un.org](mailto:kollodge@un.org).

## **Technology**

In September, after a period of long consultation and discussion with UNMAS, the GICHD released the latest Issue of International Mine Action Standards, which contain many minor corrections and clarifications. The new issue is available at [www.mineactionstandards.org](http://www.mineactionstandards.org). GICHD

also released the study on Manual Mine Clearance which had been requested by UNMAS and which contains many recommendations for improving efficiency and effectiveness of manual clearance. Also in September the IMAS Review Board met to discuss a number of unresolved issues including the default safety distance, suggestions for new personal protection minimum standards and several drafts of new standards. These issues will be submitted to the IMAS Steering Committee in due course.

Meanwhile, over the past two months, field trials of two combined sensor detection systems (HSTAMIDS and MINEHOUND) continue and results are proving to be encouraging in reducing the false alarm rates and thereby offering potential for greatly speeding manual clearance.

## **II. NEW PLEDGES, EARMARKINGS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VTF**

### Pledges:

US\$ 250,000	UK	Afghanistan (P04-AF02, P04-AF04)
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### VTF Contributions:

#### August

US\$ 38,750.68	Liechtenstein	UNMAS activities in 2005
US\$ 1,220,500	Finland	Afghanistan Mine Action Programme EUR 1,000,000
US\$ 827,567	Denmark	Afghanistan Mine Action Programme DKK 5,000,000
US\$ 430,511	Japan	To be earmarked to UNMAS activities

#### September

US\$ 8,000	Holy See	Development and Production of Annual Portfolio
US\$ 655,366	EC	final tranche of total EUR 10.4 million contribution for Afghanistan

## **III. DEVELOPMENTS IN UNMAS-MANAGED PROGRAMMES**

### **Sudan (UNMIS)**

Preparations for the Work Plan (equivalent to the Consolidated Appeals Process) and the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2006 started, and stakeholder meetings were held for the north and south. Support activities for the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) deployment focused on the Juba-Yei road over Mile 40, with some disturbances by weather and density of mines. Another route verification team has started operations in the Kauda area in the Nuba Mountains. Progress is being hampered by poorly defined roads, vegetation and bad road conditions due to rain. Three explosive remnants of war (ERW) accidents occurred during the reporting period, all involving boys aged 7 to 15, who were tampering with unexploded ordnance. A (anti-personnel) demining incident, the first since the beginning of the Mine Action Programme, occurred in Moli, on the Nimule-Juba road, and 2 deminers were injured.

The programme continued to face a serious lack of capacity to respond to increasing demands for survey, verification and clearance activities, especially to support and facilitate safe return of IDPs and refugees and implementation of humanitarian and development activities. The latest \$3,602,582 contribution from the UK this month will greatly enhance operational capacity on the ground.

The directors of the National Mine Action Office (NMAO) and New Sudan Mine Action Directorate (NSMAD) participated in the Senior Management Training at James Madison University.

UNMAO hosted a mission from the US State Department (Office of Weapons Abatement and Removal) and an evaluation team from the GICHD for German-funded projects. The road between Juba and Yei, which has been categorized as one of the highest priority roads to be opened, was

demined to international standards (13 September 2005), allowing emergency mission deployment and aid delivery. Demining teams, in cooperation with UNMIS, UNMAS and WFP, are still working to widen the road in question to enable route rehabilitation activities. It should be noted that this road is not yet declared as "cleared for all the UN and civilian traffic" by the UN, as clearance was done to minimum standards to allow emergency movement only. The road is currently categorized as "no-go" for UN staff members due to deteriorating security; two international staff of a demining NGO contracted by WFP were abducted on this road on 13 September.

A national MRE Workshop was held in Khartoum with all the stakeholders operational in north and south Sudan, and the MRE operational plan for 2006 was developed. The integrated demining teams funded by the Government of Japan are deploying to the respective locations, and will start operation shortly. The new UNDP Senior Technical Advisor for Capacity Building, Qadeem Tariq, has arrived at UNMAO.

## 3.2 Update from UNDP

The following is a summary of key achievements, challenges, objectives, and funding issues for UNDP-supported country programmes, presented by region:

### EUROPE & THE CIS REGION

#### Azerbaijan

##### Key Achievements

- In August 516,468 square meters of mined area were cleared and 20 mines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs) were found and destroyed. In addition, 96,302 square meters of suspected hazardous area were reduced by BOZENA-4 and BOZENA-5 mechanical demining machines.
- Mr. Jerry Alonzo of RONCO conducted an 11-week training course for eight new mine-detection dogs (MDDs) and for local dog handlers. The dogs were donated to the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) by the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI); and an ANAMA training and quality assurance team provided a 2-week MDD integration course, which included ten apprentices as well as the training of national trainers. The graduation ceremony took place at the ANAMA regional base in Horadiz, and eight skilled MDD teams are already in operation.
- Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) specialists from the US European Command (EUCOM) provided ANAMA UXO personnel with a 2-week Advanced Level One and Level Two Review. The objective of the course was to determine what skills were retained from previous training and to cover low-order techniques, sub-munitions, and supervision skills. The 18 participants, mainly represented by ANAMA UXO team members, successfully completed the training. During the graduation speech, Lt. Shasta Rouch of the United States Navy's EOD Mobile Unit 8 commented on the outstanding performance of ANAMA's UXO team that had been trained by US EUCOM in July 2002. The event received wide media coverage.
- The RHINO mechanical demining machine delivered to Azerbaijan is now located at the ANAMA Regional Base in Horadiz, Fizuli district. RHINO was developed at the US Army Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate (NVESD), one of the research centers of the US Department of Defense. The machine was sent to Azerbaijan to train, test, and gain more field experience of the machine. Within that framework, the RHINO team has begun a 2-month training program for the ANAMA mechanical demining team in operation and maintenance.
- ANAMA has procured a special trailer from Turkey for transporting RHINO, which weighs 70 tons, including affiliated equipment. The machine is currently being assembled with the assistance of specialists from the NVESD humanitarian demining team, who will also supervise the RHINO integration process over a period of two months. Training for mechanics and operators has already begun, and the next step will be field testing.
- Mechanical demining equipment is mostly remote-controlled and considered to be safe and productive. The use of machines allows ANAMA to increase its mine clearance rate and substantially raise operational safety as well.
- Beginning September 2005, mine-risk education (MRE) is being taught as a subject in an additional 300 schools of mine-affected districts of Azerbaijan. Text books and teacher manuals have already been distributed to the education departments of relevant districts.

- Child mine survivors and children from mine-survivor families participated in the first phase of summer camp, a ten-day project supported by UNICEF-ANAMA in the Goranboy district. Since then 60 more children have been involved in the project.

### **Key Objectives**

- Effective and efficient resource allocation.
- Successful field testing of the RHINO earth tiller.

### **Key Challenges**

- Successful deployment of newly trained MDDs and dog handlers.
- Maintenance of the high-tech RHINO earth tiller.

### **Funding Update**

The European Commission is expected to contribute 1 million Euro in 2005 for mine-victim assistance (MVA), MRE, and marking and fencing activities. However, the project has not yet been approved.

### **Mine Incident**

On 17 August an anti-personnel mine went off in the village of Gaspanli, Terter district, killing 19-year-old Ilgar Nurullayev and badly injuring 19-year-old Zamiq Aslanov, who was evacuated to the military hospital in Sarijaly.

## **Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)**

### **Integrated Mine Action Programme (IMAP)**

#### **Key Achievements**

- On 9 August, IMAP officially launched its 2005 mine-clearance operations at a ceremony in Vogosca, Sarajevo. The ceremony announced clearance of 128,000 square meters of mine-contaminated land in seven locations across BiH. The mine-clearance activities were made possible through financing of the Government of the Netherlands. In 2004, IMAP cleared over 270,000 square meters of mine-contaminated land.
- The BiH Demining Law has been revised to take into account the significant advancements made in the field of mine action since the first law was drafted. UNDP supported, in cooperation with the BiH Demining Commission, the engagement of a local legal consultant who, over a 2-month period, had discussions with all major mine-action stakeholders in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Produced at the beginning of June, the draft has been submitted to the Government through the Ministry of Civil Affairs for a formal review and approval process.
- The Ministry of Defense officially authorized the establishment of a joint command over military demining capacities at the beginning of 2005 in the form of a mine-action coordination cell attached to the Ministry, which became fully functional in July/August. At the same time, UNDP initiated activities in support of the military's demining capacities. Funds were provided

for procurement of demining tools for the Air Force's demining teams in coordination with the European Union Force in Bosnia & Herzegovina (EUFOR). In addition, UNDP provided funds for the procurement of information technology (IT) equipment for the newly established coordination cell.

- The 2005 preliminary report of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) shows very positive projected field results for the first half of the year. Currently, there are 129 mine-action tasks in progress, an increase of about 22 percent over past performance. The 2005 mine-action plan has been 46 percent realized in terms of mine-clearance and technical surveys. With additional tasks being confirmed by donors, a further increase in mine-clearance activities is expected in the second half of 2005.

### **Key Objectives**

- To launch activities on implementation of the Brcko Integrated Mine Action Plan to be co-funded by UNDP and the Brcko community.
- To finalize negotiations with the BiH Government regarding the transfer of an additional 15 percent of the 2006 BHMIC budget from UNDP to the state budget.
- To finalize negotiations with the BiH Government pertaining to the establishment of a permanent mine-action capacity within the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

### **Funding Update**

IMAP's funding shortfall for 2006 amounts to US\$1 million (the 2006 budget is set at US\$ 2.8 million). In addition to this, funds are urgently needed for replacement of the BHMIC's outdated IT equipment and vehicles. Funding requirement for this specific activity is in the range of US\$ 800,000.

### **Mine Incidents**

In the first six months of 2005, ten people have been involved in mine incidents. Six have been killed and four injured.

## **Direct Demining Project (DDP) – Phase III**

### **Key Achievements**

- From March 2005, when DDP - Phase III was officially launched, to September 2005, 120,000 square meters of contaminated land were cleared. It is expected that by 30 November, when the activities for the current year are to be completed, an additional 80,000 square meters will be cleared and restored for use. The mine-clearance tasks have been selected on the basis of their economic and social significance and in accordance with national priorities.

### **Key Objectives**

- The key objective of DDP is to provide the restoration and functionality of, as well as access to, high-priority areas through mine-clearance activities, while decreasing the number of mine-related incidents and reinforcing indigenous mine-clearance and technical survey capacity.

## **Key Challenges**

- DDP recognizes the importance of the restoration of tourist and industrial capacities in Sarajevo canton, heavily damaged during the 1992-95 war. During this period these strategic areas and facilities were deliberately contaminated by mines in order to make impossible their future use. Consequently, the key challenge to DDP mine-clearance activities is the high ratio of mine contamination in the scope of the selected tasks.

## **Funding Update**

DDP has been fully funded for 2005 by the Government of Italy, but 500,000 Euro are still required for the project's continuation in 2006.

## **Albania**

### **Key Achievements**

- The French Ambassador to Albania, Ms. Francoise Bourolleau, and the French Mine Action Ambassador, Mr. Gerard Chesnel, payed a visit to Northeast Albania in late August. They were interested to see first hand the ongoing mine-action activities and promised their support to the Ablanian Mine Action Programme (AMAP) for the next three years.
- A project proposal has been submitted to the EC for a contribution of about 2.5 million Euro to the Completion Programme, including coordination and monitoring, mine/UXO clearance, MRE, and victim assistance activities.
- Two staff members of the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE) were selected to attend the Mine Action Senior and Middle Management Training organized by UNDP Bureau of Cirsis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) during September-October as part of the UNDP Capacity Building project.
- Danish Church Aid continues the implementation of two survey and clearance projects with funding mainly from the EC, Germany, and the US State Department (DoS) through the International Trust Fund (ITF). As of end of August, about 361,698 square meters have been released through clearance and survey, and some 852 mines have been found and destroyed.
- The AMAE quality management team continues the quality assurance and quality control operations; and three areas totalling 50,282 square meters were certified as mine free by AMAE in August and handed over to the population for productive use.
- The Victims of Mine and Weapons Association continued to deliver MRE sessions throughout August, including the distribution of leaflets and performances with the mobile theatre in 14 mine-affected villages. During August about 11 mine amputees were assisted at the Prostheses Support Centre, established in Kukes Regional Hospital with funding provided by DfID through UNDP BCPR.
- A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between UNDP Albania and the National Prosthetic Centre (NPC) to improve information management for a client file system as well as collecting Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) incident reports for hotspot victims.
- The US DoS and ITF have agreed to match the funds collected during the "Night of a Thousand Dinners 2005," which will be used for treating sight impaired mine survivors.

- Summer camps, which were funded by the US DoS through the ITF, were organized in several villages for some 350 children coming from mine-affected families. The camps provided both recreational and educational activities,

### **Key Challenges**

- Ensure that mine action remains a priority of the new government established after the general elections of 3 July 2005.
- Approval and ratification of the National Mine Action Legislation.

### **Key Objectives**

- Introduce the Mine Action Programme to the newly appointed counterparts in the new government to fully involve them in the transition process.
- Convene a Mine Action National Workshop with the involvement of all stakeholders to confirm the Completion strategy of the Albanian Mine Action Programme and to discuss the National Mine Action Law.
- Finalize contract arrangements with the EC for the new Completion Programme project proposal.
- Create a triage system for mine/UXO amputees and treat specified amputee victims in Slovenia beginning September 2005.
- Under the Community Based Rehabilitation project, funded by DfID through UNDP BCPR, refresher training with specialists from the Slovenian Institute will be organized in late September for village nurses.
- Liaise with the National Prosthetic Center (NPC), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defense, and Special Fund for Disabled for the reconstruction of the NPC.

### **Funding Update**

- Previous and current donors include UNDP, EU, DfID, International Committee of the Red Cross, UNICEF, US State Department through ITF, and the Canadian, Czech Republic, Danish, German, Italian, Swiss, Turkish, Liechtenstein, and Luxembourg governments.
- A pledge of US\$ 50,000 has been made by the French Embassy to be used in assisting mine survivors.
- The Czech Government and US DoS through the ITF have donated approximately US\$ 26,300 to fund quality monitoring operations.

### **Armenia**

#### **Key achievements**

- In July-August the Armenia landmine impact survey (LIS) fieldwork was successfully completed, the collected data analyzed, and the final report drafted. Armenia LIS identified 60 mine-affected communities in five regions of Armenia, 102 Suspected Hazardous Areas, and 14 recent victims. In addition, 20 UXO locations were found, 78 communities were sampled, and no positives were identified.
- In July a UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) Quality Assurance Monitor (QAM) visit was conducted by Mr. Valette d’Osia. UNMAS has prepared its synopsis, and the final UNMAS QAM report is available.
- In July the national experts approved the adopted scoring system of LIS Armenia.
- Negotiations with the Government of Armenia regarding the establishment of the National Mine Action Committee were initiated.
- Meetings and briefs were organized by UNDP for potential donors and members of the LIS Certification Committee.

### **Key objectives**

- The finalization of the LIS report and identification of technical and human resources necessary for the second year of the project, which includes a mine-action strategy, a technical survey, and an institutional framework for mine action in Armenia.

### **Key challenges**

- Two communities, Berqaber and Artsvashen, from gazetteer/suspected and/or contaminated lists of EOC were inaccessible due to security considerations.

### **Funding Update**

- The EC did not grant a no-cost extension to the project, as requested by UNDP.

## **ARAB REGION**

### **Lebanon**

#### **Key Achievements**

- The National Demining Office (NDO) has completed its training for the US-sponsored national technical survey, and will have completed the survey trial and standard operating procedures verification by end July in order to fully commence the national technical survey in autumn 2005.
- National in-kind contribution for mine action remains at approximately US\$ 4 million per year, and national mine-clearance assets clear approximately 1.7 million square meters per year.
- The NDO has completed a long-term plan that is fully integrated with the national “end-state” strategy for mine action.

#### **Key Objectives**

- There is a pressing need to ensure that the Lebanon “end-state” strategy as well as the medium, long-term, and annual mine-action plans are all developed and more closely linked with, and in support of, the wider national rehabilitation, reconstruction, and socio-economic development plan. In order to accomplish this, the following must be attained:
  - Support for a fully national executed programme with a focus on management capability and planning, including a phased exit strategy for UN and other technical assistance.
  - Project cost effectiveness achieved in part through co-location and rationalization of functions. This will be partially achieved through the national technical survey and institutional enhancement planned by the NDO.
  - Focus on management and coordination capacity of the NDO and the International Support Group to integrate mine action with other sectors and to generate resources.
- Funding is being actively sought for planned mine-clearance projects. These projects are above the capacity of the national assets and Mines Advisory Group (MAG) to complete in the near to mid-term.

### **Key Challenges**

- The collapse of the Government of Lebanon after the assassination of ex-Prime Minister Hariri placed the future of mine action in Lebanon in a state of crisis. The cancellation of the ISG meeting, lack of national budget, and a general feeling of political uncertainty has, thus far, prevented any donor from providing additional mine-action funds.
- The lack of budget has prevented institutional enhancements, and mine-action activity levels remain consistent with 2004 levels.

### **Funding Update**

Funding for the UNDP-sponsored Mine Action Capacity Building project ended July 2005. An additional US\$ 280,000 is required to give the National Demining Office a basic capacity building team for one year. In order to fully implement the institutional changes necessary to create a truly nationalized programme, an additional US\$ 315,000 is required.

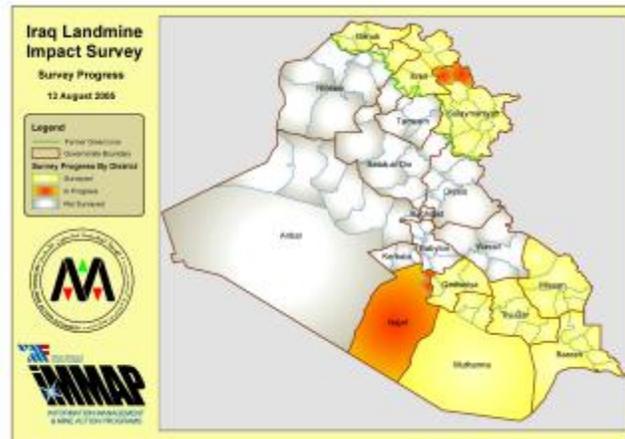
- The current excess capacity for mine clearance (above the capacity of national assets and MAG) remains unfunded.

## **Iraq**

### **Key Achievements**

- The ten national explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams, funded by UNDP and managed by Danish Demining Group (DDG), continued clearance activities in Safwan. Approximately 1,362,530 square meters of battle areas were cleared (“visual and sub-surface clearance”) as part of two continued tasks, destroying a total of 376 explosive devices. The task has a high socio-economic impact since it deals with sub-munitions and several people have been killed, including farmers and children. The local people are expanding their fields continuously. In total, approximately 100 persons live on six farms, and many more come there to work daily. The cleared areas will be used for herding and tomato farming. The UNDP-supported Iraq Landmine Impact Survey (ILIS) continued in the northern and southern governorates of Iraq. Survey has been completed in Dahuk and Erbil governorates in the north and Basrah, Al Samawah, Thi-Qar, Missan, and Wassit governorates in the south. Data collection continues in Sulaymaniya governorate and is in the final stages of completion. A data analysis for the five southern governorates is under way. Training has commenced for

a new cohort of data collectors for the Arab part of Kirkuk, in preparation for the comprehensive survey of Kirkuk, including Arab and Kurdish areas. The data analyses up to 15 August for the eight mentioned governorates shows that of the 8,148 communities that were located and visited, 1,742 communities were identified as contaminated, of which 1,030 communities were from north and 363 communities were from south. In all, 497 mine/UXO victims (dead and injured) within the 24 months prior to the arrival of the survey have been recorded. Approximately 30 percent of northern communities are contaminated, and about 10 percent of the south.



### Key Challenges

- The security situation continues to be a challenge in terms of conducting effective mine-action activities in the greater part of Iraq. All UNDP-supported operational activities inside Iraq are continuing with short stand-downs from time to time, and are not always able to proceed in high-priority areas due to security restrictions.
- The Director General of the NMAA has been replaced recently, and it is still unclear how this will affect UN/NMAA cooperation.

### Key Objectives

- Continue to provide management and technical advice to the NMAA and other stakeholders.
- Conduct Mine Action Coordination Meeting with Deputy Minister of Planning, NMAA Director-General, Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Center (IKMAC) Director, General Directorate for Mine Action (GDMA) Director, UNICEF, RONCO, US DoS, and other mine-action agencies in the beginning of October 2005.
- Continue fund-raising meetings with the major mine-action donors for current and UNDP-funded mine-action projects.
- Continue to provide management and technical advice and monitoring for ongoing projects in Iraq.
- UNDP to sign a contract with the nongovernmental organization (NGO) InterSOS to establish a local mine-action NGO in Nasseriya, in southern Iraq

- UNDP Senior Mine Action Advisor participation in the 8th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisors, in Geneva, 19–22 September 2005.
- Supporting and facilitating participation of two Iraqi national staff of mine-action organizations in the UNDP Mine Action Middle Level Management course in Bangkok, 17 September-29 October 2005.
- Facilitating participation of two Iraqi national staff of mine-action organizations in the Introduction to Information Management in Mine Action Training Module, sponsored by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining, 3-7 October 2005.
- Facilitating participation of three Iraqi youth mine victims in the 2005 International Youth Symposium on Landmines in Zagreb, 26 November-3 December 2005.

### **Funding Update**

- It is critical to identify US\$ 2 million in new funding to re-start the 15 national EOD teams that had to be suspended due to a lack of funding.

### **Yemen**

#### **Key Achievements**

- Demining operations were completed in all high impacted communities, except in four minefields in which clearance operation were suspended due to presence of magnetic soil/rocks, deep buried mines/explosive remnants of war (ERWs), and waste materials. The programme lacks technology to clear those areas, and thus plans to mark them permanently in 2005.
- The total number of medium and low-impacted communities cleared reached 110.
- Coordination meetings were held with key mine-action actors, and the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2006 was prepared and submitted.
- Operations and procurement plans for 2006 were prepared.
- A 10-day training course on store management was conducted for logistic personnel of the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC).
- A new communications base station was established in the regional mine-action branch in Mukala.
- Training to establish five additional survey teams and two quality assurance teams began at the National Training Center in Aden on 16 August.

#### **Key Objectives**

- YEMAC to declare Hajja governorate mine free in 2005.
- Complete the training and equipping of, and make operational, five new technical survey teams and two quality assurance teams in 2005.

- Permanently mark suspended minefields in high-impacted communities that cannot be cleared due to current lack of technology.
- Conduct English-language course for key personnel of YEMAC and regional mine-action branches.
- Prepare mine-action proposals and meet with donors to mobilize resources for mine-action projects for 2006.
- Arrange for the National Programme Manager to attend the UNDP-sponsored Senior Management Training Course at James Madison University in the US.
- Continue capacity building, including training and development of expertise in mine-detection dogs and other areas indicated in the mine-action work plan 2005.

### **Funding Update**

There was no new contribution to the programme in August. Total contributions to date in 2005 are US\$ 2,220,435. Donors include, UNDP and the governments of Yemen, Japan, France, Italy, Canada, Belgium, and Germany.

### **Other Issues**

- YEMAC lost one of its best deminers, 26-year-old Mohammed Sharda, who died on 11 August at a hospital in Sana'a as a result of an anti-personnel mine incident on 26 July, while working in a minefield.
- The YEMAC main office in Sana'a moved from Tourist City to a new location on Mareb Street opposite Al Dia Restaurant.

## **ASIA PACIFIC REGION**

### **Sri Lanka**

#### **Key Achievements**

- In June the Government of Sri Lanka submitted its first voluntary submission under Article 7 of the Ottawa Convention. UNDP and UNMAS provided technical support and input for the report, which was submitted during the meeting of the standing committees, held in Geneva.
- UNDP developed a Post Clearance Impact Survey (PCIS) tool to gain information on land use after each demining site has been handed over to the beneficiaries. The initial survey was undertaken in the Jaffna district and targeted 50 completed minefields. With lessons learned from the survey, UNDP revised the methodology and carried out training workshops at the Mine Action Offices (MAOs) in Jaffna and Vavuniya.
- IMSMA is now installed and functional, with trained staff in the Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation, and Reconciliation (Triple R), Japan Centre for Conflict Prevention (JCCP), Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), The HALO Trust, DDG, MAG, Sri Lanka Army (SLA), UNICEF, and the MAOs in Jaffna, Vavuniya, and Killinochchi.

- UNDP signed a contract with the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization for renewed support to the Mine Action Office in Killiochchi.
- The following operators cleared a total of 9,549,249 square meters of land for safe use by civilians (see table below): SLA, Humanitarian De-mining Unit of the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization, FSD, DDG, The HALO Trust, MAG, NPA, JCCP, Sarvatra, Horizon, and the Milinda Moragoda Institute for Peoples Empowerment.

**Key Objectives**

- Post Clearance Impact Surveys based on lessons learnt in Jaffna will be carried out in Vavuniya, Mannar, and Trincomalee districts.
- District-by-district plans will be developed with all operators to reduce size and number of Suspected Hazardous Areas currently in IMSMA and give a more realistic picture of the scope of the landmine problem.
- A committee comprised of the Commander Engineer Brigade, the Assistant Director of Planning, the Ministry of Triple R, and the UNDP Quality Management Advisor will carry out accreditation for all clearance agencies and make recommendations to the National Steering Committee for Mine Action.
- The Government Agent of Vavuniya will attend the UNDP Senior Management Training Course on Mine Action at James Madison University.
- The Landmine Ban Advocacy Forum (LBAF) will establish district networks in Jaffna, Vavuniya, and Trincomalee districts.
- Mine-action assets may be required to clear or demarcate safe polling stations

**Key Challenges**

- Lack of resolution between Government Agents/NSCMA and security forces on where mine clearance can take place makes planning and tasking difficult in some districts.
- As in many countries, the reported Suspected Hazardous Areas that were entered into IMSMA are significantly more vast than the actual problem. The challenge is to balance resources to resolve this problem and present a more accurate picture against resources required for clearance.

**Funding Update**

- None of the mine-action agencies have full funding for 2006, although most are in discussions with donors. Please see the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects for details, or contact any agency mentioned in this brief through the organizations website.

**Annex I**

Area cleared January-August

Sum of Area	Type			
District	BAC	MF	(blank)	Grand

				Total
Anuradhapura		4025		4025
Batticaloa	1429368	22404		1451772
Jaffna	5204331	313932	207	5518470
Kilinochchi	1489815	315725		1805540
Mannar	102392	56664		159056
Mullaitivu	201870	86327		288197
Polonnaruwa		1398		1398
Trincomalee	191582	27298		218880
Vavuniya	2970	99149		102119
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8622328</b>	<b>926921</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>9549456</b>

## AFRICAN REGION

### Chad

#### Key Achievements

- Statistics on Chad demining efforts since the start of operations were published in the August monthly report of the High Commission for National Demining (HCND). The data pertaining to the period from 16 September 2000 to 31 July 2005 is summarized in the table below.

<b>Mine Clearance</b>	<b>(m<sup>2</sup>) 1,398,287</b>
<b>Battle Area Clearance</b>	<b>(m<sup>2</sup>) 4,480,271</b>
<b>Anti-personnel mines destroyed</b>	<b>13,654</b>
<b>Anti-tank mines destroyed</b>	<b>5,640</b>
<b>UXO destroyed</b>	<b>141,427</b>
<b>Total weight</b>	<b>(tons) 832</b>

- A joint UNDP-UN Office for Project Services mission visited Chad in June to review the efforts of the UN programme to develop managerial and technical mine-action capacities. The mission issued several recommendations, including the implementation of a comprehensive training plan for national staff, continued UN support to clearance operations, and the establishment of a donor coordination mechanism.
- Thanks to Canadian funds received in 2004 through UNICEF, an Italian consultant responsible for mine-risk education arrived in Chad in April 2005 with a six-month contract.
- Thanks to continued efforts to persuade the Chad Government to fulfil its commitment to provide funding for the 2004 and 2005 mine-action budgets, the Government honoured part of its engagement in July 2005 by disbursing US\$ 367,790,39 (200 million CFA francs).

- From 20 June to 22 July the Coordinator of HCND participated in the UN Senior Management Training Course.
- In August the Khadafi Foundation invited the HCND to a meeting in Libya. The Coordinator and the Chief Technical Advisor participated along with two other HCND staff members.

### **Key Challenges**

- Operations at the minefield in Wadi Doum were disrupted in April due to seven camels entering the minefield through holes in the inner fence. Four of the camels were recovered alive, one was shot onsite and recovered, and two died from mine injuries. Operations were resumed a week later.
- A mine accident occurred on 2 September at the minefield in Wadi Doum involving one section leader and one deminer. The two, who suffered minor injuries, were promptly medically evacuated. The start-up of operations in Fada, after being postponed due to financial difficulties, was then delayed due to the accident.
- The post of Advisor in Information Systems and Technology and Databases remains vacant since the Swiss in-kind advisor left Chad in January 2005. No new in-kind contributions are foreseen for the near future. This post is of strategic importance now that results of the technical survey are available.

### **Key Objectives**

- Resource mobilisation in terms of obtaining the rest of the Government's contribution and engaging other external donors for the implementation of the National Mine Action Plan for 2006 remains the first key objective for the short term.
- The start-up of demining operations in Fada.

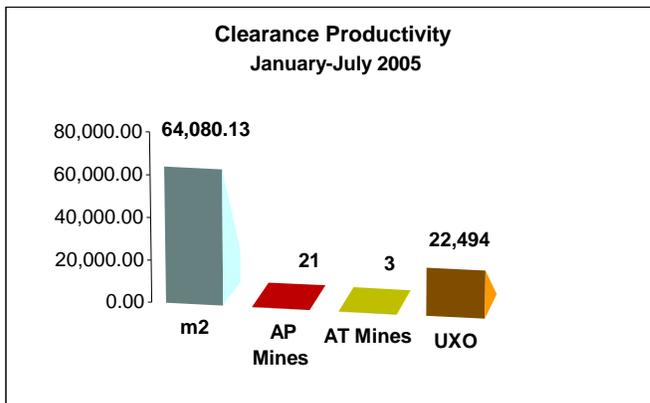
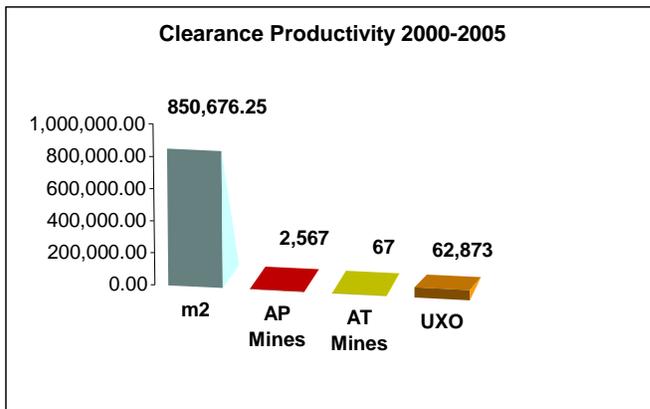
### **Funding Update**

The Government is expected to honour its funding commitments throughout the year. Additional external funding is still required to allow operations in Fada and the development of victim assistance plans.

### **Guinea-Bissau**

#### **Key Achievements**

Guinea-Bissau's mine-action programme is moving forward with the implementation of its national mine-action plan, as outlined in the Completion Initiative. Presidential elections were recently completed, with the Presidential inauguration is scheduled for 3 October 2005. This has signaled a more stable political environment, and has facilitated the resumption of normal management and planning structures. National mine-action efforts are moving forward in the five pillars of mine action: clearance, MRE, victim assistance, advocacy, and stockpile destruction. From January until the end of July 2005, 64,080 square meters have been cleared from the capital, Bissau, and MRE teacher training has been carried out in addition to the other on-going efforts of MRE personnel to promote safe behavior to prevent mine accidents. Efforts have also begun to implement the economic reintegration of mine victims.



## Key Challenges

Information and planning is currently a key challenge within Guinea-Bissau. Although there is very detailed information on the mine/UXO threat in and around the capital, there is a lack of concrete information on mine/UXO affected areas in other parts of the country. In order to move forward with the second phase of Guinea-Bissau's planning process, additional information is urgently required. Additionally, victim surveillance has shown that accidents are increasingly due to ERW as opposed to mines. All 13 accidents to date in 2005 have been caused by UXO or AXO.

## Key Objectives

- In order to attain the needed information to effectively face the mine/UXO problem in Guinea-Bissau and complete the second phase of planning, a survey project must be launched to collect information on affected areas, including data regarding the socio-economic impact of mined areas.
- Given the number of accidents related to ERW, an operational response to this threat – clearance of danger areas and spot tasks that threaten innocent civilians -- is required. EOD teams were trained in July and they will be completing the practical phase of their training during October. Planning is being carried out for teams to begin work on a battle area clearance site inside the capital city limits.



## **Financial Update**

Projects relating to these two issues can be found in the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2005. In order to move forward with initiatives without delay, it will be necessary to find resources for the first quarter of operations and required procurement. This would imply an investment of US\$ 200,000 in the area of survey for the last quarter of 2005 and the first quarter of 2006. For EOD an investment of US\$ 300,000 is required for procurement in the first half of 2006.

## **LATIN AMERICA REGION**

### **Colombia**

#### **Key Achievements**

- During September a UNDP and UNICEF co-financed civil society project of approximately US\$ 120,000 was initiated in the Montes de Maria region, aiming at the training of community and local government mine-action facilitators from 15 municipalities, the preparation and implementation of a regional MRE strategy, and the identification and support to landmine survivors.
- In August a new cooperation agreement of approximately US\$ 40,000 was signed between UNDP and the Antioquia departmental government for the continued implementation of the departmental mine-action plan during 2005. The departmental government has committed approximately 43 percent of the funding for the agreement.
- A joint awareness-raising and MRE facilitators training program was initiated in Meta, with the participation of UNDP, Colombian Red Cross, the departmental government, and the National Landmine Observatory. Moreover, the mine-action focal point within the departmental government will attend the Middle Management for Mine Action training program in Bangkok during September and October.
- During September, UNDP finalized the overall programming for 2005 and 2006 for its conflict prevention and recovery programme (REDES), which includes US\$ 200,000 dedicated to the mine-action programme.

#### **Key Challenges**

- UNDP continues to work on the readjustment of the strategy for consolidating the National Landmine Observatory as the principal technical and coordinating body for mine action in Colombia. Unfortunately, the UN Interagency Assessment Mission to Colombia, a key input for the strategy readjustment, was postponed.
- The Colombian Government has taken the decision to create special units within the Air Force for limited mine-clearance as a response to humanitarian crisis situations. Technical support from the UN as well as other international actors will be important to ensure that this structure for mine clearance will begin to operate in the context of on-going conflict for the benefit of affected civilian populations.
- There is a continued need to build civil society capacity for mine action. While UNDP has initiated work in this respect through the implementation of national and local NGO-executed projects, much effort and funding is still needed.

### **Key Objectives**

- Prepare and carry-out a UN interagency mission to Colombia to help identify a strategy for mine-action cooperation.
- Help set-up the operations of the specialized mine-clearance units for humanitarian emergencies, based on international experiences in humanitarian demining.
- Initiate the CSO and local authority capacity-building project in Montes de Maria as well as the installation of the new IMSMA system within the two departmental governments in the area.
- Pursue departmental mine-action plans in Antioquia and Meta.

### **Funding Update**

- Through the second phase of UNDP Reconciliation and Development Programme (REDES), an additional US\$ 70,000 for mine action has been provided by BCPR. Moreover, the Swedish Development Cooperation has provided an additional US\$ 130,000 for 2005 and 2006 to continue strengthening the institutional capacity and civil society projects in the three target regions.
- The current approximate funding shortfall for 2005 with respect to the departmental mine-action plans in the three target regions is as follows: Montes de Maria (US\$ 30,000), Meta (US\$ 40,000), Antioquia (US\$ 30,000).

### **3.3. Update from UNICEF**

#### **Afghanistan**

UNICEF is the coordinating agency of Mine Risk Education (MRE) for the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA). The UNICEF programme is part of the long term Mine Action strategy under the umbrella of the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA) and the Government of Afghanistan. This strategy has included the standardisation of MRE activities throughout the country and the integration of MRE programmes into health, education, social and government infrastructures and networks.

MRE activities have been integrated into Ministry of Education teacher training programmes that have to date trained and provided materials for some 63,000 formal and non-formal primary school teachers.

The community-based MRE programme began implementation in 2003 continues to grow through implementation by NGO partners and the Afghan Red Crescent Society. Use of Landmine Impact Survey data is helping target resources to the most highly mine/ERW impacted communities and direct resources more effectively and efficiently. Integrating MRE into clearance and survey activities continues to be an important part of the Mine Action strategy and will continue to be so for the years to come. This programme has been strengthened during the past year through training, capacity building and materials distribution among the demining partner agencies.

Mass media programmes are one of the most important methods of communication throughout Afghanistan. Radio reaches some 70% of the population and is a very popular media. Print and video media materials augment the community-based programmes and are currently presented through a mobile cinema project being piloted this year.

Standardisation of all programmes began in 2002. All partners use MAPA approved standardised methodologies and materials for both the school and community-based programmes. The development of new training methodologies for community-based activities have included peer education activities, police training, and direct implementation of MRE in IDP camps, at border crossing points and encashment centres. New teaching methods will continue to be developed in the coming year to ensure that activities remain fresh and interesting. New materials that are being produced for these programmes will include teaching tools, video, and print materials targeting the non-literate populations within this target group.

The Landmine Safety Programme targeting those working for the reconstruction and development of the country has been redeveloped to provide country specific information and materials for international and national aid workers and government partners. This programme has been nationalised through the development of country specific materials that include new posters, country specific presentation and training materials. The programme is currently being implemented through a national NGO.

UNICEF, through an implementing partner, has developed self-advocacy and rights awareness training for landmine survivors and people with disability. The training programme was piloted in early 2005 and provided training to over 180 people. Currently, and due to the demand for additional training opportunities in other regions, this programme has been expanded to four other regions and hopes to target at least 400 people in 15 provinces.

UNICEF is providing support to the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) to set up an injury surveillance system within their Health Information Section. This project will integrate mine victim data into a greater injury surveillance network that will allow the MOPH to analyze data and better plan for health services including rehabilitative services to mine/ERW survivors.

Transition planning and strategies have begun for the nationalisation of the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan. National mine action legislation is with the Government for approval and with that a new national mine action authority will be created. UNICEF is the focal point for the transition process in both the MRE and Victim Assistance programmes.

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

(May – August)

UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) continues to provide technical, financial and logistical support to the BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMACE) and to implementing agencies involved in MRE and Landmine Victim Assistance (LMVA).

From 13 to 24 June in Sarajevo, UNICEF in collaboration with the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta, USA) held the regional training course on Field Epidemiology for Mine Action (FEMACE) for Central Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and the Middle East. The training provided MRE and other national mine action programme specialists with basic epidemiological skills, which will allow them to better undertake surveys and data analysis from a public health perspective for mine action planning, monitoring and evaluation purposes.

In May, the BHMACE ran the MRE Management Course for 25 participants from different NGOs, governmental organisations and the BHMACE. Participants were introduced to and equipped with skills to apply the system of MRE planning at community level. Also, the BHMACE supported the Federal Civil Protection of BiH in preparing the MRE Basic Course to be held in July.

In May and June, the BHMACE conducted MRE presentations for UN security staff in five municipalities in BiH.

The BHMACE also provided assistance to local mine action NGOs with analyses, recommendations and technical recommendations on the project proposal for creating MRE plans for local communities.

In July, the BHMACE ran the MRE Implementation Committee and Policy Board meetings. The group provided suggestions and recommendations on projects of local NGOs. Further in July, the BHMACE organised the LMVA Policy Board Meeting, discussing the questionnaire made by the LMVA Standing Commission. BHMACE representatives conducted visits to the NGO "AMI" in Maglaj municipality, to monitor and analyze the documentation of MRE plans for the local community.

In August, a coordination meeting was held with representatives of the ICRC, Entity Red Crosses in BiH, UNICEF and the BHMACE, regarding the transfer of the ICRC Mine Victim Database to the BHMACE and defining the future role and tasks of the BiH Red Cross Association.

Further in August, the BHMACE collected data on the number of needed mine signs and data from demining organisations regarding the estimated number of activists to participate in MRE trainings. The BHMACE continued with daily activities related to management, quality assurance of MRE, collecting MRE reports and preparing the documentation needed for making MRE plans as well as updating the MRE database.

During May, UNICEF supported the local NGO "Genesis Project" in conducting 40 workshops on the topic "Integration of peer education activities and support to peer-educators" in 20 primary schools in Republika Srpska, BiH. In the same month, Genesis has conducted 80 workshops in 20 primary schools of Republika Srpska BiH, on topics "Promotion and affirmation of peer-education activities and use of the MRE kit for teachers/peer educators" as well as analysis and making recommendations for future practice in this field.

In June, as part of the regular monitoring activities, Genesis representatives visited local schools which were included in their MRE project for 2003/2004 and 2004/2005. Several public media outlets published articles and broadcasted radio show dedicated to results of implementation of the

Genesis project "From puppets to empowerment" and the problem of mines in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In May, the Italian NGO "INTERSOS" carried out activities of the "MRE and Community Liaison in 6 municipalities in BIH" project, conducting MRE training courses for local Civil Protection departments, selected community representatives and security managers of private and public companies in targeted municipalities. The course curriculum approved by the BHMAL is aiming at the improvement of participants' knowledge on mine risk and development of their capacities in planning and implementing simple informative campaigns and educational activities for endangered groups in rural areas. The course also includes liaison activities with LMVA institutions and organisations, as well as preparing a plan of urgent action which includes priorities for dissemination of information, education and emergency marking.

By the end of August, the Italian NGO "INTERSOS" conducted field visits to support trained community representatives in the realisation of activities foreseen in the plans of urgent action created during the MRE training courses held in May. As well, INTERSOS started preparing guidelines and a series of short videos about mine risk and good or bad practices in private and public companies.

In June, the local NGO "AMI" started implementation of the project "Developing MRE plans for 15 Community Integrated Mine Action Plan - CIMAP". In the preparation phase, AMI established and developed contacts with municipal Civil Protection departments and presidents of 15 mine impacted communities, as well as with regional offices of the BHMAL. During this period, AMI representatives organised informative meetings and collected main data about mine impacted communities and inhabitants.

As well in June, AMI held one MRE multimedia presentation for employees of the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), informing them about dangerous devices (mines, UXO, and military gear) which they could find in mass graves and how to behave in that situation, or in mined areas. On the meeting with the BHMAL Banja Luka, AMI representatives informed them about the permanent marking project in Dobojska municipality and the needs of the local community regarding MRE.

In July and August, AMI prepared MRE plans for 6 local communities. Plans were prepared in cooperation with local actors, using information collected through interviews, questionnaires, workshops and information collected from authorised institutions. Through this process the needs related to mine problems of the community were identified and elaborated in the community MRE plans. Finalised plans were presented and approved by municipal Civil Protection Departments, presidents of local communities, BHMAL and Entity Army de-mining teams.

During August, AMI started preparing realisation of MRE plans for two local communities. In that regard, AMI held several coordination meetings with representatives of two Entity Armies who were identified as implementing agencies.

The UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Programme is currently supported by contributions from the Government of Italy, DfID, Canada, and the UNICEF national committees of Ireland and Austria. The focus of the programme on local capacity building for integrated mine action requires long term planning and multi annual funding. The current financial situation of the programme is of serious concern as no funding is available for 2006. UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina urgently requires 800,000 USD for 2006.

## **Cambodia**

UNICEF continues to provide financial and technical support to the mine action sector for national MRE coordination through the Cambodian Mine Action/Victim Assistance Authority, Community Based Mine Risk Reduction, the mass media campaign through the Cambodia Mine Action Centre and school MRE for children through the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. MRE materials

are also provided to different MRE operators. Prostheses, wheelchairs and other mobility devices as well as assistances for rehabilitation to children and women victims of landmines/UXO and other causes of disabilities continued also with the support of UNICEF.

### **Mine/UXO Victim Information:**

In August 2005, 36 new casualties were reported by the Cambodia Mine/UXO Victim Information System. This shows a decreased of 27%, compared with the 49 casualties reported in August 2004. From the total of 36 casualties, 75% were men, 23% were children under 18 years of age and 2% were women. 42% of the casualties were injured or killed by UXO and 58% by mines. 34% of the victims were injured or killed while tampering with UXO and 19% were injured or killed at the time of farming. For the last 12 months, the number of casualties reached 905.

### **Russian Federation**

#### *Mine Risk Education (MRE) in Chechnya*

According to information gathered by the 15 'letter-boxes' established by UNICEF in 2005 in each district of Chechnya, no new mine/UXO-related incidents involving civilians have been reported in August. The total of mine/UXO civilian victims recorded by UNICEF since 1995 stands at 3,031 (2,340 wounded and 641 killed), including 737 children (612 wounded and 125 killed). Meanwhile, with the support of its main implementing partners – Voice of the Mountains (VoM), Let's Save the Generation (LSG), the State Chechen Drama Theatre – UNICEF has continued to disseminate MRE messages aimed at changing the population's behaviours. In particular, some 450 children from Grozny secondary schools, numbers 25 and 35, participated in MRE drama presentations jointly organised by LSG and the State Chechen Drama Theatre. Two drama circles have also been established (and some 28 children trained in staging techniques) in two secondary schools – numbers 10 and 25 – in Grozny, with financial support from the British and Dutch National Committees for UNICEF.

#### *Mine/UXO Survivor Assistance*

UNICEF continued to provide assistance to disabled children through its main governmental and NGO partners. During the reporting period, the Republican Clinical Hospital completed the treatment of 27 mine/UXO-affected children. The quality of the services provided has been improved through the provision of additional medical equipment. The treatment is mainly provided by the orthopaedic ward of the hospital, which has been supported by UNICEF since 2003. Needs for additional training for the medical staff involved have been further assessed by UNICEF during its recent monitoring mission to Grozny (19 August). All additional training will be delivered by specialised staff from Medical Centres of Moscow and St. Petersburg. Meanwhile, some 18 mine/UXO-affected children started a new academic year with new prosthetic appliances provided by Grozny's Prosthetic Workshop. Children with more severe cases will still be referred to Vladikavkaz's Prosthetic Workshop, where the technical capacity remains higher.

### **Sri Lanka**

(July – August)

#### *National Mine action weeks:*

The third quarter of the year is the most dangerous period in Sri Lanka for landmine/UXO injuries. Each year at this time, people return to their fields to begin planting and harvesting their crops and some of them get injured or killed by the deadly weapons. To help raise awareness of the dangers, the first week of July and August have been designated "National Mine Action" weeks across Sri Lanka by the National Steering Committee on Mine Action.

MRE weeks have been held previously in the North East with support from UNICEF, but this time was the first time where all 5 pillars of mine action have been represented. This year demining organisations and NGOs working in the field of survivor assistance participated actively in the

national event. Throughout these weeks, UNICEF' partners implemented several activities to raise the attention of the public.

Main activities included:

- Exhibition made by MRE 'UNICEF' partners and demining organisations,
- Cultural programme (dance, songs, street drama, TV show)
- Distribution of posters and leaflets with mine risk education/survivor assistance messages and about the importance of signing the Ottawa Treaty and the Geneva Call deed of commitment.
- Placing stickers on vehicles
- Children's programmes through the MRE children's clubs
- Newspaper and TV advertisement
- Display of banners in MRE centres and specific locations
- Children's rally (Batticaloa, Ampara and Trincomalee)
- Bicycle race with persons with disabilities (Jaffna)

The mine action weeks were well covered by the local and international media. As one of the stories was an Associated Press story, the press release developed by UNICEF got wide pick up and was repeated in many national and international papers and web sources.

MRE community based programme and external monitoring capacity:

Monitoring of the MRE activities is an important component of UNICEF's programme. In Sri Lanka, UNICEF staff have trained the Quality Assurance inspectors (QA) in MRE. These QA teams are based in the District Mine Action Offices (DMAOs) and allow us to benefit from an ongoing external monitoring capacity. This is also a joint collaboration between UNICEF and UNDP, which is supporting the DMAOs. As an example, from January to August 2005, 44 External MRE monitoring visits were carried out by the QA team of the DMAO Jaffna. The vast majority of the reports showed that the MRE activities were well conducted in the field.

## **Sudan**

Within the framework of the UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) for Sudan, UNICEF continues its support to MRE through coordinating and providing technical support to MRE partners, as well as ensuring delivery of MRE to at-risk population groups. A summary of UNICEF supported activities is as follows:

*Delivery of MRE to at-risk population groups:*

During the month of September, UNICEF signed project agreements with two local NGOs to deliver MRE to IDPs in four camps and four squatter areas in Khartoum. Through these projects, a total of 300,000 IDPs who are planned to return to mine/UXO-affected areas in the southern and central regions of Sudan will receive MRE in the current host locations, as well as while en route when passing through a major 'way station' set up by the UN in an area called Kosti.

UNICEF also supported Save the Children-US along with 3 local NGOs, the Ministry of Education and local radio in South Kordofan State in the Nuba Mountains to implement a community-based MRE project. The activities focus on high priority communities and population groups including IDPs and recent returnees.

*Coordination and Technical Support:*

Two new MRE/VA officers arrived to Sudan and assumed their duties in the Central Region Mine Action Office (CRMAO/Kadugli) and Southern Regional Mine Action Office (SRMAO/Rumbek) during September.

A monthly MRE coordination meeting was organised on 7 September at the UNMAO office. A range of MRE topics, including emergency response capacity, coverage, expansion and coordination of MRE activities, was discussed and decisions on action points were made.

#### *MRE materials design and development:*

UNICEF designed two new posters, one leaflet and one mine/UXO fact sheet for MRE. The materials went to press and will be produced/delivered in early October. These will be distributed to different MRE partners for distribution and dissemination among at-risk groups. New MRE road signboards were designed to be used along a recently cleared road in South Sudan.

## **Tajikistan**

### *Workshop*

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE) held a workshop on MRE for the representatives of Rasht, Tavildara, Vanj and Darvoz districts. The six-day workshop was conducted from 15-20 August in Rasht district. The purpose of this workshop was to offer to teachers, representatives of district education departments and representatives of youth committees from areas contaminated by mines or other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) a specialisation in MRE. During one week the participants acquired a sound knowledge about the risk of mines and ERW and the ways to minimize these risks. The emphasis was placed on clarifying methods to teach MRE lessons, run MRE activities and train other teachers. The outcome was to allow each participant (teacher or representative) to become the MRE focal point for his/her area so as to mobilise his/her community in order to minimize mine and ERW risks. An extra two-day module, which focused on MRE planning and monitoring for the inspectors (monitors) was held from 22-23 August for inspectors.

### *Design of learning and teaching materials, flip chart.*

A flip chart has been designed to help educators to transmit a sound knowledge about the risks of mines and other ERW and to teach the ways to minimize these risks. It has 43 slides; each slide brings a main message. The flip chart covers almost all of the information that is important to know about mine/UXO risk prevention in Tajikistan: cause of the problem, main type of mines or UXO in Tajikistan, effects, lethal radius; what to do in front of a suspect object; what to do in case of an incident; what demining is; the (respect of) warning signs; the issue of vigilance in dangerous areas; the indicators of dangerous areas; the geographic distribution of minefields; the issue of peace and the Ottawa Treaty; and finally the right to pass on the safety messages. It has been developed through close collaboration with partners (FSD, TMAC and the MOE); each of these organisations gave suggestions for the content. A 'users guide' for the flip chart has been produced. This 25-page document with a reproduction of 43 mini black and white slides provides all the necessary messages which are connected to each slide.

### *Design of the manual*

An MRE manual has been designed for teachers and translated into Tajik. It includes around 30 illustrations for facilitating the understanding of messages and concepts and also to make it as attractive as possible. This manual has been designed to be a reference document on MRE for school teachers and other educators in Tajikistan. It should be used in conjunction with the MRE flip chart.

The objectives are:

- To provide a sound basic knowledge on MRE.
- To orient school teachers (or other educators) for promoting MRE "in school", "through school" and "out of school".

In this manual the emphasis has been placed on clarifying the concept of MRE, the other components of mine action, and a wide range of prevention messages.