

MASG

Mine Action Support Group Newsletter

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

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New York, June 2004

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I. Participants

Ambassador Jenö C.A. Staehelin (Chairman of MASG)
Ms. Natalie Kohli (Secretary of MASG)
Canada: Mr. Jean Devlin (Canadian International Development Agency, CIDA)
Germany: Mr. Hans-Ulrich von Schroeter (Embassy in Angola)
Italy: Mr. Manfredo Capozza (MFA)
Japan: Mr. Shigeyuki Shimamori (Permanent Mission NY)
Netherlands: Ms. Johanneke de Hoogh (MFA)
Portugal: Lt. Col. José Correia (Permanent Mission NY)
Switzerland: Ms. Janine Voigt (MFA)
USA: Mr. Harry Murphy McCloy, Jr. (Department of State)
UNDP: Mr. Sayed Aqa
UNMAS: Mr. Sebastian Kasack

II. Objective

The objective of the mission was for donors to gain insight into the Angolan Mine Action program two years after the end of the war. Particular emphasis was put on the evaluation of the since 2003 functioning National Inter-Sectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance for Mine Victims (CNIDAH) and its operator, the National Demining Institute (INAD). In this respect donors were very interested to see at what stage national capacity building had arrived and what the perspective needs were for the future.

III. Agenda

The first day in Luanda, the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) visited the CNIDAH facilities and had meetings with the president of CNIDAH, General André Santana Pitra "Petroff", as well as with INAD and the Mine Action partners that are active in Demining, Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victim Assistance (VA; national and international NGOs). The mission also visited the UN Resident Representative, Jean-François Pirlot, and met with the UN mine action working group.

On the second day, the mission flew to Kuito (Bie province) and met with the Governor, Vice-Governor, representatives from various ministries (Health, Education), army and police as well as local operators (ICRC, int. and nat. NGOs). The Government of Angola paid high priority to the visit of MASG: General Petroff participated in the two-day excursion to Kuito: as did the UN Resident Representative.

In Kuito the MASG also followed a MRE session with GAC (Grupo de Apoio as Crianças), as well as a demining operation (HALO) and visited the ICRC orthopedic center. Upon return to Luanda the MASG had a final meeting with Gen. Petroff, where the conclusions were presented (see Chapter IV).

On the last day in Luanda the MASG participated in a technical donor group meeting (representatives from the embassies in Luanda including the ECHO-representative from the European Commission). In the afternoon most participants visited the Orthopedic Centre in Viana, outside Luanda.

IV. Outcomes of the Meetings

1. Meeting with General Petroff, President of CNIDAH (Luanda, 17 May)

General Petroff first explained the organization of CNIDAH : President ; Vice-President (to be nominated) ; two specialized subcommissions (demining/MRE; victim assistance) ; Plenary (integrates all the relevant ministries as well as national and international NGOs) ; Secretariat ; Technical Permanent Group (fulfills operational functions such as Information System, Studies, Evaluation and Quality Control).

UNDP is currently building capacity on two levels; on a national level (CNIDAH institutional development) since March 2003 (financed by the European Commission) and on a provincial level (provincial mine action coordination) since January 2004 (financed by Japan, UK, Norway and Canada). In 2005 both projects should be merged and managed nationally.

The two main tasks of CNIDAH are:

(1) Landmine Impact Survey during the second semester of 2004 and until March 2005: (Implementation by the Survey Action Center, INAD and international NGOs). The final report will be published in September 2005. The LIS will be the basis for the National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2006-2010.

(2) Elaboration of the National Mine Action Plan 2005. The national mine action plan will envisage a rapid response fund for each province, as well as funding to support projects at a provincial level. A first draft of the plan has to be submitted in the first semester of 2004 in order to be included in the budget for 2005.

Level of intervention (based on the number of mine-fields, number of accidents, IDP population) in the 18 provinces:

1. Bie
2. Kuando Kubango ; Benguela ; Malange
3. Kwanza Sul ; Huambo ; Moxico ; Huila
4. Bengo ; Kwanza Norte ; Uige ; Zaire ; Lunda Norte ; Cunene ; Lunda Sul
5. Cabinda ; Namibe ; Luanda

There are UNDP-partnerships with international NGOs for the development of INAD and with national NGOs for training.

There was a meeting in the week before the MASG visit with the Ambassadors (donors), where General Petroff stressed that for consolidating the national Mine Action plan, CNIDAH needs to get information on all projects: While the money does not have to be channeled through CNIDAH, donors must inform CNIDAH of what they are funding. Furthermore the operators should elaborate their projects after consultation with the provincial government (in the interest of coherence and coordination). In the provinces, a designated vice-governor is representing CNIDAH.

In the discussion that ensued between donors and Gen. Petroff, the latter stressed that Mine Action is really a priority for the government and part of the PRSP, which means that the government has also acknowledged that mines have a great impact on the development and recovery of the country. The clearing of the railway as well as of the access roads to and from the railway is a high priority at government level. Angola will participate actively at the Nairobi Summit as well as the preliminary meetings. As far as the funding is concerned, US\$ 16 million were pledged by the government for mine action support to INAD and demining units of the Angolan Armed Forces [only US\$ 330,000 of these funds have been provided to date]. For the next year, US\$ 36 million shall be provided. Gen. Petroff trusts that the government will find a way to provide the allocated funds. The role of the armed forces consists currently in limited demining and emergency interventions. In the future, the armed forces will be trained in IMAS standards. IMSMA will be implemented from the end of May on. Gen. Petroff would welcome the creating of national NGOs for demining.

2. Meeting with Mine Action Partners (Luanda, 17 May)

One issue raised in the meeting with the operators was the funding of national NGOs: the national NGOs should increase their credibility in order to get direct funding from the donors. Partnerships with international NGOs are very important in this regard (capacity building). Unlike the commercial institutions, the national NGOs can submit projects to the Mine Action Portfolio. In order for these projects to be included in the July review of the Portfolio, support is needed through national authorities and UNDP.

The ICRC and other operators raised three major challenges: 1) lack of access to communities ; 2) continued donor interest ; 3) cross-border cooperation (MRE : returnees from Namibia, Zambia, RDC are insufficiently informed before repatriation).

One major challenge in regard to the VA subcommission consists in the lack of reliable data and social surveys. WHO proposes to conduct a needs assessment that encompasses components such as demographic distribution, basic needs and access to a basic health structure. In the provinces, the orthopedic centers of the Ministry of Health (supported by ICRC and various NGOs) are currently the strongest partners but they are often very far from the communities. The national structures in the communities are very weak. According to Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) there are two orthopedic surgeons in Angola.

3. Meeting with UN actors (Luanda, 17 May)

The MASG met with the Res. Rep. Jean-François Pirlot and with the Representative of UNICEF, Mr. Ferrari. Mr. Pirlot stated that Mine Action was at a crossroads in Angola: CNIDAH has the political will for taking over the coordination role and its capacities have become much better. The challenge of the new phase is to bring all the actors to accept CNIDAH who still has to prove its ability. Although Angola is in a transition phase, the humanitarian actors have to be brought into it, as well. According to its Representative, UNICEF also feels a turning point in the relations with the governmental actors: Before the institutions were almost absent, now the will is there and UNICEF is starting a more strategic approach (capacity building). M. Pirlot stressed that the MASG mission was coming at the right moment, because Angola had a lot of difficulties in dialoguing with the donor's community.

Issues raised in the discussion:

- Donors' conference: Since the Bretton Woods institutions are now satisfied with the financial transparency a formal agreement for a conference is likely.
- UNDP estimates that the capacity building at national and provincial level will take 3 years until the capacity for strategic planning is reached. For the decentralization process there will be 5 advisors (3 int./2 nat.) in each province.
- Role of international NGOs in capacity building: Some international NGOs are reluctant. This far UNICEF has concluded partnership agreements in 3 provinces. Donors can make pressure on int. NGOs to cooperate with nat. NGOs for capacity-building. Donors could ask for proof that nat. authorities approved the project and that it contains a partnership component.
- Technical assistance for INAD: depends on (1) formal request by the government and (2) government funding for INAD resources.
- Stockpile destruction: Formal request is needed for technical assistance.

The UN mine action working group who meets monthly raises the questions that they want to discuss with CNIDAH or the heads of UN agencies. UNDP has the lead in mine action in Angola and is focal point for the Mine Action Portfolio. The Portfolio was last year opened for the first time for NGOs (not all NGOs wanted to participate, since they incorrectly assumed that the funds would be channeled through the UN. Halo Trust, MAG and NPA are not in the Angola Portfolio!). OCHA : has the coordination role, but is now phasing out: Until the end of 2005 a new coordination mechanism will be put in place (UNDP will retain some OCHA staff to make sure that the coordination role is handed over correctly). WFP's main task in the country is food distributions (1.8 million beneficiaries per month) and has a special operation of improving access to vulnerable

populations (building bridges). WFP has no rapid response team for demining. UNICEF is the lead agency for MRE. Only this year the funding is adequate for designing a program (funds provided by Italy and Canada). The overall objective of UNICEF is to create and develop a national capacity in MRE (in partnership with int. NGOs). Components are: (1) Capacity-building of CNIDAH in order to strengthen its ability to design policy, standards and supervision mechanism (national standards for MRE, accreditation system, IMSMA), (2) capacity-building of the national NGOs to provide effective MRE, (3) training of school teachers. WHO is responsible for VA. UNSECOORD: major problem is road security due to mines.

4. Meeting with the Governor of Bie Province (Kuito, 18 May)

There is a provincial demining commission presided by the Vice-Governor that meets regularly (INAD, UN agencies, Halo Trust, Care International participate). The difficulties regarding landmines and unexploded ordnance in the province are numerous: accidents in the communities; incidents on the roads; difficulty of access; not enough deminers (capacity building needed); no funds allocated to demining in State budget. Priorities for demining in Bie province: (1) residential areas, (2) roads, (3) agricultural areas. Bie Province has presented its provincial mine action plan that is currently being reviewed.

5. Technical donor group meeting (Luanda, 20 May)

The chair of MASG reiterated the conclusions that were presented the day before to Gen. Petroff (see below). Most importantly, in view of the donors, the national capacity must be developed with the objective that the int. NGOs can reduce their activities gradually. According to Sayed Aqa the efforts of Gen. Petroff and the political will are positive but the government still has to do more. The government also has to be informed of the funding of projects. Next year's Portfolio will be coordinated by CNIDAH. Also, the staffing at CNIDAH must be improved on lower management levels in order to ensure continuity of CNIDAH.

The representatives from the Embassies agreed with the MASG mission that progress has been achieved in the coordination at government level. The fact that INAROE failed is almost reassuring, since nobody wants to go back to this kind of experience. Nevertheless the representative of the European community expressed her worries that as soon as the government will be coordinating, the priorities might be set wrongly. The priorities must be set in a democratic and inclusive way.

V. Conclusions of the MASG Mission

1. We are encouraged by the commitment and leadership of General Petroff, the President of CNIDAH. CNIDAH is on the way to develop into an effective and needed governmental coordination body for Angola in Mine Action. We are fully aware that CNIDAH is a newly born entity, which is in the process of reaching out to the provinces. CNIDAH has to be supported by the international community in order to create an effective organization at every level (national and provincial). One way of supporting CNIDAH from our perspective is by encouraging international NGOs and commercial operators to share information with national and provincial authorities. We are worried that in light of the increasingly active role of CNIDAH, its staff is very small. The continuity and permanence of CNIDAH staffing needs to be ensured. Once CNIDAH is taking over the coordination, the priority-setting must be done in a democratic and inclusive way. We also think that the business community in Angola should be increasingly sensitized for Mine Action.
2. We recognize the contributions of the Angolan Government: examples include the transport of heavy demining equipment by the Armed Forces or the efforts of the Ministries of Health and Labour at the orthopedic center in Viana. We encourage the Government to share such accomplishments with the international community. On the other hand we strongly urge the Government of Angola to make the funds promised available and to continue providing increased financial resources in the years to come. In the future, equal sums should be

provided for in the out-year budgets. We support the efforts of CNIDAH to develop a National Mine Action Plan detailing the Mine Action needs, priorities and intended contributions. This will demonstrate to the international community the commitment of the Government of Angola to fully participate in its own program. We also welcome the efforts of CNIDAH to learn from the experience of Mozambique

3. We are fully aware that after 30 years of war the needs in Angola are tremendous. The mine problem is particularly closely linked to the development of the country. National ownership is important for a successful program. Road verification and threat reduction need an emergency plan as a top priority connected with the country's PRSP and development plan.
4. Our impression of the work of some national and international NGOs we saw in the field in Mine Risk Education, Victim Assistance, as well as Mine Clearance is very positive. Their professionalism and commitment impressed us. We welcome the efforts in local capacity building and underline its importance.
5. We appeal to utilize existing resources, such as the armed forces and the police, demobilized soldiers and UNITA combatants and to train them in International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). We suggest to integrate them in INAD or national Mine Clearance NGOs to be created. Quality control must be ensured.
6. We encourage UNDP to speed-up the activities to increase the administrative and management-capacity on a national and provincial level, of actors such as CNIDAH and local NGOs. We also encourage UNDP to assist with training and equipping of INAD and the military demining units as per IMAS. Donors need concrete terms of reference and indicators based on data which allow measuring progress in order to evaluate the projects. General capacity building of local and national operators through UNDP is important because of limited resources available.
7. We are aware that it will take time to solve the mine problem in Angola. Therefore funds must be allocated to Mine Risk Education. The existing national NGOs in this field should be supported. As far as victim assistance is concerned need based funding is also needed. We emphasize the importance of socio-economic reintegration.
8. We welcome the upcoming introduction of IMSMA and underline the importance of the Landmine Impact Survey (LIS). We encourage CNIDAH and the NGOs to use LIS data for planing purposes.
9. We commend the work already accomplished by the UN agencies involved in Mine Action in Angola. We encourage them to become even more actively engaged under overall coordination of UNDP.

From left to right:
Sayed Aqa, Johanneke de Hoogh, Rogerio Castro (UNDP Luanda), Janine Voigt, Murph Mc Cloy, Hans Ulrich von Schroeter, Jenö C.A. Staehelin, Manfredo Capozza, Jean-François Pirlot (UN ResRep Angola), Shigeyuki Shimamori, Jean Devlin, Sebastian Kasack, José Correia



[Annex]

Agenda for Mine Action Support Group Visit to Angola

Arrival Sunday 16 May 2004 Arrival in Luanda

DAY 1 Monday 17 May 2004

AM- CNIDAH

- 09:00 President of the CNIDAH: General Petroff - with UNDP Senior Technical Advisor - CNIDAH -1st floor
- 09:45/11:00 Meet Mine Action partners
- 09:45 Demining operators and MRE operators – CNIDAH
- 11:10 interval and coffee
- 11:30 Meet Mine Action partners for Victim assistance – CNIDAH
- 12:30 visit CNIDAH installations
- 13:30 Lunch at CNIDAH - at CHIMARRÃO Restaurant- Chikala

PM - UN building

- 16:00 Meeting with UN Resident Coordinator; UNICEF Representative; WHO Representative; UNDP SDRR + overview briefing by the STA
- 17:00 Meeting with UN mine action working group + presentations
- 18:00 - Individual meetings / dinners with Embassies

DAY 2 Tuesday 18 May 2004

- 07:00 Departure to Kuito, Bie Province
- 10:00 Briefing with UNSECOORD (Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator); OCHA [*cancelled*]; UNICEF [*cancelled*];
- 11:00 Meeting with Governor Jose Amaro Tatty & Vice Governor Antonio Gomes da C Goncalves
- 12:00 Lunch at Dussol
- 14:00 Mine risk education session with GAC (Grupo de Apoio as Crianças, Angelina Benvida Gomez)
- 16:00 OCHA office: Meet local operators: CARE (Cruz Vermella), CICV, INAD, UTCAH provincial director
- 19:00 Official Dinner at Miguel Filipe Restaurant with representatives from INAD, GAC, UTCAH (Felix Jingua), UNSECOORD (Filip Rodrigues), UNOCHA, and local orthopedic centre (Julia Casova)

DAY 3 Wednesday 19 May 2004

- 07:30 HALO trust de-mining 1) manual deminers working on trenchline running through small village 2) results of 2003's large clearance effort around Cunhinga (**Kunje e Chivanda**) - large Anti Tank minefields that separated Govt held Kuito and Unita held Andulo. 3) *Chubby Road Threat Reduction System TBC* 4) optional visit to the Cunje market.
- 13:00 Lunch at Dussol
- 14:00 Visit orthopedic centre
- 16:00 Return to Luanda
- Evening free

DAY 4 Thursday 20 May 2004

AM - PM UN building

- 08:30 Presentation on Mine Action Portfolio (GR)
- 09:00 Technical donor group meeting
- 10:30- Departure to Viana Town, to visit the **Orthopedic Centre of Viana** (1-hour of road from Luanda)
- lunch time
- 14:00- Bilateral meetings / thematic meetings as arranged following meetings on DAY 1 with operators; ICRC etc
- 16:00 UNCT brief introduction of MASG to UNCT [*cancelled*]
- Evening Cocktail / Swiss cooperation

Departure Friday 21 May 2004

Departure from Luanda



Mine Risk Education Session in Kuito

ICRC orthopedic center in Kuito



HALO Mine Clearance in Cunje

2. Agenda for the MASG Meeting on 15 July 2004 New York

1. Welcome address by the Chair
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the UN: present and future challenges.
 - Presentation OCHA (Mark Bowden)
 - Presentation UNHCR
4. Discussion
5. Comparative Analysis of program funding priorities and Portfolio shortfalls (UNMAS)
6. AOB

3. Updates

3.1. Update from UNMAS

MASG NEWSLETTER - 1 THROUGH 31 MAY 2004

POLICY, TREATY IMPLEMENTATION, INFORMATION AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Policy Coordination

On 11 May 2004, UNMAS convened a meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action. On the agenda were: the UN preparations for the First Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, recent inter-agency assessment missions to Senegal and Uganda, UNHCR-UNMAS cooperation workshop held on 4 May, and the Ad Hoc Committee meeting on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held 24 May through 4 June.

Portfolio Process

UN and NGO representatives met in Lyon, France 19-20 May 2004 to discuss the objectives and the preparation process for the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects. The meeting was chaired by the GICHD, and attended by OCHA which described trends and developments in UN-NGO collaboration in the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP). The meeting was positive and interactive. A concrete outcome was a set of guiding principles to which UN and NGO participants of the process will adhere in the preparation of the 2005 Portfolio.

Victim Assistance

The Third Ad Hoc Committee on the evolving convention on the rights of persons with disabilities took was held 24 May - 4 June. The Ad Hoc Committee deliberated on a draft text prepared in January by a working group. To obtain more support and participation from mine-affected countries in the deliberations, UNMAS sent letters to national directors and program managers urging them to contact the national ministries responsible for disability issues. UNMAS also sent letters to permanent representatives of States Parties. Eritrea, Lebanon, Jordan, and Yemen were particularly articulate in their interventions at the Ad Hoc Committee. A luncheon organized by Landmine Survivors Network (LSN) and Rehabilitation International (RI) at the sides of the Third Ad Hoc Committee was held for further discussion on health and rehabilitation concerns of people with disabilities. The fourth Ad Hoc Committee will take place in August 2004 to further negotiate the draft text.

UNMAS also attended a meeting chaired by the Human Development Network of the World Bank 20 – 21 May aimed at establishing a global partnership for disability and development. A number donors have pledged seed funds for the secretariat of the partnership.

New contributions in the VTF 1 through 30 April 2004

Donor	Date received	Amount/Earmarking
Canada (DFAIT)	17 May 2004	\$75,000 (Technology P04-GL14)

No new confirmed pledges obtained during the month of April.

TECHNOLOGY

The Technology Coordinator attended the 6th International Symposium on Technology and the Mine Problem. Issues of relevance included presentations on psychological aspects in mine risk behavior, and current explorations of the low-cost method of using honey bees for explosives detection.

UNMAS-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

Iraq

In Iraq, Minetech continues its operations in the Basrah area of southern Iraq where its efforts are coordinated by the Regional Mine Action Centre (RMAC) established by the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA).

Afghanistan

The first quarterly period of the new funding arrangements for the disbursement of grants to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF) was successfully implemented and fully funded. This new mechanism, based on the funding of specific assets to achieve specific outputs, ensures that implementing partners receive known amounts of funding on a scheduled and regular basis, significantly improving their ability to plan and oversee both their financial and operational obligations. The second quarter, commencing on 1 July, is also approaching full funding, although additional resources will be required to support ongoing Mine Risk Education and other cross cutting projects which are being developed.

The transition planning process for transferring responsibility for the Mine Action Program for Afghanistan (MAPA) from the United Nations to the Government of Afghanistan is continuing, with the Task Force on Transition (TF) meeting to discuss various models for transition and potential structures for governmental oversight bodies. It is hoped that the TF, chaired by Dr M. Haider Reza, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, will be able to approach the Office of the President in the near future with a strategic outline for the overall process.

The general security situation in Afghanistan remains volatile, with recent violent incidents occurring in Bagdhis, Paktia and Paktika provinces causing the temporary relocation of mine action teams to safer areas. Operations throughout the rest of Afghanistan continue. Due to the continued attacks on or near mine action assets, the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan is also strengthening its capacity with regard to coordination of operational security with the retention of a new Security Team who will work in close cooperation with the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD).

UNIFIL - Southern Lebanon

The United Arab Emirates-funded Operation Emirates Solidarity (OES)/Area 5 clearance activities continued during May. Area 5 is now almost completed, and since project initiation in May 2002, a total of 4,932,000 square meters of contaminated land have been cleared and handed back to the communities of southern Lebanon. In May, visits commenced with landowners in the OES Area 5 to determine their confidence in the land, and post clearance land use. The objective is to allow potential donors to make funding available for rehabilitation and development needs identified in the reports.

Discussions are still underway with the Government of the UAE, and with other potential regional donors to seek further support for both mine clearance activities and mine action coordination in southern Lebanon.

MONUC - Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

The recent events in Bukavu, and the resulting unstable security situation throughout the DRC did not impact on the ongoing technical survey activities of both the Swiss Foundation for Demining and Mechem, who are currently working in the Bunia area (Ituri District). However, the MACC had to postpone preparation of mine action activities in the Kivu Provinces, and particularly in Bukavu, in support of MONUC. Nevertheless, additional mine action partners are deploying to the DRC. Danish Church Aid (DCA) recently deployed to the Kalemie area (Northern Katanga), and has completed the training of Mine Risk Education (MRE) teams. The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) is preparing implementation of a mine action project in Northern Katanga; MAG's project will focus on MRE and surveys. In addition, Handicap International Belgium is now ready to resume mine clearance activities in the Kisangani area.

Sudan

Southern Sudan saw the completion of a mine risk education needs assessment. The collected data will be analyzed and there after used as the baseline for conducting MRE in southern Sudan. A similar needs assessment was earlier completed in the Nuba Mountains by Danish Church Aid (DCA), contributing to the development of effective materials for the region.

Clearance activities in southern Sudan have progressed well, with 180 km of the main road stretching from the southern border of Sudan to Kapoeta now cleared and being utilized by civilian traffic and humanitarian relief agencies. In the Nuba Mountains, clearance activities were also enhanced when RONCO was deployed in the region to conduct clearance operations, employing some 22 deminers that had recently completed an intensive deminer training course provided by DCA.

During this month, Swiss Demining Federation (FSD) technical survey teams commenced survey activities in the Nuba region, as well as in southern Sudan region.

In addition, at three day advocacy training workshop was held in Khartoum. This event was attended by international NGOs, national NGOs, the SCBL and various representatives from different government ministries. The Director of the Yemen Mine Action program was invited to be a principal speaker, and to provide valuable insight into his experience in this area. The workshop was highly successful due to the enthusiastic participation of all concerned.

UNMEE – Eritrea

The MACC issued a revised threat assessment at the beginning of the month based on deliberations in response to a mine accident on the Barentu-Awegro road in Sector West of the TSZ on 17 April attributed to new mine usage. The accident had caused the suspension of activities by other UN agencies in the area.

The MACC finalized a contract with the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) to set up a mine risk education campaign in the southern portion of the TSZ in support of UNMEE demining operations. The EMAO team is slated to begin work in the near future.

UNMAS continued to consult with interested donors to complete funding for the voluntary requirements of MACC core costs not covered by UN Assessed Budget funds. The MACC requirements were revised down almost \$60,000 due to cost savings to an appeal of \$360,000 for 2004. UNMAS has received an indication from the UK Government that a residual amount from a previous donation can be used for the current year and discussions continue with Japan over the use of residual funds of more than \$130,000 that hopefully will be made available to the program in 2004.

The UNMAS Program Officer visited the program from 24-28 May. The aim of the visit was to finalize a proposal for the replacement of the Slovak mechanical demining contingent scheduled to leave the mission in June. The proposal, now being vetted through DPKO, calls for a commercial contractor to supply mechanical and MDD capacity to support demining tasks for the mission and demarcation when it resumes.

The MACC celebrated the receipt of a UN 21 Award for Increased Team Productivity in a formal ceremony held at the MACC compound in Asmara on 26 May. The event was attended by UNMEE officials including the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Force Commander as well as representatives of other UN agencies, the international community and the Eritrean Government. SRSG Legwaila made the key note speech.

UNFICYP

The mine action project in Cyprus has completed the statements of work for both the clearance and QA work for the initial clearance of minefields in the buffer zone. UNDP has authorized UNOPS to prepare a request for proposals in anticipation of receipt of a €2.5 million pledge from the EU.

UNOB

On 1 June, UNMAS initiated a mine-action program as part of the establishment of a new peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB). The aim is to support the operations of ONUB, but mine action will also contribute to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the return and repatriation of internally displaced people and refugees. In this connection, a mine action expert has just arrived in the country and has begun setting up a Mine Action Coordination Centre in Bujumbura. Integrated within ONUB Headquarters, the MACC will oversee and coordinate mine clearance, victim-assistance and mine-risk education activities, and will start helping the Transitional Government of Burundi in establishing a national mine action capacity.

3.2. Update from UNDP

UNDP MINE ACTION UPDATE

June 2004

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

NEW YORK

Socio-Economic Approaches to Mine Action

In line with its mandate for capacity building and addressing the socio-economic consequences of landmines, and in order to improve mine-action planning and better target scarce resources available for mine action, UNDP, in partnership with the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), conducted a study on the socio-economic approaches to mine action during the period 1999-2000. The study provided useful input analyzing the mine problem and subsequent mine action-response from a socio-economic perspective. The study resulted in the development of an operational handbook, which provides practical tools to the mine-action community for incorporating socio-economic indicators into mine-action planning.

In order to further help mine-action practitioners to understand and apply the concept in the mine-action planning and management process, UNDP, in partnership with GICHD, initiated specific regional training workshops for mine-action managers. These regional workshops include the Middle East, South East European Region, Africa, and the Asia Pacific region. The first workshop was conducted in Jordan in early March of this year, followed by a workshop in Sarajevo during the last week of May for the Southeastern European and Caucasian Region. Feedback from the participating countries has been very encouraging, and UNDP is planning to follow with two more workshops later this year and early next.

Mainstreaming Mine Action into Development

In many developing countries, landmines pose both a humanitarian threat and a serious obstacle to sustainable development. UNDP has been working closely with States Parties to the Ottawa Convention and civil society actors in the campaign to integrate or 'mainstream' mine action into ongoing development cooperation programs throughout the world. Specifically, UNDP is pursuing the following steps:

- Commissioning a Study on 'mainstreaming,' currently being carried out by the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) and due to be published by the end of summer 2004.
- Undertaking research in support of the upcoming meeting between the Resource Mobilization Task Force and the World Bank. Papers have been completed on World Bank policies, experience in mine action to date, and funding channels. On the basis of this information, UNDP has put forward for consideration of the Task Force suggested messages to be conveyed, supporting lines of argumentation, and recommendations for joint action.
- Highlighting the upcoming Nairobi Summit for a Mine Free World. UNDP, like many of our mine-action colleagues, believes this is a seminal occasion on which to draw the world's attention to the landmine issue. At the request of the Mine-Action Team, UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch Brown is scheduled to attend the Summit, to assist in confirming the attendance of the Secretary-General, and to ensure that the more than 130 Country Offices around the world are active in the period leading up to and following the Summit. In a letter from the Administrator, all Resident Representatives and Resident Coordinators have been asked, among other things, to: "(i) encourage your respective host countries to participate in the Summit at the highest possible level. (ii) if resident in a mine-affected country, to assist with the preparation of the National Strategy for Mine Action for presentation in Nairobi, using the template forwarded by UNMAS; (iii) using the occasion [of the Summit] to emphasize the development dimension of the landmine/UXO issue and to explore ways that it can be mainstreamed into national development plans and programming, United Nations Development

Assistance Frameworks, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, Interim-Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and relevant sector strategies; and (iv) champion this issue in the lead up to the Summit and, perhaps, more importantly, in the months and years following.” The Administrator closes with the thought, “...unlike many of the challenges we face, the landmine/UXO issue can be resolved in a relatively short period of time, if an adequate level of resources are mobilized and if this issue is properly incorporated into plans and programs of severely mine affected developing countries.”

- Creating the position of Development Adviser within the UNDP Mine Action Team to further advance our collective ‘mainstreaming’ efforts.

AFRICA REGION

Somalia

Key Achievements

- UNDP and the Somaliland Mine Action Centre (SMAC) launched the Somaliland Policy on Mine Action, Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) Phase I Results, and Somaliland Strategic Plan & Portfolio of mine related projects on the 28th May in Nairobi to the local mine-action donors.
- The Somaliland Policy on Mine Action, LIS Phase I Results, and Somaliland Strategic Plan will be launched in Hargeisa on the 6th of June by the SMAC.

Key Challenges

Keeping the Somaliland Mine Action Centre functioning with no funding and preparing a new implementation modality for the LIS Phase II.

Key Objectives

Start Landmine Impact Survey Phase II.

Complete capacity building of Puntland Mine Action Center.

Seek funding for LIS Phase 2.5

Seek funding to expand Police Explosive Ordnance Disposal in Somaliland.

Funding Update

DFID US\$ 250,000 to support SMAC operations & tech advice.

CIDA CN\$ 330,000 over 3 years.

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Cambodia

Key Achievements

- For the period of January-April 2004, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) has cleared a total surface area of 3.4 sq. km. and destroyed 14,420 AP mines, 211 AT mines, and over 35,000 UXOs, corresponding to 94 percent of the target set for the period.
- The funding shortfall for UNDP Trust Fund in support to CMAC operations currently amounts to US\$ 1.8 million (out of a total Trust Fund budget of US\$ 4.9 million for 2004). This shortfall could seriously affect CMAC operations as of August 2004.
- The two monitoring teams of the Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA) supported by DFID and UNDP are now fully operational after 5 months of training. The Socio-economic monitoring team conducted its first post-clearance investigations in the field, verifying the accuracy of the reports provided by Mine Action operators on the location of clearance sites and beneficiaries, and their conformity with the clearance/ development plans established by provincial authorities. The Quality Monitoring team has initiated a review of the Cambodian Mine Action Standards prior to their final approval by Government, and is conducting regular field checks to verify operators’ adherence to their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Funding Needs

- The funding shortfall for UNDP Trust Fund in support to CMAC Operations currently amounts to US\$ 1.8 million (out of a total Trust Fund budget of US\$ 4.9 million for 2004). This shortfall could seriously affect CMAC operations as of August 2004.

Sri Lanka

Key Achievements

- As part of its support to operators, UNDP worked with the UNHCR radio specialist to complete work on the VHF Mine Action Safety Network covering the Jaffna, Killinochchi, and Vavuniya districts. It is now fully operational.
- UNDP continued its assistance to the Trincomalee Government Agent and to the District Steering Committee for Mine Action, which he heads, in formulating the Trincomalee Mine Action Work Plan. UNDP technical consultants have already commenced assistance to the Government Agent of Jaffna in formulating a work plan for the district. This is expected to be complete by end-June 2004. Once the Jaffna Work Plan is complete, all areas under Government of Sri Lanka control will have comprehensive Work Plans developed in consultation with all stakeholders.
- Representatives of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) met with UNDP technical staff on the potential effects of minefields upon a project they plan to fund. The project involves the provision of electricity from the National Grid from the government-controlled area of Vavuniya to the LTTE-controlled area of Killinochchi. Ensuring that mine action is properly integrated into all relevant reconstruction and development projects is a high priority for UNDP.
- UNDP continued to participate at planning meetings and provide support to the Landmine Ban Advocacy Forum on an ongoing basis on its plans for an early July media conference, calling for a ban on AP mines by both the government and the LTTE. UNDP also attended a workshop organized in the northern Jaffna peninsula by Geneva Call and its local partner, the Inter-Religious Peace Foundation (IRPF).

ARAB STATES REGION

Iraq

Key Achievements

- A meeting was recently convened in Amman, Jordan, to discuss a new mine-action strategy for Iraq. The meeting included the Iraq National Mine Action Authority, UNDP, UNICEF, and the Coalition Provisional Authorities. A draft plan has been agreed and a follow-up meeting is scheduled to take place in Baghdad in July 2004. Details of the new plan will be made available to the MASG once they have been finalized.

Sudan

Key Achievements

- Meetings were held with the Southern Sudan Mine Action Executive Director on 18 May, discussing the following:
 - The National and South Sudan Mine Action Authorities
 - The National Mine Action Office
 - Mine-action strategy formulation
 - Advocacy
 - Capacity building
 - The Mine Action Portfolio
- The Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) requested that UNDP Sudan assists with the preparation and planning of an advocacy workshop in Southern Sudan. A proposal and budget will be prepared for a workshop that will be held during the second week of August.
- The Government of Sudan approached UNDP to assist with the completion of the following reporting in terms of the Ottawa Convention
 - Reports to the Standing Committee Meetings
 - Report for the First Review Conference
 - Initial Report
 - Article 7 Reports
- Both the Sudan People Liberation Movement and the Government of Sudan indicated that they do not really possess significant APM stockpiles and would thus not need elaborate international assistance in terms of stockpile destruction. This will be confirmed after signing the comprehensive peace agreement between the Government of Sudan and Sudan People Liberation Movement.
- Three advocacy workshops were arranged by the NMAO and UNDP and funded by UNMAS and UNDP. The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, the Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner, and UNDP Senior Technical Advisor attended to the workshop. The workshops, were held in Khartoum from 22 to 25 May to address government representatives and civil society organizations the important achievements that were accomplished in these workshops were the following: High-level government participation in the work shops; the increase of awareness by all stakeholders regarding Sudan's obligations towards the Ottawa Treaty; and the experience gained from the Yemen mine action program. Also some recommendation were addressed for instance, The urgency to pass a decree for humanitarian mine action in Sudan, the finalization of the strategic planning in full cooperation with UNDP, and the allocation of national resources to affirm the commitment already shown by the Government towards the mine action program.
- The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, the Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner, and UNDP Senior Technical Advisor

Key Objectives

- Promotion of mine-action legislation with the Government of Sudan.
- Submit capacity building proposals for the MAP 2005 and MAP 2004 review process.
- Arranging an advocacy workshop to take place in Southern Sudan during August 2004.
- Appointment of the second mine-action program officer to the UNDP Sudan Country Office.
- Drafting a proposal for community-based demining and DDR.
- Finalizing the Mine Action Exchange mission to Yemen.
- Arranging the Mine Action Exchange mission for Southern Sudan.
- Conducting a survey of victim assistance capacities.
- Assisting the government with their reports to the Meeting of Standing Committees and for the Ottawa Convention Review Meeting.

- Support from UNDP BCPR to finalize Sudanese nominations for the senior and middle management courses.
- Assistance from UNDP BCPR in finding a suitable resource person for the Southern Sudan advocacy work shop and funding his participation through Mine Action Exchange Program
- Assistance from UNDP BCPR and UNDP Sudan regarding resource mobilization for capacity building, including the strategy review workshop.

EUROPE & THE CIS REGION

Albania

Mine Action Progress

- The most significant event in May was the fatal accident that occurred at 10 a.m. on the 24th, when a cluster bomb (KB -1) exploded during a classroom training session that Handicap International (HI) was delivering to newly recruited deminers, in the framework of the Technical Survey project. Of 36 people present in the classroom, two died immediately and 15 other trainees were injured. Six of the seriously injured were evacuated either to Tirana surgical ward or to a specialized hospital in Bari, Italy. Two Handicap International staff, the Technical Adviser, and the Project Program Manager have been detained and are under investigation from the Albanian Police. A Board of Inquiry is being established by the Albania Mine Action Executive (AMAE), with the participation of AMAE, UNDP, and HI to conduct a technical investigation on the fatal accident in accordance with IMAS. Also in collaboration with Kukës Regional Authorities, a charity bank account has been opened to support the victims and their families.
- Not only several important meetings have taken place involving AMAE, UNDP, Ministry of Defense, and local authorities in Kukës but also an action plan has been put in place in order to respond quickly and effectively to the situation created by the training accident occurred on 24 May 2004.

Key Achievements

- Danish Church Aid (DCA) has continued during May the clearance operations in northeast Albania in accordance with the priority tasks by clearing 18,388 sq. meters and destroying 257 APM.
- EOD-IS Survey Tools training was organized by Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in cooperation with AMAE from 10 to 21 May 2004. Representatives from AMAE and different attended the training.
- The AMAE Mine Action Specialist and the interim Chief Technical Advisor attended the “Socio-economic approaches to mine action planning and management” training, conducted in Sarajevo by UNDP in cooperation with GICHD from 24 to 28 May 2004.
- Inhabitants of high-priority areas were kept informed on mine/UXO threats.
- The Albanian Red Cross (ARC) has identified so far 84 mine/UXO survivors from the 1997 uprising, and to date has provided a list of 40 survivors to AMAE.
- The Mines and Weapons Victims Association (VMA), a local nongovernmental organization, has provided so far 22 mine survivors with cows for a socio-economic reintegration project.
- A building has been identified by VMA and approved by the Regional Authorities for the Community Centre for mine/UXO survivors in Kukës.

Key Objectives

- The first priority is to find ways through police investigation of continuing MA activities in the region with less complication for the National Mine Action Program in Albania.
- Resuming Technical Survey operations as soon as possible.
- Providing emergency assistance to mine/UXO victims.
- Extending the demining capabilities in northeast Albania in order to achieve the strategic goal.

- Implementing the action plan formulated by UNDP/AMAE in response to the fatal mine accident in Kukes of 24 May 2004.
- Establish individual socio-reintegration projects for child mine/UXO survivors.

Funding Needs

- The Albanian Mine Action Program was further funded by the ITF/US State Department through matching of CN\$144,825 given by the Canadian Government early this year. This fund, totaling US\$ 93,200, will be allocated to the Kukes Regional Office.
- DFID US\$150,000 to support mine-action field operation.

Armenia

Key Achievements

- Two representatives of the Armenian Humanitarian De-mining Center participated in the May training program in Sarajevo (described above): Colonel Adoyan Vostanik, Head of the Department of Army Engineers, and Lieutenant-General Artur Baghdasaryan, Commandant of the Armenian Humanitarian Demining Centre.

Bosnia

Key Achievements

- Revision of the national mine-action strategy in the final stage based upon elements of the recently completed Landmine Impact Survey and experience gained to date. The draft revision is expected to be ready by the end of June and will form the basis of the BiH position at the Ottawa Convention First Review Conference in Nairobi;
- Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNDP and ITF for mine clearance of the land of economic significance for the country in the value of US\$ 300,000
- Danis Tanovic, famed Bosnian film director and Academy Award winner, became a UNDP BiH Spokesperson for mine action.

Funding Needs

- US\$ 3.5 million to cover 2004 budget.

3.3. Update from Unicef

Angola

UNICEF Angola continues to support CNIDAH, the National Commission for the Coordination of Demining and Humanitarian Assistance. Mine action partners, in conjunction with the vice governors at provincial level, are actively participating in the creation of 18 provincial mine action plans for 2004-2005. Once completed with all ongoing and planned projects, they will be consolidated to form the national mine action plan for the same period. UNICEF is actively supporting this planning process at provincial and national level.

During April, UNICEF supported a forum addressing the closer definition of how to develop a nationwide network of mine action committees at community level. The forum, coordinated by CNIDAH and with the participation from six national implementers, resulted in the creation of a supporting manual for committees. The manual is being formatted into simplified language to ensure that it is accessible to all members of the community and is set to be ready for reproduction by the end of June.

In May, Angola received a visit from the Mine Action Support Group. UNICEF had the opportunity to present its program to the delegation and was able to meet with the Italian and Canadian donors bilaterally to discuss reporting, impact for the planned activities and indicators. At field level, the donors were able to observe the mine risk education (MRE) activities of the national NGO 'Grupo Apoio a Crianca', who is implementing MRE that is funded with their support.

Also in May, UNICEF Angola received a visit from its goodwill ambassador, the American actor Ms Alyssa Milano. The MRE project officer travelled with her and a magazine journalist from 'Marie Claire' to the province of Huambo. Ms Milano was moved by the impact of landmines in Angola and has guaranteed her support to UNICEF's work in mine action. A feature story of Ms Milano's visit, focusing on landmines, is anticipated in the July 2004 issue of 'Marie Claire'.

In early June, MRE was very visible at the IV Plenary of CNIDAH on 8 June, with General Petroff, the President of CNIDAH, highlighting that MRE is key on the Government's agenda. Presentations were made to the provincial vice governors, donors and mine action organizations on key elements of the Government's National Strategy for MRE during 2004-5: the creation of community level mine committees; and a multimedia teacher training campaign.

Additionally, UNICEF supported the National Institute of Demining in its role as a national mine action implementer, in the training of elements from nine demining brigades as MRE instructors.

Also in early June, UNICEF Angola invited the various ministries to a presentation of its 2005-2008 Country Program Document. The participation of the CNIDAH president in this meeting heralded the beginning of a new phase of collaboration between CNIDAH and UNICEF in the future in the area of mine risk education.

Starting in April 2003, the Ministry of Education began introducing 29,000 new teachers into the school system who will ultimately reach an estimated 1 million pupils. MED went on to create the national teacher training program, which will train 20,000 teachers. The contents of the training methodologies and materials prepared to date all include mine risk messages and are developed in a way to encourage oral and written expression and reading, and group work. The training of teachers and the inclusion into primary schools is a great step forward to integration of MRE into the classroom on a massive scale. UNICEF is currently supporting MED and CNIDAH in the creation of new materials for use in schools to support the next round of training for this nationwide initiative.

UNICEF and the national MRE NGO partners renewed their collaboration with national NGOs in the signing of eight new agreements with partners to undertake MRE activities in nine provinces for the period June 2004-5.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

UNICEF continues to support the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC) for coordination and policy development related to integrated mine action. UNICEF also supports the Civil Protection, which is responsible for training.

Currently, UNICEF is providing technical assistance and financial support to the revision of the National Mine Action Strategy. The MRE technical working group met twice in May, to identify key stakeholders (27 stakeholders were identified), adopt the first draft of the strategic analysis (stakeholders, internal and external environment analyses) and define assumptions and evaluate risks. In addition, 14 additional stakeholders were interviewed for the Strategy revision.

UNICEF, through Handicap International's Self Help and Advocacy for Rights and Equal Opportunities – South East Europe (Share SEE) project, is providing technical assistance to the Landmine Victim Assistance Strategy Working Group. The group met twice in May, to finalise the strategic analysis and define assumptions and possible scenarios.

The Civil Protection runs monthly 5-day training in MRE and Management for field personnel. In May, 25 participants including community volunteers, staff from local and international NGOs, the Civil Protection, the police, the Armies and the Red Cross participated in the training that focuses on risk assessment and risk reduction at community level through MRE and integrated mine action.

UNICEF also supports the sociological research that the Italian NGO INTERSOS is undertaking to assist in identifying attitudes and behavior toward mine risk among the most at risk population groups. The University of Sarajevo has completed the analysis of the field survey information. The report is being translated.

The UNICEF commissioned Handicap International assessment of MRE within the education sector is progressing according to schedule. School sampling was made according to a BHMAC list of high, medium and low impacted communities; 166 schools were visited, 539 teachers, 2,692 children and 59 school directors were interviewed. The collected data is now being analysed. At the same time, the HI team visited Cantonal Ministries of Education and Pedagogical Institutes, as well as organizations involved in school-based MRE, to get an overview of MRE experiences and activities and possibilities of integrating an MRE curriculum in schools. A workshop will be organized in June with MoEs representatives, BHMAC, UNICEF to present the findings of the research. Through workshops, participants will develop strategic options to integrate MRE within the school system.

UNICEF supports the local NGO 'Genesis Project' in the implementation of comprehensive school-based MRE. The project, developed in collaboration with the Ministries of Education, enters schools from both entities, with interactive and participatory puppet shows, training of teachers, peer education activities and participation of teachers and parents in community assessment and risk reduction planning. The current project phase started in October and ends in June, as the school year. Among others, achievements include the training of 300 schoolteachers from 10 primary schools on the issue of landmines and on how to integrate MRE within their normal classes, conduct special activities or classes on MRE or undertake MRE through peer education. The training also includes elements on child rights and the relationship to landmines. Other such trainings of 'Genesis' include small arms and peace education. In the regions of Dobož and Banja Luka, 209 children and teenagers participated in the 'Genesis Project' training and became MRE peer educators and then conducted education workshops for approximately 1,300 of their classmates.

In addition, the 'Genesis Project' organized interactive puppet theatre in 140 schools in which 13,647 children participated.

In North-East Bosnia, the UNICEF supported PRONI MRE team has completed the project's internal evaluation. Issues identified during fieldwork were raised at the five municipality round tables organized in the springtime and municipality plans of action were developed. The new project to start in June, seeks to address issues and facilitate the implementation of the five municipality mine action plans. Activities will include, in addition to risk education through-door-to-door visits and the use of the local media, urgent and permanent marking, and the training of community representatives. The on-going external evaluation and documentation of approaches and lessons learned is to be completed by mid July.

The absence of funds beyond the end 2004 is of serious concern and already has implications on UNICEF mine action programming, as it prevents planning of activities and commitment to partners beyond the end of this year.

North Caucasus

UNICEF's implementing partner, the Voice of the Mountains (VoM), has reported the completion of the final stage of the MRE monitoring course that was held throughout schools in Chechnya, with the financial support of ECHO. The libraries of 24 schools that were lacking the specially developed MRE booklets have recently received them through the VoM monitors.

MRE sessions have also been conducted for schoolchildren in the villages of Germenchuk, Mesker-Yurt, Komsomolskoe and in Grozny, as well as in the IDP camp 'Satsita' in Ingushetia. The latter session was conducted in preparation for the possible return of camp residents to Chechnya. A total of 3,269 children received MRE messages from VoM during the reporting period.

UNICEF's implementing partner 'Let's Save the Generation' (LSG) and the Chechen State Drama Theatre have conducted one drama presentation for an audience of 300 residents of Roshni-Chu (Chechnya). They have continued to work with communities on the creation of drama circles based at secondary schools, with the financial support from the Governments of Germany and Sweden, and the Dutch National Committee for UNICEF. The first trained children's drama circles will soon be established in Roshni-Chu and Urus-Martan; these circles will further disseminate MRE messages in their communities and families.

Mine/UXO Survivor Assistance

UNICEF also has continued to pay special attention to the provision of assistance to mine and UXO survivors. The rehabilitation of the building that was selected for the vocational carpentry training for adolescent mine and UXO survivors (Achkoy-Martan) has been completed. The first group of seven young survivors has already started undertaking the course, which is implemented by the 'People in Need Foundation' (PIN), with financial support from the Dutch National Committee for UNICEF and Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, (DfID). Another 23 students are planned to join the project from 1 June. During the day, children are also provided with warm lunches and transported to the centre and back (from Urus-Martan and Achkhoy-Martan), thanks to a vehicle purchased in the framework of the project.

The number of mine/UXO-affected children receiving prosthetic-orthotic assistance in Vladikavkaz has significantly increased, due to the strengthening of the transportation system from Chechnya. Within the reporting period, with financial support from the Government of Germany and the Dutch National Committee for UNICEF, the Prosthetic Centre produced 11 artificial limbs, 14 apparatus, four tutors, five corsets, six pairs of orthopaedic shoes and also repaired five prostheses. For the orthopaedic devices, children have been referred to the Prosthetic Centre by a specialist from the Republican Clinical Hospital (RCH) of Chechnya. The latter is UNICEF's partner for the physical rehabilitation project targeting mine/UXO-affected children, which is implemented through Minga. In May, the RCH provided treatment to eight children who had been identified and transported by Minga.

Sri Lanka

The UNICEF-supported MRE program is being implemented as a combined activity of mine action in the de-mining areas, dangerous areas, resettlement and the welfare centre. The Advocacy forum for banning landmines is in its advanced stages, with preparations for the media conference on 14 July in Colombo.

The final draft report of the MRE impact evaluation study was disseminated to all stakeholders for their final comments. The following key pointers from the community derived from the statistical survey & key informant interviews indicate a successful MRE program on the whole. Main findings:

- Reduction in injuries,
- Higher level of familiarity with warning signs,
- More realistic assessment of mine risk
- Better mine-safe behavior patterns

Key recommendations for the future are;

- Tailor-made MRE for beneficiary groups by advance assessment of needs
 - Sustainable MRE for the long term by incorporating MRE in the formal school system
 - MRE to include advocacy to ban mines even at regional levels particularly in the north east. Creative content of MRE messages to be improvised regularly
 - Visitors and returnees entering the north eastern region from outside to be given MRE at entry/exit points
 - Quick Response Teams (QRT) to be strengthened through mine action offices
 - Indirect moral/ethical consequences of mine risk to be highlighted in MRE in order to curb deliberate negligent behavior
 - Returnee Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) to be given adequate
 - Periodic assessment of the MRE programs in the target villages
- Conceptual framework on de-mining in conflict affected countries to be revisited with a view to address the problem of survival de-mining by untrained people.

Should any organization or individual be interested in getting the final report of the evaluation survey, please contact Hanoch Barlevi at hbarlevi@unicef.org.

The MRE technical working group (TWG) meeting was held in the eastern peninsula of Mannar on 31 May – 1 June. Participants from all MRE agencies in the north and east took part in the day and half meeting. Main issues discussed:

1. Development and revision of new messages for printed materials and radio program.
2. MRE IMAS initial adjustment and preparation for the workshop that will be carried out 30 June – 2 July.
3. Disseminations of the MRE evaluation findings

A new contribution by the Australian Government (AusAID) of 300,000 US dollars has arrived to support MRE and survivor assistance as part of the broader support to the resettlement process.

Sudan

UNICEF Sudan supports the National Mine Action Office for coordination, capacity building and technical support to MRE activities. UNICEF is currently providing support to activities conducted by Save the Children - US in the Nuba Mountains region.

Since the beginning of the project in December 2003, MRE has been delivered to approximately 58,000 persons through direct presentation methods. In support of village activities, a series of six radio dramas were broadcast over three weeks. The response was very favourable. Most recently in May, school children conducted twelve mobile theatre presentations, which were also extremely well received.

UNICEF is currently preparing to have a needs assessments conducted for the area of Juba in south Sudan, which is heavily affected by mines. Further, a revision of the accreditation requirements for local NGOs will be conducted.