The Albanian Mine Action Programme

Clearance of mine/UXO contaminated areas in Northeast Albania

Presented by
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MINE CONTAMINATED AREAS

The threat emanated from the Kosovo conflict; the 1999 general survey identified:

- 120 km border with Kosovo
- 102 contaminated areas
- 15,250,000 m²

It included:

- Anti-Personnel and Anti-tank mines, unexploded ordnance and sub-munitions

No records of minefields available to Albania
Since 1999 there have been:

- 210 Mine/UXO accidents
- 238 injured
- 34 killed

The last accident in Northeast Albania is recorded in June 2005.

ALBANIAN RESPONSE

- General Survey and marking by indicating the total area contaminated.
- Surface clearance, which drastically reduced civilian casualties.
- Ratification of all relevant international treaties: Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, CCW and recently the CM Treaty.
- Establishment of a national mine action structures: AMAC and AMAE.
- Adoption of International Humanitarian Mine Action Standards.
Albania and the AP Mine Ban Convention

- Albania ratified the AP Mine Ban Treaty on 29 February 2000.
- Destruction of APM Stockpile was completed in April 2002, 2 years ahead of obligation (Art.4).
- Destruction of AP mines in the known mined areas completed by 2009 (Art.5)

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL STRUCTURES

AMAC – Albanian Mine Action Committee

- Provide the National focus of Mine Action.
- Seek donor funding and assistance to the Mine Action Programme.
- Prioritise Mine Action efforts in Albania.
- Sensitise the international community to the Mines/UXO threats in Albania.

AMAE – Albanian Mine Action Executive

- Implement the Mine Action Programme under direction of the AMAC
- Assisting AMAC with policy, strategy, legal structure and priorities of Mine Action Programme.
- Coordinate and monitor Mine Action in Albania.
- Facilitate National Mine Action Planning & Implementation
- Resource Mobilization
The Albanian Mine Action Community

**Programme Objectives:**

**Vision:**
Albania free from mines by August 2010, in compliance with the anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention

**Overall Strategic Goal:**
- Maintain zero level of landmine accidents and provide assistance to all landmines/ERW survivors.

**Strategic Objective One:**
- Clear all known suspected hazard areas within 2009.

**Strategic Objective Two:**
- All landmines/ERW survivors receive medical care and have access to assistance that leads to full integration into community life.

National Mine Action Planning Workshop in Tirana - June 2002
MA coordination and monitoring (AMAE) activities

- Prioritization of tasking for Mine Action Activities.
- Accreditation of MA Implementing operators.
- Issue of task dossiers to demining operators.
- Quality Assurance and Quality Control of mine clearance operations based on NMAS.
- Coordination of all mine action operators & agencies in the country.
- Areas released as free of mines/unexploded ordnance are handed over to communities.
- Recording information of mine clearance progress (IMSMA).
- Resource mobilization (Portfolio, Donor Trip, Int.Meetings).
- Reporting under various international treaties.

Support to coordination and monitoring structure - AMAE (1999-2010)

DONORS

UNDP AL UNDP Advance ITF

EU USA UK

CH NO CA
Various international demining organizations have been working in Albania including: RONCO, HELP, FSD and DanChurchAid.

Since 2004, DanChurchAid is carrying out humanitarian demining and battle area clearance operations with local demining operators.

Clearance operations are based on the priorities and conducted in accordance with the international humanitarian standards.

Mine/UXO clearance operations coordinated and monitored by the Albanian Mine Action Executive.

Since 1999, some 15.17 million m² of previously contaminated land has been released through surveys and clearance.

More than 11,851 AP mines, 152 AT mines, and 4,805 UXO have been found and destroyed.
Clearance Projects 2000-2009

IMPLEMENTED BY

EXECUTED BY

Average yearly budget 1.3 million Euro

RONCO
HELP

Bilaterally with operators

DONORS

REGIONAL COOPERATION

SEEMACC

Regional Cooperation:

- Sharing Information
- Sharing Experience
- Sharing Expertise
- Sharing Assets
- Cross-Border Demining
- Regional Workshops
- Regional Training Courses
- Fund Raising

www.see-demining.org
CONCLUSIONS

By the end of 2009 all known minefields and cluster strike areas will be completed.

The Mine/UXO clearance in Albania has clearly proven to be a successful programme.

The support of the International Mine Action Community was essential for this success.

Strategic Planning, transparency, cost efficiency, coordination and consistent reporting are among key elements to success.

A national capacity has been built and equipped and can be used for other demilitarization programmes.

None of this would have been possible without funding and the commitment from our partners!

Albania would like to thank:

- The European Union
- The governments of:
  - United States of America
  - Germany
  - Canada
  - Denmark
  - Switzerland
  - United Kingdom
  - France
  - Czech Republic
  - Sweden
  - Luxembourg
  - Turkey
  - Norway
- UNDP
- ITF
- DCA
- FSD
- Ronco
- HELP
- VMA
- ICRC
- UNMAS
- GICHD
There is still a final effort to be done to complete also cluster munitions in Albania

Thank you