

















VICTIM ASSISTANCE IN ALBANIA

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Victim Assistance Strategy

Vision: Ensure the medical & physical rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of all mine/UXO victims in Albania.

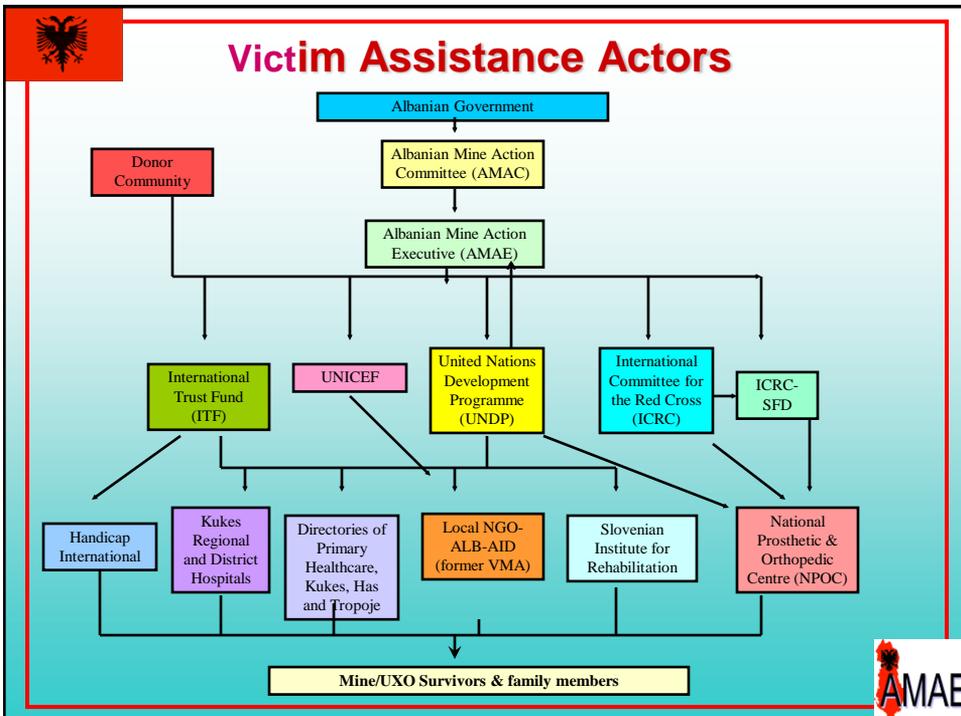
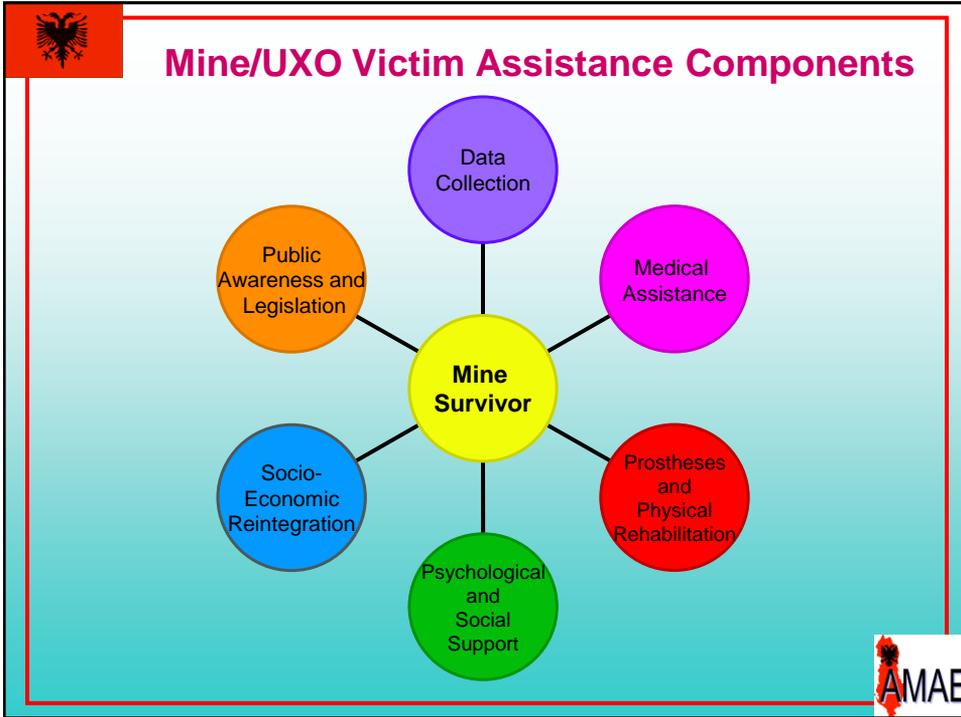
Landmine/UXO casualties in Albania:

- 238 mine/UXO survivors in Kukës region
- 34 people dead

Sight Impaired mine victim and family at home

Landmine survivor at Hospital







Medical Care, Physical Rehabilitation & Social Support

- Build the surgical capacities in district hospitals; equipments and training provided in Albania and abroad.
- Improve emergency and ongoing medical care provided at village level. Training and new equipment provided.
- Establish and training of the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) network with 30 nurses in the mine affected region.
- Treatment of sight impaired mine/AXO survivors.
- Prosthetic Workshops upgraded in equipments, adequate training provided and supply with raw materials.
- Psycho –social and peer support services provided and reinforced at district and regional level.



Developments and Results

- With funding and technical assistance from ICRC/SFD- training of NPOC technicians (one of them ISFO cat II) and build its Management capacities.
- A PMR National Plan of Action is implemented by the Ministry of Health with funding support from US DoS through ITF:
 - Establishment of a PMR specialisation;
 - Development of PMR units in regional hospitals (Kukes, Shkodra & Korça);
 - Fundraising for equipment of the future National Referral Rehabilitation Centre in Kavaja.
- The Nursing Faculty in Tirana implements a sustainable program for the development of physiotherapy training.



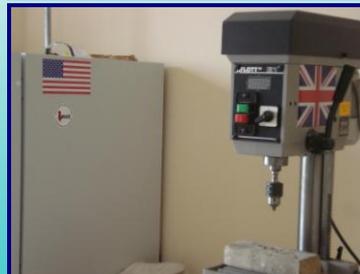


Developments and Results (cont.)

- ❑ The quality of existing prosthetics services has improved and the training capacities for prosthetics of the Albanian health sector are developed.
- ❑ The rehabilitation unit of the Kukes Regional Hospital is established and delivers basic rehabilitation services to people in need particularly addressing the needs of landmine survivors.
- ❑ Prosthetic facilities are being improved at the Regional Hospital level in Kukes with equipment and qualified staff.
- ❑ Regulatory mechanisms for rehabilitation and prosthetics and orthotics services delivery have been defined and are being enforced.



Kukes Regional Hospital





Socio-economic reintegration through Animal Husbandry – 2003 / 2006/ 2009

- A revolving fund is set up since 2003, with US DoS funding through the ITF, for the development of household economies among families of victims in NE Albania.
- Each family, according to priorities, is allocated either 1 or 2 cows, 10 goats/sheep or 5 beehives), procured with the revolving fund.
- Families are also trained and assisted including veterinary services.
- Loans have to be paid back in 2/3 years and up to date 84 mine survivors and their families have benefited from this support.
- The revolving fund will be available now to other families in mine/ERW affected region. The Project is implemented by the local NGO-VMA.



Survey process of needs and capabilities-
done by VMA Kukes



Beneficiaries of the project



Vocational training & Local Enterprise Project (VTLEP) - July 2006 / March 07/March 09

- Provided access to vocational training and to business management training for 75 mine/UXO survivors.
- Provided mine/UXO survivors with knowledge and expertise to increase their job opportunities.
- Provided support to 20 trained households to establish home-based businesses.
- The trained survivors supported with interest free loans to procure some equipments to establish their businesses.
- Provided English classes to young mine survivors and job seeking skills in order to increase the opportunities for their reintegration.





The Challenges

- ❑ Migration of the capacities from the mine-affected region to more urban areas has resulted in short of the services in some hospitals.
- ❑ Other competing priorities within the health sector have resulted in less attention to the needs of the survivors in terms of the medical and physical rehabilitation. This particularly has delayed the proper location of the NPOC, although there is a progress.
- ❑ High unemployment rate in mine affected region have burden the possibilities for mine survivors and disabled persons in general to employment opportunities. Even when assisted with the vocational training initiatives, the survivors have difficulties in competing with same other professions and services offered.
- ❑ Poverty and lack of the economic developments in mine-affected region, has brought another difficulty for mine survivors to better develop economic reintegration activities.



Actions to overcome the challenges

- ❑ Government is reinforcing the rules and regulation to ensure that medical staff is available at all levels. Whenever difficulties persist, incentives are applied.
- ❑ Family members of survivors are encouraged to participate in socio-economic reintegration projects whenever possible.
- ❑ Government is providing full social and health insurance coverage to the private companies, when those companies employ the Persons with Disabilities.
- ❑ Awareness raising workshops and activities has been organized from Disabled Peoples Organizations, thus drawing attention of the policy and decision makers towards disability issues.
- ❑ And, lately Kukes Region is being more in focus from the Government and development agencies. This has and is greatly contributed to a large extend of the developments in the area and to an increase on the economic possibilities.





Plans for 2009-10

- ✓ Provision of medical equipment and supplies for the NPOC and hospitals/health centres in Kukes region.
- ✓ Development of a sustainable physiotherapy training programme through the Nursing Faculty in Tirana – PMR Programme.
- ✓ Training of 6 prosthetic/orthotic technicians to international standards – PMR programme
- ✓ Training of medical specialists from mine affected region in provision of emergency and ongoing medical assistance.
- ✓ Proper location and reconstruction of National Prosthetic & Orthotic Centre in Tirana.
- ✓ Improved rehabilitation facilities and capacity in Kukes region.
- ✓ Vocational training programme for another 20 survivors assisted in establishing home-based economies.
- ✓ Contribute to the fulfillment of the National Strategy for People with Disability (2005-2015)



FALEMINDERIT !

THANK YOU !

