

INTERNATIONAL TRUST FUND
for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance



Regional Approach to Mine Action Experiences and Prospects



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REGIONAL COOPERATION IN MINE ACTION: ITF EXPERIENCE



Experiences: Regional Co-Operation in SE Europe and wider

PRECONDITIONS

Common and/or connected origin of landmine problem between two or more states, entities, communities within SEE;

Mine Action as a part of wider environment - political stability, consolidated peace-situation requirements, humanitarian, reconstruction and development efforts;

Awareness of "common" problems in the field of Mine Action;

Preparedness and willingness on all sides to eliminate landmine problem;

Established communication between national MACs in the region;

Neutral intermediary to facilitate meetings, work, negotiations, etc. on the regional level (role of Slovenia and ITF);

Strictly technical (non-political) level involved at the beginning of process of setting regional cooperation;

Sensitivity of post-conflict period requires cooperation and confidence building between stakeholders.

RATIONALE & BENEFITS

Wider Rationale & Impact:

- *Humanitarian*
- *Development*
- *Commerce*
- *Border Delineation*
- *Border Management and Security*
- *Security and Confidence Building Measures between States or within the Region*
- *Impact on International Treaty Obligations, e.g. the Ottawa Convention*

Direct Benefits:

- *Resource Aspect*
- *Coordination and Information Aspect*
- *Social Aspect*
- *Capacity Building Aspect*
- *Cross-cutting Aspect*

OVERVIEW OF ITF REGIONAL PROJECTS

- *Regional humanitarian demining projects - cross-border clearance*
- *Regional institutional capacities*
- *Regional trainings*
- *Regional workshops and conferences*

OVERVIEW OF ITF REGIONAL PROJECTS (a)

Regional humanitarian demining projects:

- “Mine clearance and technical survey projects in the borderline area between Croatia & Serbia & Montenegro”, 2003-2006
- “Support to Demining Activities in the Region of South-Eastern Europe – Clearance of Borderline Project”, 2003-2006
- “General Survey on the Border Area between Montenegro and Albania”, 2006

Regional institutional capacities:

- Mine Detection Dog Center (MDDC), Konjic, BH,
- Regional Underwater Demining Center (RCUD), Bijela, Montenegro
- Regional Center for Psycho-Social rehabilitation , Rovinj, Croatia
- CROMAC Center for Testing, Development and Training Ltd.(CTDT), Topusko, Croatia
- "Geographical Information System for Mine Action in South-East Europe"

OVERVIEW OF ITF REGIONAL PROJECTS (b)

Regional trainings:

- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training at the Training Center for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, Ig, Slovenia
- Monitoring and Quality Control/Quality Assurance
- UNDP Senior and Middle Management Training
- Underwater EOD Training
- GIS Training
- Training courses for rehabilitation specialists at the Slovenian Institute for Rehabilitation
- Orthopaedic Technicians University of Ljubljana study program
- Training for UXO Detection and Removal, Level 1-4 at CTDT

OVERVIEW OF ITF REGIONAL PROJECTS (c)

Regional workshops, conferences and other:

- 1st and 2nd World Wide Mine Detection Dog Conference in Slovenia, 1999, and in the United States of America, 2002 (organized together with James Madison University)
- Symposium on Humanitarian Demining Quality, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2006
- SEEMACC
- Mechanical Equipment for Mine-Clearance in the region of South-East Europe, 2002
- Regional workshop "Confidence building through mine action", Georgia, 2005 and Kazakhstan, 2007
- ITF & ICRC VA regional workshop, Georgia, 2009
- MVA Summer/Winter Workshops, 2003-2009

SEEMACC – South Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council



South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC)



South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC)

- *Established in 2000*
- *Members and observers of SEEMACC*
- *ITF as secretary-coordination body*
- *www.see-demining.org*



South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC) (a)

- **Established in 2000**
- **Members and observers of SEEMACC**
- **SEEMACC GOALS:**
 - Exchange of experience, expertise and knowledge in the field of mine action in the region of South East Europe;
 - Promote the regional approach in the planning of demining programs;
 - Promote the regional approach in the fund raising for mine action;
 - Exchange experience, expertise and knowledge in the field of training of the deminers and managing personnel in the field of mine action;
 - Exchange information on testing of the new technologies in demining;
 - Promote the achievement of common standards and accreditation procedures in the field of demining in the region of South East Europe.

South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC) (b)

•Results:

- **Regular SEEMACC meetings** to harmonize regional activities and exchange information, knowledge and experience on mutual basis;
- **Acknowledgement of the accreditation of the mechanical equipment** for mine clearance by Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries in the region;
- **Acknowledgment of the testing procedures;**
- Regional pool basis – **sharing of resources (physical, material and human);**
- **Establishment of regional institutions:** Regional Center for Underwater Demining in Bijela, Montenegro and Mine Detection Dog Center for SEE in Konjic (BiH), Regional Center for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation in Croatia; CROMAC Center for Testing, Development and Training Ltd.
- **Adoption of the SEEMACC Strategy 2010.**

www.see-demining.org

CAMACC - Central Asian Mine Action Coordination Council



PERSPECTIVES – CAUCASUS & CENTRAL ASIA (a)

➤ **OSCE political commitment** - the Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBM) and Regional Cooperation through Mine Action

➤ **ITF recognized as reliable partner:**

✓ Workshop “Mine Action as a Confidence Building Measure” in Tbilisi, Georgia, October 2005

✓ Workshop “Mine Action as a Confidence Building Measure” in Almaty, Kazakhstan, March 2007

✓ Project “Facilitation of Central Asian Regional Co-operation in Mine Action”, April-November 2009



Regional Conference

**“Facilitation of Central Asian Regional Co-operation in Mine Action”
Dushanbe Tajikistan, 16-18 November 2009**

Development of Regional Co-operation in CA

	Activity
Phase 0 (2009)	Project “Facilitation of Central Asian Regional Co-operation in Mine Action” Milestone: Regional Conference, (Autumn 2009)
Phase 1 (early 2010)	Set up of Central Asian Mine Action Coordination Council (CAMACC) Milestone: Define common agreement on CAMACC
Phase 2 (late 2010)	• Initiate CAMACC activities • Initial Pilot Regional Project (e.g. training, cross-border demining) Milestones: Formal establishment of CAMACC, reg. projects initiated

ITF – Role Perception/Lessons Learned



ITF ROLE IN REGIONAL COOPERATION

ITF PERCEPTION OF ITS ROLE

- mobilize funding and providing financial resources for regional projects, programs (i.e., **acting as a trust fund mechanism**);
- raising awareness, creating, consolidating, and disseminating knowledge and information on regional cooperation in SEE and lessons learned (i.e., **acting as a knowledge bank**);
- helping national and regional bodies to build their institutional capacity (i.e., **building capacity in the region**);
- acting as catalyst and coordinator of regional mine action activities for the interested stakeholders (i.e., **servicing as an mediator**).

ITF perceives these roles as mutually supportive and reinforcing, enabling ITF to serve as an effective facilitator in supporting and promoting regional approach and mine action activities.

ITF LESSONS LEARNED IN REGIONAL APPROACH (a)

Measure against duplication of resources and efforts – financial, physical, material and human;

Optimum use of resources (derived from the first one);

Sharing of expertise and experience in **solving unique mine problems** in the field of Mine Action in whole region;

Exchange of staff and joint projects **foster experience through working in various environments**;

Regional cooperation through joint projects (training, demining etc.) enables **building a social network** in the region;

Necessity to build on existing capacity in the region and that the **strong institutions help the weak ones**;

ITF LESSONS LEARNED IN REGIONAL APPROACH (b)

Regional pooling of resources pays out – such as sharing of expensive technologies in region, which can reduce the cost of programs;

The **younger programs can benefit** from the lessons learned and use the existing knowledge;

Identification of Mine Action priorities, which can only be solved effectively with regional cooperation;

Close link-up of Mine Action regional activities with other regional issues such as poverty, border control, management of environment, development etc.;

Mine action activities on regional level contribute to confidence building.



THANK YOU!

