

# MASG

## Mine Action Support Group Newsletter

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

**Chairman: Amb. Jenö C.A. Staehelin**

**Secretary: Natalie Kohli**

Tel: 212-286-1540 / Fax: 212-286-1555

MASG@nyc.rep.admin.ch

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## 1. Informal Minutes MASG Meeting 22 June 2005

1. In his **welcome address**, the Chair underlined the importance of the topic of the day, victim assistance. He stated that in mine action, we are not dealing with abstracts, but with people who are suffering and whose lives have been broken. Then the Chair introduced the speakers and some participants:
  - Jack VICTOR, PhD, Senior Program Consultant with the World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF). Founded in 1955, the WRF is the pioneer organization devoted to the development and implementation of rehabilitation programs for people with disabilities throughout the world.
  - David SHEHIGIAN, Deputy Director of Post Conflict Rehabilitation Programs of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. Among other tasks, VVAF implements post-conflict rehabilitation programs in Angola, Ethiopia, Cambodia, and Vietnam and supports rehabilitation and disability programs throughout Central America and Sub-Saharan Africa.
  - Mr. Chanveasa RATH, representing the Mission of Cambodia. The Chair underlined that it is important that the MASG strengthen the ties between mine-affected countries and the donors. In this context, the Chair mentioned that the Forum of mine-affected countries (FOMAC) had invited the chairmanship of MASG to their last meeting on 1 June. The Chair said he was looking forward to many more exchanges between MASG and FOMAC in the future.
  - General Santana PETROFF, President of the Angolan National Commission of Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH) ; General Petroff had previously welcomed MASG representatives during their fieldtrip in Angola in May 2004.
2. Concerning the **agenda**, the Chair suggested to address “Physical Rehabilitation” before “Socio-Economic Rehabilitation”, which makes more sense in the order of events after a mine accident and which is in accordance with the order in the Nairobi Action Plan.
3. The **thematic discussion** was introduced by the Chair who reminded the audience that victim assistance had been an important issue at the Nairobi Summit. It was identified as one of the main areas where follow-up and future donors’ commitment is still very much needed. As a consequence, the Nairobi Action Plan contains in its Chapter IV a number of recommendations that address the need to provide assistance to the hundreds of thousands of mine victims.

The meeting focused on the following 3 dimensions of victim assistance : (i) physical rehabilitation, (ii) socio-economic rehabilitation and (iii) casualty data collection. These areas are reflected in the following actions of the Nairobi Action Plan: Action 30: Increasing of national physical rehabilitation capacity; Action 31: Psychological and social support; Action 32: Socio-economic reintegration of victims; Action 34: Victim data collection.

As the first speaker, David Shehigian from **VVAF** presented the work of his organization regarding physical rehabilitation of victims. He mentioned the different kinds of support that VVAF is providing, both physical and psychosocial and elaborated on the history of their programs in various countries. In Cambodia, VVAF started their on-going rehabilitation program in 1992. Major donors of VVAF are: USAID, UNICEF, Adopt-a-Minefield, Rotary Clubs and others. David also presented vibrant testimonies of victims and the help they had received, stating that VVAF was helping all mine victims, without distinction between their previous status as soldiers or civilians. In the future, VVAF hopes to get involved in Indonesia, Sudan, Iraq, Uganda, Russia/Chechnya, Laos, Myanmar, Armenia and Colombia.

Jack Victor from **WRF** spoke about the socio-economic reintegration of mine victims. He presented the guidelines WRF had developed. They serve as a checklist for policy and program development. Potential users of the guidelines are: Ministries, UN Agencies, NGOs, advocacy groups, etc. The guidelines contain 9 factors as preconditions for a successful socio-economic reintegration. They are: (i) evacuation, first aid, emergency care; (ii) physical and psychological treatment; (iii) medical and psychological treatment; (iv) ongoing medical follow-up; (v) psychosocial support; (vi) vocational rehabilitation; (vii) economic development; (viii) education; (ix) community integration and support. Types of economic reintegration include: micro-enterprises; artisan or craft production; vocational training; job placement/job development; community integration. The most effective way of economic reintegration is a combination of the above types. Reintegration in the occupation the victim had before the accident is often the best approach. Jack also underlined that artisan production made by mine victims are not an inferior product that one is doing a great favor in buying, but it should be a good of the same quality as those produced by anyone else. This is what is meant by real reintegration in the work market. Jack then went on and made the link with the geographic focus of the meeting, Cambodia, and talked about the Phnom Penh Business Advisory Council through which over 500 jobs have been obtained (coordination by WRF), the Success Case Replication Component (using mentors), the Artisan Association of Cambodia (exports products to 14 countries) and the PACE Project (village created by landmine survivors and other war injured).

The Director of **UNMAS**, Martin Barber, then addressed casualty data collection by asking the question of what data are needed to what aim and who has to collect them and how. He then elaborated on the following 4 challenges and ongoing efforts : (i) sensitize and train mine action practitioners at all levels on the importance of getting correct data on victims, (ii) develop data collection standards, (iii) train IMSMA users on new victim assistance forms and (iv) create a global data collection pool (see *UNMAS briefing paper annexed to these minutes*).

4. A lively discussion followed, where different aspects of the reintegration of victims were addressed. The delegate of **Finland** asked if the speakers could elaborate on a gender perspective of rehabilitation. It was answered that most victims are women and that the support provided to them was curtailed to their specific needs. As for desirable and optimal standards for victim reintegration, the **UK** delegate asked where most affected countries would stand. UNDP replied that no systematic data existed on that issue and that methodical data collection would certainly be needed and helpful in that respect. A first assessment would be that probably the majority of affected countries do not meet the minimum standards outside big cities. In certain cases, it could take up to three days for a mine victim to reach a hospital and/or medical support. There is still a long way to go in that domain. The delegate of **Japan** underlined that it was the view of his country that a long-term and holistic approach was needed for the victims, in line with the concept of human security.

To a question of the Chair as to where the financial resources come from, both VVAF and WRF representatives underlined that –generally speaking– government support was decreasing. The priorities seem to be changing, be it from the donor side or from the affected country side. NGOs and private funding commitments remain vital and advocacy is still needed. Some are thinking that the incidence rate is decreasing, thus less money would be needed for victims. If this thinking continues to develop, it would lead to a serious financial crisis for victim assistance programs.

The Chair also asked what role the World Health Organization was playing in the field of assistance to mine victims. All three speakers concurred that WHO does not make any difference between mine victims and other health victims or handicapped people, thus there is no specific policy or action from WHO towards mine victims.

The representative of “Adopt-a-Minefield” mentioned that this organization introduced the concept of victim assistance in its own discussion about 2 years ago, with a goal that 25% of

the money raised should go to victims. This is not yet the case, since Adopt-a-Minefield and its financial supporters still focus on clearance rather than victim assistance.

General Petroff from **Angola** mentioned that at the beginning, his country faced serious difficulties regarding the definition of who has to do what as far as victim assistance is concerned. WHO is working with the Ministry of Health rather than with his own Commission. Three years after the end of the conflict, there is still much to do in Angola regarding victim assistance, but the first priority remains to avoid new victims.

The Chair summarized the discussion in mentioning that the mine action community should possibly do more to focus on the special needs of mine victims compared to other victims of conflicts. He restated that it was crucial to keep the human touch in mind when defining policy for victim assistance.

5. Country Briefing: **Cambodia**. Oren Schlein from UNDP first pointed to the scope of the mine action problem in Cambodia: there are nearly 900 landmine/UXO casualties per year. There are an estimated 40,000 landmine/UXO victims with disabilities and 46% of Cambodian villages have some kind of contamination. Potentially there are 50,000 tons of unexploded bombs. At the current rate, 20 sq. km of land are returned to productive use every year. The total estimated benefits of the 2004 mine clearance programme are US\$ 37 million (approximately 38% more than costs). The government strategy foresees that at the current level of resources, it will take 10 to 15 years to clear priority areas. The government is developing capacity of national police and army for UXO disposal, clearance and development of a MRE programme. UNDP supports since 2001 the newly created Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA), the coordinating agency for the mine action sector with policy and regulatory functions. The national mine action operator is the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC), whose main achievements include: resource mobilization, improvement in CMAC management systems and internal controls (2004: "satisfactory" audit rating), CMAC management is entirely national. Since 2002 the CMAA has developed the following elements of a national mine action framework: mine action strategy and rolling five-year plans, national mine action database, decentralized system for selection and prioritization of clearance tasks, basic monitoring capacities. With a new leadership for the mine action sector in 2005, the government has initiated a series of reforms, including: reform of CMAA management and an increase in funding from the national budget. UNDP support to CMAA includes: policy support, development of a sustainable national framework for explosive ordnance disposal linked to MRE, quality management, monitoring of socio-economic impact of mine action, information management systems. The remaining challenges to address include: cost transparency, independent monitoring of task prioritization and quality assurance, etc. Further information can be obtained directly from the UNDP Country Office: [julien.chevillard@undp.org](mailto:julien.chevillard@undp.org).
6. Several points were discussed under **AOB**: Firstly, General Petroff from **Angola** made a statement in which he explained the current situation regarding the conduct of the impact survey in the remaining 8 provinces in his country. The SAC has suspended its activities in the country as of 31 May 2005. Gen. Petroff mentioned the urgency to keep up working before the coming elections and rainy season. Both UNDP and UNMAS representatives reiterated that they were still fully supporting the process and that the problem was more a question of timing rather than of commitment. Martin Barber mentioned that the certification of the survey could possibly be done on the basis of the 10 provinces surveyed so far, although he hoped that the funds required to complete the work would be available soon.

Sayed Aqa from **UNDP** reported on the "Completion Initiative" and the related activities that took place during the recent intersessional meeting in Geneva. A dinner with ICBL and donors was organized in Geneva and Sayed underlined how important it was to have the ability to demonstrate success in the implementation of the Ottawa Convention, to show to the public and governments alike what has been achieved. The question of how do we define "completion" remains however to be fully answered. In this context, Sayed mentioned that completion does not mean that the international community has to do all the work until the last

mine is cleared, but it has mainly to crack the problem and then make sure that the affected countries have the means and know-how to continue and achieve the task. Sayed compared mine action not to AIDS or malaria, but rather to polio, thus meaning that success is achievable. The idea is to be able to delete a number of countries from the "to do list" in the coming 3-4 years. Sayed will keep the Group posted.

Martin Barber (**UNMAS**) first announced that his successor has finally been found in the person of Mr. Modibo Touré from Mali. The future director of UNMAS has worked since 1990 for UNDP, lastly as UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and Humanitarian Coordinator in Chad (2001-2004) and Ethiopia. M. Barber then introduced and distributed the UNMAS 2004 Report, mentioning that a special effort had been made to streamline reporting information. A briefing on the revised UN mine action policy will be organized during the upcoming humanitarian segment of ECOSOC, most probably on 15 July. Thirdly, M. Barber asked the participants to think about financing the travels of about 10 representatives of affected countries to the CCW Meeting of the Governmental Group of Experts that will take place in Geneva in August (the amount needed would be around \$40'000).

Finally, the Chair mentioned that a successor would be needed for him as well, as Chairman of the MASG. He requested the delegates to "think about it" and announce any interest to him or to the Secretary ASAP. The Chair also mentioned that the dates were still open for the October and November MASG meetings, depending on when the resolution "Assistance in Mine Action" would be dealt with.

The meeting closed at 12.20.

Annex to the Minutes:

## **UNMAS Briefing on Victim Assistance and Data Collection**

### **1. General Victim Assistance**

The UN Inter-Agency Policy on Mine Action and Effective Coordination defines mine/ERW “victims” as:

1. Those who have been injured or killed by a landmine or ERW explosion; and
2. Their families who suffer emotional, social and financial loss and the communities which lose access to land and other resources due to the presence of landmines or ERW.

The UN assists with programmes that address the needs of landmine and ERW victims, preferably as part of national programmes for all disabled people.

In accordance with the sectoral policy on victim assistance, the United Nations aims to:

- § Execute advocacy initiatives in support of the rights of survivors;
- § Promote and support the development of victim assistance initiatives;
- § Assist governments to incorporate re-integration into national plans, and budgets, provide technical assistance and/or mobilise resources;
- § Support the development of a comprehensive system for the collection of casualty data, and coordinate/assist in data analysis;
- § Ensure casualty data are shared and available to inform efforts to provide services to mine and ERW survivors.

Landmine Monitor issued earlier this year recorded more than 42,500 new landmine and UXO casualties from incidents in at least 75 countries from 1999 to September 2004. However, many casualties go unreported and the full number of casualties may be higher. Again, the LMM estimates 15,000 to 20,000 new casualties a year. However, recent trends from Landmine Impact Surveys indicate that the new casualty rates may be considerably lower than that.

It should be noted that while the survivors of other types of injuries may often recuperate within a relatively short time, those of mine and ERW-related causes often suffer life-time disabilities which necessitate long-term care and alternative job training and placement.

### ***Nairobi Summit***

A declaration adopted at the Nairobi Summit in December 2004, urges States Parties to aim for “Zero New Victims” by 2009. At the Survivors Summit, also held at Nairobi in the margins of the Summit, government representatives and survivors made a strong commitment to provide more assistance to survivors and promised that no survivor would be left without rehabilitation and employment.

### ***“Disability Convention”***

UNMAS has been following the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Croatia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Thailand, Sudan, and Yemen have actively participated in the previous Ad Hoc Committees, and we would like to urge more mine-affected States to support the drafting process of the convention.

### ***UN Portfolio of Mine Action-Projects 2005***

66 victim assistance related projects were included in the Portfolio in 2005, with a total budget of US\$17,663,984. Most projects were from Africa, followed by Asia

As at end May, only 22% of budget was covered (US\$3,846,627), leaving a shortfall of US\$ 13,817,357

A large proportion of under-funded projects provide support for the socio-economic reintegration of landmine survivors. UNMAS encourages donors to consider supporting these projects.

## **2. The Data Collection Problem**

### **Why do we need data?**

- Ensure clearance and MRE are targeted at top priority areas
- Monitor whether we are reaching the zero-new-victims goal
- Improve planning and ensure programmes effectively target and benefit the disabled

### **Who collects data?**

- Hospitals and health centres
- National and local registries of mortality
- Local military regarding its own troops
- Humanitarian agencies (ICRC, NGOs, MACCs, UNICEF, WHO)
- Survey Action Centre, VVAF and others (all organized in the Survey Working Group for impact surveys and similar studies)

### **Where do we find the data?**

1. Local data sets collected by trained mine action or health staff, either through a one-time survey ("snapshot"), smaller surveys or active surveillance. Landmine Impact Surveys capture data from affected communities, including casualties.

2. Uncollected, scattered injury data, such as patient or client records at hospitals, health posts, and prosthetic workshops; member data of organizations for the disabled; registration of military casualties; and media reporting.

### **Do we have data collection standards?**

There is no global standard for data collection in this regard.

The Survey Working Group applies standards for the Landmine Impact Survey.

Ad hoc guidance on tools has been issued by WHO, Physicians for Human Rights, and in country-specific programmes, such as Cambodia (with the help of Handicap International Belgium, UNICEF and the Cambodian Red Cross).

### **What casualty data would we need?**

- Incidence rates of mines and ERW-related morbidity and mortality
- Victim assistance information, such as,
  - No. of persons fitted with prostheses or supplied with tricycle
  - %-age of those regularly using mobility devices
  - No. of disabled in socio-economic reintegration programmes

### **Where are data stored?**

There is no global pool of data.

IMSMA (Information Management System for Mine Action – see the GICHD-website for details [www.gichd.ch](http://www.gichd.ch)) seems to be a good starting point. It is currently being used by more than 80% of all mine action programmes worldwide. IMSMA, if properly used, would allow for a comparison of trends between countries and regions.

IMSMA provides two standard forms to register casualties differentiated as: 1) demining victims, and 2) other victims. The form solicits information on personal data, location and time of incident, injuries, trauma care, whether the person had received MRE, information on other casualties during the incident, activity during the incident, device that caused the incident, and whether the area was marked. This form was developed with the assistance of WHO in 2000.

A revised IMSMA (Version 4), to be launched this autumn, will include more fields related to post-incident assistance, such as on socio-economic integration and physical rehabilitation.

### **Challenges and ongoing efforts**

1. Sensitise and train mine action directors/UN advisors, practitioners and Member States on victim assistance, public health aspects, and data collection and analysis. For example, UNICEF and CDC conduct training courses for practitioners on “Field Epidemiology for Mine Action” (FEMAC). Currently, a two-week FEMAC course is held in Sarajevo for practitioners from Central Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Middle East. A lessons learned workshop on victim assistance convened by Handicap International in Paris in May 2004 recommended provision of expertise for national planners involved in long-term planning for persons with disabilities.

2. Develop data collection standards. UNICEF, together with UNMAS, WHO, US-CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), JMU (James Madison University) and NGOs, plan to design a new IMAS-standard on injury surveillance. The HI-F workshop recommended an evaluation of existing data collection tools.<sup>1</sup>

3. Train IMSMA users on new victim assistance forms.

4. Create global data collection pool.

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In closing, to reach Ottawa’s zero-victims and to improve targeting of mine action to the most impacted communities, data collection needs to improve. UNMAS is happy to play a role in promoting this and encourages donors to support this endeavor.

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<sup>1</sup> A full report on the HI workshop can be found on <http://www.handicap-international.org>

## **2. Provisional Agenda MASG Meeting 5 July 2005**

### **MASG Meeting 5 July 2005**

**10am-12pm at the Swiss Mission  
633 Third Avenue, 29th Floor**

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#### **Agenda :**

1. Welcome address by the Chair
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. New draft strategy of the GICHD (Ambassador Stephan Nellen, Director of the GICHD)
4. Thematic Presentations on technologies to improve humanitarian demining:
  - Japan's technologies (Professor Katsuhisa Furuta, Tokyo Denki University and Mr. Takuya Mori, Mitsubishi Research Institute)
  - Technology in mine action (Ian Mansfield, GICHD)
5. Discussion
6. Country Briefing: Mozambique (Sayed Aqa, UNDP)
7. Discussion
8. AOB

### 3. Updates

#### 3.1 Update from UNMAS

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

###### **POLICY COORDINATION**

From 2 to 4 May, all UNMAS programme representatives met in Nairobi, Kenya, together with UNMAS headquarters policy and operational staff to share lessons learned and chart the way ahead.

On 18 May 2005, the IACG-MA convened its regular monthly meeting to discuss the issue of cluster munitions and the drafting of the Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy. Members also discussed the mine and ERW threat in various countries, the new mine action policy of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and were briefed by Geneva Call on its work with non-state actors.

From 18 to 20 May, the UNHCR Emergency Security Service carried out a Mine Action Exhibition in Geneva. The purpose was to raise awareness among UNHCR staff on mines and ERW, to better integrate mine action into UNHCR operational plans, and to improve mine safety awareness among UNHCR staff. The UNMAS Liaison Officer in Geneva and the UNMAS Mine Risk Education officer gave presentations on UN mine action and delivered landmine safety briefings to 100 UNHCR staff. An officer from the UNICEF Landmines and Small Arms team made presentations on mine risk education. Both UNMAS and UNICEF contributed to the event with exhibition displays and documental materials, together with the GICHD, INTERSOS, FSD and Handicap International. The exhibition was opened to the general public and country delegations. NGOs and UN agencies involved in mine action also attended the events.

##### **NEW PLEDGES/EARMARKINGS AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE VTF**

###### **No Pledges/earmarkings.**

###### **Contributions Received:**

09/05/2005	UK	\$555,436	P04-SU06
13/05/2005	Germany	\$794,100	P04-SU09
13/05/2005	Germany	\$300,000	P04-SU08
13/05/2005	Germany	\$249,730	P04-ER09

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

###### **Afghanistan**

Significant security incidents, particularly in the south and southwest of the country, have required the redeployment of operational assets to more secure areas in the north and east of the country. A number of direct attacks have occurred on mine action NGO personnel in recent weeks. On 31 May, an improvised explosive device incident killed two members of the Mine Detection Dog Centre and wounded five others, and earlier this month three other MDC members were killed in an attack. An attack directed at the Mine Clearance Planning Agency resulted in no casualties.

The UNMACA is taking steps to ensure the highest possible levels of security for all members of the programme.

Operations continue elsewhere in a shift to summer locations. The “Mine Action for Peace” activities in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration have been integrated into the UNDP Afghan New Beginnings Programme; support to the ammunition stockpile destruction process continues; new victim assistance projects are commencing; a comprehensive disability survey for Afghanistan is being finalized; and community mobilisation activities are ongoing.

### **Burundi (ONUB)**

The UNMAS Programme Officer for Burundi and Policy Coordination Officer conducted a technical mission to Burundi from 5 to 12 May. A mission report will be issued in June.

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)**

Although the security situation remained tense in Ituri District, Mechem continued mine and ERW clearance activities in support of MONUC, through mine clearance of a deployment site and access road at Mbangwalu. Mechem also proceeded to the demolition of thousands of mines and items of ordnance as part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities. The Mines Advisory Group's quick response team carried out outstanding emergency mine and ERW clearance tasks in Ikela (Equateur), and achieved the demolition of 20 tons of abandoned ammunitions in Gbadolite (Equateur). Danish Church Aid and Handicap International Belgium continued their emergency survey, and conducted mine risk education in northern Katanga and in Kisangani.

In early May, the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, in partnership with MAG, initiated a pilot emergency survey in the Pweto area (Katanga). Funding has been made available by the US Department of State, the EU and Canada, and the aim is to implement emergency surveys within most of the mine suspected areas of the country.

### **UN Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE)**

The Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC) undertook integrated demining operations in the Shilalo region of Sector West. Manual demining elements from the Kenyan demining squadron of the Peacekeeping Force worked with mechanical and dog elements from the commercial contractor, MECHEM. Specialist training of 12 Kenyan deminers and the high priority clearance in a 2 million square metre minefield near Shilalo continued. Clearance operations were supported by mine risk education and explosive ordnance disposal. More than 1,600 people received mine risk education and 561 items of unexploded ordnance were destroyed.

A team from the Norwegian Advisory Council for Disarmament and Security Affairs visited the UNMEE MACC Demining Coordination Centre to view the integrated demining operations.

### **Sudan (UNMIS)**

UNICEF and WFP staff have co-located with the UN Mine Action Office, thus strengthening UN inter-agency coordination. UNMAS and WFP conducted a joint assessment mission in Kassala, in response to a request from the OCHA East Sudan Sustainable Return Task Force. Initial findings indicate emergency needs to conduct demining and mine risk education. The UNMAS sub-office in Kassala for Eastern Sudan lacks survey and clearance capacity that would allow it to respond to requests from agencies and reported incidents.

UNMAS met with the World Bank to discuss infrastructure planning and the need to incorporate a mine action budget given that UNMAS will lack capacity to meet the demining demands for such large-scale development activities.

Activities at the Yei-Juba road continued, with a view to completion in mid-June, thus enabling the land delivery of humanitarian aid and the deployment of equipment and troops for the UN Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS).

The directors of the National Mine Action Office (NMAO) and New Sudan Mine Action Directorate (NSMAD) participated in a workshop on victim assistance in Africa, organised by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration (Norway and Nicaragua).

### **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:

#### **LATIN AMERICA & THE CARRIBEAN**

##### **Colombia**

###### **Key Achievements**

- On 10-11 March the Regional Mine Action Plan for Montes de Maria was launched by the first Regional Mine Action Forum, with participation of 83 representatives from departmental and local government, the United Nations, civil society, and affected communities.
- The training process of 77 Mine Action Community Facilitators from 29 priority municipalities in Antioquia culminated in March. During May, a follow-up process was initiated in the 55 municipalities in Antioquia that included mine action as a priority in the Municipal Development Plans.
- On 27-28 April a “lessons learned” workshop was held in the three UNDP target regions (Montes de Maria, Antioquia, and Meta), identifying key achievements, difficulties, and challenges for 2005. Members of the National Landmine Observatory and the departmental government mine-action teams participated in the workshop.
- On 1-3 June the first Departmental Landmine Survivors Forum was carried out in Antioquia. In total, 165 civilian landmine survivors, including 24 minors and 31 women, received medical and psychological attention from 15 departmental government institutions as well as legal assistance with respect to reparation and rehabilitation processes. The Forum also served as the starting point for the creation of a regional Landmine Survivors Associations.
- On 20 June, UNDP signed a project supporting the work of the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, with emphasis on social mobilization around the issues in the three UNDP target regions.

###### **Key Challenges**

- UNDP continues to refine the strategy for consolidating the National Landmine Observatory as the principal technical and coordinating body for mine action in Colombia.
- To date, no formal decision has been taken by the Colombian Government regarding the verification/quality control process of the road cleared by the ELN guerrilla group in February. There is an urgent need to generate an institutional response to this situation with backing from the relevant international actors and the local community.
- In addition to building institutional capacity, UNDP has identified an urgent need to support and strengthen civil society organizations working with mine action in Colombia. Currently, additional resources pledged for this purpose are being programmed.

###### **Key Objectives**

- Programme additional resources of US\$ 100,000 for strengthening civil society capacity for mine action during 2005-2006.
- Prepare a new cooperation agreement on mine action with the Antioquia department, and design a training program for community mine-action facilitators in Montes de Maria.
- To carry out the follow-up process with municipalities in Antioquia, which includes mine action as a priority within their local development plans, generating specific budget allocations and local government programmes.

## Funding Update

- Through the second phase of the UNDP Reconciliation and Development Programme (REDES), an additional US\$ 70,000 for mine action has been provided by the UNDP Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR). Moreover, the Swedish Development Cooperation (SIDA) has provided an additional US\$ 130,000 for 2005 and 2006 to continue the strengthening of 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 the following: Montes de Maria: US\$ 30,000; Meta: US\$ 40,000; Antioquia: US\$ 30,000.

## AFRICAN REGION

### Angola

#### Key Achievements

- Funding agreements among the European Community (EC), the Government of Angola, and UNDP have recently been finalized. This will support three projects through late 2006 and beyond.
- The consolidation of support to the National Mine Action Authority's capacity at the central and provincial level. This project will focus on capacity building and developing and improving processes and management systems within the National Mine Action Authority (CNIDAH).
- Rapid Response Fund (RRF) for mine action. The RRF will provide mine-action operators (from all pillars) with a rapid response mechanism to meet the emergency needs of vulnerable communities and urgent and unforeseen tasks restricting the development of humanitarian operations. The RRF will provide initial financing, to a maximum value of US\$ 200,000 per project, in support of interventions of less than six months duration.
- Implementation of the Ottawa Convention through the disposal of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines in Angola. This project aims to ensure the country complies with Article 4 of the Ottawa Convention by supporting the identification and destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel (AP) landmines.
- Further, the EC has largely completed a tendering process that provides nationwide financial support for operators conducting comprehensive mine-action activities. The initiative effectively divides the country into five functional regions. The following operators have successfully bid against the project: HALO Trust, InterSOS, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and Menschen gegen Minen (People Against Mines, MGM). A fifth region is in the process of being re-tendered, as no suitable partner was found in the initial tender process.

#### Key Challenges

- The Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) is 70 percent complete, but stalled due to a lack of funding. The Survey Action Center (SAC) has suspended operations since 31 May. CNIDAH is in the process of seeking partial certification from UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) for the 10 of 18 provinces that have been completed, and it is exploring methods of completing the LIS process for provinces that are partially surveyed and those that remain to be addressed. This represents a significant set back, and will have a flow effect on the national strategic planning process.

## **Funding Update**

- The SAC has identified a need for US\$ 800,000 to complete the survey process, and has indicated that funding may be available in October 2005. Unfortunately, this date coincides with the onset of the wet season.

## **Eritrea**

### **Key Achievements**

- Training of an additional 120 manual deminers is currently planned for this June, which will give Eritrean Demining Operations (EDO) an additional six teams. However, training cannot take place until the Government of Eritrea returns vehicles belonging to the EDO and the Eritrean Demining Authority (EDA), which have been impounded due to a pending fuel crisis.
- The Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) review inputs to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have been finalized. These included only three high-priority projects: emergency demining for the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs), mine-risk education (MRE), and revitalization of the prosthetic centers.
- The National Mine Action Strategic Plan is under review, while the Eritrean Demining Authority (EDA) is struggling to maintain current capacity.
- Follow-up continues regarding a proposal of US\$ 500,000 through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to provide an "integrated demining capacity" for EDA. Again, this proposal is on hold until the present vehicle situation is resolved.
- The Mine Action Capacity Building Programme (MACBP) is now conducting a 100-percent quarterly inventory check of all assets and equipment handed to EDA/EDO for right of use. (It is on hold until the present vehicle situation is resolved.)
- MRE teams from EDO and the Mine Action Coordination Center (MACC) have been trained in implementation of the victim support referral system. This is a simple procedure whereby MRE teams, while visiting communities, can refer the requirements of mine victims/disabled persons to a central data system. This information can then be followed up by community-based rehabilitation (CBR).

### **Key Objectives**

- Produce programme/schedule to train and equip 120 manual deminers (6 teams) during June/July.
- Continue negotiations with the Government of Eritrea for the release of the impounded vehicles.

### **Key Challenges**

- Continue to assist EDA/EDO to mobilize transportation to commence mine-clearance operations. All mine clearance operations have been suspended until vehicles are returned. A review has been scheduled to resolve the issue.

## **Funding Update**

- MACBP has received a pledge from Norway of 50 million Norwegian Krona to be disbursed over the five-year period of the National Mine Action Strategic Plan. This equates to approximately US\$ 7.5 million or about US\$ 1.5 million per year.

## ASIA PACIFIC REGION

### Cambodia

#### **Key Achievements**

- The Cambodian Government has initiated reform measures to strengthen the capacities of the Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA). In the first phase of this reform, the Prime Minister announced that the annual contribution of the national budget to CMAA would increase from 300 million riel to 800 million riel (US\$ 200,000). Furthermore, government decisions on the reform of CMAA management and structure are expected by the end of June 2005.
- The Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) productivity figure for mine clearance in the first three months of 2005 is 75 percent over target (5.3 million square meters), thanks to a number of management reforms towards better cost-efficiency. CMAC is now functioning with minimal technical assistance and able to compete with international mine-action operators.
- Provincial Mine Action Committees (PMAC) and Mine Action Planning Units (MAPU) have been established in affected provinces to identify and prioritize mine-clearance tasks on the basis of local and provincial development plans (integration of Mine Action and Development).

#### **Key Challenges**

- Decreasing levels of donor support to mine action in Cambodia, despite recent reforms in the management of the sector and improvements in overall productivity. Cambodia remains one of the three most mine-affected countries in the world.

#### **Key Objectives**

- In line with the December 2004 Joint Donor Review of the Mine Action Sector, the Royal Government of Cambodia has recently requested donors to work on a pooled funding mechanism that will allocate mine-clearance funds to national and provincial priority mine-clearance tasks (defined through a decentralized, bottom-up planning process) on the basis of competitive bidding. UNDP has initiated work on this concept, in consultation with the government and donor partners. If approved, this new funding modality could be operational in early 2006. Anticipated advantages include: better alignment and linkages with national development plans and programmes, economies of scale on project management and quality assurance costs, better cost transparency (standard costing method), and stronger focus on results (rather than inputs).
- The CMMA is currently developing a national mine-action website, including information on national strategies and plans, status of mine-action activities, landmine/unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination, and the legal framework for mine action. The website should be accessible within the next two months.

#### **Funding Update**

- Despite CMAC's progress over the past year with regard to management and cost-efficiency, the UNDP Trust Fund in support to CMAC operations is still facing a US\$ 1 million shortfall. Some activities will have to be suspended in the second half of 2005, if this shortfall cannot be addressed in a timely manner. CMAC currently plans to clear 16 square kilometers this year.

- Funding is being sought for the new funding mechanism for mine clearance, described above.
- Expected shortfall for the current year is US\$ 3 million.

## **Sri Lanka**

### **Key Achievements**

- In consultation with the National Steering Committee for Mine Action (NSCMA) UNDP Mine Action conducted and helped coordinate technical assessments on the tsunami's effect on landmines and UXO; provided humanitarian agencies with mined area and general maps to assist with relief operations; and assisted in transport of relief items.
- Assisted the government agents and stakeholders to review priorities and to set new district work plans and complete a project work plan for 2005. This was enhanced by the innovation of joint survey teams, which include all agencies in a district and which identify and discredit dangerous areas or identify any mined areas that have not been previously recorded.
- Launched a re-design and audit of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database.
- Assisted the government as it integrates mine action into its report on the UN's Millennium Development Goals and its national development and reconstruction projects.
- Provided technical support to drafting the government's report in conformity with Article 7 of the Ottawa Convention.
- Undertook advocacy activities through the Landmine Ban Advocacy Forum (LBAF). Funded the construction of a website for the LBAF, which advocates for a ban on the use of AP mines and acts as an information dissemination tool.

### **Key Objectives**

- Efficiently support field operations with significant donor funds that have been mobilized in the past year.
- Complete IMSMA audit and a thorough clean up of the system through UNDP technical staff and joint survey teams.
- Support the government in accrediting mine-action agencies and publishing Edition 2 of Sri Lanka National Mine Action Standards.
- Complete and update district work plans throughout affected areas.

### **Key Challenges**

- One of the main challenges posed early this year was the tsunami, which hit almost the entire length of Sri Lanka's coast on 26 December 2004, killing over 40,000 people, destroying or damaging houses, hotels, infrastructure (roads, rail lines, electricity pylons), and changing the landscape of many of the coastal districts. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced. The tsunami exerted pressure on UNDP resources as a whole; and it put mine action off-track, especially in the Batticaloa district, where the district work plan was delayed by three months.
- A lack of permanent peace in the country has slowed mine-clearance efforts and undermined efforts to get the conflicting parties to endorse the ban on anti-personnel landmines.

### **Funding Update**

- The project did not face any funding shortfalls during the last six months.

## **EUROPE & THE CIS REGION**

### **Albania**

#### **Key Achievements**

- The worldwide charity event, The Night of a Thousand Dinners, was hosted in February by the US and Dutch embassies in Tirana. More than 40 individuals from the Albanian Government, the international community, Albanian businesses, and NGOs attended the event and donated over US\$ 10,000 in support of the medical treatment of sight-impaired mine victims and for the educational reintegration of child victims.
- A Prostheses Support Center was established in the Kukes Regional Hospital in March to support the repair and maintenance of prostheses for mine/UXO victims.
- UNDP and Danish Church Aid-Action Churches Together (DCA-Act) signed a contract in March for the restart of the Technical Survey and Clearance Project, funded by the European Commission.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and the Ministry of Defense was signed in April whereby the Ministry will donate explosive materials, logistic support, and medical evacuation services (including helicopter) on behalf of mine-clearance activities.
- The first meeting of the Albanian Mine Action Committee (AMAC) for 2005 was held June 7. Among those participating were a variety of international organizations and donor representatives as well representatives from various ministries.

#### **Key Objectives**

- To conduct a Mine Action National Workshop with the involvement of all stakeholders to formulate the exit strategy of the Albanian Mine Action Programme and to discuss the National Humanitarian Demining Law.
- Formulation and presentation of the Humanitarian Demining Law in Albania.
- Release through clearance and impact and technical surveys another 1 million square meters of mine contaminated land.
- Increase, through the Albanian Mine Action Committee, the support and concrete contribution of the various ministries to the Mine Action Programme.

#### **Key Challenges**

- Approval and ratification of the Humanitarian Demining Law.
- Inclusion of the Mine Action Programme in the government budget.

#### **Funding Update**

<b>Components</b>	<b>Total budget 2005 (US\$)</b>	<b>Shortfall</b>
Coordination and Monitoring	500,000	0
Clearance Operations	3,520,000	350,000
Mine Risk Education	159,290	0
Victim Assistance	980,000	255,000

## **Armenia**

### **Key Achievements**

- A Landmine Impact Survey is being conducted in the Tavoush region of Armenia. According to expert opinion, there are 28 communities suspected of having hazardous areas in this particular region.
- The Vietnam Veterans of American Foundation (VVAF) operations officer for Iraq visited the Armenia Mine Action Programme to support the field operation.
- The UNDP Resident Representative has informed the Prime Minister in writing of the necessity to establish an inter-agency committee to oversee mine action at the country level.

### **Key Objectives**

- Completion of the LIS field data collection in July 2005 and initiation of data analyses and reporting, which will be supported by VVAF technical expertise.

### **Funding Update**

- The number of suspected and/or contaminated communities has increased as the list is being regularly updated. This increases the number of field trips, originally not scheduled and budgeted.

## **Azerbaijan**

### **Key Achievements**

- Beginning with the 2005 school year, MRE will be integrated into the school curriculum of 13 districts in mine-affected areas.
- On 20 May the first model of the Slovakia-produced medium flail BOZENA-5 mechanical demining machine (MDM) was delivered to Azerbaijan. In contrast with the BOZENA-4 already operational, this machine has a more powerful engine, wider flail, and is twice as productive.
- Following a two-week training course for MDM operators and technical staff in Horadiz, BOZENA-5 have been put in operation and during the next few months will contribute clearance operations in the area.
- The procurement of this new demining asset is fully supported by the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) strategy for the development of a national mechanical demining capacity and Work Plan 2005. It is funded by the European Commission and UNDP, with administrative support provided by the Government of Azerbaijan.
- A third 29-man ANAMA demining team has been recruited, trained, and certified, and is currently fully operational. Establishment of this new team has been funded by the US Department of State through RONCO Consulting Corporation.
- ANAMA has received eight new mine-detection dogs (MDD), donated by the US Department of State within bilateral cooperation between the Government of Azerbaijan and the United States. The RONCO Consulting Corporation, in collaboration with ANAMA, conducted integration training for the MDDs and eight new local handlers.
- An active Mine Victims Assistance (MVA) Working Group, consisting of governmental and nongovernmental organizations, is coordinating different areas of assistance to landmine survivors under ANAMA supervision

## **Key Objectives**

- Begin implementation of an ANAMA-NATO joint project on UXO clearance in Saloglu village of Agstafa district. In February, all efforts designed to facilitate the Saloglu project were put into action in NATO Headquarters, Turkey, the lead nation of the project, signed a Financial Management Agreement at a special ceremony with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and representatives of contributing countries.
- The military ammunition warehouse located in Agstafa, consisting of 138 bunkers, was the largest Soviet warehouse in the South-Caucasus region. When Azerbaijan obtained its independence in 1991 the warehouse was destroyed and the resulting explosion scattered thousands of pieces of unexploded ordnances over a large area. The contamination continues to pose a serious humanitarian, socio-economic, and environmental threat to the local population. Since the explosion, 147 UXO-related accidents have been reported and 28 people have died. The UNDP office in Azerbaijan has officially stated its intention of contributing to the Saloglu clearance project.
- Continue integration of MRE into school curriculums in mine-affected areas of Azerbaijan
- Implement Mine Victims Assistance projects based on the assessment survey of victims' needs.
- Procure technical equipment for accurate field measurements.
- Deploy the RHINO demining machine in Azerbaijan with the cooperation of the Night Vision Laboratory of the US Department of State.

## **Key Challenges**

- Clearance and verification of 2,500 hectares within a limited timeframe for the settlement of more than 2,100 IDP families in Fizuli district according to the State Programme on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.
- Delay in implementation of MVA projects due to lack of funds.

## **Funding Update**

- The European Commission is expected to contribute €1 million for MRE, MVA, and fencing and marking activities. We anticipate receiving funding in early July 2005.

## **Tajikistan**

### **Key Achievements**

- Thanks to the prompt payment of contributions by Norway and Canada, two clearance teams and three survey teams were able to undertake refresher training prior to the start of the 2005 demining season.
- UNICEF has deployed an expatriate consultant to support MRE in Tajikistan.
- Sixteen demining medics were trained and the Swiss Foundation selected 12 for employment for Mine Action (FSD). These medics are now deployed in the field in support of operational demining teams.
- Since the start of the 2005 demining season on May 2004, FSD teams have cleared 7,247 square meters of ground; 17 AP mines and 56 sub-munitions have been located and destroyed; and 69 villages have been the subject of General Mine Action Assessment (GMAA) surveys.

## **Key Objectives**

- Complete production of a new mine-action film about mine survivors and living with landmines.
- FSD/EOD technicians will destroy 80 pieces of UXO collected and held in storage at Vanj by internal security forces.
- Completion of basic deminer training for one survey team and two mine-clearance teams.
- FSD instructors will provide EOD training for 12 team leaders before the end of the 2005 demining season.

## **Key Challenges**

- The primary challenges to the Tajikistan mine-action program are money, weather, and time. In the mountainous regions of Central Asia, winter comes early, springtime is short, and summer is very hot. Such conditions mean that mine clearance may only occur during five or six months each year.
- When funds arrive late it means that procurement, training, and deployment are all delayed, with subsequent knock-on effects to field operations. Most program funds have been delayed this year, and this has had a very significant effect on the productivity and cost-effectiveness of our operations.
- Obtain minefield records from former combatants and complete the LIS survey of the Afghan border.
- Win recognition for Tajikistan national mine action through the UNDP Completion Initiative.

## **Funding Update**

- Training facilities. Approximately US\$ 300,000 is required to fund the refurbishment of classroom, barracks, and storage facilities to allow training of deminers and others involved in the national program as well as dog kennels for use in the planned MDD project. Despite early positive indications from the United States, no funds have been forthcoming so far and this project is suspended until a donor can be identified.
- Mine-detection dogs. A plan to enhance the productivity of survey and clearance teams through the joint deployment of MDD teams has yet to be implemented due to lack of funds. Approximately US\$ 400,000 is still sought to initiate this postponed project during next years' demining season.
- Funding pledges by potential donors have not always translated into punctual or expeditious contributions during 2005, and this has had considerable effect on field operations. Plans to increase our existing three clearance teams and three survey teams to four each have not fully materialized because funds, primarily to purchase equipment, have not been forthcoming. For example:
  - o Survey team ERT 4 remains untrained and without equipment due to a €92,000 shortfall.
  - o Clearance teams MAT 3 and 4 are so far untrained and unfielded due to late contributions from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (€360,000, paid in June) and the EC (€700,000 paid in May)

### **3.3 Update from UNICEF**

#### **Ethiopia**

The Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO), with assistance from UNICEF, conducted training for all mine risk education (MRE) partners in monitoring and evaluation. The training was designed to be very practical, with the participants fully involved in the training and also completing practical exercises to ensure that the theory was reinforced and practiced. A consultant will commence work with the EMAO to establish a monitoring system within the MRE section of the office. Based on the project's results, the consultant may continue and work with the other MRE partners.

The results of the recent MRE evaluation have been released to the MRE partners in Ethiopia. Once the partners have had the opportunity to review and consult on the results, it will be released to the US Department of State who funded the evaluation and to other MRE partners throughout the world to share lessons learned and experiences.

MRE activities continue in mine-affected villages with increased participation by the affected communities due to the work of the rehabilitation task forces. The local NGO Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO) continues to monitor and advise the regional governments on managing the MRE projects. The handover process has succeeded in the Tigray region with the regional government agency, the Office for Rehabilitation and Social Affairs (ORSA), fully taking ownership and responsibility of the MRE project. This has not yet been the case in the neighbouring region of Afar, due to the need for the further development of capacity of government counterparts.

#### **Russia – North Caucasus**

##### **Mine Risk Education**

During the reporting period, UNICEF's partner, the Voice of the Mountains (VoM), continued to provide training to the newly-established MRE focus group in Gudermesskiy district, as well as training on data gathering for the 15 new 'letter-boxes' established, with the financial support from the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO). The aim of the data gathering is to ensure a comprehensive monitoring of mine/UXO-related incidents affecting civilians.

The focus group in Shalinskiy district initiated MRE presentations involving local religious leaders. With the support of the focus groups, UNICEF also distributed 3,450 MRE leaflets, 270 posters, 820 MRE fairy-tales, 30 pens, 1,180 Survivor's Stories and 6 T-shirts (produced with financial support from ECHO). In addition, over 500 schoolchildren at Grozny's secondary school number 47 attended MRE drama presentations that were conducted by the professional actors of the State Chechen Drama Theatre, with the financial support from the Dutch and UK National Committees for UNICEF. The interactive drama performances received a very positive feed-back from the children and teachers involved.

##### **Data Gathering**

One mine/UXO incident in Grozny was reported by the 'letter-box' established in Grozny. On 30 May, a 25 year-old man died as a result of an antitank mine explosion near the former Sheripova petroleum refinery on the outskirts of the city. UNICEF also supported, in cooperation with specialists from Bauman Moscow State Technical University, the training of two database specialists from VoM in Microsoft Access 2003. The new knowledge will allow VoM to further improve the IMSMA (Information Management System for Mine Action) database, which was installed in September 2001 and has been managed by UNICEF, through VoM.

##### **Survivor Assistance**

UNICEF continues to provide physical rehabilitation, psycho-social assistance and vocational training opportunities for mine/UXO-affected children. In this context, 26 children received

treatment in the UNICEF-supported Republican Clinical Hospital, while 25 young disabled girls acquired tailoring skills in a workshop established by UNICEF through the Society for the Disabled, with the financial support of Canada.