

MASG

Mine Action Support Group Newsletter

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

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1. Unofficial Minutes: MASG-Meeting 19 January 2005

1. The introduction by the Chair of the two special guests, Heidi Kühn, founder of “Roots of Peace” and Nahela Hadi, executive director of Adopt-a-Minefield, was followed by the adoption of the agenda. Then, John Flanagan (**UNMAS**) briefed the MASG on the programme in Afghanistan. The presentation focused on the current situation, key activities, transition and future support (*see presentation in this Newsletter*). The Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) that covers 2336 impacted communities will be completed during the month of February 2005. The results will flow into the strategic planning process led by the Afghan government. UNMAS also pointed out the importance of stockpile destruction activities, and the Mine Action for Peace project, a community based reintegration initiative aimed at assisting in the reintegration of over 7000 former combatants. The major activity in the year 2005 in the Afghan mine action program is the transition during which responsibilities are transferred to national authorities.
2. In the discussion that followed, the representative from the **UK** asked what strategies were in place for mine risk awareness. According to UNMAS there is a integrated program with UNICEF. There is a community based training, as well as BBC broadcasts on the radio. Through the LIS updates the areas of highest risk are pointed out. A new strategy is being elaborated in the framework of the whole strategic planning process. The **Netherlands** were interested to learn about the challenges for the future and the gaps in funding. According to UNMAS, the challenges are mainly capacity-building. The funding gaps will be much clearer after the month of February, however, sustainable funding is needed for the Mine Action for Peace project, the clearance, as well as the maintenance of the survey process. According to UNDP, one of the main challenges lie in retaining qualified personnel. Training and a reasonable pay structure is needed, otherwise there is a constant danger that qualified personnel joins better-paying commercial firms. Mr. Bâzel, the DPR of **Afghanistan**, underlined the importance of the transition process and the overall goal of development. According to Mr. Bâzel, the overall security situation is much better than 3 years ago. In his main message, Mr. Bâzel appealed to the donors to always consider the mine problem when pledging funds for reconstruction or development projects. Very often additional resources have to be allocated because of the mine problem.
3. Stacy Bernard Davis from the **US State Department** gave a short introduction on the thematic topic of the day, Public-private Partnerships. The public sector – governments and international organizations like the United Nations – joins with the private sector – concerned individuals, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations, corporations and educational groups – to work together on specific projects or use the credibility of the public partner to expand their network of involved citizens for a good cause. The United States Government would like to see this partnership program grow worldwide and is willing to work with any government that is interested to bring such a program to its country. On the U.S. partnership program: The US launched the “Demining 2010 Initiative” in late 1997. A special cell was created in the Department of State to handle the outreach and partnership effort. Starting with a handful of partners in 1998, the US now have over 40 partners from foundations, civic groups, service organizations, educational groups and NGOs such as Roots of Peace and Adopt-a-Minefield. The connection to the Department of State can open doors for the partners and add credibility to an organization’s efforts to attract donors to their programs. The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement is planning a small workshop for the partners from 9-11

February 2005 to assess the partnership program and chart the way ahead. The Department of State challenged all the donors represented in the MASG to create a group – between now and the reinforced MASG in November – to organize a private engagement activity – in Europe perhaps, or in Asia.

4. Heidi Kühn, founder of **“Roots of Peace”** explained the history and goals of her organization: She started Roots of Peace (RoP) in 1997 in her living room in honor of Princess Diana's memory. The roots of RoP are in the heart of California's grape growing region. RoP enjoyed early support from Californian vintners such as Mondavi and Grgich in its goal of turning "Mines into Vines." It also counts on the long-term support of Diane Disney Miller. The mission of RoP is to demine, replant and rebuild post-conflict countries. RoP works to rid the world of landmines and other remnants of war by transforming minefields into farmland. Projects are being undertaken in Croatia (since 1999), Cambodia (converting minefields to rice fields thanks to donations by ChevronTexaco), Iraq (wheat) and Afghanistan (since 2002). The Afghanistan project is the flagship project of RoP. RoP focuses its efforts on removing landmines and UXOs from the Shomali Plain, a region that once produced over 70 varieties of table grapes, and helping restore the nation's table grape industry. RoP is one of the biggest private donors in Afghanistan where it maintains offices in Kabul with a staff of 63 and three construction crews of around sixty employees. RoP is starting a project in Angola, where land is to be cleared for a variety of crops. RoP is also undertaking an ambitious project to clear mines from a wildlife sanctuary in southern Africa. An estimated 120,000 elephants are no longer able to follow their historic migration trails due to the scourge of landmines in Angola.
5. Nahela Hadi, executive director of **Adopt-a-Minefield (AAM)** gave an overview of the organization's activities with a special focus on Afghanistan. AAM was established in 1998 to engage civil society by four founding partners: UNA-USA (Parent Organization), Better World Fund (Fiscal partner providing core support via match), US Department of State, UNDP. AAM raises funds for mine clearance through outreach and events. Funds for 5 of 6 country programs are forwarded to UNDP for use in the field. The campaign raises awareness and funds for mine clearance and survivor assistance in Bosnia, Croatia, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Cambodia and Mozambique. AAM raised to date \$11.7 million through grassroot activities (39%), government funding (29%) and celebrity/high end events (39%). The totality of the funds raised by AAM goes to the UN and other partners in the field. AAM organizes an annual benefit in Los Angeles hosted by Paul McCartney and Heather Mills McCartney, that has raised \$3.9 million since 2001. Another AAM activity is the annual night of a thousand dinners, where over 3,500 dinners are held in nearly 30 countries. Through this channel almost \$4 million have been raised. For Afghanistan, over \$2.5 million were raised for mine clearance and survivor assistance, and over 14 mill sq. meters cleared. AAM changed its approach from Adopt-A-Minefield to Adopt-A-Team in Afghanistan after September 11. Clearance Partners in Afghanistan are: UNMACA, Mine Dog Center, OMAR, ATC and for Survivor Assistance: Comprehensive Disabled Afghans Programme, Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal. Corporate donors include; Chase Manhattan Bank, Bear Stearns, Pfizer and The Prudential with donations ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000. AAM has a personalized approach with partners and gives them (if they wish) feedback on what happened to the minefield they helped clear with their donation. AAM has Partner Campaigns in UK, Canada and Sweden.

6. In the discussion following the two presentations on partnerships, **Austria** made sure that the implementation of the projects in the field is being undertaken by specialists. **Germany** applauded both initiatives and pointed out the positive effects that these partnerships have on capacity-building and ownership. **Canada** was interested to know what the role of the government was. The **US** replied that the government steers partners towards where it sees gaps. It can direct them to an area where there is not enough attention. On the other hand, the government cannot express preferences. The **UK** asked how RoP and AAM decide on the countries where they are becoming involved. **AAM** identifies the countries together with the UN, because an infrastructure is needed in a particular country, so that donors can be provided with reports on the use of their funds. **RoP** also consults with UNMAS and UNDP on the choice of countries. The **Chair** inquired whether it was easier to raise funds for certain countries. According to **AAM**, the focus on Afghanistan and Iraq didn't help in raising funds for other countries. AAM however targets donors specifically, because one umbrella approach to raise funds does not work. Ilene Cohn from **UNMAS** asked the question about ethical policies, what funds to accept. **AAM** has the policy of not accepting funds from the tobacco, weapons and hard alcohol industries. They also respect the lifestyle of their patrons Mr. and Mrs. McCartney who are vegetarians. The **US** has ethical lawyers to study the sources of funding. Multinationals are encouraged to engage in corporate social responsibility. **UNDP** specified that the reporting from the field is more detailed and demanding if donors want to track funds. However existing structures and mechanisms are being used to identify funding priorities, as well as existing implementing partners and existing coordination mechanisms. The representative from **Afghanistan** thanked RoP and AAM for their efforts and underlined the importance of assisting the survivors of landmines and of reintegrating them into society.
7. Under AOB, **UNMAS** gave for the first time a monthly update on funding needs (*a chart was handed out to this effect*) with prioritization. Donors were asked to feed back and let UNMAS know where funding data was missing. Unfortunately 12 Portfolio coordinators had not reported back in time. Martin Barber also gave a short update on the Sudan fieldtrip: the number of participants from the MASG should be limited to 10 because of internal flight arrangements. UNMAS will prepare a more detailed program but donors were asked to flag their interest as soon as possible. **Germany** said the timing for a fieldtrip to Sudan was very good and that a MASG meeting on Sudan should be foreseen after the trip.

The meeting was closed at 12:15 p.m.

2. UNMAS Country Briefing on Afghanistan

Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan



MASG Briefing: 19 January 2005

Current Situation

- 8,500+ mine action personnel now working
- 20 implementing partners



- **Need to fully integrate development tasks**



- **Increased focus on capacity development**



- Need to adapt to the security environment





AFGHANISTAN

Key Activities

- **Landmine Impact Survey**
 - **2,336 impacted communities**
 - **100 casualties a month**



AFGHANISTAN

Key Activities

- **Landmine Impact Survey**
 - **2,336 impacted communities**
 - **100 casualties a month**
- **Strategic Planning Process**

•Stockpile Destruction





•Mine Action for Peace



AFGHANISTAN

Transition

- **Mine Action Consultative Group**
 - **Task Force on Transition**
- **Legislative framework developed**
- **Joint and integrated UN approach**
- **Linked to capacity development**
- **Requires sustainability**

AFGHANISTAN

Future Support

- **Significant partnerships exist**



•Increasing development role



AFGHANISTAN

Future Support

- **Significant partnerships exist**
- **Increasing development role**
- **Requirement for sustainable funding**







3. Unofficial Minutes: MASG-Meeting 8 February 2005

1. After a brief welcoming remark of the Chair (Ambassador Peter Maurer), Mohammad Younous from UNDP presented the Iraq programme (*see complete presentation in this Newsletter*). The Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contamination throughout Iraq is one of the heaviest in the world: The total affected area is estimated to be 727 square kilometers mine affected, 6,370 square kilometers of border minefields, and 851 square kilometers UXO/battle affected. The UN mine action support in Iraq aims at providing comprehensive management and technical support to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) that was established in July 2003 with US funding. In 2004 the UN provided complimentary support to the US efforts through targeted training and promoting south-south cooperation through an exchange with Yemen. The NMAA developed, among other achievements, a strategic mine action plan, which will be adapted once the Landmine Impact Survey (funded by the US DoS) is being completed. The US DoS continues to provide operational support to the NMAA and a number of local/international operators. DoS and UNDP are both funding technical advisors positions.

The role of the UN for 2005 and beyond is:

- Provide institutional, management and technical advisory support to NMAA
- Develop 4 national mine action NGOs [one is currently being developed through contract with DDG]
- Support, fund specific mine action projects
- Support NMAA advocacy campaign

UN Priorities for the 2005 that are not funded yet:

- One-year extension of LIS team leader
- Institutional development and support to NMAA
- Develop MRE and VA capacities
- Extension of Mine Tech International (MTI) contract
- Development of local NGO No. 2; expansion of local NGO No. 1 (and, later on, of No. 2)

2. In the discussion that followed, UNDP specified that the two local NGOs that are being developed focus on mine clearance. UNDP's involvement in victim assistance is mainly done through capacity-building of the ministry of health. The representative of the **US** DoS confirmed that UNDP was a good partner for the US and that mine action was a success story in Iraq. He emphasized that now, after the elections, was the time to invest in mine action in Iraq, for the following reasons: there are existing capacities (as a consequence of the longstanding UNOPS program in the North) and good equipment (through US investment of 80 million US\$), a national planning authority and national ownership (the Iraqi government is investing 20 million US\$ in the program). Thus, donors will see an immediate return of their investments. **Canada** enquired whether Iraq was joining the Ottawa Convention any time soon. According to UNDP, the Iraqi government is convinced to join, and is assisted by the UN in terms of advocacy. The **Chair** enquired about the security situation and about the funding, whether the Iraqis couldn't pay even more for mine action than they already do. **UNDP** agreed that there are security risks, but that the teams working in the field did not encounter more risks than other humanitarian actors. Concerning the funding, UNDP replied that the share of the government was already very impressive (besides Croatia that is fully financing its program, Iraq is second). Additional funding might come from other ministries, as a result of mainstreaming. Italy and the EU are the major donors of UNDP. Martin Barber, Director of **UNMAS**, gave an overview of the Portfolio status concerning the Iraq program (*that chart was distributed separately*). **Japan** was interested to know what was needed in Iraq in a longer-term perspective. According to **UNDP**

the funding-needs are for: a) capacity-building; b) establishment of local NGOs; c) specific projects (clearance, MRE, etc.).

Turning towards the thematic focus of the day, Sayed Aqa from UNDP highlighted that landmines were a significant problem in the North of Iraq, but that in the Center and the South ERW were the biggest problem. Asked by the **Chair**, whether you needed different partners to address each issue, Sayed Aqa replied that the principles, the planning strategies and the technical expertise were the same for both problems.

A representative from **Norway** was inquiring about the termination of the UNOPS Mine Action Program that was established in 1997 in northern Iraq within the framework of the Oil-for-Food Programme. The representative of **UNOPS** promised to make the terminal report available to the MASG (*this report is being distributed separately*).

3. Peter Herby from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) presented the issue of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW):

- **Problem and trends:** ERW, encompassing unexploded ordnance (UXO) and abandoned ordnance (AXO), have been a by-product of nearly every armed conflict in modern times. Today an estimated 84 countries are confronting the long-term problems caused by ERW, some still many years after the end of the hostilities. For example, Poland still clears ERW dating back to the Second World War. Other heavily affected countries include Laos, Afghanistan and Iraq (UXO and AXO). Different studies such as the ICRC study on Kosovo and the HRW study on Iraq show that the civilian casualties inflicted by ERW can be much higher than those inflicted by landmines. While the international community has made significant progress in reducing the suffering caused by landmines, the problem of unexploded ordnance (UXO) has grown in the past few decades, especially with the proliferation of systems for delivering large quantities of munitions such as cluster bombs. Cluster bombs can deliver tens of thousands of submunitions over large areas in a very short time. Unexploded submunitions, where used, have caused a disproportionate part of the ERW problem (1/3 in some contexts) and can cause a disproportionate percentage of the UXO-related casualties which occur after the fighting. UXO often look harmless to civilians, when in fact they are lethal and unstable explosives, capable of detonating if touched or disturbed.
- **Resource implications:** Each new conflict adds to the burden and diverts existing resources. The proliferation of weapons capable of delivering huge amounts of explosive ordnance across great distances means that the problem is becoming more and more acute. The resources implications are enormous; resources will become increasingly inadequate (relevance to the MASG!).
- **Relevant rules of International Humanitarian Law:** Until the adoption of Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW, in November 2003) there have been no rules of humanitarian law that clearly outline responsibility for ERW. However the relevant general principles include the prohibition of attacks that cannot distinguish between military and civilian targets. It is forbidden to launch attacks which cause damage to the civilian population which is disproportionate to the military (proportionality). Parties to a conflict are also obliged to take all feasible precautions to protect civilian populations.

- **Responses to date:** The CCW's Protocol V on ERW provides a legally binding framework for post-conflict remedial action. The Protocol's key pillars are:
 - a) Clearance responsibility;
 - b) Information provision: record and share information with organizations engaged in clearance activities (e.g. targeted locations, numbers used, type and nature of explosive ordnance)
 - c) Prevention (only voluntary best practices on correct production, storage, handling, transport, training, reliability etc.)

Concerning existing ERW, there is a provision that each State Party has the right to seek assistance from other States Parties, non-party States and international organizations in dealing with the problems posed by ERW in its territory. The Protocol does not contain weapon-specific requirements.

- **Ratification and Entry into Force:** The ICRC urges all States to ratify Protocol V as a matter of urgency. Of the 20 ratifications required for the Protocol to enter into force, only 4 ratifications have been deposited (Croatia, Lithuania, Sierra Leone, Sweden). The ICRC is promoting ratification of the Protocol by providing ratification kits. The goal is to get to 20 ratifications by the end of 2005.
- **Cluster bombs and other submunitions:** Although Protocol V is an important development of the international humanitarian law, the specific problems caused by cluster bombs and other types of submunitions still need to be comprehensively addressed. The ICRC proposed the prohibition of targeting civilian areas due to problems of accuracy and high failure rates. This would be an application of the general rule prohibiting indiscriminate attacks and is similar to the prohibition of the use of incendiary weapons in concentrations of civilians (Protocol III). In November 2003 the "Cluster Munition Coalition" was launched. Also, in the framework of the CCW, discussions on submunitions are ongoing.

4. In the ensuing discussion, the representative from the DoS confirmed that the **US** was currently working through the ratification process of Protocol V. As far as the information-sharing is concerned there is a positive trend, according to the US: it took one year to start in Kosovo, months to start in Afghanistan and hours to start and weeks to complete in Iraq. The reliability rate for new submunitions is an important issue for the US. Cluster munitions represent only a small portion of the ERW in the field, the real problem (according to the US) is the cold war ordnance that still lingers in warehouses. Agnes Marcaillou from **DDA** stated that the compliance with IHL (especially regarding the protection of civilians) was at the center of the problem. If everybody were respecting IHL, Protocol V would not be necessary. And this despite the fact that the weapons-design has evolved and one didn't think of ERW in advance. Martin Barber from **UNMAS** pointed to the fact that unlike the ICRC, some campaigners view cluster ammunition as indiscriminate by nature and illegal under IHL. They advocate that cluster ammunition should be banned. As a second comment, Martin Barber noted that mines other than APM were next on the CCW-agenda. Wouldn't cluster ammunition deter attention from this track? In **ICRC's** view, submunitions can't be treated as one weapon, as one category, banning them as such would be an oversimplification. One subcategory however lends itself to indiscriminate use. Thus, according to the ICRC, the use of submunitions should be prohibited in populated areas. As far as the discussions in the CCW are concerned, ICRC considers anti-vehicle mines (AVM) and submunitions as two separate tracks with a different pace. Thus states can address both. While the negotiations concerning AVM are riper and more advanced (there is a proposition for a protocol on the table), there is yet no mandate for negotiation for submunitions. **Switzerland** advocates a minimum reliability rate of 98% for submunitions. However, the reliability is difficult to define. There are no standardized procedures for the testing of submunitions; they vary from country to country. Ammunition has also a different behavior in testing and battlefield situations. The reliability rate is being discussed in the GGE. Mohammad Yunus from **UNDP** gave his personal view on the reliability rate. From his own experience in Afghanistan he knows that people in communities prefer a higher failure

rate. For him, the bigger issue is that highly populated areas should not be targeted. Agnes Marcaillou from **DDA** pointed out another trend: in certain contexts, military sites are deliberately installed in civil areas. The **ICRC** replied that this is a violation of IHL in itself. A higher reliability rate of submunitions is however not a proposal of the ICRC.

5. Martin Barber took the floor under AOB to comment on the Fieldtrip to Sudan. A tentative programme was circulated. In view of the internal flights to Kadugli and Rumbeck, UNMAS advises that the number of MASG-participants be limited to 10 persons. The objectives of the fieldtrip are:
 - Overview of the rather complex Sudanese mine action program whose dimensions are: Future PKO, sites of military observers that have mine action component, existing mine action program to open routes, UNDP capacity development program, etc.
 - Funding: Show donors how funds have been used in the past on the operational and capacity development side and immediate priorities for future funding.
 - Past and future cooperation between the two sides to the conflict.
6. The next meeting of the MASG will take place on 10 March with the geographic focus Croatia and thematic focus "Speeding up mine clearance" with presentations by the director of the Croatian Mine Action Center, UNDP and UNMAS.

The meeting was closed at 1 pm.

4. UNDP Country Briefing on Iraq



ERW/Mine Action in Iraq



Presented by: **Mohammad Younus**

UNDP Mine Action Team New York

mohammad.younus@undp.org

Presentation Prepared by:

**UNDP Iraq, in close consultation with
NMAA and the US DoS Mine Action
Personnel in Iraq**

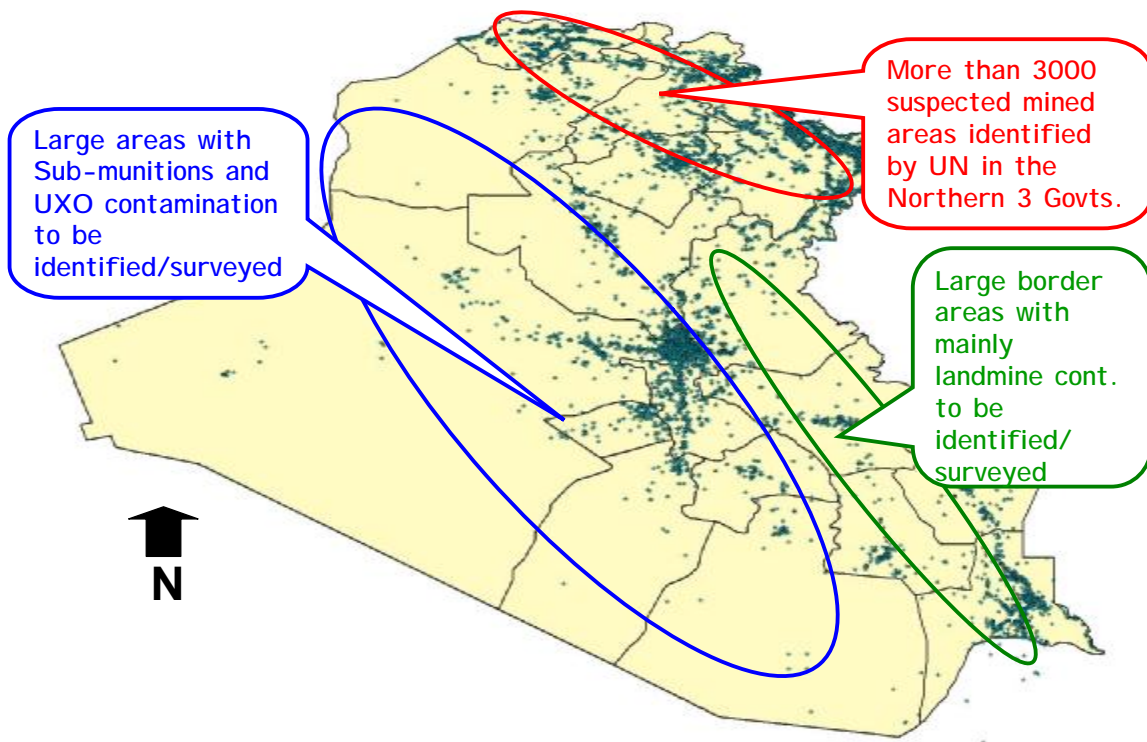
- **Presentation to cover:**

- Overview of the ERW Problem
- NMAA- role and responsibilities and key achievements to date
- US DoS Mine Action Support
- UN Iraq Mine Action support and key achievements to date
- UN Key Mine Action priorities for 2005 and funding requirement

ERW Situation in Iraq

- **Total Population :** 24.95 million
- **Settlements :** 9,995
- **Danger Areas :** 8,581 (initially identified)
- **Hazards:**
 - 4,080 minefields**
 - 1,628 sub-munitions strike sites (cluster bombs)**
 - 2,385 UXO sites**
 - 498 abandoned munitions sites**

Geography/Nature of ERW Situation



Establishment of NMAA

- **July 2003 – with US funding NMAA established by the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).**
- **November 2003 - NMAA assumed responsibility for UNOPS Mine Action Programme.**
- **January 2004 – US DoS funded and implemented full training support to NMAA**
- **UN provided support through targeted training and promoting south-south cooperation**

NMAA's Role/Responsibilities

- Overall policy and legislative framework for mine action within the ministry of Planning
- Accreditation, coordination, tasking and quality assurance of all mine action operators in Iraq
- Coordination and cooperation with donors and government entities
- Undertake mine action operations as required

NMAA's Key Achievements

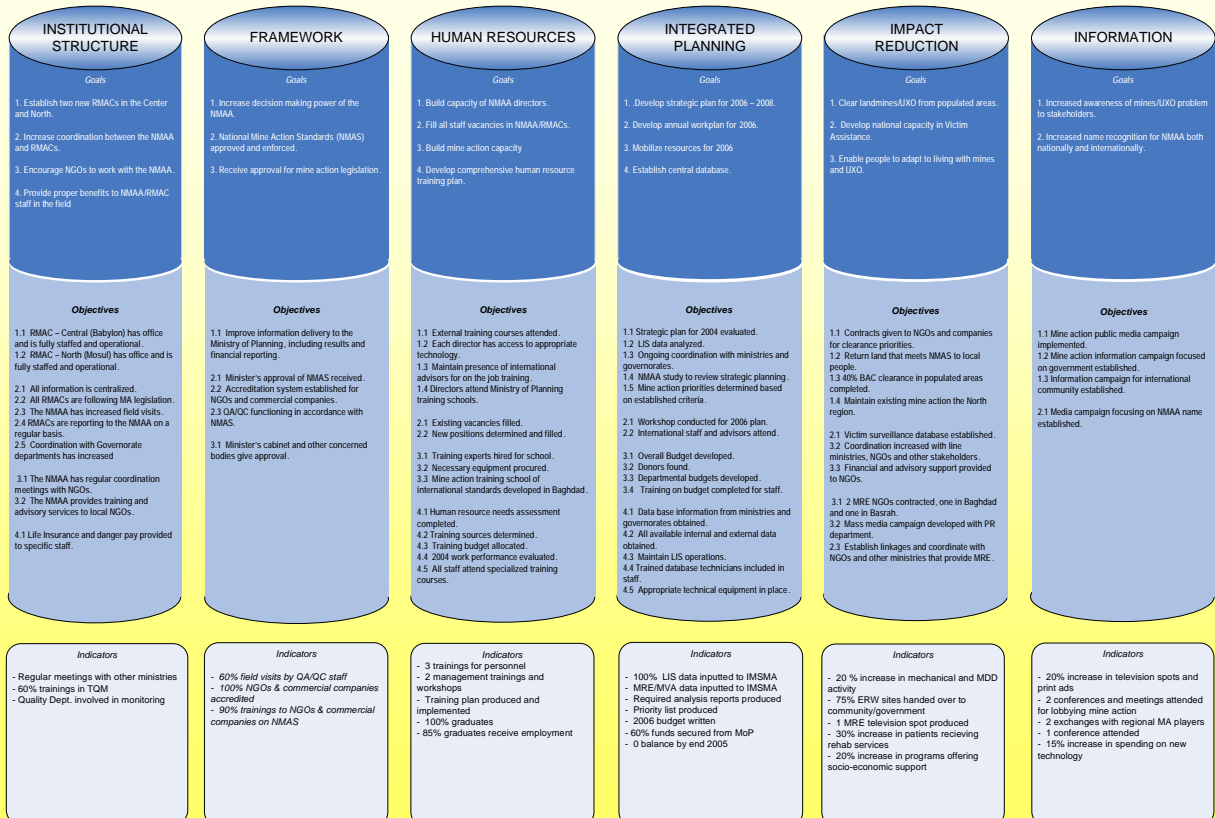
- Developed strategic mine action plan (vision 2020)
- Developed provisional national mine action legislation
- Established accreditation system/mechanism for mine action operators
- Developed draft national mine action standards
- Established inter-ministerial coordination committee

NMAA's Ops Achievements

July 2003-Dec 2004

- Area Cleared 60.8 million m²
- UXO destroyed 1,191,023
- Anti Tank Mines destroyed 8,755
- Anti Personnel Mines destroyed 18,720

NMAA Goals & Objectives in 2005



DoS Support Plan for 2005

- **Will continue to provide operational support to IMCO and MDD**
- **Will provide TA Support as follows:**
 - NMAA – Sr.Advisor (COP), Opns/Plans & Training Advisor
 - RMAC-South – Sr. Advisor & Opns/Plans
 - IMCO – Task Ldr, 2 Sr. EOD/Deminer, EOD/Deminer & Sr. Dog Trainer
 - MDD – Task Ldr, Sr. Dog Trainer, 3 Dog Trainers, Opns Advisor, Sr. EOD/Deminer
 - (RONCO Support – Task Ldr, Finance, Admin & Logistics)

DoS Support Plan for 2005 (Cont.)

- **DoS funded TA positions through VVAF:**
 - 3 Info Management/Landmine Impact Survey
- **(UNDP funded TA positions :**
 - NMAA – Fin/Contracts, VA, MRE, Organizational Advisor, QA/QC & IT
 - RMAC-South – MRE)
- **Landmine Impact Survey (DoS/UN)**
- **MAG Support (DoS)**

Role of the UN

Ø Institutional and Management Level:

- Ø Provide overall institutional, management and technical advisory support to NMAA to, both at central and regional levels

Ø Operational Level:

- Ø Develop national mine action NGOs (MRE, demining, Victim Assistance)

Ø Fund Mine action Operations:

- Ø Support/fund specific mine action projects

Ø Support/advise NMAA in advocacy campaign

UN Coordination and Partnership

- Ø A separate cluster on mine action with UNAMI
- Ø Each cluster closely works with line Iraqi ministry, concerned authority
- Ø Inter-cluster coordination
- Ø Inter Agency Coordination
- Ø Coordination with donors countries/entities and other relevant international organizations.

Key UN Achievements

- ü **Provided technical and management support to NMAA (7 TAs, MAX, Workshops, training)**
- ü **Maintained and developed local clearance capacity (MTI contract, DDG contract)**
- ü **Supported Landmine Impact Survey (Provided the Team Leader)**
- ü **Conducted MRE needs assessment and developed MRE strategy.**
- ü **Supported NMAA to develop core MRE curriculum**

UN Priorities for 2005 (Not funded)

- ü **One year extension of the LIS team leader contract US\$ 300,000**
- ü **Institutional development and support to NMAA for one year (UNDP mine action team and TAs) US\$ 2,500,000**
- ü **Develop MRE and VA capacities US\$ 3,000,000**
- ü **Extension of MTI contract for six months US\$ 3,500,000**
- ü **Development of local NGO No.02 US\$ 5,000,000**
- ü **Expansion of local NGO 01 and 02 US\$ 10,000,000**

Thank you!
Questions/Comments?



5. Agenda MASG Meeting 10 March 2005

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

Agenda:

1. Welcome address by the Chair
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Country Briefing: Croatia (Oto Jungwirth, Director of CROMAC)
4. Discussion
5. Thematic Presentations:
 - UNDP (Sayed Aqa) on "Completion initiative"
 - UNMAS (John Flanagan) on National Plans for Mine Clearance
6. Discussion
7. AOB

6. Updates

6.1. Update from UNMAS

January 2005

POLICY, TREATY IMPLEMENTATION, INFORMATION AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Policy Coordination

On 18 January 2005, UNMAS convened a working-level meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) to discuss a potential UN position on cluster munitions, the review of the UN Mine Action Strategy for 2001-2005 and preparatory steps for the 2006-2010 strategy. Members also discussed the mine and ERW threat and possible actions in Bhutan, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal, Senegal, Somalia, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2005

After the launch of the 2005 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects on 27 October 2004, the Portfolio Team disseminated more than 600 books and 800 CD ROMs to donor capitals and permanent missions. In addition, close to 1,000 books and 300 CD ROMs were sent to all UN mine action programmes in the field, and the Portfolio Team is still receiving additional requests for copies.

At the 19 January 2005 MASG meeting, the Portfolio Team presented its first update and prioritization on funding shortages from the field. The monthly funding updates are provided by the Country Portfolio Coordinators and collated for the MASG. MASG members are invited to provide their comments/inputs to dpko-portfolio-mines@un.org or to azada@un.org, or call Arezou Azad at 1-212-963-9407.

Victim Assistance

The Ad Hoc Committee on a comprehensive and new international convention for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities met in New York from 24 January to 4 February 2005. The committee read draft articles 8 to 15. Mine-affected countries, including Iran, Jordan, Thailand, Serbia and Montenegro, Syria, Yemen, and Uganda actively participated in the meeting. UNMAS was represented by its Victim Assistance Officers from headquarters and the National Mine Action Office in Khartoum.

New pledges and contributions in the VTF (covering the period 1 to 31 January 2005)

Contributions Received:

18/01/2005	Switzerland	\$ 39,975.00	Safety Hand Book (P04-GL08)
31/01/2005	Portugal	\$ 15,000.00	Sudan (P04-SU08)

TECHNOLOGY/ SAFETY

A working group meeting of the UK/German dual sensor detector confirmed plans to deploy the prototype detector into the field for parallel live trials to begin in early 2005. At the same time, the GICHD Mechanical Study team visited UNMAS and briefed on the wide range of follow-on studies planned.

DEVELOPMENTS IN UNMAS-MANAGED PROGRAMMES

AFGHANISTAN

Mine clearance operations in Afghanistan have been hampered by severe weather conditions over the start of 2005, particularly in the north and central regions where there has been significant snowfall. This has caused restriction of some operations until the conditions improve for a safe conduct of mine action activities.

The complete data set of the Retrofit Landmine Impact Survey was officially handed over to the Mine Action Centre, and has been fully integrated into the IMSMA database. This information is now playing a key role in the briefing and planning activities of the Government of Afghanistan, and in the preparation of the upcoming strategic planning workshop in February 2005. The final report of the survey is currently being drafted.

A briefing was made by Dr. Reza, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the chairman of the mine action consultative group, to the Minister of Finance as part of the national development budget approval process. This briefing was welcomed and the plans for the upcoming year were endorsed by the ministry and donor representatives.

BURUNDI (ONUB)

Two international NGOs, Danish Church Aid and the Swiss Federation for Mine Action have started recruiting and training local personnel, and are expected to be operational in March. They will work to assist with survey activities, beginning in two of the most affected provinces, Gitega and Makamba.

DR CONGO (MONUC)

The UNMAS-contracted Mechem company completed the verification and clearance of the Bunia-Beni road of Ituri District in December 2004. A total of 600,000 square meters of suspected areas were verified. The completion of the task, along with the restoration of the road by the MONUC/Indonesian Engineer Battalion, establishes an essential logistic axis for the Ituri brigade. The reopening of this connection is also facilitating the free circulation of persons and goods between this district and North Kivu, and is contributing to the region's development. Small village market places were immediately established as soon as the road was restored. Mechem also conducted reconnaissance and clearance of sites near the Bunia-Beni road in direct support of the population and humanitarian actors.

SUDAN (UNAMIS)

The Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on 9 January 2005 bringing an end to the decades-old conflict in the country. This has led to increased demands on the mine action sector, specifically route verification and clearance in the south, to facilitate the return of refugees/IDPs, the expansion of humanitarian assistance and the planned deployment of a UN Peace Support Mission. To that end, routes from Kauda to Heiban and from Frandella to Salamat were cleared by RONCO and DCA, which will have the additional impact of encouraging economic activities between those communities. Mechem resumed route verification operations based on priorities identified to enable the deployment of a future Peace Support Mission.

In order to satisfy the growing demand for mine action support, US\$18 million is required immediately for operational coordination, route clearance, emergency survey/clearance and EOD, and targeted Mine Risk Education to avoid casualties among refugees and IDPs.

ERITREA (UNMEE)

Two reported mine accidents and one UXO accident involving civilians in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) resulted in two dead and two injured. The MACC conducted investigations on all three accidents and dispatched the MACC explosive ordnance disposal team to the UXO accident site to investigate the presence of additional UXO in the area.

The Integrated Demining Capacity (IDC) that replaced the Slovak contingent began training the Kenyan demining contingent on the use of mine detection dogs and mechanical equipment. The training aims at enhancing the capacity of troop contributors to undertake IMAS-compliant mine action.

The first draft of the UNMAS-commissioned evaluation of the UNMEE mine action programme was completed. The evaluation team leader visited New York on 17 January for follow-up discussions, and a final report is expected in February.

The MACC conducted donor liaison activities to try to cover the \$350,000 shortfall in 2005 for the Portfolio project P04-ER09.

CYPRUS (UNFICYP)

Progress continued with clearance and access to National Guard minefields in the buffer zone. To date, more than 70,000 square meters have been cleared and 1,297 mines destroyed. Two more months of clearance activities are planned for the new Astromeritis-Zodia crossing point.

6.2. Update from UNDP

January 2005

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

NEW YORK

Funding Update

- The UNDP Mine Action Team (MAT) currently has a funding shortfall of US\$ 1,050,000, which will be used to support normal MAT activities, 18 mine-action country programmes, regional advisory support for African and Asia, and the mine-action senior management training course.

AFRICAN REGION

Chad

Key Achievements

- Demining and explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) operations in Wadi Doum ended in June 2004. From July to October 2004 new EOD activities took place along the border with Sudan thanks to a Swiss contribution of \$300,000.
- A new project document was signed in August 2004 between the government and UNDP. Activities aimed at the strengthening of the coordination, planning, and resource mobilization capacities of the national mine-action centre, l'Haut Commissariat National pour le Deminage (HCND), are planned on a 19-month timeline with a budget of US\$ 2,073,095 for 2004.
- During November/December 2004 a delegation from Chad actively participated in the *Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World*, the First Review Conference of the Convention Banning Anti-Personnel Landmines.
- Contacts with the US Department of State have been renewed with a view to advocating for a national plan on victim assistance. A US team arrived in December 2004 to conduct a feasibility study.

- Advocacy activities have also taken place to impress upon the Government of Chad the necessity of a national plan on victim assistance. For example, the Republic of Taiwan delivered a wheelchair to a mine victim at a ceremony in December 2004. Numerous Chad officials and representatives from the US Department of State attended the event.
- In September 2004 the Mine Advisory Group (MAG), a British nongovernmental organization (NGO), provided refresher training to deminers and medical and radio communications staff. On December 27, 2004, these individuals were deployed to Wadi Doum and Fada.

Key Objectives

- To ensure that demining operations continue as planned in Wadi Doum, and that operations in Fada are successfully launched in February 2005 under a new contract with MAG.
- In accordance with the US-Chad Bilateral Program, MAG will begin a new survey of mine areas in January 2005 under the coordination of the National High Commissioner for Demining (HCND).
- Progress in the drafting of a national plan on victim assistance is expected thanks to the support of the US Department of State in March 2005.
- Progress in mine-awareness activities is expected thanks to the arrival of an international consultant in February 2005, paid through Canadian funds.

Funding Update

- The only funds guaranteed for activities is the US\$ 2,073,095 planned for 2004. As yet there are no resources available for 2005.
- The funding for the program's medevac plane is not assured beyond February 28, 2005. Given its strategic importance, the mobilization of additional resources to prevent service disruptions is essential.
- The contract for the programme's Advisor for Information Systems, Technology, and Databases ends in January 2005. Being a Swiss in-kind contribution, a replacement is not guaranteed.
- With regard to the projects presented in the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2005*, we have received only one expression of intent (by the Government of Belgium) for the funding of the three projects submitted by the Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV).

ARAB STATES REGION

Iraq

Key Achievements

- As part of a mine-action local capacity-building process, UNDP signed a US\$ 2.5 million contract with the Danish Demining Group (DDG) for a period of one year starting mid-February 2005. DDG will establish a local mine-action NGO in Basra with a management structure and ten EOD teams.
- In December 2004, UNDP signed a six-month, US\$ 1.1 million contract with Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAFA) to provide seven technical advisors to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA). The technical advisors will support the NMAA in mine-action operations management and capacity building, mine-risk education (MRE), victim support services, public relations, multimedia/information technology, and finance/audit. UNDP has scheduled mission training for the proposed technical advisors to be conducted from 9–13 January 2005 in Amman, before their deployment in Iraq.
- Several meetings/conversations took place with mine-action partner agencies that are working or have worked in Iraq to enhance UNDP Mine Action/Cluster coordination and to support mine-action implementation in Iraq. The meetings provide opportunities to get an update on mine-action activities inside Iraq. The organizations involved include Handicap International Belgium (HI-B), the Italian NGO InterSOS, VVAFA, DDG, and the Iraq Health and Social Care Organization (IHSCO).
- In a meeting with HI-B, held on 28 December 2004, the possibilities of funding the KORD (a local NGO) Orthopedic Centers were discussed and a proposal was given to KORD for consideration.
- The Senior Mine Action Advisor/Cluster Manager and an official delegation from the Iraqi Government, which included the Director General of the NMAA, attended the *Nairobi Summit on a Mine Free World* in November/December 2004.

Key Challenges

- Deployment of a focal point for UN Mine Action in Baghdad to liaise and coordinate mine-action activities in the field.
- Establishment of a local mine-action capacity.
- Movement of mine-action personnel inside Iraq due to the security situation.
- Relocation of the UNDP Iraq Mine Action Team to Nicosia, Cyprus.

Key Objectives

- Conduct intra-UNDP/MAT cluster meetings with concerned mine-action agencies that have worked or are working inside Iraq.
- Continue to improve concept of operations for the expansion of mine-action operations and building of local capacities.
- Continue to provide management and technical advice to the NMAA and other stakeholders.
- Conduct Mine Action Coordination Meeting with NMAA on 12 and 13 January 2005.
- UNDP has scheduled mission training for the proposed technical advisors to be conducted 9–13 January 2005 in Amman, before their deployment in Iraq.
- Oversee the UNDP/MAT move from Amman to Cyprus during the second half of January 2005.

Funding Update

- UNDP has received US\$ 5.99 million (US\$ 2.5 million from the EC and US\$ 3.49 from Italy) for 2004 and first half of 2005.
- As per the NMAA Strategic Planning document, 2005 funding requirements for all mine action in Iraq totals US\$ 92 million. Of this amount, US\$ 44 million would be provided from the Iraq national budget for 2005.

Jordan

Key Achievements

- Participated in Nairobi Summit with a high-level delegation led by Prince Mir'ed Bin Raad, who has been appointed the new Chair of the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) by His Majesty King Abdullah II.
- UNDP held meetings with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation on launching the National Mine Action Plan process. The Plan will be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2005.
- Cleared 110,000 square meters of fertile land in the Jordan Valley.
- Preparing for the installation of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and for a two-week IMSMA training course.

- Received US\$ 20,000 in equipment for prosthesis lab from France.
- With funding from the Norwegian Government, completed modifications and trials of the Minecat, a mechanical demining machine.

Key Challenges

- Complete first draft of National Mine Action Plan.
- Complete 2005 Mine Action Operational Plan.
- Complete drafting of National Standards based on International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
- Install IMSMA database system.
- Undertake modified Landmine Impact Survey (LIS).
- Develop national capacity at the NCDR.
- Increase mine-clearance rates five-fold in order to meet 2009 goal.
- Launch national demining organization to assist military in clearance.
- Launch pilot MRE and Victim Assistance (VA) programmes.

Key Objectives

- Involving the Government of Jordan and the international donor community at the highest levels in the building of the National Mine Action Plan. By broadening (mainstreaming) mine action in the development debates, it is anticipated that the political and financial resources will become available to aid Jordan in completing its remaining demining tasks and at the same time reduce overall poverty in the country. Therefore, the key objective in Q1 2005 is to complete the process and drafting of the National Plan.

Funding Update

- Even without the benefit of the National Plan, immediate funding gaps that are *not* expressed in the *Portfolio* exist in the following areas:

- Landmine Impact Survey	US\$ 200,000
- Mechanical Mine Clearance	US\$ 750,000

Yemen

Key Achievements

- 15 National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) were finalized and approved by the National Programme Manager.
- All relevant Standard Operation Procedures (SoPs) have been developed and approved.
- Training material for the National Training Centre (NTC) was reviewed.
- The National Mine Action Programme was fully funded in 2004.
- All demining operations, mine-risk education (MRE), and mine-victim assistance (MVA) projects were running smoothly and achieved their goals.
- Hodaidah Governorate has been handed over to the local authority free of mines.
- The annual work plan (AWP), budget, and procurement plans for 2005 were finalized.
- The operational plan for 2005 was developed and approved by the National Programme Manager.
- The web site for the Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) was displayed on the internet at www.mineactionyemen.org.
- Update of the UNDP year-end inventory was finalized.
- The monument for the Memorial of the Mine Victims, built in Aden, was finalized.

Funding Update

- The Government of Yemen provided its installment of US\$ 100,000 for 2004 to the UNDP mine-action capacity building project.
- YEMAC continues to approach current and potential donors (embassies), making presentations on progress in 2004 and future plans and needs for 2005 and beyond.

ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Cambodia

Key Achievements

- The Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) reported a total clearance of 9,696,134 square meters for January-November 2004, meeting the target initially set for the period.
- Productivity increased 8 percent compared to the same period in 2003 due to the implementation of a multi-pronged cost-reduction strategy, which will be further pursued in 2005.
- In its 2005 work plan, CMAC anticipates a 50 percent increase in clearance productivity (16 million square meters) with a stable annual budget.

Funding Update

- The budget shortfall for 2005 currently stands at US\$ 2.6 millions out of a total 2005 budget of US\$ 10 million. This shortfall corresponds to the clearance of over 400 hectares of land, primarily for resettlement and agriculture purposes.

Sri Lanka

Background

The December 26 tsunami struck almost the entire length of Sri Lanka's coast—killing over 40,000 people; destroying or damaging houses, hotels, and infrastructure (roads, rail lines, electricity, etc.); and changing the landscape of many of the coastal districts. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced. Many people have been able to return home, and the remaining internally displaced persons (IDPs) are receiving assistance. However, the damage and displacement creates a significant additional burden on existing programmes designed to resettle IDPs displaced by war and to repair the effects of 20 years of conflict.

Immediate Effects on Landmine Situation

Press reports began circulating almost immediately about thousands of mines having been washed out to sea and appearing randomly on shore. These reports were quickly proved to be unfounded by technical assessments conducted in the coastal areas. However, these assessments also found specific sites where significant dislocation of

mines and ordnance had taken place, and several other areas where a more limited movement of mines and ordnance had occurred. These areas are being addressed on an emergency basis using existing assets that were diverted from the original tasks assigned to them according to the relevant District Work Plan. To date there has been no landmine or UXO casualty report linked specifically to mine displacement by the tsunami.

Mine Action Response

All clearance operators, with the exception of the Sri Lanka Army, were on stand down for the Christmas and New Year holidays when the tsunami hit. Many mine-clearance agencies and the UNDP Mine Action Team immediately released their vehicles and staff for the relief effort, in addition to conducting assessments of the coastal areas. As the clean-up effort progressed, mechanical assets were made available for clearing rubble to permit transport and reconstruction. MRE was intensified in the IDP camps located near dangerous areas, and landmine safety training was provided to incoming staff from various agencies. All of the Mine Action Offices (Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, Colombo) worked closely with the authorities and relief agencies in disseminating IMSMA maps and information on landmine contamination. Mine Action Office staff also immediately began assisting the Task Forces—composed of government personnel, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), representatives of the United Nations, and international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs)—in the mine-affected districts.

Mine action operations commenced to some degree as scheduled in the second week of January, and are expected to be at full strength when deminers seconded to other relief tasks return.

Longer-term Effects on Landmine Situation

The mine-affected Districts most affected by the tsunami were Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, and, to a more limited extent, Jaffna. Although emergency clearance is being tackled using existing assets, the tsunami has created additional requirements for the Sri Lanka mine-action programme in a number of ways.

First, mine action is effective only when it is in support of other activities such as resettlement and reconstruction. The tsunami created both population movement and the need for restoring damaged infrastructure, hospitals, schools, etc. This has added tasks to the existing District Work Plans simply by moving areas that may have been considered medium or even low-priority higher up the priority list *without* lowering the status of previous high-priority tasks.

Second, some minefield marking and fencing was destroyed or damaged by the tsunami and needs to be restored. This can require both technical survey and materials.

Third, the need for mine-risk education has intensified. This is addressed in a separate proposal by UNICEF as lead UN agency for coordination of MRE in Sri Lanka.

Fourth, emergency prevention. The floods that preceded the tsunami and the tsunami itself both produced some dislocation of mines. Therefore the Sri Lanka mine-action programme is seeking to expand its assets so as to clear all high-priority areas (and as many medium-priority areas as possible) that are prone to flooding prior to the next seasonal rains.

More specific requirements are:

- Technical assessments for all sites designated as Temporary Accommodation Camps (TACs) at a minimum, and technical survey and/or required clearance where contamination is found.
- MAT support to the infrastructure reconstruction projects described elsewhere in the UN Flash Appeal, issued on 6 January 2005 to raise US\$ 977 million for relief and recovery efforts in the communities struck by the tsunami. (For example, one immediate task that was required was the clearance of a hospital ground being restored by Medecins Sans Frontieres in Trincomalee.)
- Technical survey and/or clearance of sites as required of new areas that are eventually designated for permanent resettlement, given the government's decision that houses should not be restored in the immediate coastal areas;
- Restoration of damaged marking and fencing.
- Assistance to the District Steering Committees on Mine Action in the affected areas on changes to the District Work Plans/priority lists, and mine-action training for staff in the Planning Departments of the relevant district offices to ensure that mine contamination is appropriately integrated into resettlement and reconstruction plans.
- Improved information dissemination on the mine threat by expanding IMSMA support and establishing a web-based system for speedier synchronization and better access for non-mine-action organizations.
- Preventing future emergencies by expanding clearance capacity to address areas prone to seasonal flooding.

Funding Update

- Currently, UNDP has planned a project in the amount of US\$ 3 million for mine action in the areas affected by the tsunami. The project has several aims: to conduct technical surveys of the affected areas, re-erect fencing and marking materials, increase support and training in affected districts, enhance information dissemination, and expand the clearance capacity for emergency prevention due to flooding. The complete project proposal, which is an elaboration on the project described in the Flash Appeal, is included at the end of this document.

EUROPE & THE CIS REGION

Albania

Key Achievements

- The 13th meeting of the South East Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC) was held in Tirana on 15 December 2004, with the assistance of the International Trust Fund (ITF). It was attended by representatives from mine-action centers in the region, various donor representatives, and implementing partners in the country. The main scope of the meeting was the adoption of the regional standard operation procedures prepared by the working groups, but it also served to further promote the mine-action activities in country and regionally.
- Clearance operations have concluded in northeast Albania for 2004 in accordance with the priority tasks given by the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE). In 2004 a total of 423,686 square meters has been released through manual clearance, mine-detection dogs (MDD), and surveys conducted by Danish Church Aid. In addition, 2265 anti-personnel mines have been destroyed.
- The AMAE Quality Management Team has continued quality control and quality assurance operations, with the result that 357,143 square meters of cleared land have been handed over during 2004 to the communities in northeast Albania.
- MRE activities have continued during this period in mine-affected villages by the Albanian Red Cross and VMA (a local NGO) in cooperation with the local anti-mine committees and peace activists. Leaflets and mine-awareness messages have been distributed during these activities.
- UNDP Albania launched the bidding procedures for the restart of the Technical Survey and Clearance Project funded by the European Commission.
- AMAE and the UNDP Local Governance Project conducted a Rural Rapid Assessment (RRA), 10-14 January 2005, in eight priority mine-affected villages. The assessment sought to determine a better knowledge basis for developing reintegration projects utilizing an integrated approach with locally-based development programmes.
- As part of the UNDP Reintegration of Landmine Survivors Project, AMAE commenced the Community Based Rehabilitation Project. VMA is in the process of establishing a community-based rehabilitation (CBR) network to facilitate mine survivors' access to quality medical and social services in the mine-affected region. The 30 village nurses who participated in the CBR training in November 2004 form a solid component of the CBR network.

- Two sight-impaired unexploded ordnance (UXO) survivors received medical treatment for their injuries with support from the UNDP/AMAE Emergency Assistance Fund and the Night of 1000 Dinners to Support Landmine/UXO Survivors, which was held 28 January 2005.

Key Challenges

- Conduct resource mobilization for demining and capacity building in 2005.
- Coordinate with the Albanian Ministry of Defense for medevac arrangements in remote working areas for the new demining season.
- Finalize and pass national mine-action legislation.

Key Objectives

- Organize in late January with the US Embassy in Tirana the next Night of 1000 Dinners. Funds collected through this event are used for the rehabilitation of sight-impaired mine survivors.
- Update the 2005 clearance priorities in cooperation with local and national authorities in northeast Albania.
- Continue the bidding procedures to select the new operator for the Technical Survey and Clearance Project.
- Initiate the Prostheses Support Workshop in Kukes Regional Hospital.
- Commence individual projects for the educational reintegration of five child mine victims with support of the Night of 1000 Dinners.

Funding Update

- Total budget for capacity building and coordination for 2004 was US\$ 450,020 and was funded by UNDP/Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), the US State Department through the ITF, and Canada.
- Total funding requirement for capacity building and coordination for 2005 is US\$ 484,800, with a shortfall of US\$ 194,968.
- A detailed funding update of the mine-action projects in Albania presented to the Mine Action Portfolio 2005 has been sent recently to the Mine Action Portfolio Team.
- US\$ 98,000 has been donated by the US State Department through the ITF for MRE activities from November 2004 to November 2005. The project will be implemented by VMA.

- Previous and current donors include UNDP, European Union, UK Department for International Development (DFID), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), US State Department through the ITF, and the governments of Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Turkey.

Tajikistan

Key Achievements

- An agreement between UNDP and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) will be signed in February 2005, thereby enabling the Mine Victim Income Generation and the MRE projects to commence effective 1 January 2006. These projects are being co-financed by the Government of Italy and with UNDP TRAC funds.
- There appears to be a strong possibility that the US Government will build logistics facilities at the U.S. Army Engineer Battalion Barracks in Tajikistan. Reportedly, work might start in the autumn of 2005 with completion within 2–3 months. If it is built, the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) has agreed to close its rented base and move to the new facility; and the Tajik Defense Minister has agreed that the new facility would be made available for the exclusive use of FSD with no restriction on 24-hour access.
- UNDP and the Deputy Minister of Labour & Social Protection signed the project document for the Orthopedic Clinic Support Project. This project is co-financed by UNDP and the Italian Government.
- With good media coverage, UNDP and the US Ambassador visited the Khujand Prison Workshop on 2 December to supervise the production of signs warning of mines. Production of 2,032 signs and their positioning by the Tajik Border Force along the border with Uzbekistan in the Sugd Region is well underway. Subject to fair weather conditions, all signs should be in place by the end of March.

Key Challenges

- Tajikistan continues to experience casualties on the Tajik-Uzbek border. During 2004, seven persons were killed or seriously injured by mines in the region.
- To date, consultations with the Uzbek Government about mines along the border have been intermittent and inconsequential.
- Bad weather has kept demining teams in their barracks throughout the month of December.

Funding Update

- UNDP Capacity Building Support Project (TMAC): Providing that the chief technical advisor is phased out by the end of October 2005, sufficient funds from the Canadian donation of US\$ 440,600 received in April 2004 are available to maintain the project until March 2006—the end of the current two-year UNDP support project.
- OSCE/FSD Project: Euro 360,000 of Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) core funds and Euro 700,000 from the European Commission have been confirmed. During 2005 this will fund FSD local overhead costs, the continuation of two survey teams, and the raising and equipping of two additional manual clearance teams. That leaves the existing third survey team and two existing manual clearance teams in need of funding.

MINE ACTION

Duration:	6 months, until June 2005; activities undertaken during this period are likely to go beyond the period of the Appeal, and will dovetail with the reconstruction phase
Proposed Budget:	US \$ 3,000,000
Location:	4 of the Affected Districts (Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi)
Beneficiaries:	Tsunami affected communities in mined areas
Project Execution:	Direct Execution by UNDP, under the ongoing Mine Action Programme

Project Context

As part of the UN Flash Appeal, UNDP is initiating the implementation of projects in areas where, together with partner agencies, it has the comparative advantage for taking the lead in transitional recovery. In this context, the project on Mine Action is designed to serve as a link between immediate, short-term and longer-term recovery and development activities currently being strategized by the Government and its development partners including the UN System. UNDP will incorporate assistance through its Sri Lanka Country Programme. Execution will be under the ongoing UNDP Mine Action Programme, which has developed a solid foundation upon which to expand activities. Mine Action Offices have been set up in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya, and vast acreage of land has been cleared of mines and UXO or declared free of contamination, with hundreds of IDPs having returned home to previously mined land, with reconnected electricity supply, resumption of cultivation, better access to water resources, and clearance of roads and other infrastructure. The Programme focuses on three broad areas: assistance to coordination and capacity development, support to field operations, and assistance for resource mobilization.

Indicative Budget

Project Activities	(US\$)
Technical Survey	880,000
Fencing and marking materials	70,000
Increased support/training to coordination in affected districts	52,000
Enhance information dissemination/establishment of web-based system	55,000
Expanded clearance capacity for emergency prevention due to flooding (manual and mechanical teams)	1,943,000
TOTAL	3,000,000

The Tsunami significantly affected 4 of the most heavily mine-contaminated districts, thereby creating additional requirements for the Sri Lanka Mine Action Programme. First, mine action is effective only when it is in support of other activities such as resettlement and reconstruction. The tsunami created both population movement and the need for restoring damaged infrastructure, hospitals, schools, etc. This has added tasks to the existing District Work Plans simply by moving areas that may have been considered medium- or even low-priority, higher up the priority list *without* lowering the status of previous high-priority tasks.

Second, some minefield marking and fencing was destroyed or damaged by the tsunami and needs to be restored. Third, the requirement for mine risk education (MRE) has intensified. (This is addressed in a separate proposal by UNICEF as lead UN agency for coordination of MRE in Sri Lanka.) A fourth area relates to emergency prevention. The floods that preceded the tsunami and the tsunami itself both produced some dislocation of mines. Although the immediate emergency tasks are being handled by using existing assets diverted from the relevant District Work Plans, the Sri Lanka Mine Action Programme is seeking to expand its assets so as to clear all high-priority areas (and as many medium-priority areas as possible) that are prone to flooding prior to the next seasonal rains. The Sri Lanka Mine Action programme with its focus on support to coordination, capacity development, field operations, and resource mobilization, could augment and expedite resettlement and reconstruction.

Project Objectives

1. To reduce the risk posed by landmines and UXO in the affected areas;
2. To enable the safe relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected people

Project Activities

1. Technical assessments for all sites designated as Temporary Accommodation Camps (TACs) at a minimum, and technical survey and/or clearance required where contamination is found;
2. Mine Action support to the infra-structure reconstruction projects described elsewhere in the Flash Appeal.
3. Technical survey and/or clearance of sites as required of new areas that are eventually designated for permanent resettlement given the Government's decision that houses should not be restored in the immediate coastal areas;
4. Restoration of all marking and fencing;
5. Assistance to the District Steering Committees on Mine Action in the affected areas on changes to the District Work Plans/priority lists, and mine action training for staff in the Planning Departments of the relevant district offices to ensure that mine contamination is appropriately integrated into resettlement and reconstruction plans;
6. Improved information dissemination on the mine threat by expanding IMSMA support and establishing a web-based system for speedier synchronization and better access for the non-mine action organizations;
7. Preventing future emergencies by expanding clearance capacity to address areas prone to seasonal flooding.



Sri Lanka

MINE ACTION (*contd.*)

Implementation Modality

In terms of coordination, the National Steering Committee for Mine Action (NSCMA), chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation, provides overall policy oversight and coordination to the Sri Lanka Mine Action Programme. Three Mine Action Offices (MAO) in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya support coordination by the District Steering Committees in all affected Districts and provide operational support to the mine action agencies. UNDP provides technical and/or financial support to all of the above either directly to the Government or, in Kilinochchi, through the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization. This project will be implemented by the UNDP Mine Action Programme, working closely with local counterparts, the NSCMA, district level government institutions, and in collaboration with other UN agencies including UNICEF in Mine Risk Education, NGOs, CBOs and other organizations.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Mine Action Programme field staff will conduct regular monitoring visits to the project sites, to ensure that any problems identified are addressed at an early stage. Impact of gender on project activities will also be monitored.

Reporting Modality

The Mine Action Programme will prepare regular and comprehensive progress reports on the status of the project implementation. The final report will be given 60 days after project completion.

6.3. Update from UNICEF

Bosnia and Herzegovina

UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) continues to provide technical, financial and logistical support to the BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) and to implementing agencies involved in mine risk education (MRE) and Landmine Victim Assistance (LMVA).

In November 2004, the BHMIC convened the policy board for LMVA which, among other agenda items, the group reviewed and approved the LMVA strategy. In December, the Demining Commission endorsed the MRE and LMVA sub strategies for BiH, as well as the BiH standards for MRE.

Also in December, and in accordance with the annual plan, the BHMIC held the fourth course on Mine Risk Management for 25 senior and middle managers from the Civil Protection, the BHMIC, the Red Cross, international and local NGOs and the armies.

The BHMIC also participated as a member of the judging panel in the national quiz competitions held by the BiH Red Cross society, and supported by UNICEF, which involved schools in 129 municipalities.

In addition, the BHMIC continued with daily activities related to management and quality assurance of MRE in the country.

In November, UNICEF's partner NGO 'AMI' ran workshops for 43 community representatives from jeopardised areas in North East Bosnia. The representatives acquired skills to manage the mine risk and facilitate risk education within their constituency. In December, the teams participated in training and implemented field research, in collaboration with a team of consultants, to develop a planning model for risk assessment and mine risk reduction planning at community level. The research is to be completed by the end of March.

UNICEF's partner NGO 'Genesis Project' continues with the implementation of comprehensive school-based MRE and small arms/light weapons (SALW) project. The project, implemented in the Federation of BiH and the Republika Srpska in November and December, included 50 live puppets shows, parents' and teachers' community participatory mine risk reduction planning workshops, training of 207 peer educators, and an evaluation of the impact of previously trained peer educators.

In addition, in the municipalities of Banja Luka and Doboj, five participatory monitoring and evaluation seminars allowed for 58 schoolteachers from five primary schools that were included in the project during the school year 2003/2004 to monitor, evaluate, and share lessons learned.

The Italian NGO Intersos implements MRE activities targeting forestry, agriculture and construction sectors employees and institutions. In November, the field teams continued visits to authorities, companies and vulnerable groups in selected impacted communities to assess needs and capacities. Findings of the assessment were presented through local and national media. Round tables in several municipalities gathered representatives from the local Civil Protection, BHMIC, IRC, EUFOR - European Union Forces in BiH, local authorities and representatives of companies, associations of independent workers, citizen associations to share information on the local mine-situation and on national mine action plan and priorities, and available resources.

UNICEF BiH's Mine Action programme has been supported by contributions from the Government of Italy, the U.K. Department for International Development (DfID), the UNICEF National Committees of Ireland and Austria, and the United States Department of State.

A large constraint to the implementation of UNICEF's Mine Action Programme in 2005 is the current shortfall in funding for programme activities, which puts the programme in jeopardy. To be able to maintain its support to mine action in BiH, UNICEF BiH urgently requires 600,000 US dollars for 2005.

Cambodia

In Cambodia, UNICEF continues to provide financial and technical support to Community Based Mine Risk Reduction, as well as the mass media, through the Cambodia Mine Action Center and the school mine risk education for children. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport also provides prostheses, wheelchairs, other mobility devices and assistance to children and women victims of landmines/UXO and other causes of disabilities.

Mine/UXO Victim Information

In December 2004, 79 new casualties were reported by the Cambodia Mine/UXO Victim Information System. This showed an increased of 28 casualties compared with 51 casualties reported in December 2003. From the total of 79, 54 were men, 19 were children under 18 years of age and 6 were women. 55 (70%) of casualties were injured or killed by UXO and 24 (30%) by mines. 74 of the total casualties received mine risk education, while 5 had not received any mine risk education at all.

Current Challenges

The main challenges centre upon behaviour change for adult men that have been formed by poverty and consequently, their need to gain an income to feed their family. These behaviours include: the clearing of forests in a suspected area for agricultural purposes; the extraction of explosives from UXO in order to use them for other projects; and the selling of scrap metal. Another major concern is that the majority of children who are currently victims of mines/UXO are migrant children who do not attend school. This particular group of children forms the current challenge that UNICEF and its partners need to address in order to reach those in need.

Intervention Strategies

The community based MRE is currently focusing its efforts on strengthening the community network's capacity and improving the linkages with mine action responses. This is necessary to ensure that they have sufficient knowledge and conceptual understanding on the community orientation approach, leading to community sustainability and ownership.

The report entitled "STUDY ON THE DELIBERATE HANDLING AND USAGE OF LIVE ORDNANCE", funded by Handicap International Belgium, Mines Advisory Group and Norwegian People's Aid, has recently been finalised. They presented its recommendations to mine action operators in Cambodia for the appropriate mine action response, hoping to quickly reduce risks and alter the behaviour of scrap metal dealers.

Eritrea

UNICEF continues to provide overall coordination, technical support and capacity building initiatives for MRE activities for the Mine Action Programme of Eritrea. On 14 December, UNICEF's Donor's Open Day took place to showcase UNICEF's achievements and to open dialogue between UNICEF, its partners, and donors.

In December, the six UNICEF-Eritrean Demining Operations (EDO) field teams targeted 11,627 people for MRE, out of which 9,618 were children. In the last year, the six EDO MRE teams targeted 97,732 people in total. Out of this number 56,911 were children, 21,861 girls and 35,050 were boys.

Also in December, the EDA Operations Department organised an internal meeting towards the preparation of the Plan of Action for 2005. Following this meeting for the PoA, UNICEF organised an annual review of 2004 and the Plan of Action for 2005 for all MRE actors in Eritrea, including EDA, EDO, the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Information (MoI), the Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) and the Mine Action Coordination Centre attached to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). Jointly, the counterparts developed a detailed Strategic Plan for 2005.

Preparations for the training-of-trainers (ToT) for teachers in Anseba and Northern Red Sea has been completed and the Ministry of Education has agreed to hold the ToT by the end of February/beginning of March. The training will be organised in two different places (Keren and Massawa) and will target 130 teachers.

As a part of the integrated approach to mine action, the Mine Action Capacity Building Programme (MACBP) in Eritrea organised demining and MRE teams to reach and target 4,747 IDPs or 1,326 households in the Adi Keshi IDP Camp. They are returning to 22 villages of origin in the area of Shilalo, one of the highest affected areas in Eritrea. These efforts will continue until all IDPs who are returning in the high risk areas are reached. The integrated approach will help people understand the steps and processes of mine action so that high risk groups in mine affected areas receive safety messages through a variety of mechanisms within the communities through the defined mine action network.

In January, UNICEF and UNDP moved into training development on the referral structure for landmine survivors to orthopedic workshops. Coordination and discussions are on-going with counterparts from the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare (MLHW) and EDA MRE-victim assistance (VA) Coordinator. This structure is being set up in relation to Proclamation 123 that defines the roles and responsibility of the EDA and the MLHW regarding victim support. Training will be held in March 2005 for approximately 25 people, mainly MRE staff from the EDO, UNMACC and the RCSE, as MRE focal points are often the focal points for data collection in their areas of responsibility. This will provide an opportunity for staff who are collecting data on mine victims, to also help mines/UXO victims in remote (rural) areas to get help from orthopaedic workshops.

Also in January, UNICEF, together with the EDO, held several Landmine and UXO safety briefings for staff from the ICRC, OCHA, as well as for UN volunteers (UNVs).

Ethiopia

UNICEF, along with its mine action partner, the Rehabilitation and Development Organisation (RaDO), has completed the training of community volunteers, and zonal and regional staff in data collection and implementation of surveillance systems. The mine action surveillance system is now expected to become active with the different sections of the community completing their part in the data collection process.

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and UNICEF are facilitating a 3-day workshop in Addis Ababa where all MRE actors in Ethiopia are participating. The agenda for the workshop is the development of the Ethiopian National Mine Action Standards and facilitates the development of a national MRE strategy at federal and regional level.

UNICEF, together with RaDO, is commencing the final stage of the two-year phase out strategy for MRE, where RaDO is handing over the MRE project to the regional governments in Afar and Tigray. UNICEF's project evaluation for the process will take place in February/March.

Iraq

UNICEF continues its coordination role for MRE within the UN cluster for mine action. In January, a mine action coordination meeting that was chaired by Iraq's Deputy Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation took place in Amman. In addition to several other topics, the agenda included discussion on the provision of technical advisors and institutional development for Iraq's National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), organisation of a conference on mine action, and MRE, among other topic. UNICEF also provided a briefing and orientation sessions on the role of the UN, particularly UNICEF, in mine action in Iraq to five technical advisors (TAs) who are provided to the NMAA. Among these are two MRE and victim assistance advisors who will be based in Baghdad and Basra.

UNICEF conducted a two-day workshop with counterparts and the NMAA to review 2004 activities and do programme planning for 2005. At the end of the workshop, a draft plan of action for MRE in Iraq was developed and the programme activities that will be supported by UNICEF, identified.

An MRE teacher training project that will be implemented with UNICEF's partner, the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) is currently under discussion. The project will be aimed at training approximately 10,000 teachers and 2,000 community volunteers in MRE in Iraq over a period of fifteen months.

On 16 February, the UN mine action cluster and the NMAA are holding a conference in Amman where donors, UN agencies, government ministries and other interested groups will be participating. The title of the workshop is "The Role of Mine Action in Reconstruction of Iraq" where short sessions on the issue will be given by the NMAA and the UN.

Lebanon

In cooperation with the National Demining Office (NDO), UNICEF supported the development of a theatrical play on MRE. The play targets children between the ages of 6 and 12. The live performance will be shown to a total of 40,000 children (100 shows X 400 children). It will also be video taped and shown through schools and some NGOs to target an additional 150,000 children in the schools located in the post conflict areas as priority targeted schools.

The play was launched on 25 January 2005 under the patronage of the Minister of Defence, the NDO, UNICEF, and other international and national NGOs as the NDO MRE Committee members and school children.

UNICEF ensured the effective and substantial participation of landmine victims (children and adults) in the play's script, music, decoration, drawing of the invitation card and poster and other, in order for the play to reflect the realities of landmines in Lebanon. These groups were supported and guided by a professional children's theatre director, who ensured also interaction between the play's characters and the audience.

An impact assessment for the play will be conducted through designing a questionnaire for teachers and students before and after attending the play. The details for this assessment's tools are being developed currently by the NDO MRE committee members of civil society.

Russia – North Caucasus

With financial support from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), UNICEF has organised the "Children of Chechnya Against Mines" festival facilitated by UNICEF's main NGO partner for mine action, the Voice of the Mountains (VoM). In the framework of the school-based component of the programme, 3,217 children actively participated in the VoM-run direct interactive presentations held in eight schools in Chechnya.

In the framework of psychosocial assistance, CARE Canada has continued working with mine and UXO-affected children through different techniques such as the establishment of self-esteem levels and discussions around fear, stress and family. The main results of the interventions are reported to be: significant reductions in stress levels; increased internal sense of security; greater independence and confidence; and the integration into society through interaction with other children.

The Chairman of the Union of the Disabled of Russia has extended his gratitude to UNICEF for supporting the participation of the "Laman Az" football team of mine and UXO-affected children and adolescents in the annual Russian Federation President's Cup. The team, established by UNICEF in 2002, has come in third in the big tournament.

Approaching the final portion of the prosthetics-orthotic project in 2004, the prosthetic workshop has produced 13 below-knee prostheses, 2 arm devices, 2 special apparatuses, 2 pairs of orthopaedic footwear as well as 9 corsets and recliners for mine and UXO-affected children from Chechnya.

During the reporting period, a rapid evaluation mission of UNICEF's MRE programme was completed. The overall objectives of the evaluation were to review, assess, and make recommendations on the MRE component of the Mine Action Programme in the North Caucasus region. The mission included meetings in Grozny and IDP settlements in Ingushetia to visit the project sites and have direct interaction with the MAP implementing partners and beneficiaries. A special meeting was organised with the Grozny administration aimed at planning the involvement of the main governmental structures into the community-based MRE. A series of meetings with local partners and stakeholders in Nazran has been also organised. The evaluation report will be completed in mid-February.

Sri Lanka

Following the tsunami that hit Sri Lanka on 26 December, thousands of people were killed and many more displaced in temporary welfare centres. Some of them have moved in close proximity to areas that were previously mine/UXO affected. Another concern was in regard to mines and UXO that may have moved because of the flood waters. To address the new situation, UNICEF Sri Lanka conducted a situation analysis on potential new risks following the tsunami. The mission has shown that there have been no casualties reported so far because of landmines displaced following the tsunami.

It was determined that isolated occurrences of displaced mines and ordnance have occurred in a few locations where the flood water reached mined areas or manned military installations on the coast (from the navy/police camp minefield and ammunition stores). In only a few instances were recorded minefields outside of the High Security Zones (HSZs) overrun by floodwaters. In general, the assessments that were conducted reported that these events posed a negligible risk to affected communities or disaster relief operations. In those areas where displaced mines have been identified, the items have been removed or the area marked for future clearance. Nevertheless, there is a need to continue monitoring the situation that may change once the rehabilitation activities of the affected areas begin and people go back to their places of origin.

Also, there have been some areas of urgent concern where mines appear to have shifted significantly. The main occurrences have been in Trincomalee, with Kuchaveli and in Batticaloa (Kallady Army Camp). A few landmines have also been recovered from the Point Pedro area in Jaffna district.

Because of the tsunami, initial work plans of UNICEF and survival assistance partners were reviewed. All organisations have been very active in bringing first aid assistance to the victims and have worked in coordination with the requirements of the newly formed task forces centres. The centres were established by the government or the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation to manage the disaster relief effort.

MRE activities are now focusing on newly established welfare centres to promote safe behaviour in proximity to suspected hazardous areas and how and where to report suspicious objects. Existing posters about landmine/UXO recognition and reporting procedure have been disseminated. MRE staff will also use drama and video presentations. UNICEF will produce soon a timetable for the tsunami affected areas for the school and temporary learning spaces.

The indiscriminate nature of anti personnel landmines and the presence of UXO have always posed risks in Sri Lanka and that risk has not increased dramatically as a result of the tsunami. There are, however increased dangers to civilians' populations in some specific areas. MRE and mine clearance agencies are working on it.

Since 2002, UNICEF has developed a strong and effective network of local NGOs that implement MRE activities in the northeast. This network has been instrumental to identify and report isolated mines and UXO during the assessment process. Following the tsunami, UNICEF MRE partners' activities have allowed the early deployment of an appropriate and targeted MRE response.