

# MASG

## Mine Action Support Group Newsletter

**Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations**

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New York, July 2004

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## 1. Unofficial Minutes: MASG-Meeting 10 June 2004

1. After welcoming the different speakers, the chairman introduced the subject of the day's meeting: mine action and development, with a special emphasis on mainstreaming. The agenda for the meeting as well as the calendar for the second half of the year were adopted.
2. Jean Devlin, chief of the Mine Action Unit (MAU) in CIDA, presented the Canadian efforts to mainstream mine action against the background of the sunset of the Canadian Landmines Fund. Mainstreaming components in CIDA's mine action strategy are among others: Priority-setting based on level of need, poverty; commitment to mine action by national government; capacity and willingness to integrate mine action in bilateral country development policy framework; Canadian partnership branch's willingness to include mine action in its support of civil society development programs; collaboration with other multilateral development and humanitarian programs to integrate mine action. Examples of mainstreaming within CIDA include Tajikistan (MAU funding of UNDP program and complimentary funding by bilateral desk); Bosnia and Herzegovina (initial MAU funding, bilateral program then took over); Cambodia (MAU funding and Cambodia desk funding). Exploring potential resource mobilization internationally (with the Ressource Mobilization Contact Group as a key partner) includes: contacts with the World Bank and possibly other IFIs; more systematic multi-donor approach to MDGs; liaison with emerging donors; relations with regional organizations.
3. Kristian Berg Harpviken (PRIO) presented the UNDP Policy Study on Mainstreaming Mine Action in Development. Mine action addresses an obstacle to development and while mine action is strong in technical expertise it is not equally strong in development. Mine action has a very strong sectoral identity rooted in the processes surrounding the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty. The challenge is to maintain this identity, while at the same time broadening the mutual coordination with other actors and sectors. While the international funding for mine action has steadily grown until 2002, there is concern that funding levels will start to drop, a concern that is an important motivation for enhancing mainstreaming. Over the last decade, there has been a gradual change in measuring the effects of mine action from a concentration on the output (number of mines lifted etc.) towards a focus on the impact of mines on populations. Measurement of effects now takes a socio economic angle; the approaches include Landmine Impact Survey (LIS), Community Studies (CS) and Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA). CBA has long been used in various development areas and has been promoted by UNDP and GICHD. The different ways of looking at impact include: direct effects of mines in killing and maiming (although records remain highly inaccurate); effects on local economies, livelihoods and poverty. An important function of measurement of socio economic impact is to supply data for the improvement of planning and operations (useful for mine action effectiveness and efficiency and overall resource allocation). In this context the 2002 World Bank study on Afghanistan provided important findings. At the international level there are still significant blockages to mainstreaming of mine action. PRIO recommendations include: a) mine action should be fully integrated with international development; b) Nairobi plan of action should make mainstreaming a priority; c) donors to coordinate mine action with other development interventions; d) development budgets should be open to fund mine action; e) donor mine action staff to have development expertise; f) emergency relief to pay attention to dev. impact of mine action; g) OECD/DAC reporting system should reflect mine action funding; h) IFIs should increase awareness of mine action and strengthen the role of resident offices; i) major multilateral and bilateral development actors should work in partnership to enhance the mainstreaming of mine action.

4. Joseph Donahue from the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF) presented their experiences in integration of mine action activities with the broader humanitarian-development continuum: The specialty of VVAF is the iIMMAP (information management and mine action programs) in post-conflict relief and development environments. The expertise was gained through landmine/UXO and other surveys. VVAF recognized that in many contexts (e.g. Kosovo) the other sectors were lagging behind information management developments in the humanitarian mine action community. For a greater integration with developmental agendas, VVAF had to directly cooperate with organizations working in or near development. VVAF cited the example of Lebanon: Although contaminated communities were cleared almost universally ("Operation Emirates Solidarity"), a large fraction of the cleared land was not returned to previous agricultural usage. This resulted from structural problems of Lebanese agriculture. Lessons learned from Lebanon: Only a small part of contaminated land, if cleared, can be expected to be returned to active agriculture without supplementary development investments. If budgets are limited, a combination of selective clearance, fencing and livelihood investments may be more productive. VVAF thinks that mine action can achieve greater integration with poverty reduction agendas. It requires thinking and acting outside traditional concepts; acquisition of conceptual tools; institutional and personal relationship; more emphasis on testing and dissemination of results in strategic planning frameworks.
  
5. In the ensuing discussion Germany stated that mainstreaming as such makes a lot of sense, but voiced concern that if mine action was mainstreamed into development, it could become subsidiary to development. Mine action has an independent function, which is why development should be mainstreamed into mine action. A more differentiated approach would thus be possible (as shown with the example of Lebanon in the VVAF presentation). Germany suggested that the MASG should focus on the topic of cost-benefit aspects of mine action. Switzerland stressed that with mainstreaming you need to keep up the enthusiasm, the subject needs to be in the limelight. Switzerland also drew the attention to the fact that mine action could be a good bridge-builder between the humanitarian and the development fields (are there best practices for operators from both fields to swap jobs?). Are there best practices or guidelines for prioritization processes that involve local communities and mine action operators? According to VVAF, the Landmine Impact Surveys have steering committees. According to UNDP, the Nairobi summit can provide the limelight that is needed. The UK informed that it is looking to follow the Canadian strategy, by moving mine action to the country desks. Canada mentioned that with mainstreaming they consider both streams, humanitarian and development, but with an emphasis on development. However one should not worry too much about differentiating, since on the ground both streams flow together. Canada is moving away from the identity of mine action (as shown with the end of the Canadian Landmines Fund) - it is evaluating the progress of its strategy and will share the lessons learned. The definition of humanitarian mine action was raised by the UK: According to UNMAS, mine action can take place in different contexts (humanitarian, development and peacekeeping) and is funded from different pockets. Martin Barber suggested that one should refer to mine action and drop "humanitarian". Sayed Aqa explained that before 1989 mine action was a military task. When the NGOs got involved, one had to differentiate with the adjective humanitarian. Kristian B. Harpviken suggested that mine action financed out of the humanitarian pocket should be called "emergency relief mine action".  
In conclusion, the Chair raised the question to what extent the interesting presentations and this dicussion will have an impact on member countries' mine action policy, since only three missions were represented by their development specialists.
  
6. Martin Dahinden, the ceding Director of the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), summed up how the relationship between GICHD and UNMAS had changed since he took office in 2000. At that time the roles of both institutions were not clearly defined. Thanks to the policy framework for UNMAS put in place by Martin Barber at the end of the same year and a common philosophy on how the international support should be designed, the relations steadily improved. The roles of both institutions were very different: UNMAS has a

political mission and a comprehensive coordination function, whereas GICHD has more the characteristics of an independent enterprise that provides a set of tools and instruments to field programs and institutions. UNMAS and GICHD are in the final stages of the negotiation of a MOU [*the MOU has been signed on 25 June*] that provides a framework for the future cooperation between both institutions.

7. Jiang Yingfeng of the Chinese Mission informed the MASG about the workshop on humanitarian mine/UXO clearance technology and cooperation that was held from 26 to 28 April 2004 in Kunming City, Yunnan Province, China. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, the Australian Network of the ICBL and the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association. The workshop brought together government officials and demining experts from mine-affected Asian countries and donor countries, as well as representatives from UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF, GICHD and NGOs. The conclusions (see document A/58/812) are: a) mine/UXO clearance and victim assistance are key elements in addressing the humanitarian concerns in mine-affected countries; b) specific conditions of different local contexts need to be taken into account by donors; c) cooperation between actors needs to be enhanced in order to increase the efficiency of operations; d) demining is part of comprehensive programs of mine action including MRE, VA, reconstruction and capacity-building; e) further regional cooperation on common issues such as technical matters, operating procedures and development of standards shall be further encouraged.
8. Stacy Bernard Davies from the US stated that during a recent visit of the US State Department to Mozambique, they were informed that the Accelerated Demining Program (ADP) would disband and that most portions of the Instituto Nacional de Desminagem (IND) would curtail activities before September due to lack of funds. ADP staff felt that their traditional donors (Australia, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland and Canada) were not aware of these developments, since the new version of the UNDP mine action project document had not been produced yet. The US has not been a strong financial supporter of either the ADP or the IND and does not plan on providing any additional resources to Mozambique at this time. Current US contributions are focused on HALO Trust operations that facilitate agricultural development and cross-border trade with Tanzania, training and equipment to the Mozambican Defense Forces and IND directed demining operations through RONCO. Sayed Aqa of UNDP commented on the US remarks about the ADP by noting that for many years, the Mozambican government couldn't absorb the capacity of the ADP. He also noted that UNDP wouldn't be extending its program there because the government itself needed to take responsibility for it.
9. The Chair then gave a brief report on the Angola Fieldtrip, informed the MASG about the upcoming visit of the Resource Mobilization Task Force to the World Bank (22 July) as well as about the possibility that the Resolution on Assistance in Mine Action shall be biennialized and moved from the GA plenary to a committee.

The meeting was closed at 01:10 p.m.

## **2. Tentative Agenda for the MASG Meeting on 14 September 2004 in New York**

1. Welcome address by the Chair
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. The role of Mine Action in Peace Processes :
  - Presentation by DPKO
  - Presentation by DPA
  - Presentation by UNDG working group on transition
  - Presentation by Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies
4. Discussion
5. AOB

### **3. Updates**

#### **3.1. Update from UNMAS**

##### **MASG NEWSLETTER - 1 THROUGH 30 JUNE 2004**

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

###### **General Policy**

UNMAS chaired the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action on 17 June. Topics on the agenda were: 1) Review of the UN policy on mine action, 2) Preparations for the Review Conference of States Parties to the APMBC on 29 November – 2 December 2004, and 3) Mine action in Sudan. On the latter, Martin Barber, UNMAS Director, briefed the IACG on his recent visit to Sudan.

###### **Treaty implementation**

UNMAS attended the Intersessional Standing Committees of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on 21-25 June, and the second preparatory meeting for the Review Conference of States Parties to the APMBC on 28-29 June. UN inputs were presented to the various drafts of the outcome documents of the Review Conference (the review and action plan). A meeting was organized to assist mine-affected states with the preparation of their national plans for presentation in Nairobi.

###### **Advocacy**

The advocacy working group of the IACG met for the first time and developed an implementation plan for the recently adopted mine action advocacy strategy and an inter-agency mechanism to monitor activities and progress.

###### **GICHD**

On 24 June in Geneva, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). The MOU defines areas of cooperation between the two bodies, including in relation to the International Mine Action Standards, Rapid Response and Support to Operations.

The Director of the GICHD, Ambassador Martin Dahinden, paid a farewell visit to New York that included a meeting with Under-Secretary-General Jean-Marie Guehenno.

##### **PROGRAM SUPPORT**

###### **UNMEE**

The Slovak mechanical demining contingent left the mission area and repatriated to Slovakia as scheduled. A proposed replacement capacity will be sourced through a competitive tender.

## **BURUNDI**

The United Nations Mine Action Service initiated a mine-action program in Burundi on 1 June 2004. A mine-action expert was deployed in-country and has begun setting up the Mine Action Coordination Center (MACC), as part of a new peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB). The MACC's role will be to provide mine action support to the operations of ONUB, and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the return and repatriation of internally displaced persons and refugees. MACC priorities will be to establish a mine action information system and to oversee and coordinate emergency surveys and mine-risk education activities. Three international NGOs, Handicap International, Danish Church Aid and Swiss Foundation for Mine Action have deployed to Burundi and will initiate mine action projects shortly.

### **New contributions in the VTF 1 May through 30 June 2004**

05/05/2004	Malta	\$2,000	Unearmarked
04/06/2004	Andorra	\$19,091	Unearmarked

## **TECHNOLOGY/ SAFETY**

Following a number of recent accidents involving deminers, a new Technical Note for Mine Action (TNMA) was published to provide mine action personnel safety advice derived from a preliminary analysis of the Database of Demining Accidents, which contains data on over 400 accidents from 12 different country programs. All programs have been alerted to this new TNMA (TN 10.10/02), which can be found on the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) website: [www.mineactionstandards.org](http://www.mineactionstandards.org)

### **3.2. Update from UNDP**

#### **UNDP MINE ACTION UPDATE**

July 2004

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

#### **New York**

- The MASG hosted a presentation by the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO), which was contracted by UNDP to develop policy recommendations on mainstreaming mine action into development. The recommendations were also presented at a luncheon organized during the Intersessionals in Geneva. The study confirms that landmines/UXO pose a serious obstacle to sustainable development in many mine affected developing nations. Mine action should be integrated in national and relevant sector plans, and be included in the plans, programs and budgets of the international development community. There is some concern among members that 'mainstreaming' into development might mean an end to dedicated funding through humanitarian and other channels and result in a net reduction in levels of support overall. UNDP continues to stress that one does not preclude the other. Mainstreaming, if done well, should generate significant additional resources, and acknowledge the far-reaching, multi-dimensional nature of the landmine problem as a humanitarian, development, peace and security, and human rights issue.

#### **ASIA PACIFIC REGION**

##### **Cambodia**

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

- The audit of the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC), conducted by Ernst & Young Malaysia and covering financial years 2002 and 2003, produced a "Satisfactory" rating. It shows continuous improvement since the 1999 crisis (see below), when CMAC internal controls were rated "Seriously Deficient," and confirms the relevance of UNDP's continuous support of management reforms in CMAC:

2000:Marginally-Deficient  
2001:Partially-Satisfactory  
2002/2003: Satisfactory

###### **Funding Update**

- New agreements signed in June 2004 with Australia for AUS\$ 1.25 million for CMAC 2004 operations.
- US\$ 300,000 received for CMAC 2004 operations through Bureau for Crisis Prevention-Thematic Trust Fund.

###### **Mine Clearance Update**

- 4,252,640 square meters were cleared from January to May 2004 (95 percent of the target for the period), corresponding to the clearance of 21,274 AP mines, 245 AT mines, and over 45,000 UXOs.

## **Key Objectives**

- The Mine Action Working Group (chaired by UNDP during the interim period before the formation of a new Government) has decided to commission a joint evaluation of the sector, which will carry the weight of all mine-action donors and serve as a platform to engage the Government on a number of crucial issues and improve our partnership in the mine-action sector. The Term of References are currently being prepared.

## **Laos PDR**

### **Key Achievements**

- The first six month's of UXO Lao's Work Plan has been on target. The plan was approved by the National Steering Committee meeting in mid-February 2004. The organization is now operating close to full team strength, after having successfully hired and trained clearance teams to replace those that had to be stood down following the cash flow crisis that affected the program two years ago (July 2002). The last of these new teams were deployed to the field during the first quarter of this year. There have been a number of important initiatives during the first six months of 2004.

## **Explosive Detection Dog (EDD) Trial, Xieng Khouang Province**

- A four month trial into the viability of using EDDs in Laos was completed in January, and the full report finalized during the second quarter of the year. With financial support from Danish International Development Agency, the trial was implemented by UXO Lao and its implementing partner, Mines Advisory Group (MAG). The dogs and handlers were supplied to MAG by Swedec, Sweden. The dogs proved that they could identify areas of actual UXO contamination within the test boxes and that they have the capacity to do this far more quickly than usual detector-led search procedures. The trial report is currently being reviewed by UXO Lao.

## **Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal (SEOD) Technicians Assessment, Saravan Province**

- The final three SEODs were assessed in Saravan in late January 2004. UXO Lao has a total of 14 SEODs who received their initial training in 2002, and who subsequently spent time working in the field alongside UXO Lao's technical implementing partners. All three SEODs passed the course, and are now fully certified in their roles as SEODs within UXO Lao.

## **Quality Management Process and Management Review**

- UXO Lao established a comprehensive quality management process at the end of 2003. This initiative is now ongoing and will review all management processes and standards within the organization, both centrally and at the provincial level. The work of the Quality Management Unit includes spearheading a management review, which has sought to investigate the organization's human resource management and structural arrangements to allow it to further develop in its role as the national humanitarian mine and UXO-action body.

## **Funding Update**

- UXO Lao has continued to strengthen its donor liaison and resource mobilization efforts in the first half of 2004. In addition to hosting individual donor visits, UXO Lao is also attempting to be more pro-active in reaching out to donors. In June 2004 a donor meeting was hosted in Bangkok, and there are plans underway to host a major donor field visit to the southern provinces of Laos PDR, November 2004. This will build on the success of a multi-donor field visit to Luang Prabang, hosted in September 2003.

## ARAB STATES REGION

### Iraq

#### **Key Achievements**

- With monies drawn from the EC contribution, UNDP has awarded Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, VVAF a contract for the value of US\$ 251,400 contract for the provision of a Senior Technical Advisor for the Landmine Impact Survey in Iraq. The advisor has been in Iraq since April 2004.
- Together with UNICEF, UNDP has developed an interim contingency plan for emergency mine-action response under the current security situation in Iraq as a part of the mine-action cluster approach (C7), which is part of the overall UN contingency plan for Iraq. Specifically, UNICEF will develop, produce, and preposition 500,000 mine-risk education leaflets in Baghdad and Basra for distribution among populations at risk of mines/UXO in the event of an emergency.
- UNDP has issued an “Expression of Interest” for the deployment of ten Technical Advisors to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) inside Iraq in various fields, including Quality Assurance, Multimedia, Victim Assistance, Mine-Risk Education, Administration/Finance, and Public Relations. UNDP has received and reviewed responses from several interested non governmental organizations working inside Iraq. A Request for Proposal for a competitive bidding process is scheduled to be sent out by the beginning of July 2004. Selection and contractual agreements are hoped to be finalized by end of July or early August.

#### **Key Challenges**

- The security situation in Iraq.
- Deployment of a focal point for UN Mine Action in Baghdad to liaise and coordinate mine-action activities in the field.
- Support NMAA in their strategic planning work.

#### **Key Objectives**

- Support and facilitate development of NMAA Strategic Plan for 2005 and first half of 2006 (to be ready by August/September 2004).
- Develop a concept of operations for the expansion of mine-action operations and development of local institutions.
- Recruitment of Chief Technical Advisor.
- Arrangements and follow-up of nominated NMAA senior staff to participate in Senior Mine Action Managers course scheduled to be held in US from 22 September to 24 October 2004.
- Contract one or more mine-action organizations for the provision of 10 Technical Advisors to NMAA in Iraq.
- Search international implementing partner/s for development of local/national operational capacity-building inside Iraq.
- Develop UNDP mine-action strategy for 2005 and beyond.

## Funding Update

- UNDP has received US\$ 5.4 million (US\$ 5.8 million including the remaining 20 percent from the EC contribution) for 2004 and first half of 2005. Additional needs for this time period is approximately US\$ 4.9 million. Because the strategic work process is currently unfinished, additional needs are not clear at this time. The process started with a strategic framework workshop in May 2004 in Jordan, organized by UNDP, and will be followed by a strategic workshop end of July in Baghdad and, hopefully, a donor conference in October in Jordan.
- Estimated total fund needs for the whole Iraq mine-action program for 2005 is between US\$ 60 and 120 million. Probably fund needs for 2004 and first half 2005 from resources other than Iraq is US\$ 40 to 80 million.

Donor/ Agency	Pledged	Received (US\$)	Remaining Needs 2004/ first half 2005 (US\$)	Remarks
EC	(2 million Euro)	1,895,285		Support of Landmine Impact Survey and development of national demining organizations through international Mine Action org. 80% received; expect to receive additional 20%.
Italy	(4.5 million Euro)	3,489,817		For institutional development (Technical support to NMAA) and development of national demining organizations through international Mine Action org.
Total	6.5 million Euro	5,385,102	4,900,000	

## Sudan

### Key Achievements

- UNDP prompted discussions between the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Sudan Campaign to Ban Landmines (SCBL), resulting in the following agreement.
- The past and the on-going cross-line cooperation regarding mine action during conflict in Sudan should be considered as a unique achievement.
- The participants reiterated the strong commitment to the principles of a “one country” approach in addressing mine action in a post-conflict Sudan.
- Cooperation/coordination among government authorities, civil society, and the international community is vital for any successful mine-action program.
- There is a high priority on coordinating/regulating the work of international organizations and civil society in mine action.

- Encouragement of civil society in South Sudan to join the Sudan Campaign to Ban Landmines (SCBL).
- The cross-line interaction between various elements of civil society in Sudan should be further accelerated and strengthened. This includes joint fundraising for projects on mine action, joint capacity-building initiatives, exchange of experiences, field visits, and sharing of information.
- Sudan should advocate and work towards regional cooperation in mine action.
- Organize meetings in August/September 2004 for both parties in North and South Sudan to crystallize a “one country” approach to the Ottawa Convention review meeting. Donors will be approached to fund these meetings.
- The International Campaign to Ban Landmines will be requested to fund two representatives of civil society from North and South Sudan to the forthcoming Ottawa Convention review meeting.
- The civil society in North and South Sudan should advocate within the on-going peace process between the Government of Sudan and SPLM for the establishment of a separate trust fund from government revenue for mine action in post-conflict Sudan.
- Joint North/South Sudan input to the Landmine Monitor Report.
- There is a high priority on building the capacity and transfer of mine-action skills to all national actors, including civil society, and on sustaining mine-action interventions.

### **Key Challenges**

- Designing the transition from emergency mine action to recovery and development related mine action.

### **Key Objectives**

- Plan for and prepare the strategy formulation workshop to take place 18-19 August in Nairobi.
- Arranging the advocacy workshop to take place in Southern Sudan during August/September.
- Finalizing arrangements for senior and middle management training.
- Conducting the Mine Exchange Program (MAX) mission of five persons from the Government of Sudan to Yemen.
- Following up the MAX mission for Southern Sudan.
- Assisting the Government with their Initial Report and Report to the First Review Meeting of the Ottawa Convention.

## EUROPE & THE CIS REGION

### Albania

#### **Key Achievements**

- The Board of Inquiry established by the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE) to clarify the causes of the accident of 24 May 2004 in a Handicap International training classroom and provide relevant recommendations fulfilled its mandate with a full report. This will allow further steps to be taken for the restart of the Technical Survey project in Albania.
- Danish Church Aid (DCA) continued clearance operations during June 2004 in northeast Albania in accordance with the priority tasks by clearing 20,479 square meters (totaling 49,034 square meters since the beginning of the demining season) and destroying 40 APM.
- A draft plan to implement Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention prepared by the AMAE was presented by the Albanian Delegation to the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee of the State Parties of Ottawa Convention.

#### **Key Challenges**

- Restart of the Technical Survey Project.
- Development of the National Mine Action Legislation.
- Integration of mine action in national and regional development plans.

#### **Key Objectives**

- Follow-up of the accident of 24 May 2004 through:
  - assistance to the victims of the accident
  - circulation of recommendations of the Board of Inquiry to the Government of Albania and to the international mine-action community
  - defining the updated schedule for restart of field activities
- A triage of mine/UXO amputees to be treated at the Institute of Rehabilitation in Slovenia, to take place in Albania in mid-July.
- Establish individual socio-reintegration projects for child mine/UXO survivors.

#### **Funding Update**

- Danish Church Aid was further funded in June with 300,000 Euro by the Federal Republic of Germany, to be channeled through the International Trust Fund.

### Tajikistan

#### **Key Achievements**

- French Ministry of Defense has agreed to continue to provide two instructors under a contribution-in-kind agreement with UNDP signed on 30 June. Although each instructor will remain in country for only ten weeks, it is a welcome extension of the initial attachment.
- Two manual clearance teams are deployed on tasks allocated by the Tajik Mine Action Cell. One involves clearing mines in front of a Russian Border Guard post near Komsangir to enable a mains water pipe to be repaired, the other near Garm airport on top of a large hill. Progress at both sites is understandably slow as the teams are newly trained.
- One survey team has been conducting general mine-action assessment in the Vanj District of Gorno Badakshan and has identified a number of mined areas. The other survey team is carrying out technical survey in the Rasht Valley.

## **Key Objectives**

- The Swiss Foundation for Mine Action will complete the training of a survey team on 2 July, jointly funded by UNDP and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). This will be the third survey team in Tajikistan, and is staffed by personnel provided by the Ministry for Emergency Situations.

## **Funding Update**

- Funds have been provided by DFID US\$ 100,000.
- Norway (Euro 100,000)

## **On Victim Assistance**

- A standard cost-sharing agreement has been sent to the Italian Embassy in Tashkent that will provide US\$ 30,000. The total cost of two projects (the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan income generation project, and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection assistance for patient transportation costs and catering at the Dushanbe Orthopedic Clinic) is US\$ 54,000.

### **3.3. Update from Unicef**

#### **Afghanistan**

UNICEF continues to coordinate, provide capacity building initiatives, develop new teaching and training methodologies and provide technical support for mine risk education (MRE) activities for the Mine Action Program of Afghanistan (MAPA).

During the first half of 2004, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education in a teacher-training program that provided training and MRE materials to over 26,000 primary school teachers. This training focused on MRE and child focused teaching methodologies. Ministry of Education personnel were trained to provide the institutional capacity to sustain this program. Together with the Ministry, UNICEF is developing a community based education program that will provide training to community teachers and include MRE materials and curriculum.

UNICEF is currently supporting capacity development for monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for MRE implementing agencies to maintain high quality programs and monitor activities throughout the country. Partner agencies are being trained in internal monitoring and evaluation techniques and practices while an external capacity has already been deployed in the form of external quality assurance (QA) teams in each of the four major regional areas. New reporting formats have been developed and have been input into the IMSMA database system used by the UN Mine Action Center for Afghanistan (UNMACA) allowing for greater accountability of MRE activities and enhanced reporting capacities.

UNICEF and implementing partners have developed a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey to be used in Afghanistan. The survey will be piloted in July 2004 with results input into the UNMACA IMSMA database. Analysis tools are currently under development.

UNICEF has completed the development of new updated and standardized methodologies and materials for the returnee MRE program activities. This program, implemented with assistance from the UNHCR at encashment centers near the Afghanistan border areas of Iran and Pakistan targets the large non-literate populations that are returning to Afghanistan with new communication strategies and materials that include posters, brochures and dramatic film. The new film features professional actors known in Afghanistan and provides messages that will encourage safe travel practices and resettlement activities.

UNICEF continues to develop its mass media programs in both MRE and Victim/Disability Assistance. The MRE campaign will include radio, TV, print media and school and community activities. This program aims to promote communication mechanisms for the Mine Action Program for Afghanistan providing vital safety information to assist communities and families to lead safe lives within their current environments. Victim/disability awareness and advocacy activities will be developed and implemented to increase awareness of the needs and abilities of those with disabilities and encourage inclusive attitudes and policy development.

UNICEF has supported the training of more than 10 MRE teams as part of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programs for ex-combatants. These MRE teams will provide MRE activities in the communities they work and live as part of a Mine Action for Peace community based demining program implemented by the UNMACA and MAPA demining partner agencies.

UNICEF's ongoing efforts to develop new MRE training and community based initiatives through partnerships with government, MAPA implementing agencies and other assistance agencies continues. MRE is being piloted in police training programs and among staff of the Department of Disaster Preparedness.

## **Cambodia**

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

### *Mine/UXO Victim Information:*

In May 2004, the Cambodia Mine/UXO Victim Information System reported 79 new casualties. This indicated an increased of 18% compared with 67 casualties reported in May 2003. Of the 79 casualties, 48 were men, 27 were children under 18 year and 4 were women. Fifty-five (70%) of the casualties were injured or killed by UXO and 24 (30%) were by mines. Fifty-nine casualties received MRE and 20 had not. Among the 27 children who were injured or killed 83% of them were caused by tampering with UXO.

### *Current Challenges:*

The main challenges are changing the behaviors of adult men, due to poverty and the need for income generation and to provide for the family. For example, clearing of forest in a suspected mine contaminated area for agricultural purpose or extracting explosives from UXO in order to use them for other purposes and/or selling the empty scrap metal.

The price of scrap metal has hovered around 700 rile per kilogram in the past four months, increasing from about 200 rile per kilogram in the first quarter of 2003. Another big challenge is that the majority of children who are currently mine/UXO victims are migrant children and are not going to school. This particular group of children forms the current challenge of UNICEF and its partners to reach them.

### *Intervention Strategies:*

The community based MRE is currently focusing its efforts in strengthening the community networks capacity and improving the linkages with mine action responses to make sure that they have good knowledge and conceptual understanding on the community orientation approach which is leading to community sustainability and ownership.

UNICEF and the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) is in the process of finalizing terms of reference for technical support to risk reduction projects. The "STUDY ON THE DELIBERATE HANDLING AND USAGE OF LIVE ORDNANCE" which was funded by Handicap International Belgium, Mines Advisory Group and NPA will be finalized at the end of this month. The Technical Advisor recruited will make use of the study results to enhance risk reduction.

The MRE working group is currently working on integrating MRE into the teacher training college curriculum.

## **Chad**

A three-week MRE campaign in the northeast of Chad started on 29 June 2004. The purpose of the campaign is to sensitize the local communities and newly arrived Sudanese refugees about mines and UXO; train children on the risks caused by mines and UXO; collect new information from refugees and the local population; train trainers in newly established refugee camps; and mobilize the leadership to play a key role in mine risk awareness. The team will also meet two EOD teams for an exchange of information on a stock destruction mission.

The areas covered will be Moussoro-Kouba-Kalait-Kaoura-Bahai-Baradaba-Bamina-Bao. UNICEF supports this mission under the MRE project of the child protection program.

## **Colombia**

During June, a group of disabled persons, including landmine and UXO survivors, participated in the 'Vuelta a Colombia', the hardest, biggest and most prestigious bicycle race in South America. With the slogan 'No More Mines' the team toured the country raising awareness about the landmine and UXO crisis in the country and its consequences.

Colombia's National Landmines Observatory continued a consultative process for the elaboration of a national public policy on landmines. UNICEF supported the process by its active participation and enabling counterparts in the field to attend meetings and provide valuable input regarding this process.

The Colombian campaign Against Landmines – CCAL and the Peace and Development Program for Middle Magdalena Region PDPMM, started a planning process for the establishment of an MRE pilot project in three of the most affected municipalities of the area. UNICEF has participated in this and will provide technical and financial assistance to the process.

During May and June, UNICEF participated in Antioquia's Landmine Technical committee. UNICEF's role has been to provide technical assistance for the development of the departmental mine action plan and the inclusion of a mine action component in the departmental development plan that will guide the activities in this area for the next four years.

In June, community facilitators participating in UNICEF MRE projects in the departments of Antioquia and Cauca participated in a training session to provide them with communications skills to better transmit MRE information and messages at community level.

## **Democratic Republic of Congo**

UNICEF conducted MRE training for 18 members of local NGOs working in the provinces of North and South Kivu from 21 to 24 May. The training focused on basic techniques of direct presentation in MRE, questionnaire and discussion methods for needs assessment, dissemination of the correct messages and teaching methodologies, as well as data collection to contribute to the IMSMA database. Community based MRE 'train the trainer' training is also being organized for June 2004 depending on the security situation. After this training in North and South Kivu provinces, personnel from various local NGOs that are working in the most affected communities in the province of Equateur will be targeted.

Also 18 members of a theatre group were trained from 21 to 22 June 2004. A drama will be prepared by the group in 4 main languages.

## **Eritrea**

UNICEF continues to support MRE field presence in Eritrea through the deployment of six MRE teams in conjunction with the Eritrean Demining Operations (EDO). In June, UNICEF's head of communication and the MRE coordinator, together with the EDO MRE coordinator visited the MRE Team in Assab.

EDO and UNMACC MRE teams have attended psychosocial training organized by UNICEF and 'War Child'.

In June, the six UNICEF-EDO field teams targeted 9,306 people, out of this total 4,793 were children and 510 returnees including adults and children – although not all reports have been received to date, therefore results are still under review. The two UNMACC MRE teams provided MRE to 1,784 people including women, children and shepherds and a total of 45 sets of MRE games were distributed by the MRE teams to the school children of some of the villages.

‘War Child’ Netherlands, together with UNICEF, organized training for 6 EDO and 2 UNMACC MRE teams. Overall objective of this training was to improve the well being of children in the selected project areas and beyond (due to the widespread work of MRE teams). Its primary focus is on mine-survivor and other vulnerable children, but overall, a wider group of children will be targeted (e.g. not to become mine-victims/survivors) with three specific objectives:

- MRE teams have an improved understanding of (psycho-social) development of children and the impact of war on children’s development
- MRE teams have an improved capacity to conduct activities for group and
- MRE Teams have an improved ability to approach individual children who may be dealing with psycho-social problems (due to mine incidents)

Training is organized for 34 participants (including EDA/EDO MRE Coord. and 2 NTC MRE instructors) in the local language (Tygrinia) using PRA techniques.

The EDO MRE coordinator, together with the UNICEF MRE coordinator, conducted MRE safety briefings for different UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, FAO, UNHCR, WFP and Italian NGO “Movimondo”). Total number of 81 people received MRE briefings.

The UNMEE-MACC MRE cell - Asmara conducted routine briefings for all new arrivals into the mission area including both military and civilian staff. During the period, 7 newly arrived UN military observers and 1 new civilian staff member received MRE briefings. MRE reference handbooks were also distributed to the new arrivals.

MRE briefings were conducted for 16 members (All Ranks) of the Italian Carabinieri in Asmara and 465 members (All Ranks) of the KENBATT in SE. MRE was also conducted for 40 pupils of the Italian School, Asmara. “Mine awareness Refresher Briefing” was conducted for 13 UNMOs in SE

Due to the increasing number of MRE recipients, more posters and other teaching materials are required. UNICEF is starting with the process of field-testing of new designs for three MRE posters and one leaflet, as well as for an MRE logo.

### **Ethiopia**

Through funding from the Italian government, UNICEF continues to implement capacity building measures for the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO). In May, EMAO held training with the other national counterparts on training-of-trainers. Further training in surveillance and data collection and monitoring and evaluation is planned for August. Funding for this training will be from the Italian government and from the US Department of State.

In June, EMAO, through an international consultant and national consultants, completed a needs assessment on communications and MRE. The results are being reviewed and studied by EMAO and UNICEF. It is hoped that a strategic plan will be developed from this assessment. EMAO is in the process of recruiting an artist who will assist children in drawing pictures for the Ethiopian Calendar that will be produced for their new year in September.

The handing over of the national NGO ‘Rehabilitation and Development Organization’ (RaDO) to the regional governments in Tigray and Afar is progressing where phase one is fully completed and phase two is in the process of completion. Funding for this has come from UNICEF and the US Department of State.

### **Georgia**

UNICEF Georgia continues to strengthen MRE and survivor assistance programs in affected areas of the Abkhazia region and in Georgia. This is being accomplished largely through UNICEF project support to HALO Trust.

Aided by UNICEF support in the form of MRE communication materials, children and families in the Abkhazia and Zugdidi regions of Georgia are being educated in mine/UXO awareness and risk reduction. UNICEF is facilitating the development and production of culturally appropriate, age specific and locally accessible communication materials (i.e., copy/textbooks with MRE message for schools, and colouring books with MRE message for kindergartens) employed in HALO MRE initiatives. Over 34,500 students at 214 schools take part in interactive MRE workshops conducted by HALO Trust.

UNICEF Georgia is also working with HALO Trust to facilitate a one-month rehabilitation summer camp for child survivors, their families and community members in mine-affected regions of Abkhazia. The camp will be coordinated jointly with the Sukhumi Psychological Rehabilitation Center. The program aims to:

- Create a safe and supportive community environment for children who have been injured by landmines;
- Lay groundwork for the development of a community-based rehabilitation network, including physiotherapy and psychotherapy, special education, information, advocacy, community mobilization, social reintegration and participation for children who have been injured by landmines, their families and community members.
- Promote self-acceptance, self-confidence and personal development amongst injured children through non-formal education, play and recreation using interactive learning techniques.

UNICEF's ongoing efforts to develop a programmatic framework that will link elements of mine action, young people's health and development, inclusive education, and child development continue with great promise. We are committed to ensuring that an integrated approach to mine action is supported, and related activities are sustainably embedded within existing UNICEF programming in Georgia.

### **Iraq**

UNICEF, as the deputy task manager for the mine action cluster, coordinates its activities within the larger UN framework for humanitarian coordination and line ministries. UNICEF continues to maintain good communication and collaboration with national counterparts and government institutions through meetings in Amman as well as through technical assistance and program support from its base in Amman.

In June, UNICEF met with four general directorates of the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS) and discussed the integration of MRE into the current activities of youth clubs under the Ministry. The MOYS has agreed with this proposal to include MRE as part of their regular activities in the youth clubs across Iraq. A plan will be developed according to which UNICEF will provide training-of-trainers' courses on MRE to some 150 staff members of the MOYS. The trainers will then carry out MRE sessions with youths and other community members in their respective areas.

UNICEF also participated in the mine action cluster meeting for contingency planning and is going to develop, produce and preposition 500,000 MRE leaflets in Baghdad and Basra for distribution among populations at risk of mines/UXO in case of any emergency or hot spot situation.

UNICEF's MRE officer has provided a presentation on mine action to the national officers from different UN agencies, who came together for a general orientation workshop on the work of the UN in Iraq and humanitarian coordination.

### **Nicaragua**

Since the beginning of this project in July 2003, gathering information on landmines and UXO stored by civilians, and on areas under suspicion of being mined has been a critical goal. This information is collected through a social network created by the project itself, which includes key actors, community leaders, teachers, and previously trained boys and girls. The collected data is

verified by the field promoters of the project and then referred to the National Demining Commission and to the Demining Unit charged of the area.

The Demining Unit attends the provided information in joint with the field promoters, who contribute to generate a climate of confidence between the army and the civilians.

The project has gathered information on 114 cases of landmines and UXO stored by civilians, as well as on unregistered mined areas. To date, 76 of these informed cases have been attended. Most of the attended cases (38) were done in June. As a result of all these interventions, 399 mines and UXO have been destroyed.

## **Russia – Northern Caucasus**

### *Information gathering and analysis*

UNICEF and its key MRE implementing partner, Voice of the Mountains (VoM), continued their work to further enhance the effectiveness of the IMSMA (Information Management System for Mine Action) database. In cooperation with the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and with financial support from the UK's Department for International Development (DfID), a VoM representative participated in a four-days training on IMSMA's management held in Yerevan, Armenia from 22-24 June.

During the reporting period, 75 reports related to mine/UXO casualties were submitted by data gathering monitors from 'Let's Save the Generation' (LSG) and 'Minga': 11 of them were related to children aged 5-18, and no incidents have been reported for June yet.

### *Mine Risk Education (MRE)*

With financial support from ECHO, VoM's instructors conducted MRE presentations for residents of temporary accommodation centers (TACs) in Grozny and disseminated MRE posters, booklets and leaflets. At the same time, they formed focus groups in villages, targeting representatives of village administrations in Ackhoy-Martanovskiy and Urus-Martanovskiy districts. These focus groups will be acting as promoters of safe behavior techniques in their villages and as sources of information sharing with VoM. Local residents were also briefed by VoM on the various activities carried out by UNICEF in the region.

LSG and the Chechen State Drama Theatre reported that another 30 schoolchildren were trained in MRE techniques, with financial support from the Governments of the Netherlands and Germany, in the newly established drama circles in Urus-Martanovskiy district (Goyte village) in Chechnya. MRE presentations were also conducted for 106 schoolchildren in the same village. In addition, LSG disseminated 120 notebooks, 6 T-shirts and 100 posters containing MRE messages.

### *Assistance to mine/UXO survivors*

A priority for UNICEF remains offering support to mine/UXO-affected children, including through the provision of targeted vocational training. A group of 15 children identified by VoM started acquiring knowledge in computing skills in Grozny's Technical College, which has been cooperating with UNICEF in this field for the past two years. The project is carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Chechnya, which will evaluate the knowledge obtained by the participants and provide them with completion certificates.

Through the Russian Society for the Disabled, UNICEF also started the implementation of a new vocational training on sewing for mine/UXO-affected and disabled girls. The project is initially targeting 20 girls living in Grozny. On 20 June, the Society started the implementation of the theoretical part of the course, while UNICEF is finalizing the procurement of all the necessary equipment for the second, practical part of the training process, which aims at providing participants with practical skills as well as psychosocial assistance.

Some 30 students continued to participate actively in the vocational training on carpentry organized by UNICEF/'People In Need' in Achkhoy-Martan (Chechnya), with financial support from the Dutch National Committee for UNICEF and DfID. Children are progressively developing their skills in the production of kitchen utensils, chairs and special beds. The friendly learning environment also contributes to the psychosocial well being of the children. Transportation and feeding are also provided to the participants.

During the reporting period, UNICEF has provided prosthetic and orthopedic assistance to mine/UXO-affected children and women from Grozny, Shalinskiy and Nozhay-jurtovskiy districts of Chechnya. Some 66 devices were produced for beneficiaries by the Prosthetic-Orthopedic Workshop located in Vladikavkaz, with financial support from the Governments of Germany and the Netherlands as well as from the Dutch National Committee for UNICEF. This total included, *inter alia*, eight below-knee and one above-knee prostheses, five hand prostheses, ten pairs of orthopedic shoes, two corsets, three tutors, four special apparatuses and two chest prostheses. A group of nine children also benefited from the physical rehabilitation provided by Minga and the Republican Clinical Hospital in Grozny. Different physical procedures, including physiotherapy and massage, were offered to the children.

## **Sri Lanka**

### ***MRE week***

June 21-27 was designated national MRE week across Sri Lanka to help raise awareness of the dangers posed by landmines. MRE weeks have previously been held in Jaffna and Kilinochchi, but this marks the first time it has been recognized as a national event. Throughout the week, activities are held in Jaffna, Vavuniya, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Mannar and other areas badly affected by the landmine problem. Nationally, radio spots will be aired to alert all Sri Lankans to the dangers of landmines and how to protect themselves against injury or death.

July, August and September are the most dangerous months in Sri Lanka for landmine injuries. Each year at this time, people return to their fields to begin planting and harvesting their crops. Therefore, the month of June was selected for the national MRE week in order to intensify MRE programs and messages to try and reach the most vulnerable people in the country before entering the most dangerous part of the year, reaching people now so that they take the necessary precautions before they go back to the fields.

Exhibitions, plays, processions, demonstrations and other activities were held as part of the UNICEF supported MRE Week across the north and east regions. In addition, MRE stickers, key tags and T-shirts with messages advocating a total ban on mines have also been produced and distributed during the week.

### ***Mass media***

In order to support effective behavioral change communication, it was deemed necessary to develop and produce communication materials that can be used by the MRE agencies and community based organizations, these materials aim to supplement the community based MRE:

3 reprinted posters (75,000 Tamil and 27,000 in Singhala)

3 new posters targeting resettlement, community participation and victim integration were developed and distributed (75,000 Tamil and 27,000 in Singhala)

MRE stickers (50,000 Tamil and 10,000 in Singhala).

In addition to the printed materials and, as a recommendation from the 2003 program review, an MRE radio program (in both Tamil and Singhala) was developed and commenced broadcasting island wide from June 21st for a period of 4 months.

### ***Development of MRE national standards***

At the request of the National Steering Committee for Mine Action (NSCMA), UNICEF took the lead and initiated the development of national MRE standards. With support from the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), an MRE standards workshop was held in

Colombo with the participation of all MRE organizations and UN mine action staff. The final draft of the national MRE standards, which is based on MRE IMAS will be submitted for approval by the NSCMA. Once it is approved the MRE document will be incorporated within the existing national mine action standards.

#### ***Survivors Assistance***

In the peninsula of Jaffna, which counts for around 60% of the total landmine/UXO incidents in the country, an additional support to psychosocial services focused on getting children back to school through NGO Family Rehabilitation Centre (FRC). The NGO FRC, together with UNICEF and the education system, initiated a referral system to address educational and social issues of children and family members of landmine survivors. This involves formation of a Psychosocial Committee comprising various local NGOs involved in Psycho Social activities, representative from the Department of Education and a representative from the Divisional Secretariat. The proposed PS Committee is targeting 100 children to be assisted through the referral system to be fully re-integrated in the formal basic education system.

#### **Sudan (South)**

The South Sudan Regional Mine Action Office (SSRMAO), with technical support from UNMAS and UNICEF, completed an MRE needs assessment in the three regions of southern Sudan at the end of June. The assessment focused primarily on displaced populations and returnees and analysed risk factors under the headings of pre-departure, en route and reintegration. The risk factors were then grouped under three themes: knowledge and attitudes, livelihood issues and protection. The assessment therefore recommended an integrated approach to mine risk reduction and a major emphasis on the MRE program in southern Sudan will be one of integration, mainstreaming and advocacy.

The SSRMAO together with UNMAS and UNICEF has established an MRE Steering Committee and recently held a five-day workshop to develop MRE materials. The first draft of these resources will be available by the end of July. The piloting is planned in August, to be followed by training of trainers in the use and dissemination of the MRE resources. Collection of information on UXO/mine morbidity continues through the UNICEF/Secretariat of Health sentinel site data collection. In addition, the UNICEF MRE officer represents mine action on the sustainable return team and health coordination meetings to ensure that mine risk is fully integrated into the planning of return.