UNDAC Mission

NIGERIA
City of Lagos
Ammunition Dump Explosion
January-February 2002
THE INCIDENT

- Ammunition dump in a military cantonment started exploding on Sunday 27 January.

- Large explosions continued into the next day, resulting in massive damage at the centre of the cantonment covering approx. 1.5 km².

- Site originally used as ammunition transit centre.

- Poor munitions management, old and unserviceable stock - unknown quantities and types of ordnance.
HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

- About 300 people killed in direct blast area.
- Some 800 people perished in subsequent panic outside the cantonment – lack of credible information.
- Some 20,000 people directly affected by this incident to varying degrees of severity.
- Many families became separated in the confusion – urban environment leading to high mobility of displaced population.
HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- Temporary shelter and camp accommodation - tents
- Emergency water and sanitation
- Health services
- Support to children returning to school
CONCLUSIONS

- Typical example of a man-made incident in densely populated urban area.

- Humanitarian situation largely resolved by efforts of the national authorities and international agencies.

- Strong connection between humanitarian and technical aspects of this incident.

- Consequences of military response and clean-up operations for displaced civilian population.
CONCLUSIONS

- Evident lack of preparedness and awareness - led to increase in fatalities.

- Coordination problems at different national levels – political sensitivites.

- Involvement of military adds another dimension to humanitarian response efforts.
LESSONS LEARNED

- Importance of a strong national disaster management structure.
- Definition of roles and responsibilities between different partners - federal, state, military and civil society.
- Need for contingency and preparedness planning at all levels.
- Need for risk assessment of other potentially hazardous ammunition sites