VICTIM ASSISTANCE IN ALBANIA

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Mine/UXO Victim Assistance Components

- Access
- Legislation and Public Awareness
- Medical Assistance
- Prostheses and Physical Rehabilitation
- Psychological and Social Support
- Socio-Economic Reintegration
- Data Collection

Mine Survivor
Victim Assistance Strategy

**Vision:** All mine/UXO victims to be physically rehabilitated and socially economically reintegrated into their communities.

**Landmine/UXO casualties in NE Albania:** 238 mine/UXO survivors in Kukes region and 34 dead

Victim Assistance Actors

- Albanian Government
- Donor Community
- Albanian Mine Action Committee (AMAC)
- Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE)
- International Trust Fund (ITF)
- UNICEF
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC)
- ICRC-SFD
- Handicap International
- Kukes Regional and District Hospitals
- Institute of Primary Healthcare, Kukes
- Local NGO: Victims of Mines & Weapons Association (VMA)
- Slovenian Institute of Rehabilitation
- National Orthopedic Prosthetic Centre (NOPC)

- Mine/UXO Victims
Medical Care, Social Support & Physical Rehabilitation

Emergency and Ongoing Medical Care
- Improve surgical capabilities of Kukes hospitals - provision of needed equipment and refresher trainings
- Improve emergency care provided at village level - training and establishment of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) network with 30 nurses in mined region, provision of equipment/supplies
- Treatment of sight impaired mine/UXO survivors

Social Support
- Mine survivor as well reintegrated role model for others is employed with local NGO-VMA
- Nurses employed in CBR network

Physical Rehabilitation
- 99 amputees treated abroad in Slovenia
- Building capacity of NOPC in Tirana - construction of new centre, provision of supplies, training of prosthetic technicians
- Establishment of Prostheses Repair Workshop in Kukes in March 2005 - 120 amputees treated here in 2005
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Project; 2006-8

Socio-economic Reintegration

Home Based Economies through Animal Husbandry
- 44 beneficiaries to date; another 32 potential beneficiaries for 2006
- Home-based economies in animal husbandry, bee-hive keeping, etc.
- Revolving loan fund

Problems: making loan repayments; small income for beneficiaries
Benefits: responsibility taken by beneficiary to repay loan; revolving fund can be used to assist others; benefits of animals for family

Vocational Training
- 2006-7 and will assist 30 beneficiaries in practical entrepreneurship trainings

Educational Reintegration
- 8 child mine/UXO survivors assisted in continuing their studies

Benefits: children regain motivation for their education, excel in their studies, and have increased social contact with their peers.

Kukes Regional Development Initiative
- CBO’s prioritize small-scale infrastructure development projects through RRA theory and contribute to the construction process
- 2006-7; to date support to 6 of the 39 mine affected villages
- Rehabilitation to the drinking water supply, schools, health centres, irrigation system, etc.
Mine/UXO Victims in Albania Injured as a result of the Hotspots
Total Number of Casualties since 1997: 476 persons

Goal: to build an Albanian Survivor Assistance Capacity

Plans for 2006-8:
- Construct a new NOPC premises in Tirana
- Provision of medical equipment and supplies for the NOPC and hospitals/health centres in Kukes region
- Train 5 prosthetic/orthotic technicians to international standards
- Training of medical specialists from Kukes region in provision of emergency and ongoing medical assistance
- Development of a sustainable physiotherapy training programme through the Nursing Faculty in Tirana
- Improved rehabilitation facilities and capacity in Kukes region
- Vocational training programme for 30 mine survivors and another 32 mine survivors assisted in establishing home-based economies
- Establishment of revolving loan fund
- Small scale infrastructure development projects continued in cleared villages of Has and Tropoja districts
- Contribute to the fulfillment of the National Strategy for People with Disability (2005-2015)

By the end of 2006, Albania should have the capacity to:
- Provide most prostheses within country
- Provide improved delivery and quality of social and medical services
- Rehabilitate mine victims through the establishment of an active community based rehabilitation network in NE Albania
- Train students in physiotherapy in line with international standards through the Nursing Faculty of Tirana
- Ensure the socio-economic reintegration of mine/UXO survivors through an effective vocational training and revolving loan scheme