














THE ALBANIAN MINE ACTION PROGRAMME

Transition of Mine Action Capacities to Clearance of ERW/AXO and Stockpiled Ammunition Disposal




APM Standing Committees Meetings
Geneva 20-24 June 2011

AMAE Presentation




The Albanian Mine Action Programme

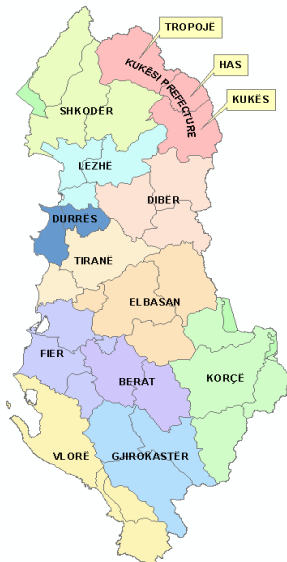
- Landmine and UXO-s problem in Albania dates from the Kosovo conflict in 1999, where about 15.2 million square meters of land was identified as contaminated.
- A Mine Action Programme Programme was established since 1999, inclusive Humanitarian Demining, Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance.
- A policy-making body (AMAC) and a coordination and monitoring body (AMAE) in place to implement the programme.
- National sustainable capacities to plan, monitor and manage mine action activities were fully established in Albania throughout implementation of the programme.
- Clearance of mine/UXO contaminated areas was successfully completed in November 2009, by releasing as free of mines and UXOs some 16 million square meters.

Together we made it happen





Key indicators of programme's success:



Mine affected districts in NE Albania

- All known hazardous areas cleared before APMBT and CCM treaty deadlines.
- Effective coordination structures promoting collaboration between implementing agents, government, donors and international actors.
- Systematic and effective RE programme reducing the number of mines or cluster munitions casualties to zero since 2005.
- A consistent and effective focus on accident survivors and their long term rehabilitation. Rehabilitation capacities (Prosthetic & Physiotherapy) at Kukes Regional Hospital capable (trained/equipped) to treat mine/UXO survivors in the Region.
- Effective integrated approach undertaken combining Clearance with Community Liaison, Risk Education and Technical Survey activities.
- The programme has received consistent and adequate funding and donors have indicated their high degree of confidence in AMAC and AMAE.



AMAE's established capacities include:



- Sound accreditation procedures, ensuring only competent organisations undertake mine/UXO clearance work.
- Effective quality management procedures and standards providing confidence in the quality of mine/UXO clearance work.
- Sound information management system with the potential to be adapted to demilitarisation and hotspot clearance.
- Effective planning mechanisms that enable time-bound targets and milestones to be set.
- The presence of committed, motivated, technically competent and knowledgeable staff.
- A surplus of equipment ready to be deployed on future programmes.





What next?- Transition Process



- Continue coordination and monitoring of projects under implementation mainly in the area of Victim Assistance, Risk Education and Post-Clearance activities in NE Albania.
- Provide the required technical support and expertise to the President (Albania) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.
- Follow up on the results of the programme assessment conducted recently by UNDP BCPR, on transition options for the AMAP.
- Formalize the agreement with the Government & the programme main donors regarding the transition of AMAE into a new role of coordinating and monitoring the Hotspots Clearance & National Ammunition stockpile disposal.



OVERVIEW OF THE HOTSPOTS PROBLEM

Hotspots



General Overview of Hotspots-UXO Contamination

The threat emanated from the explosions of former military depots; the AAF Survey identified:

- 4 contaminated areas
 - Lac
 - Selixe- Burrel
 - Gerdec- Vore
 - Sinanaj- Tepelene
- 25 hectares

It includes :

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) of different types and production.

Since 1997 there have been:

- 586 injured
- 100 killed

The last accident is recorded in June 2010.





Gerdec Explosion

Estimated 9.000 tonnes on Site at Time of Accident

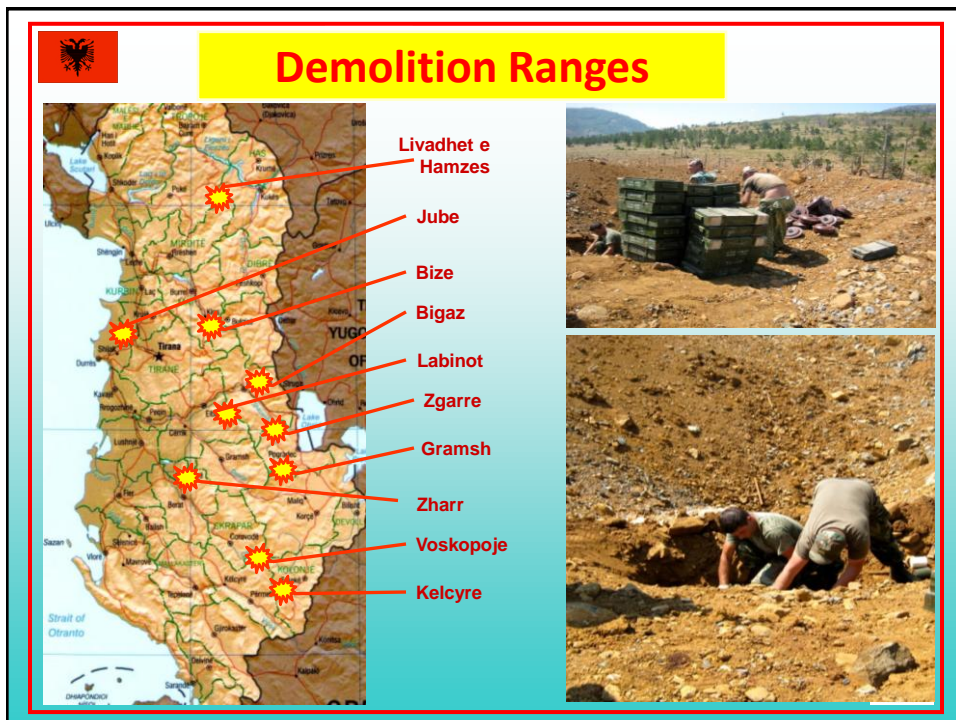


OVERVIEW OF THE PROBLEM

Stockpiled Ammunition Disposal

- ☐ An estimated amount of 76,000 tonnes of excess stockpiled ammunition identified for disposal.
- ☐ The National Plan of Action aims to complete disposal of excess ammunition by 2013.
- ☐ Establishment of National DEMIL BOARD (Chaired by Deputy MOD)
- ☐ National Action Plan - approved
 - Demilitarization
 - Industrial demilitarization
 - Open Burning & Open Detonation
- ☐ Current funds provided (Government & International support USA / OSCE)







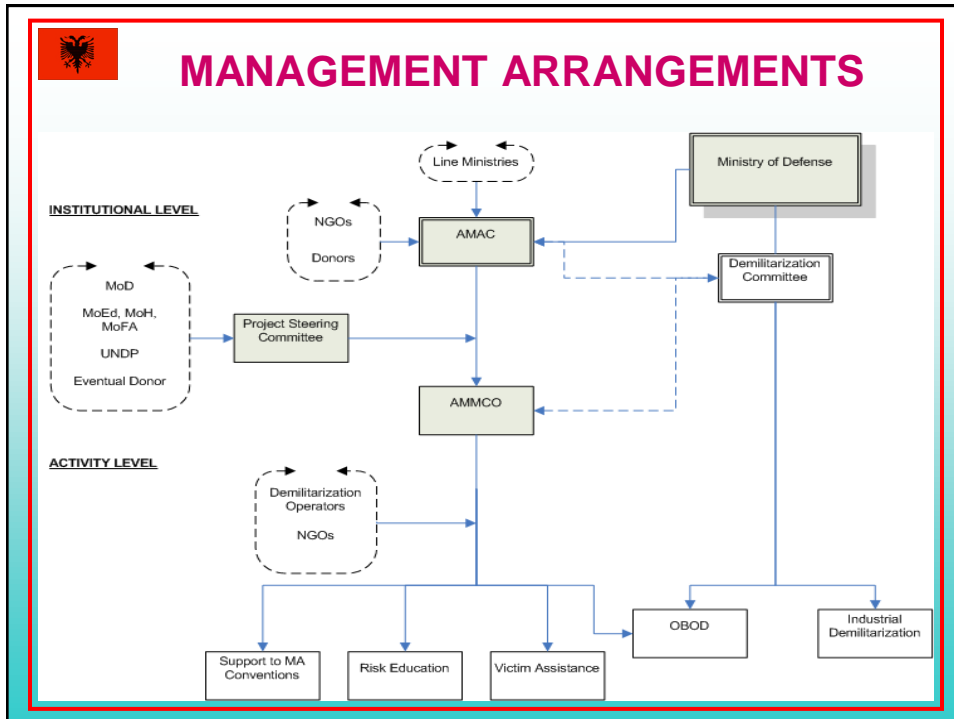
Demolition Ranges



AMAE (AMMCO)'s Roles and Responsibilities

- Continue coordination and monitoring of victim assistance activities in the country. Extend the VA Programme to ERW/AXO survivors nationwide.
- Continue its supporting role to Albania's reporting obligations and Presidency to the APMBT.
- Develop a humanitarian framework for ammunition stockpile destruction:
 - Community Liaison and Risk Education.
 - Review of national standards on OBOD.
 - Accreditation of operators.
 - Quality Management of Hotspots Clearance.
- Programme Management and Resource Mobilization





Community Liaison, Public Awareness and Risk Education Activities

- **Conduct surveys and field visits within local communities to identify and update priorities to address during the clearance season.**
- **Obtain official approval of priorities from regional authorities & AMAC in contaminated areas, prior to starting field activities.**
- **Prepare awareness materials, for sending appropriate messages to different targets: local male and female residents at risk, education system, EOD operating teams and donors.**
- **Organize training workshop with local and national media on the methodologies and good practices in sensitizing local population, to the dangers of ammunitions and hotspots areas.**

The right side of the slide features two images. The top image shows a collection of awareness materials, including a poster titled "Municipalitet e paqasura VRASIN dhe SHKATERROJNE gjiroçkal" (Contaminated Municipality VRASIN and DESTROYER Gjiroçkal) and a flyer titled "MOS PREK ASGJE!" (DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING!). The bottom image shows a community meeting or training session taking place outdoors in a village setting, with a man in a military uniform addressing a group of people.



Extend Victim Assistance programme to ERW/AXO Survivors

- ❑ Continue support to Landmine and UXO survivors in northeast Albania.
- ❑ Address the different needs for medical and physical rehabilitation as well as for socio-economic reintegration of mine/ERW/AXO female and male survivors in compliance with requirements of the National Strategy for the People with Disabilities.
- ❑ Gender and age disaggregated data collection of the injured people all over Albania in new incidents, using the IMSMA NG forms. Share the data with all relevant actors.
- ❑ Technical support to Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Ministry of Health, in care and support of survivors of landmine and ERW/UXO accidents.
- ❑ Lobbying and Resource Mobilisation.
- ❑ Support to ratification and implementation of the UN Disability Convention, where Albania is signatory since December 2009.



Hotspots Clearance & Ammunition Stockpile Destruction

- ❑ In consultation with the Ministry of Defence, review the existing EOD standards and update them as necessary in compliance with the IMAS.
- ❑ Provide EOD training for all the QM teams based on International Standards.
- ❑ Accreditation of private operators and field work tasking.
- ❑ Apply Quality Assurance and Quality Control by monitoring all survey, hotspots clearance and OBOD activities.
- ❑ Prepare handover certificates, signed by the QM Team, the clearance organization and local authorities.





Information Management Support Plan (Adaption IMSMA NG to Hotspot and ASD)

Mine Action Object	ASD Object	Remarks
Location	Location	
Hazard	Site	Either hotspot or ammunition stockpile
Hazard Reduction	Site activities	Site assessments, Clearance (BAC), demilitarization (industrial or OBOD)
Tasks	Tasks	
Accident	Accident	
Victims	Victims	
MRE	Risk Education	
Quality Control	Quality Management	
Community Liaison	Community Liaison activities	On the CL activities , it has to be added the communities a round the demilitarisations factories, demolition polygons and Hotspots areas
Places	Places	On the places type, it has to be added the demilitarisation factories and demolition polygons

GICHD | CIDHG



Partnerships Prospects

- UNDP is currently supporting the transition phase and start of operations and willing to continue its support in this new area.
- ITF is continuing its support with training/equipment and funds for AMAE and continuing its support to DCA for Hotspots Clearance.
- GICHD stands by to support IMSMA adapting to demilitarization and training for AMAE.
- Swiss General Staff is continuing its support with an in-kind EOD Specialist to AMAE.
- ICRC is providing EOD training through MAT MONDIAL based in Kosova to AMAE staff as well an emergency EOD and RE team in case of any stockpile explosion.
- Current National and International partners of the AMAP and others already involved in demilitarization have clearly demonstrated their confidence and willing for further cooperation with AMAE.





Thank you

