



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

Commission on Implementation of International Humanitarian Law

FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC MINE ACTION PLAN

2004 - 2008



Amendment 1

1 January 2005

Approved by the CIIHL

Signed:

Date:

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Abbreviations Used

CIIHL	Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law
FSD	Swiss Foundation for Mine Action
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IMSMA	International Management System for Mine Action
ML&SP	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
RCST	Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan
TMAC	Tajikistan Mine Action Cell
UXO	Unexploded ordnance
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

BACKGROUND

1. The Five Year Strategic Plan for Mine Action was approved in April 2004. Until bad weather led to a cessation of survey and mine clearance operations at the end of December, three survey and two manual clearance teams which operated from mid 2004 carried out the following:

General mine action assessment (Impact survey)

Technical survey and clearance of mined areas identified during general mine action assessment

UXO destruction

Extent of contamination so far identified:

2. The general mine action assessment conducted so far, has resulted in the following information:

- 14 mined areas in Central Region identified – 11 affect communities.
- 23 mined areas in Western Gorno Badakshan identified - 8 affect communities.
- 48 mined areas (mainly on Uzbek territory) affect 26 communities adjacent to Uzbek border in Sugd Region.

3. General mine action assessment conducted in the Sugd region in August and September 2004, indicates that the majority of mined areas which affect Tajik communities, are on Uzbek territory. Some are in areas that have not yet been agreed between the respective State Border Commissions and might therefore be in territory which eventually becomes Tajik. This means that Tajikistan will not be able to survey or clear, any of the mined areas on Uzbek territory and the previously anticipated requirement for the TMAC to open a sub office in Khujand, will not now apply.

4. Overall, the information indicates that the problem of mine contamination in Tajikistan, which directly affects local populations, is not as extensive as was believed when the Five Year Strategic Plan was drafted in late 2003.

Casualties

5. Reported casualties in 2004 were:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • Central Region | Nil |
| • Afghan border (Khatlon / Gorno Badakshan) | Nil |
| • Gorno Badakshan (Darvoz) | 1 injured |
| • Sugd Region | 7 killed
6 injured |

Tasks ahead

6. The following task will be progressively undertaken during 2005 and subsequent years

- Clear mined areas:

Central Region	11
Gorno Badakshan	8

- Survey Afghan border -1,380 Kms
- Complete the positioning of 2,000 already ordered, large hazardous area warning signs along the Tajik / Uzbek border. Obtain and position additional signs
- Continue:
 - Mine risk education
 - Provision for needs of mine survivors and other victims

Operational Capacity

7. Whilst donor financial support and in kind contributions received during 2004 was substantial (US\$2.33 million plus the services of two French military instructors) it was not sufficient to expand the operational capacity as envisaged in the Strategic Plan. Only 1, not 2 additional survey teams were equipped trained and deployed, and mine detecting dog teams were not raised. The training of a Quality Control Inspector was not completed.

8. In the light of the re-assessment of the extent of mine contamination including the inability to survey or clear mines affecting communities in the Sugd Region, together with a realistic assessment of what donor support can be anticipated, the operational capacity required to successfully undertake the tasks ahead has been reduced. The anticipated costs have also been substantially reduced - now \$8.9million for the remaining four years of the five-year plan.

AMENDMENTS

9. The following amendments are to be made to the Five Year Strategic Plan for Mine Action 2004 – 2008 (original paragraph numbering)

6. PROGRAMME DESIGN

Current Situation

UNDP's initial capacity building project to assist the Government create a sustainable, indigenous national institution able to plan, coordinate, and implement, a comprehensive mine action programme in Tajikistan was extended to March 2006. If necessary, it will be extended but the requirement for an international advisor is unlikely to extend beyond the end of 2005. .

OSCE's project, implemented by the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) which has provided an operational capability since mid 2003, will be further expanded in 2005.

Calendar year 2005

In accordance with the Vision and Priorities, efforts will be concentrated on those areas where the humanitarian impact of mines is the greatest. This will comprise mine risk education and completion of the positioning of 2,000 large, hazardous area warning signs in the Sugd Region, a continuation of general mine action assessment in the Central Region, Gorno Badakshan and the border with Afghanistan, and continuation of technical survey, marking and clearance in the Central Region. Mine risk education will continue in all areas contaminated by mines, assistance will be provided to the Orthopaedic clinic and an income generation scheme for selected mine survivors and their families initiated. In addition,

Development of the capacity of the TMAC will continue, including an enhancement of the IMSMA mine database.

Subject to sufficient donor support:

A mine detecting dog capability will have been initiated

Four survey teams and four manual clearance teams will be operationally deployed (one additional survey team and two additional manual clearance teams)

A fully trained Quality Control Inspector will be deployed

Calendar year 2006

If significant numbers of Army and other ministry personnel detached to FSD fail to take up longer-term engagements on completion of their compulsory military service, FSD will be encouraged to form a local NGO to employ, manage and operationally supervise them.

Subject to donor financial support, an operational base will be established adjacent to the Army Engineer Battalion barracks near Dushanbe

The TMAC will be fully functional under national management with limited support from UNDP.

The operational capacity will increasingly be under national management as Tajik team leaders and managers gain sufficient experience to enable them to work without international supervisors

Calendar year 2007

All aspects of the national mine action programme will continue to develop

Calendar year 2008

By 2008, an experienced management structure will control all aspects of mine action in Tajikistan and should have achieved all three components of the Vision.

Planning Assumptions

- At least three survey teams and two manual clearance teams will be available for operations from March 2005*
- The operational capability will increase to four survey teams, four manual clearance teams from mid 2005 and training four mine detecting dog teams will commence during the year.*
- From March 2006, operational capacity will reach its planned peak capacity of four survey teams, four manual clearance teams and four mine detecting dog teams.*

Programme Costs

Funds received from donors during 2004 included:

OSCE - FSD Project		
Donor	US\$	Use
Belgium	36,570	Equipment
Sweden	60,950	Joint survey team - with UNDP
Norway	121,900	Joint survey team - with UNDP
OSCE	438,840	Operational capacity
Canada	746,825	Operational capacity
Japan	250,000	Equipment
UNDP Project		
Canada	440,653	TMAC capacity building support - 2 years
UK	100,000	Joint survey team - FSD contract
NATO	3,108	AP mine stockpile destruction
UNDP	14,000	Dushanbe Landmine Conference

<i>UNDP</i>	<i>50,000</i>	<i>Hazard warning signs - Sugd Region</i>
<i>USAID</i>	<i>40,000</i>	<i>Hazard warning signs - Sugd Region</i>
<i>Italy</i>	<i>76,336</i>	<i>MRE / victim assistance in 2005</i>

Phasing the introduction of additional capacity during the two years 2005-6 may alter the actual costs during each of the years 2005 2006. Estimated totals are as follows:

2005: US\$ 3,786,000 (includes \$ 1.374 million already pledged)

2006 \$ 1,779,000

2007 \$ 1,673,000

2008 \$ 1,661,000

Total: US\$ 8,898,000

These figures do not include the contributions made by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to mine risk education and victim assistance projects.

7. CONCLUSION

As the TMAC enters its second full year of operation it continues to face a challenging time as it moves forward with responsibility for solving the mine pollution problem. . The field capability is currently small but with sufficient donor support, will expand during 2005. The challenge is to ensure that the capability is directed against accurately identified tasks and in a manner according to national and regional priorities, to effect detailed and timely control of operations, to continually monitor technical standards and to conduct the specialised training that will be necessary to sustain the very specialised capability for overall control of demining operations in Tajikistan.

With sufficient donor support to enable to the expansion of the operational capacity as previously outlined it should be possible to clear all mines and UXOs which pose a threat to nearby communities, by the end of 2008.

It is to be hoped that the Uzbek Government will act upon its announcement in June 2004 that it would consider clearing the mines it has laid along the Uzbek / Tajik border and thereby eliminate the mine contamination which continues to exact a heavy toll on communities living close to that border in the Sugd Region.