

# MASG

## Mine Action Support Group Newsletter

### Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

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#### Inside this Newsletter:

1. Unofficial Minutes: MASG-Meeting 14 October 2004 .....	2
2. Unofficial Minutes: Reinforced MASG-Meeting, 27 October 2004 .....	4
3. Address by USG Jean-Marie Guéhenno .....	9
4. Address by Martin Barber, Director of UNMAS “Four years at the United Nations Mine Action Service”, a Self-critical Review! .....	12
5. Agenda MASG Meeting 15 December 2004 .....	20
6. Updates .....	21
6.1. Update from UNMAS .....	21
6.2. Update from UNDP .....	24
6.3. Update from Unicef .....	33
7. Presentation Sudan (DCA) .....	44

## 1. Unofficial Minutes: MASG-Meeting 14 October 2004

1. The Chair introduced the subject for the meeting of the day, the Nairobi Summit on a mine-free world and cordially welcomed its President designate, Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch from Austria. The process leading to the Review Conference that will take place from 29 November to 3 December has been conducted mainly outside of New York. This is why a briefing by the President designate was so important for the New York based members of MASG.
2. Ambassador Petritsch called the Ottawa process a multilateral success story, more has been achieved than was expected: 37 million mines were destroyed, the number of new victims has gone down significantly and there is virtually no more trade. However there is still a lot to be done, the challenges for the future are: universalisation of the treaty, stockpile destruction, still too many new victims. The President is aiming at a strong political declaration since it is the highest profile event since 1997. Nairobi is the opportunity to raise 5 objectives:
  - Bring the issue of mines back into public consciousness.
  - Reinforce political and ressource commitment.
  - Reiterate the obligation to clear mines and to assist victims
  - Plan of Action for the next 5 years (most important objective)
  - Increase worldwide acceptance of the Ottawa Convention

The MASG should focus on the Action Plan. Members should feel comfortable when reading the document. The mine-affected States must be represented at the highest possible level, they must articulate their message very clearly.

The unique characteristic for the process is the collaboration between civil society, governments and the UN. Currently the media interest for the summit is still lagging behind.

3. In the ensuing discussion, the Chair asked whether the Plan of Action covers all dimensions and whether the media coverage couldn't be enhanced with Goodwill Ambassadors. According to Ambassador Petritsch, the Plan of Action is comprehensive since the Ottawa Convention is comprehensive as such (it contains aspects of disarmament, humanitarian challenges, universalisation and development). The President has a Group of Friends: Canada, Mozambique, Nicaragua and Norway to facilitate the Review, Plan of Action and Conclusions. Germany and Mali to facilitate the discussions about "Future Meetings" and related matters. In the process NGOs and the ICRC are very important. Civil society is an untraditional partner in international relations. Although finally it is the States who have the responsibility, the discussions with civil society were very open and created a lot of stimulus. Queen Noor from Jordan and Jody Williams are acting as Goodwill ambassadors. The Ottawa Treaty was negotiated outside of the UN system, but the UN is now a very appropriate forum, since the treaty has become more universal. Martin Barber from UNMAS stressed that the Intersessionals have become a very important forum for the mine action community. They serve as a meeting point and a policy development opportunity. In view of the Nairobi summit a template has been prepared for the submission of national plans. 25 seriously mine affected countries will present their 2005-2010 plans in the same format, which is very good for ressource mobilization (donors can see plans in a consistent way).

Dermot Carty from UNICEF reminded that there is a danger that the mine action community will be complimenting each other effusively in Nairobi, while blinding out the challenges that remain to be addressed. It is important to maintain public awareness. Sayed Aqa stated that UNDP would present at a side event the results of the study on linkages between mine action and development. The World Bank is also preparing a workshop for Nairobi. UNDP would also like to focus on its completion initiative (get the job done in 10-15 countries). Canada drew the attention to a youth symposium in Nairobi on the eve of the summit as well as a side event with military officers. The representative from the USA argued that his country remains very

committed to humanitarian mine action and that it is interested in finding a way to participate in Nairobi. There are areas where the US could participate, but they are not ready to pay 22% of the conference costs as an observer. Ambassador Petritsch agreed that everybody who shares the goals of the Convention should be able to participate at the Summit. The Ottawa Treaty however has clear provisions: the distribution of the costs of the conference are contained in Art. 14 of the Convention. To change this, an amendment would be needed. The Chair raised the question of the slogan: do we really want a mine-free world or rather a world free from the impact of mines? According to Ambassador Petritsch the slogan has to contain a vision, the goal is the same: no more victims, no social activity should be hampered by the threat of mines.

4. Under AOB, the MASG first accepted Lithuania, who has ratified the Ottawa Treaty as one of the first countries of the region and is becoming active as a donor, as a new member of the MASG.

UNICEF then presented additional text for the Resolution on Assistance in Mine Action. The objective is to commemorate the International Day for Mine Awareness on 1<sup>st</sup> of March of each year.

Concerning the additional donor representative on the IMAS Review Board, the Chair of the MASG has received two candidacies, one from Denmark and one from the US. UNMAS has decided to take both with open arms, since the term of one of the current donors expires in 2005.

Martin Barber informed that on 19 October there was going to be a lunch meeting organized by the Netherlands, the ICRC and UNMAS on Protocol 5 to the CCW (with Ambassador Sanders).

As far as his succession is concerned, Martin Barber informed that the polls were closed and that the candidates' files were with OHRM. A panel will look at the candidacies, with USG Guéhenno taking personal responsibility for the process.

The meeting was closed at 12:30 p.m.

## 2. Unofficial Minutes: Reinforced MASG-Meeting, 27 October 2004

1. After the introduction of Ambassador Stephan Nellen, the new director of the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the chairman made the following introductory remarks: He first thanked the Dutch facilitators for their efforts in the negotiations of the resolution on Assistance in Mine Action, where unfortunately there was no consensus. The Chair was however pleased to see reflected in the draft resolution a few ideas that were also discussed in the MASG during the past year (mainstreaming of m.a. into development, involvement of the World Bank, confidence-building role of m.a. in peace processes). As a second point the chairman thanked Martin Barber, the UNMAS Director for his commitment and support. Lastly he pointed out that as the end of the first half of the Swiss chairmanship of MASG is approaching, he would be interested to get a feedback from members on next year's program and fieldtrip. He also asked the members whether they would agree to meet with representatives from mine-affected countries from time to time.
2. These remarks were followed by an address from Martin Barber, Director of UNMAS (see text in this Newsletter).
3. During the exchange of information among donor delegations, the Netherlands first described what led to the failure of the negotiations on the resolution on Assistance in Mine Action: One delegation had insisted that the revised UN mine action policy and strategy as well as other internal working documents of UNMAS, be endorsed by the GA. Since there was no consensus on this question, the Netherlands decided after consultations with other partners, to have only a technical resolution that postpones the agenda item to next year. The result is that there will be no consultations on the UNMAS policy and no SG report to comment on next year.
4. Ambassador Nellen, Director of the GICHD, then presented some new developments at the Center (e.g. re-engineering of IMSMA-software to make it more user-friendly). In the ensuing statements all the donors thanked Martin Barber for his commitment and his work as head of UNMAS. Slovenia presented the initiative of a mine-free region of South-Eastern Europe by 2009, a project that is sponsored by Austria, Canada, Norway and Slovenia (the initiative will be officially presented in Nairobi). Canada explained how it is making mainstreaming more operational and suggested that the MASG should discuss this issue further. Canada as well as Thailand mentioned the successful meeting of the RMCG Taskforce with the World Bank. Further steps, particularly during the Nairobi conference are now being discussed.
5. Under AOB, Brigadier General Salim Raad, the Director of the National Demining Office of Lebanon, stressed that the Lebanon Mine Action Programme was a success to this point through working partnerships with the UN, Donors and the Host Country. The UAE project that is now ended has contributed to mine/UXO clearance of about 1/3 of the total problem and involved the close working and very successful partnership with the UAE Officers, the UN and the Lebanese Armed Forces. Lebanon however needs assistance to clear the remaining 2/3 of the total mine/UXO problem. It is a small sized country with a high population density; that is why every square inch of ground is important. Within its end-state Strategy the Government has specified technical survey as priority to achieve area reduction and enable more accurate work estimates upon which to base their resource needs. Brig. General Raad extended to the MASG an invitation to do a field visit to Lebanon during 2005. He also suggested that a briefing on Lebanon should be included in the 2005 MASG Calendar.
6. Under the thematic panel on "how to build an inclusive and comprehensive national mine action program" the following introductory remarks were made by the panelists:

H.E. Ambassador Gaspar Martins from Angola stressed the importance of the development dimension of mine action as well as the necessity of partnerships between the different actors (UN, donors, affected countries). He also underlined the need for the most affected countries to organize themselves.

Richard Kidd from the USA described the 5 points that make a national mine action program attractive from a donor's point of view:

- Dedicated and capable leadership by the government and commitment to the stakeholders.
- Planning process leading to a national plan.
- The National Strategic Plans must contain: a realistic and achievable vision; prioritized goals; measurable objectives.
- Investment strategy with national contributions to support the plan.
- Commitment to transparency and accountability in terms of financial and performance of duties. The national mine action program must learn and adjust as they carry out the plan.

Sayed Aqa from UNDP stressed that the goal was to create synergies (both vertically and horizontally) and to avoid duplication. One should pursue a multi-stakeholder approach in order to be more cost-effective. Effective coordination and information sharing is important. The MASG provides a forum for that. Building a strategic partnership and thinking long-term is essential. Non-state actors are an important part of the problem and they can also be a part of the solution.

Ian Mansfield from the GICHD based his comments on his experience in the field. National capacity building is no myth: To sustain mine action over the long-term, a mine action programme must develop local capacities. Although capacity development is not considered a core component of mine action, the IMAS 7.10 deals with capacity building. A National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) has to be in place to ensure political oversight and responsibility. The operational arm of the NMAA is the Mine Action Center (MAC) which coordinates and regulates day-to-day mine action activities on the ground. Another very important element is national legislation. The GICHD published in 2003 a guide for developing national mine action legislation. The advantages of regulating mine action through national legislation are:

- Wide involvement of the national parliament and government agencies in the development of the law.
- Strong mandates for the NMAA and MAC; roles and responsibilities of NMAA and MAC are more clearly identified.
- Large degree of transparency and specification in the structuring, planning and tasking of mine action.
- Better accountability to donors.

Bob Eaton from the Survey Action Center called 2009/2010 the most important benchmark after the Nairobi Conference. The focus should be on what we still can do. There are four main elements:

- National authorities: should have better clarity on who they are, should show more leadership.
- Implementers: there have been good institutional developments
- Coordinators: good developments by the GICHD (e.g. IMAS)
- Donors: There is no donor fatigue, the spending is still over 250'000'000 per year. The EC and the US have published transparency strategies. We are getting more information, there are a lot of sources, but we still can't define the problem we are trying to solve. Donors should begin to have a coherent and broad strategy. Can the donor community agree on a consistent reporting by recipient countries? The donors could come together to define categories and requirements for consistent reporting.

7. In the ensuing discussion Thailand raised the question of regional and global demining units, whereas the Chair took up the appeal of several panelists on consistent reporting.

Canada made four comments:

- The affected country is at the center of the problem and the solution. Sustainability is important. The resources have to be there long enough to deal with the problem
- Results and accountability at national level
- Resource mobilization: The funding is globally stable, but what about distribution? Is all the money going to Afghanistan and Iraq?
- Donors reporting: Take the good humanitarian donorship process, maybe we could learn from it. For donor reporting humanitarian assistance has to be defined. The development assistance committee of the OECD did such reporting.

Agnes Mercaillou from DDA mentioned Lithuania as a new generation of donors who provide expertise and knowledge. How could such a contribution be included in the reporting? More accurate reporting is necessary, since it would grant appreciation to those who are ready to give their time.

Norway pointed to the fact that there are different standards, country-specific and donor-specific ones. A unified approach would be positive, thus recipients wouldn't have to write fifty reports, one for each donor. Norway also brought up the issue of the mine survivors; their needs have to be taken into account.

Martin Barber from UNMAS suggested that plans to create a mine affected States group should be communicated in the 4<sup>th</sup> committee.

The Ambassador from Angola agreed that the criteria for reporting have to evolve more. The plans for the creation of a mine-affected States forum will be announced further on (Nairobi).

Richard Kidd from the US agreed that the mine-affected countries are the key to the problem and its solution. The US have the policy that they accept the priorities that a country chooses, as long as they are the result of a good planning process. On reporting and transparency: historically, the countries didn't want to compare. The comparison of techniques and technology could however help to improve the level of performance. The discussion about comparison should thus be reopened.

Ian Mansfield from the GICHD mentioned that in their model legislation, reporting is mentioned as an obligation for governments. As far as comparisons are concerned, much of the work carried out by the GICHD is comparison.

Sayed Aqa from UNDP replied to the Thai suggestion of a global demining unit that there are already too many coordinating bodies and that a global one would probably not be needed. However, the mine action exchange program (funded by the US), where teams can exchange experiences should be encouraged. Sayed Aqa also mentioned the Rome declaration on harmonization of 25 February 2003. Furthermore, the contribution by mine-affected countries themselves should be reported and recorded (tax exemption, utilities, etc.). Sayed Aqa then asked the question of how many donors are working with other departments (such as development, humanitarian assistance, security) to plan mine action?

8. After the Launch of the 2005 Mine Action Portfolio by UNMAS, the donors' exchange of views continued after the lunch-break:

The US also extended their thanks to Martin Barber and then outlined their Strategic Plan for Humanitarian Mine Action. Since Mine Action as an industry has stabilized and further growth is not expected, the US will champion those efforts and organizations that exhibit the greatest effectiveness, financial transparency, managerial competence and demonstrated performance.

The program will define country-specific end-states for US support, which will reflect mine action performance goals, with each goal encompassing country-specific objectives. In the financial year 2004, the US contributed approx. \$163 million for humanitarian mine action. A large portion of the funding by the Bureau of Political Military Affairs' Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) went to Iraq (61,000,000). PM/WRA also awarded 49 mine action grants and engaged through its public-private partnership program NGOs, foundations and corporations to raise awareness of the global landmine problem and generate private contributions to mine action.

The Netherlands contributed in 2004 €2.2 to the UN as well as €10.2 to NGOs in the framework of the multi-year planning until 2008. The Netherlands are funding together with the UK and Germany the evaluation of the UNMEE Mine Action Coordination Center. The lessons learned deriving from this evaluation will be significant, also for the MASG. The Netherlands are also considering to carry out an evaluation of the program in Guinea Bissau (together with Germany). Other interested donors are welcome to join. As far as the Portfolio is concerned, the Netherlands acknowledges that it has come a long way, but improvement is still possible (more coordination than compilation).

Switzerland outlined the principles that are contained in its new mine action strategy for the years 2004-2007: sustainability, capacity building, partnerships, and universalisation of the MBT, involvement of non-state actors. In 2004 Switzerland spent around \$12 million in mine action. One of the main pillars of Swiss funding is the GICHD.

The UK outlined the four principles upon which British commitment is built: mine action in the poorest countries; improvement of effectiveness; use of new technologies; globalization of the MBT. DFID is the main focal point, country desks will be further engaged (also in the view of obtaining additional funding).

Japan stated that it had enhanced its contribution, mainly in the areas of research and new detection technologies.

Sweden has the intention to increase its funding, mainly for Bosnia, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Chad and Sudan. Sweden will also continue to support UNMAS, which has a humanitarian and not a political mission.

Germany funds mine action in countries that are States Party to the MBT and where immediate assistance is needed. Currently the German government funds mine action in 18 countries, through bilateral and multilateral channels. The Foreign Ministry has spent €14.1 million for humanitarian demining this year (this amount does not include the funds for victim assistance).

Austria has carried out an evaluation of its mine action program which has brought up the recommendation to concentrate its program on long-term activities in South-Eastern Europe, South-East Africa (Mozambique) and Afghanistan (\$2 million in total). In general projects can only be funded if there is an Austrian presence on the ground. Furthermore Austria (with its designated Chair) is very much engaged in the process leading up to the Nairobi conference.

France has its focus on the universalisation of the MBT. The funding is bilateral and through the EU.

9. The Under-Secretary General for Peace-Keeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, then addressed the MASG to give his appreciation of the role of the group. (See text in the attachment).
10. The country focus of this year's Reinforced MASG Meeting was Sudan. Both UNMAS and Steven Olejas from Dan Church Aid presented their views on the Sudan mine action program. Both underlined how well the coordination works between the partners on the ground. UNMAS has a national and two regional offices, mine clearance operations commenced in January

2003. Sudan in general is a high-impact area, mines and UXOs hinder movement and development. There are very few maps and almost no corporate memory. (The presentation of DCA is attached to this Newsletter).

11. In the ensuing discussion the UK asked how the presenters assessed the general mine/ERW threat in Sudan. According to UNMAS, the FSD has 2 teams in the North and 2 in the South, so they have a good picture, but cross-line movements are very difficult. The main problem seems to be UXO and abandoned weaponry. There is an emergency survey being carried out before doing the Landmine Impact Survey. According to UNMAS, Darfur is politically very sensitive and it has an ERW problem. An UNMAS mine information office will open shortly. It is not a coordination office because there is not enough funding. The accident with a newly planted mine, that happened the week before in Darfur, has huge consequences, the UN agencies have suspended their activities. The Chair asked whether the positive experience of the Nuba mountains can be repeated elsewhere. According to Steven Olejas, there is currently an evaluation being carried out by DCA in the Southern Blue Nile region of Sudan. Lessons of Nuba will be taken into account. Also in Burundi, demobilized soldiers will be hired. Sayed Aqa from UNDP called the level of coordination between all partners (government, NGOs, SPLA, UN) quite unique. The government and the SPLA are passionate to own the problem. The sad news however is, that there are only 111 deminers working. Japan will enhance its contribution to the Sudan program by sending one staff-member to the mine action office.
12. The Chair closed the meeting by thanking all participants for attending the meeting and for their active contributions.

The meeting was closed at 05:00 p.m.

### 3. Address by USG Jean-Marie Guéhenno

Millennium Hotel, 27 October 2004

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you, Ambassador Staehelin, for hosting this year's Reinforced Mine Action Support Group. Indeed, it was at the last Reinforced MASG -- hosted by Germany -- that we welcomed you as the incoming chair. We appreciate your strong commitment to mine action, demonstrated by your willingness to commute between Switzerland and New York to continue your leadership of the group even as you take up new responsibilities in Berne.

Under your leadership, the MASG has deepened its understanding of mine action operations and the relevance of mine action to other aspects of the UN's work, as well as the achievement of broader humanitarian and development objectives.

Your decision to structure the monthly meetings around four themes has proven very useful. I understand the briefings that were given have been timely and thought provoking. The International Peace Research Institute and an official from the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement have showed us ways in which mine action can play an important role in peace processes; the presentation by our UN colleague in Afghanistan pointed out how mine action can be successfully mainstreamed into development through its cooperation with the international financial institutions; the presentations by UNDP and our NGO colleagues in Angola highlighted the importance of developing the right methods for developing national capacities; and the presentation by UNMAS on Portfolio shortfalls gave visibility to the funding priorities of all participating actors in the sector.

#### **Integration with peace processes**

You have also discussed integrating mine action into peace processes. Mine action can be a confidence-building tool in negotiating peace. Clearance activities eliminate the debris of war. Mine risk education reduces the threat to civilians and is a tangible indication of the restoration of trust among warring parties. Indeed, it is often one of the first issues upon which disputing parties can agree and one of the first service areas to reach vulnerable groups. In the Sudan, mine action was among the first areas of agreement between the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, mine action was the first activity to be administered by a "joint State commission", which is now operating as a single national centre. In Afghanistan, mine action teams consisting of members of formerly opposing parties to the conflict were among the first groups to work "across lines." Mine action was explicitly included in peace negotiations that preceded the establishment of the United Nations Operation in Burundi.

## **Mainstreaming Mine Action into development**

Equally relevant were the discussions on mainstreaming mine action into development. The significance of the potential role of international financial institutions has been stressed during the course of the year. In the past, we had encountered situations in which reconstruction projects did not take into account an existing mine or ERW problem, and were postponed until clearance was completed. It is important that mine action be integrated early in the reconstruction planning phases so that appropriate programmes are developed, and that the most pressing needs are met with adequate resources.

There is an increasing understanding of this. I know for example, that MASG members have discussed with the World Bank, most recently in a delegation led by you, Ambassador, how mine action might be included in its country programming and budgeting.

In Afghanistan, the Mine Action Programme, under the coordination of the UN, is working very closely with the World Bank and other national, regional and local reconstruction and development agencies, in order to plan and budget for integrated programmes. Reconstruction and development programmes have mine action components included directly in their budgets, thus ensuring the costs required for the necessary mine action are met. The economic rate of return related to this type of mine action activity is exponentially increased as it directly integrates and compounds both the benefits of mine clearance and survey tasks with those of the follow-on reconstruction activities.

## **Evaluations**

Discussions at the MASG have guided us in the evaluation of the mine action programme in the Temporary Security Zone between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The evaluation is ongoing, and we appreciate the support from MASG members in getting it off the ground. We look forward to discussing the results of the evaluation; possibly, in a MASG session next year.

Eight MASG members took part in a field trip to Angola and got a first-hand view of how large mine action programmes unfold and are evaluated in complex environments.

## **Funding Needs**

Our review of funding trends in mine action reveals that while contributions overall have increased notably in recent years, there are still formidable gaps. And these gaps exist both in countries that enjoy relatively strong donor interest, as well as in many mine affected countries to which donors are less demonstrably committed. Clearly, the job is not yet done and its completion will require sustained commitments from donors and mine-affected countries alike.

The UN is assisting mine-affected countries to produce national plans for mine action over a five-year period, providing donors with a set of rational and comparable plans that highlight mine action priorities and budgets. The Nairobi Summit will focus our attention on these national plans and on an overarching plan of action for the coming period. MASG members play a critical role in assisting mine-affected states – States Parties or not – in reaching their mine action goals.

The UN is also improving and refining the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects – the 2005 edition is available as of today. The mine action needs outlined in the Portfolio are elaborated through a consultative process run by Portfolio country teams, which are led by a national government official or a UN colleague.

There are more victim assistance projects than in past years, and more individual submissions in this area than in the other pillars of mine action. Of course the overall budget for victim assistance is dwarfed by the clearance budget, and contributions to this sector are difficult to measure. Still, we support an increased focus on victim assistance initiatives; after all, the problems survivors face will persist long after the last mine is removed from the ground.

I encourage the MASG to use the Portfolio when making funding decisions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you know, this is the last year that Martin Barber will be attending the MASG in his capacity as the UNMAS Director. He is retiring in February after decades of service to the organization. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Martin, for your invaluable leadership as the Director of UNMAS. You have carried out your function as the UN focal point for mine action with professionalism, intelligence and tact, thus making an invaluable contribution to mine action worldwide. I congratulate you on that, and wish you all the success in your future endeavours.

Thank you very much, Ambassador.

## **4. Address by Martin Barber, Director of UNMAS “Four years at the United Nations Mine Action Service”, a Self-critical Review!**

Reinforced Mine Action Support Group

27 October 2004

As I approach the end of my assignment at UNMAS – and indeed of my career at the UN – I felt it could be valuable to look back at the past four years and assess, as honestly as possible, the successes and failures, and identify what seem to me to be the most urgent challenges facing UNMAS in 2005.

When I describe my job to other people, I find a good way to start is with the groups of partners or stakeholders with whom we interact. There are a lot!

### **The UN partners**

First are the UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes – the 14 entities that meet in the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action. We interact with these UN partners both at Headquarters and in the field, and the relationship that we have with them is key to the success or failure of our work. During the past four years we have focused on a few strategies to improve these partnerships:

#### The UN 5-year strategy

The development of the five-year strategy in 2001 has, in my view, been the single most significant contribution to the improvement in headquarters –level coordination of mine action within the UN system. With its six goals and over 40 specific, measurable and time-bound objectives, it has enabled us to focus our efforts on a set of objectives that all parts of the UN system could embrace. It also helps to ensure transparency in our reporting.

#### The UN policy

The companion to the strategy is the policy. The strategy says what we will do. The policy (which is really more of a framework for inter-agency coordination than a “Mine Action Policy” in the strict sense) says who will do what and how we will work together. The original policy (1998) provided a useful division of labour. But it didn’t say much about the nature of the interactions and the processes of transition and transfer that take place at critical points in the development of any national mine action programme. In a couple of situations we have felt the absence of such guidance. So, this year we have worked on filling the gap. The group of stakeholders who met in Rome last month seemed to think that we were on the right track. We hope to get the endorsement of our Principals in the Inter-Agency Coordination Group next month.

In some ways, the processes of developing the Policy and Strategy documents were as important as the outcomes! Although UNMAS played a leading role, the key to success was participation; first of a core group of UN agencies, and then of wider Stakeholders’ groups. The Stakeholders’ meetings, bringing together representatives of mine-affected States, donor governments, international organizations, NGOs and the concerned UN agencies, and hosted by Canada in 2001, UNICEF Florence in 2003 and WFP Rome in 2004, enabled us to make a serious “reality

check" on our draft documents. I believe this is a process that could also be used to improve coordination within the UN system on other issues than mine action.

In addition to developing the UN Policy and Strategy, the IACG is the forum for coordinating the UN response to landmine threats in general, as well as in specific countries. Three years ago, and partly in response to the Brahimi report, we realized that we needed more predictability and more speed in our reaction to new or emergency mine action needs. We developed the first draft of a Rapid Response Plan (RRP). Experience in 2003 in Iraq, and detailed consultations with our UN and NGO partners have led us to draw up a broader Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response... I believe the result is a much clearer understanding among UN and NGO colleagues of what can be expected of the UN in response to specific mine action needs.

### Relations with SRSGs, RCs and HCs

The key to effective mine action in the field is to get the UN country team, and particularly the "Senior Officials" (Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs), Resident Coordinators (RCs) or Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs)), to recognize the asset they have at their disposal and to take ownership of it. I have found it essential to engage the UN senior official in country, usually through an exchange of letters that details the working and reporting arrangements to be put into place, and highlights the role that mine action plays in supporting peacekeeping, humanitarian and development activities. The revised UN mine action policy reflects this approach and insists that the UN country team take decisions about the mix of services and assets that they will require to cope with the specific situation that confronts them.

### **The mine-affected states**

All our work is done at the request of, or on behalf of, mine-affected states. Of course, the interaction is most intense in the field, in the mine-affected country. But I believe that it has also been valuable to have the opportunity to interact with them in international fora. There are two mechanisms that have been particularly influential over the past four years.

### The Inter-sessional programme of the AP Mine Ban Treaty

For the last four years, states parties to the AP Mine Ban Treaty have met together, with the UN, international organizations and NGOs, three times a year for a week, once in meetings of states parties and twice in intersessional meetings. The Nairobi Summit will decide that twice a year will be enough in future, but I think it is difficult to overestimate the value of these meetings in getting us all on more or less the same page, speaking the same language. Although not all donors or mine-affected states are states parties to the Treaty, and the participation is therefore not optimal, I do believe that these meetings have served to move the governments and organizations involved in mine action towards a common understanding of priorities and best practice.

### The Annual Meeting of National Directors

The tradition of an annual meeting of national directors, with their UN advisers, was well established before I arrived. As UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS have expanded their programmes into new countries, the numbers attending these meetings have continued to grow. And here I want to pay tribute to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and to the Swiss Government which have together enabled this to happen. It is a unique meeting and I think everybody involved in it appreciates the opportunity it provides to interact with representatives of all major stakeholders, including donors and NGOs, and to catch up with the latest thinking and developments in our world.

It is meetings like these that strengthen the influence of national directors with their own governments and help them to ensure that mine action is taken seriously and included in national development plans and budgets.

### **The donors**

We could do nothing without you!

Since I joined UNMAS, every year, some pundits have suggested that levels of funding for mine action had begun to decline, or were inevitably just about to do so. I am pleased to say that these predictions have been spectacularly wrong! While some special funds for mine action have been reduced, new sources of funding have more than compensated. The recognition by peacekeeping and some development organizations that mine action is an essential part of their work, and must be paid for, has allowed governments, UN agencies and their NGO and commercial partners to identify funding from peacekeeping and development budgets. Now, the recognition by the World Bank that states can call on the resources of the Bank to assist them to meet their Treaty obligations to clear mined areas should herald a new potential source of resources to complete the essential work.

### The Voluntary Trust Fund

Over the past four years you have contributed increasingly significant funding through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action. In 2001, \$12 million, in 2002, \$ 26 million, in 2003, \$57 million. I should quickly point out that most of this increase has been due to UNMAS taking over responsibility for mine action in Afghanistan, and the emergency programme in Iraq in 2003. Nevertheless, it is not only the amount, but developments in the nature of the funding that have been satisfying. We have seen a reduction in earmarking, an increase in multi-year pledges, and a willingness to look at ways of simplifying and speeding up contribution agreements and the reporting process.

### The MASG

But we don't only take your money. We like you to feel that you are involved and committed. And that is why we have encouraged the progressive development of the MASG as a forum for information-sharing and debate, as an organizer of visits to the field, and as a critical sounding board about the services we provide to you. I should like to express my sincere appreciation to the successive chairs of the MASG during my time, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and now Switzerland.

### The Resource Mobilization Contact Group (RMCG)

We believe that the work of the MASG is well complemented in Geneva by the RMCG that looks at resource mobilization specifically in the context of the AP Mine Ban Treaty, and which has engaged mine-affected states alongside donors and international organizations to develop our thinking on the relationship between mine action and the International Financial Institutions, particularly the World Bank.

### The Portfolio of Mine Action projects

The development of the Portfolio from a simple compendium of UN projects to a publication that presents national programmes of mine action, coordinated at country level, has strengthened inter-agency coordination, but it has also helped to strengthen our partnerships with the governments of mine-affected countries and with international and national NGOs.

## **The NGOs**

NGOs are our closest partners and our most severe critics. Perhaps the relationship is best defined as one of creative tension. This is generally healthy. But I cannot pretend that I have not been shocked by some of the accusations leveled against the UN by one or two of the NGOs.

The most basic criticism is that UNMAS coordination is unnecessarily expensive and diverts funds from clearance operations. I don't believe this is borne out by experience. Broadly speaking I believe we offer value for money and that UNMAS coordination focuses resources on key priorities and attracts donor resources for clearance and other operational tasks that would not otherwise be forthcoming.

### Kosovo

In Kosovo UNMAS coordination ensured that the programme was efficiently managed, responsibility for residual clearance could be transferred largely to a local capacity after two and a half years and assets moved to other priorities. Very few people believed that this would be possible. Some felt that the transfer of responsibility came too soon, but the limited numbers of remaining mines and UXO no longer constituted an impediment to social and economic development, and there have been very few new victims. Keeping expensive coordination and clearance capabilities operational in pursuit of the "last mines and UXO in Kosovo" was neither achievable nor justifiable.

### Afghanistan

Afghanistan has been our biggest challenge in the field. UNMAS took over responsibility for the programme from UNOCHA in June 2002. Since then it has grown rapidly in size and complexity. The programme as a whole now employs some 8,000 people and in 2003 spent almost \$60 million. Running a programme of this size in Afghanistan, with all its problems of insecurity and destroyed infrastructure has been a daunting challenge. Certainly there are things we could have done better and could be doing better now. But the unmistakable achievement is to have transformed the programme from one that addressed purely humanitarian needs through a single source of funds to one that addresses the needs of reconstruction agencies, stockpile destruction, explosive remnants of war, refugee return, as well as the core humanitarian tasks. The landmine impact survey now nearing completion is showing the remarkable progress that has been made in eliminating the mined areas left over from the period of Soviet occupation. In Nangarhar, the province of which Jalalabad is the capital, which was one of the most heavily mined provinces in the country, the survey shows only four communities still experiencing a high impact from the presence of mines. I would like to pay tribute to Dan Kelly and his team in Kabul and in the provinces, to the NGOs that do the work on the ground, and to our Afghan government counterparts, all of whom together are doing a remarkable job in very difficult circumstances.

### Lebanon

In Lebanon, a very different type of programme has achieved some remarkable results in a short space of time. Thanks to the generous support of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, and excellent cooperation from the Government of Lebanon, we have been able to work with two commercial companies to clear more than 60,000 mines within an agreed period of two years. And here, I would like to pay tribute to the vision of Staffan de Mistura, the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, who saw that mine action could help to bring peace, economic progress and stability to an area of former conflict. It is a very important lesson.

## The Survey Working Group

One of the most successful collaborations between NGOs and the UN in the mine action field is the Landmine Impact Survey and the Survey Working Group, which oversees the programme. This example reinforces a conviction that I have long held that coordination between NGOs and the UN is best achieved when the NGOs provide the forum in which dialogue with the UN takes place. I know this seems “upside down” to some UN colleagues, but my experience over a long career in the field tells me that this is the better format.

## The Oslo meeting

In March this year Norwegian Peoples’ Aid hosted a meeting in Oslo between six major international mine clearance NGOs and UNMAS, UNDP and UNOPS. It was an attempt to deal with some of the perceived differences between the UN and NGOs in the areas of coordination, cost, personnel and IMAS. The result was an agreed record of the meeting that I hope has set us out on a number of useful initiatives to close the gap.

While I hope that we can move past the period of public criticism of each other, we should not expect a love fest! We should recognize that NGOs and the UN have fundamentally different world views, and that this will always affect the way we work together. Most NGOs start from the viewpoint of the affected community. Most UN agencies start with a dialogue with central governments. So, while NGOs call for mine action based on priorities set in affected communities, the UN calls for a national plan where the government sets overall priorities after consulting with all relevant stakeholders. The UN is a top-down organization, the NGOs bottom-up. Perhaps this is why the Landmine Impact Survey, in which the NGOs use a bottom-up approach to help define national priorities, is such a successful instrument.

## **The GICHD**

I don’t think many people appreciate what a remarkable organization the GICHD really is. When I joined UNMAS, some people warned me that the Geneva Centre was a dangerous rival! But I quickly recognized this organization as fulfilling many of the needs that colleagues and I had defined in “bar-room discussions” over the years in the humanitarian sector. An organization of impeccable integrity and neutrality, outside the UN, able to take on work in a range of fields that the UN could not easily do, and that did not fall easily into the terms of reference of NGOs or even academic bodies.

The GICHD has, in my view, brilliantly located its niche, and I have been delighted to strengthen and develop our partnership with Ambassador Dahinden, and now with Ambassador Nellen. I don’t have time here to list all the ways in which we work together, but I must of course mention IMAS and IMSMA – the standards and the information management system – that in so many ways define the way we work in the field. Both constitute major achievements, and both offer challenges for the future.

The GICHD offers a model that I believe could be of real help to other parts of the UN. The field of peacebuilding is one that comes to mind.

## **The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Campaign to ban Landmines (ICBL)**

The ICRC’s work in the area of mine action is less well known than that of ICBL, but it is certainly not less important. Cornelio Sommaruga’s decision as President of the ICRC, to advocate for a total ban on anti-personnel mines was crucial to what followed with the Ottawa process. Now the ICRC’s work on “Explosive remnants of war” has led to the adoption of a new Protocol of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which will have a major influence on how

mine action is conducted in the coming years. The ICRC's work in support of the victims of landmines has also been highly significant.

ICBL has many great achievements to its name. For me, two stand out. One is to have provided a forum for hundreds of NGOs to take part in a great international effort, and the other is to have produced the Landmine Monitor, the definitive account of the situation in all mine-affected countries.

### **Public-private partnerships**

UN mine action has benefited from two remarkable private initiatives, one Adopt-a-Minefield, which many of you know about, and the other, Roots of Peace, less well known, the creation of Heidi and Gary Kuhn, and their remarkable family in California. These initiatives not only raise funds. They raise awareness. They engage people. We should continue to encourage and stimulate their work.

I have used the framework of our partnerships to describe some of our achievements and remaining challenges. There are two more issues still to cover.

### **Information**

All of us want to know the scale of the landmine problem and the level of success in addressing it so far. Why have we all found it so difficult to answer the basic questions?

First, reliable figures on conflict-related issues are notoriously hard to find. Anybody who has listened to Prof. Andrew Mack on the reliability of war-casualty data will know what I mean. Secondly, the problem is by definition hidden! And those who created the problem are often understandably reluctant to provide accurate data.

And so, we are forced to tell people that we do not know how many mines we are looking for or how many square miles of land are contaminated and we have only a rough idea of the number of victims. What can we say, and what should we be able to say?

The Landmine Impact Survey has allowed us to identify afflicted communities and to describe the level of impact that mines have on these communities. Although these Surveys are not strictly comparable, they do give us a sense of the order of magnitude of the problem.

Almost all mine action programmes have adopted the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). This system allows them to map mined areas with powerful geographic information systems and to accurately record and display clearance priorities and results, casualty data, Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities, and a wide range of other information associated with mine action.

I think we all hoped that IMSMA would allow us to extract basic comparable data about contaminated areas, clearance and victims from the databases of major mine action programmes. For a number of reasons this has not yet happened. I believe it should soon be possible, but it will require the GICHD to successfully "re-engineer" the system and many national programmes to clean up their databases.

In the broader realm of information work, I am proud of our E-Mine website. It opens up the world of mine action to a broad audience. Successive improvements have made it more comprehensive and user-friendly.

## **Technology**

Some people seem to suggest that there has been virtually no progress in mine clearance technology over the past ten years and that we might as well forget about technological advances and just make do with what we have got. I completely disagree. If we consider only the Personal Protective Equipment that deminers wear. Fifteen years ago, when we started the programme in Afghanistan, PPE was so heavy and hot that deminers simply could not wear it. Now it is lighter and stronger and has saved many lives and reduced the severity of injuries.

Nevertheless, it is true that a lot of research and development has been working on machinery that is unlikely to be of practical use. What we need is real progress in three areas:

- Hand-held dual sensor mine detectors that will dramatically reduce the incidence of false alarms encountered by existing metal detectors;
- Systems for quickly reducing suspected areas to the area that is genuinely contaminated. To date, dogs have been used extensively in this role, however their capabilities are limited by a variety of different factors. Rats, bees and colour-changing plants have all been touted as having potential in this area;
- Systems for route-proving and route clearance. Considerable progress has already been made in this area, but there is still room for more.

In UNMAS we were a bit slow to recognize the demand for an information-sharing and advice service in this field. We are fully on to it now, and receiving a lot of appreciation from our partners.

## **Challenges ahead**

What advice will I give to my successor? In summary:

1. Cultivate your partners. You need them all.
2. Work to get mine action accepted as a sectoral component within humanitarian and development programmes.
3. Work with national directors in mine-affected states to help them ensure that their governments contribute resources from their national budgets for mine action, and appeal for funding of mine action in their development programmes.
4. Push hard to diversify the people working in mine action, in three ways: gender, nationality and background experience. The typical international mine action professional is still a male Anglo-Saxon with a military background.
5. Focus on professionalizing the sector. For some of the tasks we ask our staff to do there are still no recognized training programmes or systems of certification.
6. Push ahead with the reform of the UN Trust Fund mechanisms. We are making progress, but there are still times when our administrative procedures slow things down unnecessarily. We cannot afford that.

## **Acknowledgements**

Finally, I should like to express my sincere appreciation for their support, encouragement and assistance, over the past four years, to the donors to mine action, to the national directors of mine action in the mine-affected states, to the NGOs and civil society organizations that do the work in the field and keep the issue in the public eye, to our colleagues in the UN family of agencies, and of course to my own colleagues in UNMAS and DPKO, here in New York and in the field.

## 5. Agenda MASG Meeting 15 December 2004

1. Welcome address by the Chair
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. MASG Review 2004 and Preview 2005

*Members are invited to comment on this year's meetings and make suggestions for 2005.*

*The invitation by the Lebanese National Demining Office to conduct a MASG fieldtrip to Lebanon next year will also be addressed. Members should be in a position to take a decision on this matter.*

4. Discussion
5. Presentation by German Artist Lukas Einsele
6. AOB

## 6. Updates

### 6.1. Update from UNMAS

1 THROUGH 31 OCTOBER 2004

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

##### **GENERAL POLICY**

The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) convened a meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action on 21 October 2004. Topics under discussion included: 1) the review of the UN Policy on Mine Action; 2) the development of the Framework for Mine Action Planning and Response, 3) preparations for the Nairobi Summit, 4) preparations for the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on CCW and ERW, 5) 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Committee consultations on mine action-related matters, and 6) UNDP follow-up visits to Uganda and Senegal.

UNMAS provided substantive support to the Dutch facilitators during the informal consultations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Committee on Assistance in Mine Action. The Secretary-General's report on Assistance in Mine Action (A/59/284 and Add.1) was taken up by the Committee on 28 and 29 October. Assistant-Secretary-General Annabi made a statement. UNMAS Director Martin Barber and DPKO Military Advisor General Cammaert led a panel discussion on "Mine Action and Peacekeeping – the Experience to Date."

The Chief of the Policy, Information, and Resource Mobilisation section visited Denmark, Finland, Norway and the EU in September and early October 2004 to discuss policy and resource mobilization issues. UNMAS provided up-dates on the process of revising the current mine action policy, shared its pilot version of a multi-donor annual report and encouraged donors to accept this reporting format, and elicited views on the up-coming 4<sup>th</sup> Committee consideration of the item on assistance in mine action, and sought to learn the extent to which donors are in fact funding mine action from development funds. Several donors are participating in the "Good Humanitarian Donorship" initiative, and some among them are considering, or planning to continue, making multi-year, unearmarked contributions to mine action through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. Several also indicated that the multi-donor reporting format sufficed to meet their reporting needs and was more efficient and informative than individual reports.

##### **PORTFOLIO**

UNMAS issued an advance preview of the 2005 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects at the Reinforced Mine Action Support Group meeting on 27 October. The online version of the 2005 Portfolio will be available by mid-November 2004. The 2004 Portfolio is still available online ([www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org)).

##### **GENDER**

Members of the Steering Committee on Gender and Mine Action provided their final comments to the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes, and the final version is in the production phase.

## **TREATY IMPLEMENTATION**

Wolfgang Petritsch, President Designate of the Nairobi Summit on a Mine Free World and Austria's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, visited New York on 11-15 October to brief Member States, UN staff and the media on the Summit and on-going preparations. During his visit, Ambassador Petritsch conducted a special briefing for UN staff, gave a World Chronicle interview, and participated in the daily press briefing by the UN spokesperson which was broadcast on live web-cast.

## **PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

### **AFGHANISTAN**

The onset of Ramadan has led to a shift in the timing of some mine action operational activities throughout the country in order to maintain operational outputs. Additionally, activities were modified to enable the full participation of MAPA personnel in the recently completed Presidential elections.

Planning continues for the conduct of a strategic review which is planned to take place in February 2005. This process, which will be led by the Government of Afghanistan, is intended to bring together all key stakeholders, including representatives of the local and international community, implementing partners and the UN. This process will assist the Government in setting its medium and long term priorities for mine action at the national level.

Recent security incidents against the UN have led to increased restrictions on the movement of UNMACA personnel, particularly in Kabul. The UNMACA, through its Security Officer, is maintaining close contact with UNSECOORD and other security elements in the country, in order to ensure that MAPA activities are integrated into relevant response planning.

### **ETHIOPIA & ERITREA**

At the end of the month, a two-person evaluation team commissioned by UNMAS arrived to conduct an evaluation of the MACC programme from its inception to its present operations.

The MACC hosted a dinner for Ambassadors of donor embassies in Asmara at the beginning of October 2004 at the UNMEE MACC. UNMEE's Special Representative of the Secretary General and the Force Commander attended, as did the Chief of Policy, Information and Resource Mobilization from UNMAS. The intent of the dinner was to highlight the funding requirement of approximately \$400,000 for the MACC programme in 2005.

### **CYPRUS**

The Mines Advisory Group and Armour Group arrived in country on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October respectively. MAG was accredited by the UNMAC, and clearance operations in the buffer zone are expected to begin on 15 November with a formal opening ceremony on 16 November.

#### **New pledges in the VTF 1 through 31 October 2004**

14/10/2004	Sweden	SEK 3,000,000	Core Costs (P04-GL01)
01/09/2004	Switzerland	\$20,000	Landmine Safety (P04-GL08)

#### **New contributions in the VTF 1 through 31 October 2004**

05/10/2004	Netherlands	\$ 50,000	Evaluations (P04-GL11)
11/10/2004	Netherlands	\$ 444,500	Sudan (P04-SU10)
11/10/2004	Netherlands	\$ 555,000	Afghanistan (P04-AF04)
22/10/2004	Japan	\$ 506,484	TBD

## **TECHNOLOGY/ SAFETY**

UNMAS attended an EU-funded workshop in Brussels, entitled "Is Humanitarian Demining Technology a Broken Promise?" UNMAS is preparing a position statement on technology needs for mine action for review by National Directors and Technical Advisors of mine action programmes in 2005. The trials for a suitable metal detector for UXO Lao have begun with assistance from the GICHD and JRC and under the overall coordination of the UN. Further work has been undertaken on revisions to IMAS and these will shortly be posted on the website when approved by the Review Board. Finally, the Centre for European Standardisation Working Group 126 (Cen WG 126) met and confirmed the availability of resources for 2005 to fund work into the production of standards for personal protective equipment and continued work on standards for competencies, metal detectors, dual sensor detectors and mechanical application.

## **LANDMINE & UXO SAFETY**

The UNMAS MRE officer, together with the MONUC and MACC staff in DRC, facilitated a training-of-trainers workshop on landmine & unexploded ordnance safety in Kinshasa. More than 20 civilian and uniformed MONUC staff, UNHCR and NGO personnel participated in the training. Close to one-third of the participants were women. DSRSG, Sadry gave an address at the workshop.

## **Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response**

The re-write of the Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response (previously referred to as the Rapid Response Plan (RRP)) continues. A draft was presented to the working-level meeting of the IACG-MA on 21 October. Input has been received from UNDP, UNICEF, UNOPS and WFP and incorporated into the document. The reviewed draft Framework has been circulated to selected Senior Officials in the field (Resident Representatives, Programme Managers and Chief Technical Advisors) prior to being presented at the 16 November 2004 IACG-MA Principals' meeting.

## 6.2. Update from UNDP

November 2004

### NEW YORK

- UNDP assisted with the launch of the newly-constituted Forum of Mine-Affected Countries, which is a forum of high-level representatives of mine-affected states, which will meet regularly to discuss mine action issues. The inaugural meeting was attended by Queen Noor of Jordan, UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch Brown, and Ambassadors from several Permanent Missions of mine-affected states in New York.
- UNDP's 2004 Senior Management Training Course has recently finished. In all, 26 senior managers from 17 countries participated in the course, conducted at James Madison University in Virginia, USA.

### REGIONAL ADVISORS DEPLOYED TO AFRICA AND ASIA

The Team Leader of the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Mine Action Team, Sayed Aqa, is pleased to announce that UNDP has placed Regional Advisors in Africa (based in Johannesburg) and Asia (based in Bangkok) to support UNDP's mine action programmes in these regions and to assist UNDP Country Offices to achieve their mine action objectives in a timely and successful manner. They will also support UNDP's regionalization efforts. The Advisors will be promoting regional cooperation among mine action programmes and also with UNDP's various regional and sub-regional organisations in Africa and Asia. It is envisaged that the Advisors will actively promote the sharing of lessons learned among programmes, which will enhance linkages and strengthen mine action efforts in the regions. There will also be a focus on working with governments in the region to assist them in meeting their obligations to the Mine Ban Convention and advocating for those States that have not acceded or ratified the instruments to do so as soon as possible. The deployment of these two Advisors represents a significant addition to the New York-based Mine Action Team and will enable a more timely response to mine action issues and needs within the regions.

- **AFRICA - Mr Archie Law Regional Mine Action Advisor Africa**  
7 Naivasha Road, Sunninghill, Johannesburg, South Africa, Email: [archie.law@undp.org](mailto:archie.law@undp.org)
- **ASIA - Mr. Chip Bowness Regional Mine Action Advisor Asia**  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand  
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## AFRICA REGION

### ERITREA

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

- Assisted the Eritrean Demining Authority (EDA) to plan and prioritize mine-action tasks using landmine impact survey (LIS) information, and continued to assist EDA to improve the execution of clearance and other mine-action activities.
- Provided accreditation of two explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams and two EOD technical survey/manual clearance teams.
- Conducted a task assessment the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- The Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) inputs to the UN Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) were finalized and included only three high-priority projects: emergency demining for IDP return, MRE, and revitalization of the prosthetic centers.
- The National Mine Action Strategic Plan was completed, and translation is underway prior to approval.

#### ***Key Objectives***

- Assisting and advising EDA operations to plan mine action operations for the return of approximately 19,000 IDPs to the Shilalo area, and facilitating agreements for the use of the UNMEE peacekeeping force and Mine Action Coordination Center (MACC) assets to assist.
- Continue to assist the planning of a quality assurance (QA) course for National Training Center instructors, who will work as QA monitors when not engaged in training. Continue to advise and assist all training activities for the new teams, regional offices, and post-clearance impact assessment (PCIA) teams.

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

- Norway has pledged 50,000,000 Norwegian Krona to be disbursed over the five-year period of the National Mine Action Strategic Plan (US\$1.5 million per year). This reduces the shortfall for the 2004 mine-action budget in Eritrea to approximately US\$1.7 million.

## ARAB STATES REGION

### IRAQ

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

- UNDP Mine Action (Cluster 7) and the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), including the NMAA Director General and Technical Director, met in Amman, Jordan, October 7-8 to coordinate a number of important issues related to Mine Action Cluster support to Iraq. Among the issues discussed were institutional development of the NMAA, provision of international technical advisors to NMAA, development of local mine-action operational capacities, support to the continuation of Danish Demining Group (DDG) and Mine Tech International activities in southern Iraq, and the NMAA strategic planning outcomes. During the meeting the NMAA Director General highlighted the Authority's strategic plan for the 4th quarter of 2004 and the year 2005, including distribution of available funds in support of the project requirements. The Mine Action Cluster Manager highlighted the UNDP available funding and distribution plan in support of NMAA and mine-action programmes in Iraq.
- In addition to several intra-UNDP Mine Action Team meetings, several meetings took place with the NMAA (including the Director General and Technical Director ), Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR), Cleared Ground (a mine-

clearance nongovernmental organization), and Rheinmetall (a German mechanical mine-clearance company) to negotiate and facilitate the procurement of required mechanical machines and other demining equipment for NMAA. Moreover, during the reporting month several meetings took place with mine-action partner agencies working inside Iraq to enhance UNDP Mine Action Cluster coordination and support to mine-action implementation. The organizations concerned were Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA), and Iraqi Health and Social Care Organization (IHSCO).

- Efforts to develop local/national capacity, supported by NMAA, have continued. The Request for Proposal for the establishment of one local mine-action nongovernmental organization (NGO) in Basra was issued on 7 October with a 7 November submission deadline.
- UNDP's Advisory Committee on Procurement (ACP) has given approval for contracting Danish Demining Group (DDG) to undertake mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance operations in Basra, and for contracting the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF) to provide seven technical advisors to NMAA.

#### ***Key Challenges***

- The deteriorating 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.
- Expansion of operational capacity, notably mine-risk education (MRE) and mine/UXO clearance.
- Establishment of a local mine-action capacity.
- Movement of mine-action personnel within the country due to the security situation.
- Relocation of the UNDP Iraq Mine Action Team to Nicosia, Cyprus.

#### ***Key Objectives***

- Conduct intra-UNDP Mine Action Team/Cluster meetings as well as meetings with concerned mine-action agencies that are working or have worked inside Iraq.
- Continue to provide management and technical advice to the NMAA and other mine-action stakeholders.
- The UNDP Senior Technical Adviser/Cluster Manager will attend the UN Programme Managers/Senior Technical Advisors meeting in Sarajevo from 8 to 10 November 2004.
- Conduct a Mine Action Coordination Meeting with NMAA on 22 November 2004.
- The UNDP Technical Advisor will participate in the crisis prevention training course in Geneva from 29 November to 5 December 2004, facilitated by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).
- Continue facilitation and support for NMAA participation in the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World, which begins 29 November 2004.

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

- UNDP has received US\$5.84 million (US\$2.35 million from the EC and US\$3.49 from Italy) for 2004 and the first half of 2005. Japan has also pledged US\$550,000 in support of UNDP's mine action programme in Iraq.
- The Mine Action Portfolio Country Team has estimated the 2005 funding requirements for all mine action in Iraq as US\$86 million.

## **SUDAN**

### ***Key Achievements***

UNDP facilitated the strategic planning process in Sudan during August 2004. Separate strategic planning sessions, involving civil society and the international community, were held for the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, who then agreed on a common mine-action strategic framework. This framework was endorsed by both parties on 27 August 2004 in Nairobi and consists broadly of the following vision, mission, and goals.

### ***Vision***

A Sudan free from the effects of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW); a Sudan where mine action is a humanitarian imperative that has been removed from politics, and where all people enjoy durable peace and sustainable development built on the promotion of human security, ensuring law and order, respecting human rights, and adhering to the principles of good governance; and a Sudan that adheres to all international protocols on landmine issues and stigmatizes the use, transference, and manufacture of landmines.

### ***Mission***

Sudan is to develop and implement a sustainable national mine-action programme capable of:

- Developing and implementing a mine-action strategy and policy.
- Supervising and empowering a National Mine Action Office to act as an executive and coordination body.
- Clearing all medium and high-priority mine/UXO-contaminated areas.
- Raising awareness of the mine-action situation.
- Rehabilitating the most serious mine victims.
- Ensuring a smooth transition from an international to a national mine-action capacity.

### ***Goals***

In order to ensure the safety and well-being of the people of Sudan as well as of the planned development of the country, the following goals have been set for 2011:

- Implement national policies, a strategic plan, and priorities for mine action.
- Strengthen and support national mine-action structures.
- Ensure that Sudan honors its international mine-action obligations.
- Develop and implement a national mine-action information management system.
- Establish a credible and sustainable national mine-action capability.
- Clear all medium and high-priority mine and ERW contaminated areas in Sudan.
- Implement a strategy to raise awareness of the mine/ERW situation.
- Ensure the physical, social, and economic reintegration of mine/ERW victims.
- Support peace building, recovery, and development initiatives.
- Mobilize adequate resources to achieve the mine-action mission.

The Kenya Coalition Against Landmines (KCAL) has drafted a project proposal for a regional advocacy workshop that will permit local civil society to assist governments in preparing for the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World, to take place in Nairobi during November/December 2004. The workshop will include participants from East Africa, the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Chad. The proposal was forwarded to UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and UNDP for endorsement, and donors are encouraged to support this worthy cause. An SPLM advocacy workshop will precede the regional workshop.

## **YEMEN**

### ***Key Achievements***

- Technical and operational capacity building, including training and expertise in areas such as standards and guidelines, are currently being revised.
- The National Mine Action Standards based on International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) have been finalized.

### ***Key Objectives***

The Yemen National Mine Action Programme (NMAP) is focusing on the following short-term objectives in accordance with its annual work plan:

- Capacity building, including training and development of expertise in areas of mine-detection dogs (MDD) and the continuing socio-economic integration of landmine survivors.
- Data support for planning, monitoring, and evaluation of ongoing mine clearance, mine-risk education, and victim assistance activities.
- The Ministry of Legal Affairs continues the process of preparing the legislation necessary to implement the Mine Ban Convention.
- Planning is ongoing for the restructuring of the surveying, clearance, and quality-assurance resources in accordance with the revised and extended National Mine Action Strategy.
- Standing operating procedures (SOPs) are still under review and will be finalized by the end of 2004.

### ***Funding Update***

- The Government of Switzerland has provided an in-kind contribution of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) systems valued at US\$20,000 to the Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC). Training on the use of the EOD system was successfully conducted in August 2004.
- YEMAC is in the process of meeting with current and potential donors at the Embassy level, making presentations on progress achieved in 2004 and on future plans and needs for 2005 and beyond.

## **ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

### **CAMBODIA**

### ***Key Achievements***

- The Sub-Decree on socio-economic management of mine-clearance operations was approved by the Cambodian Council of Ministers on 17 September 2004. It provides for a bottom-up selection/prioritization process (district and provincial committees), based on national guidelines and criteria of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA). Mine action operations are also intended to be in line with Cambodia's national development plans, particularly its national poverty reduction strategy and Cambodia's country-specific Millennium Development Goal #9 on mine action. Field workshops will be conducted in November 2004 to refine selection criteria and procedures in consultation with all stakeholders.
- The Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) reported a total clearance of 8,187,020 square meters from January to end September 2004, 20 percent above the target initially set for the period. This was achieved through the implementation of a multi-pronged cost-reduction strategy, which will be further pursued in 2005.

- CMAA and UNDP have developed a project proposal (US\$75,000) to support the CMAA database and information management department in 2005. The proposal has been included in the 2005 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects. The database department is an essential component of CMAA. In 2004 the first updated assessment of landmine contamination/mine action efforts in Cambodia was issued with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency and UNDP. A first analysis of the geographic distribution of mine-action resources against mine accident data was also released in 2004. There is great potential for CMAA to develop further its capacity to collect and analyze mine-action and socio-economic data, leading to better monitoring and planning in line with Cambodia's development plans.
- A joint donor mission of the mine-action sector in Cambodia has been commissioned by the Mine Action Technical Working Group. The mission team will assess the capacity and potential of the various national mine-action institutions, map donor support to the sector, and formulate recommendations for government/donor support to the mine-action sector in the future, looking in particular at the potential for coordination and sectoral partnerships. The mission is co-funded by Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, UNICEF, and UNDP. UNDP coordinate the mission on behalf of the donors. A final report is expected by mid-December 2004.
- A cost-benefit analysis of mine-action activities in Cambodia will be conducted from November 2004 to February 2005. The study will document economic and development benefits from mine action over the past 12 years and recommend mechanisms for a socio-economic cost-benefit analysis to be used in the prioritization/tasking process. The mission includes a component to strengthen the cost-benefit capacity of CMAA staff.

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

- The Government of Japan has confirmed a pledge of US\$416,000 for the UNDP CMAC Trust Fund in 2004.

## **EUROPE & THE CIS REGION**

### **ALBANIA**

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

- Clearance operations continued in northeast Albania during October 2004 in accordance with the priority tasks given by the Albania Mine Action Executive (AMAE). A total of 21,196 square meters, including minefields and battle areas, was cleared and 276 anti-personnel mines (APMs) were destroyed by Danish Church Aid (DCA).
- AMAE Quality Management Team has continued the operations of quality control and quality assurance, and six more cleared areas were handed back to their communities during October.
- A donors' trip to northeast Albania took place 30 September to 1 October to present the status of clearance, MRE, and victim assistance activities as well as the updated plan for completion of middle and high-priority clearance by 2006. The event was well covered by local and national media.
- On 23 October the AMAE Director attended the second anniversary meeting of the Underwater Demining Centre in Bijela, Montenegro, and provided his recommendations to the Underwater Demining SOPs prepared by the centre.
- Mine awareness activities were organized in high-priority areas jointly by the Victims of Mines and Weapons Association (VMA), a local NGO, and Albanian mine committees and peace activists.
- Concerts and a mobile theatre were funded by UNICEF and organized by VMA in 12 schools in mine-affected villages, delivering mine-safety messages to children.

- Three mine/UXO survivors were sent to the Institute of Rehabilitation in Slovenia for treatment with prostheses and rehabilitation, while three other mine victims were classified as difficult cases and are to be treated in November.
- Six children mine survivors with their accompanying parents were sent for a one week holiday in a summer camp in Slovenia supported by the International Trust Fund (ITF).
- UNDP signed a contract with the VMA to implement the Community Based Rehabilitation project, with the goal of improving mine survivors' access to social services.
- As part of a UNDP project aimed at establishing a Prostheses Support Workshop in Kukes Hospital, a prostheses repair technician began six weeks of training at the National Prosthetic Centre.
- UNDP established an emergency fund to assist new mine victims.
- VMA has assisted 32 mine survivors in establishing home-based economies through animal husbandry activities. Of these, 25 have commenced paying back their loans to the revolving loan fund.

#### **Key Challenges**

- Restart the EC-funded Technical Survey and Clearance Project for high and medium-impact areas.
- Secure MEDEVAC arrangements for the next working season in remote areas.
- Promote and finalize national mine-action legislation.

#### **Key Objectives**

- Start the bidding procedures to select the new operator for the Technical Survey and Clearance Project.
- Conduct Rapid Rural Assessment in eight of the most mine-affected villages.
- Organize training for nurses in mine-affected villages in the framework of the UNDP Community Based Rehabilitation Project, funded by the United Kingdom.
- Follow-up the project with the Institute of Rehabilitation for treatment and rehabilitation of another three mine/UXO survivors in Slovenia.
- Deliver to Kukes Regional Hospital the surgical equipment donated by the US Department of State.
- Procure equipment for the Prostheses Support Workshop in Kukes Hospital.
- Proceed with treatment of sight-impaired mine victims in Albania and abroad.

#### **Funding Update**

- Total budget for capacity building and coordination for 2004 is US\$420,805 and is funded by UNDP, the US Department of State through the ITF, and Canada.
- Through the ITF, the US State Department is funding the treatment in Slovenia of the most difficult cases of amputees and the socio-economic reintegration project for mine survivors.
- The United Kingdom is funding a Reintegration of Mine Survivors Project for US\$ 142,000 through UNDP.
- Previous and current donors include UNDP, EU, United Kingdom (DFID), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the US Department of State through the ITF, and the governments of Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Turkey.

## LATIN AMERICA REGION

### COLOMBIA

#### **Key Achievements**

- On October 24 the Colombian army destroyed their remaining anti-personnel landmine stockpile, excluding 986 mines retained for training purposes. At the invitation of the Government of Colombia, the event was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan.
- The Chief Technical Advisor, Mr. Rupert Leighton, provided by UNDP to the National Landmine Observatory, initiated his assignment in October.
- UNDP carried out a basic needs assessment of capacities and procedures used by the Colombian Armed Forces in the clearance of their 22 reported minefields. The assessment highlights certain shortcomings and recommends that the Colombian government, with international support, develop SOPs for mine clearance, in accordance with international standards, and initiate a training program for army clearance units.
- Basic information and training meetings on mine action and human rights were held with a broad range of stakeholders for 25 mine-affected municipalities in the Meta and Montes de Maria regions. This is the first step of a training and participatory planning process for mine action in these two regions.
- UNDP and the Colombian government arranged a visit for Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, the Vice President of Colombia as well as representatives from the Canadian, British, Swedish, Spanish, Swiss, and Brazilian Embassies to the Montes de Maria region, where they learned about the regional mine-action program carried out by the National Landmine Observatory, with support from UNDP. The visit focused media attention on the condition of landmine victims and on the high-risk situation of the rural population.

#### **Key Challenges**

- To raise further the technical and managerial capacity at the National Landmine Observatory as well as at the departmental and local levels in mine-affected regions.
- An initial assessment of key priorities for the Chief Technical Advisor includes: (1) accreditation planning for humanitarian mine-action activities; (2) revision of MRE materials, methodologies, and studies together with UNICEF; (3) strengthening International Management System for Mine action (IMSMA) data management, including data cleaning; (4) planning basic training for Observatory staff, departmental and regional authorities, and the armed forces on humanitarian mine clearance (relating to clearance of the 22 mine fields laid by the Colombian Armed Forces); (5) revision and planning of priority standards (health and safety); and (6) strengthening planning for the decentralization of mine action in Colombia, including standardization and materials.

#### **Key Objectives**

- Help consolidate the National Landmine Observatory as the principal technical and coordinating body for mine action in Colombia, including the development of national standards and accreditation.
- Support the National Landmine Observatory in the process of creating and strengthening local capacities for mine action, including local and regional planning processes.
- Advise and support the Colombian government in developing its capacity for humanitarian mine clearance in order to be able to fulfill the nation's obligations under the Ottawa Convention to clear the 22 reported minefields laid by the Colombian Armed Forces.

### ***Other Issues***

- In the Antioquia region, a Humanitarian Commission has been formed by departmental authorities and local NGOs, with the aim of reaching humanitarian agreements with the illegal armed actors in the region, thereby allowing for the clearance of mine-affected territory. This process is being promoted by Geneva Call and the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines.

### **6.3. Update from Unicef**

#### **Afghanistan**

Despite the numerous security challenges faced by the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA), UNICEF continues in its leadership role providing coordination, capacity building initiatives, new teaching and training methodologies development and technical support for mine risk education (MRE) and victim assistance activities that are implemented by NGOs throughout the country.

During the first half of 2004, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education in a teacher-training programme 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 programme. Together with the Ministry, UNICEF is developing a community-based education programme 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 programmes and monitor activities throughout the country. Partner agencies are being trained in internal monitoring and evaluation techniques and practices, while an external capacity has 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 Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database system used by the UN Mine Action Centre 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 was piloted in July 2004 and will be implemented in communities throughout the country beginning in November 2004. Results will be input into the UNMACA IMSMA database. Analysis tools have been developed and personnel training will take place in October 2004.

UNICEF has completed the development of new updated and standardised methodologies and materials for the returnee MRE programme activities. This programme, implemented with assistance from the UNHCR at encashment centres 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 programmes in both MRE and Victim/Disability Assistance. The MRE campaign will include radio, TV, print media and school and community activities. This programme aims to promote communication mechanisms for the Mine Action Programme 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 are currently being developed to increase awareness of the needs and abilities of those with disabilities and encourage inclusive attitudes and policy development. Training and media materials are currently under development. An inclusive education programme through the Ministry of Education is being supported by UNICEF education and MRE teams.

UNICEF has supported the training of MRE teams as part of the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes 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 programme implemented by the UNMACA and MAPA demining partner agencies.

UNICEF continues to develop new MRE training and community-based initiatives through partnerships with government, MAPA implementing agencies and other assistance agencies. Police and religious leaders training in MRE has been successfully piloted and will be expanded upon in the coming months.

## **Albania**

### *MRE activities for populations in mine affected areas of the Northeast*

Although demining has made substantial progress, a considerable portion of the border area with Kosovo still remains contaminated with mines and UXO five years after the Kosovo crisis. Many grazing areas and wood collection areas still have UXO. The population of 39 villages, relying on agriculture and animal husbandry, remains affected due to the presence of mines. It poses a serious threat to the local population, limits the use of land resource and affects normal life. The villages are very remote and houses are spread over large areas. Most vulnerable to the mines and UXO are people from the 7-27 year age group since they are the ones who work to support their families. They are often injured while attending to livelihood duties such as grazing animals, harvesting, collecting fire wood, etc.

UNICEF support was a crucial factor for the re-integration of mine victims and MRE information to the communities in the 39 border villages. In part due to this support, mine and UXO-related accidents in the targeted villages have decreased. Yet mines continue to take lives since 50 % of the affected area remains mined. Village people have to use the same mine-contaminated areas to meet their daily needs e.g. grazing animals and obtain firewood for cooking/heating homes.

In response to the needs of the mine-affected community in areas of northern Albania, the 'Victims of Mines and Weapons Association' (VMWA), an implementing partner and a community based NGO organised a number of activities:

- 26 MRE information sessions were provided to communities in high priority areas
- Concerts with Mobile Theatre were conducted in 12 villages
- Support was provided to Anti-Mine Committees to disseminate information on mine and UXO threat in nine villages
- trauma and stress in eight traumatized children in mine affected areas was alleviated through counselling and relief activities
- Distribution of leaflets

With MRE activities that have targeted approximately 24,000 people (4,000 children), there is no accident registered in the project's implementation area as compared to 4 accidents registered last year.

Based on lessons learned, VMWA ensured participation of Anti Mines Committees (AMCs) and Peace Activists (PAs) in these villages to organise themselves around MRE activities to keep the population informed about the mine threat. The AMC's and PA's have started to plan activities in the context of MRE, although they remain in need of further capacity development in this area. The team has fully supported AMC's with materials and has helped organise them.

### *Preparation of Mine Risk Education manuals for teachers and students of primary schools*

Curricula specialists from the Institute of Pedagogical Studies are preparing two manuals. The focus is on how to safeguard students from risks including mines, UXO, fireworks, knowledge on first aid, among other topics. The manuals will serve as a guide for additional extracurricular activities to be organised in primary schools in mine-affected areas.

## **Angola**

As Angola's extremely dangerous rainy season begins, UNICEF and the Government has launched a national media campaign on 22 October, aimed at preventing landmine accidents on roads. With as many as six million landmines still threatening Angolans' attempts to restart their lives, and with travel and trade routes opening across the country, the campaign targets drivers and passengers. "We Stay on the Right Path" uses television, radio and hundreds of mobilisers, from national police to Boy Scouts to inform drivers of the dangers of leaving the road, while also urging passengers to speak out if a driver decides to make his own path.

In preparation for the campaign, a planning and trainer-of-trainers workshop was held in Luanda over two days in September. It is to be followed by provincial MRE trainings for the network of MRE activists who have been mobilised to roll out the campaign across all provinces starting in October. In each province, the National Intersectorial Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Aid (CNIDAH), the National Institute for Demining (INAD), the National Institute of Roads (INEA), police, NGOs and civil society groups such as the Boy Scouts are working in integrated MRE coordination committees to implement the campaign.

In all, 30,000 drivers were reached in the intensive first five days of the campaign, launched in seven provinces in the first phase. The nationwide campaign will run for six months using TV, radio and a network of organisations conducting on-site outreach. Efforts are taking place in key gathering points for vehicles such as taxi stands, truck stops and road control points and will make use of leaflets and personal outreach to fill the knowledge gaps on mine risk and safe behaviour to ensure that Angola's rainy season is flooded with messages to deter drivers taking risks. The campaign comes in a year when UNICEF's MRE team has been the Angolan Government's key partner, supporting the creation of national standards and guidelines, formulating policy for the development and monitoring of MRE programmes and training of mine risk educators.

Significant progress was made in moving forward the planning cycle and dialogue between ministries in the mine action sector during this quarter. Most noteworthy was the effort to decentralise the CNIDAH coordination structure to provincial level. As part of this process, members of the national coordination body have been travelling to all provinces with the UN interagency team with the objective of meeting with Provincial Government authorities, UN agencies, NGO partners and civil society in order to set up the mine action coordination structures at the provincial level and CNIDAH operations rooms. UNICEF continued to participate in provincial visits throughout October.

Following discussion of the data collection formats for the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database by mine action partners, training provided by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) for implementers in October, standardised the IMSMA forms to be used by all partners commencing in early 2005.

## **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) continues to provide technical, financial and logistical support to the BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMAC) and to implementing agencies involved in MRE and Landmine Victim Assistance (LMVA).

The first week of October, the BHMAC held the third course on Mine Risk Management for 25 senior and middle managers from the Civil Protection, the BHMAC, the Red Cross, international and local NGOs and the armies.

In accordance with the BHMAC training plan, the Civil Protection organised the seventh training for MRE field personnel during the third week of October. In total, 25 participants from the Civil Protection central and field offices attended the course and acquired the skills necessary to integrate community mine risk management and education within their existing plans and activities.

On the 4th week of October, the BHMAC convened the MRE Policy Board to review the final draft of the MRE strategic plan for BiH and the final draft of the MRE standards. In addition, the board approved the report of the UNICEF/Handicap International survey on MRE in the education sector and was introduced to the international NGO Response project proposal on MRE and LMVA.

With UNICEF technical and financial support, the local NGO AMI is piloting a project integrating permanent and urgent marking and the training of community representatives. In October, community representatives from the district of Brcko, and the municipalities of Celic and Pelagicevo participated in two three-day training seminars where they acquired skills to manage the mine risk and facilitate risk education within their constituency.

With UNICEF support, the local NGO 'Genesis Project' continues with the implementation of comprehensive school-based MRE and small arms/light weapons (SALW) project. In October, in the Zenica – Doboj canton of the Federation of BiH, 2,752 children participated in 27 live puppets shows and 22 parents and teachers participated in nine community participatory mine risk reduction planning workshops in Zenica – Doboj canton, Federation BiH.

In eight primary schools of Una-Sana canton, in the Federation of BiH, and two of Prijedor, Republika Srpska, 410 future peer educators participated in 64 workshops.

In addition, in the municipalities of Banjaluka and Doboj, three participatory monitoring and evaluation seminars allowed for 18 schoolteachers from three primary schools that were included in the project during the school year 2003/2004 to monitor, evaluate, and share lessons learned.

With UNICEF support, the Italian NGO Intersos commenced in August the implementation of the Community Mine Risk Management project. The project is designed to address issues identified during the previously conducted sociological research related to risk attitudes of working-age men and women. The project is implemented in collaboration with the BHMAC, the Civil Protection, local authorities, trade unions and local associations in six municipalities of Central and Eastern Bosnia. In October, the project team members introduced the project to the municipality authorities i.e. major office staff, civil protection, police, representative for the cooperation with local communities. The local officers of the Civil Protection confirmed or revised the LIS lists of impacted community and visits were paid to local unit representatives introducing the programme and asking about the local mine situation. Based on local community representative indications, INTERSOS Teams conducted home visits to a sample of the local population in each of the polluted places. The project teams initiated contacts with major enterprises of the forestry, agricultural and civil construction. Information on association and local NGOs was collected from OSCE field officers and also from municipality officials. So far, the teams completed the mapping of Olovo and Kiseljak and are working on Srebrenica, Bratunac and Vitez. Radio Bratunac, Radio Vitez, Radio Kiseljak were introduced to the project. In addition, Radio Vitez agreed to broadcast information related to MRE or Mine Action free of charge at any time. The project was presented at Bugojno Television and the same interview was also broadcasted on the Federation of BiH TV channel.

UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina's Mine Action programme has been supported by contributions from the Government of Italy, the Department for International Development (DfID), the UNICEF National Committees of Ireland and Austria, and the United States Department of State.

A considerable constraint to the implementation of the UNICEF Mine Action Programme is the lack of funding for programme activities beyond 2004, which puts the programme in great jeopardy. To be able to maintain its support to mine action in BiH, UNICEF BiH urgently requires 950,000 US dollars.

## **Burundi**

UNICEF continues to play a key role in Burundi's landmine/UXO mine action efforts. UNICEF is supporting the Department of Civil Protection (DCP) of the Ministry of Public Security to implement prevention campaigns in the five most affected provinces (Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza, Makamba, Rutana and Ruyigi). Five provincial coordinators are responsible for MRE in their areas, which includes training, information gathering and sharing, and monitoring project implementation. UNICEF is also involved in advocacy activities and has recently developed a joint project agreement with the Centre d'alerte et de prévention des conflits (CENAP).

UNICEF also continues to implement MRE activities in collaboration with the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC), United Nations agencies and partners involved in Mine Action, for the provision of landmine safety training to the UN peacekeeping operation in Burundi (ONUB) staff and landmine safety training to humanitarian aid workers. With the assistance of the MACC, UNICEF has trained since July 2004 more than 200 ONUB military/civilian staff and humanitarian aid workers.

In concert with UNOB and the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), UNICEF is involved in the preparation of a mine action programme to mitigate the threat posed by landmines and UXO. The newly established MACC will have the responsibility for planning, managing and overseeing all mine action activities in Burundi. The MACC will also provide the secretariat support to a UN senior coordination group chaired by ONUB.

UNICEF has contributed to the preparation of a series of 10 Mine Action Portfolio projects scheduled for 2005 and included in the Common Humanitarian Action Plan. These include supporting the effective integration of humanitarian assistance operations through strategic mine clearance, surveying and demarcation to support operations of the peacekeeping force, working with demining NGOs, and assisting the national mine action coordination authority in the development of a national management capacity and the establishment of an indigenous and sustainable mine action programme. UNICEF will assume the leadership of MRE activities in this shape.

## **Cambodia**

In Cambodia, UNICEF continues providing financial and technical support to Community-Based Mine Risk Reduction, as well as Mass Media (through the Cambodia Mine Action Centre), School MRE for Children (through Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport), and the provision of prostheses, wheelchairs, other mobility devices and other assistances to children and women victims of landmines/UXO and other causes of disabilities.

From 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2004, 870 casualties were reported by the Cambodian Mine/UXO Victim Information System. In the total of 870, 523 (60%) were men, 287(33%) were children under 18 year and 59 (7%) were women. 530 (61%) of casualties were injured or killed by UXO and 340 (39%) by mines. 90% of the total casualties received MRE. 39% were injured or killed by tempering with mines or UXO.

A National Strategy on MRE has been developed and this document will be finalised at the next coming MRE Coordination meeting which will take place in November 2004. And an MRE technical working group has reviewed the MRE teaching materials.

The special consultation meeting on Mine Risk Reduction was held at the Office of Council of Ministers in July 2004 under the presidency of his Excellency Sam Sotha, Advisor to Prime Minister Hun Sen and Secretary General of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority. The purpose of the meeting was to find out the causes of the increased accident rates by UXO and to formulate immediate solutions and recommendations to address this particular issue caused. All mine action operator representatives, relevant ministries and province governors of the affected provinces participated. The consultation meeting resulted in detailed recommendations in the area of increased and targeted UXO awareness, improved and increased UXO reporting and demolition (including from the metal scrap collectors) and alternative handling of UXO in order to create a safe metal scrap collection procedure and business.

## **Colombia**

### *Stockpile destruction*

On 25 October, the Government of Colombia destroyed the last remnants of stockpiled landmines to comply with Article 4 of the Mine Ban Treaty. The destruction was performed in the presence of Her Majesty, Queen Noor Al Hussein, who witnessed the explosion of nearly 7,000 antipersonnel landmines from the armed forces of Colombia. Mr. Nils Kastberg, UNICEF's regional director for the Americas and the Caribbean Region, and UNICEF's representative for Colombia and the Venezuela Area Office, Mr. Manuel Manrique, participated in this important event. The military forces retained 986 AP mines for research and training, as allowed for by Article 3 of the Convention.

### *Visit of Queen Noor to UNICEF Mine Action program in Cauca*

Her Majesty, Queen Noor Al Hussein, visited Colombia between 24 and 27 October 2004, to participate in the final destruction of stockpiled AP Mines. During her visit, Her Majesty had the opportunity to visit the department of Cauca, one of the most mine/UXO-affected areas. In the city of Popayán, Her Majesty attended a meeting with a considerable number of civilian landmine survivors, who represent 665 of all casualties in that department. There, Queen Noor shared a touching moment with children from various municipalities of Cauca, who told her about their dramatic experience with landmines/UXO. The Queen was pleased to see how these children were able to make use of their own personal tragedies and transform them into positive actions to prevent new accidents of other children in their community. Due to inclement weather conditions, Queen Noor was not able to visit the Guambiano indigenous community in the municipality of Silvia, but she promised to the small delegation that travelled to meet her in Popayán, that she would return to Colombia over the next year and will visit them at their home location.

### *Technical assistance to Venezuela*

As part of the cooperation process with neighbouring countries regarding armed conflict, the UNICEF Colombia Humanitarian Affairs Area is providing technical assistance to the UNICEF Venezuela Country Office for humanitarian mine action. UNICEF Colombia will facilitate a three-day workshop to UNICEF officers in Venezuela as well as to their counterparts. The UNICEF Colombia Office will also provide material to assist UNICEF Venezuela's work regarding humanitarian mine action.

### *New mine action programmes in affected areas*

In response to the increased humanitarian crisis posed by landmines and UXO, UNICEF is starting cooperation programmes in two of the most affected areas of the country in the Caribbean region: South Bolívar and Montes de María. These projects will be developed in close cooperation with Colombia's National Landmines Observatory, the authorities of the departments (provinces) of Bolívar and Sucre, the Catholic Church, civil society organisations and the United Nations Development Program. In this way, UNICEF's Humanitarian Mine Action Programme is present in four of the most mine/UXO-affected areas of the country, promoting activities in at least 30 municipalities of the country.

### *Mine Action materials*

Having in mind the strong need for culturally appropriate materials to develop mine action activities at community level, in November UNICEF will launch the "Humanitarian Mine Action Facilitators Manual". The Manual's aim is to support the work of local leaders that act as humanitarian mine action facilitators of the UNICEF programme at a municipal level. The Manual has been developed in close cooperation with the National Landmines Observatory and counterparts in the field. It will be available for distribution in late November and represent one of the few mine action materials originally produced in Spanish, taking into account more than eight years of local experience in humanitarian mine action.

### *Landmine survivors' assistance*

As part of its activities to promote landmine/UXO survivors' access to rights and services, UNICEF, together with its local counterpart in the department of Cauca, FUNDEMOS, developed a three-day event gathering nearly all of the civilian landmine/UXO survivors of the department of Cauca. The major aim of the event was to assist survivors with their legal processes to access health, labour, education and reintegration rights. The Social Solidarity Network, the general Attorney's Office and the National Learning Service (SENA) also took part of the event that provided assistance to more than 45 affected families of 22 municipalities of Cauca.

## **Democratic Republic of Congo**

In May 2004, UNICEF trained 18 staff from local NGOs working in the provinces of North and South Kivu as MRE trainers. The training focused on basic techniques of direct presentation in MRE, questionnaire and discussion methods for needs assessments and on the dissemination of correct messages and teaching methodologies, as well as data collection that will contribute to a national IMSMA database.

In an effort to increase the mine/UXO awareness of the inhabitants, establish safe living procedures within contaminated areas, and to reduce the number of casualties and ease restrictions on communities, the trained NGO staff will combine MRE with their daily programmatic support to the communities and spread safety messages to the affected populations. The trained members will also attempt to reduce the number and also change the risk taking behaviour of the population in which they live and work. From November 2004 to March 2005, a total of 7,890 inhabitants of four localities in South Kivu, where they live under the threat of landmines and UXO, will be directly targeted via churches and schools. This approach will provide emergency MRE to the communities, until long term MRE can be established.

During the past 24 months, the Mine Action Coordination Centre has been receiving support from local NGOs in the collection of incident/accident data. The NGO's trained staff will collect data in support of IMSMA. This data will be used to continue prioritisation of further mine action activities in the areas.

## **Eritrea**

UNICEF continues to provide overall coordination, technical support and capacity building initiatives for MRE activities for the Mine Action Programme of Eritrea.

In October, the recruitment of 35 MRE community volunteers began. Once recruited, MRE volunteers will be trained in MRE direct presentation and data collection, among other activities. They will be trained at the Eritrean Demining Authority (EDA) by 2 MRE instructors and will be ready for deployment into mine-affected areas to provide MRE to affected populations in accordance with the results of the Landmine Impact Survey (LIS).

UNICEF continues to support an MRE field presence through six Eritrean Demining Operations (EDO) field teams. The six UNICEF-EDO field teams targeted 6,964 people with MRE, out of which 4,688 were children. During September, two mine accidents occurred: two children were injured and one killed. The circumstances of the accidents are being followed up by EDO.

Also during the reporting period, MRE Safety Briefings have been given by the EDO MRE Coordinator in the local language for national staff from different UN Agencies and local NGOs.

In accordance with the National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2005 – 2009, negotiations have started with UNDP and the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare regarding integration of Community Based Rehabilitation network into MRE.

## **Ethiopia**

UNICEF continues to support MRE capacity building initiatives within the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) and has supported their capability to facilitate trainings for other national MRE counterparts in the areas of training-of-trainers, surveillance systems, data collection and analysis, and monitoring and evaluation.

The EMAO, with support and technical assistance from UNICEF, has implemented a needs assessment in three regions of the country. The results are being reviewed and analysed by both agencies for the development of strategic plans and new implementation methods for MRE programming.

UNICEF continues to implement MRE activities in Tigray and Afar regions through its national NGO implementing partner the 'Rehabilitation and Development Organisation' (RaDO), in close cooperation with regional and community counterparts. These activities focus on community-based approaches with an emphasis on schools, child-to-child, victim data collection, and survivor support services. Task Force groups have been established to provide MRE to all sectors of the community in particular women and youth. These Task Force groups work with communities to develop strategies that promote safe behaviours and will be the driving force behind the MRE programme as the regional authorities begin to take over the project. The hand over of the RaDO project to the regional governments in Tigray and Afar continues to progress. Success will depend on the commitment of resources for management and the maintenance of community capacities.

UNICEF is currently supporting the development and implementation of a community-based data collection systems through national and regional government partners that will provide vital mine/UXO related data to both MRE implementers, but also to assist with mine clearance programme planning and emergency response.

UNICEF also closely works with UNDP, who are advisors to EMAO, encouraging the development of an integrated approach to mine action that combines MRE with the process of marking and demining activities.

## **Nepal**

UNICEF and its partners in the MRE Working Group are assisting with the country's first MRE needs and capacity analysis. The analysis is being conducted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining with the support of UNICEF. The term "mine-risk education" is being used, however in the context of Nepal, initial media surveillance of incidents involving explosions indicate that the majority of casualties and deaths are caused by improvised explosive devices rather than landmines.

The GICHD mission has had preliminary briefings from World Education, Save the Children Norway, Save the Children US, Nepal Red Cross, Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines, Porter's

Progress, UNICEF and the local human-rights groups Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN) and Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC). It has also consulted with the ICRC and Handicap International. The mission will be making three field visits. The first, concentrating more on data collection from hospitals and health facilities, is in the conflict-affected Mid-West and Far-Western regions. The second field mission will focus on locations associated with the risks to child porters and other mobile populations and a third location was identified to look at post-engagement issues with socket bombs and other UXO.

A workshop will be held for all MRE partners on 25 and 26 November to discuss the preliminary findings of the analysis and to explore suitable strategies for Nepal.

Following successful field testing of two initial identification posters aimed at children, MRE partners and other organisations involved in 'Schools as Zones of Peace' have requested a larger print run in order to distribute through their respective programmes.

### **Russia – Northern Caucasus**

On 28 October, UNICEF chaired an inter-agency coordination meeting for Mine Action with the participation of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), 'People in Need' (PIN), 'Voice of the Mountains' (VoM), 'Let's Save the Generation' (LSG), Minga, the Republican Clinical Hospital (Grozny), the State Chechen Drama Theatre and the Disabled Society (Grozny). The meeting discussed recent developments in mine action activities in the region, including the design of new MRE materials.

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to support advocacy activities aimed at attracting attention to the existing mine/UXO problem in Chechnya. On 14 October 2004, an advocacy Festival, "Students of Chechnya against Mines" was organised in Grozny by UNICEF (with financial support from ECHO) through VoM. Students of the State Chechen University and the Pedagogical Institute, as well as representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Minga, LSG and 'Step to the Future' participated in the event. Each participant was wearing a T-shirt specially designed for the festival. The event was broadcast by the Chechen state television and radio; articles highlighting the event were published by the newspapers "Groznenkiy Rabochiy" and "Molodezhnay Smena".

From 13-15 October 2004, UNICEF conducted a three-day community-based Mine Risk Education/Risk Reduction workshop with the aim of exploring ways to foster a dynamic of mine/UXO prevention within communities in Chechnya. Representatives of the Chechen Ministries of Interior, Education and EMERCOM, the Youth Committee and the administration of Urus-Martanovskiy district, the ICRC, the Danish De-mining Group, VoM and LSG actively participated in the workshop. This was the first workshop whereby government officials and humanitarian actors had a chance to discuss in a comprehensive manner the mine/UXO problem in Chechnya and possible ways for reducing the related risk. The workshop was facilitated by a Mine Action consultant, with funding made possible by the United States Department of State. Lessons learned from other mine/UXO-affected countries, the experience of the "Quick Response Survey Teams" in Chad, and the outcome of the KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practice) survey that was held in September 2004 were shared and discussed with workshop participants. The Chechen Deputy Minister of Emergencies presented EMERCOM's mandate, its current activities and possibilities for future cooperation. ICRC and UNICEF will be conducting a workshop in November for the same stakeholders.

## **Sri Lanka**

### *Mine Risk Education*

Direct Beneficiaries - According to the IMSMA database, from January 2004 to the present, more than 250,000 people were directly benefited by the community-based MRE programme.

### *MRE TWG meeting*

The MRE Technical Working Group continues to meet on a regular basis. During the period August – September, the group, which includes all MRE agencies in Sri Lanka and other interested mine action partners, has met twice; in Kilinochchi on 3-4 August and in Trincomalee on 21-22 September. At these meetings, the group discussed issues concerning the development of MRE communication strategies, MRE standards and core messages, activity reporting, and MRE provided through the formal school system. A special session was conducted on advocacy for a ban on landmines, including a presentation of the Mine Ban Treaty, the Geneva Call Deed of Commitment and a discussion on how the partners can initiate advocacy activities in the districts.

### *KAP training and guidelines*

Based on the recommendation in the MRE evaluation, the KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice) questionnaire has been revised and workshops have been conducted with partners in all districts. Guidelines on how to use the questionnaire have also been developed.

### *MRE national standards*

The MRE national standards have been finalised after incorporating the comments received. The standards were translated into Tamil and were shared with all MRE agencies for final editing comments.

### *Evaluation study*

The MRE Evaluation report is now finalised and received excellent feedback by the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in UNICEF HQ.

### *MRE in- school curriculum*

The programme with the National Institute of Education to incorporate MRE in the school curriculum has been expanded to the Puttalam, Anuradhapura and Pollonnaruwa districts. With the support of UNICEF, schoolbooks were printed and teacher's training programmes started in September. In addition, booklets with drama scripts are being printed and will be distributed to the schools.

### *Survivor Assistance*

Chaired by UNICEF, the first meeting of representatives of orthopaedic centres was held in Kilinochchi on 4 August. The objective of the meeting was to discuss ways to improve coordination and communications mechanism among all rehabilitation centres in the north and east in the first stage and then across the entire island over the longer term.

In Mannar, the Valvuthayam Orthopaedic Centre inaugurated new premises to accommodate patients that are coming for rehabilitation from a distance, the new premises was sponsored by UNICEF. HI France, which recently initiated that rehabilitation activities in Batticaloa, are in their last stages of signing a supplementary agreement with UNICEF.

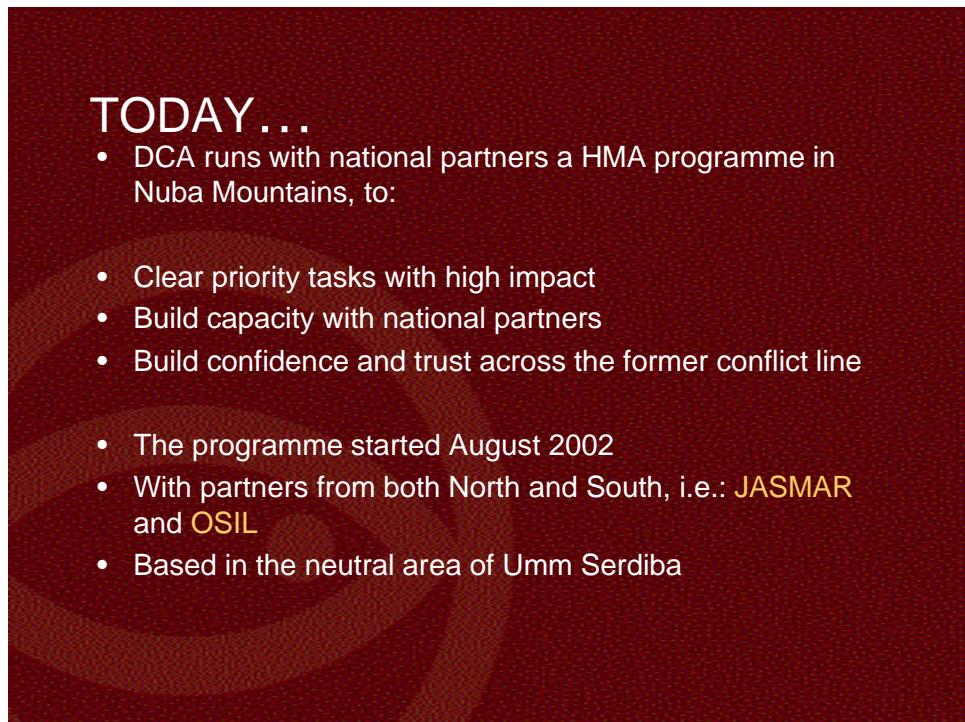
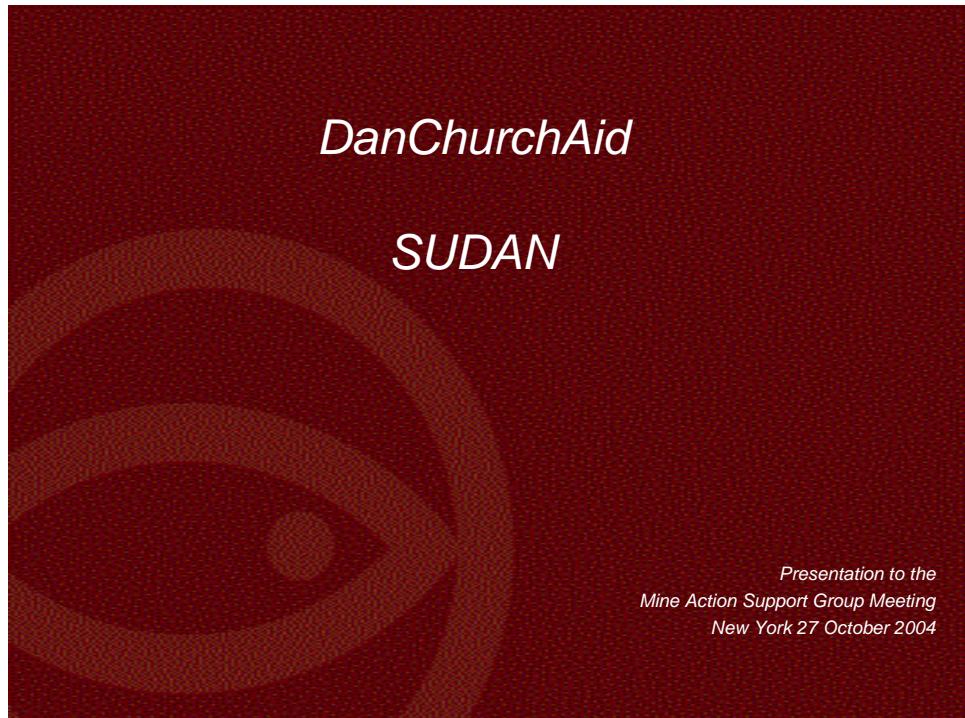
### *Advocacy*

The Landmine Ban Advocacy Forum has organised a series of strategic meetings to decide on activities for the remainder of 2004 and onwards. Some of the activities agreed upon are to send out press releases to highlight significant events nationally and internationally, to approach Members of Parliament highlighting the importance of a ban and to continue engaging the public.

During the reporting period, the forum has sent out two press releases, highlighting the participation of two female members of the LTTE in a conference in Geneva, organised by Geneva Call, to discuss the importance of Non State Actors in adherence to humanitarian norms, including the ban on landmines, and Sri Lanka acceding to the Convention of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) on 21 September. The CCW regulates the use of landmines but does not call for a complete ban. The forum therefore welcomes the accession to the CCW as an important step by the Government towards signing the Mine Ban Treaty.

Press statement was developed inviting children to submit paintings addressing a world free of landmines. As a result, more than 500 drawings were sent from all over the island and will be sent to Lebanon as requested by International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

## 7. Presentation Sudan (DCA)



- Initially funded by the Danish and Norwegian Governments;
- And later in addition by DFID through the UN and by the German Government



- DCA has deployed since 15 October an assessment mission in Southern Blue Nile wishing to support ongoing food security activities and to replicate the experience and partnership.

## RESULTS - 1

- Within the two years that have passed DCA has facilitated IDP return, their and the other population's access to e.g. water or farming land
- A humanitarian highway was opened to road food convoys for the first time in 19 years

## RESULTS - 2

- Partner capacity:
  - 2 Jasmar manual demining teams trained
  - 1 Jasmar Mine Risk Education team trained
  - 2 OSIL manual demining teams trained
  - 1 OSIL Mine Risk Education team trained
  - Capacity building with partners (team leaders, management, logistics and finance)
- Joint management meetings with partners
- Joint training of partners

Training camp for UN sponsored teams



## Lessons/challenges for the future

- Cross conflict emphasis moves to joint deployment
- Humanitarian and community priority setting
- Rapid response capacity – IDP return
- Independent management training



Rainy season and logistics

## ANSWERS

- Understanding the local and national post-conflict context
- Donor insistence on national commitment
- Continued donor commitment
- Understanding and conducting humanitarian mine action as part of a bigger post-conflict recovery

