THE ALBANIA MINE ACTION PROGRAMME

“ALBANIA MINE/UXO-SAFE BY 2005”

RESPONSES AND NEEDS

Visit of donors and authorities to NE Albania in September 2003

Launching of the Albanian APM Stockpile Destruction Programme on 15 Jan 2001
**ALBANIAN RESPONSE**

- Clearance of 15 Hot Spots by the AAF with US and NATO assistance - 108.3 Ha, 851 tons
- Engaged in a programme for the destruction of 108,000 tons of redundant ordnance, with US, NATO, EC and Greek assistance
- Level 1 Survey and surface clearance of cluster munitions by the AAF in the NE, which drastically reduced casualties
- Ratification of relevant international treaties: Ottawa Treaty & CCW
- Adoption of international humanitarian mine action standards
- Establishment of a national humanitarian mine action structure: AMAC and AMAE
- Destruction of entire APM stockpile by the AAF and NAAMSA with Canadian support - almost 1.7m APM’s were destroyed in 2 years by 4 April 2002
- Operation of the Tirana Orthopedic Centre, responsible for fitment of prostheses to Albanian mine victims
- Limited assistance to mechanical demining
- Support from the Albanian Government by the end of 2003 to the MA and EOD programmes will total US$1,583,600

**NEEDS 2004**

- Previous donors include UNDP, EU, DFID, ITF, ICRC, Canadian, Czech, German, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Swiss and US Governments.
- In 2003 the major donor was the State Department, through the ITF.
- The US$5.2m budget for 2003 was largely funded
- Budget for 2004 is $6.66m, of which $4.59m is already funded/pledged

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<tr>
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<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>SHORTFALL</th>
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<td>Capacity building and coordination</td>
<td>$440,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demining</td>
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<td>MRE</td>
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<td>Victim assistance</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>$2,070,000</td>
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CONCLUSIONS

The focus for 2004 will be on:

- Accurately determining the extent of the mines and UXO problem (TS)
- Consolidating the transition strategy
- Expanding the victim assistance project
- Increasing the demining rate

After 2005 – much reduced MA programme:

- Leaner structure
- Only low impact areas left to demine – Albanian NGO
- Government responsibility will be largely phased in by 2006, but some international assistance will still be required
- Albanian capacity for demining and victim assistance fully established
- Mine awareness objectives will mostly be reached
- A solid resource mobilisation base will be established

The budget for 2005 will be less than $5m and for 2006 will be under $2m, primarily survivor assistance

The strategic objective: Albania mine and UXO-safe by 2005, is still attainable given sustained funding and increased rate of demining.