VICTIM ASSISTANCE IN ALBANIA

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Victim Assistance Strategy

**Vision:** Ensure the physical rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of all mine/ERW victims in Albania.

**Mine/ERW casualties in Albania:**
- 238 mine/UXO survivors in Kukes region
- 610 casualties in other parts of Albania

Sight impaired mine victim and family at home

Two landmine survivors at Hospital
Mine/ERW Victim Assistance Components

Mine/ERW Survivor

Victim Assistance Actors

Albanian Mine Action Committee (AMAC)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

International Red Cross/Red Crescent (IRC/RC)

Slovenian Institute of Rehabilitation

Mine/ERW Victims
Medical Care, Physical Rehabilitation & Social Support

- Build the surgical capacities in district hospitals; equipments and training provided in Albania and abroad.
- Improve emergency and ongoing medical care provided at village level. Training and new equipment provided.
- Establish and training of the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) network with 30 nurses in the mine affected region.
- Treatment of sight impaired mine/ERW survivors.
- Prosthetic Workshops upgraded in equipments, adequate training provided and supply with raw materials.
- Psycho-social and peer support services provided and reinforced at district and regional level.

Developments and Results

- With funding and technical assistance from ICRC/ISFD: training of NPOC technicians (one of them ISPQI cat II) and build its Management capacities.
- A PMR National Plan of Action is implemented by the Ministry of Health with funding support from US DoS though ITF:
  - Establishment of a PMR specialisation;
  - Development of PMR units in regional hospitals (Kukes, Shkodra & Korça);
  - Fundraising for equipment of the future National Referral Rehabilitation Centre in Kavaja.
- The Nursing Faculty in Tirana implements a sustainable program for the development of physiotherapy training.
Developments and Results (cont.)

- The quality of existing prosthetics services has improved and the training capacities for prosthetics of the Albanian health sector are developed.

- The rehabilitation unit of the Kukes Regional Hospital is established and delivers basic rehabilitation services to people in need, particularly addressing the needs of landmine survivors.

- Prosthetic facilities are being improved at the Regional Hospital level in Kukes with equipment and qualified staff.

- Regulatory mechanisms for rehabilitation and prosthetics and orthotics services delivery have been defined and are being enforced.

- A revolving fund is set up since 2003, with US DoS funding through the ITF, for the development of household economies among families of victims in NE Albania.

- Each family, according to priorities, is allocated either 1 or 2 cows, 10 goats/sheep or 5 beehives, procured with the revolving fund.

- Families are also trained and assisted including veterinary services.

- Loans have to be paid back in 2/3 years and up to date 84 mine survivors and their families have benefited from this support.

- The revolving fund will be available now to other families in mine/ERW affected region. The Project is implemented by the local NGO-VMA.

Vocational training & Local Enterprise Project (VTLEP) - July 2006 / March 07/March 09

- Provided access to vocational training and to business management training for 50 mine/ERW survivors.

- Provided mine/ERW survivors with knowledge and expertise to increase their job opportunities.

- Provided support to 20 trained households to establish home-based businesses.

- The trained survivors supported with interest free loans to procure some equipments to establish their businesses.

- Provided English classes to young mine survivors and job seeking skills in order to increase opportunities for their reintegration.
Plans for 2009-10

- Provision of medical equipment and supplies for the NPOC and hospitals/health centres in Albania.
- Proper location and reconstruction of National Prosthetic & Orthotic Workshop premises in Tirana.
- Development of a sustainable physiotherapy training programme through the Nursing Faculty in Tirana.
- Training of 6 prosthetic/orthotic technicians to international standards.
- Training of medical specialists from mine/ERW affected region in provision of emergency and ongoing medical assistance.
- Improved rehabilitation facilities and capacity in Kukes region.
- Vocational training programme for another 90 mine survivors and another 20 survivors to assist in establishing home-based economies.
- Small scale infrastructure development projects continued in mine affected villages that are cleared and handed over to communities.
- Contribute to the fulfillment of the National Strategy for People with Disability (2005-2015).