

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA



ARTICLE 7 REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2004

To the Secretary General of the United Nations

**On the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction**

Ministry of Defense

30 April 2005

**CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION
AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

REPORTING FORMAT FOR ARTICLE 7

STATE PARTY:

ALBANIA

DATE OF SUBMISSION

30 APRIL 2005

POINT OF CONTACT

ALBANIA MINE ACTION EXECUTIVE (AMAE)

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Form C Location of mined areas

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

c) To the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control, to include as much detail as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine in each mined area and when they were emplaced."

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004

1. Areas that contain mines*

Location	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
See Annex A.	Various types including: PMA-1, PMA-1A, PMA-2, VPMA-2, PMA-3, PMR-2A, MRUD.	Not known, no records of minefields are available to Albania.	During the Kosovo crisis of 1999.	All mines were laid by FYR forces, see Annex A.

2. Areas suspected to contain mines

Location	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
NOT APPLICABLE				There are no other identified mined areas

Form F Status of programs for destruction of APM's

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:
 f) The status of programs for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, including details of the methods which will be used in destruction, the location of all destruction sites and the applicable safety and environmental standards to be observed."

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004

1. Status of programs for destruction of stockpiled APM's (Article 4)

Description of the status of programs, including location of destruction sites	Details of:
<p>The project to destroy the entire stockpile of APM's commenced in January 2001 and a total of 1,683,860 APM's, against a predicted stockpile of 1,607,420, were destroyed by 04 April 2002. The additional 76,440 APM were discovered through a self-generated internal verification programme of the Albanian Armed Forces.</p> <p>The project established a demilitarization facility at the government owned explosives factory ULP Mjekës for the destruction of the entire APM stockpile.</p>	<p>Methods: Demilitarization techniques were based on reverse assembly and recycling was a major aspect of the project. Over 1,100 tonnes of ferrous metals were recovered and recycled into construction materials for the repair of the country's infrastructure. 192 tonnes of TNT explosives were recovered and reconstituted into commercial explosives (Ammonite) only suitable for use in the commercial construction sector to assist in the reconstruction of the Albanian and Kosovo economy.</p> <p>Applicable safety standards: Applicable NATO standards were applied.</p>

Description of the status of programs, including location of destruction sites	Details of:
	<p>Applicable environmental standards: Applicable NATO standards were applied. Open burning and open detonation techniques were not used in this project.</p>

2. Status of programs for destruction of APM's in mined areas (Article 5)

Description of the status of programs including, Location of destruction sites	Details of:
See Annex B (Form F)	<p>Methods: Open Detonation</p>
	<p>Applicable safety standards: Albanian Mine Action Executive Technical and Safety Standards (AMAE TSS's) /IMAS</p>
	<p>Applicable environmental standards: AMAE TSS's/IMAS</p>

Form G APM's destroyed after entry into force

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

g) The types and quantities of all anti-personnel mines destroyed after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party, to include a breakdown of the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, respectively, along with, if possible, the lot numbers of each type anti-personnel mine in the case of destruction in accordance with Article 4"

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004

1. Destruction of stockpiled APM's (Article 4)

Type	Original	Destroyed	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
Mine AP Wood	234,980	243,979		The additional 76,440 APM were discovered through a self-generated internal verification programme of the Albanian Armed Forces. 8,100 AP mines were destroyed on Sazan Island because there were no means available to transport them to the mainland.
Mine AP Bakelite	310,290	176,447		
Mine AP Fragmentation	930,050	989,825		
Mine AP Fiber	132,100	265,509		
Mines Destroyed on Sazan Island		8,100		
TOTAL	1,607,420	1,683,860		

2. Destruction of APM's in mined areas (Article 5)

Type	Qty / 2000	Qty / 2001	Qty / 2002	Qty/ 2003	Qty/2004	Supplementary information
PMA3 , VPMA -3	182	828	217	36	780	
PMA-1, PMA-1A, VPMA-1A	141	450	1619	1283	768	
PMR-2A	219	276	228	211	195	
PMA-2, VPMA-2	172	462	127	91	520	
PMR-3, VPMR-3		-	2	251		
MRUD	4		2	1	2	
Unknown AP Mines			2			
TOTAL	718	2016	2197	1873	2265	

Form I Measures to provide warning to the population

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

- i) The measures taken to provide an immediate and effective warning to the population in relation to all areas identified under paragraph 2 of Article 5."

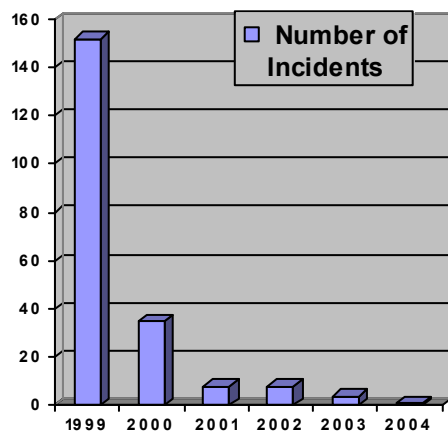
Remark: In accordance with Article 5, para.2: "Each State Party shall make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced and shall ensure as soon as possible that all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed. The marking shall at least be to the standards set out in the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996, annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

State [Party]: **ALBANIA**

reporting for time period from **1 January 2004** to **31 December 2004**

Mine Risk Education Progress

The Albanian Mine Action Executive monitored and coordinated the MRE activities conducted by the local NGO involved in Mine Risk Education in Northeast Albania: Victims of Mines and Weapons Association (VMA) and the Albanian Red Cross (ARC). In this context, VMA implemented a MRE Project funded by US State Department through the International Trust Fund to keep the 30,000 mine affected community members in 39 villages continuously informed about the mine & UXO threat through the 39 anti-mine community based committees established in these villages with membership consisting of: village leaders, nurses, teachers and peace activists (youth representatives from the schools). The committees supported by the VMA team, have organized regular monthly meetings with the communities to disseminate MRE information. The VMA team has also provided MRE materials to the mine affected communities on a regular basis including posters, leaflets etc. School based activities related to MRE were organized and consisted of:



competition among classes for the best poster, leaflets, songs, etc. role plays, and information about mine fields, mine risk signs and environment issues.

A mobile theatre with comedians traveled regularly from village to village to disseminate safety messages through comedies and parodies.

In 2004, two mine/UXO accidents were recorded although none of them happened within the area covered by Mine Risk Education by the Albanian Mine Action Programme. The first accident involving an anti-tank mine happened in Cajë village in the border with Macedonia which is not identified as mine contaminated area while the second one happened during a training lecture for newly recruited deminers for a Technical Survey Project.

Form J: Other relevant matters

Remark: States Parties may use this form to report voluntarily on other relevant matters, including matters pertaining to compliance and implementation not covered by the formal reporting requirements contained in Article 7. States Parties are encouraged to use this form to report on activities undertaken with respect to Article 6, and in particular to report on assistance provided for the care and rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims.

State [Party]: **ALBANIA** reporting for time period from **1 January 2004** to **31 December 2004**

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

A great deal of progress was made in 2004 in the area of mine victim assistance in Albania. A UNV was employed as a Victim Assistance Advisor to assist the Programme in the area of Victim Assistance. AMAE continued to coordinate and monitor victim assistance activities with its relevant partners (including the Ministry of Health, Kukes Hospital, the National Prosthetic Center (NPC), ITF, Slovenian Institute of Rehabilitation, ICRC-SFD, Victims of Mines Association, Albanian Red Cross, etc.) in order to ensure that international mine action standards were achieved, as well as the priority areas/gaps in assistance were addressed.

Major highlights in the area of victim assistance for 2004 include:

- A triage to select mine amputees for physical rehabilitation and prostheses was conducted in July 2004 with technicians from the Slovenian Institute of Rehabilitation and the Director of the NPC. 15 mine/UXO amputees were selected for, and received treatment abroad as considered difficult cases that could not be assisted at the NPC.
- Victims of Mines and Weapons Association assisted 32 mine survivors in establishing home based economies in animal husbandry with US State Department funding through ITF.
- ICRC-SFD continued their support to the NPC through the provision of raw materials and trainings of technicians. One technician from the NPC was sent with ICRC-SFD support to Bangalore, India in July 2004 to attend a 2.5 year internationally recognized course for prostheses technicians.
- The operational capacity of Kukes Regional Hospital (which covers the mine contaminated area) was improved with the delivery of mobile x-ray equipment and surgical kits funded by the US State Department through the International Trust Fund.

- 6 child mine survivors accompanied by a parent attended a summer camp for a one week period in Slovenia, organized by the Slovenian Red Cross through ITF.
- VMA organized a summer camp to provide recreational activities and to promote human rights for 360 children of mine victims in Kukes, Has, and Tropoja.

In addition to the regular coordination and monitoring, UNDP Albania started a victim assistance project for the Reintegration of Landmine/UXO victims funded by DfID/UNDP BCPR. The timeframe for this project is October 2004 until the end of 2005 and by the project's completion the following will be achieved:

1. A prostheses-support centre in the Kukes Regional Hospital, for maintenance and repair of prostheses.
2. A Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) network comprised of 30 village nurses in the northeast of Albania to provide physiotherapy, rehabilitation and counseling to landmine/UXO survivors and others in need.
3. An emergency assistance fund for landmine/UXO victims to assist them with their medical expenses and financial difficulties immediately following their accident.
4. Victims of the 1997 uprising will have been identified and included into the IMSMA database as well as the overall reintegration projects for landmine/UXO survivors throughout the country.
5. A better knowledge basis for developing socio-economic reintegration projects utilizing an integrated approach with local based development programmes. The RRA will identify the potential social development opportunities from the priority 8 mine-affected villages as well as small scale infrastructure projects (ie. Electricity supply, water supply, education, healthcare, etc). All information gathered will be incorporated into IMSMA.



In December 2003, the US Embassy hosted the worldwide charity event 'The Night of 1000 Dinners' and the AMAE was able to raise \$16,250 from individual donors for victim assistance within Albania. With the funds raised, 5 child mine victims have been assisted in continuing their studies and learning a skill, 5 mine victims and their families are being assisted in establishing home-based economies through animal husbandry, and 2 sight impaired mine victims are receiving medical treatment for their injuries.

Table 1 – Mine/UXO Contaminated areas (High priority)

Nr.	Type	IMSMA ID	Location	Area Size m2	Priority
1	Mine	CR-1535	Dobruna - Maja Zeze	40,455	High
2	Mine	CR-1545	Papaj	39,480	High
3	Mine	CR-1572	Stoberda	33,993	High
4	UXO	MA-57-1	Cahan	40,000	High
5	UXO	MA-57-2	Cahan	40,000	High
6	UXO	MA-57-3	Cahan	40,000	High
7	UXO	MA-57-4	Cahan	50,000	High
8	UXO	MA-57-5	Cahan	37,500	High
9	UXO	MA-57-6	Cahan	80,000	High
10	Mine	MA-10-2	Lugu i Zi	8,000	High
11	Mine	MA-23-1	Borje	25,000	High
12	Mine	MA-26-1	Zogaj	2,500	High
13	Mine/UXO	MA-28-1	Kamenice	30,000	High
14	Mine/UXO	MA-28-2	Kamenice	30,000	High
15	UXO	MA-31-1	Padesh	50,000	High
16	UXO	MA-31-2	Padesh	50,000	High
17	UXO	MA-31-3	Padesh	50,000	High

18	UXO	MA-31-7	Ballaban	105,000	High
19	UXO	MA-32-1	Padesh	140,000	High
20	Mine	MA-35-1	Vlahen	30,000	High
21	Mine	MA-42-1	Papaj	30,000	High
22	Mine	MA-42-10	Papaj	50,000	High
23	UXO	CR-1573	Kasaj	37,810	High
24	UXO	MA-44-4	Kasaj	40,000	High
25	UXO	MA-44-5	Kasaj	30,000	High
26	UXO	MA-44-6	Kasaj	40,000	High
	TOTAL			1,149,738.00	

Table 2 – Mine/UXO Contaminated areas (Medium priority)

Nr.	Type	IMSMA ID	Location	Area size m2	Priority
1	Mine	MA-19-1	Orgjost	15,000	Medium
2	UXO	CR-1524	Golaj	21,733	Medium
3	UXO	CR-1537	Kasaj	25,534	Medium
4	UXO	CR-1525	Zaharisht	11,572	Medium
5	Mine	MA-21-1a	Pakisht	6,000	Medium
6	Mine	MA-21-1b	Pakisht	6,000	Medium
7	Mine	MA-34-1	Stan I Ashlit	50,000	Medium

8	Mine	MA-56-4	Dobruna	9,000	Medium
9	Mine	MA-56-5	Dobruna	1,800	Medium
10	Mine	MA-56-6	Dobruna	6,000	Medium
11	Mine	CR-1568	Dobruna	29,483	Medium
12	Mine	CR-1570	Dobruna	17,270	Medium
13	Mine	CR-1567	Dobruna	30,000	Medium
14	Mine	MA-56-12	Dobruna	30,000	Medium
15	Mine	MA-56-13	Dobruna	40,000	Medium
16	Mine	CR-1571	Dobruna	19,664	Medium
17	Mine	MA-41-1	Bradoshnice	40,000	Medium
18	Mine	MA-41-2	Bradoshnice	40,000	Medium
19	Mine	MA-41-3	Bradoshnice	22,500	Medium
20	Mine	MA-41-4	Bradoshnice	40,000	Medium
21	Mine	MA-41-5	Bradoshnice	150,000	Medium
22	Mine	MA-42-12	Papaj	90,000	Medium
23	Mine	MA-42-13	Papaj	40,000	Medium
24	Mine	MA-42-14	Papaj	40,000	Medium
25	Mine	MA-42-15	Papaj	15,000	Medium
26	Mine	MA-42-4	Papaj	15,000	Medium
27	Mine	MA-42-5	Papaj	30,000	Medium
28	Mine	MA-42-6	Papaj	15,000	Medium
29	Mine/UXO	CR-1569	Golaj	10,000.	Medium

30	Mine/UXO	MA-56-8		19,834	Medium
31	Mine/UXO	CR-1574		28,893	Medium
	TOTAL			915,283	

Table 3 – Mine/UXO Contaminated Areas – Low Priority

Nr.	Type	IMSMAID	NEAREST TOWN	AREA SIZE m2	Priority
1	Mine	DA-4235		200,000	Low
2	Mine	DA-4236	Dobejdol	300,000	Low
3	Mine	DA-4237	Dobejdol	177,628	Low
4	Mine	MA-10-8	Lugu i Zi	28,000	Low
5	Mine	MA-12-7	Zogaj	7,000	Low
6	Mine	MA-12-8	Zogaj	12,600	Low
7	Mine	MA-12-9	Zogaj	21,000	Low
8	Mine	MA-14-1	Qafa Prushit	5,000	Low
9	Mine	MA-14-2	Qafa Prushit	14,000	Low
10	Mine	MA-14-3	Qafa Prushit	10,000	Low
11	Mine	MA-14-4	Qafa Prushit	5,000	Low
12	Mine	MA-14-5	Qafa Prushit	10,000	Low
13	Mine	MA-16-1	Shistavec	3,500	Low
14	Mine	MA-16-2	Shistavec	3,000	Low

15	Mine	MA-16-3	Shistavec	3,500	Low
16	Mine	MA-18-1	Pogaj	30,000	Low
17	Mine	MA-24-1	Stan I Caramatis	15,000	Low
18	Mine/UXO	MA-29-1	Gegaj	30,000	Low
19	Mine/UXO	MA-29-2	Gegaj	30,000	Low
20	Mine/UXO	MA-30-1	Gegaj	40,000	Low
21	Mine/UXO	MA-30-2	Gegaj	40,000	Low
22	Mine/UXO	MA-30-3	Gegaj	30,000	Low
23	Mine/UXO	MA-30-4	Gegaj	20,000	Low
24	UXO	MA-31-4	Padesh	60,000	Low
25	UXO	MA-31-5	Padesh	60,000	Low
26	UXO	MA-31-6	Gegaj	7,500	Low
27	UXO	MA-32-2	Ujeza	120,000	Low
28	UXO	MA-32-3	Ujeza	150,000	Low
29	UXO	MA-32-4	Ujeza	60,000	Low
30	UXO	MA-32-5	Padesh	60,000	Low
31	Mine	MA-39-1	Cerem	30,000	Low
32	Mine	MA-42-3	Papaj	20,000	Low
33	Mine	MA-42-7	Papaj	37,500	Low
34	Mine	MA-42-8	Papaj	40,000	Low
35	Mine	MA-42-9	Papaj	60,000	Low
36	Mine	MA-43-1	Papaj	90,000	Low

37	UXO	MA-45-1	Letaj	49,900	Low
38	UXO	MA-52-1	Golaj	36,250	Low
39	Mine	MA-55-1	Shishtavec	260,000	Low
40	Mine	MA-9-1	Zherka	10,000	Low
41	Mine	MA-9-2	Zherka	9,000	Low
42	Mine	MA-9-3	Zherka	14,000	Low
43	Mine	MA-9-4	Zherka	5,000	Low
44	Mine	MA-9-5	Zherka	30,000	Low
45	Mine	MA-9-6	Zherka	14,000	Low
	Total			2,258,378	
	GRAND TOTAL			4,323,399	

ANNEX B (Form F)

Table 3 - Cleared Areas in North East Albania during 2004

Ser	Type of Report	IMSMA ID	AP Mines	Area cleared m²	Area Reduced m²
1	Completion Report	AL-1552	21	5,866.00	31,432.22
2	Completion Report	AL-1553	62	7,814.00	23,062.70
3	Suspension Report	AL-1572	298	3,627.00	3,627.00
4	Completion Report	AL-1562	3	14,502.00	37,500.00
5	Completion Report	AL-1563	1	9,676.00	35,000.00
6	Completion Report	AL-1551	22	6,724.00	20,000.00
7	Completion Report	AL-1554	3	4,920.00	14,961.00
8	Completion Report	AL-1557	130	8,220.00	31,289.80
9	Completion Report	AL-1556	2	3,967.00	30,000.00
10	Completion Report	AL-1561	4	20,482.00	50,000.00
11	Completion Report	AL-1550	0	1,510.00	12,000.00
12	Completion Report	AL-1555	9	4,329.00	16,016.85
13	Completion Report	AL-1558	119	5,706.00	10,684.00
14	Completion Report	AL-1564	253	5,473.00	10,000.00
15	Completion Report	AL-1565	307	11,261.00	11,621.00
16	Completion Report	AL-1559	156	4,131.00	8,575.65
17	Suspension Report	AL-1570	194	2,730.00	2,730.00
18	Suspension Report	AL-1568	342	5,517.00	5,517.00
19	Suspension Report	AL-1574	15	4,307.00	4,307.00
20	Suspension Report	AL-1569	0	3,245.00	3,245.00
21	Suspension Report	AL-PN	0	166.00	166.00
22	Completion Report	AL-1567	72	4,591.00	4,591.00

23	Suspension Report	AL-1573	0	42,190.00	42,190.00
24	Suspension Report	AL-1571	35	336.00	336.00
25	Suspension Report	AL-1560	0	1,502.00	15,000.00
		Cache collection	217		
		TOTAL	2265	182,792.00	423,852.22

THE ALBANIAN MINE ACTION PROGRAMME UPDATE

THE MINE ACTION PROBLEM

The mines and UXO threat in Northeast Albania emanated from the Kosovo conflict in 1997 and includes 120 km border between Albania and Kosovo from Shishtavec to the Montenegro border in the North, up to 20 km inside Albania. After the Albanian Armed Forces' (AAF) Level One Survey in 1999, 102 areas were identified, representing 15,250,000 m². A population of 25,500 in this area has been directly affected while 34 people have been killed and 237 injured so far from mines and UXO. The threat includes AP and AT mines laid by FYR forces, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and sub-munitions from FYR rocket artillery and at least six NATO cluster strikes within Albanian territory. An added complication is that no records of minefields are available to Albania.

ALBANIAN RESPONSE AND COMMITMENT

During the emergency of 1997 in Albania, at least 15 Government ordnance depots were destroyed and looted countrywide, leaving tons of dangerous munitions scattered around, threatening the lives of civilians. It is reported that up to 2,000 persons were killed or seriously injured as a result of this emergency. The AAF has completed clearing up the 15 so-called "Hot Spots" and currently AMAE is working to identify and include the hotspots victims in the mine/UXO victims' IMSMA database.

After the Kosovo crisis in 1999, the Albanian Government responded swiftly in conducting rapid surface clearance, which drastically reduced civilian casualties. This was, however, not done to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and all the areas have to be re-cleared. Shortly after that, the AAF conducted a Level 1 Survey, which indicated virtually the total border area to be contaminated.

Albania has ratified both the AP Mine Ban Treaty and the Amended Protocol II to the CCW Convention. Towards the end of 1999 the Albanian Government decided to adopt IMAS and established the structures to implement humanitarian mine action: the Albanian Mine Action Committee (AMAC) - the overall executive and policy - making body for mine action and the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE) established to carry out the mine action programme under direction of the AMAC. Material and in-kind support from the Albanian Government from 1998 until 2004 to the mine action and explosive ordnance disposal programmes totals US\$1,583,600. In 2005, the Government of Albania has been committed to assist the Humanitarian Demining Operations in Northeast Albania by providing helicopter support in case of demining accidents and also by providing explosive materials free of charge for the destruction of the mines and UXO found in the contaminated areas.

APM STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION PROGRAMME

Albania ratified the Ottawa Treaty on 29 February 2000 and the Stockpile Destruction Project commenced 15 January 2001 with Canada as major donor. Demilitarisation was based on reverse assembly and recycling was a major aspect. The last anti-personnel mine (APM) of 1,683,860, was demilitarised on 4 April 2002, 2 years ahead of obligatory period in terms of Ottawa Treaty.

MINE ACTION PROGRESS

From 2000 to date, the establishment of the national mine action authorities (AMAC and AMAE) has enabled the coordination and monitoring of various mine action activities regarding mine/UXO clearance, victim assistance and mine risk education.

UNDP continues since 2002 providing technical assistance to the Albanian Mine Action Programme in building local capacities to deal with the mines problem, assisted by the employment of a Chief Technical Advisor, an Operations Advisor (Swiss in-kind donation), and a Mine Victim Assistance Advisor –UN Volunteer.

In 2004, mine clearance operations have been conducted by Danish Church Aid (DCA-Act) in accordance with the National Demining Plan and Priorities. Late in the year DCA-Act expanded its capacities in conducting also Battle Area Clearance. In total an area of some **423,858 m²** has been released by DCA-Act through clearance and surveys and **2265** anti-personnel have been found and destroyed during 2004. An additional contaminated area of **142,147 m²** has been also reported from the Impact Surveys conducted by DCA-Act.

Considerable progress has been made in assisting the mine/UXO victims in Albania. Several projects have been initiated and are ongoing to assist the physical and socio-economic rehabilitation of the mine victims. AMAE continues to coordinate and monitor mine victim assistance activities with its relevant partners (including the Ministry of Health, Kukes Hospital, the National Prosthetic Center, International Trust Fund, Slovenian Institute of Rehabilitation, ICRC-SFD, Victims of Mines and Weapons Association, Albanian Red Cross, etc.)

Important and concrete steps have also been made this year in mainstreaming the Mine Action in Albania into development projects within the framework of the Regional Development Strategy.

Besides, the Albanian Mine Action Programme was negatively affected this year by two unfortunate events, 1) the unexpected withdrawal from Albania of one of the demining organizations (Swiss Foundation for Demining) in early 2004 due to lack of sufficient funding and 2) a tragic accident during the training phase of a Technical Survey Project which caused the suspension of the Project for the whole season.

As a result, the demining progress was limited and the clearance objectives set out at the National Demining Plan could not be fully achieved. For this reason a revision of the National Mine Action Strategy was deemed necessary.

The mission of the Albanian Mine Action Programme now is to *render Albania free from the impact of mines and UXO by December 2006* and free from mines and UXO by 2009.

The Programme has been generously funded in 2004 by EC, UNDP, UNICEF and the Governments of Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States Department through the International Trust Fund.