

**- PROTOCOL V -**

**REPORTING FORMS  
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10, PARAGRAPH 2 (b) OF THE PROTOCOL AND THE  
DECISION OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING  
PARTIES TO PROTOCOL V**

(As adopted by the First Conference at its second plenary meeting on 5 November 2007)

HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: ALBANIA

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: April 2017

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(dd/mm/yyyy)

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations

YES

NO

Partially, only the following forms:

A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I

**- PROTOCOL V -**

**FORM A:** Steps taken to implement Article 3 of the Protocol: Clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war

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High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

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Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016  
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 3:

a) Mine/UXO contamination resulting from the Kosovo conflict in 1999

Albania has suffered a contamination of explosive remnants of war as a result of the Kosovo conflict in 1999. A post-conflict general survey by the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) right after the conflict identified originally 15.25 km<sup>2</sup> of mine contaminated area in 39 villages and affecting approximately 25,000 people along the 120 kilometer Albanian/Kosova border in the district of Kukes, Has and Tropoje. The threat identified in these areas included anti-personnel and anti-tank 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.

The Government of Albania responded swiftly by conducting rapid surface clearance, which dramatically reduced civilian casualties. However, the work was not carried out in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the area had to be re-cleared.

In addition, in order to adequately implement mine action, an inter-ministerial body – The Albanian Mine Action Committee (AMAC) was established to act as the overall policy making body for mine action. At the same time, an operational body – the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE) was in charge to carry out the mine action program under direction of the AMAC and responsible of coordination and monitoring of: mine/UXO clearance, risk education and victim assistance.

From 2000-2009 international demining organizations conducting survey operations and humanitarian demining in Albania included RONCO, HELP, the Swiss Foundation for Demining (FSD) and Dan Church Aid (DCA). As a result of these coordinated efforts about 16,608,055 square meters of area in which anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance were known or were suspected to be emplaced were released through survey and clearance and certified as free of threat by AMAE at the end of 2009. This work has culminated in the destruction of more than 12,452 anti-personnel mines, 152 anti-tank mines and 4,965 UXOs. (Out of the total amount of 4,965 unexploded ordnances, 4,869 are cluster munitions which have been reported already under the Article 7 of the Cluster Munitions Convention).

The clearance operations throughout these years were funded by several donors including: The European Union and the Governments of United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Denmark, Canada and Czech Republic while implementing partners for mine clearance include: the local authorities of Kukes Region, the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) in Slovenia, the UNDP, UNMAS, DanChurchAid, the Swiss Foundation for Demining, RONCO, HELP and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

b) ERW/UXO Hotspots in Albania

In addition to the contamination along the northeastern border Albania is still suffering also the contamination from unexploded ordnances hotspots created as a result of civil unrests in 1997. During these unrests and later, there were a number of explosions at Ammunition Storage Sites (ASS) across Albania. According to AAF estimates at the time, 38 army depots (storages) were destroyed due to the detonation of about 5,700 tons of ammunition in 15 different locations. The explosions killed and injured many civilians while thrown-out ammunition contaminated vast areas around the ASS.

The ammunition contamination of the territory is still a nation-wide problem in Albania. Among the causes of such contamination are the unplanned explosions at Ammunition Storage Sites (ASS) across the country during the civil unrest in 1997, the unexploded remains of the WW II as well as former army ammunition demolition areas which need to be cleared of explosive remnants.

## - PROTOCOL V -

UXO hotspots have been created also in few former army demolition areas and shooting or firing ranges polygons (former shooting & training sites), which have been closed down recently by the AAF. Most of these areas need a full subsurface clearance at a depth of up to 50 cm, before being used by the army or being released to the local community. New accidents have been recorded with ammunitions. There are in total 998 mine/ UXO casualties (151 killed and 847 injured) recorded all over Albania during the period from 1997 till December 2016.

The Government and the Ministry of Defense have outlined a new Plan of Action for Elimination of Excess Ammunition in Albania aiming to dispose of all its surplus stockpiled ammunition by 2015 and to clear all the UXO/ERW hotspot areas by 2018.

The Albanian Ministry of Defence and UNDP Albania signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which laid down all aspects of the assistance by UNDP and the respective contributions by both the MoD and UNDP in the implementation of unexploded ordnance hotspots clearance. In line with the MoU between MoD and UNDP, AMMCO has carried out technical and socio-economic impact assessments in 19 identified UXO hotspot areas. The purpose of these assessments was to obtain a real picture of the remaining threat such as: exact location, estimation of threat, to determine the details of clearance operation requirements, impact to the communities and to propose due action. More than 1,9 million square meters were identified as dangerous in these hotspots, due to the presence of ammunition remnants.

The Ministry of Defense requested UNDP's assistance to deal with the UXO hotspots problem by engaging AMMCO (Albanian Mine & Munitions Coordination Office) as a professional structure to contribute through the same institutional arrangement and role, inclusive of its know-how in mine victim assistance and risk education/community liaison activities, in the area of hotspots clearance and ammunition disposal, to help ensure that these components are carried out in accordance with the International Humanitarian Standards. Coordination and monitoring activities are supported financially from US Department of State and the Government of Germany through ITF and UNDP.

In August 2014, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), a humanitarian NGO experienced in mine action, signed the contract with ITF Enhancing Human Security, to conduct clearance of UXO hotspots in Albania, with the financial support of USA Government.

During the reporting period AMMCO was carrying out technical reassessments, Quality Management of the cleared areas in UXO hotspots, inspection and certification of former military ammunition depots. From January to December 2016, the overall land cleared, inspected, certified and released as free from ammunitions is 811,065 square meters, respectively;

- 100,238 square meters was cleared by Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) and EOD of Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) and certified by AMMCO as free from ammunitions in the UXO hotspots of Gjeroven (6,243 square meters) and Mbreshtan (50,699 square meters), UXO Hotspot in Laç (350 square meters), UXO hotspot in Kordhoc (16,108 square meters) and Picar 14,348 (square meters), UXO Hotspot Klos (180 square meters) and Gerdec (12,310 square meters);
- 79,594 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and Small Arms and Ammunitions ( $\leq 23$  mm and bullets) were found in total during clearance operation process. The main items found includes fuzes, grenades and detonators, as well as larger items such as mortars and projectiles and small arms.
- 710,827 square meters<sup>2</sup> was inspected and certified as free from ammunitions in 5 former military ammunition depots of Poshnje (62,909 square meters), Zaranike (116,600 square meters), Nuaj (172,031 square meters) and Qafe-Molle - 1 (359,287 square meters) upon the request of MoD.

The AAF Support Command provides all the necessary logistic arrangements according to safety regulations and respective international standards for the ammunition collected in the hotspots by the clearance company and considered safe for transport. In addition, the EOD experts of AAF dispose on the spot all dangerous ammunition was unsafe for transportation. AMMCO coordinates and closely monitors the UXO clearance and disposal operations in order to ensure that these are carried out in strict compliance with the international humanitarian standards. Community Liaison and Risk Education activities are carried out also along with the UXO clearance operations in order to inform the communities aware of the ammunition risk.

Since the Government of Albania is currently struggling with several priorities linked to the surplus ammunition demilitarization, the international financial support is a crucial need for both clearance and the monitoring process of the clearance of these UXO/ERW hotspots, and Victim Assistance in order to be cleared within the set deadlines and so ensure the safety of the surrounding communities in ensure the medical and socio-economic rehabilitation of survivors.

**- PROTOCOL V -**



Any other relevant information:

Updated List of UXO Hotspots as of 31 December 2016			
Nr	UXO/ERW Hotspot	Suspected Area in m <sup>2</sup>	Remaining area in m <sup>2</sup> as January 2017
1	Sinanaj – Tepelene	200,000	200,000
2	Kordhoc-Gjirokaster	2,400	8,362
3	Picar – Gjirokaster	62,000	47,652
4	Jube Sukth – Durres	1,326,714	1,326,714
5	Suç-Burrel	84,000	8,350
6	Qafe Shtame - Burrel	360	360
	Grand Total – 2016	1,875,474	1.591.438

**- PROTOCOL V -**

**FORM B:** Steps taken to implement Article 4 of the Protocol: Recording, retaining and transmission of information

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High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2016 **to** 31/12/2016  
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 4 and the Technical Annex:

The Albanian Armed Forces has not made any use of explosive ordnance and therefore there have been no instances required to record, retain or transmit information on the use of or abandonment of explosive ordnance in accordance with Article 4 of this Protocol.

Any other relevant information:

**- PROTOCOL V -**

**FORM C:** Steps taken to implement Article 5 of the Protocol: Other precautions for the protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war

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High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2016 to 31/01/2016  
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 5 and the Technical Annex:**

All 39 villages affected by landmines and unexploded ordnance in northeastern Albania were covered regularly with Risk Education activities until clearance operations were successfully completed in 2009. As such the number of accidents decreased from 152 in 1999 to the last 2 accidents in 2005. The overall decline in the number of accidents was representative of the effective mine clearance and MRE activities taking place in the region. The MRE were effective in reaching all targeted groups in the affected region and were carried out in an integrated manner involving several stakeholders and implementing partners including UNICEF, ICRC, Albanian Red Cross, the NPO-Victims of Mines & Arms Kukësi - Association (VMA), the demining organizations and the village based Anti-mine Committees under coordination and monitoring of the Albanian Mine Action Executive.

In addition, Risk Education activities are continuing around the UXO/ERW hotspots areas and are closely linked with the community liaison efforts. In cooperation with the Albanian Red Cross (ARC), the Albanian Mines and Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO) coordinates vital risk education activities in order to raise caution on ammunition threats and prevent new accidents among civilians living around the contaminated areas. Awareness materials and official warning signs are produced and distributed in the affected areas in cooperation with NPA Clearance organization.

Signs are erected around ammunition affected UXO hotspots pointing out and warning the public on explosive hazards. Warning posters with Risk Education messages are also installed in the most dangerous areas identified during AMMCO's technical and socio-economic surveys. UXO Hotspots sites that AMMCO has assessed as high risk areas and areas under clearance by the EOD teams of AAF are properly marked.

Improved communication between locals and relevant authorities is advancing safety and building trust in affected communities. Risk Education instructors are collecting data disaggregated by sex and age on people injured by UXO in all 12 regions in Albania. This allows AMMCO to support the Ministry of Health and other related agencies in assisting UXO/Mine survivors and other disabled people.

**Any other relevant information:**

**- PROTOCOL V -**

**FORM D:** Steps taken to implement Article 6 of the Protocol: Provisions for the protection of humanitarian missions and organizations from the effects of explosive remnants of war

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High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2016 **to** 31/12/2016  
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 6:

The surrounding communities are duly informed about the remaining threat of unexploded ordnance (UXO) around the UXO/ERW hotspots areas. Ministry of Defence and Albanian Mines and Munitions Coordination Office are responsible of providing all required information about the threat.

Any other relevant information:

**- PROTOCOL V -**

**FORM E:** Steps taken to implement Article 7 and Article 8 of the Protocol:  
Assistance with respect to existing explosive remnants of war and cooperation and assistance

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High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016  
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 7 and Article 8:

The UXO/ERW Hotspots clearance programme has received funding so far from the US State Department and Germany through the International Trust Fund (ITF) Enhancing Human Security for the clearance operations while Governments of USA, Germany, Norway, Canada, UNMAS and UNDP have funded the coordination and monitoring operations of the UXO/ERW hotspots.

The programme though is facing a shortage of funding for clearance operations and coordination and monitoring activities. As such, clearance operations are continuing in Kordhoc, Picar, Sinanaj and Jub Sukth by Norwegians People's Aid (NPA) with financial support from Government of USA and clearance operations in UXO hotspots continue by the EOD Unit of the Albanian Armed Forces.

The Ministry of Defence has prepared a National Action Plan for the UXO/ERW hotspots clearance in Albania which sets the main goal and strategic objective of the UXO/ERW Hotspots clearance and the resources required to complete clearance of these hotspots by 2018.

Any other relevant information:

**FORM E(a):** Steps taken by States which have ERW victims to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2): Victim Assistance

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High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016  
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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Steps taken to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2):

There are at least 998 UXO casualties (151 killed and 847 injured) all over Albania. Desegregation of data by age and gender are available for every prefecture/region of Albania. There is a National Plan aiming to support the mine/UXO victims throughout Albania. The plan complies with several International Treaties ratified by Albania, such as Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and Convention on Cluster Munitions. The



## - PROTOCOL V -

implementation of the National Plan contributes to the emergency, medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, socio-economic reintegration, data collection, as well as in implementation of relevant laws and policies for all mine/UXO victims throughout Albania.

The capacities to support mines/UXO survivors were created during the previous Albanian Mine Action Programme. These capacities in emergency medical response, medical care, surgical capacities and physical rehabilitation are developed at national and local level and are not serving merely to mine/UXO survivors and other persons with disabilities, but to all people in need.

The Prosthetic Workshop in Regional Hospital of Kukes was upgraded with equipments, raw materials and relevant elements to repair and produce prostheses and orthoses. During 2016, the Prosthetic Workshop at Kukes Regional Hospital was able to support about 42 amputees with new prostheses and 40 others with major repairs. The workload at Kukes prosthetic workshop is continuously increasing, due to the poor functioning also of the national prosthetic center in Tirana.

Recently, a “Needs Assessment of Socio-Economic and Medical needs of marginalized Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims in Albania” was conducted all over Albania with the financial support of Austrian Government, and US Government through International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security. The assessment focused in reviewing the status of the survivors, identifying their specific needs and drafting due recommendations for the Government to provide them with relevant assistance.

The major needs identified from the above projects are summarized below;

### Medical/Rehabilitation Needs;

- 527 persons with amputations need to be fitted and periodic maintenance of their prosthesis, orthoses; this number includes below and upper limb prostheses, including partial foot and lose of fingers.
- 528 injured persons need to have regular medical checks.
- 610 persons need to attend physiotherapy sessions.
- 137 injured survivors should have periodic checks of their eyes from the specialists.
- 12 injured survivors should undergo operation for their vision.

### Economic reintegration/income generation activities;

- 583 survivors are in need of further economic support such as; employment opportunities, income generation activities and support with micro - loans for family home based businesses.
- 347 survivors wish to attend vocational training Courses.
- 57 survivors wish to attend high school (Secondary school) and 34 persons to attend university studies.
- 123 families of survivors need to be supported for re-imburement of studies of their children.
- 20 survivors ask to have access to daily Care Centers.

### Psycho-Social/Peer Support, Sport Activities;

- 262 injured survivors should attend psycho-social sessions
- 32 injured survivors have special needs such as following: supplies with reading tools for blind persons (Braille), Sign language media(sound with brails), Somniferous books ( special books with sound with brails)
- Almost all survivors want to participate in recreational activities and psychosocial support to overcome the trauma, including in the peer support programs.

A national workshop with participation of all stakeholders including donors was held in 2016, presenting all the findings from the needs assessment projects.

Based on the above Needs assessments, US Department of State through ITF Enhancing Human Security will fund two projects in victim assistance in Albania during 2017.

All activities were monitored and coordinated by AMMCO and carried out in cooperation with various implementing partners including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Welfare and Youth, Kukës Regional Hospital, and Directorates of Public Health, UNDP Albania, International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security (ITF), University Rehabilitation Institute Republic of Slovenia and the NGO “Albanian Association for Assistance Integration and Development” (ALB-AID).

Other relevant information, guided by the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance:

**- PROTOCOL V -**



**- PROTOCOL V -**

**FORM F:** Steps taken to implement Article 9 of the Protocol: Generic preventive measures

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High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016  
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 9 and the Technical Annex:**

a) Munitions production

The Republic of Albania does not produce any weapons or ammunition in its territory.

b) Munitions Management

The Albanian Armed Forces standards for the safe stockpiling, storage, packing of ammunition in arm army depots, with the aim to minimize the risk of uncontrolled explosions are as follows:

STANAG 4123; AASTP-3 - Manual of NATO Safety Principles for the Hazard Classification of Military Ammunition and Explosives

Law Nr. 9272, date 16.09.2004, "On the adherence of the Republic of Albania to the European Agreement " On international road transport of dangerous items (ADR) and the signature protocol".

National standards on management, storage and administration of weapons, ammunition and explosives approved by the Minister of Defence and the Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces, as set out in technical rules and regulations, manuals, respective orders and instructions.

The Armed Forces for the safe transport of ammunition are based on legal acts, dispositions and administrative acts as follows:

1. Law nr.8378, date 01.12.1992 " The Road Code of the Republic of Albania".
2. Law nr.8308, date 13.03.1998 "On the road transport".
3. Law nr.9272, date 16.09.2004, " on the adherence of the Republic of Albania to the european agreement "On international road transport of dangerous items (ADR) and the signature protocol".
4. Law nr. 9126, date 29.07.2003, "On the civilian use of explosive charges in the Republic of Albania".
5. Orders and instructions of the Minister of Defence and the Chief of General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces.
  - Collection (tracing of arms and ammunition) is authority of the State Police. The Armed Forces, are responsible of storing the weapons and ammunition handed over by the State Police.
  - Measures and Procedures for lab and firing tests of ammunition are as follows:
    1. The test of chemical stability of the propellant with HPTLC
    2. Physical-chemical sensitivity tests of the firing primers.

Any other relevant information:

**- PROTOCOL V -**

**FORM G:** Steps taken to implement Article 11 of the Protocol: Compliance

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High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

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Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2016 **to** 31/12/2016  
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 11:**

The Albanian Armed Forces personnel directly involved in ERW/UXO recovery and disposal are issued with appropriate instructions, operating procedures and receive training consistent with the relevant provisions of this Protocol.

In addition, army personnel from the Albanian Armed Forces, who participate in Joint International Peacekeeping Missions are briefed on the purpose and provisions of this Protocol.

**Any other relevant information:**

- PROTOCOL V -

**FORM H:** Other relevant matters

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High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

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Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016  
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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Any other relevant information: