

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

**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
(Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996)**

REPORTING FORMATS

for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH
CONTRACTING PARTY: ALBANIA

DATE OF SUBMISSION: October 2013

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT: Albanian Mines and Munitions
Coordination Office (Former AMAE)
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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

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MINE CLEARANCE PROGRAMMES:

Albania has suffered a contamination of landmines and 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 km² of mine contaminated area in 39 villages and affecting approximately 25,000 people along the 120 kilometer Albanian/Kosova border in the districts of Kukës, Has and Tropojë. 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 culminated in the destruction of more than 12,452 anti-personnel mines, 152 anti-tank mines and 4,965 UXO-s. A list of areas cleared and mines and unexploded ordnance found and destroyed in these areas is at Annex A.

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 Kukës 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).

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REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES:

A broad integrated mine victim assistance strategy has been adopted since 2003 with the goal of building a sustainable Albanian capability to provide health care assistance, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of mine/UXO victims in Albania. The main objectives are:

- Fitment of prostheses to lower limb amputees and rehabilitation of sight impaired in Albania and upper limb amputees and difficult cases abroad.
- Build a capacity in Northeast Albanian to fit all types of prostheses.
- Inform mine survivors and the communities on the rights of people with disabilities.
- Economic reintegration of mine victims through vocational training and a micro-financing scheme to establish home-based economies.
- Build a capacity in Northeast Albania to surgically treat trauma and amputee victims and improve the quality of medical, social, and rehabilitative services.

Several initiatives have been taken to achieve these objectives including:

- The Prostheses Workshop established since March 2005 at Kukës Regional Hospital is supported with raw materials and equipments with funds by DFID through UNDP Albania France, US State Department and Austria through ITF Slovenia and since 2007 it has been producing new prostheses for lower limbs for all amputees. A full set of the physiotherapy equipments has been delivered to Kukës Hospital with funding from France and EC and surgical equipments were delivered to Tropoja Hospital funded by EC through UNDP.
- A Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PMR-Phase I & II & III) project started in May 2006 implemented by Handicap International and funded by US DoS has developed a sustainable national response to the PMR needs of mine victims and other people in need.
- ICRC has supported the National Prosthetic Orthotic Center (NPOC) in Tirana with raw materials and with monitoring/coaching visits. In addition, the NPOC has been supplied with equipments and raw materials with funds from the EC through mine action programme.
- A Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) network was established in Northeast Albania since 2005. The CBR network comprised of 30 nurses worked in the mine affected villages. Medical kits were distributed to these nurses in Kukës, Has and Tropoja while 2 physiotherapists and 6 nurses received training abroad, funded by France.
- 131 mine amputees classified as difficult cases have received physical rehabilitation and prostheses in Slovenia since 2001.
- 84 mine victims and their families have been assisted in establishing home based economies in animal husbandry.
- 95 mine/UXO survivors and their family members from Kukës, Has and Tropoja completed vocational training courses, funded by EC and SIDA through UNDP and with funding from US State Department through the ITF.

During 2012, the Victims' assistance activities continued to cover a wide range of support to the mine/ERW survivors and other persons with disabilities in Albania including: ongoing healthcare, physical rehabilitation and provision of prostheses, and their socio-economic

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

Data and detailed statistics on the casualties from mines/UXOs ERW and cluster munitions throughout the country are available and disaggregated by age and gender. These data are recorded in IMSMA database and regularly shared with the relevant actors. A total of 979 mine/unexploded ordnance and AXO/explosive remnants of war (ERW) casualties (145 killed; 834 injured) have been identified throughout the territory between 1997 and 2012. The casualty database for Kukës region contains detailed information on 272 mine and ERW casualties (34 killed; 238 injured) for the period 1999–2012 while countrywide the AXO casualty database records 707 casualties (111 killed; 596 injured).

Medical and Physical rehabilitation services are available to men, women, boys and girls and are provided to the mine/UXO survivors and other amputees. The prosthetic workshop in Kukës Regional Hospital has provided with new prostheses 20 amputees and repairs for at least 70 amputees during 2012. In addition, during this year about 500 people in need received physiotherapy services at the physiotherapy unit in former mine affected areas.

Positive steps have been made regarding the health services. New guidelines have been issued by the Health Insurance Institute for the general practitioners/family doctors at Primary Health Care. This contract arrangement provides the obligations for medical home visits and all other relevant assistance for people with disabilities. Priority was given to the extension of the list of medicines available which treat the severe illnesses.

In September 2012, the Ministry of Health in close cooperation with the University Rehabilitation Institute Slovenia organized in Kukës Regional Hospital a 4 days theoretical and practical training workshop on “Rehabilitation of people following amputation and provision with rehabilitation aids”. Target groups for this training were 13 participants; surgeons, orthopedists, nurses, physiotherapists and prosthetic/orthotic technicians from several hospital departments in Albania. Funding from this training was made possible from the Slovenian Government.

In the area of the economic and social inclusion, during 2012 a new computer and literacy training program, for 20 mine/ERW survivors, persons with disabilities and their family members was implemented in the former mine affected areas by the local organization ALB-AID. This project was supported by the Vodafone Albania Foundation.

Albania ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 15 November 2012, and with support from UNDP Albania is undertaking a review of the disability-related legal and policy frameworks in order to assess their compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

N/A

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International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) in Slovenia, the UNDP, DanChurchAid, the Swiss Foundation for Demining, RONCO, HELP.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE:

International organizations such as the GICHD, the ICRC, UNMAS, Institute of Rehabilitation Slovenia etc. have supported the programme with specific technical expertise in various areas such as Information Management, mine action legislation, victim assistance, technical standards, etc.

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Form F	Other relevant matters
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Article 13, paragraph 4 (f)	“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary [...] on [...]: (f) other relevant matters.”
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Remark:

High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period
from: _____ to: 31/12/2012
 dd/mm/yyyy dd/mm/yyyy

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS:

N/A

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Form G Information to the UN-database on mine clearance

Article 11,
paragraph 2,

“2. Each High Contracting Party undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance.”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

ALBANIA

Reporting for time period

from:

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31.12.2012

dd/mm/yyyy

MEANS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF MINE CLEARANCE:

Destruction of landmines in contaminated areas was carried out through open detonation in compliance with international mine action standards and the National Technical Safety Standards. In addition, the disposal operations were carried out in accordance with the applicable environmental standards.

LISTS OF EXPERTS AND EXPERT AGENCIES:

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