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PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
GENEVA

Prot No. 300

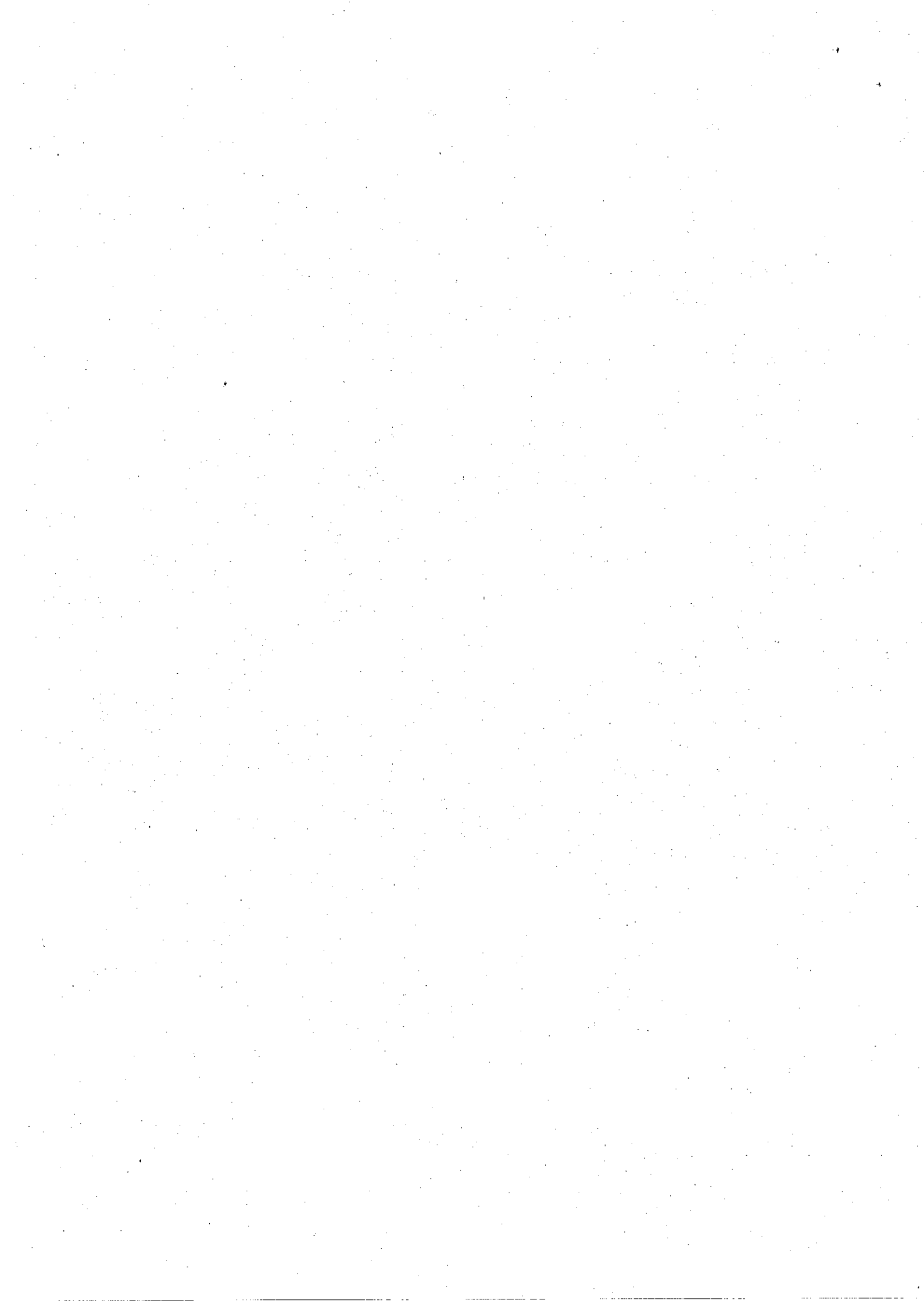
The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the CCW Implementation Support Unit, and has the honor to submit the Albanian National Annual Report for 2015 pursuant to article 10, paragraph 2 (b) of the protocol and the decision of the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the CCW Implementation Support Unit, the assurance of its highest consideration.



Geneva, the 4th of April 2015

CCW Implementation Support Unit
Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch)
Room C.115
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland



- 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: MARCH 2015

(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

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

High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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 km² 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.

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The volatile state of storage and poor handling practices have resulted in various fatalities to operators and civilians in different storage areas around the country, including the major accident in Gerdec in March 2008, which caused the death of 26 people and injured more than 300 others.

Ammunition 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 at least 50 cm, before being used by the army or being released to the local community.

New accidents have been recorded with ammunitions; the last one is recorded in late August 2014, which resulted in fatality of one man, reported dead by a hand grenade. According to AMMCO data, there have been 991 abandoned explosive ordnance casualties (150 killed and 841 injured) recorded all over Albania during the period from 1997 till December 2014.

In order to respond to the ammunition contamination situation, the Albanian Government, supported by the international community, embarked on a consolidation reform, focusing mainly on the reduction of storage depots, the destruction of a considerable number of SALWs and ammunition stockpiles and the clearance of the existing hotspots. A Plan of Action was endorsed by the Government in 2010 for the Elimination of Excess Ammunition in the AAF and disposal of all its surplus ammunition by 2016.

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 ammunition 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 current number of dangerous hotspots is at present reduced to 12 from originally 19 ones identified in 2011.

In August 2014, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), a humanitarian NGO experienced in mine action, with a regional presence in South Eastern Europe, signed the contract with ITF Enhancing Human Security, to conduct clearance of UXO hotspots in Albania, with the financial support of USA Government. The first clearance task to NPA was issued by AMMCO in UXO hotspot in Gjeroven (Berat) based on the MoD action plan and national clearance priorities. During September-October 2014, NPA carried out the recruitment of technical personnel and provided a three weeks technical training for about 30 ammunition specialists. From that period to the end of December 2014, the overall area cleared and released is 15,580 m².

About 1,356 different types of dangerous ammunitions were detected and destroyed.

During this 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 July to December 2014, the overall land cleared, inspected, certified and released as free from ammunitions is 216,704 m², respectively;

- 106,230 m² was cleared/released and certified as free from ammunitions in the UXO hotspots of Gjeroven (15,580 m²) and Palikesht (3,000 m²) in Berat region, Suc (75,650 m²) in Burrel district and Pilur (12,000 m²) in Vlore region;
- 43,250 m² was cleared by EOD Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) and certified by AMMCO, as free from ammunitions in UXO hotspot of Gerdec in Vore district, upon the request of MoD;
- 67,224 m² was inspected and certified as free from ammunitions in former military ammunition depots of Macukull (13,000 m²) in Burrel district, Selite (30,643 m²) in Tirane region and Shkumbin (23,581 m²) in Elbasan region, upon the request of MoD.

Any other relevant information:

Updated List of UXO/ERW hotspots in Albania

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Nr.	UXO/ERW Hotspot	Risk assessment	Priority for clearance	Original Hazard area m ²	Remaining Hazard area m ²
1.	Gjeroven –Berat	High	High	63,000	42,176
2.	Sinanaç –Tepelene	High	High	200,000	200,000
3.	Picar –Gjirokaster	Medium	Medium	62,000	62,000
4.	Kordhoce-Gjirokaster	Medium	Medium	2,400	2,400
5.	Jube Sukth –Durres	Medium	Medium	1,326,714	1,326,714
6.	Klos–Burrel	Medium	Medium	180	180
7.	Mbreshtan–Berat	Medium	High	30,720	30,720
8.	Laç	Medium	Medium	1,117	1,117
9.	Palikesht – Berat	Medium	High	12,000	9,000
10.	Suç-Burrel	Medium	Medium	84,000	8,350
11.	Qafe Shtame- Burrel	High	High	0	0
12.	Gerdec-Vore	High	High	75,000	31,750
Grand Total				1,857,131	1,714,407

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

High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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:

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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

High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2014 to 31/01/2014
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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 and monitors 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 the ARC. Signs are erected around ammunition affected 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. Hotspots sites that AMMCO has assessed as high risk areas and areas under clearance by the 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:

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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

High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 6:

The surrounding communities are duly informed about the remaining threat of unexploded ordnance around the UXO/ERW hotspots areas. There are no humanitarian missions currently operating around these areas and the Albanian Mines and Munitions Coordination Office is responsible of providing all required information about the threat.

Any other relevant information:

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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

High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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 Germany, Norway and Canada, UNDP and UNMAS have funded the coordination and monitoring operations of the 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 Gjeroven Berat by Norwegians Peple's Aid (NPA) with financial support from Government of USA and clearance operations in Gerdec hotspot 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.

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

High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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

There are at least 991 UXO casualties (150 killed and 841 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, Convention on Cluster Munitions and

CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

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Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The 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. As result of international donor' support, the Rehabilitation Unit in Kukes Regional Hospital is able to assist mine and UXO survivors as well as other amputees in need for such medical assistance. During 2014, the Prosthetic Workshop at Kukes Regional Hospital was able to support about 38 amputees with new prostheses and 73 others with major repairs.

In 2014, a "Needs Assessment of Socio-Economic and Medical needs of marginalized Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims in Albania" was conducted in six regions (Korçë, Elbasan, Durrës, Peshkopi, Gjirokastrë dhe Berat) with the financial support of Austrian Government, and in two other regions (Shkodër, Lezhë) with the financial support of 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.

During 2014, 168 UXO/ERW/AXO victims and their families were visited, 126 UXO/ERW/AXO victims were directly interviewed. Current status of the interviewees was documented and thorough analyses of information received, helped to prioritize the needs for further support to the victims.

AMMCO is recording in IMSMA database, all incidents of previously unreported victims and information withdrawn from the needs assessment forms, assembled by ALB-AID during the reporting period.

A project proposal is developed by ALB-AID and submitted to International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security (ITF), in order to complete the "Needs Assessment of Socio-Economic and Medical needs of marginalized Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims" survey, with information about potential UXO/ERW victims in the last regions of Tirana, Fier, Vlora and Kukes.

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:

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

High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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:

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

High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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:

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FORM H: Other relevant matters

High Contracting Party: ALBANIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Any other relevant information: