

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: May 2016

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF

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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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Form A Dissemination of information

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (a)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(a) dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed forces and
to the civilian population;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

ALBANIA

Reporting for time period

from: 01.01.2015
dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31.12.2015
dd/mm/yyyy

INFORMATION TO THE ARMED FORCES:

The Albanian Armed Forces personnel involved in UXO Hotspots clearance and ammunition stockpile destruction operations 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.

INFORMATION TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION:

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 RE activities taking place in the region. The RE 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 local NGO -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.

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Form B Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (b) “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

ALBANIA

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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 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.

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

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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.

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 Enhancing Human Security (ITF), the UNDP, UNMAS, DanChurchAid, the Swiss Foundation for Demining, RONCO, HELP and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES:

There are at least 996 UXO casualties (150 killed and 846 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 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. During 2015, the Prosthetic Workshop at Kukes Regional Hospital was able to support about 30 amputees with new prostheses and 91 others with major repairs.

Ministry of Health provided an amount of 45,000 EURO for the raw materials and components for the repairs and production of new prostheses to Kukes Prosthetic workshop, but this is not enough to cover all the needs. The workload at Kukes prosthetic workshop is continuously increasing, due to the poor functioning also of the national prosthetic center in Tirana.

Kukes Hospital has been upgraded with CT Scan in 2015 with the support from Japan. In additions, Cardiology cabinet and the emergency department at Kukes regional Hospital have been upgraded in equipment and training with financial support from Turkey.

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During 2014 - 2015, 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.**

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).

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Form C Technical requirements and relevant information

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (c)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(c) steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and any
other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

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TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

a) Recording

- 1. No records of minefields were made available to the Albanian Government after the Kosovo conflict, which rendered the work of the clearance organizations more difficult. Albania has never made use of anti-personnel mines or booby-traps in its territory.**
- 2. Specifications on detectability Albania has ratified the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 1999 and does not produce any anti-personnel mine. In addition, Albania has completed the destruction of its APM stockpile since 4 April 2002 and it has decided to not retain any anti-personnel mines for training purposes.**
- 3. Specifications on self destruction and self-deactivation.**
N/A
- 4. International signs for minefields and mined areas.**
All minefields were properly marked in compliance with the International Mine Action Standards and the Amended Protocol II until their final clearance in 2009. Albania has currently no landmines contaminated areas in its territory.

ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

n/a

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Form D Legislation

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (d) “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depository [...] on [...]:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;”

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LEGISLATION:

On 11 November 1999, Law No. 8547 on the Ratification of the Convention “On Ban of Use, Storage, Production and Transfer of the APM and their Destruction” was passed in the Republic of Albania. This law brought into legal force the obligations of Albania in terms of the Ottawa Convention.

2. Decree No. 2488 dated 23.11.1999 of the President of the Republic of Albania implemented Law No.8547.

3. Decision of the Council of Ministers No.269, dated 25.05.2000 “On Ban of Use, Storage, Production and Transfer of the APM and their Destruction”.

4. Order of the Minister of Defense No.140 dated 23.04.2001 "On Destruction of the APM recorded in the inventory of the Albanian Armed Forces", initiated the Albanian APM Stockpile Destruction Programme.

5. The Law no. 9515, date 18.04.2006 on “The implementation of the convention on the Ban of use, storage, production and transfer of the anti- personnel mines and their destruction” approved by the Parliament.

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Form E International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (e)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on
international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation
and assistance;”

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INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

During the implementation of the Mine Action Programme in Albania, a great benefit has been drawn from cooperation and share of expertise at technical level in particular within the region of Southeast Europe through structures like the SEEMACC - South East Europe Mine Action Coordination Council, the Regional Mine Detection Dogs Centre, the International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security or other regional initiatives such as the RASR - Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction, the RACVIAC, etc. The cooperation in framework of these structures or initiatives has been essential for ensuring sharing of valuable information, technical expertise and resources as well as considerable funding support not only for clearance operations but also in the significant areas of victim assistance and risk education. In addition, the coordination and monitoring structure (AMAE) supported by UNDP has cooperated bilaterally in joint initiatives with several Mine Action Centers such as: Montenegro, Kosovo and Bosnia- Herzegovina.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MINE CLEARANCE:

The clearance operations throughout the implementation of the Mine Action programme were funded by several international 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 (ITF), UNDP, DanChurchAid, the Swiss Foundation for Demining, RONCO, HELP.

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE:

International organizations such as the GICHD, ICRC, UNMAS and UNDP, 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, International Mine Action Technical Standards, etc.

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Form F Other relevant matters

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (f) “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
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(f) other relevant matters.”

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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.”

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MEANS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF MINE CLEARANCE:

Destruction of landmines in contaminated areas was carried out through manual demining, Mechanical and dogs 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.

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