Organization of American States
Mine Action Program

Mine Risk Awareness
and Preventive Education
in Nicaragua

Seminar Report
Managua, Nicaragua
25 - 27 April 2001

“A Single Voice”

• **Sponsors:** UNICEF, OAS and Nicaraguan Government

• **Objective:** Coordinate mine risk awareness and preventive education activities being conducted by diverse groups and organizations.

• **Methodology:** Discussion groups
Participants

- Ministry of Defense (National Demining Commission chair)
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Nicaraguan Army
- Pan American Health Organization
- UNICEF
- OAS Mine Action Program
- Nicaraguan Red Cross
- Christian Medical Action
- Nicaraguan Coalition for Humanitarian Demining
- Center for Strategic Studies of Nicaragua
- Joint Commission of Disabled Persons of Madriz
- Center for International Studies

Significance

Coordination and consolidation of mine awareness and preventive education efforts by diverse groups since origins of Nicaraguan mine action program in 1993
**IMSMA Integration**

**Inputs**
- Military minefield reporting
- Affected communities data
- Victim data

**Outputs (Graphical depictions)**
- Patterns
- Severity

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**Mine Victim Data Base in Nicaragua**
Source: IMSMA-OAS
Mine Victim Demographics

### Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>1 - 15</th>
<th>16 - 31</th>
<th>32 - 47</th>
<th>48 - 63</th>
<th>64 &amp; ↑</th>
<th>Unk</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: IMSMA-OAS

Causes - Mine Accidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity / Cause</th>
<th>Number of Accidents</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gathering water / food or hunting</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tending cattle</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household chores</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorrect handling of mine</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveling</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathering firewood</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: IMSMA-OAS
**Outcomes - Recommendations**

- Incorporate data on mine-affected communities into IMSMA.
- Establish rapid response capability to react to information provided by communities.
- Enhance information exchange among all sectors.
- Organize local and regional demining commissions.
- Incorporate community inputs to demining policy-making and prioritization processes.
- Increase number and capabilities of military demining units.
- Develop campaigns emphasizing need for communities to inform authorities about mine hazards.

**Outcomes - Recommendations**

- Recognize all groups involved in preventive education.
- Enlist support of private enterprise, communications media and other organizations.
- Facilitate development of two-year campaign plan.
- Propose weekly publication of information about mine action activities and initiatives.
- Ensure participation of mine victims and their organizations in development of demining policy and mine awareness education.
- Organize national dialogue on victim assistance and rehabilitation programs.
- Develop a social communication strategy.
Outcomes - Commitments

• Guidelines for mine accident prevention messages that reinforce that only Nicaraguan Army personnel are capable of demining.
• Establish message validation mechanisms including participation by target groups and mine-affected communities.
• Design messages based on international guidelines and withdraw non-conforming materials.
• Include follow-up and evaluation procedures in campaigns.
• Develop a corporate identity among mine action organizations.

Outcomes - Commitments

• Conduct campaigns emphasizing illegality of mine possession.
• Develop mine awareness activities based on diagnostic of direct and indirect effects caused by presence of mines.
• Provide information for inclusion in IMSMA and disseminate available information.
• Disseminate information about Ottawa Convention.
• Establish mine hazard reporting “hot line.”
• Support efforts to mobilize civil society organizations with regard to mine action.
Conclusions

• Integration of current efforts in preventive education
• Integration of national and international resources in cooperation with the National Demining Commission
• Integration of multiple data bases to support preventive education
• Consensual agreement on the way ahead