UNMAS/GICHD Mine Action
Technology Workshop 2008

September 2008

Republica de Colombia
Programa Presidencial para la Accion Integral contra las Minas Antipersonal

PRESENTATION PLAN

I. SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM
II. DEMINING OPERATIONS
III. CHALLENGES AND NEEDS
General Facts about Colombia

- Northern tip of South America.
- Borders with Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Panama.
- Coasts in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.
- Traversed by three main mountain ranges (0 ~ 5.500 m)
- Population: 44 millions.
- Area: 1,1 million Km².
- Landscapes: Rainforests, savannahs, deserts, glaciers, etc.

Landmine Contamination

- 34 minefields laid by the military before 1997 for the protection of critical infrastructure.
- Areas ranging from 300 m² to 100,000 m² (Estimated total: 300,000 m²).
- Most minefields are marked and some laying records are available.
- Huge logistical constrains.
- Challenging technical drawbacks.
- Two demining teams (80 men) working full-time to clear the minefields before the 1st of March 2011.
Landmine Contamination

- Three illegal groups known for laying indiscriminate landmines.
- Mines laid in community trails, coca crops, drug labs and camps.
- Landmine accidents in 446 (40%) municipalities.
- 7,160 landmine victims registered in IMSMA since 1990¹.
- More than 1,100 landmine victims in 2005 and 2006.
- Millions of square meters abandoned because of landmine suspicion.

¹Data from 1990 till 01/09/2008

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

- There are no records on the number and location of minefields.
- Most minefields are identified after an accident occurs.
- Huge dispersion across the country’s territory.
- Minefields are not laid following patterns (indiscriminate mines).
- New landmines are planted as we speak!!!
The military forces have rapid response teams to conduct quick demining operations during combat situations (breaching).

Since the security conditions in Colombia have changed, many teams are now clearing areas to mitigate the risk for mine-affected communities.

The risk is not eliminated by these landmine destructions.
DEMING OPERATIONS

Response capacity

- The number of mine suspected areas grow every day, exceeding our current capacity.
- The hazard areas are scattered all over the country, in very isolated areas.
- Cleared areas can’t be released as safe areas.
- The illegal groups are devising techniques to stop and maim the rapid response teams.
- Communities are claiming a quick and definitive solution for their problem.

DEMINING OPERATIONS

Humanitarian Demining in Colombia

- 160 men dedicated to humanitarian demining.
- Agreements to control staff turnover.
- Information management with IMSMA 5.0
- Training, equipment and financial support provided by Colombia, the OAS and donor countries.
- National demining standards approved by the national authority.
Sometime before the end of 2008…
Humanitarian Demining Results

**Training operation (2007)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>m²</th>
<th>UXO</th>
<th>Metal debris</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guaviare</td>
<td>15,600</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>23,405</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Demining operations (2008)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>m²</th>
<th>APM</th>
<th>Metal debris</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolivar</td>
<td>40,780</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antioquia</td>
<td>17,146</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>57,926</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>73,397</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expanding the capacity

- Security conditions have drastically improved in several regions of the country.
- Displaced communities are returning to their homes.
- Humanitarian demining is possible in "post-conflict" environments.
- Another four humanitarian demining teams (160 men) will be created before the end of 2009.
- By 2010, at least 12 humanitarian demining teams will be deployed, including MDD and mechanical clearance.
SCENE OF THE PROBLEM

DEMINING OPERATIONS

CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

Use of improvised landmines

- Indiscriminate mines.
- Landmines with low or no metal content.
- Improvised explosives.
- Deeply-buried mines.
- High explosive content.
- Unpredictability.
- Extended damage to victims.

- Extremely sensible mechanisms.
- Pression/pression-release detonators.
- Tension/tension-release detonators.
- Photo-cell detonators.
- Movement-sensitive detonators.
- Anti-handling devices.
- Changing threat.
Use of improvised landmines

**CHALLENGES AND NEEDS**

- Use of improvised landmines

**Components:**
- Pressure Piston
- Safety Pin
- Electrical Conductors
- Wood or Plastic
- Contacts
- Igniter
- Batteries
- Explosive Charge
Use of improvised landmines

- Syringe plunger
- Plastic cover
- Syringe body with chemical detonator
- Glass/plastic container with improvised explosive

Challenges and Needs

- Thick vegetation

Bajo Grande Corregimiento de San Jacinto
CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

Thick vegetation

BAJO GRANDE AHORA

Community trails
CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

Steep terrain

Weather
CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

Information availability, data gathering, LIS and Land Release

Thank you