

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



MINE ACTION STRATEGY

Including

*Armenia Mine Action End State Strategy
And
Armenia Mine Action Strategic Plan 2007-2011*

1st Draft, September 4, 2006

ARMENIA 2006

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
INTRODUCTION	6
MINE ACTION STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS	7
PART 1. MINE ACTION SITUATION ANALYSIS	9
CHAPTER 1. SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM	10
1.1. Landmine Impact Survey Main Findings	10
1.2. Impact on Communities	11
1.3. Impact on Sectors	12
1.4. Mine Incidents	12
CHAPTER 2. THE MINE ACTION HISTORY AND COMMUNITY	13
PART 2. BASIC PRINCIPLES AND END-STATE MINE ACTION GOALS.....	15
CHAPTER 1. MINE ACTION TERMS AND DEFINITIONS	16
CHAPTER 2. BASIC PRINCIPLES	16
CHAPTER 3. END-STATE STRATEGIC GOALS AND ENABLING OBJECTIVES FOR MINE ACTION.....	19
3.1. The Concept of Mine Action End-State Strategy.....	19
3.2. ESS, Long Term Mine Action Strategies, and Annual Work Plans	19
3.3. Assumptions Concerning the End-State Strategy	19
3.4. Factors Impinging on Implementation of the ESS	20
CHAPTER 4. MINE ACTION END-STATE CONDITIONS, GOALS AND ENABLING OBJECTIVES.....	21
CHAPTER 5. IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES AND DIRECTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIUM TERM AND ANNUAL MINE ACTION PLANS.....	24
PART 3. ARMENIA MINE ACTION STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2007-2011	26
CHAPTER 1. MAS GOALS AND MAIN POLICY DIRECTIONS FOR 2007-2011	28
CHAPTER 2. HUMANITARIAN DEMINING STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2007-2011	32
2.1. The Situation.....	32
2.2. The Concept of Humanitarian Demining	32
2.3. Available and Required Capacities for Humanitarian Demining.....	33
2.4. 2007-2011 Strategic Plan for Humanitarian Demining Activities (Policy making, management, and coordination)	33
2.5. 2007-2011 Strategic Plan for Humanitarian Demining Operations (Area Reduction and Clearance).....	34
2.6. Expected Results	36
CHAPTER 3. MRE STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2011	38
3.1. The Situation.....	38
3.2. The Concept of Mine Risk Education.....	38
3.3. Available And Required MRE Capacities	39
3.4. 2007-2011 MRE Strategic Plan.....	40
3.5. Expected Results	40
CHAPTER 4. 2007-2011 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE.....	41
4.1. The Situation.....	41
4.2. The Concept of Victim Assistance.....	42
4.3. Available and Required Capacities for Victim Assistance	43
4.4. 2007-2011 Strategic Plan For Victim Assistance	43
4.5. Expected Results	44
CHAPTER 5. FINANCIAL ASPECT	45
CHAPTER 6. AVAILABLE AND REQUIRED MINE ACTION CAPACITY.....	46
CONCLUSION.....	48

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1. COMMUNITIES AND POPULATIONS BY IMPACT CATEGORIES.....	11
TABLE 2. PERCENTAGE OF COMMUNITIES REPORTING BLOCKED ACCESS.....	12
TABLE 3. STRATEGIC PLAN OF HUMANITARIAN DEMINING ACTIVITIES.....	34
TABLE 4. SHA SIZE AND BLOCKAGES BY CATEGORIES OF HIGH AND MEDIUM IMPACT COMMUNITIES	35
TABLE 5. STRATEGIC PLAN OF DEMINING OPERATIONS 2007-2011	36
TABLE 6. AFFECTED COMMUNITIES AND POPULATIONS BY REGIONS	38
TABLE 7. STRATEGIC PLAN OF MRE ACTIVITIES 2007-2011	40
TABLE 8. MINE AND UXO VICTIM SURVEY (2006 VICTIMS INCLUDED).....	41
TABLE 9. RECENT VICTIMS BY MILITARY/CIVILIAN STATUS, AND CIVILIAN OCCUPATION	42
TABLE 10. TYPE OF CARE RECEIVED BY VICTIMS NOT KILLED IMMEDIATELY.....	42
TABLE 11. STRATEGIC PLAN OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES FOR 2007-2011	43
TABLE 12. FINANCIAL PLAN	45

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF DEMINING ACTIVITIES BY TYPES AND CATEGORIES.....	37
FIGURE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF DEMINING ACTIVITIES BY TYPES, CATEGORIES, AND YEARS.....	37
FIGURE 3. REQUIRED FUNDS BY MINE ACTION ACTIVITIES	46

LIST OF MAPS

MAP 1. ALIS RESULTS.....	11
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Government of the Republic of Armenia

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AHDC	Armenian Humanitarian Demining Centre
ALARA	As Low As Reasonably Achievable
ALIS	Armenia Landmine Impact Survey
ALIS	Armenia Landmine Impact Survey
AMD	Armenian Dram
ANC ICBL	Armenian National Committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines
APM	Anti-personnel mine
ARCS	Armenian Red Cross Society
ATM	Anti-tank mine
BCPR	Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP)
CA	Cleared Area
DA	Dangerous Area
EC	European Commission
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EO	Explosive ordnance
EO	Explosive Ordnance
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ESS	End state strategy
EU	European Union
FN	False Negative
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GIS	Geographic Information System
GoA	Government of Armenia
IAGCMA	Inter-Agency Governmental Commission on Mine Action
ICRC	International Committee of Red Cross
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
iMMAP	Information Management and Mine Action Programs
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
Km	Kilometre
MA	Mine Action
MAS	Mine Action Strategy
MAS	Mine Action Strategy
MCA	Millennium Challenge Account
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MRE	Mine Risk Education
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NHDS	National Human Development Survey
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
SHA	Suspected Hazardous Area
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP AHDP (AHDP)	Armenia Humanitarian Demining Project
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VA	Victims Assistance
VVAF	Vietnam Veteran of America Foundation

INTRODUCTION

After the 1994 cease-fire following the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Armenian army surveyed approximately 1,000 kilometres of borderline in Armenia. As a result, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of Armenia has estimated 50,000 to 80,000 emplaced landmines. The Armenia Landmine Impact Survey (ALIS), conducted in 2005, identified 60 mine-impacted communities within areas amounting to 321.68 square kilometres, which is 1.08% of the territory of Armenia.

Mines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) stand as a barrier to the economic recovery in the country. The comparison between the results of the Landmine Impact Survey and poverty surveys shows that mine-affected communities are more isolated due to perceived social exclusion, poor roads and less access to markets more often than other non-impacted communities in the same socio-economic and geographic environment. In affected communities, the percentage of very poor communities and landless households is considerably higher than in neighbouring non-affected ones.

Armenia did not sign either of the two international conventions on landmines. Although supporting the Ottawa Convention (on use, production and transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines) and Protocol II on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and other devices, Armenian authorities believe that their adoption would put the country in a disadvantaged position for as long as the Government of Azerbaijan refuses to sign them. However, Armenian authorities decided to submit to the UN Secretary General, on a voluntary basis, the annual report required under Articles 11 and 13 contributing to global mine action.

Since 1994, the Government of Armenia (GoA), the donor community and civil society have been committed to successful completion of the activities in the area of humanitarian demining, Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victims Assistance (VA). Armenian Humanitarian Demining Centre (AHDC) was established in March 2002 with the help of the US State Department and the US Department of Defence. The Centre took the lead in training of deminers, resulting in nearly 200 deminers, dog handlers and staff personnel trained and equipped to date. The US Marshall Legacy Institute, in cooperation with the US Humanitarian Demining Program established the Mine Detecting Dog Partnership Program in Armenia.

From 2004 to 2006, the UNDP Armenia implemented a 3-year Humanitarian Demining Project in Armenia in cooperation with the Armenian Ministry of Defence, Humanitarian De-Mining Centre and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Coordination. The project was generously funded by the EC and co-funded by UNDP and the Government of Armenia. The goal of the project was to strengthen the national capacity for coordination and implementation of a de-mining program in Armenia. The project conducted the Armenia Landmine Impact Survey, pilot technical survey and clearance, public awareness campaign, and mine risk education in high and medium impact communities.

On October 13, 2005, by the decree of the Prime Minister of Armenia the *Inter-Agency Governmental Committee on Mine Action (IAGCMA)* was established. The Committee consists of representatives from the seven key ministries, four regional heads, and the UNDP.

The issues of landmine contamination is already included in the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and there are ongoing efforts to incorporate it into European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and as a component in the planning cycle of various affected ministries. United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Armenia acknowledges the existence of the landmine problem in Armenia and this serves as a basis for incorporation of the subject into PRSP and Millennium Challenge Account (MCA).

The continuation of coordinated mine-action activities in the contaminated borderland regions will ensure that the mine/unexploded ordnance (UXO) impact is minimized. Within the aim of preventing the inherent threats of landmines and unexploded ordnance and of bringing the endangered population out of the existing situation, the Mine Action Strategy (MAS) of Armenia seeks to undertake clearance of contaminated sites, mine risk education, victim assistance, advocacy of mine action issues and other

measures to contribute to the safety of the population, poverty reduction, and social-economic development of borderland areas of the country which is hindrance to the national security as well as the overall progress of our country.

MINE ACTION STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Local and international organizations and all those who are interested in eradicating landmine contamination in Armenia supported the development of the Mine Action Strategy. The development of the strategy included the participatory approach as one of its most important components. This is one of the most important guarantees for the successful implementation of any strategy and the MAS.

The work on the MAS started in June 2006 when during the Armenia Mine Action Strategy Development Workshop (Yerevan Armenia, June 27-28, 2006) the participants defined priority MAS objectives and targets. The Mine Action Strategy issues were widely discussed by the representatives of central, regional and local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), participating in the workshop.

ORGANIZING THE MAS PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

With the objective to publicize the MAS development and to organize public participation, the Inter-Agency Governmental Commission on Mine Action and the UNDP Armenia Humanitarian Demining Project (AHDP) organized series of meetings and workshops addressing the mine action issues in the country.

Throughout 2006, these agencies organized and implemented public discussions, seminars with the participation of the society, central, regional, and local governments; preparation, publication and dissemination of information and analytical materials for the public, including through the Internet; TV programs; articles in the provincial and national press; and public awareness campaigns in communities, various representative groups of the population, etc. The UNDP AHDP website, including information on the process, has been set up and is regularly updated.

PARTICIPATION OF GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

Representatives from the government were included in the process of developing MAS. In order to ensure the active participation of all central and regional governmental bodies, heads of four Provincial Administrations (Marzpetaran) were included in IAGCMA.

Representatives from ministries and Provincial Administrations participated in joint discussions on the draft MAS along with experts and representatives from the donor community. These representatives presented their comments and recommendations on the draft.

INVOLVEMENT OF PROVINCES

Representatives from four Province Administrations – Tavush, Gegharkunik, Syunik, and Vayots Dzor - at the level of Heads or Deputy-Heads of Territorial Administration Departments participated in discussions and round-tables devoted to mine action.

PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS

The IAGCMA initiated the dissemination of the draft MAS to all impacted communities of the country for comments and recommendations. A number of representatives from community governments participated in workshops on the issues of mine action.

PARTICIPATION OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL SECTOR OF SOCIETY

Within the framework of the UNDP AHDP a survey of the impact of sites contaminated by landmines/UXO on communities was conducted in the spring-summer of 2005. This study revealed the level of danger and social-economic impact of contamination as well as its influence on the social-economic development of the communities. The results of the survey were summarized in the Armenia Landmine Impact Survey Final Report and disseminated through Province Administration and UNDP AHDP website.

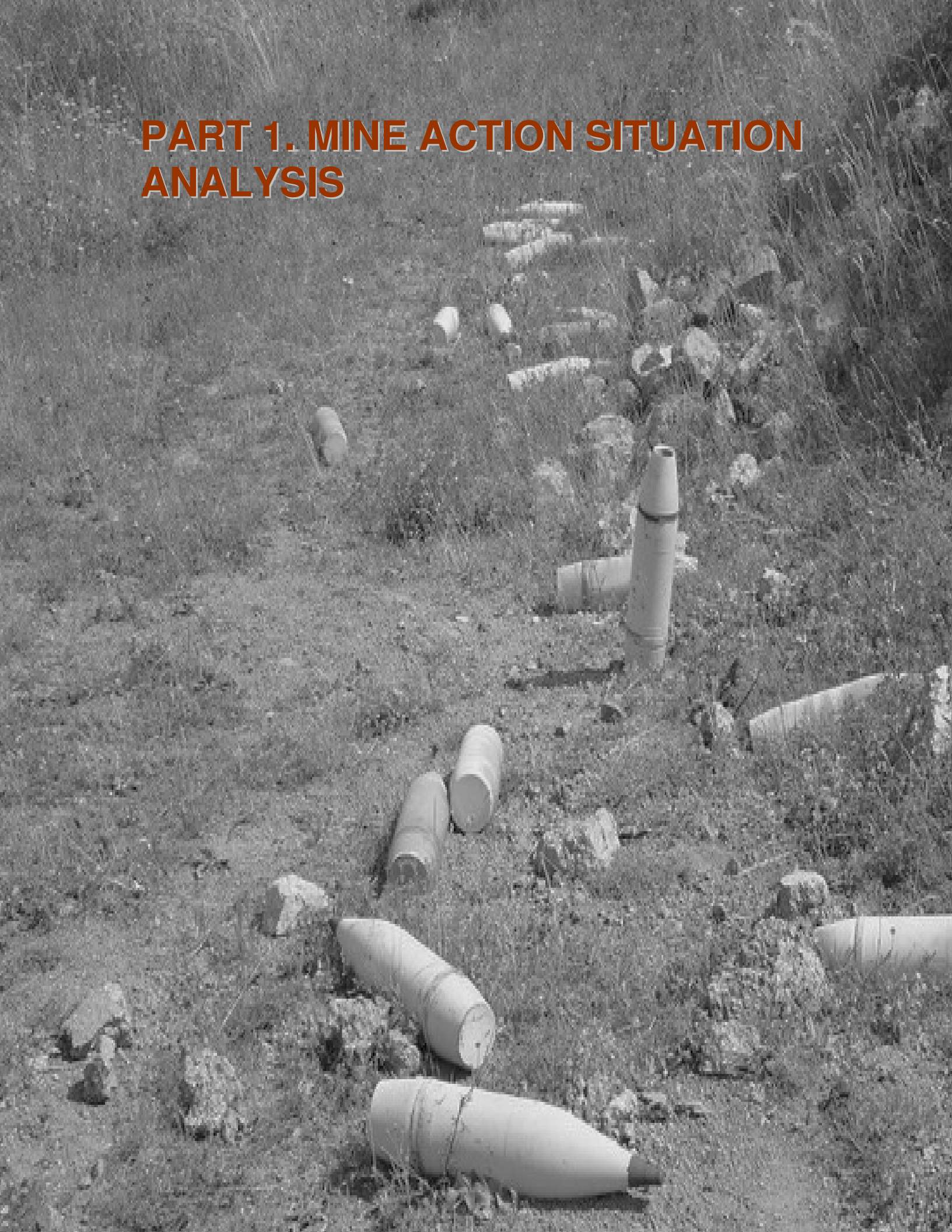
Mass media and the existing mine action community was actively involved in the process. These included TV companies, radio stations, the editorial boards of newspapers, NGOs (Armenian Red Cross Society [ARCS], Armenian National Committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines [ANC ICBL]), experts from 7 ministries and 4 representatives of province administration, and international organizations operating in Armenia. NGOs were actively involved in the process by submitting their comments and recommendations on the draft MAS throughout all the stages of its development.

The mass media is one of the most developed groups of society. It was actively involved in MAS activities. The mass media covered all the large-scale public discussions and a number of specialized discussions. A number of newspapers and radio stations, as well as some TV channels, broadcast various presentations on landmine/UXO issues and related intensive discussions. A number of representatives from the mass media presented their comments and recommendations on the MAS.

PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNDP supported the strategy development process through the UN Network and country knowledge, GICHD through technical assistance, and the European Union by financing it. Other international organizations provided comments on the drafts of MAS at various stages.

PART 1. MINE ACTION SITUATION ANALYSIS



CHAPTER 1. SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

1.1. Landmine Impact Survey Main Findings

The Armenia Landmine Impact Survey was conducted in Armenia by the UNDP AHDP with technical assistance provided by the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAFA) during the period of April – August 2005. The ALIS identified 60 impacted communities in five regions of Armenia, 102 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA) and 394 victims. The total area of suspected contamination in Armenia was identified at a size of 321,677,110 m² while 68,737 people were identified as impacted by the landmines and/or UXO. There were 20 UXO spots found. The collected data provides extensive opportunities for research, analyses and further planning. These findings shaped several key conclusions:

- Five out of eleven regions of Armenia have landmine and/or UXO contamination, and contamination occurs only in the regions where Armenia borders Azerbaijan. Syunik and Tavush regions appear to be the most contaminated compared to the other regions of Armenia. The breakdown among the regions is provided below:

Tavush	- 20 impacted communities (2 low, 16 medium and 2 highly impacted), 29 SHAs, and 39,003 impacted people;
Gegharkunik	- 11 impacted communities (7 low and 4 medium impacted), 13 SHAs, and 14,852 impacted people;
Ararat	- 4 impacted communities (3 medium and 1 low impacted), 9 SHAs, and 2,890 impacted people;
Vayots Dzor	- 7 impacted communities (5 low and 2 medium impacted), 8 SHAs, and 3,785 impacted people;
Syunik	- 18 impacted communities (10 low, 6 medium and 2 high impacted), 43 SHAs, and 8, 207 impacted people.
- The region of Tavush claims almost two thirds of the people impacted by landmines, while the region of Syunik has the highest number of SHAs (43 out of 102 countrywide), but affecting a relatively small population. Among the affected regions, Ararat reported the smallest number of people impacted.
- Contamination occurs in the border areas, particularly in areas where military actions were conducted or in the areas which are located in close proximity to battle fields;
- 50 SHAs are in the restricted military zone and represent almost half of the total number of the SHAs, while size-wise they amount to 217.965 km², which represents 67.76% of the total size of the all SHAs (321.677 km²). This leads to the assumption that SHAs in the restricted military zone are usually bigger, or it is more difficult to estimate their size from the civilian perspective;
- However, the survey shows that the SHAs in military restricted zones have not less impact in terms of victims and social-economic resource blockages than those in not restricted areas;
- From 2003 onwards, all recent victims of landmines/UXO were male; 86% of victims were between 15-59 years old. There were no children among recent mine/UXO victims.
- The most common activities being conducted by the mine/UXO victims at the time of accident were farming and herding;
- The most prevalent resource blockage is pasture land followed by cropland;
- In 87.5% of cases no mine action has been conducted in communities and only in 12.5% cases has any mine action took place. Also, if local mine clearance efforts are excluded, in 90.2% of cases no surveying/markings, MRE, VA, or clearance was conducted in contaminated communities.

MAP 1. ALIS RESULTS



1.2. Impact on Communities

The ALIS used a scoring system approved by the GoA to measure the level of landmine/UXO impact on communities. Use of this system allowed the identification of 25 low impact communities, 31 medium impact communities and 4 high impact communities. The indicators, used to determine this ranking, include the number of landmine victims within the last 24 months before the survey, blocked access to facilities and livelihood areas, and the nature of contaminated munitions. The number of people living in high impact communities in Armenia is 4,052. 48,349 people live in medium impact communities, and 16,336 people live in low impact communities.

TABLE 1. COMMUNITIES AND POPULATIONS BY IMPACT CATEGORIES

	Ararat	Gegharkunik	Syunik	Tavush	Vayots Dzor	Total communities	Total affected population
High	0	0	2	2	0	4	4,052
Medium	3	4	6	16	2	31	48,349
Low	1	7	10	2	5	25	16,336
Total	4	11	18	20	7	60	68,737

The overlap between the ALIS and the UNDP National Human Development Survey (NHDS) community samples permitted comparisons between mine-affected communities and non-affected ones on a small number of poverty indicators. Non-affected communities are fare better on all poverty and institutional indicators. Moreover, mine-affected communities are more isolated. They emphasize social exclusion, poor roads and less access to markets as important issues more often than other communities. The

association between contamination and poverty is strong enough to suggest that appropriate mine action strategies should be closely integrated with wider poverty alleviation plans.

1.3. Impact on Sectors

The survey collected extensive information regarding the types of livelihoods that are denied local populations because landmines UXO are present. The communities most frequently reported pasture as an economic resource blocked by contamination. Cropland was the second most frequently mentioned. Roads and trails are also among most important social-economic blockages caused by contamination. In Armenia, mines UXO rarely affect housing and other major types of infrastructure: the built-up core areas of the communities are rarely contaminated.

TABLE 2. PERCENTAGE OF COMMUNITIES REPORTING BLOCKED ACCESS	
Areas of blocked access	Communities affected
Pasture	75%
Rain-fed cropland	42%
Irrigated cropland	38%
Non-agricultural land	20%
Water bodies	8%
Roads and trails	52%
Housing	2%
Other infrastructure	5%

and

the

and

1.4. Mine Incidents

According to the ALIS, the total number of recent landmine accident victims (incidents registered within the last 24 months back from the date when the survey was conducted – April 2003/August 2005) was 14, out of which one was a killed and thirteen were injured. All recent victims were males. Recent victims appear in 7 communities in 2 regions of Armenia (Tavush and Syunik).

Victim profiles are as follows: all 14 recent victims were male; 5 victims (36%) were between 30-44 years old; 4 victims (30%) were between 15-29 years old; 3 (21%) victims were between 45-59 years old; 2 victims (13%) were over 60 years old. Ten recent victims come from high impact communities, while four recent victims come from medium impact communities.

There are in total 380 non-recent victims identified by the ALIS. 37 non-recent victims appear in high impact communities, 275 non-recent victims appear in medium impact communities, and 68 non-recent victims appear in low impact communities. Based upon the period between the time when residents were first affected by the contamination and the data collection in August 2005, the victim incidence rate was calculated. The incidence rate for the period ending mid-2003 (the period bracketing the “old victims”) works out as 51.7 per 100,000 persons per year compared to 10.18 incident rate for the last two years. The incidence rate dropped between the two periods by a factor of 5:1, which is the testimony to a very significant learning process among the population at risk.

CHAPTER 2. THE MINE ACTION HISTORY AND COMMUNITY

Since 1994, the Government of Armenia, the donor community, and civil society have been committed to the successful completion of activities in the area of humanitarian demining, MRE and VA.

Armenian Humanitarian Demining Centre was established in March 2002 with the help of the US State Department and the US Department of Defence¹. The Centre took the lead in training deminers, resulting in nearly 200 de-miners, dog handlers and staff personnel trained and equipped to date. The centre also conducted a pilot landmine survey in the Tavush Province of Armenia in partnership with the Armenian Red Cross Society under the funding provided by RONCO in 2002.

The US Marshall Legacy Institute, in cooperation with the US Humanitarian Demining Program established the **Mine Detecting Dog Partnership** program in Armenia.

Landmine Victims Assistance: Armenia has a network of health care facilities and qualified personnel for specialized medical assistance, for production of prosthetic appliances, and for rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine survivors. However, their ability to address the needs of landmine survivors is limited because of a lack of adequate resources. Landmine survivors do not receive any psychological or social rehabilitation and, although legislation exists to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, it does not provide a special approach towards land mine survivors.

RONCO Consulting Corporation, under contract to the United States Department of State, has conducted mine action training and activities in Armenia in order to facilitate development of a national mine action capacity. Through this work, RONCO has been able to assess country organization and obtain a general picture of landmine and UXO contamination, sample existing minefield and geographic information system (GIS) information, examine mine action resources available in-country, and gain a comprehensive understanding of Armenian and international mine action organizations acting there. RONCO has identified the MoD as the primary local partner for implementation of all mine action activities.

In February 2002, **VVAF's Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP)** assessed the level of landmine and unexploded ordnance [UXO] contamination in Armenia, basic knowledge assets and capabilities for conduct of survey. Subsequently, VVAF's iMMAP prepared [in cooperation with RONCO personnel in Armenia] and delivered in March/April 2002 an appropriate training curriculum for national staff members of the AHDC. This training imparted to AHDC survey staff basic knowledge assets and capabilities necessary to conduct a Landmine Impact Survey to support national strategic mine action planning. In addition, VVAF attempted to provide AHDC senior staff with a grasp of the management and analytical methods utilized and challenges likely to be encountered.

In 2002, VVAF identified that the Armenian Red Cross (ARC) had the local capacity (with proper supervision and technical assistance) to carry out a Landmine Impact Survey effectively and efficiently. Accordingly, a pilot landmine impact survey was conducted in 28 villages of Tavush Province in late 2002 with field staff provided by ARCS.

In August 2004, the Government of Armenia, the UNDP Armenia and the European Union (EU), initiated a three-year **UNDP Armenia Humanitarian Demining Project**.² In February-August 2005, the Project conducted a Landmine Impact Survey in Armenia the results of which were approved by the Government of Armenia in December 2005 and certified by the UN Landmine Impact Survey Certification Commission in February 2006. In 2006, the Project conducted a pilot technical survey, marking, and clearance in one of four high impact communities of Armenia – Shurnukh (Syunik Province), public awareness and mine

¹ The US Government was the main donor for mine action programs in Armenia. Between 1993 and 2003 the US contribution amounted to about US\$10 million. Additional \$1.8 million was provided by the US Embassy in 2002 from its Freedom Support Act funds to augment the Demining program and to establish the Demining centre.

² The EC was the main donor of the UNDP AHDP. Between 2004-2007 the EU contribution amounted to 1,540,000 euro, the Government of Armenia 15,000,000 AMD. The rest of the expenses were covered by UNDP.

risk education in high and medium impact communities, victim assistance and assisted the Government of Armenia in developing a national mine action strategy.

On October 13, 2005, by the decree of the Prime Minister of Armenia an **Inter-Agency Governmental Commission on Mine Action (IAGCMA)** was established. The Commission consists of representatives from the seven key ministries, four regional heads, and the UNDP. The Commission is responsible for developing 2005-2007 activities program for surveying mine-contaminated areas in border regions; their humanitarian demining; organizing works for starting economic use of these areas and regulating normal activities of the beneficiary communities; and taking actions for involving donor organizations. Among other tasks, the Commission is also responsible for developing national mine action strategy to be approved by the Government of Armenia.

PART 2. BASIC PRINCIPLES AND END-STATE MINE ACTION GOALS



CHAPTER 1. MINE ACTION TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The evaluation of mine action derives from its definition. Modern definitions are based on the concept of Mine Action as a multidimensional issue. According to the International Mine Action Standards, Mine Action is manifested as: “activities which aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of mines and UXO. ... The objective of mine action is to reduce the risk from landmines to a level where people can live safely; in which economic, social and health development can occur free from the constraints imposed by landmine contamination, and in which the victims’ needs can be addressed. Mine action comprises five complementary groups of activities: a) MRE; b) humanitarian demining, i.e. mine and UXO survey, mapping, marking and clearance; c) victim assistance, including rehabilitation and reintegration; d) stockpile destruction; and e) advocacy against the use of APM.”³ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) give the following definitions of the main terms related to mine action:

Impact - the level of social and economic suffering experienced by the community resulting from the harm or risk of harm caused by mine and UXO hazards and hazardous areas. ... Impact is a product of: a) the presence of mine/UXO hazards in the community; b) intolerable risk associated with the use of infrastructure such as roads, markets etc; c) intolerable risk associated with livelihood activities such as use of agricultural land, water sources etc; and d) number of victims of mine and UXO incidents within the last two years. **Impact free** - a term applied to countries that may still have mines but where the mined areas are not having a negative socio – economic impact on communities, e.g. the mines may be in remote, marked and unpopulated areas.⁴

Mine Risk Education - activities which seek to reduce the risk of injury from mines/UXO by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change including public information dissemination, education and training, and community mine action liaison.⁵

Humanitarian demining - activities which lead to the removal of mine and UXO hazards, including technical survey, mapping, clearance, marking, post-clearance documentation, community mine action liaison and the handover of cleared land. Demining may be carried out by different types of organisations, such as NGOs, commercial companies, national mine action teams or military units. Demining may be emergency-based or developmental.⁶

Victim assistance - refers to all aid, relief, comfort and support provided to victims (including survivors) with the purpose of reducing the immediate and long-term medical and psychological implications of their trauma.⁷

Stockpile - in the context of mine action, the term refers to a large accumulated stock of explosive ordnance (EO). **Stockpile destruction** the physical destructive procedure towards a continual reduction of the national stockpile.⁸

Advocacy - in the context of mine action, the term refers to public support, recommendation or positive publicity with the aim of removing, or at least reducing, the threat from, and the impact of, mines and UXO.⁹

CHAPTER 2. BASIC PRINCIPLES

2.1. The Role of the Mine Action Strategy

³ International Mine Action Standards. *Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations*. Second Edition. 01 January 2003. Incorporating amendment number(s) 1 & 2. article 3.147: p 18

⁴ *ibid.*, p 14

⁵ *ibid.*, p 19

⁶ *ibid.*, p 7

⁷ *ibid.*, p 31

⁸ *ibid.*, p 28

⁹ *ibid.*, p 2

The Mine Action Strategy in Armenia is the basic document for the conduct of all elements of mine action. The development of the coherent strategy received an impetus from a number of factors among which the most important are the continually growing expectations and awareness of the citizens of Armenia about the long-term danger of mines; the obscuring of numerous economic and natural resources by mine contamination leading to definition of Mine Action as one of the important preconditions for the reconstruction of the country; and the ensuring the transparency of the mine action policy of the Government of Armenia for all stakeholders and beneficiaries.

2.2. International Conventions and Standards

Armenia did not sign either of the two International Conventions on Landmines. Although supporting the Ottawa Convention (on use, production and transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines) and Protocol II on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and other devices,¹⁰ Armenian authorities believe that their adoption would put the country in a disadvantaged position for as long as the Government of Azerbaijan refuses to sign them. However, Armenian authorities decided to submit to the UN Secretary General, on a voluntary basis, the annual report required under Articles 11 and 13 contributing to global mine action.

2.3. Connection with other National Development Strategies

Mine Action is incorporated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and is therefore connected with overall national development.¹¹

2.4. The Main Pillars of Mine Action

Mine action aims at re-establishing a safe environment in currently contaminated areas and by this at establishing conditions for returning to normal life and development. It is a set of following activities:

- Humanitarian demining (clearance, survey, marking, quality assurance and mapping);
- Mine Risk Education;
- Advocacy;
- Assistance to mine victims;
- Destruction, prevention of production or transport of stockpiles of anti-personnel mines.

2.5. Partnership and Coordination

Internal cooperation of all the participants in resolving the mine problem in Armenia requires a high level of commitment and sense of responsibility. The coordination of the activities of all parties must lead to the efficient and successful achievement of established objectives. The main players in the realization of the Mine Action Strategy for Armenia will be the Inter-Agency Governmental Commission on Mine Action, the national mine action centre, the International community, countries and organizations – donors, humanitarian organizations and demining organizations/companies.

2.6. Responsibility

The basic responsibility and authority for implementation of the Mine Action Strategy lies with the GoA represented by the Inter-Agency Governmental Commission on Mine Action and with the national mine action centre which will ensure compliance with the national strategy and standards, and other documents.

¹⁰ «Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personal Mines and on their Destruction», Ottawa 1997 and «Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (amended on 3 May 1996) 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», Geneva 1996;

¹¹ Republic of Armenia. Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. Article 270, 271

27. Integrated approach at the community level

The purpose of mine action is to, without limitation, ensure a safe environment suitable for the conduct of normal life and development of the population. The local community and individual have a central position in the planning and conduct of mine action. Therefore, integrated plans of Mine Action for impacted communities are of a key importance and will enable multiplication of the effects of mine action through the interaction of different operational components.

2.8. VISION

A country free of impact from mines and UXO, where communities and individuals can live a safe, peaceful and normal life, where development can take place unimpeded, and where victims of mines are integrated into society.

2.9. MISSION

The authorities of Armenia shall, in cooperation with national and International parties, conduct the necessary Mine Action (humanitarian demining operations, mine risk education, assistance to mine victims, advocacy) in order to ensure the re-establishment of a safe environment for the citizens of Armenia thereby allowing a safe return to the conditions of normal life and development.

CHAPTER 3. END-STATE STRATEGIC GOALS AND ENABLING OBJECTIVES FOR MINE ACTION

3.1. The Concept of Mine Action End-State Strategy¹²

The End-State Strategy (ESS) concept¹³ defines the conditions that will exist when the **Vision** is fully realized. The ESS includes basic assumptions and the guidance and direction for its implementation. The End-State Strategic goals and objectives provide a means to design fully solution-oriented undertakings within a coherent system and secure the knowledge of outcomes of mine action activities in the country.

The end-state strategy does not change unless the major assumptions change. Long/medium term strategies and plans to implement the ESS are designed to respond to changes in resource levels and other factors, which are difficult to quantify for the distant future.

3.2. ESS, Long Term Mine Action Strategies, and Annual Work Plans

Long term or annual Mine Action plans developed and coordinated by the Inter-Agency Governmental Commission on Mine Action and other authorized by mine action body shall be based on Armenia Mine Action end state strategy goals and objectives.

End State Strategic goals describe the conditions and enabling objectives that are used to develop the Armenia Mine Action Strategy for 2007-2011, in particular, and flexible long and medium term plans, in general.

The End-State Strategic goals for Mine Action in Armenia are implemented through long/medium term plans and according to resource levels and other changing factors. Annual work plans, which are to be based on the long term plans, will usually remain valid one year and consider existing money and other resources and information related to the near future.

3.3. Assumptions Concerning the End-State Strategy

In order to identify the mine action end-state conditions and strategy for Armenia, the following assumptions are accepted without need of further examination or proof. The ESS will not be amended *unless* any of these assumptions change substantially.

ESS Assumption 1: Risk Acceptance and Management and the ALARA Principle¹⁴. In Armenia, after the completion of mine action programmes, a level of risk associated with undiscovered mines and UXO will still remain: mine action program may not and will not discover and eliminate or mark 100 percent of the mines and UXO that are buried or exist within Armenia. This *residual risk* is managed by maintaining public reporting systems and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) capabilities embodying a range of skills that provide mine or UXO response. Determining what is ALARA based on national and international

¹² The ESS concept for Armenia relies on the experience of the End-State Strategy (ESS) For Mine Action In Lebanon.

¹³ The condition where a dedicated or stand alone mine action authority and capability are no longer required; the necessary mine action functions and actions having been completed and those deemed necessary to continue in some form devolved to the appropriate government, military or other organizations. In other words, the mine action function has achieved success and fulfilled its mandate by reducing the threat to life and limb and also eliminating the effects of mines and unexploded ordnance on socio-economic development to a level as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) and to the point where standalone mine action entities are no longer needed. Required residual responses are undertaken by other organizations as part of overall governmental function, since the known threat also has been reduced to ALARA through the dedicated program work. Naturally, where government function in a country is impaired or non-existent, the presence of international support will be required far longer, and the process to achieve the end-state will require adjustment to reflect this.

¹⁴ The acronym ALARA stands for the phrase "as low as reasonably achievable". In a risk free or perfect world, exposure to dangerous situations, substances (explosives) or items could be reduced to zero. In the real world, reducing exposure to such threats to zero is usually not practically possible; there are always public policy, technical, economic, practical, or social considerations that result in a small but acceptable level of risk. Human beings usually cannot or will not pay the price to reduce the risks to life or limb to zero; the best way to minimize the impact of mines and UXO is to reduce the potential for exposure to a hazard such as mines and UXO to a level that is ALARA through application of mine action processes using international and national standards and quality work in achieving them. Both prior to and following major mine action interventions, the best way to mitigate this risk is to keep individual exposure ALARA through hazard awareness and mine/ UXO removal processes in place permanently which warn of and respond to previously unknown hazardous situations.

standards is a national decision and will depend upon further technical survey, development progress, analyses, resources and other factors.

ESS Assumption 2: National Need in Mine Action. There is an unchanging necessity to free Armenia of landmines and UXO impact. This is first of all related to saving of life and secondly to improved quality of life through socio-economic development. So long as these needs exist there will be a requirement for the program.

ESS Assumption 3: Continuing Mine Action Program Support. Support for mine action will continue from international and/or national sources until the time that the national capacity is such that full management and technical operation of the Armenia mine action programme is able to complete all necessary activities, including generation of resources from appropriate sources, to achieve the end-state mine action goals.

3.4. Factors Impinging on Implementation of the ESS

Mine Action End-State Requirements: Mechanisms embedded within the Government of Armenia shall remain to take appropriate actions to diminish the risks associated with undiscovered mines and UXO. Once the Armenia mine action programme is complete and dedicated mine action entities cease to exist, it shall be ensured that the residual need for coordination is successfully endowed within the existing national institutions and other entities.

Structure for the End-State Strategy for Mine Action in Armenia: The end-state conditions are described in terms of the mine action pillars as described in the “Guide to Humanitarian Mine Action” (Reference B) published in 2003. Additionally, essential mineaction-enabling functions are also included. Achieving the actions required within the five pillars of mine action is widely accepted as necessary to solve the mine/UXO problem at both the operations and policy levels.

Transition from the Existing to a more Efficient Structure: Development of the transitions from the existing system to a well-structured and rationalized national system to support the long term plans leading to an end-state condition will be required.

CHAPTER 4. MINE ACTION END-STATE CONDITIONS, GOALS AND ENABLING OBJECTIVES

Demining End-State Condition – all known dangerous areas with threat to life or deterring the successful socio-economic development are no longer threat to a an ALARA level according to national and international mine action standards.

Including the following sub-conditions:

- *Effective national explosive ordnance disposal capability that operates in accordance with international and national standards;*
- *Public awareness of how to recognize and report suspicious items for disposal;*
- *Complete and accurate mapping of cleared or marked dangerous areas and the data made available as needed to the public and appropriate institutions;*
- *Complete post clearance documentation and land handed over to owners.*

Demining End-State Goal 1: A national system for mine\UXO reporting and response is embedded in appropriate national entity.

Enabling Objective

s:

- 1) National explosives ordnance disposal response capability trained, embedded and sustained, with appropriate links to national information recording system; and with good communication system to respond to emergency and routine requirements.
- 2) National system explosives ordnance disposal response identified in coordination with other actors implementing other activities such as MRE and awareness.

Demining End-State Goal 2: All suspected and confirmed mine/UXO contaminated areas surveyed, marked or cleared, mapped, land handed over and documentation complete and recorded in national data system in accordance with national and international standards.

Enabling Objective

s:

- 1) All suspected areas surveyed to confirm existing contamination; new information recorded according to national and international standards;
- 2) Both cleared and dangerous areas mapped in a continuous process according to national and international standards;
- 3) Mines/UXO cleared throughout Armenia according to national priorities and the *as low as reasonably achievable* (ALARA) principle;
- 4) All residual known dangerous areas marked according to national and international standards using a sustained marking system and capability until clearance occurs;
- 5) Post clearance activities completed according to national standard for cleared land and follow-up information handed over to appropriate actors.

Demining End-State Goal 3: The community liaison function is provided for in conjunction and coordination with all actors including mine risk education and mine victim assistance pillars and other national requirements.

Enabling Objective

s:

- 1) Verification obtained that cleared land has been handed over to the owners in accordance with national procedures;
- 2) Satisfactory coordination is assured.

Mine Risk Education End-State Condition –the population of Armenia is educated in regard to dangers of landmines and UXO and possess enough knowledge to recognize and report these items to the appropriate national authorities.

MRE End-State Goal 1: Achieve public awareness of mine/UXO threat.

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ctives:

- 1) Identify appropriate existing means of communicating minimum essential information;
- 2) A hot line for confirmation and reporting of found mine/UXO is established.

MRE End-State Goal 2: Ensure existence of an appropriate body of MRE responsible for public awareness of the residual mine/unexploded ordnance threat to life and limb.

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- 1) Appropriate body identified;
- 2) Establishment of adequate budgets facilitated;
- 3) The staff of the appropriate trained to manage and implement MRE activities and quality assurance.

MRE End-State Goal 3: Continue MRE activities up to the point of handover, until a casualty rate (that is ALARA) is achieved.

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ctives:

- 1) Implement medium-term plans to achieve coverage and success;
- 2) Provide all necessary support to enable needed levels of MRE activities through existing societal education and information systems.

MRE End-State Goal 4: Ensure adequate coordination with related activities.

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ctives:

- 1) Ensure existence of coordination for MRE between the concerned entities and the responsible national authority.

Mine Victim Assistance End-State Condition - victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance successfully reintegrated into Armenian society, with appropriate support for individual cases provided through a national system.

VA End-state Goal 1: Ensure efficient and timely Victim Assistance by national entities, which are responsible for the interests of mine victims.

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ctives:

- 1) Advocacy for the needs of mine victims within the greater social assistance community;
- 2) Established mine victim support system in Armenia, meeting the medical, social, economic and psychological needs of victims;
- 3) Victims reintegrated into society.

Advocacy End-State Condition – all relevant mine action related information is provided in a useable and accessible form to the Departments of Defence (responsible for technical and material matters) and Foreign Affairs (responsible for international agreements) by mine action program in Armenia.

Advocacy End-state Goal 1: Documented information concerning technical and mine action information;

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Objectives:

- 1) Dossiers prepared for background and other mine action information for Armenia;
- 2) Mine action data packages concerning technical requirements sorted according to needs of other government departments.

Information Management End-State Condition – All relevant mine action data collected and organized in a way to be accessed and used by appropriate governmental departments, the public and other interested entities. Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) data is managed and operated by an appropriate entity.

Information Management End-state Goal 1: Developed information on mine action and accumulated data as a transferable module able to be moved to the management of an appropriate entity, including operating policies, procedures, and documentation.

Enabling Objective

s:

- 1) Adequate information management policies;
- 2) Appropriate information management and IMSMA processes, procedures and protocols developed in consonance with receiving entity and ensuring efficient use of data.

Information Management End-state Goal 2: Mine action and related data formatted in a way that end users can request land info in a standard way.

Enabling Objective

ctives:

- 1) Coordination with State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre established;
- 2) Establish national standard formats for mine information maps and other data.

Regulatory Matters End-state Condition – All standards for mine action quality policy, management, accreditation and licensing, technical and safety guidelines, SOPs and contracts and agreements incorporated into, or administered where necessary by the appropriate national authorities/systems to the degree necessary and up to international standards.

Regulatory Matters End-State Goal 1: Nationally rationalized mine action and EOD regulatory policy, technical standards, SOPs, accreditation and quality management fully reconciled with military and civilian in place systems as required.

Enabling Objective

s:

- 1) Ensure that a continuous process has been in place to make sure full national input and control of all regulatory matters during operations of all types and to permit nationally harmonized outputs prior to disbandment of the dedicated mine action organization as evidenced by vetted and accepted national documents.

CHAPTER 5. IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES AND DIRECTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIUM TERM AND ANNUAL MINE ACTION PLANS

The guidelines and specific direction that follow shall be incorporated into the Armenia Mine Action Strategic Plan 2007-2011 and all other plans as may apply. Additional information, such as historical data, analysis and planning tools and data such as the ALIS 2005 also will be used. The Following **Implementation Guidelines and Directions** will be applied throughout the Armenia Mine Action Program.

Guideline 1: Apply national mine action priorities

The following **Mine Action Priorities for Armenia** will be used in the development of mine action plans with effect from January 2007.

National Mine Action Priority 1: Reducing loss of life or injury from mines/UXO through application of the national humanitarian demining and MRE capabilities;

National Mine Action Priority 2: Mine action contribution into socio-economic development in accordance with the national development plan;

National Mine Action Priority 3: Assistance to mine/UXO victims through direct (coordination) and indirect (lobbying and representation) support;

National Mine Action Priority 4: Reduction of the overall threat of mine/UXO contamination according to the ALARA principle as nationally defined.

Guideline 2: Continue to use of International Mine Action Standards and support international mine action. National technical guidelines, procedures, and protocols will be developed on the basis of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Additionally, mine action administrative, technical and operational policies and procedures will be developed in accordance with national laws and standards and include application of international mine action standards.

Guideline 3: Use all mine information data, in particular Armenia Landmine Impact Survey (ALIS) and IMSMA. If necessary and appropriate, the existing data will be used for planning and providing more accurate estimates for project proposals. The Armenia Landmine Impact Survey provides a national ranking of mine/UXO impact on the Country. There is also additional IMSMA data concerning cleared land, dangerous and suspected dangerous areas. This data will provide a level of planning accuracy not normally available and must form the basis for the initial Armenia long-term plan for Mine Action.

Guideline 4: Support socio-economic development plans. Mine action contributes to the central national priority of socio-economic development. Pro-active close coordination and cooperation with the development entities will be maintained and factored into plans according to national development and mine action priorities.

Guideline 5: Continue and Accelerate Resource Mobilization. The Inter-Agency Governmental Commission on Mine Action and national mine action centre will continue to fulfil their role of donor coordination and provision of mine action information. Resource mobilization will be based on solution-oriented proposals to achieve the ESS.

Guideline 6: Use program and project management principles and capacity building through national staff training and human skills development. International communication is essential to maintaining international support for the mine action in Armenia. Appropriate training of the national mine

action staff at all levels is required to support an appropriate level of activity and efficiency. Continued participation in UN and other mine action training is highly desirable.

Guideline 7: Implement Mine\UXO Survey, verification, area reduction and marking on a priority basis. The areas identified by the Armenia Landmine Impact Survey require technical survey, area reduction, verification and marking work. There may be also unknown areas not yet discovered which will form part of the residual threat.

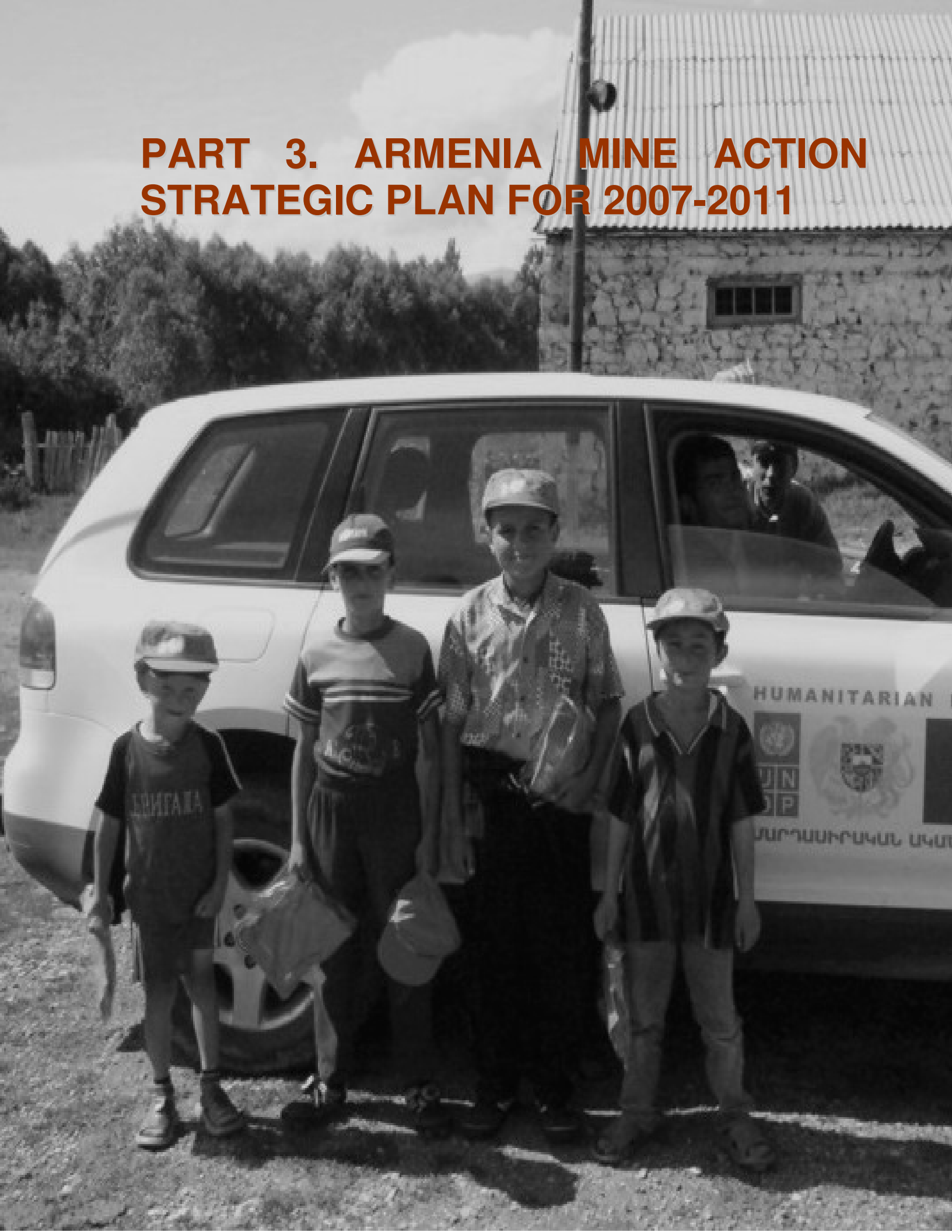
Guideline 8: Establish cost control and value for money as operating principles. Increasing international competition for mine action resources requires Armenia to demonstrate its ability to solve mine/UXO problem in an efficient and timely manner. The control methods of programmes shall be transparent and assist effective planning and implementation and project proposals must demonstrate cost effectiveness.

Guideline 9: Obtain international technical advice. Where needed, plans will include an international technical advisory requirement.

Guideline 10: Employ national experts in the mine action program. Where necessary, employment of civilians is authorized to provide continuity, training and specialized support in key functional areas. Consideration will be given to how the costs of this support can be lowered through donor involvement, especially where this approach may be suitable to replace an international position, and of the longer-term effects such as supporting salary costs for several years.

Guideline 11: Sustain international and national communication. Mine action is strongly supported internationally, including financial, technical and administrative elements. Communication internationally is therefore an important factor in the conduct of the mine action in Armenia.

PART 3. ARMENIA MINE ACTION STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2007-2011



Introduction

The successful implementation of the strategic plan for mine action depends upon four key conditions. These are, *the level of mine risk reduction, its socio economic influence, the available capacity, and, financing*. The concept of mine action in Armenia derives from the assumption that the nature of the mine problem requires more effective risk management through continuous assessment of the situation and effective planning and coordination.

The impacted community and its needs is the focus of mine action in Armenia. The basic idea of the Strategy is to achieve significant reduction of suspect areas in high and medium impact communities along with intensive marking of the remaining locations where mined areas exist or are thought to exist. Such humanitarian demining operations will be supported by MRE activities that will be achieved by public information, the education of impacted groups and other social groups.

During the implementation of this Strategy, Armenia will conduct detailed assessments and prepare integrated mine action plans for high and medium impacted communities. At the same time the current practice of the emergency application of mine action in isolated locations will be transformed into an integrated approach applying assets to deal with impacted communities as a whole; the aim being to reduce risk to an acceptable level and create acceptable conditions for normal life for the impacted population. Along with the integrated approach in the most impacted communities it is planned to undertake individual activity in other endangered communities.

The efficient use of national capacity is of fundamental importance for the realization of this Strategy. It is therefore necessary to institutionalize the role of the national mine action centre and of the military assets involved in mine action. The proper use of such capacities will assist in the implementation of national mine action policy and make better use of available assets.

Due to rather small scope of landmine problem in Armenia, in relatively short time Armenia can turn into impact-free country. However, it will require Armenia to increase its demining capacities substantially, level of mine action coordination and resource mobilization activities, and to adopt a clear and well planned mine action strategy, since otherwise it will require more than thousand years to eliminate the landmine threat in the country.

CHAPTER 1. MAS GOALS AND MAIN POLICY DIRECTIONS FOR 2007-2011

Strategic goal 1: Build capacities to the planned scope of mine action.

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Objective 1.1: By April 2007, establish a national mine action centre which in general will be responsible for coordination or planning of all mine action activities; provision of technical advice to the Inter-Agency Governmental Commission on Mine Action; maintenance of mine action records and databases; (if delegated by the IAGCMA), accreditation of mine action organizations; and investigation of mine action related accidents and incidents. In particular, the mine action centre will hold the overall responsibility for:

- a. Planning and preparing mine action projects and supporting technical documentation;
- b. Prioritizing mine action tasks;
- c. Coordinating and monitoring the implementation of National Mine Action Strategy and Annual Work Plans;
- d. Developing short and long term plans and reports;
- e. Conducting overall quality assurance;
- f. Maintaining central database;
- g. Defining technical and safety standards;
- h. Testing and accrediting;
- i. Handing over certification of cleared areas;
- j. Other tasks assigned by the Inter-Agency Governmental Commission for Mine Action.

Operational Objective 1.2: Gradually increase capacities of the national mine action centre if necessary to meet the requirements of the Strategy.

Operational Objective 1.3: Conduct continuous professional training of the staff of the mine action centre, in accordance with the development of Mine Action in Armenia and new technological achievements throughout the world.

Operational Objective 1.4: By the end of 2007 establish a capacity for the organization and conduct of competitive tenders for tasks related to Mine Action.

Strategic goal 2: Work out, adopt, and implement national humanitarian demining standards and standard operating procedures. Develop and implement a coherent and efficient humanitarian demining quality assurance system.

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Objective 2.1: By the end of 2007 work out, adopt, and beginning with 2008 put in force the national humanitarian demining standards and standard operating procedures.

Operational Objective 2.2: By the end of 2007 work out, adopt, and beginning with 2008 put in force the national humanitarian demining quality assurance system.

Operational Objective 2.3: Ensure the adherence of the AHDC or other demining agency operating in the country to the national standards and SOPs by using the quality assurance system.

Operational Objective 2.3: If necessary, invite international experts for implementing the Strategic Goal 2.

Strategic goal 3: Enable continuous and efficient humanitarian demining operations according to the needs of the country, available material and human resources, and recognized standards.

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Objective 3.1: By 2011, through reduction during technical survey and clearance, to reduce the impact category of high impact communities with SHAs in non-restricted areas to medium, low, or non-impacted by eliminating the first category of suspect areas.

Operational Objective 3.2: Each year develop a minimum of 1 integrated mine action plan for high and medium impacted communities.

Operational Objective 3.3: In developing humanitarian demining annual work plans adhere to the system of categorization and selection of communities and SHAs for demining operations presented in the *Part 4 "Mine Action Strategic Plan for 2007-2011", Chapter 1: "Humanitarian Demining Strategic Plan for 2007-2011", Subchapter "Categorizations and Selection of Communities and SHAs for demining operations"* or to its revisions.

Operational Objective 3.4: If necessary, undertake mine action interventions in other risk areas regardless of priority categorization in order to reduce the existing threat.

Operational Objective 3.5: From 2007 to 2011, ensure at least 60% of area reduction by technical survey.

Operational Objective 3.6: Every year increase the size of the area reduced by technical survey by 37%.

Operational Objective 3.7: Every year increase the size of the cleared area by 37%.

Operational Objective 3.8: In a systematic way, increase the human and technical capacity of the AHDC or any other accredited demining local or international organization for successful accomplishment of the tasks assigned by the IAGCMA, the GoA, and this document.

Operational Objective 3.9: In a systematic way update the general assessment of the mine situation in Armenia.

Operational Objective 3.10: Undertake resource mobilization to increase the capacity of and support demining activities in the Republic of Armenia.

Strategic goal 4: Significantly reduce the level of mine risk for the population by the comprehensive implementation of mine risk education integrated with humanitarian demining operations (clearance, technical survey, marking).

Operational Objective

Objective 4.1: Establish a responsible body/agency for developing, implementing, and monitoring MRE activities.

Operational Objective 4.2: By the end of 2007 professionally train organizations and individuals for the realization of mine risk education programs and projects through courses, seminars and symposiums and develop additional educational materials. Continue training in subsequent years if necessary.

Operational Objective 4.3: By the end of 2007 develop MRE standard operating procedures.

Operational Objective 4.4: By the end of 2007 develop and approve all MRE materials, manuals, and guiding documents.

Operational Objective 4.5: Improve and maintain coordination between all MRE stakeholders at all levels of society.

Operational Objective 4.6: Focus the work of socially orientated organizations and associations involved in MRE on high and medium impacted communities and the most vulnerable groups.

Operational Objective 4.7: By the end of 2007 develop a network of local and other organizations to liaise with local authorities, organizations and individuals.

Operational Objective 4.8: Strengthen capacities of local media to disseminate MRE information and increase representation of MRE subjects in media.

Operational Objective 4.9: By the end of 2007 develop a system for prioritizing and quality assurance in MRE activities.

Strategic goal 5: Establish permanent and sustainable capacities for implementing MRE within the education system in Armenia.

Operational Objective

Objective 5.1: Include MRE educational plan in the regular primary and secondary education system of impacted communities.

Operational Objective 5.2: Provide an MRE manual and educational materials for students and teachers. Introduce an MRE component within regular professional in-service teacher training in impacted communities.

Strategic goal 6: Support the assimilation of mine victims into society by developing of integrated assistance programs with social, medical and other services.

Operational Objective

Objective 6.1: If necessary fulfil and improve existing legislation to ensure that mine victims receive appropriate treatment as handicapped individuals both at national and entity level.

Operational Objective 6.2: By the end of 2007 establish an efficient coordination system for departments and local and international organizations involved in victim assistance.

Operational Objective 6.3: By the end of 2007 establish a landmine victim information system available to all interested parties.

Operational Objective 6.4: Improve the system of rehabilitation in Armenia, particularly through the promotion of an interdisciplinary patient orientated approach.

Operational Objective 6.5: Develop standards of quality for ortho-prothesis and medical rehabilitation by the end of 2007.

Operational Objective 6.6: Achieve an awareness of the needs of mine victims as part of the overall population of handicapped persons.

Operational Objective 6.7: Conduct professional training of mine victims and promote their employment opportunities.

Strategic goal 7: Cooperate with local and international research and development centres to create conditions for more effective mine action.

Operational Objective

Objective 7.1: Establish technical cooperation with local and international institutions working towards the improvement of mine action.

Operational Objective 7.2: Constantly improve National Mine Action Standards and SOPs in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and best practice.

Strategic goal 8: Cooperate on the international and regional levels to develop mine action capacities.

Operational Objective

al Objective 8.1: Develop cooperation with national mine action centres in the region. Contribute to further development of mine action through the exchange of experiences.

Operational Objective 8.2: Establish mechanism for conducting timely and effective donor and public relation in the field of mine action.

Operational Objective 8.3: Focus the attention of donors and raise the interest and confidence of the international public regarding the continuing support of mine action in Armenia.

Strategic Goal 9: Establish and maintain communication with relevant public organizations, improve advocacy and domestic legal regulations.
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Operational Objective

Objective 9.1: Create favourable conditions for resource mobilization for mine action at all levels of government and non-government organizations.

Operational Objective 9.2: Complete procedures for the adoption of National Mine Action Legislation in accordance with international legislation and demands arising from the implementation of this Strategy and undertake procedures of its amendments if necessary.

CHAPTER 2. HUMANITARIAN DEMINING STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2007-2011

2.1. The Situation

The Armenia Landmine Impact Survey, conducted in February-August 2005 identified 60 mine-affected communities within areas amounting to 321.68 square kilometres, which is 1.08% of the territory of Armenia. According to the reports of the Armenian Ministry of Defence, from 2002 to 2005, in total 826,077 square meters of mine-contaminated area was cleared by the Armenian Humanitarian Demining Centre from 2002-2005. The suspected area is mostly composed of pastures and cropland in border regions of Armenia which means that the clearance activities in these areas will have a considerable impact on the poverty and level of socio-economic development of those regions.

2.2. The Concept of Humanitarian Demining

Key Priorities:

Capacity Building and Increased Productivity – Capacity building and increased productivity is vital for efficient and time bounded demining operations in Armenia.

Good Management – Improved management will substantially increase the productivity of demining activities despite the possibility of increasing human and material capacities of demining organizations.

Coordination - Coordination of activities will ensure information exchange, needs and capacity assessment, priority definition and exchange of experiences and attitudes.

National Standards and Quality Assurance – These two systems will ensure the implementation of demining operations according to the national priorities and national and international standards.

During the duration of the strategic plan, high impact and medium impact communities

ies will be turned into impact free communities. During the strategy period in total 7,071,000 m² of land will be demined by technical survey area reduction and clearance.

The strategic period is crucial for the substantial increase in countries demining capacity. Though the scope of the mine problem is relatively small compared to other contaminated countries, the estimates show that with the current speed of demining it will take more than one thousand years to make Armenia an impact free country.

Establishment of such systems like coordination, quality assurance and prioritization as well as the integration of demining activities with other mine action components will substantially increase the demining capacity and quality. Nevertheless, the sufficient and stable financing of mine action activities is the key to the implementation of the humanitarian demining strategic plan for 2007-2011.

2.3. Available and Required Capacities for Humanitarian Demining

The Armenian Humanitarian Demining Centre was established on March 16, 2002 with the help of the US State Department and the US Department of Defence. The Centre is a division of the Engineering Corps of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia. The staff of the Centre consists of 100 military servants, certified according to international standards. The staff is structured in the following way: Managerial staff – 3 persons, operational staff – 10, engineering and technical survey staff – 9, 1st demining unit – 30, 2nd demining unit – 29, MDD section – 14 dog handlers, and 5 medics. The Centre has 17 mine detecting dogs and is equipped with mine detectors, vehicles, one ML-1 flail, first aid toolkits, and new computers.

Rough calculations show that with the current capacity of the AHDC another 1160 years are needed to demine all known SHAs in Armenia. Even if 60% of SHAs are reduced by technical survey, it will take about 460 years to demine all known minefields, including those in military restricted zones, and 147 years to clear minefields out of the military restricted zone. There are several key factors, which will increase clearance capacity of AHDC:

- Efficient management of the available resources;
- Coordination of activities of the Centre with other local mine action organizations;
- Adoption of National Demining Strategy and Annual Work Plans;
- Adoption of national humanitarian demining standard operating procedures;
- Existence of sustainable and significant financial assistance;
- Development of quality assurance mechanisms;
- Training in newest and efficient demining techniques;
- Regularly updated technical equipment of the Centre.

One of the major tasks of the Government of Armenia shall be the expansion of the operational capacity of the AHDC and increased capacity to efficiently manage, control and supervise Demining field teams, administer resources to support field operations, and train, equip, and employ field teams. The monitoring and evaluation of the adherence of the AHDC activities to national and international mine-action standards and management of resources is of a crucial importance.

The following measures are crucial for the successful accomplishment of the Humanitarian Demining Strategic Plan for 2007-2011:

- Provide technical advise and training on new demining technologies and safety rules, if necessary by the help of international experts;
- Increase the human and material capacity of the Centre to meet the required increase in the productivity of demining activities, i.e. 37% annual increase in the total size of the areas cleared and reduced by the technical survey;
- Assist AHDC with determining and/or providing operational and safety equipment and procuring new assets, including mechanical and manual clearance equipment, and mine detection dogs;
- Conduct training programmes for the AHDC on international and national mine action standards, national legislation on mine action, clearance standards and standard operating procedures (SOP), and Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA);
- Establish a quality assurance system to evaluate and monitor the adherence of the Demining activities of the AHDC to the national mine action standards, strategy and annual work plans.

2.4. 2007-2011 Strategic Plan for Humanitarian Demining Activities (Policy making, management, and coordination)

TABLE 3. STRATEGIC PLAN OF HUMANITARIAN DEMINING ACTIVITIES					
HUMANITARIAN DEMINING ACTIVITIES	DURING YEAR (AMD)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY					
IAGCMA meetings on humanitarian demining/ and demining operations.	X	X	X	X	X
Regular meetings with all stakeholders of demining activities.	X	X	X	X	X
At least 1 integrated mine action plan developed for high and medium impact communities.	X	X	X	X	X
Analysis of the implementation of the part of Mine Action Strategy on Humanitarian Demining	X	X	X	X	X
QUALITY ASSURANCE					
Adoption of national humanitarian demining standards and SOPs.	X				
Adoption of the national humanitarian demining quality assurance system.	X				
Quality assurance of demining activities.	X	X	X	X	X
Accreditation of demining organizations, certification of their programs.	X				
INFORMATION AND DATABASE					
Systematic update of the general assessment of the mine situation.	X	X	X	X	X
PUBLIC INFORMATION					
Annual reports and other relevant information on demining activities disseminated via printed materials, websites, and press releases.	X	X	X	X	X
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT					
Humanitarian demining management related course	X			X	
Technical survey related course	X			X	
Clearance related course		X			
Mapping and GIS related course		X			X
Humanitarian demining quality assurance related course	X		X		

2.5. 2007-2011 Strategic Plan for Humanitarian Demining Operations (Area Reduction and Clearance)

Categorizations and Selection of Communities and SHAs for Demining Operations

The prioritization of demining sites is based on three criteria – restricted or non-restricted status, level of impact defined during the Landmine Impact Survey, and the poverty level of the community impacted by SHAs. The reasons for those criteria are the following:

- SHAs in military restricted (border) areas cannot be subject to humanitarian demining, unless there is a peace agreement and corresponding decision of the Government of Armenia.
- The categorization of impacted communities according to the landmine impact survey scoring system provides a good and internationally acceptable assessment of the level of landmine/UXO impact in terms of human life and social-economic resources.
- It is assumed that by eliminating social-economic blockages caused by landmine/UXO contamination, demining operations may contribute to the general poverty reduction strategy of the Government of Armenia. The assessment of the level of poverty in impacted communities is based on the results of National Human Development Survey.¹⁵

Based on these criteria the following categories of prioritised demining areas and communities were defined:

¹⁵ Almost half of the 60 affected communities were the object also of surveys that the Government of Armenia and the United Nations Development Program conducted in 2002 and 2003, under the designation of the "National Human Development Survey (NHDS)". The NHDS was comprised of interrelated community, family, and family member surveys, with the ultimate goal of estimating national and regional poverty levels. Included in the questionnaires were a considerable number of items concerning facilities and service provision importance rankings for development issues, as well as demographic changes.

- ⇒ 1st importance category – Communities with high level of impact and with suspected areas outside military restricted zone.
- ⇒ 2nd importance category - Communities with medium level impact and with suspected areas outside military restricted zone that are qualified as very poor communities by the NHDS.

TABLE 4. SHA SIZE AND BLOCKAGES BY CATEGORIES OF HIGH AND MEDIUM IMPACT COMMUNITIES				
Category	Province	Community	Total size (m ²) **	Blockages eliminated
1 st	Syunik	Yeghvard*	1,515,000	Pasture, Rain fed Cropland, Drinking Water, Road
	Total size of SHA 1,515,000			
2 nd	Gegharkunik	Kut*	4,756,000	Pasture, Rain fed Cropland
	Syunik	Nerqin Hand*	800,000	Pasture, Rain fed Cropland, Forest, Road
	Total size of SHA 5,556,000			
TOTAL SIZE - 7,071,000				

* After demining communities will become impact free.

** The total size indicates the total size of SHAs to be cleared in order to decrease the level of landmine/UXO impact on communities, for example, from high to medium.

Demining plan for 2007-2011 will be implemented only in communities and SHAs of 1st and 2nd category. In the period 2007 to the end of 2011 it is planned to reduce suspect area by 7,071,000 m² or by 7.07 km². This reduction will be effected by technical survey reduction and clearance. Only SHAs outside military restricted zones will be subjected to demining. The strategic plan may be revised, if there is a peace agreement and appropriate decision of the Government of Armenia to clear SHAs in military restricted zones.

Technical survey will be used to reduce suspect area to that which is confirmed as a mined area or where a serious probability of mines exists, which then would be subject to clearance. Technical survey will be conducted by appropriately accredited organizations under the technical monitoring of the national mine action centre or international expertise arranged by the centre.

The total planned area reduction resulting from technical survey is 4,242,600 m² (or 4.2 km²) and will reduce the suspected area in an average by 60%. It is planned to increase the area reduced by technical survey by approximately 37% every year. The technical survey reduction of areas of 1st importance category will be completed in 2008. It is planned that from 2008-2011, entire 2nd importance category will be reduced.

Clearance operations will be conducted by accredited organizations under the technical monitoring of the national mine action centre or international expertise arranged by the centre. The total area planned for clearance is 2,828,400 m² with an annual average increase of 37%. Clearance operations will be conducted in Category 1 and Category 2 areas with the focus on high impact and very poor medium impact communities with SHAs in non-restricted zones.

TABLE 5. STRATEGIC PLAN OF DEMINING OPERATIONS 2007-2011							
STRATEGIC PLAN		DURING YEAR (M ²)					
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	TOTAL
TECHNICAL SURVEY	1 ST CATEGORY OF PRIORITY	403,881	505,119	-	-	-	909,000
	2 ND CATEGORY OF PRIORITY	-	52,775	768,891	1,057,957	1,453,978	3,333,600
	TOTAL REDUCED BY TECHNICAL SURVEY	403,881	557,894	768,891	1,057,957	1,453,978	4,242,600
CLEARANCE	1 ST CATEGORY OF PRIORITY	269,254	336,746	-	-	-	606,000
	2 ND CATEGORY OF PRIORITY	-	35,183	512,594	705,305	969,318	2,222,400
	CLEARED TOTAL	269,254	371,929	512,594	705,305	969,318	2,828,400
DEMINED	1 ST CATEGORY OF PRIORITY	673,135	841,865	-	-	-	1,515,000
	2 ND CATEGORY OF PRIORITY	-	87,958	1,281,485	1,763,262	2,423,296	5,556,000
	DEMINED TOTAL	673,135	929,823	1,281,485	1,763,262	2,423,296	7,071,000

Quality assurance will be effected by technical monitoring of humanitarian demining, assessment and accreditation of organizations, training and testing, general security and protective measures on work sites, and internal quality control provided by the demining organizations.

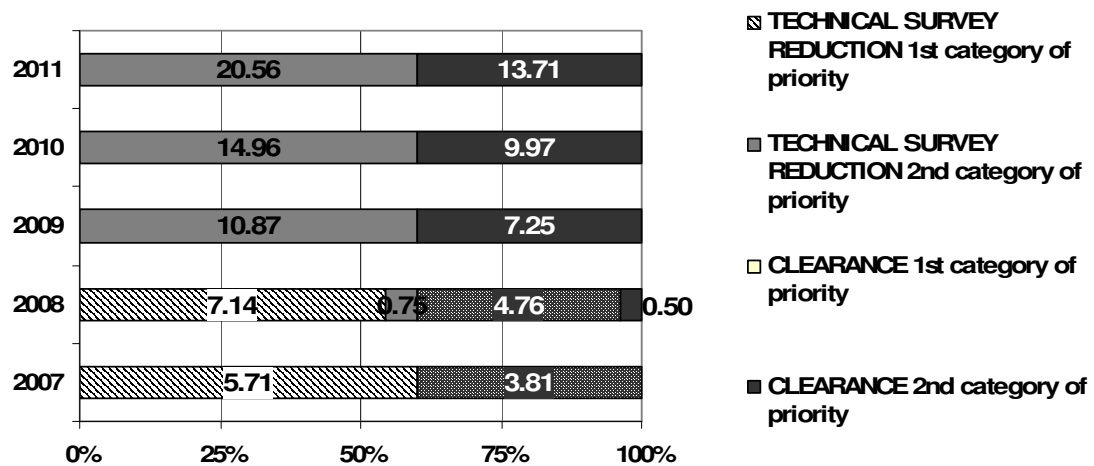
National mine action centre will have the key role in the assurance of quality and organize the management of the overall process in accordance with National Mine Action Standards and other directives endorsed by the IAGCMA. An increase of inspections and technical monitoring, and an increase in the amount of testing and final clearance controls will proportionally follow the increase in humanitarian demining.

Assessment of the required funding sources was carried out on the basis of an analysis of the available data obtained from the organizations' implementers of demining activities. The assessed resources for humanitarian demining for the period 2007 - the end of 2011 amounts to 96.46% of the total required resources for mine action in Armenia.

2.6. Expected Results

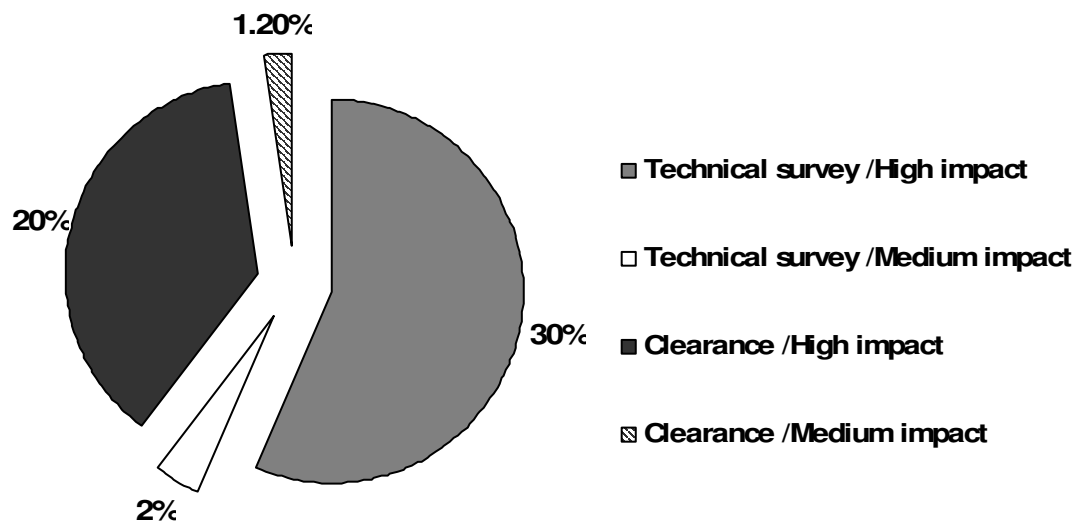
- Trained and equipped up to date demining operational field teams;
- Strengthened capacity of demining organizations to manage mine-action at the national level;
- Enhanced operational capability and increased productivity;
- Thorough monitoring/quality assurance of demining activities;
- Distribution of cleared land according to development plans and poverty reduction guidelines;
- Coordinated demining activities;
- Updated and disseminated information on mine situation in the country;
- One high impact and two very poor medium impact communities made impact free.
- 7,071,000 m² of land demined and handed over to communities.

The planned level of activity will result in a 2,19% reduction (7,071 km²) of the current suspect area and 6,81% of the suspect area outside of the military restricted zone by the end of 2011.

FIGURE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF DEMINING ACTIVITIES BY TYPES AND CATEGORIES

In result of demining activities in 2007-2011, 30% (0.91 km²) of the suspected area in high impact communities will be reduced by technical survey and 20% (0.61 km²) cleared. In medium impact communities 2% (3.33 km²) of the suspected area in medium impact communities will be reduced by technical survey and 1,2% (2.22 km²) will be cleared. In total, 50,4% (1.51 km²) of suspected area in high impact communities and 3% (5.56 km²) of suspected area in medium impact community will be demined.

In result of the survey, all impacted communities with suspected areas outside military restricted zone and all medium impact communities with suspected areas outside military restricted zone and qualified as very poor communities will be turned into impact free communities.

FIGURE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF DEMINING ACTIVITIES BY TYPES, CATEGORIES, AND YEARS

CHAPTER 3. MRE STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2011

3.1. The Situation

Since demining is a long process and inhabitants of contaminated areas must learn how to live safely in the immediate neighbourhood of mines. Mine risk education programs must be implemented in parallel with the demining operations and aim to reduce risk through the promotion of safe and appropriate behaviour in the mine-contaminated areas.

TABLE 6. AFFECTED COMMUNITIES AND POPULATIONS BY REGIONS		
Province	Communities	Population
Ararat	4	2,890
Gegharkunik	11	14,852
Syunik	18	8,207
Tavush	20	39,003
Vayots Dzor	7	3,785
Total	60	68,737

According to the results of the ALIS, since the beginning of the war in 1988 till August 2005, 394 persons fell victim to landmines in Armenia. There have been 14 recent victims from 2003 to August 2005.¹⁶ All were males of adolescent and adult age. A noticeable fact concerning recent victims in Armenia is the total absence of female and child victims. Activities at the time of the incident are dominated by agricultural activities.

On average, communities had been exposed to the mine/UXO hazard for 12.7 years. Allowing for the variable exposure time among affected communities, the incidence rate for the period ending mid-2003 (the period bracketing the “old victims”) works out as 51.7 per 100,000 persons per year. The incidence rate dropped between the two periods by a factor of 5:1, testimony to a very significant learning process within the population at risk.

3.2. The Concept of Mine Risk Education

Key Priorities:

Relying on local capacities - it is extremely important that all organizations and institutions, including local self-governing bodies and province administrations support the development of local mine risk education capacities.

Integrated approach to mine action activities at the local community level - integrated plans will multiply the effect of mine action activities, and reduce the mine risk and its negative impact.

Coordination - Coordination of activities will ensure information exchange, needs and capacity assessment and priority definition.

MRE activities will be implemented through curricula

and extra curricula activities in primary and secondary schools of impacted communities. Additional activities will be conducted for youth and adults. The activities of NGOs connected with school age children will be coordinated with the responsible education authorities. For the adult population – the main victim of landmines/UXO - trainings in communities will be conducted by specialized non-governmental organizations and local authorities.

The focus of activity will be the emplacement of a structure for the management of MRE within the impacted communities. The MRE priority in public information will be the local media involved with the problems of the population in impacted communities and which can significantly improve risk reduction.

¹⁶ There have been additional 4 victims in 2006 that are included in IMSMA but not in ALIS. All of them were adult male. Two of victims were military. One person died in result of injuries.

The development of a system of quality assurance within MRE involves the adoption of standards and SOPs, training – particularly training of staff for quality assurance, accreditation, and the organizing of monitoring and evaluation. All elements of a system for quality assurance will be in place by the end of 2007.

3.3. Available And Required MRE Capacities

In 2006, the Armenian Red Cross Society together with the UNDP Armenia Humanitarian Demining Project has implemented a pilot Mine Risk Education in medium and high impact communities of five impacted provinces of Armenia. Before starting MRE activities, eight members of ARCS had participated in the MRE training of trainers organized by UNICEF and UNDP Armenia. Despite the obvious success of the organization in the implementation of MRE, the Armenian community has substantial gaps in institutional setting and capacity to implement MRE in the future. The following measures are essential to build up an efficient and sustainable MRE capacity in the country:

- Establishment of a coordinating body or agency responsible for coordination and successful implementation of all MRE related activities in the country;
- Establishment of a network of local NGOs and international organizations dealing with MRE and MA issues;
- Strong and efficient liaison with local-self governing bodies of impacted communities and province administration as well as with local NGOs;
- Strong PR campaign with an emphasize on local/regional mass media;
- Adoption, regular update, and follow up of MRE strategy and annual plans;
- Development and approval of MRE standard operating procedures;
- Adoption of MRE organization accreditation criteria;
- Development of a setting of MRE priorities;
- Introduction of MRE plan in secondary education system of impacted communities;
- Professionally trained MRE managerial, quality assurance, and training staff;
- Stable financial support of MRE activities.

The coordination between key implementers of MRE activities is central to the realization of MRE strategic goals and necessary for successful distribution of resources allocated for MRE activities. The affected local communities and other implementers of activities at the local level, such as NGOs and authorities are a significant resource. Though these organizations do not possess any financial power, they are directly affected by the mine risk and if trained and informed they can make a valuable contribution to the implementation of the MRE strategy.

3.4. 2007-2011 MRE Strategic Plan

TABLE 7. STRATEGIC PLAN OF MRE ACTIVITIES 2007-2011					
MRE ACTIVITIES	DURING YEAR				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY					
Establishment of a coordinating body responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring, and other MRE related activities.	X				
Annual meeting of the IAGCMA relating to MRE issues.	X	X	X	X	X
Annual meeting of MRE stakeholders.	X	X	X	X	X
Establishment of a network of NGOs and associations working on MRE.	X				
Analysis of the implementation of the part of Mine Action Strategy on MRE.	X	X	X	X	X
QUALITY ASSURANCE					
Development and adoption of MRE SOPs.	X				
Accreditation of organizations for implementing MRE and certification of their programs and operations.	X				
Development of MRE quality assurance system.	X				
Quality assurance of MRE activities	X	X	X	X	X
MINE RISK EDUCATION					
Inclusion of MRE framework in educational plans and program at primary and secondary school level in impacted communities.	X				
Development of MRE Handbook and teaching aids.	X				
Implementation of MRE at secondary schools of impacted communities	X	X	X	X	X
Implementation of MRE activities among youth and adult population of impacted communities.	X	X	X	X	X
PUBLIC INFORMATION					
Selection and analysis of potential media for presentation of MRE activities		X			X
Public awareness and MRE campaigns	X	X	X	X	X
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT					
Basic course for MRE instructors	X			X	
MRE management related course	X			X	
MRE quality assurance course	X			X	
Teacher professional development course	X			X	

Assessment of the required funding sources was carried out on the basis of an analysis of the available data obtained from the organizations' implementers of mine risk education activities. The assessed resources for the mine risk education programs for the period 2007 - the end of 2011 amounts to 1,32% of the total required resources for mine action in Armenia.

3.5. Expected Results

- Developed national mine-risk education policies, strategic plans, mine-risk education standards, curricula, other technical documents and public information initiatives;
- Established mine-risk education capacity at the national as well as local level;
- Established capacity at the Ministry of Education based on mine-risk education trainings, mine-risk education materials, monitoring, evaluation and implementation support to deliver mine-risk education via school curricula and textbooks;
- Monitored and evaluated mine-risk education strategies and programs of different organizations.

CHAPTER 4. 2007-2011 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE

4.1. The Situation

According to the Armenia Landmine Impact Survey, conducted in 2005, among the 60 communities surveyed and found affected, 39 had a history of landmine or UXO incidents that harmed one or more persons. Among these communities, seven recorded recent¹⁷ victims. The number of communities where incidents occurred more than two years previously was also 39, implying that all of the recent victims came to harm in communities with previous victims.

In 2005, the total number of mine and/or UXO victims in Armenia was 394 with 14 recent victims (from Spring 2003 to August 2005), and 380 victims of less recent date. Based on the recent victim total, the survey calculated an estimated incidence of landmine and UXO victims per 100,000 people per year. These rates were estimated using population estimates that key informants offered for their own communities as well as on provincial and national figures taken from census reports. The rates work out as 10.18 within the populations of affected communities; 2.57 within the population of affected regions and 0.22 within the entire nation.

For all but three of the 60 affected communities, for the period between the time when residents were first affected by contamination and the time of data collection, which ended in August 2005, figures are known with enough precision to calculate the victim incidence rate for 2003-2005 (recent victims) and also for the previous period. The incidence rate for the period ending mid-2003 (the period bracketing the “old victims”) works out as 51.7 per 100,000 persons per year. The incidence rate dropped between the two periods by a factor of 5:1, which is a testimony to a very significant learning process within the population at risk.

However, in 2006, 4 more victims were recorded which were not included in the calculations of the Armenian Landmine Impact Survey conducted in 2005. While the 2006 victims have changed the number of recent and total victims presented in the table below, they have not changed much the gender and age patterns of the landmine/UXO victim profile in Armenia.

TABLE 8. MINE AND UXO VICTIM SURVEY (2006 VICTIMS INCLUDED)				
Period	Communities involved	Victims		
		Killed	Injured	All
2006 victims	2	1	3	4
LIS Recent victims (2003-2005)	7	1	13	14
Victims of less recent date	39	109	271	380
All victims	43	111	287	398

A noticeable fact concerning recent victims in Armenia is the total absence of female and child victims. Among males of adolescent and adult age, there is rather equal distribution of recent victims within the age groups: 15 – 29 years old – four victims, 30 – 44 years old – five victims, 45 – 59 years old – three victims. Only two of the recent victims were in the age group 60 of years and above. In terms of military/civilian status and civilian occupations, the recent victims represent a diverse picture, but with an expected predominance of agricultural occupations. Four of the recent victims were in military service¹⁸.

¹⁷ For the purposes of this survey, “recent” means that an “incident took place within the past 24 months”.

¹⁸ It should be noted that the community interview provides information on recent military victims only in the cases, when the community knows them. One could assume that there might be cases, when the community is not aware of recent military victims, especially when incidents occurred in the restricted military zone, which is not accessible for civilians.

All but one of the survivors received emergency care. Two survivors had access to rehabilitative care. No cases were noted of a survivor receiving psychological, social, or vocational training.

TABLE 10. TYPE OF CARE RECEIVED BY VICTIMS NOT KILLED IMMEDIATELY

Emergency care	22
Rehabilitative care	2
Vocational training	0
Other care	0
Total	24

The Concept of Victim Assistance

Implementation of landmine victim assistance depends on the progress of the current reforms

in the fields of social welfare, employment and health care system. The main preconditions for realization of the established priorities are: the development of a coordination system, quality assurance system, and information system; improvement of planning and reporting; and reliance on local capacities.

The national mine action centre will act as a coordination centre bringing together all those active in the field of mine victim assistance. The centre will undertake its role of landmine/UXO victim assistance coordination centre by the end of 2007.

The development of the quality assurance system will focus on the establishment of medical rehabilitation standards, ortho-prosthetics services, training of quality assurance staff, development of standard operational procedures for the implementation of mine victim assistance projects, accreditation for work in Armenia and organization of project control and evaluation activities. The quality assurance system shall be established by the end of 2007.

The information system will be developed through a web presentation and database. The first task of the coordination group will be to establishment the database using the data and best practices of the existing information systems by the end of 2007.

Wherever possible, landmine victim assistance activities will be directed toward the use of local capacities.

TABLE 9. RECENT VICTIMS BY MILITARY/CIVILIAN STATUS, AND CIVILIAN OCCUPATION

Military	4
Civilian	14
Herding	6
Farming	3
Tractor driver	1

4.2.

Key Priorities:

Accessibility: Improved accessibility to comprehensive services, including counselling, vocational training, and economic opportunities for landmine survivors.

Empowerment of Landmine Victims: Socially and economically empowered landmine victims capable of adapting to changed circumstances and entering vocational training/returning to school/contributing to family income;

Coordinate Victim Assistance: Established network and coordination system among nongovernmental organizations addressing the needs of landmine survivors;

Capacity Building: Upgraded capacity of nongovernmental organizations to provide rehabilitation services.

4.3. Available and Required Capacities for Victim Assistance

Armenia has a wide network of health care facilities and qualified personnel for specialized medical assistance, for production of prosthetic appliances, and for rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine survivors. However, landmine victims do not receive any psychological or social rehabilitation and although legislation exists to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, it does not provide for special approach towards land mine survivors.

It is worth mentioning that different schemes for landmine victim assistance employed for civilian and military victims. It is a common understanding that the victim assistance scheme for military personnel is better developed and financially supported.

Landmine victim assistance programs function as a supplement to the existing services. Their basic components include: referral and financial support for provision of prosthetic devices and rehabilitation, material assistance, psychosocial support, social-economic reintegration, advocacy and promotion of rights.

4.4. 2007-2011 Strategic Plan For Victim Assistance

TABLE 11. STRATEGIC PLAN OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES FOR 2007-2011					
VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES	DURING YEAR (AMD)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
COORDINATION POLICY					
Definition of Mine Victim Assistance strategic tasks.	X				
Stakeholder meetings on Mine Victim Assistance issue.	X	X	X	X	X
Establishment of coordination mechanisms for the activities of local, national, and international organizations that aim to provide landmine victim assistance.	X				
QUALITY ASSURANCE AND LEGISLATION					
Establishment of VA working group.	X				
Development and adoption of victim assistance standards.	X				
Adoption of the VA quality assurance system.	X				
VA Quality assurance and monitoring.	X	X	X	X	X
INFORMATION SYSTEM AND DATABASE					
Establishment of a standardized information gathering system and database for landmine victim assistance.		X			
Conducting assessment of the current social, psychological, health and economic status of mine victims according to their categories.		X			
Database maintenance and update.	X	X	X	X	X
PUBLIC INFORMATION DISSEMINATION					
Publication of landmine victim assistance issues on the web site of the national mine action centre.	X	X	X	X	X
ASSISTANCE AND REHABILITATION					
Defining the main directions of VA rehabilitation.	X				
Supporting victims' ortho-prosthetic and medical rehabilitation.	X	X	X	X	X
Supporting professional development, prequalification and professional training for landmine victims.		X		X	
Supporting and promoting mine survivor psychological and social rehabilitation projects.			X		X

Assessment of the required funding sources was carried out on the basis of an analysis of the available data obtained from the organizations' implementers of mine risk education activities. The assessed resources for the mine victim assistance programs for the period 2007 - the end of 2011 amounts to 0,11% of the total required resources for mine action in Armenia.

4.5. Expected Results

- Improved coordination and cooperation between all organizations and governmental agencies included in the activities related to the mine victim assistance;
- Improved quality of rehabilitation services due to the established quality assurance standards and mechanisms.
- Improved coordination and regular distribution of resources as well as monitoring of the assistance programs' impacts due to standardized information system and database;
- More active role of persons with disabilities, including mine victims, due to better access to quality rehabilitation services, provided by local institutions with the support of nongovernmental organizations, through monitoring, complementing of activities and ensuring experts as necessary.

CHAPTER 5. FINANCIAL ASPECT

The total financial requirement to support the Armenia Mine Action Strategic Plan for 2007-2011 is 13,800,903,489 AMD¹⁹ of which 96.46% or 13,800,949,536 AMD is for humanitarian demining operations, 1.76% or 252,069,600 AMD is for national mine action centre, 1.32% or 188,556,000 AMD is for MRE, 0.11% or 15,878,400 AMD is for victim assistance and 0.35% or 49,620,000 AMD is for policy, advocacy and general capacity building.

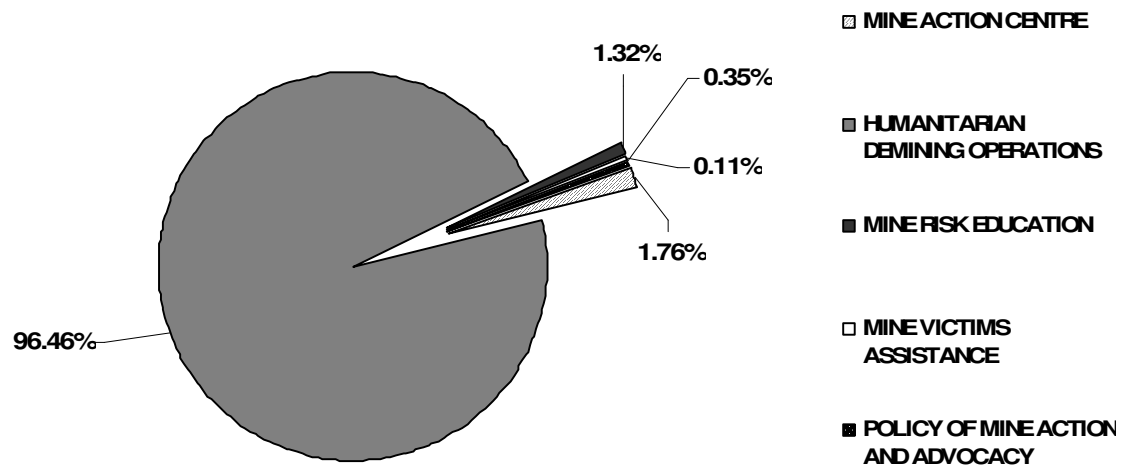
TABLE 12. FINANCIAL PLAN

FINANCING MINE ACTION IN USD		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	TOTAL
MINE ACTION CENTRE	STAFF	15,084,480	15,084,480	15,084,480	15,084,480	15,084,480	75,422,400
	OPERATIONAL COSTS	4,763,520	4,763,520	4,763,520	4,763,520	4,763,520	23,817,600
	OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND RENT	13,893,600	2,381,760	2,381,760	2,381,760	2,381,760	23,420,640
	COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT	4,763,520	4,763,520	4,763,520	4,763,520	4,763,520	23,817,600
	QUALITY ASSURANCE	32,947,680	12,702,720	10,717,920	6,748,320	6,748,320	69,864,960
	INFORMATION SYSTEM AND DATABASE	1,190,880	1,190,880	1,190,880	1,190,880	1,190,880	5,954,400
	PUBLIC INFORMATION AND RELATIONS	1,984,800	1,984,800	1,984,800	1,984,800	1,984,800	9,924,000
	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING	3,969,600	3,969,600	3,969,600	3,969,600	3,969,600	19,848,000
	TOTAL	78,598,080	46,841,280	44,856,480	40,886,880	40,886,880	252,069,600
HUMANITARIAN DEMINING OPERATIONS	COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT	4,763,520	4,763,520	4,763,520	4,763,520	4,763,520	23,817,600
	QUALITY ASSURANCE	74,818,227	103,348,536	142,435,599	195,984,709	269,346,490	785,933,562
	INFORMATION AND DATABASE	1,190,880	1,190,880	1,190,880	1,190,880	1,190,880	5,954,400
	REPORTING AND PUBLIC INFORMATION	396,960	396,960	396,960	396,960	396,960	1,984,800
	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAININGS	23,817,600	15,878,400	7,939,200	15,878,400	7,939,200	71,452,800
	CLEARANCE	748181475	1,033,486,551	1,424,355,200	1,959,845,110	2,693,463,313	7,859,331,648
	TECHNICAL SURVEY	480,973,805	664,384,807	915,656,914	1,259,899,832	1,731,513,321	5,052,428,679
	TOTAL	1,334,142,467	1,823,449,654	2,496,738,273	3,43,7959,411	4,708,613,684	13,800,903,489
MINE RISK EDUCATION	MRE ACTIVITIES	27,787,200	27,787,200	27,787,200	27,787,200	27,787,200	138,936,000
	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAININGS	7,939,200	-	3,969,600	-	-	11,908,800
	QUALITY ASSURANCE	1,984,800	1,984,800	1,984,800	1,984,800	1,984,800	9,924,000
	PUBLICATIONS	19,848,000	1,984,800	1,984,800	1,984,800	1,984,800	27,787,200
	TOTAL	57,559,200	31,756,800	35,726,400	31,756,800	31,756,800	188,556,000
MINE VICTIMS ASSISTANCE	ASSISTANCE AND REHABILITATION	2,778,720	2,778,720	2,778,720	2,778,720	2,778,720	13,893,600
	QUALITY ASSURANCE	198,480	198,480	198,480	198,480	198,480	992,400
	INFORMATION AND DATABASE	198,480	198,480	198,480	198,480	198,480	992,400
	TOTAL	3,175,680	3,175,680	3,175,680	3,175,680	3,175,680	15,878,400
POLICY OF MINE ACTION AND ADVOCACY	INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES	5,954,400	5,954,400	5,954,400	5,954,400	5,954,400	29,772,000
	RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, CAMPAIGNS, OTHER EVENTS DEDICATED TO MINE ACTION	7,939,200	3,969,600	3,969,600	1,984,800	1,984,800	19,848,000
	TOTAL	13,893,600	9,924,000	9,924,000	7,939,200	7,939,200	49,620,000
GRAND TOTAL		1,496,499,107	1,487,369,027	191,5147,414	259,0420,833	3,521,717,971	14,307,027,489

¹⁹ Exchange rate of the Central Bank of Armenia on August 30, 2006 is 1USD= 396.96 AMD

The assessment of fund availability per source was made on the basis of information provided by the various departments, agencies and organizations. It is reliable but not finite. The development of the capacity for resource mobilization, allocation from budgets at all levels of government, and allocations from the local economic sector will be a decisive factor in ensuring the necessary fund availability; otherwise the objectives of the Strategy can not be realized.

FIGURE 3. REQUIRED FUNDS BY MINE ACTION ACTIVITIES



CHAPTER 6. AVAILABLE AND REQUIRED MINE ACTION CAPACITY

Mine Action in Armenia is a newly developing sphere with most of the institutional framework and capacity yet to be established. While there were several distinct mine action activities conducted by various governmental and Civic society organizations (AHDC, UNDP, ICBL, ARCS, etc) there was no coordination body or national mine action authority or centre operating in the country.

There are only two organizations the activity of which is dedicated solely to Mine Action – Armenia Humanitarian Demining Centre as a pure military structure and the Armenian National Committee of ICBL that is working on the mine action advocacy issues. Only in 2004 the UNDP and the Government of Armenia by undertaking the UNDP Armenia Humanitarian Demining Project succeed in implementing a three year integrated programme on Mine Action, coordinating and bringing together various stakeholders of mine action community in the country. The Mine Action Authority – the Inter-Agency Governmental Commission on Mine Action – was established on October 13, 2005, by the decree of the Prime Minister of Armenia.

There are key fundamental preconditions for the future mine action in Armenia - establishment of the National Mine Action Centre as a coordinating, managing, monitoring, and implementing body; adoption of the National Mine Action Strategy, Mine Action Standards, legislation, and SOPs, substantial increase in the demining capacity, and sufficient funding.

Another issue is the technical survey and clearance capacity existing in Armenia. Compared to other contaminated countries, the total size of SHAs in Armenia is relatively big, however, with rather low number of victims and substantial level of “learning process” among the impacted population. In this

context, the priority is given to clearance and area reduction through technical survey with relatively small MRE and Victim assistance activities.

However, by the current demining capacity of Armenia the clearance of only areas outside the military restricted zone will require more than 1,000 years. Without increasing the current capacity, the demining of the area defined for the Strategy for 2007-2011 will require almost 80 years. In order to achieve the demining goals defined in Mine Action Strategic Plan 2007-2011, the current demining capacity shall be increased 37% annually. Though the good management of the current capacity is also an important factor, the increase in human capacity and technical equipment is vital.

The economic situation and the level of potential economic development are such that the support of the international community and specific donor countries and parties will be necessary for the period of this Strategy.

CONCLUSION

This Strategy addresses mine action in the broadest sense. Despite that it will be necessary to additionally analyze the key issues and stands upon which the strategy has been developed - public relations, socio-economic impact, integral approach to mine action and resource mobilization. In fact this Strategy will initiate the process of further sub-strategies and annual work plans important for the further advancement of mine action in Armenia.

This paper is the first attempt of the Republic of Armenia in developing a systematized and long-term mine action strategy. By developing and adopting this strategy Armenia intends to enter the list of countries with clear commitment of becoming a landmine impact country. It also expresses its responsibility of securing a safe and developed life for all its citizens.

The awareness of the population of Armenia, local authorities and politicians is of key significance in resolving the mine problem, a precondition for development in the country. At the moment it is difficult to evaluate the future interest of donors and the likely success of Armenia in the international competition for funds, but it is clear that the support to mine action will depend on the readiness of Armenia to fully take responsibility for its future.

Humanitarian demining and other mine action activities are a capital investment in the socioeconomic development of Armenia and a powerful measure in the fight against poverty. Reducing mine risk and its impact on the socio-economic situation to the level where it will not present a serious threat to the successful realization of other essential developmental aims is fundamental to the overall human development of the Republic of Armenia.

The success of the Strategy will depend on its subsequent implementation and the full use of capacity and stable growth of operational activity is a key condition to that.