

ALBANIAN EXPERIENCE



SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL- ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF MINE SURVIVORS 1999-2009



Tirana, 7 – 8 October – 2009

BENEFICIARIES SUPPORTED



- Direct Beneficiaries : 272 Mine Victims and their families
- 238 Mine/UXO survivors -34 families of mine victims
- Indirect beneficiaries: 1,904 family members of mine victims
- 88 survivors- house holds- 156 cows
- 9 Survivors got 27 bee hives
- 68 Survivors completed vocational courses
- 27 survivors got interest free loans to establish home based businesses/buy tools
- 10 children –survivors supported with catch up classes/computer and English classes
- 47 survivors attended business/entrepreneurship trainings

Psychological Support

- 167 survivors 660 psychological sessions
- 238 survivors – 1,031 services(visits) (444 survivors including those visited twice)

Social Support

- 272 victims visited 2,966 times (Including those visited twice or three time)
- 197 survivors participated in sports Recreation Activities
- 735 children of mine survivors participated in summer re-creation camps

Projects in Years

Project:	Re-integration of Mine Victims of Northern Albania through Development of household economies
Objective:	Support survivors to be economically re-integrated in society through animal husbandry activities
Project dates:	April 2002 - July 2003
Donor :	UNICEF
funding:	14,500 \$ US
Targeted Beneficiaries:	238 mine survivors
Results:	9 victims supported with 27 bee-Hives

Projects in Years

Project:	Re-integration of Mine Victims through Animal Husbandry
Objective:	To support mine victims to be economically re-integrated in society through animal husbandry
Project dates:	3 (years Year) 10/2003-09/2004, 09/2005 – 08/ 2006 /02/2008 - 01/2009,
Donor :	US Department of States
Funding:	69,000 \$ US + 79,817, 76,800 \$ US + (Total
Targeted Beneficiaries:	238 mime survivors
Results:	88 survivors supported with 156 cows. Revolving fund for mine survivors established.

Projects in Years

Project:	Vocational Training and Local Enterprise Initiative (VTLEPI)
Objective:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve access to vocational apprenticeship/business training to 20 survivors/ members of families mine survivors /improve vocational/professions skills of 20 survivors/adults 2. Tol support 20 trained beneficiaries to get employed/ establish home-based businesses at the end of the project,
Project dates:	01 June 2008 -30 July 2009
Donors :	US Department of States/ ITF
Amount financed:	U 106,400 \$ US
Beneficiaries:	Mine affected communities of 39 villages who will benefit indirectly by mine survivors being trained in new in-demand jobs
Results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 adults have completed vocational professional trainings • 20 trained adults have got the required entrepreneurship/ professional skills in the vocational trainings • 12 of 20 trained adults are employed/ have already established home based economies • Increased incomes of 12 families of mine survivors whose members who have completed vocational courses are employed

Project:	Support for social-economic re-integration of Mine/ERW survivors (SERM)
Objective:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To increase employment/ business opportunities for 45 families of mine/ERW survivors of Kukes by improving their professional/entrepreneurship skills through vocational training courses 2. To increase mine/UXO survivors' access to medical and rehabilitation support services (maintain high access) by providing logistic support to at least 70% of 238 mine/ERW survivors within the project period. 3. To improve social integration of mine/ERW survivors at least by 40% within project period, by providing direct outreach psycho-social and peer support services (outreach and counseling services) to 272 mine survivors
Project dates:	15 September 2008- 15 March 2009
Donor :	SIDA/UNDP Albania
Amount financed:	190,000 \$ US
Targeted Beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •45 Mine/ERW survivors and their families in Kukes region. •272 Mine/ERW victims and their families in Kukes region

Results:**I. Vocational Training Component**

50 survivors/ members of family survivors completed vocational courses as follows; 28 students attended vocational and business courses, out of which: 17 mine survivors and 11 family members of mine survivors as in the following specialties: Electro-domestic appliances (8); ;Computer Basis (4); Auto-electrics (7); Industrial Electronics (1); Hydro-sanitary installations (3); Radio-TV Repairer (1); English and computer (1) ; Electric installations (1); Computer Cameraman (1), Waiter – cook (1)..

22 persons (20 targeted,) attended business entrepreneurship training out of which 4 were survivors and 18 were family members of mine survivors.

24 beneficiaries (38% women) survivors/family, members supported to buy equipments/establish home based businesses with interest free loans. In total 40 survivors/family members have started home based business, out of which 23% are women households.

II. Psycho-Social component

provided Logistic support to get **specialized medical services** provided by the Regional Hospital of Kukes as follows: 62 survivors to get prosthesis repair; 47 survivors to get physiotherapy sessions; 19 survivors to get specialized medical check; 134 survivors to get medication by VMA Nurse at their homes; 155 referrals made regarding medical services; 228 survivors' families were visited by Pear Support Team (Survivors hired by VMA and trained), 96 mine/ERW survivors **received psycho social support** provided by psycho-social workers of the targeted communes/

Project:	Educational Re-integration of children mine survivors
Objective:	To improve access to qualitative education and learning outcomes to 10 mine/UXO child survivors through catch-up classes/vocational training courses
Project dates:	2004 –2009
Donor :	Albanian Business/US Dept of States/ ITF N1. K. Funds raised through Night of Thousand Dinners 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007
Funding:	About 75,000 \$ US
Targeted Beneficiaries:	10 children mine/UXO survivors
Results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 pupils attended English classes ▪ 10 pupils attended- computer classes ▪ 5 pupils attended extra (catch up) classes in math's ▪ 5 pupils supported with Accommodation to attend school ▪ 3 family members as tutors supported to take care for their children to attend studies ▪ Improved knowledge of social status 10 children

DONORS SUPPORT FOR VA

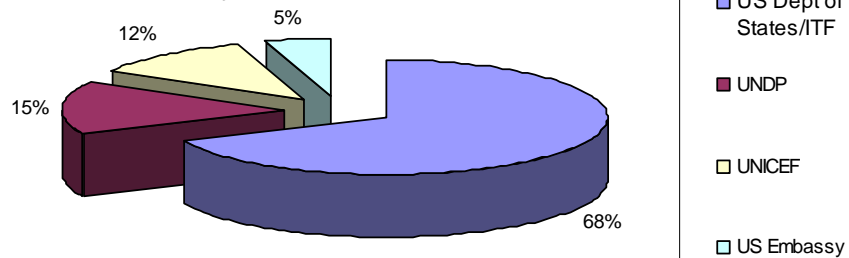
Mine Action	2001-2009	%
Mine Risk Education	860,448 \$ US	42%
Victims Assistance	1,034,514 \$ US	51%
Economic Development	150,000 \$ US	7%
Total	2,044,962	100%

Donors:

- US Department of States
- UNDP Albania
- Unicef Albania
- US Embassy



Contribution by Donor for Mine Action Activities



CONCLUSIONS ON SOCIAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Strength

- **Social and Economic inclusion in the developing strategy of of Kukes region**
- **Government support**
- **Continuous International Support**
- **Support from the society**

Challenges

- Limited job opportunities
- Lack of trust of employers
- Lack of capacity and confidence of persons with disabilities
- Lack of markets for persons with disabilities' production
- Low priority given to employment of persons with disabilities
- Convention of PWD

To overcome the challenges:

- Create enhanced job opportunities
- The micro-credit should be free of interest /More Income generation
- Mainstream disability into general existing government programs

Lessons Learned

Why was the Albanian Program successful

- Cooperation with Government authorities is the key factor for the successful economic re-integration of mine survivors in northeast Albania
- **Support of the Program from the Local Government Institutions**
- Proper Use and interpretation of Government facilities and Agreements for Groups at risk/poverty Reduction
- Working with existing government institutions providing support and services for survivors/ instead of duplicating the service
- **Proper and regular Coordination of mine action activities on economic re-integration with all stakeholders to mobilize other resources and avoid wrong approaches**
- **Participations/involvement of survivors in planning, implementation and monitoring of the project**
- Equal opportunity provided to each survivors
- Transparency in the selection of beneficiaries for each special project

Why was the Albanian Program successful?

- **Proper Use of funds for the benefit of survivors** Asking the survivors to chose their priorities for economic development
- **Networking with different national and international agencies and speaking with one voice for the needs of survivors and asking for their support**
- **Regular Coordination meetings with all stakeholders**
- **Establishment of Proper monitoring Mechanisms**
- **Frequent evaluation of the projects completed**
- **Existence of Local Service Providers**
- **Use of current services available in the region**

Questions?



Thank you !

Prepared and delivered by Jonuz Kola

Executive Director of ALB-AID (former
VMA-Kukes)

Tirana, 08 October 2009