










THE ALBANIA MINE ACTION PROGRAMME

“ALBANIA MINE/UXO- SAFE BY 2005”












ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION OF MINE AND UXO VICTIMS IN NE ALBANIA



Survey process of needs and capabilities

**Since 1999, 27
people were killed
and 220 injured by
mines and UXO in
NE Albania, the
last in July 2003 –
39% are children**






ECONOMIC IMPACT

- The population of the Kukes prefecture, almost 120,000 of which 75% are rural, are the poorest in Albania, if not in Europe
- The average size of farms are less than 1 ha
- Main activities are: grazing, farming, gathering firewood, and other subsistence livelihoods
- Land pressure in 39 directly affected villages is exacerbated by mountainous terrain and mines
- Around 230 families in the Northeast had a primary breadwinner disabled or killed, and saw their livestock and farmland destroyed



Family of Sight-impaired Victim - Minefield behind House



ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION

- A revolving fund was set up in 2003 with US funding through the ITF, for the development of household economies among families of victims in NE Albania – the budget is approximately \$90,000 per annum
- A survey was done to:
 - Identify viable household economies – agricultural activities of beekeeping and animal husbandry were identified
 - Determine the situation, needs and capabilities of each family- criteria were: degree of suffering/disability, economic situation and experience with relevant agricultural activities
- Each family, according to priorities, are allocated either 2 cows, 10 goats/sheep or 5 beehives, procured out of the revolving fund - \$1500-2000 per family
- Families are also trained and assisted
- Loans (calves, lambs, beehives) have to be repaid in 2/3 years
- By the spring of 2004, 40 families would have benefited in this way



Animal husbandry





LESSONS LEARNT

- ❑ Taking into account the poverty of victims, loans had to be interest-free, but no grants
- ❑ Viability of economies, situation, needs and capabilities of victim families have to be surveyed and properly analysed
- ❑ A fair system of determining priorities had to be established and approved of on village, commune and prefecture level
- ❑ Initial training and continued support are essential
- ❑ Needs were simple and a modest input ensured visible results
- ❑ Families to benefit from repayments have to be involved to ensure the success achieved from initial loans
- ❑ The revolving fund can benefit the needy in general, once victims' needs have been addressed



Evaluation of activities



CONCLUSIONS

- ❑ The economic conditions on the NE border of Albania are desperate
- ❑ There is a natural tendency of urbanisation in this strategic region, which is increased by the mine and UXO contamination
- ❑ Economic intervention was critical
- ❑ In addition to economic reintegration, initial activities have already raised the morale of people in the affected areas



Beekeeping

