

*Organization of American States
Mine Action Program*



***Mine Risk Awareness
and Preventive Education
in Nicaragua***

Seminar Report
Managua, Nicaragua
25 - 27 April 2001



"A Single Voice"

- Sponsors: UNICEF, OAS and Nicaraguan Government
- Objective: Coordinate mine risk awareness and preventive education activities being conducted by diverse groups and organizations.
- Methodology: Discussion groups



Participants

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

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Significance



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



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IMSMA Integration

Inputs

- Military minefield reporting
- Affected communities data
- Victim data

ANALYSIS

Outputs (Graphical depictions)

- Patterns
- Severity

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Mine Victim Demographics

Status				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Military	35	1	36	12
Civilian	261	15	276	89
Total	295	16	311	100

Age						
1 - 15	16 - 31	32 - 47	48 - 63	64 & ↑	Unk	Total
12	103	144	36	11	5	311
4%	33%	46%	12%	4%	2%	100%

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Source: IMSMA-OAS

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Causes - Mine Accidents

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

Source: IMSMA-OAS

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Outcomes - Recommendations

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

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Outcomes - Recommendations

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

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Outcomes - Commitments

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

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Outcomes - Commitments

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

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Conclusions

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