# 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

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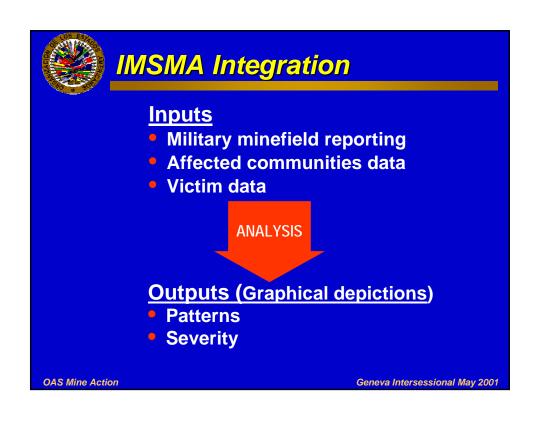
### **Participants**

- 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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## Mine Victim Demographics

Status							
	Male	<b>Female</b>	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%	<b>4</b> %	<b>2</b> %	100%	

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**Source: IMSMA-OAS** 

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### **Causes - Mine Accidents**

	Number of	
Activity / Cause	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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- 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

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