

THE ALBANIA MINE ACTION PROGRAMME

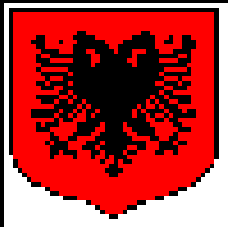
**“ALBANIA FREE FROM
THE EFFECT OF MINES
AND UXO”**



Albania Mine Action Programme

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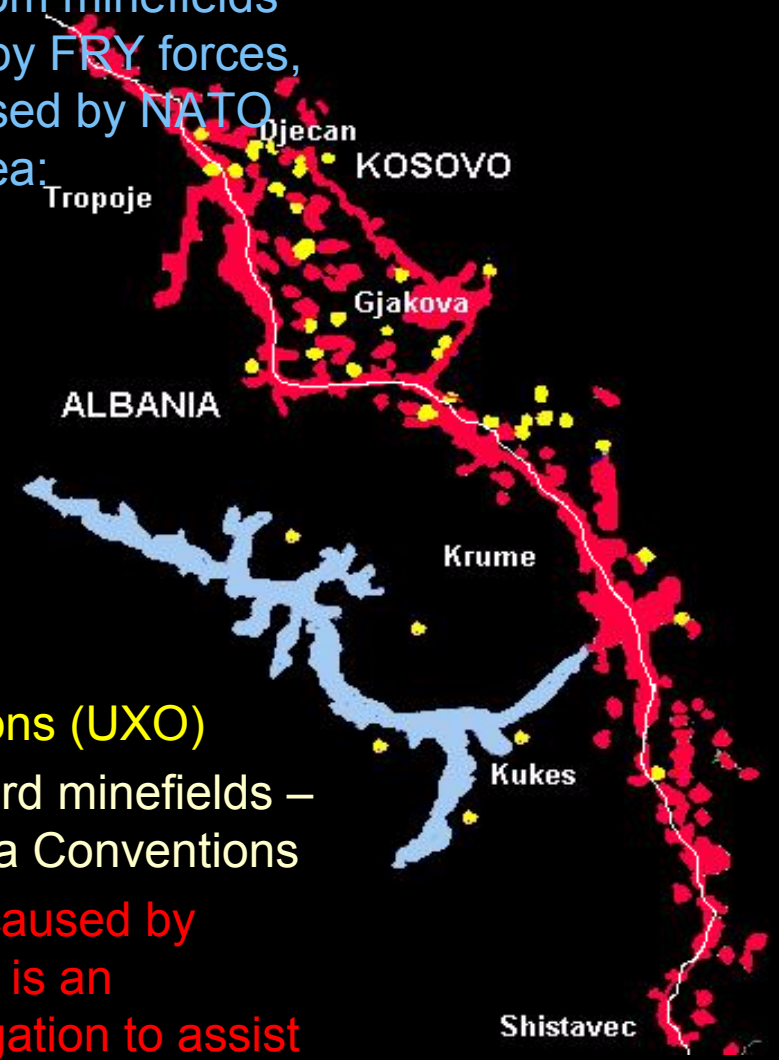


MINE CONTAMINATED AREAS



□ The threat emanates from minefields laid and cluster strikes by FRY forces, as well as bombs released by NATO aircraft in the border area:

- 120 km border
- 85 identified areas
- 1400 hectares
- **The Threat:**
 - AP mines
 - AT mines
 - Sub-munitions
 - Unexploded munitions (UXO)
- FRY forces did not record minefields – contravention of Geneva Conventions
- **None of this has been caused by Albania, therefore there is an international moral obligation to assist**



THE VICTIMS

Since 1999 there have been:

- ❑ **197** incidents
- ❑ **211** injured
- ❑ **25** killed
- ❑ **1/3** are under 19
- ❑ **1/2** were farming, grazing cattle or going to school



EFFECT OF THE MINES/UXO THREAT

- Apart from the physical threat, the socio-economic impact is that the lives of nearly 120,000 people living in the districts of Kukes, Has and Tropoje, are profoundly affected. They are dependent on the land for:

- Grazing and farming
- Gathering firewood
- Other subsistence livelihoods

- A grave concern is security:

- Border patrolling is difficult
- Cross-border criminal activity takes place



PAST HISTORY

- ❑ Sporadic funding
- ❑ Difficulties in coordination
 - ❑ Legal status of AMAC and AMAE
 - ❑ Capability of AMAE
- ❑ Ineffective demining
- ❑ Programme survived through:
 - ❑ The commitment of the Government (survey, maintenance of AMAE, stockpile destruction)
 - ❑ Perseverance of the AMAE Director
 - ❑ Loyalty of donors such as ITF and the Swiss Government
- ❑ Notable achievements in the areas of stockpile destruction, (NATO), victim assistance (ITF) and MRE (UNICEF)



CURRENT PROBLEM

- ❑ Albania does have a real mines and UXO problem
- ❑ There seems to be an apathy to the problem though
- ❑ The problem is often understated in terms of socio-economic impact
- ❑ The solution was sometimes overstated in the past
- ❑ Estimate: The problem can be solved in 2-3 yrs with a modest budget of USD 5-7 million: to be confirmed by impact and technical survey

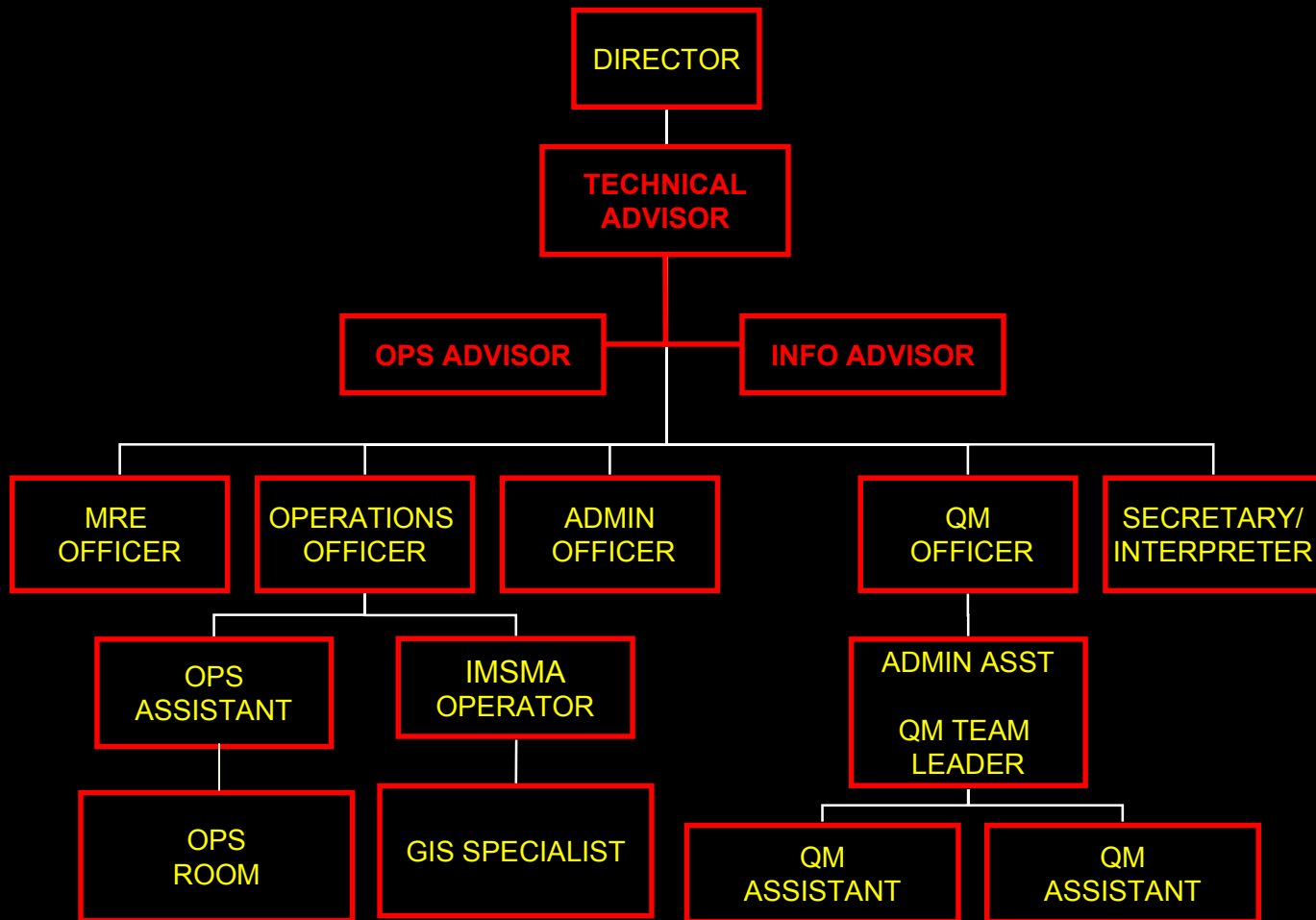


UNDP/AMAE 2-YR MINE ACTION PROGRAMME

- ❑ Policy, strategy, legal structure and priorities of MA
- ❑ National Mine Action Plan
- ❑ Capacity building of AMAE
 - ❑ Ops department
 - ❑ Admin capability
 - ❑ IMSMA and GIS
 - ❑ Quality Management
 - ❑ Regional office in Kukes
 - ❑ Training
 - ❑ Impact and technical survey, including mechanical (Bozena)
- ❑ Resource mobilisation for capacity building, demining, MRE and victim assistance



AMAE STRUCTURE



FUNDING

- Past donors include
 - Canada
 - Turkey
 - US State Department
 - DFID
- MA is funded by UNDP, ITF, Swiss and Danish Governments and UNICEF until September 2002
- Funds needed for 2002:
 - UNDP capacity building USD 300,000
 - SFMA \$250,000 (Bozena \$64,000)
- Approximately USD 5 million is needed until 2004 to solve the problem



CONCLUSIONS

- ❑ There is a significant mines and UXO problem in Albania
- ❑ The mines and UXO problem in Albania is finite
- ❑ There is a commitment and growing awareness to solve the problem
- ❑ Albania can be the second post-conflict region in SE Europe free from the effect of mines and UXO

