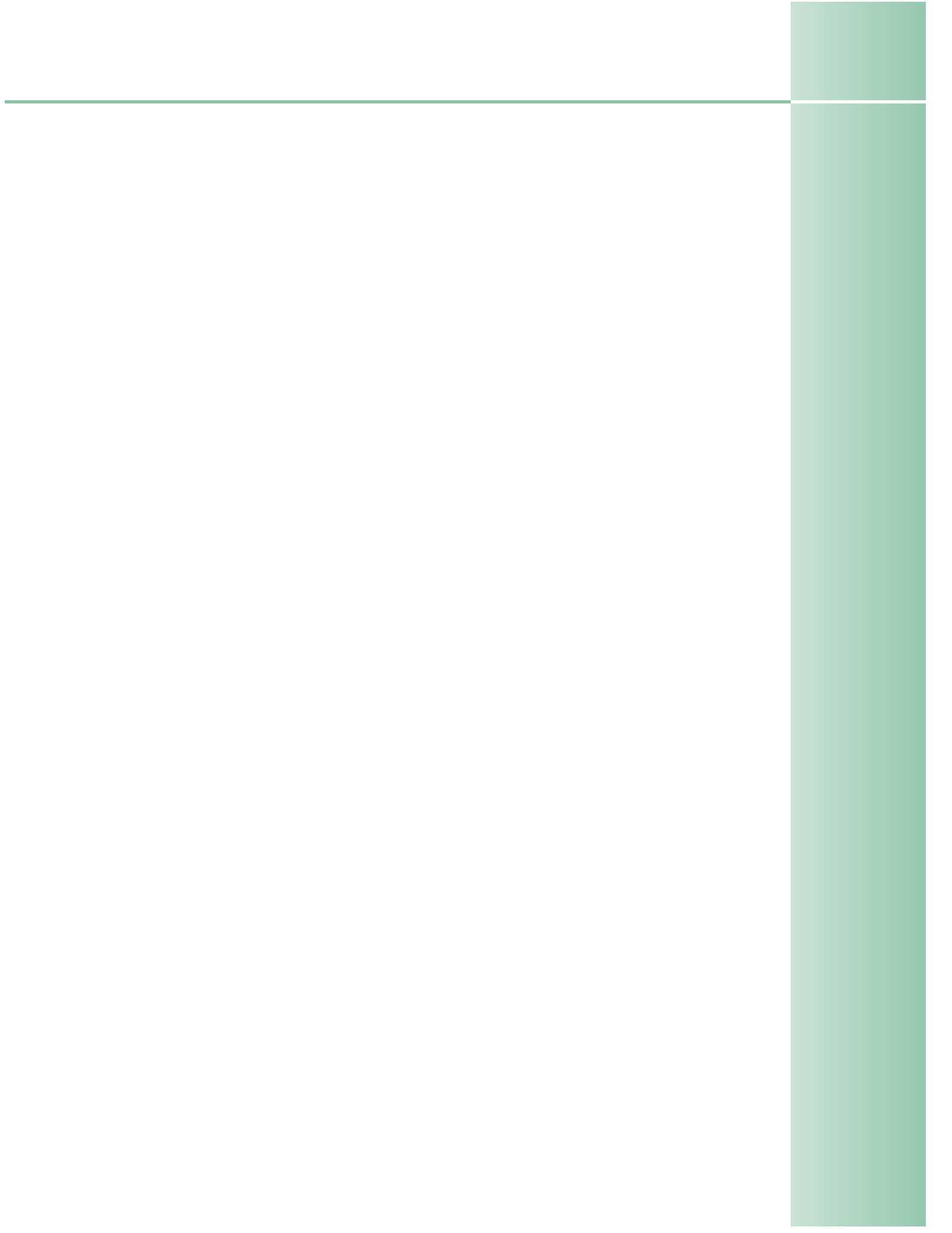


To Walk the Earth in Safety



Prepared by the United States Department of State
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs
Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs
April 1999

The United States Commitment to Humanitarian Demining





THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

The United States first became involved in humanitarian demining in 1988 when it sent a team to assess the landmine situation in Afghanistan. Five years later, U.S. demining-related programs were underway in Afghanistan and seven other countries. By the end of 1998, we had provided more than \$250 million to 24 countries for various humanitarian demining efforts such as deminer training, mine awareness, mine clearance, and orthopedic assistance to, and socio-economic reintegration programs for, landmine accident survivors. Nearly \$82 million of that amount was spent in Fiscal Year 1998, the largest commitment of any nation involved in financing humanitarian demining activities. As a result of our leadership, and with the assistance of other donor nations, the world is seeing positive results in many mine-affected countries—reduced casualties, land returned to productive use, return of refugees to their homes, reopened roads, schools, and markets, and other visible evidence of a return to normal life.

Today, the United States is providing assistance to humanitarian demining programs in 26 countries, as well as to demining projects in several others. The list of recipients of such assistance is expected to grow this year and next. The goal of the U.S. humanitarian demining program is simple and direct: to assist mine-affected countries around the world in establishing a sustainable, indigenous demining capacity, with the appropriate resources and skills to make their country mine-safe.

As the millennium approaches, we continue to face the challenges to rid the world of these hidden killers. President Clinton's Demining 2010 Initiative, announced in October 1997, aims to accelerate and coordinate international participation in demining programs so that by the end of the next decade these indiscriminate weapons of war will no longer threaten the lives of innocent people.

To Walk the Earth in Safety tells the U.S. story, but not the whole story. Other governments, the United Nations, other international and non-governmental organizations, and mine-affected countries themselves also play a critical role supporting humanitarian demining programs. The impact of our collective contributions is felt in many mine-affected nations. Indeed, in the not too distant future, we expect to see several of these countries declare themselves mine-safe.

The success stories in this brochure attest to President Clinton's and my determination to see that people everywhere will once more be able ***to walk the earth in safety!***

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Madeleine Albright".

Madeleine K. Albright



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview of U.S. Humanitarian Demining Programs	4
U.S. Humanitarian Demining Programs	6
Africa	7
Asia	17
Europe	21
Latin America	23
The Middle East	28

OVERVIEW OF U.S. HUMANITARIAN DEMINING PROGRAMS

To Walk the Earth in Safety. The United States Commitment to Humanitarian Demining informs the reader about the U.S. commitment to rid the world by the year 2010 of anti-personnel landmines (APL) which pose a threat to civilians. The most recent U.S. Government survey identified 93 countries affected with either an APL, or an unexploded ordnance (UXO) problem, or both. Although the estimates regarding the number of mines implanted in each country vary widely among sources, the U.S. estimate of APL infestation is approximately 60-70 million worldwide.¹

The Secretary of State's Office of Global Humanitarian Demining (S/GHD) promotes the President's Demining 2010 Initiative and coordinates with the international community to ensure effective and complementary activities and initiatives worldwide. It also fosters public-private partnerships to marshal resources from the public and private sectors.

The objectives of the U.S. humanitarian demining program are to reduce the number of civilian landmine casualties; to return to their homes refugees and internally displaced persons who have been denied access to them by landmines; and to enhance the political and economic stability of nations affected by landmines.

A U.S. Government Interagency Working Group (IWG), chaired by the Department of State (DOS) and vice-chaired by the Department of Defense (DoD), is in charge of approving, developing, and coordinating U.S. humanitarian demining programs.

A typical U.S. program involves assisting in the establishment of a mine action center (MAC), a mine awareness program, and a demining training program. As a country develops its mine clearance abilities, the IWG will periodically evaluate the development of the program. When the program reaches the point of being self-sustaining, the United States passes off its active role to the host nation, although some U.S. funding may continue to sustain demining efforts.

The DoD funds a humanitarian demining program's *start-up costs*, and the DOS provides the *follow-on* funds to procure the necessary equipment for mine-affected nations to conduct mine clearance operations. The components of the DoD humanitarian demining program are (1) mine awareness education; (2) assistance in developing MACs; (3) civil-military cooperation; (4) victim assistance; and (5) demining training – or “train the trainer” – which is the core program. More than 4,000 indigenous trainers have benefited from this core program, which represents about 25 percent of deminers working in the field today. From 1996 through 1998, the DoD spent approximately \$55.1 million on training programs in 21 countries, and \$34.2 million have been appropriated for DoD-sponsored demining operations in fiscal year (FY) 1999. The DoD's Defense Security Cooperation Agency has program management responsibility for humanitarian and civic assistance and humanitarian demining programs, and the theater (regional) commanders-in-chief (CINCs) are responsible for managing and carrying out these programs.

The DOS, through its Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs (PM/HDP), is the lead agency for coordinating U.S. humanitarian demining programs worldwide. PM/HDP is charged with the day-to-day management of bilateral demining assistance programs. In addition, the DOS' Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration contributes to the multilateral commitment to refugee needs through the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees.² Finally, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) promotes sustainable development by providing humanitarian services in post-conflict situations. USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Response, Office of Transition Initiatives, bridges the gap between emergency humanitarian assistance and long-term development assistance by supporting organizations and people in emergency transition in conflict-prone countries. USAID's Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund (WVF) contributes to improving the mobility, health, and social integration of the disabled, including landmine survivors. Typically, although not exclusively, USAID works through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop a country's indigenous capacity of sustainable services for amputees.

¹ United States Department of State, *Hidden Killers 1998, The Global Landmine Crisis*, 1998, 16.

² James B. Foley, “\$82.7 Million for UNHCR's General Program.” Press Statement, November 13, 1998. This pledge supports UNHCR's 1999 General Program activities in Africa, East Asia, Europe, and the Near East.

In Fiscal Years 1993 - 1998, the combined expenditures of the DoD, DOS and USAID on demining programs and projects totaled more than \$200 million, and about \$100 million has been appropriated by the U.S. Congress to support demining-related programs this fiscal year.³ Demining support also comes from other U.S. Government agencies. In October 1998, the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research awarded a five-year, \$4.25 million grant to the Physicians Against Landmines to establish a Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center. The Center will research and develop innovative prosthetic devices that can be affordably manufactured and serviced in those countries with large numbers of landmine survivors. In cooperation with a number of university and private sector organizations, the Center will also develop educational materials and conduct surveys on rehabilitation services.

At present, the U.S. Government has approved programs to assist 26 landmine-affected countries, and the list is expected to grow longer as the United States approves more applicant countries each year. *To Walk the Earth in Safety* portrays the lengthy history of the U.S. commitment to, and program priorities for, humanitarian demining in these 26 countries. Whether resources are used to establish a country's MAC, to issue a grant to an NGO to conduct mine awareness education, to initiate a U.S. Army demining train-the-trainer course of instruction, or to produce prostheses, all U.S.-funded support since FY93 to relieve human suffering through demining, and to promote our interests in peace, prosperity, and regional stability is depicted in the following table.

History of U.S. Humanitarian Demining Funding (FY93-FY99 [est.])

Country	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99 (est.)	Total
Afghanistan (UNOCHA)	3,000,000	5,400,000	3,800,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	2,200,000	2,000,000	21,400,000
Angola (UN/DHA)			6,524,000	7,624,000	2,600,000	2,400,000		19,148,000
Bosnia-Herzegovina				11,288,000	5,375,000	9,400,000	2,605,000	28,668,000
Cambodia	1,961,437	2,849,000	3,400,000	2,152,000	3,600,000	2,900,000	1,500,000	18,362,437
Chad						1,900,000	2,167,000	4,067,000
Ecuador							500,000	500,000
Egypt							1,500,000	1,500,000
Eritrea		600,000	3,250,000	1,437,000	718,000	2,025,000	1,400,000	9,430,000
Estonia							1,335,000	1,335,000
Ethiopia	730,000	692,000	2,440,000	1,437,000	790,000	1,910,000	800,000	8,799,000
Jordan				300,000	400,000	500,000	2,700,000	3,900,000
Laos			80,000	1,840,000	4,100,000	4,630,000	3,300,000	13,950,000
Lebanon						400,000	1,330,000	1,730,000
Mauritania							350,000	350,000
Mozambique	4,000,000	5,965,000	1,825,000	215,000	2,684,000	2,600,000	2,600,000	19,889,000
Namibia		65,000	2,340,000	500,000	1,885,000	2,450,000	1,153,000	8,393,000
OAS/IADB (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua)	500,000	360,000	713,000	500,000	1,335,000	3,120,000	4,500,000	11,028,000
Peru							500,000	500,000
Rwanda			4,880,000	475,000	4,210,000	2,500,000	2,200,000	14,265,000
Swaziland						210,000	1,500,000	1,710,000
Thailand							1,800,000	1,800,000
Yemen					78,000	2,900,000	1,700,000	4,678,000
Zimbabwe						2,300,000	743,000	3,043,000
Other ⁴						524,400	3,846,000	4,370,400
RDT&E (DoD)			10,000,000	3,000,000	14,700,000	17,700,000	17,700,000	63,100,000
TOTAL	10,191,437	15,931,000	39,252,000	32,768,000	45,475,000	62,569,400	59,729,000	265,915,837

3 The planned apportionment is \$35M for DOS-sponsored mine awareness, minefield mapping, and demining assistance; \$34M for DoD-sponsored deminer training and mine awareness; \$10M for the Patrick J. Leahy WVF for landmine survivor assistance; and \$18M for demining technology research and development; additional funds will be earmarked for repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons.

4 This table does not include \$8,831,400 (\$485,400 [FY98] and \$8,346,000 [FY99 est.]) for humanitarian demining projects in 11 other landmine-affected countries.

U.S. HUMANITARIAN DEMINING PROGRAMS

The 26 country cameos are presented alphabetically by geographical region. Each cameo is divided into two parts: a synopsis of the present threat that landmines and UXO pose, and what the United States is doing to eliminate or mitigate the threat.

AFRICA

Official 1998 reports from the African continent indicate that 27 countries have a landmine or a UXO problem. In 10 of these countries, the United States has an active program in mine action. The 10 countries are Angola, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. A humanitarian demining project in Somalia was funded in FY98 and follow-on funding has been requested for FY99.

ASIA

In Asia, a region that claims 16 mine-affected nations, the United States is providing demining-program support to four of these countries, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. The United States is also funding a special project to create a mine-awareness training center in Vietnam (FY98-99), along with country-specific projects proposed for Azerbaijan, Mongolia, and Sri Lanka in FY99.

EUROPE

In Europe, 26 countries have reported landmine incidents or are aware that landmines are obstacles to post-conflict reconstruction. Two countries, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Estonia, are part of the U.S. humanitarian demining program. The United States will expend FY99 funds on humanitarian demining projects in six other countries—Albania, Armenia, Croatia, Georgia, Lithuania, and Moldova.

LATIN AMERICA

Among the nations of Latin America, 13 are considered landmine- or UXO-affected. The United States is providing both humanitarian assistance and humanitarian demining assistance to six Latin American republics, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru.

THE MIDDLE EAST

In the region generally identified as the Middle East, 11 countries have reported that landmines and/or UXO have corrupted their land. Of these 11, four nations—Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Yemen—are receiving humanitarian demining assistance. FY99 funds have been programmed for a special humanitarian project in Oman.

A F R I C A

ANGOLA



The Landmine Problem

More than three decades of almost constant internal conflict have left Angola with one of the world's most serious landmine problems. The UN estimate of 10 to 15 million landmines is most often cited, but 6 million appears to be a more reasonable figure, although no comprehensive national survey has been completed to date. There are six to eight heavily mined provinces covering roughly 50 percent of the country in a band from the northwest border with the Congo to the southeast border with Namibia. Minefields were planted to destroy or deny access to infrastructure and are concentrated around roads, railways, bridges, and public facilities such as schools, churches, water supply points, and health care facilities.

United States Assistance

Since FY95, the United States has contributed more than \$19 million to demining operations in Angola. The Angolan Government established the National Institute for the Removal of Explosive Obstacles, and U.S. demining assistance supports the UN Demining Program in Angola. U.S. funding augments that of other nations and NGOs to continue demining efforts, such as training and equipping more than 800 deminers, medical technicians, and supervisors, and the purchase of mine detectors, vehicles, safety, and communications equipment. Through the U.S. Military Humanitarian Assistance Program, excess equipment has also been provided. In addition, the United States has agreed to provide demining equipment to, and assist the UN by, funding construction of a "semi-permanent" training facility in Viana. Assisted by USAID, various U.S. NGOs have conducted mine awareness and demining programs. In addition, the DoD, in cooperation with DC Comics, is considering publishing and distributing 250,000 copies of a Portuguese-language mine awareness comic book, *Superman/Wonder Woman*, incorporating Angolan cultural elements.

In Angola, where 1 in 334 inhabitants is an amputee, the United States has funded programs to assist the victims. USAID contributed \$1 million to support the International Committee of the Red Cross' Prosthetic Production and Fitting Operation, and more than \$3 million to the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAFA) to establish a regional rehabilitation center in 1996 in southeastern Moxico Province to produce and fit orthopedic devices and provide follow-up treatment. Thus far, the Center has fitted 520 Angolans with prostheses and provided gait training. In 1997, USAID also funded the Landmine Survivors Network to conduct a feasibility study on mine victims in Angola, and to examine the potential for launching a locally managed network of survivors to raise awareness of activities to alleviate their suffering. With U.S. and international support, Angola has been making progress in eliminating landmines as a major hindrance to the implementation of humanitarian aid programs, economic reconstruction, and internal movement and resettlement. However, the resumption of hostilities in Angola, including the relaying of landmines, has disrupted humanitarian demining efforts there.

CHAD



The Landmine Problem

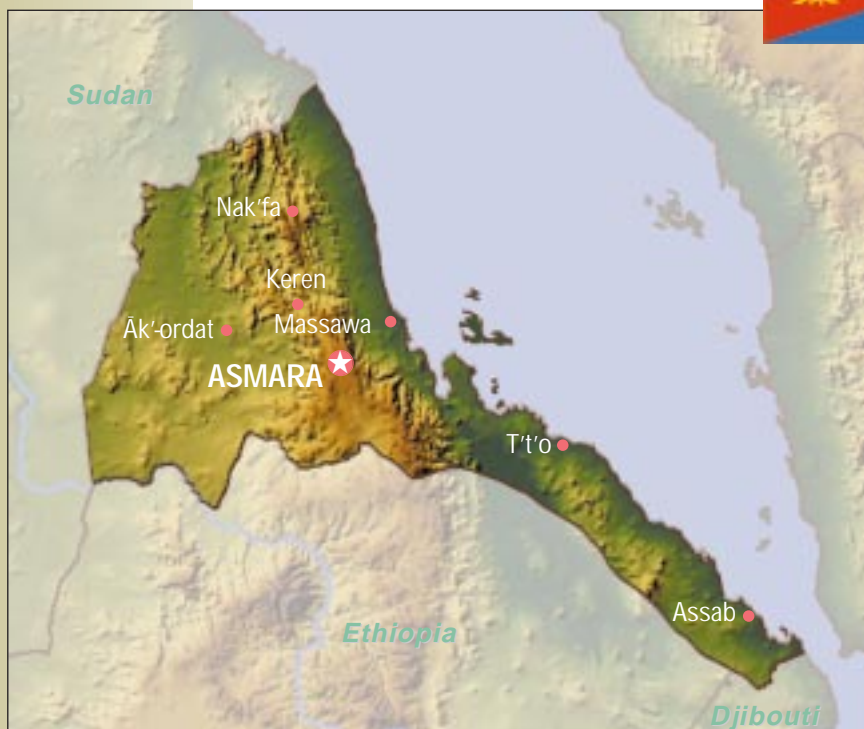
During the occupation of the Aozou strip in the 1980s, Libya deployed landmines covering 45,000 miles² (one-tenth of Chad's total land area). Estimates of the number of landmines vary greatly from a low of 50,000 to a high of 1 million. Landmines are generally located in the desert and mountain areas in the north along the border with Niger.



United States Assistance

The United States has played a key role in launching the Chad demining program that began in January 1998. In FY99, the United States expects to contribute more than \$2 million to Chad's demining program, bringing the total contributions to slightly more \$4 million in two years of U.S. financial support. Since the start of U.S. funding, a national MAC was established, and the collection of historical data pertaining to minefield locations has begun. U.S. military personnel had previously trained a cadre of approximately 65 Chadian engineering personnel and provided demining equipment. In February 1999, U.S. military instructors graduated another cadre of 40 deminers. At the government's request, the United States has funded the renovation of the national demining office (NDO) building. This year's funds will help clear the part of its base camp in Faya Largeau. The U.S. military also expects to train another 65 Chadian engineering personnel. With continued U.S. support, Chad is expected to be able to revalidate its cadre of deminers to international demining standards; improve its mine awareness program; establish a regional demining office to support demining operations in northern Chad; conduct advanced first aid training; and purchase demining equipment. The United States will continue to work with the Government of Chad so that it will be able to demine the northern provinces and benefit from economic and social development in those regions.

ERITREA



The Landmine Problem

Thirty years of civil war have left Eritrea with a severe landmine problem. An estimated 500,000 to 1 million landmines and 3 million UXO are scattered throughout the country. The northwestern provinces and one southeastern province are suspected to be the most heavily mined. Landmines were used to defend strongholds around cities and populated areas, military camps, and roadways. Landmines are also found in rural farmlands, near water sources, and along borders.

United States Assistance

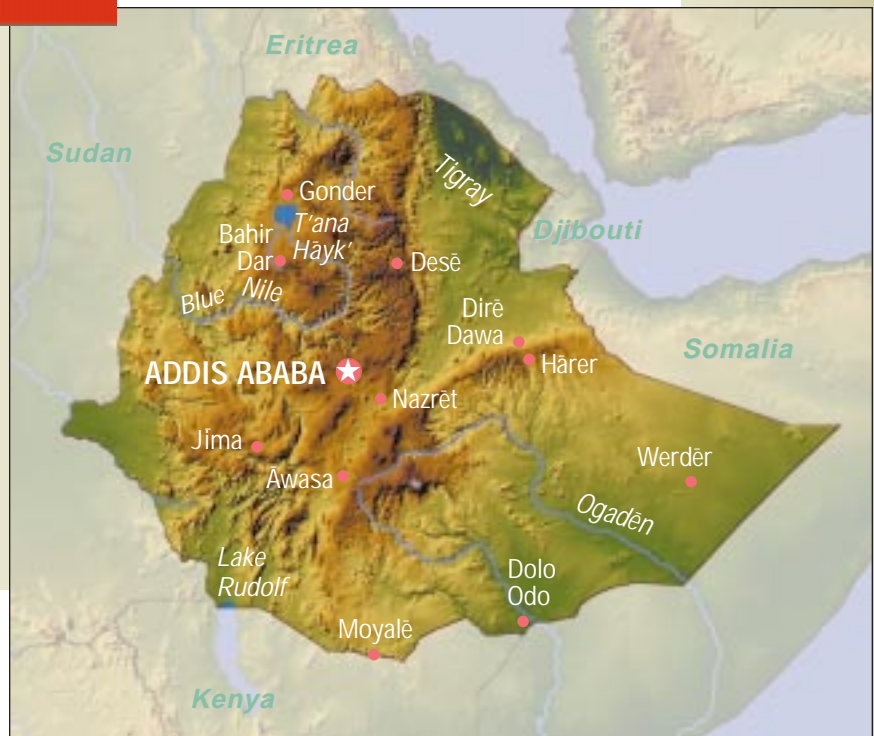
U.S. humanitarian demining assistance began in FY94, and the six-year funding total will approximate \$10 million by the end of this fiscal year. The United States funds almost 100 percent of the Eritrean demining program. In 1996, the U.S. military paid for the transportation of 60 trucks from Germany to be used in demining activities, and trained 120 deminers; in the next two years, 122 more deminers were trained. In 1997, U.S. military personnel advised and assisted Eritrean staff personnel in conducting mine awareness and historical research. Funds in 1998 were allocated for additional mine clearance, mine awareness, and further development of a mine information database. The United States has funded contracts to construct facilities for the national demining headquarters in Keren, to renovate two regional headquarters, and is assessing the implementation of a mine-detection dog program. The U.S.-supported deminers have successfully destroyed or removed 1,534 landmines and have cleared 4.13 km² of vital farmland for future food production as well as 87 km of roads. Using mass media and sign postings, the mine awareness program has begun to inform Eritreans of the dangers of landmines and UXO. These demining efforts have been very successful and will continue to be vital to the country's continued economic growth. Regrettably, however, current hostilities with Ethiopia have placed further U.S. demining assistance to Eritrea on hold.

ETHIOPIA



The Landmine Problem

Decades of internal and external conflict have left an estimated 500,000 landmines implanted. The heaviest landmine concentrations are found in the Tigray region in the north and in the Ogadēn region in the east along the Somali border, but landmines have been uncovered throughout much of the country. These landmines have caused some 5-10 casualties per week.



United States Assistance

The United States has funded demining activities in Ethiopia since FY93. To date, more than \$9 million have been contributed to supporting demining operations. The funding has helped to establish an NDO; provide demining training and equipment; assist mine awareness training; increase a data collection capability; and conduct staff management training. The U.S. military has conducted train-the-trainer programs with the Ethiopian military, and, as a result, the Ethiopian military trained two of the three planned demining companies (90 deminers per company). These deminers have cleared 20,000 landmines and UXO using U.S.-provided equipment. To date, more than 170 villages have been cleared and resettled, and 8,403 hectares of land have been cleared and returned to use. The United States plans to fund construction of new demining company buildings at the Kebre Dehar Military Camp in southeastern Ethiopia.

Demining operations have reduced the casualty rate by more than 50 percent. However, people continue to be injured. Since 1996, USAID has funded the Prosthetic Orthotic Training Center in Addis Ababa. The Center has provided training in the manufacture and use of prosthetic components to more than 108 technicians from 28 countries, and has produced more than 5,670 prosthetic components. The U.S.-supported Ethiopian Demining Program is mature, having reached the sustainment phase. It has saved countless lives, greatly reduced the number of debilitating human injuries, and saved large number of livestock throughout the country. The demining program has returned one of Ethiopia's greatest resources, its land, to productive use. Regrettably, however, current hostilities with Eritrea have placed further U.S. demining assistance to Ethiopia on hold.

MAURITANIA



The Landmine Problem

An estimated 10,000 landmines remain in Mauritania from the war in neighboring Western Sahara. The landmines were used to establish defensive positions against Polisario attacks on the Cap Blanc Peninsula at Bir Moghreïn and Ain BinTili in the north, and surrounding Zouirat. Although mines have not caused extensive casualties, Mauritanian military personnel and civilians have suffered landmine injuries.

United States Assistance

After a U.S. policy assessment team visit in late 1998, Mauritania was recommended for inclusion in the U.S. humanitarian demining program. In FY99, Mauritania will receive U.S. humanitarian demining assistance for the first time, with an expected contribution of \$350,000. Initial funding will support two separate survey initiatives designed to facilitate the development of a country program. The Mauritanian Corps of Military Engineers has some demining capabilities, but will benefit greatly from future U.S. demining training and equipment; this training is expected to begin in FY2000. Continued U.S. assistance will reduce human suffering and boost economic development in important areas in the northern sectors of the country. The United States intends to work with Mauritania to develop an indigenous demining capacity.

MOZAMBIQUE



The Landmine Problem

Two decades of war have left Mozambique littered with more than 1 million landmines. Some NGOs argue that this estimate is high and should be lowered; however, the lack of landmine location records renders it impossible to give a more precise figure, and no official Mozambican statistics exist. Minefields have been located in all provinces, but the most heavily mined regions are along the Zimbabwean border, Zambezia, in Tete Province, and in Maputo and Inhambane Provinces. Landmines continue to injure innocent people and inhibit refugee resettlement and economic development.

United States Assistance

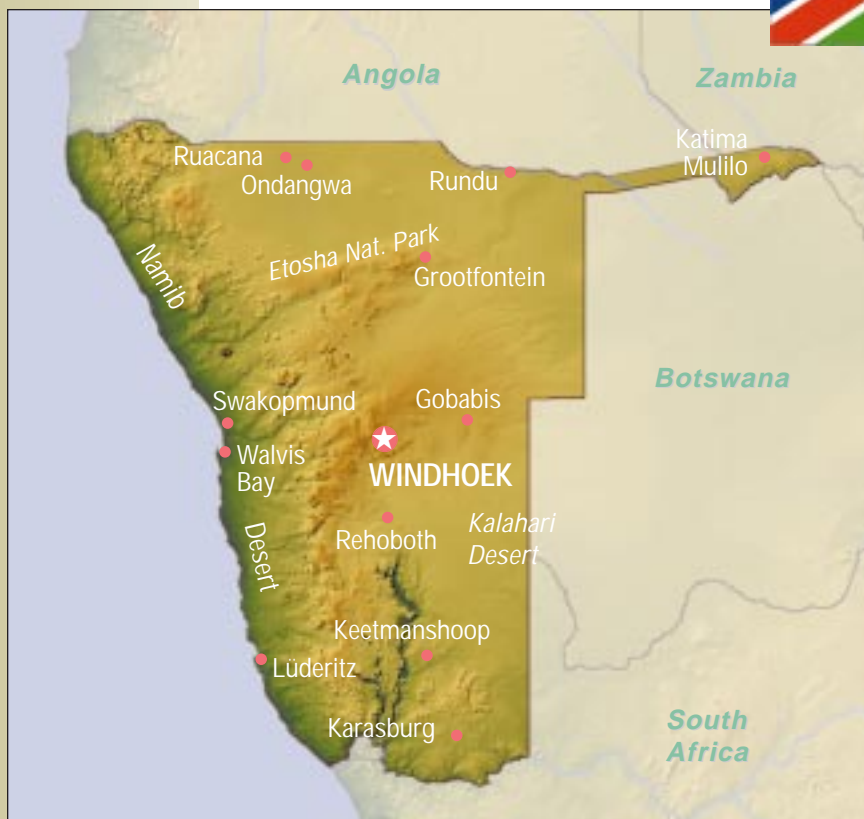
Mozambique has been receiving U.S. humanitarian demining assistance since FY93. Total U.S. contributions are expected to be close to \$27 million by the end of this fiscal year. The United States is working with the National Demining Commission (CND) to increase its responsibility in overseeing all aspects of mine action, and to improve interaction and cooperation between the CND and NGOs. In addition, the United States, in cooperation with DC Comics, plans to publish and distribute 250,000 copies of *Superman/Wonder Woman*, a Portuguese-language mine awareness comic book.

A U.S. military training contingent has trained a cadre of Army demining trainers. Graduation of the next generation of trainers was in October 1998 when 100 trainers completed the program, followed by a class of another 100 graduating in March 1999. In this program, trainees conduct actual clearance in areas near the base camp. The United States also contributed \$1 million to the Massingir Dam demining project, key to the country's overall development strategy; the dam is capable of supplying electricity to the area and irrigating 9,000 hectares of land. The United States has supported various NGO demining projects that have removed more than 15,000 landmines and 13,000 UXO. In particular, from 1994-1996, USAID funded a demining company, RONCO, to demine roads in central Mozambique, making it possible to reconnect nearly 1 million people to their local economies.

USAID's Demobilization/Reintegration Project, begun in 1993, has contributed \$4 million to support clearance operations. This program has cleared 2,400 km of roads, facilitating post-war resettlement of agricultural land. USAID has also disbursed \$1.2 million to fund, along with the Netherlands, The HALO Trust's clearance operations in Nampula Province. Another USAID contract has provided funding for a charter airline company, AirServe, to engage in logistical support of all demining activities in the central region, including emergency evacuation assistance. USAID's Senator Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund (WVF) is funding Prosthetic and Orthotic Worldwide Education and Relief (POWER), an NGO, to assist the Government in producing and maintaining prosthetic devices. Thus far, more than 7,000 amputees (70 percent of the amputee population) have been fitted with a prosthetic manufactured in the POWER workshop in Maputo. With U.S. support and progress to date, a growing sense is that, given enough time, Mozambique's landmine problem is a finite one.



NAMIBIA



The Landmine Problem

Namibia's internal struggle for independence and neighboring conflicts have left an estimated 50,000 landmines and thousands of UXO in the ground. All 10 known minefields in Namibia, located in the far north, have virtually been cleared. The remaining landmines are found in berms located around electric pylons that run from the northern town of Ruacana, near the Angolan border, 120 km south to the western part of the Etosha National Park. A 900 meter² area around each pylon was mined with about 24 to 48 APLs and four to six antitank mines. The UXO problem exists throughout the northern area where most of the fighting took place.

United States Assistance

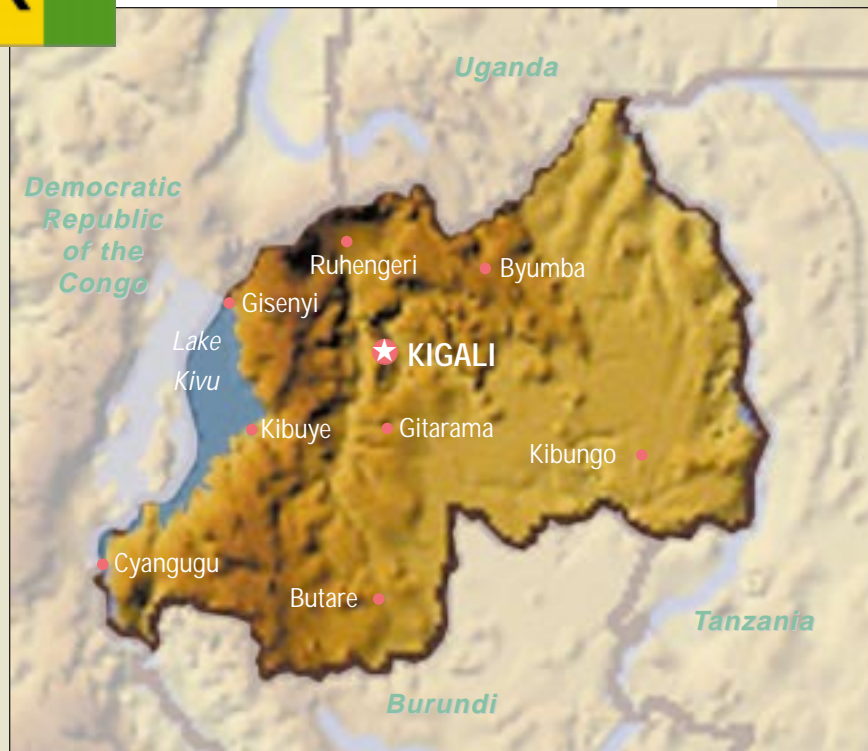
Namibia has received U.S. humanitarian demining assistance since FY94. Total contributions to demining operations by the end of this fiscal year will exceed \$8 million. The United States has funded a multiphase demining training program including clearance, mine awareness, medical assistance, communications, and the purchase of equipment. The training of the Namibian Defense Force and Police is complete and, as a result, Namibia possesses a modern demining capability and a dedicated unit of deminers. In January 1998, the United States provided a prototype machine, the Berm processor, to extract landmines in the berms around electric pylons. UXO disposal efforts in the northern regions have been hampered by transportation problems in this rugged terrain. However, the United States has provided funding for the purchase of 4x4 vehicles to access the rugged terrain for clearance operations. In March 1998, with U.S. support, Namibia launched its third mine awareness campaign that focused on the mine-/UXO-affected areas in the northern regions. Since U.S. involvement began, Namibia has seen a dramatic 90 percent reduction in the casualty rate. This demining program has been very successful because of a joint effort: the United States provides expertise, funding, and materials, and the Namibians are committed to demine their own country. Namibia looks forward to becoming Africa's first mine-affected country to be declared mine-safe.

RWANDA



The Landmine Problem

Rwanda emerged from civil war with between 100,000-250,000 landmines in the ground. The landmines are located along the established Rwandan cease-fire border with the People's Front, an area approximately 120 km long and at a distance of about 10 km inside Rwanda along the border with Uganda. South of this area, an additional 1,200 km² are suspected of being mined. The heaviest concentrations of landmines are found in the northeast in the rural farmlands and tea plantations north of Kigali.



United States Assistance

Rwanda has been receiving U.S. humanitarian demining assistance since FY95. Total U.S. contributions are expected to surpass \$14 million by the end of FY99. In July-August 1995, U.S. military personnel established an NDO in Kigali and trained 120 Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) personnel. In 1995, USAID contracted RONCO to conduct demining activities in Rwanda. Under the contract, RONCO supported the NDO and established a demining dog training program. U.S. military personnel conducted refresher demining training for 73 RPA personnel in September-October 1996. This training focused on mine clearance, minefield survey techniques, mine marking, land navigation, and medical training. The team also assisted the integration of the RONCO-trained dogs into Rwandan demining operations. Additional training was conducted for the NDO staff in mine awareness and in the assessment of the effectiveness of earlier demining training. Once again, a U.S. military team conducted train-the-trainer instruction. In March-May 1997, a U.S. team established a computer training program at the NDO, revitalized the NDO's data collection center, and conducted mine awareness training. Another U.S. military team, including explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) specialists, trained 93 RPA deminers and EOD personnel. In FY99, funding has been allocated for the renovation of the NDO facility and additional EOD training. A quality assurance program is underway to enable Rwanda to attain UN demining standards. With U.S. assistance, the NDO has cleared approximately 50 percent of the land previously designated as "compromised" by landmines and UXO. The percentage of "compromised" land has actually risen due to the great success of the mine awareness campaign and as the local population alerts officials of risk areas. The RPA has built housing on cleared land for returning refugees. NDO demining efforts have been very successful, and the national demining program has reached the sustainment phase. A recent report cited the success of the program, pointing out that more 7 million km² have been cleared, including 600 km of bush roads. In addition, 200,000 internally displaced persons have been allowed to return to their villages and homes.

SWAZILAND



The Landmine Problem

Swaziland has one minefield along its border with Mozambique, just east of the Lomhasma Customs point in the extreme northeastern corner of the country. The minefield is approximately 10 km long with widths ranging from 50 to 100 km. The number of landmines in this area is unknown.

United States Assistance

U.S. funding for demining operations began in FY98, and total assistance is expected to be approximately \$1.7 million by the end of this fiscal year. Because of the size and location of the minefield, the United States has focused its funding on training Swaziland Defense Force personnel. The funding provides demining equipment and equipment operator training. The goal is to create a cadre of Defense Force soldiers capable of delivering competent demining instruction and achieving an indigenous capacity to demine this single minefield and allow Swaziland to become mine-safe.

ZIMBABWE



The Landmine Problem

During the War of Liberation that ended in 1980, the security forces of then Rhodesia laid minefields along the northern and eastern borders. The war's legacy was 210 km² of minefields stretching across 700 km along the borders with Zambia and Mozambique. The number of landmines is unknown, and estimates vary widely from 200,000 to 2,200,000. Some mines can also be attributed to unrest in neighboring Namibia. Minefield records were not adequately prepared or maintained, and many landmines are located in rough terrain in remote regions of the country that are difficult to survey.



United States Assistance

Zimbabwe began receiving humanitarian demining assistance in FY98 and the total financial support is expected to exceed \$3 million by the end of FY99. The program is in an early stage and, therefore, U.S. funding has focused on providing extensive training to improve the ability of the Zimbabweans to conduct demining operations. An NDO has been established, training in staff management and organizational structure has been conducted, and computers have been provided. The NDO established a mine awareness unit responsible for training in target audience analysis and mine awareness information campaign design. U.S. military personnel trained approximately 50 defense force engineers in basic demining techniques, medical orderly skills, minefield survey, and equipment maintenance. Funding in FY99 is destined for the purchase of heavy equipment to support clearance operations and mine awareness. An additional 50 defense force engineers are expected to be trained this fiscal year. The United States will continue to support Zimbabwe's efforts to clear its mined areas so that the country may benefit from the estimated hundreds of millions of dollars that can be earned annually through full use of these areas.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN



The Landmine Problem

Afghanistan has been besieged by occupation, foreign interference, and civil wars since early 1978 and, as a result, is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world. The UN estimates that there are 5-7 million landmines in the country. The most heavily mined areas are the provinces bordering Iran and Pakistan, and some claim that 162 of 356 districts are mine-affected. However, based on actual clearance experience in heavily mined areas, some NGOs claim that official estimates are high and should be lowered. Security belts of landmines exist around major cities and at airports, government installations, and power stations. Grazing lands, irrigation canals, schools, paths, villages, and cities are also infested. Landmines continue to cause an estimated 10-12 injuries per day.

United States Assistance

The United States has supported demining operations in Afghanistan since FY89 and has contributed almost \$20 million since FY93. The United States, in cooperation with other international donors, supports demining activities through the UN's Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan (UNOCHA). In 1989, a USAID project, conducted by RONCO, developed the original dog and dog-handling program now used in mine clearance operations. When the dog program was turned over to the UN in 1994, 36,000 landmines had already been destroyed. At that time, this represented 25 percent of all mines destroyed in the world. The Mine Detection Dog Center has assumed responsibility for the entire program and now trains and breeds all mine-detecting dogs used in Afghanistan. The United States has continued to provide financial support in demining operations for mine awareness, mine clearance, surveys, minefield marking, and training. The United States has committed \$1.5 million in FY99 funds to The HALO Trust to conduct demining operations in Vardak Province.

The UN's Mine Action Program for Afghanistan (MAPA) has become one of the most effective demining programs in the world. This internationally supported demining operation has cleared more than 134 km² of land and 125 km² of battlefield infested with UXO, representing more than 850,000 landmines and UXO destroyed. As a result, the casualty rate has declined, and many of the several million refugees have returned to their homeland. The United States plans to continue supporting the MAPA through UNOCHA, and possibly through direct grants to Afghan NGOs that are conducting the majority of mine clearance, to return Afghanistan's mined lands to economically and socially productive use.

CAMBODIA



The Landmine Problem

After more than two decades of war, it is estimated that Cambodia is littered with 4 to 6 million landmines, infesting an estimated 3,000 km² of land. Of Cambodia's 23 mine-affected provinces, the majority of the landmines/UXO are found in seven of the western, northwestern, and northern provinces, and two central/southern provinces contain large areas of suspected minefields. Battlefield UXO is found countrywide, and aerial-delivered ordnance is found mainly in eastern and central provinces. Although great strides have been made in reducing the number of landmine victims, there is still a minimum of fifty casualties a month.



United States Assistance

The United States has supported demining operations since FY93 and, with FY99 contributions, our funding will exceed \$18 million. The United States supports the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) in conjunction with the Rural Planning Committees and the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF). Funding has provided needed equipment and training to augment financial assistance from the UN Development Program Trust Fund and other international donors. The U.S. military provided more than \$2 million in training assistance from November 1994 through June 1997; military units trained 1,200 personnel in basic demining, leadership, medical skills, and mine awareness. U.S. funding through the UN has also provided training for 537 RCAF engineers. This resulted in the demining of 800,000 meters² of land on and along a major highway in a remote province in 1997, enabling necessary road and bridge construction to open a strategic access to the chief city in that province for the first time in 20 years. Deminers had cleared 51 km² of mined and UXO-infested land by January 1998, which equates to an area large enough to enable the resettlement of approximately 40,800 families, or the agricultural land equivalent to the annual production of up to 5,560 tons of rice. An additional 13 km² were cleared, and 13,245 landmines and 47,000 pieces of UXO were destroyed by the end of 1998. This fiscal year, the United States is expected to donate \$1 million to aid the CMAC Trust Fund's operational costs. An additional \$500,000 will support NGO mine clearance projects.

With U.S. and international support, CMAC's demining operations have been able to reduce the casualty rate from landmines by 90 percent; nonetheless, one of every 45 Cambodians is an amputee. To support the need for prosthetics and victim assistance, since 1992 USAID's Senator Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund (WVF) has invested more than \$6.8 million in the Cambodia Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Program. Working through the VVAF, and in cooperation with the Government, the program has succeeded in consolidating and professionalizing Kien Kheang as a national rehabilitation center and, through improved technology and service, Prey Veng as a provincial center. The project has produced and fitted 635 multi-axle feet, 1,300 thermoplastic prostheses and treated 8,000 patients. The United States has a strong commitment to solving the landmine problem facing the people of Cambodia, and it will continue to support CMAC's demining efforts and provide assistance to its thousands of landmine victims.

LAOS



The Landmine Problem

Intense ground combat occurred in Laos between 1964 and 1973. In addition, approximately 2 million tons of ordnance were dropped on Laos, of which 30 percent is believed never to have exploded. The result is that, today, almost half of the country is infested with UXO. The most contaminated areas are where the heaviest bombing took place, in the northern provinces of Houaphan and Xiengkhouang, and along the eastern border. UXO continue to kill more than 25 years after the war has ended.

United States Assistance

The United States has played an active leadership role in UXO Lao programs since FY95 and is the single largest donor to the program. Total U.S. contributions to UXO Lao are expected to surpass \$13.9 million by the end of this fiscal year. In 1996 and 1997, contributions helped establish an NDO and fund training in UXO clearance, community mine awareness, and medical care. It also supported the Ban Ilay UXO Training Center, staffed by a U.S. military training team and Lao instructors. The Center offers courses in community awareness, clearance techniques, medical training, and leadership development; more than 500 students have graduated from these courses. Recent U.S. assistance has funded additional training and has been the major source for the purchase of mine clearance equipment. U.S. funds have enabled the sustainment of mine/UXO awareness in eight provinces, mine/UXO clearance in seven others, and the establishment of rapid response teams in the remaining five provinces. By the end of 1999, the U.S. military will have trained more than 815 indigenous personnel and will have created a self-sustaining training capacity. The United States expects to begin advanced EOD training sometime during FY99. Since 1991, USAID's Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund (WVF) has contributed \$3.8 million to support rehabilitation programs and community awareness programs, and to develop emergency response capabilities. In addition, between 1991 and 1995, the WVF provided \$1.6 million through World Vision Relief and Development for prosthetics and orthotics and the improvement of Laotian rehabilitation centers. In 1995, the WVF awarded a \$2.1 million, five-year grant to a consortium to upgrade medical, surgical, and emergency services, facilities and human resources, and, in collaboration with UNICEF, UXO awareness training in Xiengkhouang Province. Thus far, more than 300 medical staff personnel have been trained in emergency rehabilitation or laboratory services, and one provincial and five district hospitals have received medical equipment and supplies. The United States will continue to work with UXO Lao to build an indigenous capacity and to provide sustainment funding so that it can assume control of all operations later this year.

THAILAND



The Landmine Problem

Thailand's landmine problem is the result of the spillover effect of armed conflicts in neighboring countries and past internal insurgencies. An estimated 100,000 landmines are located along its borders with Cambodia, Burma, and Malaysia. In these border regions, more than 900 km² are mine-infested.



United States Assistance

U.S. humanitarian demining assistance to Thailand began in FY99. The United States has allocated \$1.8 million to support the Thai government's effort to develop a national demining program. U.S. funding will support the establishment of a demining school to teach mine clearance courses. This funding also will help purchase demining equipment and protective clothing for the school. The United States also will assist Thailand in establishing a center that will teach basic mine awareness courses. In addition, funds will be used to purchase equipment and clothing for six demining platoons and vehicles for mine clearance and mine awareness. The United States supports Thailand's commitment to eliminate landmines from its borders with neighboring countries.

EUROPE

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



The Landmine Problem

Bosnia-Herzegovina (B-H) has the most severe landmine problem in Europe, the result of the five-year-long civil war that broke apart Yugoslavia. Some 600,000-1 million landmines and an undetermined quantity of UXO infest an estimated 300 km² of land. The areas of heaviest landmine concentration are in regions where ethnic conflict occurred. Minefields are found in the Zones of Separation (between the Federation and the Republika Srpska), the front line during the civil war. Road systems, power plants, bridges, dams, and other components of the infrastructure were all heavily mined. Landmines continue to injure an estimated 30-35 people per month.

United States Assistance

The United States has supported demining operations since FY96, and with FY99 contributions, this support totals more than \$28 million. Initial U.S. objectives were the establishment of a MAC in Sarajevo, a mine clearance training school at Brus, and three regional administration and operational centers in Banja Luka, Tuzla, and Buzina. These objectives have been accomplished because the national MAC, the two entity MACs, and three demining schools are operating under combined local and international supervision. In 1996, RONCO trained nearly 170 demobilized military personnel in demining methods and techniques, including the detection of mines using dogs. In 1997, the U.S. military conducted a training program for 450 military deminers from all three former warring factions, and the United States provided necessary demining equipment. By May of 1997, the United States had turned over all U.S. equipment at the civilian regional centers to the respective parties and ceased the direct management of demining operations. To date, more than 1,200 military and civilian deminers have been trained and equipped, and they are now demining to internationally accepted standards. In 1998, the United States provided \$7 million to fund contracts with one international and three regional commercial demining companies. These companies cleared nearly 3 km² of land in 1998, representing the most productive demining operation of the year. In the past two years, more than 12 km² have been cleared. The United States has initiated a research and development program to test prototypical demining equipment for possible use in B-H. In 1996, the United States, DC Comics, and UNICEF distributed a special-edition *Superman* comic book devoted to mine awareness. This year, U.S. demining assistance will shift from the World Bank to the Slovenian International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victim Assistance in B-H. The country will benefit from one-to-one matching of U.S. contributions to the Trust Fund; the U.S. Congress has set aside \$28 million in matching funds for a two year period. The demining program has reached the sustainment phase, and direct U.S. involvement is nearing its end. However, through the Slovenian Trust Fund, the United States will continue to support efforts to demine the country.

ESTONIA



The Landmine Problem

Estonia's landmine and UXO problem dates back to World War I. In addition, the Baltic Sea was mined during both world wars, and the majority of UXO on the ground is from World War II. The number of landmines is difficult to estimate, but the number of UXO is estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands.



United States Assistance

Estonia is to receive U.S. funding for landmine clearance operations commencing this fiscal year. The United States has allocated more than \$1.3 million to support Estonian demining efforts. The country has an established and experienced demining capacity within the Self-Defense Board, but it lacks the modern equipment and personnel protection systems necessary to conduct demining operations. U.S. funding will allow the Estonians to acquire the modern equipment and protective clothing to conduct safe and effective demining operations. The funding will also allow the Government to establish a MAC to coordinate demining activities, expand demining operations, and develop a comprehensive landmine/UXO awareness program. The United States will continue to support the Estonian government in its development of a national demining program. With U.S. support, it is anticipated that future casualties from landmines/UXO will be reduced and tragedies may be averted.

L A T I N A M E R I C A

COSTA RICA



The Landmine Problem

Costa Rica's landmine problem is a result of conflict in neighboring Nicaragua. An estimated 1,000-2,000 landmines are located along the Nicaraguan border, between Rio San Carlos and through Los Chiles to the frontier region near Upala.



United States Assistance

The United States has supported demining efforts since FY95, providing funding through the Organization of American States (OAS)/Inter-American Defense Board (IADB).⁵ The United States has contributed more than \$6.5 million to the OAS/IADB for demining operations to date, and an additional \$4.5 million has been allocated in FY99. Under this program, Ministry of Public Safety (MPS) personnel have been trained and equipped for demining operations. U.S. military personnel have conducted training in emergency medical and demining procedures. Funding assistance has also been used for a communications base, vehicles, field equipment, and generators, and with this infrastructure in place, the MPS began mine clearance operations in 1996. To date, MPS personnel have cleared more than 15,000 meters² of land and destroyed 45 mines. The operations have made previously mined fertile fields available for farming. Demining operations were suspended in December 1997 because of a lack of a medical evacuation helicopter to support the deminers; however, a recent U.S. donation of \$300,000 through the OAS/IADB toward the lease of a helicopter will allow demining operations to resume. The United States has also worked to increase mine awareness in Costa Rica. DC Comics, in cooperation with the U.S. Government and UNICEF, began distributing 55,000 copies of a Spanish-language *Superman/Wonder Woman* mine awareness comic book in September 1998; soon after, two landmines were reported to a schoolteacher who had received training from a U.S. mine awareness team. The Costa Ricans continue to clear mines along the Nicaraguan border and, with the support of the OAS/IADB, the country is expected to be mine-safe in early 2000.⁶

5 The OAS is the proponent for all humanitarian demining initiatives in Central America, and the OAS' Assistance Mission for Mine Clearance in Central America (MARMINCA) conducts demining operations. The U.S. Southern Command provides training, technical advice and logistical support to the OAS through the IADB. The DoD funds this assistance to MARMINCA via the IADB.

6 In November 1997, Cesar Gaviria, the Secretary General of the OAS, declared that his goal was to make Central America landmine-free by 2000. However, in October 1998, Hurricane Mitch—the worst natural disaster in the recorded history of the Western Hemisphere—created a path of destruction throughout Central America. The period of recovery and a return to normalcy may delay achieving this OAS goal, because severe mud slides and overrun rivers have washed mines out of their demarcated minefields.

GUATEMALA



The Landmine Problem

Thirty years of internal conflict in the formerly contested zones in northwest Guatemala have resulted in a moderate landmine/UXO problem. The estimate of landmines is between 1,500 and 2,000. Landmines are found in the Playa Grande/Ixcan region of Quiche and in the vicinity of guerrilla base camps near the Atitlan and Tajumulco volcanoes.



United States Assistance

Landmine and UXO clearance in Guatemala is supported by the OAS/IADB's regional demining program, which Guatemala joined in 1998. The United States has contributed more than \$6.5 million to date, and it has also allocated an additional \$4.5 million this fiscal year to the OAS/IADB. U.S. funding has supported training, an UXO awareness campaign, and UXO clearance. The U.S. military have participated in the training of 60 army deminers and 40 volunteer firemen. This training has expanded Guatemalan military capabilities and created opportunities for the military to participate in demining missions. The Guatemalan Army began demining operations in November 1998 in Ixcan. The United States also supports the multinational mine removal venture, MARMINCA, that provides direct supervision and support to Guatemalan Army demining units. The United States supports the Guatemalan goal to be UXO-free in three years.

HONDURAS



The Landmine Problem

As a result of conflict in neighboring countries, Honduras is infested with an estimated 15,000 – 35,000 landmines implanted along the borders with Nicaragua and El Salvador. Although the mined areas are not densely populated, civilians have been injured from time to time.

United States Assistance

The United States has supported demining operations in Honduras since FY93, providing operational and logistical support for demining training conducted by multinational teams under the supervision of the OAS/IADB. The United States has contributed more than \$6.5 million to the OAS/IADB for demining operations to date, and an additional \$4.5 million have been allocated this fiscal year to support training and a mine awareness campaign in the region. Demining operations in 1998 were conducted along the Nicaraguan border and in the area of San Carlos-Las Barrancas. While the majority of the demining troops are Hondurans, other participants in the operation are military technicians from several countries, including the United States. To date, the U.S.-trained Honduran demining unit has cleared nine major minefields measuring 116,000 meters² and destroyed more than 1,800 mines and 272 pieces of UXO. In cooperation with DC Comics, the U.S. Government and UNICEF have distributed a Spanish-language mine awareness comic book, *Superman/Wonder Woman*. The United States and several European nations are developing new demining technologies that may be used in Honduras. The Honduran operation has been successful in clearing vast areas of land and returning them to productive use. Honduras had hoped to be mine-safe by 2000, but the devastation of Hurricane Mitch has pushed the program back several years. Reassessments of the extent of the post-Hurricane-Mitch mine problem are now underway and should be completed in the near future. Notwithstanding, the United States will continue to support this successful demining program.

NICARAGUA



The Landmine Problem

For almost 12 years Nicaragua was involved in armed conflict and civil strife that ended in 1990, leaving it the most mine-affected country in Central America. During the conflict, all warring factions used landmines, laying about 134,000. Government mine clearance operations and revised estimates have reduced the number to 108,297. The most heavily mined areas were the northern and southern borders and the central departments of Esteli, Jinotega, and Matagalpa. Landmines were also laid around internal installations, most of which are located in north-central and central Nicaragua.



United States Assistance

Nicaragua has been receiving U.S. humanitarian demining assistance since FY93 through the OAS/IADB. The United States has contributed more than \$6.5 million to the OAS/IADB for demining operations to date, and \$4.5 million have been allocated in this fiscal year. In September 1992, U.S. military personnel trained an IADB team in mine clearance techniques at the School of the Americas, Fort Benning, Georgia. This team returned to Nicaragua and trained the first Nicaraguan demining platoon. These soldiers have trained five platoons (130 military deminers). Since 1992, the U.S. military has trained an additional 147 indigenous trainers. U.S. funding has helped clear landmines in areas around high-tension towers, bridges, electric substations, and other installations between Juigalpa and Acoyapa. To date, 32 of the 38 high-tension towers have been demined, with 1,400 mines destroyed and 14,000 meters² of land cleared. In addition, the road between Rama and Juigalpa will soon be cleared. To date, more than 130,000 meters² have been cleared and 31,000 landmines destroyed. With U.S. assistance, safety equipment, mine detectors, and communications equipment will be purchased to support an additional 76 deminers. The mine awareness program has benefited from *Superman/Wonder Woman*, a DC Comics Spanish-language mine awareness comic book produced in coordination with the U.S. Government and UNICEF and distributed to children. The devastation of Hurricane Mitch has pushed the demining program back several years, but reassessments of the extent of the post-Hurricane-Mitch mine problem are now underway and should be completed in the near future as the United States continues to support the country through the OAS/IADB in its efforts to become mine-safe.

PERU-ECUADOR



The Landmine Problem

During the brief border war between these two countries in early 1995, mines were laid along the disputed approximately 78-kilometer-long Cordillera del Condor region. Landmines were also placed haphazardly along other sensitive areas of the border during the fighting. Although the actual number of landmines implanted is unknown, the Ecuadorian government reports that 60,000-80,000 landmines are implanted in its soil.



United States Assistance

In April 1998, the United States agreed to provide humanitarian demining assistance to Peru and Ecuador, once hostilities ended and the two countries requested U.S. assistance. In October 1998, the two countries signed a peace treaty and ratified it two months later. In early 1999, following a U.S. Policy Assessment Visit, both countries were accepted into the U.S. humanitarian demining program. A Requirements Determination Site Survey team is expected to visit both countries in the spring of 1999. The United States has committed \$500,000 for each country this fiscal year to be used for training and equipment. The United States also has agreed to provide Ecuador with long-term demining training, and to explore the possibility of establishing a mine-detection dog program. Each country's demining program is in its infant stages, and the United States will support the development of these respective programs.

THE MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT



The Landmine Problem

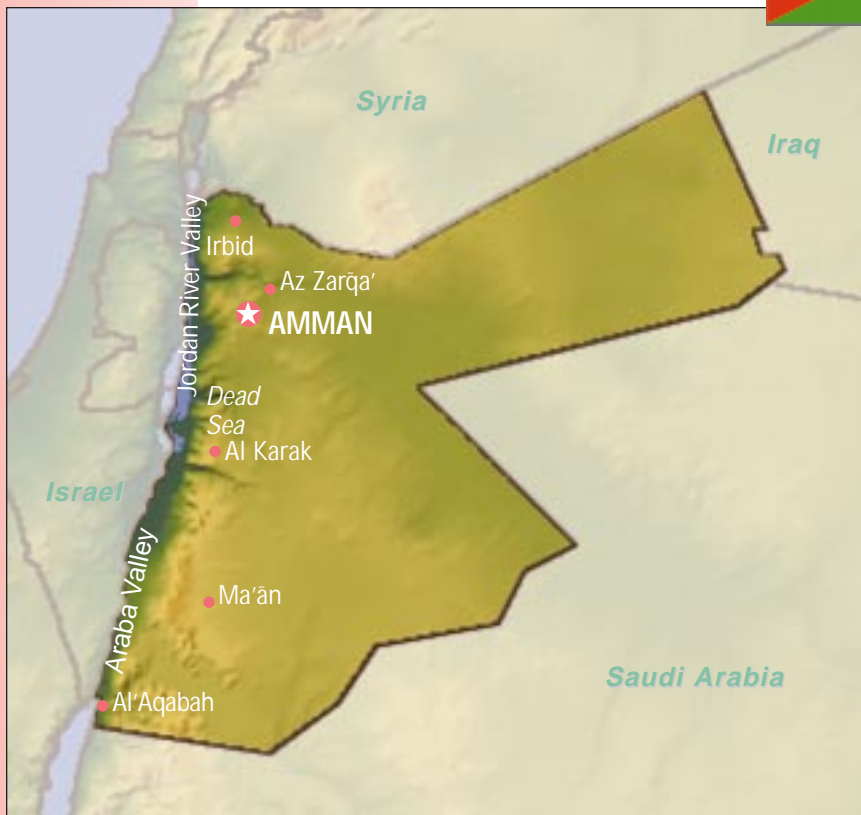
With an estimated 20 million landmines, Egypt is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world. These landmines date back to the Second World War. The most heavily mined areas are Alexandria, el Alamein, Ras-Al-Hekma, Marsá Matrüh, Sidi Barrani, Salloum, and the Sinai Peninsula. Areas near the Libyan border are also infested.



United States Assistance

Egypt will receive humanitarian demining assistance for the first time in FY99 with an expected U.S. contribution of \$1.5 million. Egypt has some demining expertise and some outdated equipment. In November 1997, a U.S. policy assessment team visited Egypt, followed by a Requirements Determination Site Survey conducted in May 1998 to assess Egypt's demining capabilities. The Survey assessed Egypt's capabilities in six areas: mine detection and disposal; mine awareness; UXO disposal; survey and information management; victim assistance; and equipment. Following these visits, the United States accepted Egypt into the U.S. humanitarian demining program. The U.S. program, in its initial stages, is through a train-the-trainer program, focusing on providing training and demining equipment to augment Egypt's own resources. Egypt receives U.S. Foreign Military Financing funds and, in the future, it is expected that some of these funds will be redirected to support Egypt's demining efforts. Egypt and the United States are working hard together to establish a national demining program.

JORDAN



The Landmine Problem

An estimated 206,193 landmines covering an area of 101km² remain in Jordan. Most of the mines date from the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict. The majority of landmines are located in two discrete areas in the northwest region of the Jordan River Valley. One area is toward the northern end of the Valley, near Lake Tiberias, and the other is farther south, near the northern end of the Dead Sea. Additional minefields are located in the southwest region in the Araba Valley. Demining is difficult because many mines were implanted 30 years ago in areas that have suffered erosion, shifting sands, and mudslides due to flooding and severe weather.

United States Assistance

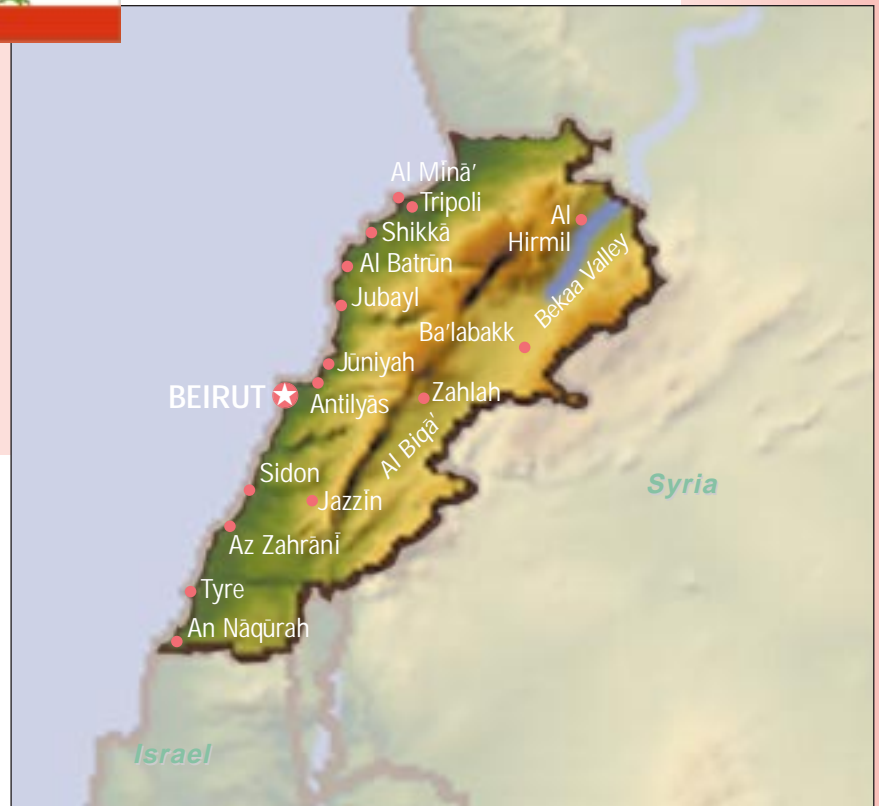
Jordan has been receiving U.S. humanitarian demining assistance since 1996. Total U.S. contributions are expected to be just under \$4 million by the end of this fiscal year. U.S. funding is used to augment equipment, technical advice, and manpower assistance that Jordan receives from Israel. U.S. training has improved the capabilities of Jordan's Royal Corps of Engineers in mine detection and disposal, mine awareness, and survey and information management. The United States has provided Jordan with a computer-managed training system known as a Demining Support System. Demining operations are focused in the 300 minefields located in the Jordan River Valley. The Valley is the most fertile farmland in the country, and mines have severely impacted the production of food crops in a region where arable land is at a premium. U.S. funding has allowed Jordan to keep 100 men actively demining on a daily basis. The result has been clearance of more than 300 acres and destruction of more than 11,000 mines. Many of the remaining minefields are in difficult environmental areas, and demining in these areas will require the use of heavy equipment and new technologies that the United States is expected to purchase. The United States has already furnished five experimental mini mine flails; identified Jordan as a potential test bed for the Rhino, a new demining machine currently under U.S. military contract; and is considering a demining dog program for future use. The United States will continue to support Jordan's demining operations and work with the Government to achieve the goal of being mine-safe early next century.

LEBANON



The Landmine Problem

Civil War, waged from 1975-1990, left approximately 8,795 landmines implanted in Lebanese soil. Landmines are found in cities and villages located along old demarcation lines. Although some minefields are marked and fenced off, many others remain unmarked.



United States Assistance

The United States has supported a demining program since 1998. In this fiscal year, contributions are expected to triple from FY98, bringing total U.S. contributions to more than \$1.7 million. The U.S. military assisted in formally establishing an NDO and has supported its further development through training and equipment purchases. U.S. military personnel have conducted a train-the-trainer program to provide a fully indigenous company of deminers capable of sustained demining operations. In addition, funds have been used to develop a national demining database. The U.S. military will acquire equipment for training that later will be shipped to Lebanon for demining operations. The U.S. military advised the Lebanese on how to establish a mine information awareness program, and USAID has provided more than \$600,000 to support what is now considered an effective mine awareness campaign. The USAID project, conducted by the World Rehabilitation Fund, has increased the involvement of community-based organizations and NGOs involved in mine awareness. The United States continues to work with Lebanon toward the goal of achieving a qualified, trained, and equipped nation capable of continuing a mine awareness campaign.

YEMEN



The Landmine Problem

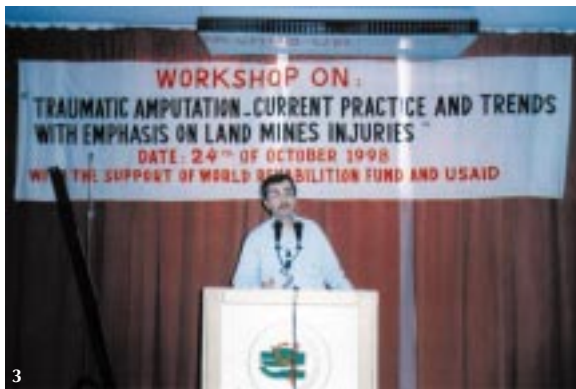
During the Yemeni civil war that ended in 1994, approximately 100,000 landmines were laid primarily around Aden, Ta'izz, and the Hadramaut region. Soldiers laid these landmines in an arbitrary and haphazard fashion without markings. The mines were placed in dunes and fields and alongside roads. Only limited historical documentation showing minefield locations or the number of mines planted exists today. In addition, Aden is experiencing a small UXO problem.

United States Assistance

Yemen first received U.S. humanitarian demining support in FY97, and total U.S. contributions to demining operations in Yemen are expected to surpass \$4.5 million by the end of this fiscal year. Current U.S. funding is enabling Yemen to develop a national demining program infrastructure and to initiate a train-the-trainer program. U.S. funding has focused on education and training, Yemen's top priorities. In December 1998, the first 150 Yemeni deminers trained by U.S. forces graduated from the training program at the Humanitarian Demining Training Facility in Aden; additional training is planned for this year. The funding is to support the purchase of demolitions and equipment and to establish a mine detection dog program. The United States has made a commitment to the Government of Yemen to help establish a program that will remain in place until the country is mine-safe.

COVER PHOTO:

Angolan children walk along a path that CARE has cleared of landmines. Photo credit: Paul Giannone (CARE)



PHOTOS:

- 1 Rehearsing a mine awareness demonstration at CMAC. Photo credit: Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State
- 2 A young Vietnamese girl awaiting prosthesis at the new Prosthetics Outreach Foundation clinic in Hanoi. Photo credit: Arden Norvold, Prosthetics Outreach Foundation
- 3 Dr. Nadim Karam, Director of the World Rehabilitation Fund Programs in Lebanon, at a 1998 workshop. Photo credit: World Rehabilitation Fund
- 4 Special Forces "A" Detachment Medic conducting medical training to a Mozambican military deminer. Photo credit: 3rd U.S. Army Special Forces Group (Airborne), U.S. Army Special Forces Command
- 5 A sample mine recognition board set produced by the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command used to facilitate training, mine awareness, and mine identification. Photo credit: Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State



- 6 U.S. Navy EOD personnel conducting EOD training in Mozambique. Photo credit: U.S. Department of Defense Security Cooperation Agency
- 7 A team of Namibians conducting demining operations. Photo credit: U.S. Army CECOM NVESD
- 8 Demonstration of a demining dog training program at CMAC. Photo credit: Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State
- 9 Deminers conduct clearance operations in a residential area in Afghanistan. Photo credit: Afghanistan Mine Clearance Planning Agency
- 10 A team of Ecuadorian deminers attired in protective clothing and equipment. Photo credit: Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State



"...Our children deserve to walk the earth in safety"

President William J. Clinton, September 24, 1996

