

# Final Report

*(01 January – 31 December 2017)*

## “Capacity Support to Albanian Mine & Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO)”



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## List of Acronyms

<b>AAF</b>	Albanian Armed Forces
<b>ALB – AID</b>	Albanian Association for Integration and Development
<b>AMMCO</b>	Albanian Mines and Munitions Coordination Office
<b>APMBC</b>	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
<b>ARC</b>	Albanian Red Cross
<b>ASS</b>	Ammunition Storage Sites
<b>CCM</b>	Convention on Cluster Munitions
<b>CCW</b>	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
<b>FFE</b>	Free from Explosives
<b>EOD</b>	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
<b>ESH</b>	Explosive Store Houses
<b>ERW</b>	Explosive Remnants of War
<b>GICHD</b>	Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of Red Cross
<b>IMAS</b>	International Mine Action Standards
<b>IMSMA</b>	Information Management System for Mine Action
<b>ITF</b>	International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security
<b>MoD</b>	Ministry of Defense
<b>OSCE</b>	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
<b>NPA</b>	Norwegian People’s Aid
<b>QA</b>	Quality Assurance
<b>QC</b>	Quality Control
<b>QM</b>	Quality Management
<b>RE</b>	Risk Education
<b>SAA</b>	Small Arms and Ammunitions
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>US DoS</b>	United States Department of States
<b>UXO</b>	Unexploded Ordnance

## 1. Executive Summary

This is the final report of the project *“Capacity Support to Albanian Mine & Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO)”*, funded by the Government of the United States of America through ITF Enhancing Human Security, with an implementation period from 01 January through 31 December 2017. The report provides a description of progress and activities achieved for the abovementioned implementation period.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute in achieving that Albania is safe from ERW/UXO and to the fulfillment of the Albanian Government commitment to eliminate the ammunition risk by 2018.

*The specific objectives of the project are:*

- *Survey/Clearance and certification of four remaining contaminated areas Sinanaj-Tepelene, Jube Sukth–Durrës, Qafe Shtame and Suç-Burrel in full compliance with international humanitarian standards.*
- *Inspection and certification as safe and free from ammunition of three former military ammunition depots in Borizane Kruje, Vertop Berat and Berzhite in Tirana.*
- *Community liaison, public awareness and risk education of local communities living around the affected areas in Gjirokaster, Tepelene, Durrës, Burrel, Skrapar and Librazhd.*

At the end of December 2017, the actual number of dangerous UXO hotspots is reduced to 4 from initially 19 ones identified in 2011.

AMMCO has been enabled to continue providing technical assistance to the Government of Albania, in complying with the Disarmament Treaties such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBT) and Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) obligations.

### 1.1 Land cleared and released

During the reporting period, AMMCO was carrying out Coordination and Quality Management (Quality Assurance & Quality Control) of the cleared areas in UXO hotspots of Kordhoc and Picar Gjirokaster, Qaf Shtame(Selixe) Burrel and Jube Sukth Durrës. The achievements in land clearance are respectively;

- **226,127 square meters** of contaminated land cleared by Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) and the EOD AAF team, while AMMCO QM Team provided quality assurance and control in the UXO hotspot of Kordhoc (**8,362 square meters**), Picar (**13,937 square meters**) and an additional **33,715 square meters** released due to evidence of no threat), Jube-Sukth (**169,993 square meters**) and Qafe Shtame(Selixe) (**180 square meters one tunnel**).
- **23,992 items of UXO** (different calibers of artillery ammunitions, fuzes hand grenades), **80 AP mines** bodies found (containing only body and no explosives inside), **2 AT mine** body and **354,719 (SSA)** items of small arms and ammunitions ( $\leq 23$  mm and bullets) and **12 SALW** are found during the reporting period in UXO hotspots of Kordhoc, Picar Gjirokaster, Qafe Shtame (Selixe) Burrel and Jube-Sukth Durrës. All dangers items found are destroyed in situ from EOD team of AAF and others are collected and stored in the military depo for further destruction on the demolition range from the EOD AAF team, coordinated and monitored from AMMCO.

## ***1.2 Application of international standards and Quality Management***

AMMCO QM Team and clearance organizations (Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and the EOD unit of AAF) are operating in full compliance with National and International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) developed for UXO hotspot clearance programme. NPA has already developed the UXO clearance SOPs, based on their previous experience and EOD of AAF manual. This document is reviewed, updated as needed and approved by AMMCO along with AMMCO's work to ensure that clearance activities are carried out safely and in full compliance with national and international Humanitarian Standards.

In addition, Minister Orders are issued as per specific operation tasks. Thus, no accidents recorded during the reporting period.

The AMMCO Quality Management (QM) Team carried out regular monitoring visits and also weekly liaised with the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) to request and supervise the handover and demolitions conducted by AAF in the UXO hotspot clearance sites in Kordhoc, Picar Gjirokaster, Qafe Shtame (Selixe) Burrel and Jube-Sukth Durres. During the reporting period, the AMMCO QM Team has performed Quality Assurance (QA) visits and has conducted the Quality Control in the cleared areas by NPA and the EOD Team of AAF.

## ***1.3 EOD support to UXO Hotspots Programme in Albania***

EOD unit of Albanian Armed Forces (AAF), based on the Minister of Defense Order, paid weekly visits (every Friday) to the sites for item demolition or transport purposes to the designated army depots. The items that are considered as "red ones" (as dangerous to move from the UXO hotspot) are destroyed on site by EOD specialists. Safety brief takes place done regularly before the EOD demolition operations start in the UXO Hotspots. A safety cordon/perimeter is secured before the demolition starts. All local inhabitants including police and local authorities are informed on these operation and procedures. Military police escort the EOD team and also secures and supports the EOD operations on the field. AMMCO coordinated these weekly activities with EOD Unit.

## ***1.4 Risk Education and Public Awareness***

Risk Education (RE) and community liaison activities were ongoing as part of UXO hotspots clearance programme. Meetings and awareness raising sessions, together with NPA and the EOD teams, were conducted with local inhabitants in Kordhoc, Picar, Qafe Shtame (Selixe) Burrel and Jube Sukth Durres UXO hotspots to inform them about the potential risk. Awareness raising activities targeted 5,100 inhabitants, including men, women, boys and girls without any discrimination due to their involvement in risky activities, such as scrap metal collection and farming or animal husbandry in contaminated areas.

## ***1.5 Victims Assistance***

There are at least 1002 UXO casualties (151 killed and 851 injured) all over Albania since 1997. The last accident with unexploded ordnance was registered on 25 March 2017. There is a national plan aiming to support the mine and UXO victims throughout Albania. The plan complies with several Disarmament International Treaties ratified by Albania. A "Needs Assessment of Social-Economic and Medical needs of marginalized Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims in Albania" supported by the Austrian and US Government, has been completed during 2013-2016. The focus of the assessment was to review the status of the survivors, identifying their specific needs and drafting due recommendations for assistance to the Government and donors.

Based on the above Needs assessments, US Department of State through ITF Enhancing Human Security funded two projects in Victims Assistance in Albania during 2016-2017. The first project supported the vocational training for 25 survivors or their family members. The second project supported with raw materials and components for the production and repair of prostheses at prosthetic Workshop in Kukes Hospital. The materials and components are delivered in Kukes Hospital in June 2017 and AMMCO Risk Education & Community Liaison Coordinator facilitated this process.

## 1.6 Disarmament Treaty support

Albania is a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and Cluster Munitions Convention. As such, it has reporting obligations deriving from the respective Articles of each of these Conventions on yearly basis. AMMCO is providing its technical support and expertise to the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and have prepared the convention annual transparency reports on: (i) Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), (ii) the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), (iii) the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBT) and (iv) the OSCE questionnaire for the year 2016. Reports are available on the respective websites of each convention.

## 2. The UXO/ERW hotspots problem in Albania

The ammunition contamination of the territory is a problem in Albania. Among the causes of such contamination are the accidental explosions at Ammunition Storage Sites (ASS) across the country during the civil unrest in 1997, the unexploded remains of the WW I & II as well as former army ammunition demolition areas that need to be cleared of explosive remnants. Ammunition hotspots have also been created in few former army demolition areas and shooting or firing ranges polygons (former shooting & training sites), which have been closed recently by the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF). Most of these areas need a full subsurface clearance at a depth of 20 to 50 cm, before being used by the army or being released for further use.

In order to respond to the ammunition contamination situation, the Albanian Government, supported by the international community, embarked on a consolidation reform, focusing mainly on the reduction of storage depots, the destruction of a considerable number of SALWs and ammunition stockpiles and the clearance of the existing UXO hotspots by 2018. According to AMMCO database, there are 1002 abandoned explosive ordnance casualties (151 killed and 851 injured) recorded all over Albania during the period from 1997 until to date. During 2017, three accidents are registered in Albania; one on 20 January 2017 and two others on 22 and 25 March 2017.

The accidents happened in private property in Pogradec, and around the army buildings in Porto Romano Durres and Yrshek Tirana. In total six people are involved in accidents; 5 injured and one dead after being transported in National Trauma Hospital. From the 5 injured; 2 are children, two are civilian and one is an army sergeant's.

As a result of national and international efforts in undertaking clearance activities, at the end of December 2017, the current number of dangerous UXO hotspots is reduced to 4 from initially 19 ones identified in 2011.

**Table 1: Updated List of UXO hotspots as of 31 December 2017**

NO	UXO Hotspots	Originally suspected Hazard in 2014 (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total area cleared as of 31 December 2017 (m <sup>2</sup> )	Clearance Plan for 2018 (m <sup>2</sup> )
1	Gjeroven-Berat	63.000	68.423	-
2	Sinanaj – Tepelene	200.000	0	200.000
3	Picar – Gjirokaster	62.000	62.000	-
4	Kordhoc – Gjirokaster	2.400	24.470	-
5	Jube Sukth – Durres	1.326.714	169.993	1.156.721
6	Klos – Burrel (1 tunnel)	180	180	-
7	Mbreshtan – Berat	30.720	65.227	-
8	Palikesht – Berat	12.000	13.321	-
9	Laç (1 tunel)	1.117	350	-
10	Suç-Burrel	84.000	75.650	8.350
11	Qafe Shtame -Burrel (2 tunnels)	360	180	180
12	Gerdec – Vore	368.000	368.000	-
13	Ura e Gjadrit-Shkoder	91.000	93.295	-
14	Otllake-Berat	3.000	3.000	-
15	Gryke e Manatise-Lezhe	6.000	6.000	-
16	Rreshen-Lezhe	10.000	10.000	-
17	Brezhdan-Peshkopi	30.000	30.000	-
18	Pilure-Vlore	12.000	12.000	-
19	Shen-Vasil, Vlore	0	0	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.302.491</b>	<b>1002.029</b>	<b>1.365.251</b>

### 3. UXO hotspots clearance operation activities

During the reporting period, UXO hotspots clearance operations were ongoing in Kordhoc and Picar Gjirokaster, and Jube-Sukth Durres, carried out by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and funded by US Government through International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security (ITF) and in Qafe Shtame (Selixe) conducted by the EOD unit of Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) funded by Albanian Government.

AMMCO team was continuously coordinating, monitoring and conducting Quality Management of the cleared land on those areas of operation funded by US Government through International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security (ITF).

#### 3.1 UXO Hotspot Kordhoc, Gjirokaster

During the uprising in Albania, on the 11 March 1997 there were several explosions at the Kordhoc Ammunition Storage Site (ASS) which resulted in UXO contamination of the surrounding area. At least three ESH were involved in the explosions; these contained approximately 220 tons of ammunition and explosives at the time of the incident. The UXO hotspot has been assessed on 05 August 2011, and technical assessment detailed report has been provided by AMMCO Technical Assessment Team.

In 2016, AMMCO issued a task dossier of UXO Hotspot of Kordhoc (TD HS 010) to Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), based on the MoD action plan and clearance priorities. On 25 July 2016 NPA deployed one clearance team to the UXO hotspot of Kordhoc. The figures of the clearance progress for the reporting period follows: (i) clearance progress, (ii) items found in this UXO hotspot are respectively:

- i. **8,362 square meters** of contaminated land in the UXO Hotspot of Kordhoc is cleared by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA).
- ii. **1,175** items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) were found in total during the clearance process; the main items found included fuzes, grenades, as well as larger items such as mortars and projectiles including items of small arms and ammunitions ( $\leq$  23 mm and bullets) (SAA).

AMMCO QM team has continuously monitored and conducting Quality Assurance and Quality Control of this area, with sampling procedures based.

From the commencement of clearance operations to 31 March 2017 at the UXO hotspot of Kordhoc, a total of **24,470 square meters** of contaminated land and **1,730 UXO, 90 AP** and **2 AT** mine bodies including the **748 SAA** items were found and destroyed on-site or were transported to be demolished from EOD Team in the approved demolition ranges designated by MoD for this purpose.

The clearance operation from NPA team is successfully completed at the end of March 2017. In July 2017, the area was handed over officially to the respective authorities.

#### 3.2 UXO Hotspot Picar, Gjirokaster

During the uprising in Albania, on the 13 March 1997, there was an explosion at the Picar Ammunition Storage Site (ASS) which resulted in UXO contamination of area. On 15 May 1997, during a clearance operation done by AAF, a further fire/explosion occurred in a working area where stocks (approximately 120 tons) of damaged ammunition and loose propellant were being consolidated. This resulted in 4 deaths and 10 injuries.

In 2016, AMMCO issued a task dossier of UXO Hotspot of Picar (TD HS 011) to Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), based on the MoD action plan and clearance priorities. On 25 July 2016 NPA deployed one clearance team to the UXO hotspot of Picar. The figures of the clearance progress for the reporting period follows: (i) clearance progress, (ii) items found in this UXO hotspot are respectively:

- i. **13,937 square meters** of contaminated land in the UXO Hotspot of Picar are cleared by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) during the reporting period.

- ii. **2,441** items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and **2,364** items of small arms and ammunitions ( $\leq 23$  mm and bullets) (SAA) were found in total during clearance process, the main items found included fuzes, grenades, as well as larger items such as mortars and projectiles items of small arms and ammunitions ( $\leq 23$  mm and bullets) (SAA)

From the commencement of clearance operations to 12 May 2017, at the UXO hotspot of Picar, a total of **62,000 square meters** of contaminated land respectively **28,285 square meters** cleared, and **33,715** square meters released due to no evidence of threat.

**2,590 UXO** and **14,007 SSA** and **2,789 SALW** items were found and destroyed on-site or were transported to be demolished from EOD Team in the approved demolition ranges designated by MoD for this purpose.

AMMCO QM team performed Quality Assurance and Quality Control of this area, with sampling procedures based on the clearance progress in this task.

On 12 May 2017, the clearance operations are successfully completed in UXO hotspot of Picar, In July 2017 the area was handed over officially to the respective authorities.

### **3.3 UXO Hotspot Sinanaj, Tepelene**

During the demilitarization process done by the EOOD team of AAF, on 06 May 2006, the Explosive Storage Houses (ESH) exploded killing instantly 2 EOD military staff on site and destroying 6 ammunition storages. The explosion resulted in UXO contamination of the surrounding area. The area was surfaced cleared from EOD AAF, but needed technical survey to determine if further surface and sub-surface clearance according to International Standards.

In April 2017, AMMCO issued a task dossier for a Technical Survey of UXO Hotspot of Sinanaj (TD HS 012) to Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), based on the MoD action plan and priorities. NPA deployed one clearance team to the UXO hotspot of Sinanaj, executing a technical survey from 10 - 27 April 2017. During the Technical Survey, NPA team composed by 1 SSV, medical support and 5 operators worked for 9 operational days on site, covering in total 54 boxes of 50 m x 50 m searched, physically investigating 10,180 sq. meters and 67 UXOs and 66 SSA were located and removed in both surface and subsurface.

Technical Survey confirmed the need for full clearance of the UXO Hotspot in Sinanaj to an area around **200.000 square meters**.

### **3.4 UXO Hotspot Qafe Shtame (Selixe), Burrel**

The ammunition contamination of the Qaf- Shtame(Selixe) tunnel is related to the 1997 appraisal in Albania. Local people, including children, went inside the tunnels in Qaf Shtame and started to take ammunition out of the tunnels to sell for scrap. Due to this, there was an explosion and 23 people were burned/dead inside the tunnels. The entrance to the two tunnels that exploded is "blocked" by the Albanian army, but locals have managed to open some parts of the tunnels to go inside.

Qafe Shtame village is part of the Komsî Commune, district of Burrel. There is road access in the village, and the car must be in good condition (4X4 vehicle only). The distance from Burrel to Selice village is around 35 kilometers. The EOD Team of AAF started the clearance operations at UXO Hotspot Qafe Shtame Burrel on 10 July 2017, based on the MoD plan for 2017 and Support Command task order. Based on the Support Command request the AMMCO QM Team provided the quality control of cleared land and quality assurance visits to this UXO hotspot.

The figures of the clearance progress for the reporting period follows: (i) clearance progress, (ii) items found in this UXO hotspot are respectively:

- I. **180** square meters of contaminated land in the UXO Hotspot of Qafe Shtame is cleared by EOD unit of AAF.
- II. **20,000** items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and **350,000** items of small arms and ammunitions (SAA $\leq 23$  mm and bullets) were found in total during clearance process. The main items found included fuzes, hand grenades, electronic detonators, SAA, as well as larger items such as mortars and projectiles.



EOD Albanian finalized the clearance of operations on 1 (one) tunnel. The Clearance task was suspended due to bad weather conditions in late November 2017 and will restart with Clearance Operations of the other tunnel and surrounding areas in spring 2018.



Photos from the inspection visit in the UXO Hotspot Qafe Shtame(Selixe) Burrel

### 3.5 UXO Hotspot Jube-Sukth, Durres

This former AAF (Albanian Armed Forces) training area and later ammunition demolition area (OBOD) lies on the beach North of Durres, which is an area used regularly by the local community. Fisher nets are pointing to fishing activities in the area. Ammunition metal scrap collectors are collecting metal pieces in the water for selling them on the market. This activity contains a certain threat and should be halted. Numerous demolition pits scattered over the area are witnessing OBOD activities. The last demolition happened in April 2011. The Albanian MoD closed this demolition range and intends to handover the area to local authorities. The AAF carried out a surface clearance but the area will need a sub-surface clearance according International Standards (IMAS) before the land can be released to the local communities.

During the assessment, no explosive containing items could be found and no accident involving an explosive containing item was reported during the last years.

On 2 February 2017, AMMCO sent the Technical Assessment reports for TD-HS- 017 (Jube-Sukth UXO Hotspot) to NPA. On 8 May 2017, AMMCO issued a task dossier for a Technical Survey of UXO Hotspot of Jube- Sukth (TD HS 017) to Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), based on the MoD action plan and priorities. NPA deployed two clearance teams to the UXO hotspot of Jube- Sukth, executing technical survey from 23 May until 23 June 2017 over the whole area (with expectation of the part that is underwater), totaling **974,177 sqm**.

In total **32,719 sqm** were physically investigated by different instruments, i.e. Schonstaedet 72-ga, Ebinger PIDD and Ebinger Large loop UPEX-740 with the purpose to determine contamination type, depth and the best methodology tools NPA have. In addition, soil was excavated with the help of JCB 3cx excavator in 19 different boxes over the area, and then checked with different instruments. In total, **126 UXO** were removed and handed over to EOD AAF during the Technical Survey operation. These items were found in the depth up to 20 centimeters, except for the training bombs that were found on the depth to 1 meter and discovered by large loop.

Based on the Technical Survey findings, NPA prepared the Clearance Operation Plan, which was introduced for approval on 26 June 2017. The full clearance of the Jube-Sukth hotspot can be considered as "challenging" because it includes the beach shore (underwater clearance), sand and muddy areas.

After the Technical Survey completed, based on the NPA Clearance Operation Plan approved on 28 June 2017 AMMCO issued a task dossier based on the MoD Order to do Clearance Operation of UXO Hotspot of Jube- Sukth (TD HS 017) to Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). NPA deployed two clearance teams to the UXO hotspot of Jube-Sukth, executing Clearance Operation.

The total figures of the clearance progress for this task are: (i) clearance progress, (ii) items found in this UXO hotspot are respectively:

- I. **169,993 square meters** of contaminated land in the UXO Hotspot of Jube Sukth Durres is cleared by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) during reporting period.
- II. **1,389 items** of unexploded ordnance (UXO) were found in total during clearance process. The main items found included fuzes, grenades, electronic detonators, as well as larger items such as mortars and projectiles and bombs.

AMMCO QM team performed Quality Assurance and Quality Control of this area, with sampling procedures based on the clearance progress in this task.



Photos from the UXO clearance operations in the Hotspot Jube-Sukth-Durres

#### 4. Application of International Standard and Quality Management of UXO Hotspot Clearance Operations

AMMCO and clearance organizations (NPA and EOD unit of AAF) are operating in full compliance with National and International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) developed for UXO hotspot clearance programme. NPA has already developed the UXO clearance SOPs, based on their previous experience and EOD of AAF manual. This document is reviewed, update as needed and approved by AMMCO along with AMMCO's work to ensure that clearance activities are carried out safely and in full compliance with national and international Humanitarian Standards. Thus, no accidents recorded during the reporting period. The AMMCO Quality Management (QM) Team carried out regular monitoring visits and is also weekly liaising with the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) to request and supervise the demolitions conducted by AAF in the NPA UXO hotspot clearance sites in Kordhoc, Picar Gjirokaster, Qafe Shtame (Selixe) Burrel and Jube Sukth Durres. During the reporting period, the AMMCO QM Team has performed Quality Assurance (QA) visits and has conducted the Quality Control in the cleared areas by NPA and EOD Team.

During the visits, there were no irregularities. In general, the operations were conducted in compliance with the respective SOPs and the safety standards. The cleared areas quality controlled by the AMMCO QM Team are found to be free of unexploded ordnance.



Photos from the AMMCO QM Team during QA and QC activities in the UXO Hotspot Clearance Operations

## 5. Operational Meetings

The operational meetings are held on a monthly basis at the Norwegian People's Aid regional offices in Gjirokastra, Durres and Tirana. The operational meetings provide a good basis for the discussions of detailed operational issues; clearance productivity, clearance requirements, types and quantities of UXOs and other small arms and ammunitions (SAA) found and their categorization, cooperation with Albanian Armed Forces in the handover/demolitions of the items found, cooperation/community liaison with local authorities and inhabitants living around contaminated areas. The agenda and minutes of the operational meetings are filed and documented.



Photo from the operation meeting in the NPA field office in the Jube-Sukth-Durres

## 6. Risk Education and Community Liaison

Risk Education activities are closely linked with the community liaison efforts. AMMCO through its community liaison activities, in cooperation with NPA teams, are directly involved in the handover of cleared land to communities and are assisting in building confidence on the quality of clearance in line with international humanitarian standards. Regardless of the life threat: children, women and men are often involved in scrap metal collection around UXO hotspots. Therefore, local inhabitants of Kordhoc, Picar Gjirokaster, Qafe Shtame (Selixë) Burrel and Jube Sukth Durres were met, and awareness-raising sessions were organized with local community members to inform them about the potential risks that UXO hotspots pose. Awareness raising activities targeted

5,100 inhabitants, including men, women, boys and girls without any discrimination due to their involvement in risky activities, such as scrap metal collection and farming in contaminated areas.

## **7. Victims Assistance**

There are at least 1002 UXO casualties (151 killed and 851 injured) all over Albania. There is plan aiming to support the mine and UXO victims throughout Albania. The plan complies with several Disarmament International Treaties ratified by Albania, such as Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and Convention on Cluster Munitions Convention. The implementation of the National Plan is contributing to the emergency and continuing medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, socio-economic reintegration, data collection, relevant laws and policies for all mine/UXO victims throughout Albania.

A “Needs Assessment of Social-Economic and Medical needs of marginalized Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims in Albania” supported by the Austrian and US Government, has been completed during 2013-2016. The focus of the assessment was to review the status of the survivors, identifying their specific needs and drafting due recommendations for assistance to the Government and donors. To this purpose, a national workshop with participation of all stakeholders including donors was held in Tirana to present the findings and more important the medical/rehabilitation and socio-economic needs of survivors and/or their families.

Based on the above Needs assessments, US Department of State through ITF Enhancing Human Security funded two projects in Victim Albania during 2016-2017. The first project is supporting the vocational training of 25 survivors. A selection process is done and 25 survivors have already completed the vocational training courses in Albania.

AMMCO is monitoring the project and continuously coordinating with relevant partners of the project. The second project supported with raw materials and components for the production and repair of prostheses at prosthetic Workshop in Kukes Hospital. Materials and components are delivered in Kukes regional Hospital in June 2017.

During the reporting period, at least 31 new prostheses and 41 major repairs are done to amputees in need at the Prosthetic Workshop in Kukes Hospital and at 1481 physiotherapy sessions are done to 135 patients.

## **8. Disarmament treaties support**

Albania is a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and Cluster Munitions Convention. As such, it has reporting obligations deriving from the respective Articles of each of these Conventions on yearly basis. AMMCO is providing its technical support and expertise to the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is in process of preparing the convention annual transparency reports on: (i) Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), (ii) the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), (iii) the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBT) and (iv) the OSCE questionnaire for the year 2016. The reports of CCM and APMBT and CCW are made available on the respective websites of each convention.

## **9. Visits and Meetings**

The following are meetings and visits made to UXO Hotspots Clearance programme in Albania during the reporting period;

### **9.1 Participation on the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of MA National Programme Directors in Geneva**

AMMCO Director participated in the 19th International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers, held in Geneva from **16 to 19 February 2017**. This annual meeting is an opportunity for Albania, as a member of the mine action community to meet and to assess the progress and challenges within the sector. Participants include senior officials from mine action programmes, colleagues from United Nations departments and agencies, representatives from international non-governmental organizations, experts from

donor governments and other mine action implementing partners. Organized by UNMAS for the first time at the Palais des Nations, on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, this biggest annual meeting of mine action stakeholders registered a record number of more than 550 delegates, including representatives from Member States, the United Nations, civil society, as well as from the private sector.

During the meeting, AMMCO Director has met with Mr. Ethan Rink Programme Manager of US WRA office for SE Europe including Albania. In this meeting, organized by Ms. Sabina Beber, ITF Deputy Director, Albania's programme objectives and funds needed to complete the clearance of UXO hotspots in Albania including AMMCO funding issues were discussed. Mr. Rink expressed the interest from US DoS and WRA offices to support Albania and he visited Albania in follow up to this meeting.

## **9.2 Participation on the Senior Managers' Course on ERW and Mine Action in Croatia**

From **20 March - 7 April 2017**, AMMCO participated in the Regional Senior Managers' Course on ERW and Mine Action 2017, held in Croatia, from CIRS in partnership with the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC). From Albania Mr. Haredin Kryeziu, AMMCO QM Team Leader was selected to participate in this Course. The course participants were from mine action centers in the region and beyond: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, ITF Slovenia, Georgia, Kosovo, Turkey and Ukraine. <http://www.jmu.edu/cisr/programs/training.shtml>

In this course from 26-28 March 2017, AMMCO Director was invited to provide a presentation on the Roundtable Discussion: Building Partnerships-Regional Collaboration and Communication (participants from AMMCO, NPA, ITF, SESSAC and MAG). Also, the AMMCO Director provided presentation on Programme Sustainability and Planning for Future" The Albanian experience and challenges in disarmament and rehabilitation process". Experiences of Albania were shared in both respective panels with all participants and other stakeholders at this course.

## **9.3 Visit of ITF Representatives to UXO Hotspots Clearance Programme**

From **19 – 21 and 30 - 31 May 2017**, the representatives of International Trust Fund (ITF) Enhancing Human Security; Director and Deputy Director of ITF visited Albania, in order to be informed about the progress and future plans UXO hotspot clearance and demilitarization programmes in Albania. Visits to UXO Hotspots clearance programme aimed at acquiring updated information about the current situation and clearance operations in UXO hotspots, through discussions, formal presentations and on-site visit to UXO Hotspots of Jube Sukth Durres. A MoU for cooperation of ITF and Ministry of Defense Albania in the field of surplus ammunition for the year 2017 was signed during this visit.

Additionally, ITF representatives visited to the Vocational Training Center in Tirana, where 17 survivors or their family members are attending the vocational training courses. A meeting with the management of the vocational training center and survivors attending the courses were organized.

## **9.4 Visit of USA Embassy Tirana and ITF representative to Albania**

From **27 – 29 June 2017**, representatives of USA Embassy Tirana and the ITF Program Manager for Albania visited State Vocational Training Center in Tirana and Kukes Regional Hospital. During the visits at the Vocational Training Center, donor representatives were able to speak and meet with the survivors; discuss the support they are receiving, the priorities and challenges they are facing in the everyday life and reintegration. Present at these meetings were also the management of the vocational training center, where good cooperation and support with survivors attending the courses were mentioned.

During the visit in Kukes regional Hospital, the USA and ITF representatives visited the rehabilitation unit, have meetings and discussions with survivors and Kukes Hospital authorities.



**Photos from the donor visit at Kukes Regional Hospital in the rehabilitation unit**

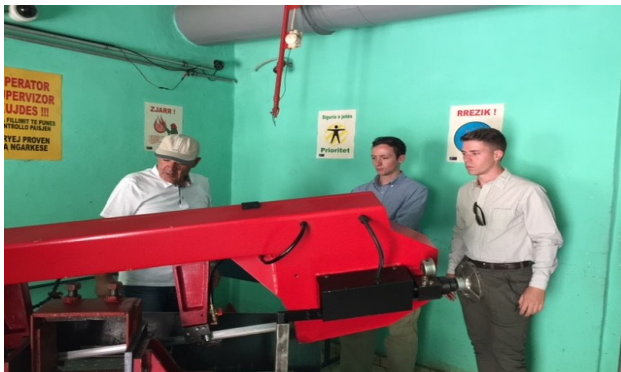
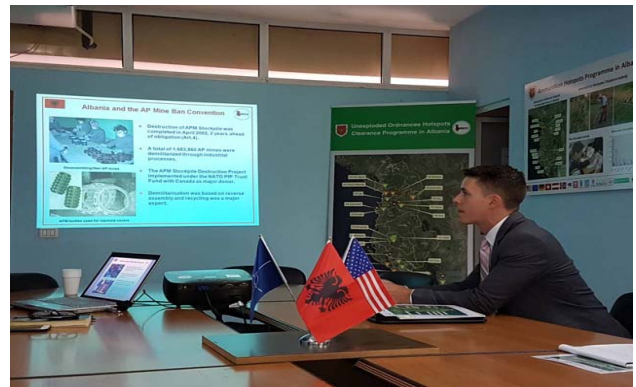
### **9.5 Visit of PM/WRA USA and ITF representative to Albania**

From **14 – 22 July 2017**, the representatives of PM/WRA USA Government and International Trust Fund (ITF) Enhancing Human Security visited Albania, to be informed about the progress and plans UXO hotspot clearance and demilitarization programmes in Albania. During the visit in Kukes presentations were organized at the office of ALB-AID and at Kukes Regional Hospital. The representatives visited the rehabilitation capacities built for mine/UXO survivors. A meeting with Director of Hospital and survivors took place at the rehabilitation unit in Kukes.

On **17 July 2017**, an official handover ceremony was organized in UXO Hotspots of Kordhoc and Picar with the participation of the Minister of Defense and other local authorities in Gjirokaster Region. Visits to UXO Hotspots clearance programme aimed at acquiring updated information about the current situation and clearance operations in UXO hotspots, through discussions, formal presentations and on-site visit to Picar, Kordhoc and Sinanaj Gjirokaster, Gjeroven and Mbreshtan Berat and Jube Sukth Durres.

Additionally, USA government and ITF representatives visited to the Vocational Training Center in Tirana, where 25 survivors or their family members are attending the vocational training courses. A meeting with the management of the vocational training center and survivors attending the courses were organized.





**Photos from the donor visit at UXO Hotspots areas and demilitarization facilities**

## **9.6 Visit of Albanian Minister of Defense at UXO Hotspot Qafe Shtame (Selixe) Burrel**

On **20 October 2017**, Ms. Olta Xhaçka - Minister of Defense together with high official representatives from General Staff and Support Command visited UXO Hotspot of Qafe Shtame (Selixe) in Burrel to witness the progress and challenges during the clearance operation at the UXO Hotspot of Qafe Shtame (Selixe) Burrel.

Minister of Defense Ms. Olta Xhaçka inspected the work initiated three months ago for the cleaning of the Qafe Shtame (Selixe) UXO hotspot, where 20 years ago, the explosion in tunnels filled with armament caused 23 casualties among the villagers.

"The Armed Forces are carrying out a dangerous job and I want to congratulate them for the extraordinary dedication in the service of the citizens. Out of the 19 hotspots identified in 2011, today there are only four, where currently it is being worked with the support of the USA government. Our objective is to clean all these hotspots by the end of 2018 in compliance with all safety standards and make it possible to use them for civilian purposes.

Today I want to encourage all citizens who live near the dangerous areas to notify the Armed Forces whenever they may see artillery ammunition or dangerous explosive disposal that endangers the security of their lives. Calling at number 129 will help the engineering corps to identify the areas and intervene on time to avoid serious incidents “, - said the Minister after having inspected the situation inside the tunnel. Official link of visit in eng below;

[www.mod.gov.al/eng/index.php/newsroom/747-ammunition-hotspots-xhacka-our-objective-is-to-clean-albania-by-the-end-of-2018](http://www.mod.gov.al/eng/index.php/newsroom/747-ammunition-hotspots-xhacka-our-objective-is-to-clean-albania-by-the-end-of-2018)



## 10. Visibility

AMMCO always ensures that the US Department of State and ITF are clearly visible as donors for the project, in accordance with visibility guidelines.

At all publications, meeting at the national and international level, various presentations and visits, donor support is mentioned. Donor logos and other visibility requirements are part of the promotion and awareness materials that are distributed at various events.

### 11. Project Budget Expenses (01 January – 31 December 2017)

Description	Budget: January - December 2017 in USD			Expenditures Jan-31 Dec 2017	Balance
	Unit	Cost per Unit	Total Costs		
<b>Personnel Costs</b>			<b>50,753</b>	<b>55,165</b>	<b>-4,412</b>
AMMCO Director	12	2,016	24,192	25,239	-1,047
Finance/Admin Assistant	12	1,027	12,324	12,820	-496
Driver/Logistic	9	969	8,721	8,048	673
Risk Education and Community Liaison Coordinator	7	788	5,516	9,058	-3,542
<b>Technical Staff</b>		<b>4,300</b>	<b>47,348</b>	<b>42,193</b>	<b>5,155</b>
IMSMA Database Specialist	7	545	3,815	0	3,815
Operations Officer	9	1,513	13,617	12,240	1,377
Quality Monitor- Team Leader	9	1,270	11,430	11,434	-4
Quality Monitors - 2 personnel	18	1,027	18,486	18,519	-33
<b>Operations Costs</b>			<b>9,300</b>	<b>7,494</b>	<b>1,806</b>
Travel (Local trips/month)	50	70	3,500	2,200	1,300
Travel (international trips)	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Maintenance and fuel (2 vehicles)	20	200	4,000	2,786	1,214
Visibility (Leaflets, posters, workshops)	0	0	0	0	0
Communication & internet cost	12	150	1,800	2,508	-708
<b>Office running cost</b>			<b>3,600</b>	<b>6,656</b>	<b>-3,056</b>
Office Supplies& Miscellaneous	12	300	3,600	6,656	-3,056
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME</b>			<b>111,001</b>	<b>111,509</b>	<b>-508</b>
Admin & Mgmt Cost (8%)			8,880	8,372	508
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>			<b>119,881</b>	<b>119,881</b>	<b>0</b>

## 12. Planning for 2018

The MoD priorities and the demilitarization action plan focus on:

- Technical Survey/Clearance and certification of four remaining contaminated areas Sinanaj Tepelene, Jube-Sukth Durres, Qafe Shtame(Selixe) and Suç Burrel in full compliance with international humanitarian standards.
- Support to MoD for the upgrading the PSSM standards and relevant regulations.
- Support the MoD and General Staff to identify the needs on the CWD and PSSM.
- Inspection and certification of the remaining former military ammunition depots in Borizane-Kruje, Vertop-Berat and Berzhite Tirana.
- Community liaison, public awareness and risk education of local communities living around the affected areas in, Durres, Tepelene and Burrel.
- The handover of cleared land to MoD authorities and Local Government representatives

Based on above MoD priorities and updated action plan for 2018, AMMCO in cooperation with the General Staff aims to conduct the following activities:

- Conduct Quality Management (Quality Assurance and Quality Control) on the UXO hotspots clearance operations above mentioned.
- Based on the MOD request inspect and certify the above mentioned former military depots, in cooperation with EOD AAF and the Support Command.
- Conduct informative meetings with local authorities in Tepelene, Burrel and Durres to inform them about clearance operations in this region and seek their collaboration.
- Develop and distribute awareness raising materials in UXO hotspots of Sinanaj Tepelene, Qafe Shtame and Suç Burrel and Jube Sukth Durres.
- Update IMSMA database with the relevant information on UXO hotspot clearance progress.
- Assist Albanian Government to fulfill the reporting obligations of the disarmament conventions of CCW, APMBT, CCM and OSCE annual report.

### Update list of remaining UXO hotspots as of December 2017

No	UXO Hotspots	Priority for clearance	Originally suspected hazard in m <sup>2</sup> in 2012	Cleared areas in m <sup>2</sup> as of December 2017	Planned for Survey & clearance by 2018-2020
1	Jube Sukth – Durres <sup>1</sup>	High	1,326,714	169,933	1,156,781
2	Qafe Shtame(Selixe) - Burrel (2 tunnels) <sup>3</sup>	High	360	180	180
3	Suç-Burrel <sup>3</sup>	Medium	75,650	0	8,350
4	Sinanaj – Tepelene <sup>2</sup>	Medium	200,000	0	200,000
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>1,602,724</b>	<b>170,113</b>	<b>1,365,311</b>

1) Clearance operation will be ongoing by NPA till October 2018 and clearance in the remaining contaminated area will be continued by AAF clearance teams.

2) Survey is done by NPA and the Clearance will be done by EOD AAF in 2019.

3) Clearance operation will be done by EOD AAF in 2018.

### **13 Annexes**

**Annex A - The Clearance Handover Certificate of UXO Hotspot Kordhoc-Gjirokaster**

**Annex B - The Clearance Handover Certificate of UXO Hotspot Picar-Gjirokaster**



**R E P U B L I K A E S H Q I P Ë R I S Ë**  
**MINISTRIA E MBROJTJES**  
**REPARTI USHTARAK Nr.4001**


Nr. 4700 Prot.

Tiranë, më 19.06.2017

**HANDOVER CERTIFICATE AND FORMAL DECLARATION**

**OF UXO HOTSPOT KORDHOC-GJIROKASTER**

**AL-HS-1006**

LOCATION	
<b>1. Map name:</b>	
<b>2. Scale:</b>	<b>(1:25 000)</b>
<b>3. Local name:</b>	<b>Kordhoc</b>
<b>4. Clearance requirements:</b>	See all details in the NPA Completion Report attached as Annex A.
<b>5. Location of Cleared Area. (Description and GRID / UTM). (Coordinates, Map and diagram of cleared area included).</b>	See Annex B attached
DETAILS OF CLEARANCE OPERATIONS	
<b>6. Number and Type Ammunitions Found:</b> 1,730 Unexploded ordnance (UXO) 90 Anti-Personnel Mines (AP) and 2 Anti-Tank(AT) 748 Small Arms Ammunition (SAA)  See attached Annex C for the detailed list of items	<b>7. Final Disposal Method of Recovered UXO and SAA</b> Based on status when found they were either destroyed in situ by AAF EOD team (status red) or handed over to AAF weekly (status yellow/ blue)
<b>8. Clearance Methods and Technology Used:</b> <i>Systematic Subsurface Clearance</i> using <i>Schonstedt GA72 cd locator</i> and full excavation in some areas.	<b>9. Quality Assurance methodology</b> External QA and QC executed by AMMCO, using same methodology as NPA.
<b>10. Area Cleared in m<sup>2</sup>: 24,470 m<sup>2</sup></b>	
<b>11. Starting Date of Operations: 25.07.2016</b>	
<b>12. Ending Date of Operations: 31.03.2017</b>	
13. DECLARATION OF REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CLEARANCE ORGANISATION	
I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the area specified in this Handover Certificate has been cleared of unexploded ordnance to the depth and size specified in the Completion Report and accompanying Annexes, in accordance with standards set by the NPA Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) and applicable IMAS.	Representative of the clearance organization Norwegian People's Aid (NPA):   <b>Eva Veblo</b> Country Director Albania Date: <u>19.1.2018</u> NIPT: <u>L42317451T</u>

14. QUALITY ASSURANCE DECLARATION BY THE ALBANIAN MINE AND MUNITION COORDINATION OFFICE	
I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the area and depth specified in this handover certificate has been independently assessed by the AMMCO Quality Management Team to be cleared of unexploded ordnance.	Representative of Albanian Mine and Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO):  <b>Luan Shaba</b> OPS Coordinator  Date: 23.05.2017
15. ACCEPTANCE BY THE ALBANIAN MINE AND MUNITION COORDINATION OFFICE	
I certify that the area specified in this Handover Certificate is assessed to be cleared in accordance with NPA Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) and IMAS, to a confidence level as high as possible of unexploded ordnance to the depth and size specified in the respective Completion Report and Annexes.	Representative of Albanian Mine and Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO).  <b>Arben Braha</b> AMMCO Director  Date: 23.05.2017
16. SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES OF MILITARY UNIT No.4001 TAKING OVER THE LAND	
I accept responsibility of this area. I understand that the specified area has been cleared of unexploded ordnance to the depth and size specified in the respective Completion Report. I have also been briefed as to any potential residual risk.	Signature of the authority/ representative taking over the land:  <b>COLONEL Ardian Bali</b> Commander  Date: 09.06.2017

Annex A – NPA Completion Reports for tasks TD-HS-010

Annex B – Maps of cleared/certified area.

Annex C – Detailed list of unexploded munitions found.

**Notes:** This Handover Certificate is prepared in 4 (four) original copies: 1 copy for the Military Unit 4001, 1 copy for the clearance company of NPA, 1 copy for Ministry of Defence and 1 copy for the AMMCO offices.




**R E P U B L I K A E S H Q I P Ě R I S Ě**  
MINISTRIA E MBROJTJES  
REPARTI USHTARAK Nr.4001

Nr. 4704 Prot.

Tiranë, më 19.06.2017

**HANDOVER CERTIFICATE AND FORMAL DECLARATION**  
**OF UXO HOTSPOT PICAR-GJIROKASTER**

**AL-HS-1008**

LOCATION	
<b>1. Map name:</b>	
<b>2. Scale:</b>	<b>(1:25 000)</b>
<b>3. Local name:</b>	<b>Picar</b>
<b>4. Clearance requirements:</b>	See all details in the NPA Completion reports attached as Annex A.
<b>5. Location of Cleared Area. (Description and GRID / UTM). (Coordinates, Map and diagram of cleared area included).</b>	See Annex B attached
DETAILS OF CLEARANCE OPERATIONS	
<b>6. Number and Type Ammunitions Found:</b> Total: <b>2,590</b> Unexploded ordnance (UXO) <b>2,789</b> Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW) <b>14,007</b> Small Arms Ammunition (SAA)  See attached Annex C for the detailed list of items	<b>7. Final Disposal Method of Recovered UXO and SAA</b> Based on status when found they were either destroyed in situ by AAF EOD team (status red) or handed over to AAF weekly (status yellow/ blue)
<b>8. Clearance Methods and Technology Used:</b> <i>Systematic Subsurface Clearance</i> using <i>Schonstedt GA72 cd locator</i> and full excavation in some areas.	<b>9. Quality Assurance methodology</b> External QA and QC executed by AMMCO, using same methodology as NPA.
<b>10. Area Cleared in m<sup>2</sup>: 28,285 m<sup>2</sup></b>	
<b>11. Starting Date of Operations: 25.07.2016</b>	
<b>12. Ending Date of Operations: 12.05.2017</b>	
13. DECLARATION OF REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CLEARANCE ORGANISATION	
I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the area specified in this Handover certificate has been cleared of unexploded ordnance to the depth and size specified in the Completion Report and accompanying Annexes, in accordance with standards set by the NPA Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) and applicable IMAS.	Representative of the clearance organization Norwegian People's Aid (NPA):  <b>Eva Veble</b> Country Director Date: <u>19.06.2017</u>  <b>NIPT: L42317451T</b>



14. QUALITY ASSURANCE DECLARATION BY THE ALBANIAN MINE AND MUNITION COORDINATION OFFICE	
I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the area and depth specified in this handover certificate has been independently assessed by the AMMCO Quality Management Team to be cleared of unexploded ordnance.	Representative of Albanian Mine and Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO): <b>Luan Shaba</b> OPS Coordinator Date: 29.05.2017
15. ACCEPTANCE BY THE ALBANIAN MINE AND MUNITION COORDINATION OFFICE	
I certify that the area specified in this Handover Certificate is assessed to be cleared in accordance with NPA Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) and IMAS, to a confidence level as high as possible of unexploded ordnance to the depth and size specified in the respective Completion Report and Annexes.	Representative of Albanian Mine and Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO). <b>Arben Braha</b> AMMCO Director Date: 28.05.2017
16. SIGNATURE OF RESPOSIBLE AUTHORITIES OF MILITARY UNIT No.4001 TAKING OVER THE LAND	
I accept responsibility of this area. I understand that the specified area has been cleared of unexploded ordnance to the depth and size specified in the respective Completion Report. I have also been briefed as to any potential residual risk.	Signature of the authority/ representative taking over the land: <b>COLONEL Ardian Bali</b> Commander Date: 19.06.2017

Annex A – NPA Completion Reports for tasks TD-HS-011

Annex B – Maps of cleared/certified area.

Annex C – Detailed list of unexploded munitions found.

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