The EU's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace – Actions on Mines, Explosive Remnants of War and Small Arms and Light Weapons

The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) is one of the key external assistance instruments that enable the European Union to take a lead in helping to prevent and respond to actual or emerging crises around the world.

IcSP Articles 3 and 4 provide for:
- Urgent short-term actions in response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis, often complementing EU humanitarian assistance (IcSP Art. 3); and
- Longer-term actions aimed at building and strengthening the capacity of the Union and its partners to prevent conflict, build peace and address pre and post-crisis needs (IcSP Art. 4).

Short term measures provide support to actions addressing the socio-economic impact on the civilian population of anti-personnel landmines, Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) or Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as well as the illicit use of and access to firearms, small arms and light weapons (SALW), as foreseen in Articles 3(2)(i) and (j) of IcSP Regulation EU 230/2014.

While longer term IcSP measures (Art. 4) are not explicitly focused on mines, ERW and SALW, they may address the risks and implications posed by mines, ERW and SALW from a conflict prevention and peace-building perspective.

To date, IcSP Articles 3 and 4 have supported the implementation of 17 measures with a total value of just over €42 million, addressing mines, ERW and SALW issues in twelve countries. Further measures are foreseen and in the planning stages.
Actions under the IcSP crisis response component (Article 3, short term):

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Explosive Ordnance and Remnants of War Destruction
Phase I (2008) IcSP Funding: €2,448,000
Phase II (2009) IcSP Funding: €2,086,000
Phase III (2013) IcSP Funding: €3,900,000

IcSP resources have contributed directly to the destruction of thousands of tonnes of leftover mines from the Bosnian War and the high amount of unstable ammunition in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The presence of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in BiH slows down security sector reform and contributes to political instability, while impeding economic development. With this in mind, IcSP has continued its support of implementing partner UNDP through two more phases of the ERW project in BiH. Approximately 4,800 tonnes of explosives were destroyed during phase I, paving the way for the dismantling of an additional 3,200 tonnes by the end of phase II, for a total of approximately 8,000 tonnes. Phase III is currently underway and so far exceeding expectations, with over 70,000 pieces of unstable artillery ammunition being destroyed in comparison to the 36,000 that had been planned, to use just one example. The dismantled arms include mines, grenades, and cluster munitions, among others. This was accomplished while investing in highly specialised equipment designed for greater safety of personnel and local populations living in affected areas, while lessening environmental impacts of the disarmament process. The current phase also focuses on the improvement of safety standards at ammunition storage depots and provides assistance to improve the ammunition inspection and verification mechanisms of the BiH Government and to enhance legal and administrative expertise and good practices of the authorities.

The project also organised two three-day workshops on SALW and ammunition jointly with the BiH Parliamentary Assembly in 2009. Gathering members of the Parliament, representatives of the Presidency, Ministers, and representatives of international organisations, the workshops provided an overall progress review of the implementation of the Agreement for Transfer of Military Titles, the Small Arms Control Project, the harmonisation of the SALW legislation with EU Directives and the Integrated Border Management Strategy. Through the project, IcSP resources have contributed to developing improved capacities for SALW control in BiH. These include regional training modules for safe stockpile management and a registry in support for a law on weapons and military equipment.

PALESTINE

Five Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Teams to support early recovery operations in Gaza (2009)
IcSP Funding: €446,683

Following a 23-day long major military operation by Israeli forces in Gaza that, apart from many deaths and injuries, resulted in the destruction of more than 10,000 buildings, IcSP support, provided in collaboration with the UN’s Mine Action Service (UNMAS), helped allow five 24/7 Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams to begin clean-up of the area. Over the course of the project, the teams assessed nearly 1,000 sites in the Gaza Strip, assigning a risk rating to each one and giving further support to humanitarian workers requiring access to high and medium-risk sites. More than 150 unexploded ordnances and Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs) were destroyed and about 50 sites were made safe within six months. These included homes and public service facilities such as water and sanitation facilities, a health centre and a school, directly benefiting more than 16,500 people.

In addition, over 1,800 representatives from UN agencies, local and international NGOs, and at-risk civilian groups such as farmers, received UXO...
safety awareness training, which was made available in both English and Arabic.

**Unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war clearance and management within the Gaza strip (2010)**

*IcSP Funding: €678,293*

Although UNMAS, through IcSP support, was able to significantly reduce the danger posed by leftover explosives in Gaza immediately following the 2009 military operation, a significant number of UXOs and ERWs remained in Gaza in 2010. In view of this fact, IcSP provided additional support to UNMAS to continue destroying mines and other explosives in the last four months of 2010. During the project period, UNMAS teams assessed nearly 300 sites, which included homes and agricultural land, ultimately benefiting over 3,300 civilians. IcSP support of UNMAS contributed to a 41% decrease in UXO and ERW casualties in 2010. In addition, a further 370 people were trained in UXO awareness and safety during the project period.

**SOMALIA**

**Stabilizing Somalia: Negating the explosive threat to Somalis and creating conditions for access and recovery (2012)**

*IcSP Funding: €13,000,000*

IcSP support to the UN’s Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Somalia led to the clearing of over 3,000 Unexploded Ordnances (UXO) from all 13 central districts of Mogadishu. A further 2,000 explosives were cleared outside of Mogadishu, in areas such as Gedo and Hiran. IcSP support also allowed for awareness raising activities, both in person and through radio, in communities along the Ethiopian border. Training was also provided to the Somali Police Force, helping to develop a capacity within the force for bomb disposal, as well as an Explosive Detection Dog Unit.

**CHAD**

**Support to demining and clearance of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) in northern and eastern Chad (2012)**

*IcSP Funding: €2,500,000*

This IcSP action, implemented by the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), has contributed significantly to ongoing demining efforts in Chad. The project provided mobile clearance capacity to reduce the number of landmine and UXO-related accidents in northern and eastern Chad. Two teams were deployed in northern Chad to open the main route between the Bourkou and Tibesti regions, and a further team was deployed in eastern Chad (Abéché). These three teams carried out all mine/UXO clearance related tasks in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). More than 700 people benefitted from mine risk education activities and 447,700 square metres were cleared, in close collaboration with the National Centre for Demining.

**SOMALIA**

Clearing a bunker from ERW – IcSP project in Libya (MAG)

**LIBYA**

**Security, Protection and Stabilization Program in Libya (Protection and Demining Activities) (2012)**

*IcSP Funding: €5,000,000*

This IcSP project, implemented jointly by Danish Church Aid (DCA) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), has so far cleared more than 90,000 square metres from mines and UXOs, trained 169 Libyan personnel of the Ministries of Interior and Defence in clearance activities and provided risk education to over 12,000 people in the Tripoli,
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Misrata and Sabha areas. In addition, over 1,500 owners and users of land that was cleared have up to now directly benefitted from the project.

**Battle area clearance, Explosive ordnance disposal and risk education (2012)**
IcSP funding: €1.5 million

Implemented by the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) since January 2014, this project contributes to post-conflict recovery and stability in Libya through support for achieving a reduction in the humanitarian threat posed by ERW. More specifically, it focuses on (i) risk education linked to increasing safe practices and behaviour of local communities affected by the presence of ERW and small arms and light weapons and (ii) improving national capacities to address the threats posed by Abandoned Ordnance (AO) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO). Activities focus on the areas of Zintan and Hun/Waddan, where the project will recruit and train ERW teams and also remove and destroy identified AO and UXO. An earlier IcSP project implemented by MAG allowed for the procurement of an armoured excavator for explosive ordnance and ERW disposal as well as the proper training of the excavator's operators. During this project four damaged and poorly secured ammunition storage sites were cleared and about 40 bombs of at least 250kg in weight, nearly 60 missiles and more than 2,000 other projectiles and mortars were destroyed.

**MYANMAR**

Promoting peace processes in ethnic areas through mine action (2012)
IcSP Funding: €3,500,000

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), supported by the IcSP, is currently seeing to the development of a national mine action centre that would oversee and coordinate all mine action in the country. While this institution is currently being established, the programme has also assisted in drafting a national mine action strategy and mine action standards. The foreseen facility for pilot surveying and mine clearing actions under this project has not yet been used, due to the ongoing negotiations between armed ethnic groups and the government.

**THE PHILIPPINES**

Delivering peace dividends through the reduction of Explosive Remnants of War (2012)
IcSP Funding: €875,000

IcSP is supporting Fondation Suisse de Deminage (FSD) to undertake a survey of over 300 villages for mine dangers, Mine Risk Education and the subsequent destruction of UXOs. The project is also providing Mine Risk Education on a wider scale and capacity building to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front on Explosive Ordnance Disposal and stockpiling.

**NIGER**

Capacity building of CNCCAI and assistance to the victims of mines and ERWs in the Agadez region (2012)
IcSP Funding: €400,000

Contributing to peacebuilding in Northern Niger (2012)
IcSP Funding: €2,934,636

Through its support of Association Federation Handicap International and UNDP, these IcSP interventions allowed for extensive demining
operations in the Air area. The primary and secondary axes of communication are now considered to be safe for travel. National regulations for demining operations were also updated. Finally, the project provided demining equipment for future operations and medical equipment and employment for approximately 200 identified victims.

**SOUTH SUDAN**

*Community Security and Arms Control (CSAC) (2011)*

IcSP Funding: €1.800.000

IcSP financing to UNDP has enabled the Community Security and Arms Control (CSAC) in South Sudan to undertake conflict and gender sensitive consultations on the insecurity and use of arms in local communities. Consultations happened at a local level, and allowed opportunities for local projects to be identified. Concerns expressed by people living in affected communities are now feeding into state planning and legislation on arms control.

**GUINEA**

*Support for the urgent destruction of stockpiles of old ammunition in the Republic of Guinea (2013)*

IcSP Funding: €500.000

The IcSP is currently undertaking a project to support the destruction of about 286 tons, more than the 100 tons originally planned, of old ammunition near Kindia, Guinea’s second largest city. Until fully cleared, the ammunition continues to pose a risk to the public through accidental explosions.

**COLOMBIA**

*Support to the effective implementation of Law 1448 on Victims’ Rights and Land Restitution (2012)*

IcSP Funding: €1.000.000

In conjunction with the UN’s Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the IcSP’s support is currently allowing for non-technical studies in areas prioritised for land restitution. These surveys are intended to help determine if the areas in question are contaminated by landmines, or whether the surveyed lands may be released for restitution.

**NICARAGUA**

*Support to the implementation of Central American Security Strategy components on fighting crime and preventing armed violence (2011)*

IcSP Funding: €650.000

This IcSP-supported project focuses on contributing to the implementation of the Central America Regional Security Strategy’s components on fighting crime and preventing violence related to SALW and to see further national progress on this strategy. A monitoring plan is in development and efforts to strengthen National Commissions on arms control are underway. Support has also enabled Government-civil society consultations at a regional level.