

KOSOVO MINE CRISIS

Below: Canada's Wolf's Flats/CIDC team cleared this site, providing this Kosovar with access to winter grain stored behind his destroyed home.

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 tinuous update of hundreds of maps, covering the entire province. These maps are essential to the UN MACC's work in coordinating, tasking and providing quality assurance of mine clearance operations.

Mine clearance work is being carried out by a combination of NGO and commercial organizations, including a small team fielded by two Canadian Companies—Wolf's Flats Explosive Ordnance Disposal Corporation and the Canadian International Demining Centre. Between August and November, this team of four technicians with field support staff cleared 71 schools, 46 homes, 7 medical clinics, 4 power plants, a few TV/radio transmission stations and a water pump house. The school clearance work has permitted a return to fall studies for thousands of children.

The International Demining Alliance of Canada is also receiving Canadian support to clear mines in Kosovo. It has

fielded five disposal and demining teams whose work so far has permitted the return of numerous families to their homes, secured routes to community wells and power stations, and cleared schools and farm complexes.

Shelter projects by CARE Canada and World Vision are being made safe through mine clearance work by Mines Advisory Group and MINETECH with support from CIDA.

Queen's University is also being funded to expand its Balkans community-based rehabilitation program for disabled persons—including landmine victims—to Kosovo for a six-month period.

—Lisanne Garceau Bednar, CIDA

Canadian funding to date¹ for Kosovo mine action

UN Assessment mission	\$75,000
Support to UN MACC Six-month secondment of three Canadian Forces personnel	\$229,000
Mine Clearance Wolf's Flat Explosive Ordnance Disposal Corporation/ Canadian International Demining Centre International Demining Alliance of Canada Mines Advisory Group MINETECH	\$28,000 \$1,255,000 \$300,000 \$300,000
Mine Awareness UNICEF	(Portion of) \$1,000,000 ²
Victim Assistance Queen's University community based rehabilitation	\$500,000 ³

1. As of November 15, 1999

2. Reflects total commitment to UNICEF for their Balkans Regional Program, including Kosovo. Relevant portion estimated at about 20%.

3. August 1999 to January 2000



Wolf's Flats

Right: Private Sheldon Porter of the Edmonton-based 1 Combat Engineers Regiment sweeps for mines at the Yugoslav Army's bombed-out main base in Pristina, Kosovo. Once cleared, the compound became a base for Canadian UN troops and helicopters.

The Edmonton Journal/Chris Schwarz



Far right: Ethnic Albanian refugees pass a mine awareness sign at the Albania-Kosovo border, June 17, 1999. Ignoring such warnings, thousands of refugees streamed back into Kosovo.



AP Photo/David Guttenfelder