

ranks, and have signed a memorandum of understanding with the BHMIC to undertake humanitarian mine clearance operations to UN standards in areas designated as priority land by BHMIC.

The presence of numerous international civilian and military organizations, including the UN Stabilisation Force (SFOR), the ICRC, various UN agencies, the Office of the High Representative, key international mine action NGOs and the World Bank, offers further support for mine action.

Canada's program for the fiscal year 1998-99 focussed on two key elements: institution building and humanitarian mine clearance. Though it is impossible to estimate the amount of land that will be cleared as a result of this program, Canada is increasing the number of deminers by 450 through co-financing (with Norway) of the SFOR-Entity Armed Forces (EAF) insurance scheme and is supporting many mine clearance teams through NGOs. A victim assistance component will become an integral part of the program later in 1999.

In addition to a \$500,000 contribution to build capacity in the indigenous civilian and military Mine Action Centres, Canada provided the following support to demining operations in the region:

- \$800,000 for the SFOR-EAF demining program. These funds went towards the purchase of brush-cutting equipment and insurance for deminers. Canadian-Norwegian co-financing of this insurance doubled the number of deminers involved in clearing land. (Implementing agency: UNDP)

- \$450,000 in support of the demining operations of the Bosnian NGO Akcija Protiv Mina (Implementing agency: Handicap International)
- \$460,000 for demining operations in the Sarajevo Canton. Areas returned to civilian use this year included the Sarajevo Cemetery. (Implementing agency: Norwegian People's Aid)
- \$110,000 to train and deploy mine detection dogs. (Implementing agency: Canadian International Demining Centre)
- \$150,000 to provide five Canadian Forces technical advisors to BHMIC.

In November 1998, Canada also announced a commitment of \$1 million to the Slovenian Trust Fund for Demining and Victim Assistance in the region. This contribution will be made in the fiscal year 1999/2000.

## Cambodia

Cambodia easily ranks as one of the most mine-infested states in the world, with an estimated 4 to 6 million landmines left in the wake of 30 years of international and civil conflict. Cambodia is now an extremely poor country and reliant on international aid as it tries to stabilize its economy and deal with the legacy of conflict. To respond to the landmine problem in Cambodia, DND, CIDA, and DFAIT officials sent a mission to Cambodia in May 1998 and have developed a multi-year mine action program based on its findings.

The broad objectives of this funding program are to provide humanitarian demining assistance; increase access to cleared land; strengthen Cambodia's growing indigenous capacity for mine action; and help re-educate victims of landmine accidents. In 1998-99 this program allocated \$100,000 to provide management training for managers and sen-

Carol Hand/CIDA



*Handicap international and Akcija Protiv Mina deminers inspect AP mine typical of those which litter post-conflict Bosnia.*