



For a vast number of countries where the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is involved, the presence of landmines is a serious obstacle to sustainable development.

These weapons, which cannot tell the difference between a soldier or a child, create psychological, social and economic devastation in countless communities.

The presence of landmines affects all elements of development and peace-building. Refugees and internally displaced people often cannot return safely to their homes because of land contaminated by mines. Timely delivery of critical humanitarian aid may be jeopardized, the resumption of positive economic activities is stalled and the health and well being of populations, particularly women and children, are threatened even further.

In supporting humanitarian mine clearance operations, mine awareness education, victim assistance and socio-economic rehabilitation, CIDA helps to create an environment conducive to development and the reduction of poverty. This report provides a summary of the many initiatives CIDA has supported in the first year of the Canadian Landmine Fund. It also shows the impressive results that can be achieved when CIDA, other government departments and partner organizations coordinate their efforts to combat these deadly weapons.

Maria Minna
Minister of International Cooperation



Industry Canada has had the honour of participating in the Canadian Landmine Fund in its inaugural year 1998-99. It has worked in cooperation with the Department of National Defence in the establishment of the Canadian Centre for Mine Action Technologies and has provided support to the private sector to commercialize existing technologies and equipment and refocus current applications which will be useful in eliminating anti-personnel landmines and assisting victims.

Through the Technology Partnerships Canada Program, Industry Canada is examining proposals for funding technologies to help eliminate the terrible impact of anti-personnel landmines. Current projects that are nearing the funding stage include a bush cutter that would facilitate mine clearance and a special mine prodding device that would assist in identifying an object in the ground as a mine or other material.

The global elimination of anti-personnel landmines is a major challenge as we enter the 21st century. I strongly believe that Industry Canada is making an important contribution to addressing this need by working with the private sector to develop equipment and technologies which will lead both to the elimination of anti-personnel landmines and to provision of effective assistance to landmine victims.

John Manley
Minister of Industry



The Canadian Forces' experience with landmines has shown that appropriate technology and techniques are vital for safe and efficient demining projects. The establishment of the Centre for Mine Action Technologies in Suffield, Alberta is an important step that will contribute to the elimination of the menace posed by anti-personnel mines and save the lives and limbs of deminers and mine-affected populations. The Canadian Forces also provide valuable technical expertise to a number of demining and stockpile destruction projects through the Canadian Landmine Fund.

Art Eggleton
Minister of National Defence