

Canada provided
valuable technical
and financial
support to Bosnian
Mine Action
Centres.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Conflict in the former Yugoslavia has left Bosnia and Herzegovina with a legacy of anti-personnel mines that still inhibits the safe return of refugees and the productive use of the country's land and infrastructure.

CIDA has committed \$10 million over five years to an integrated country program in Bosnia and Herzegovina, of which approximately \$3.1 million was disbursed in fiscal year 1999. To date, this program has seen approximately \$5.6 million disbursed for institutional support, mine clearance and victim assistance. In addition, DFAIT's Mine Ban Initiatives Program disbursed \$475,000 in fiscal year 1999 to support mine clearance and related activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Canada's program in Bosnia and Herzegovina places a heavy emphasis on projects that support mine clearance by Bosnian deminers, particularly those projects implemented by the Canadian International Demining Corps, the Stabilization Force (SFOR), Handicap International and Norwegian People's Aid. Canada has also supported the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) as the central policy-making and coordinating body for all mine action in the country.

Canada has sought to stimulate an integrated and coordinated approach to the problem, working in partnership with other

donors. A large number of Canadian technical experts has been assigned to positions with mine action centres, SFOR and a Board of Donors, where they are working to build consensus around sustainable and coordinated approaches to demining.

Canada's 1999-2000 contributions to mine clearance in Bosnia-Herzegovina included:

- \$930,000 in institutional support for the Bosnian Mine Action Centres (MACs). These funds were disbursed to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the core functions of the BHMIC and Entity MACs, plus the secondment of DND experts to serve at these centres. From February to June 1999, four Canadian Forces personnel were assigned to the MACs. Participation was reduced to two in June 1999 and deployment completed in February 2000.
- \$150,000 to the UNDP for a Task Manager in Demining. A Canadian expert was seconded to fill the role for one year.
- \$630,000 to the SFOR Entity Army Demining Program through which 550 Entity Army deminers were deployed, five ambulances were purchased, three Bozena mini-flails were purchased and three operators were trained in their use. Support from Norway and Canada for SFOR mine clearance has increased the available pool of Bosnian manual deminers in the country by 70%.

A deminer from
Bosnian NGO Akcija
Protiv Mina at work.



Lisanne Garceau-Bednar/CIDA