

Things that go **BANG!**

Issue Number 11, December 2003.*

Things that go BANG! is a short monthly e-bulletin that the Landmines and Small Arms Team at UNICEF sends out in order to update you on landmines/small arms issues, news, projects, resources, etc. If you would like to be added to the BANG distribution list, please send an E-mail to landmines@unicef.org and we will add you.

We use the expression 'Things that go Bang!' as a somewhat colloquial collective expression for anti-personnel, anti-tank, and anti-vehicle mines, artillery shells, rockets, mortars, grenades, bullets – in short anything with explosive content. Please note that BANG! is issued on the first Monday of every month.

UNICEF LANDMINES E-MAIL ADDRESS

- UNICEF landmines e-mail address, landmines@unicef.org.
- This address is monitored at all times by the landmines team at UNICEF-HQ to ensure that all e-mails are answered.

UNICEF SMALL ARMS E-MAIL ADDRESS

- UNICEF has launched its small arms e-mail address, smallarms@unicef.org.
- This address will be monitored at all times by the small arms team and UNICEF-HQ to ensure that all e-mail are answered.

COUNTRY UPDATES

AFGHANISTAN

UNICEF continues to support training in community based MRE methodologies and implementation strategies. Plans are being developed for future activities integrating MRE into other UNICEF programmes. The UNICEF teacher-training programme will commence in early 2004 and the groundwork is being laid for the continuation of this highly successful programme. UNICEF trained over 25,000 teachers in 2003 and will target 30,000 in 2004. The MRE team, in collaboration with UNICEF health colleagues, will include MRE in the National Immunisation Days campaigns. Initially, over 90,000 households will receive MRE materials in October 2003. In December 2003, simple MRE messages will be transmitted and MRE flyers will be distributed to an additional 90,000 households in 10 provinces of the southern and central regions of the country. It is hoped that this programme will expand in 2004 to target the training of 30,000 vaccinators and volunteers to reach over one million households.

ALBANIA

The UNICEF Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) is supporting the preparation of two mine and weapons risk manuals by the Albanian Institute of Pedagogical Studies, one for students and one for teachers. Copies of the students' manual will be published and distributed throughout Albania free of charge.

ANGOLA

In 2003, UNICEF continued to support community based NGOs in the seven most mine affected provinces, training MRE trainers and working with authorities to provide life-saving information to children and women prior to resettlement. Presently, UNICEF is increasing its efforts to raise support in response to increased population movements and avoid a rise in the number of mine incidents.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Working in partnership with other organisations, UNICEF mine action activities in 2003 have included a wide range of MRE programmes and victim's assistance activities. Thousands of children, their families and communities are benefiting from presentations and materials. Further, UNICEF is preparing a comparative study on the provision of assistance to mine victims and people with disability and problems of inequity and non-fulfillment of entitlements. The findings of the study will provide essential baseline information to support the development of a national policy on landmine victim assistance.

BURUNDI

In June, UNICEF adapted and issued a national MRE guideline/module for Burundi. During July, MRE was instrumental in preparing and implementing emergency activities when Bujumbura was targeted with attacks. The emergency MRE sensitised the populations in the most affected areas of Musaga and Kanyosha. In August, follow-up emergency activities continued and a project covering Makamba, Ruyigi, Rutana, Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza Provinces was launched. Also during August, training sessions started that targeted 125 teachers. The objective is to train 250 teachers by the end of the year.

CAMBODIA

Community-Based Mine Risk Reduction (CBMRR) activities were held in Battambang and Pailin provinces where mine /UXO village committees were established in 108 villages in 44 communes and 12 Districts. Each committee was trained on mine action prioritization through village mapping activities using participatory approach and mine risk education for behavior change in community. UNICEF's implementing partner World Education, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MOEYS) continued to integrate MRE into the formal education system. Through local and foreign NGOs, UNICEF continues to support mine victims, covering needs from medical care and physical rehabilitation to socio-economic assistance and inclusive education. In the past months a total of 3,283 persons with disabilities benefited from direct assistance, including 1,071 children integrated into schools.

COLOMBIA

UNICEF continues to support Antioquia's landmine and UXO affected communities by providing technical assistance for a number of activities, among them: MRE activities; strengthening the national mine action capacity; including the decentralisation of the National Landmines Observatory; and providing landmines victim assistance.

ERITREA

UNICEF continues to carry out MRE field activities through its cooperation with the UN Mine Action Centre and other organisations. In June, after a lapse of almost a year, UNHCR has re-started the repatriation of Eritrean refugees from Sudan, and the UNICEF supported MRE teams played a valuable role in providing MRE training in preparation for the repatriation. Cooperation will continue, as UNHCR is expecting to repatriate 30,000 Eritrean refugees from Sudan before the end of the year. Progress has also been made regarding the planned introduction of MRE into the school curriculum. The MoE has stated its commitment to incorporating the MRE curriculum into the formal education system.

During November, the six UNICEF Eritrean Demining Operations MRE teams targeted approximately 18,000 people, both male and female, as well as children.

It has been agreed with the Ministry of Education that the training of trainers for schoolteachers will be held around the beginning of February. The training will target 300 teachers. UNICEF is finalising a project agreement with the Ministry of Information to produce 24 radio shows for adults and another 24 specifically aimed at children, using the child-to-child approach.

ETHIOPIA

UNICEF continues to support its main national partner, the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO), which is currently developing a national MRE Department. The Department's community liaison field staff have recently been trained by UNICEF. Additionally, on a country-wide level, UNICEF will assist EMAO in implementing and managing the introduction of community liaison activities to complement on-going clearance activity.

UNICEF is also presently working with the Rehabilitation and Development Organisation (RaDO) in handing over responsibility of the RaDO MRE project to the Regional Governments and local authorities of Afar and Tigray. RaDO will phase out their MRE activities through training local authorities and task forces to implement MRE at grass root level and coordinate MRE at Regional level.

UNICEF and EMAO have developed and standardised MRE and Community Liaison forms for all MRE actors working in Ethiopia. These forms were presented at the first MRE co-ordination meeting that was held in Mekelle, Tigray. This MRE monthly co-ordination meeting is extremely important, as it will help to improve communication between all MRE actors and therefore reduce duplication of activities.

IRAQ

Over the past six months, UNICEF has been implementing MRE in Iraq. With funding from DfID and with the assistance from our implementing partners, Handicap International (HI) and Mine Advisory Group (MAG), UNICEF has begun working through community networks to deliver MRE to a wide audience.

Through schools, mosques, summer camps, youth sports clubs, health facilities, and community centers, MAG and HI have delivered MRE trainings and discussion sessions to over 19,250 women, men, and children in southern and central Iraq.

In addition to these community network activities, UNICEF has conducted an emergency survey in central Iraq covering 56 geographical sectors in the whole of the Baghdad governorate. The results of the survey will be used to prioritize MRE activities.

UNICEF has also conducted an emergency mass media campaign. This campaign has included TV spots, radio messages, newspaper advertisements, posters, leaflets, and school calendars, which were distributed in school kits.

Over the next few months, UNICEF will work closely with the NMAA to develop local NGO capacity to conduct MRE activities, develop MRE standards for Iraq, and to conduct mass media campaigns containing MRE messages.

LAO - PDR

UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Lao Youth Union in the process of reviewing and expanding the in-school curriculum and the "Sport in a Box" projects. New lesson plans and teacher training materials were developed by the MoE for the UXO school curriculum implemented in four severely affected provinces. Targeting the out-of-school youth and children in remote areas was achieved through the "Sport in a Box" project, which promotes safe play alternatives and community-based UXO education.

MOZAMBIQUE

UNICEF, UNDP and the National De-mining Institute are collaborating on a joint land-mine risk education programme covering 13 drought-affected districts in Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane Provinces. A team of trainers has been established at the central level and training at the district level is now underway. The focus of the training is to develop capacity among primary school teachers in order for them to be able to carry out MRE in schools. Materials originally developed through a UNICEF/Handicap International partnership have been produced to support the programme. UNICEF is also providing financial support for the implementation of the programme.

NORTHERN CAUCASUS

Working with partner organisations, UNICEF activities in 2003 have included a wide range of MRE programmes and victim's assistance activities. Tens of thousands of children, their families and communities are benefiting from MRE presentations and materials in both Chechnya and Ingushetia. In survivor assistance activities, UNICEF is supporting a variety of vocational and recreational programmes, as well as psychosocial rehabilitation and orthopedic assistance programmes for mine/UXO victims. Further, the UNICEF CEE/CIS regional office is supporting the organisation of a number of training sessions in the Northern Caucasus for local implementing partners, governmental and NGOs.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

The UNICEF Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa (MENARO) is supporting UNICEF office in Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) to re-develop the billboards on MRE and UXO on a national scale and to conduct theatrical plays by the famous character ' Nakhleh Eshiber" on Mine Risk Education for children in high risk areas (Hebron, Jenin, Bethlehem).

SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

The "First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects" took place from 7 – 11 July 2003 in New York. On behalf of UNICEF as well as five other UN bodies (The Office of the Special Representative for the Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflict, UNHCR, UNIFEM, OCHA and WHO), Edwin Judd, Director of UNICEF's Programme Division, gave a statement on the Human Impact of SALW. For copies, please contact <smallarms@unicef.org>.

UNICEF Kosovo and Tajikistan are wrapping up their small arms projects "Disarming Children and Youth: Raising Awareness and Addressing the Impact of Small Arms." These projects, funded by the UN Foundation/UN Fund for International Partnership, focused on initiating change in the attitudes and ultimately the behavior of youth, their families and communities, to oppose the use of small arms. In Kosovo, UNICEF was instrumental in initiating the Kosovo Youth Council, which is part of a Youth Crime Prevention Working Group. They have developed a toolkit for peer educators on small arms issues, and will shortly be distributing these in four municipalities. UNICEF also supported a programme entitled "Global Motion" which involved 16 youth groups giving some 50 performances of music, dance and

theatre to stimulate different views on problems affecting youth today. In addition, UNICEF supported an "Arts No Arms" summer camp for 25 young artists from throughout Kosovo, where daily round-table discussions took place on thematic issues. In Tajikistan, the project entailed working with the Youth Committee to conduct Training of Trainers for secondary school students to serve as facilitators at a youth camp conducted by UNICEF, the OSCE and a local NGO. The camp trained 40 college and secondary school students in basic principles of civil society, good governance and healthy lifestyles. The camp participants then conducted a regional information and public awareness campaign against conflict and the use of violence to resolve conflict. In addition, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Education to conduct an 8-day photography training for primary school students for which the photo exercises focused on topics which inspired peaceful solutions and tolerance, as well as respect for others and the environment. The photos were then exhibited in the schools.

UNICEF is in the process of putting together a document on the lessons learned and best practices of the small arms pilot projects, which not only will include the above projects, but also those which were completed earlier this year in Somalia and South Sudan.

SOMALIA

UNICEF is working with Handicap International to conduct MRE in the North West Region of Somalia (Somaliland). Based on the recently conducted Landmine Impact Survey in that region, specific at risk groups have been identified, mainly children and youth herders who tamper with UXO or a mix of antitank/antipersonnel devices. Communication channels have also been identified to reach groups with nomadic lifestyles. Relevant and cost effective communication channels have been identified to reach these groups with nomadic lifestyles, mainly community animal health workers networks, quick response teams of demining organisations and radio. On 13th October 2003, a workshop was held in Somaliland with all key stakeholders, in particular the Somaliland Mine Action Centre, to agree on responsibilities and way forward for practically implementing the project.

A joint project proposal between UNICEF and Handicap International has been submitted to both the Somalia CAP for 2003 and 2004, as well as to the Mine-Action Portfolio for both years to implement this project. To date, no funding has been received against these proposals.

End of October, UNICEF has conducted an assessment mission to the North-East Zone of Somalia (Puntland) to assess the need for expanding its MRE activities to that region.

SRI LANKA

In the northern city of Vavunya, the National Institute of Education and UNICEF launched the new MRE school curriculum to educate children about the dangers of mines and UXO. Further, teachers' manuals and student activity materials carrying MRE messages will now be used in schools in the northeast. The curriculum will be rolled out to the whole country next year. Meanwhile, special Training-Of-Trainers was undertaken for more than 90 master teachers from primary and secondary schools. In the Jaffna Peninsula, UNICEF strengthened activities to increase the awareness of the continuous threat of landmines and UXO. The on-going community activities were supplemented by street dramas, articles in local newspapers, children's art exhibitions, street banners, and special public services announcements in cinemas and on TV and radio. In Kilinochchi, UNICEF has organised the MRE Technical Working Group meeting, with participants from the UNDP mine action team, demining NGOs, and all MRE implementing partners.

SUDAN

The recent arrival of a new UNICEF consultant in the SPLM-controlled parts has given a big boost to MRE work. Early activities in southern Sudan are focusing on identifying client groups, ascertaining levels of awareness and concern of mine/UXO issues and establishing the extent to which mine/UXO matters are taken into account in development and relief interventions.

UNICEF is working with the Health Secretariat of the SPLM to explore opportunities to incorporate mine/UXO injury surveillance into existing primary health care and hospital surveillance systems. This will help secure a better understanding of the scope of the problem, to target resources most effectively and to monitor trends over time.

Other UNICEF activities include providing mine awareness training to southern Sudanese and international humanitarian workers and producing, in collaboration with UNICEF's Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS), a broad-sheet with mine messages to be included in a new south Sudanese newspaper. Mine/UXO messages are being incorporated into two components of the UNICEF OLS Life Skills curriculum: Human Rights and the Family and Environment.

The UNICEF supported Sudanese Red Crescent KAP and victim survey, implemented by 75 volunteers trained by the NMAO, continued to collect data in the areas most affected by mines/UXO (Upper Nile, Blue Nile, Kassala, South Kordofan and Bahr El Jebel States).

THAILAND

The UNICEF publication "Regional Assessment on the Impact on Landmines on Children in East Asia and Pacific Region" produced in September 2003 underscored the high number of mine casualties in Thailand. In response, the UNICEF country office in Thailand is currently working with the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office to develop two projects, one at the Myanmar border and the second at the Cambodian border, to be implemented by two NGOs, which already have significant expertise in this field. The MRE programmes will focus on community based MRE and training of teachers on the danger of landmines.

UNICEF - THE AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN REGION (TACRO)

UNICEF TACRO is fostering advocacy activities by following a Colombian version of ANDI, the best-practice Brazilian News Agency on Children, which will focus its first efforts on the impact of landmines on children. Resources have been allocated to train a chosen group of Colombian media professionals in close co-ordination with the Vice Presidency of Colombia.

VIETNAM

UNICEF has recently supported the first series of province-wide assessments of the overall impact of mines/UXO on communities; communities' knowledge, awareness and practices pertaining to the threats; and the impact of mine/UXO accidents on survivors, victims and their families. This achievement helps pave the way for additional international standard mine/UXO projects in Quang Tri province and other affected areas in the near future. The UNICEF regional office for East Asia and the Pacific will be supporting UNICEF Viet Nam during 2003 to conduct an MRE programme with Handicap International at the Cambodian border.

IN OTHER NEWS...

UN/ Security Council expresses intention to address mine action in peacekeeping

Citing the long-term consequences of landmines and UXO on peace and security, the Security Council on 21 November expressed its intention to address mine action in the mandates of peacekeeping operations when appropriate. Adopting presidential statement S/PRST/2003/22, the Council also urged all parties to armed conflicts to abide by their mine-related commitments, to cooperate, to the fullest extent possible, with MRE and mine-clearing activities, and to ensure that abandoned stockpiles were adequately guarded or destroyed. The Council further encouraged the Secretary-General to consider including mine action in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) initiatives.

Egypt launches media campaign to remove landmines

Egypt has launched a global media campaign in France to rally support to remove up to 23 million landmines left by the World War II. Egypt has worked out a plan to remove the landmines planted in its western desert during the World War II, with a cost of 250 million US dollars. A total of one-fifth of the country's territories would be cultivated after the plan is implemented.

Landmine Monitor Report 2004

In preparation of the Landmine Monitor Report 2004, the Landmine Monitor is currently planning and organising the next cycle of regional meetings. The meetings are an opportunity for the coordinating team to discuss research issues and themes with individual researchers and as a group to provide training as needed. The Americas regional meeting will take place 26-30 January 2004 in Bogotá, Colombia.

Southeast Europe Mine Detection Dogs Center Opens

In October, U.S. officials opened the Southeast Europe Mine Detection Dogs Center in Konjic, some 40 kilometers south of Sarajevo. A mid-October ceremony marked the end of the first phase of the center's establishment. Once fully operable, it is supposed to attract dog handler trainees from the wider region, allowing Bosnia to become an international leader in detection dog training not just for mines, but for narcotics, search and rescue and other civic purposes as well.

Angolan government approves new landmine clearance program

The Angolan government has approved a new landmine clearance program, giving priority to operations along the country's road system, potentially productive areas, and strategic infrastructures. The new programme would be implemented by special demining brigades with the support of the army's engineering corps and a Luanda-based landmine clearance institute.

East Asia and Pacific Region Emergency Psychosocial Support Network

The Regional Emergency Psychosocial Support Network is now operational in the East Asia and Pacific Region. This network was established about one year ago as a collaborative effort between UNICEF and The Psychosocial Trauma and Human Rights Program at the University of the Philippines. The aim of this Network is to strengthen capacity for emergency psychosocial response in the region. Thus far three editions of the network's psychosocial newsletter have been published, and are available online. A psychosocial roster of human resources, relevant documents and other resources, as well as an online literature database is now also available. The website can be viewed at www.psychosocialnetwork.org

Explosive Remnants of War

In November High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), agreed to a new protocol relating to Explosive Remnants of War (including abandoned munitions). Under the terms of the protocol, states should clear areas they control of ERW, keep records of ordnance used in order to facilitate its recovery, warn civilians of the dangers, provide assistance to victims of accidents, and provide technical, material and financial help when they cannot do the work themselves. The protocol is legally binding, but is not retroactive, so there is no obligation to clean up the remnants of past conflicts. The protocol comes into force when it has been ratified by 20 member states, a process that could take two years.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

Security and Risk in Humanitarian Action Project - The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, together with the Small Arms Survey, are conducting a multi-year project to investigate the impact of small arms availability on humanitarian and development operations and personnel. The report on Phase I of the project *In the Line of Fire* can be found at: <http://www.hdcentre.org/Programmes/smallarms/sasurvey.htm> The results will be incorporated into various advocacy and policy processes to identify the impacts of weapons availability and to provide compelling evidence to call for action to address the small arms crisis. UNICEF has been asked to participate in Phase II of the project, by encouraging our staff members to respond to the 20-minute survey when it is distributed in March 2004. Phase II focus regions are the Great Lakes (Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, DRC and Congo-Brazzaville) and the Middle East (Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Palestine and Israel) with additional focus on two countries (Afghanistan and Angola). UNICEF contact persons have been identified in each of the regions, and staff have been involved in the review and revision of the survey.

Control Arms Campaign - A campaign has been launched by Amnesty International, Oxfam, and IANSA (the International Action Network for Small Arms) calling for an Arms Trade Treaty. The treaty seeks to establish a binding international agreement to control the arms trade according to established principles of human rights and humanitarian law. For more info, go to: www.controlarms.com.

Youth and Small Arms - The Institute for Security Studies, based in Pretoria, South Africa, has published an article entitled "Exploring Small Arms Demand - A Youth Perspective" by Angela McIntyre and Taya Weiss. It can be found at: www.iss.co.za/Pubs/Papers/67/Paper67.pdf

James Madison University – Mine Action Lessons Learned Database

The Mine Action Information Centre (MAIC) at JMU has created a database for the exchange of lessons learned. This year, the MAIC will be increasing the number of helpful lessons, focusing on issues that affect people in the field and helping analyse some of the trends that emerge, in order to prompt comment. Eventually, comments derived from this process could lead to changes in the IMAS. Experienced mine action professionals are encouraged to contribute valuable lessons that they have learned and consider important, for the benefit of others in the community.

MRE TOOLS & TRAINING

MRE IMAS

In cooperation with Cranfield University, UNICEF has finalized the MRE component of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The standards have been submitted to the IMAS review board for comments, following which they will be presented to the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for endorsement. Publication is expected sometime in December 2003 or early 2004.

CROSSING THE DIVIDE

UNICEF has co-published research on village demining activities in an effort to highlight the threat being faced by local communities and analyse the strategies they are developing to combat the problem in the absence of formal mine action. The research may be extended to include additional country case studies.

UNICEF NORTHERN CAUCASUS

UNICEF CEE/CIS is supporting the organisation of a number of training sessions in the Northern Caucasus for local implementing partners, governmental and NGOs. The training will strengthen their knowledge of MRE and Survivor Assistance (SA) strategies and programme approaches.

UNICEF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (ESARO)

1. UNICEF ESARO is organising the second regional meeting in support of UNICEF MRE, advocacy and survivor assistance programmes. The meeting is scheduled to take place on 1-5 December 2003 in Nairobi.
2. UNICEF ESARO has supported UNICEF Sudan in the organization of a training and initial orientation to MRE. Thirty-two people participated from 13 different organizations.

FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY FOR MINE ACTION COURSE

UNICEF in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention held a training course on Field Epidemiology for Mine Action (FEMAC). The training was held for ten days from October 27th to Friday November 7th 2003, at the CDC in Atlanta, Georgia. The main objective of the training was to provide mine action program specialists with basic epidemiological skills, to allow them to better undertake surveys and data analysis from a public health perspective for mine action planning, monitoring and evaluation purposes. More than 32 people took part from 18 countries, including representatives from UNICEF, MAG, the ICRC, VVAF, SAC, HDTG, DCA, WVAP, Project RENEW, Cranfield Mine Action, UNMAS, UNOPS, HI, ANAMA, SMAC, SRSA, LSN, Eritrean Demining Operations.

MRE WORKING GROUP

In September, UNICEF co- convened the MRE Working Group with the ICBL, which provided a forum for MRE practitioners to share technical expertise. Discussions were held on general developments in MRE and presentation was given from representatives from Nepal, India, Afghanistan and Burma. Additional discussions were held on the International Standards (IMAS).

SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Have you developed a new tool or technique in MRE? Do you want to share it with others? If the answer is yes to both, send a short description of the material and all your contact details to Reuben McCarthy at landmines@unicef.org for inclusion in the next issue.

RESOURCES

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** <http://www.cdc.gov/>
- **Cluster Munition Coalition:** <http://www.cmc-international.org/>
- **Crossing the Divide:** <http://www.prio.no/publications/publication.asp?PublicationID=4686>