

AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ  
ATƏT YANINDA  
DAİMİ NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ



PERMANENT MISSION ENGLISH only  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
TO THE OSCE

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE presents its compliments to all Delegations and Permanent Missions to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and in compliance with FSC Decision 7/04 has the honour to transmit herewith the reply of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War for 2017.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Delegations and Permanent Missions to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 9 pages.

Vienna, 22 May 2017



**All Delegations and Permanent Missions to the OSCE  
The Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE**

**Vienna**

**AZERBAIJAN  
2017**

**OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES**

**Part I**

**1. Is your country a State Party to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW)?**

Since the Republic of Azerbaijan was forced to use landmines, in consequence of the armed conflict resulted in the occupation of its territories by the Republic of Armenia, as a measure of containment from possible resumption of hostilities, it has not yet acceded to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), as well as to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to CCW.

**3. Is your country considering ratification/accession to the Amended Protocol II?**

The Republic of Azerbaijan expects that in future, when the armed conflict is resolved and the Azerbaijani territories are not under occupation, it would be able to accede to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices. However, without settlement of the armed conflict, restoration of territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and having a threat of hostility suspended, we cannot accede to the abovementioned Protocol at this stage.

**4. What measures have been taken to prevent the indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices?**

There is still a need to use mines, booby-traps and other devices with a view to counter intelligence and subversive operations of Armenia that continues its occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Mines and booby-traps are considered to be an inalienable part of defense strategy. In order to prevent unauthorized and indiscriminate use of these devices, they are only used along the line of contact (front line) with Armenian Armed Forces. Special registry documents (formulary and maps) of planted mines are compiled. Only persons authorized by the order of the commander of relevant military unit are allowed into mined areas. Relevant safety and security of ammunition storages are ensured.

**5. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance related to the implementation of this Protocol? If so, please describe.**

The Republic of Azerbaijan does not consider implementation-related issues, since it has not yet acceded to the mentioned Protocol.

**6. Does your country have the capacity to assist others related to this Protocol? If so, please describe.**

The Republic of Azerbaijan could consider this issue if requested.

**Part II.**

**7. Has your country ratified or acceded to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction?**

For the reasons mentioned under Part II (p. 8 (b)) the Republic of Azerbaijan has not acceded to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

**8 (b) If no, is your country considering ratification/accession to the Convention?**

The Republic of Azerbaijan fully supports the goals, purposes and principles of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) and comprehensive ban of use, storage and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. Azerbaijan considers that full ban and destruction of anti-personnel landmines is an important humanitarian objective.

The Republic of Azerbaijan did not accede to the Ottawa Convention since our country was forced to use landmines as a measure of containment from possible resumption of hostilities. Azerbaijan has been suffering from the landmine problem as a consequence of the armed conflict resulted in the occupation of its territories by Armenia. Azerbaijan cannot accede to the Ottawa Convention without settlement of the armed conflict, restoration of its territorial integrity, and having a threat of hostility suspended. Therefore, adherence to the Ottawa Convention will be possible only after the final settlement of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Despite these difficulties, Azerbaijan follows most of the provisions of the Convention by not transferring antipersonnel mines. In addition to this, taking into account humanistic goals of the annual UN General Assembly Resolution calling for universalization of the Ottawa Convention, the Republic of Azerbaijan supports the global endeavor of making the world free of the menace of mines and votes in favour of relevant UNGA Resolution.

In line with our support to the Ottawa Process, Azerbaijan voluntarily submits the Report pursuant to the Article 7 of the Convention.

**8 (c) Has your country adopted legislation to address the humanitarian objectives of the convention, or taken any specific measures regarding the use, production, storage, transfer and destruction of anti-personnel landmines? In case a moratorium has been introduced, what is its scope and duration and when was it introduced?**

Azerbaijan has not adopted legislation on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention since it is not a State party to the Convention. However, it should be mentioned that the overall mine victim assistance (MVA) activity in Azerbaijan, which is one of the main objectives of the Convention, is carried out under the current Law on Prevention of Disability, Rehabilitation and Social Protection of People with Disability. This law, *inter alia*, envisages social and economic reintegration, medical and professional rehabilitation, and social security of disabled people, including mine victims.

**9. Does your country have any specific measures in place to provide assistance to victims?**

## **Mine Victim Assistance Program in Azerbaijan**

The 1997 Law on Prevention of Disability, Rehabilitation and Social Protection of People with Disability protects rights of all people with disabilities in Azerbaijan, including mine survivors. The law prohibits discrimination against disabled in employment, education and access to healthcare, or the provision of other state services. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare are responsible for the issues related to disabled persons.

Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) was established in July 18, 1998 and is responsible for planning and coordination, management and monitoring of mine actions related activities all over the country, including mine victims assistance. ANAMA coordinates victim assistance through its Mine Victim Assistance Strategy by tasking implementing partners in the Mine Victim Assistance Working Group and fundraising. ANAMA's long term strategy is to ensure the national ownership of mine victim assistance program in terms of assistance capacity as well as financial input.

**Coordination of MVA activities:** The members of the MVA Working Group, set in January 2001 coordinate their efforts in developing approaches towards resolving problems that mine survivors face and addressing their needs through thorough analysis of the results of the Mine Survivors Needs Assessment Survey conducted in 2004. This group presented various projects in this regard with participation of ANAMA staff members.

The specific sub-task: **the Countrywide Mine/UXO Victim Needs Assessment Survey** project was developed in 2003 and implemented in 2004. This Survey allowed interviewing 1.883 people, great majority of mine victims. This project revealed their needs in medical care, physical and psychological rehabilitation, economical assistance and financial support in getting education, in social and vocational adaptation, etc. and laid out detailed information on their financial status. The results of this survey gave an opportunity to systematize the data on mine victims and classify all interviewed according to their needs. Subsequently, this database allowed developing and promoting a number of MVA projects with special emphasis on integration of survivors into society.

### **Development and implementation of MVA projects:**

Mine Victim Assistance is a core component of mine action activities, as well as post-conflict and development efforts in the country. Components of mine victim/survivors assistance are as follows:

- Pre-hospital care (first aid and management of injuries);
- Hospital Care (medical care, surgery, pain management);
- Rehabilitation (physiotherapy, prosthetic appliances and assistive devices, psychological support);
- Social and Economic Reintegration (associations of persons with disabilities, skills and vocational training, income generating project, sports; social intermediation, business skills development training and counseling) and financial services (disbursing, monitoring and collecting micro-credits);
- Disability policy and practice (education and public awareness and disability laws);
- Health and social welfare surveillance and research capacities (data collection, processing, analysis and reporting);

- Enhancing the national service provision in the field of mine victim assistance and disabilities in general through engaging with State Partner Institutions and other stakeholders.

**Table 1: General overview of national mine victim assistance programs in Azerbaijan**

| Country    | General Comment  |
|------------|--|
| Azerbaijan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National MVA program is being coordinated by ANAMA. The government's program in 2010 provided a range of services to mine/ERW survivors. "Medical Examination and Treatment Procedures Sanatorium" project started in the beginning of 2010. Considering successful outcomes of the project implemented by the national NGO Chirag and based on the National Capacity Building Strategy the same NGO was selected as an implementing partner in 2016. Another project that is being implemented by ANAMA in collaboration with NGO Chirag provides 3 months training in computer skills to mine survivors during.</li> <li>• The government of Azerbaijan has provided significant financial support to the mine action program. Azerbaijan contributes more than 80% of its total mine action program budget, one of the largest national contributions in the world. The provision of VA in Azerbaijan has also advanced over the past decade.</li> <li>• The situation for mine/ERW survivors through service provision is reported to have improved through government and NGO efforts, but is still regarded as inadequate.</li> <li>• As of end 2016, ANAMA reported at total of 2.534 incidents (2929 mine victims) identified in Azerbaijan.</li> <li>• Survivors, particularly in rural areas, suffered from a lack of employment or educational opportunities and restricted access to emergency medical facilities, due to poor road conditions. ANAMA cited a lack of adequate funds and the mine/ERW survivors being widely spread throughout the country as major obstacles to VA.</li> <li>• A Joint Working Group, consisting of representatives from various ministries, was established in 1999 to provide regular guidance to ANAMA. ANAMA is also dealing with concerned ministries and state bodies on a bilateral basis.</li> </ul> |

**10. Does your country require assistance in mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine awareness and/or victim assistance? If so, please describe.**

**Mine problem in Azerbaijan and further development of mine action capacity**

Azerbaijan suffers from mine and unexploded ordnances (UXO) problem due to continued occupation of the territory of Nagorno Karabakh and seven surrounding districts by Armenian forces. Also, like many other post soviet countries Azerbaijan deals with the so-called "problems of legacy" such as huge amount of obsolete weaponry and ammunition inherited from the former Soviet Union.

The General Survey conducted in 2001 confirmed that landmines and UXO contaminate 11 accessible regions. A total of 65 million square meters of mine and 44 million square meters UXO contaminated areas were identified.

A Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) undertaken in Azerbaijan in 2002-2003 conclusively identified 643 communities in 18 districts and exclusively identifies 480 mine-impacted and 163 unique communities in Agstafa region impacted by UXO. Altogether 970 suspected hazard areas (SHA) were identified. The land contaminated by mines and/or UXOs directly impact the safety and livelihoods of an estimated 514,000 people.

Today Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) has a quite strong operational capacity and continues to undertake a comprehensive mine/UXO action program in accessible war-torn areas. With a pool of 620 skilled human resources, 34 mine detection dogs and 6 mechanical demining machines, 2 national NGOs (mine action contractors) and 5 regional structures (including the Regional Mine Action Resource and Training Center), ANAMA is capable not only to efficiently clear mine/UXO contaminated lands and conduct mine action training but also is ready to undertake any future tasks including clearance of occupied territories once they are liberated. ANAMA Regional Mine Action Resource and Training Center is manned and well-equipped to provide continued training supports to other mine affected countries.

The existing operational strength of ANAMA is efficient, but somewhat limited in the context of the mine/UXO problem scale. ANAMA has elaborated the development strategy of the national mine action program which does not only cover the expansion of the operational human resources, but also seeks to acquire new types of special equipment, revisit the old equipment, refresh trainings for operational staff, enlarge the scope of work, establish new regional bases. This strategy reflects Agency's commitment and need for essential resources to further develop ANAMA's capacity to clear the accessible minefield and battle areas in a more effective and sustainable ways.

Along with this, it is not possible at this stage to measure the extent of the mine/UXO problem in the occupied territories. However, based on the information from international sources it is estimated that about 800 million square meters are contaminated and up to 100,000 mines are expected on those areas.

The liberation of the territories and necessity of their urgent clearance will obviously require multiple expansion of the ANAMA's operational capacity. Hence, ANAMA is quite determined to build a strong and sustainable national capacity to be able to mobilize its demining team in a short time upon request from the Government of Azerbaijan.

Taking all these factors into account the support for the further development and strengthening of ANAMA capacity should be focused on the following areas that have shortfalls within the ANAMA Work Plan:

- expanding of the manual demining capacity particularly Emergency Response Capacity, which is an important tool in order to address the problem of quick reaction to some of the urgent clearance tasks;
- development of the mechanical demining capacity as an invaluable assets for reduction of the massive suspected mined areas in time- and cost-effective manner;
- increase the mine detection dog capacity, which is quite efficient method of clearance and also required to support mechanical demining operations;

- strengthening of the planning, management, coordination and control mechanisms to oversee demining activities, as well as all directions of mine/UXO action, including establishment of the new regional bases and branches to provide rational planning and establish network to support activity;
- enhancement of measurement accuracy including the renewal of the maps using the space imagery that is required for the purposes of the technical survey along with marking and fencing of hazard areas.

Financial and technical support to these components will allow ANAMA to continue mine action activities in more efficient and effective way and provide progressive capacity development to be ready to rapidly implement a large demining program as a prior condition for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of war-torn areas and repatriation of refugees and IDPs to the lands of their origin without threat to live. Provision of safety is a principal factor for further sustainable improvement of the living conditions of local population through realization of different socio-economical projects on the development of the infrastructure of these regions.

As a part of the overall National Mine Action Strategic Plan ANAMA has elaborated the Development Strategy, which does not only cover the expansion of the operational human resources, but also seeks to acquire new types of special equipment and refresh trainings for operational and management staff.

Mine Victim Assistance is considered by ANAMA as an important part of mine action program and all efforts are aimed at the implementation of practical measures to meet mine/UXO victims' needs. The main objective today is to ensure funding of ANAMA MVA projects and continue provision of actual support to mine victims and their families.

Mine Risk Education (MRE) as one of the pillars of mine action is aimed at protection of people from the threat of mines and UXO and spreading safe behavior rules and is being undertaken in accordance with objectives of the Government of Azerbaijan to ensure safety of population and implementation of development projects. MRE can be considered as one of the successful directions of mine action in Azerbaijan. Additional financial support to MRE activity in Azerbaijan is required today to provide number of measures which are aimed at protection of people from threat of mine and UXO and ensuring safety of population in war-affected regions of the country.

**11. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in mine action? If so, please describe.**

During 2009 UNDP Azerbaijan conducted evaluation of existing capacities of ANAMA, as well as techniques and facilities to recommend on the possibility of converting ANAMA to an International Center for Mine Action. The Goygol Resource and Training centre is where Training, Survey and Quality Assurance Division (TSQAD) of ANAMA delivers different types of training. It has been recognized as a fully equipped and suitable for not only local, but also international events. ANAMA TSQAD is able to provide trainings in 3 languages: Azerbaijan, Russian and English. Persian, Georgian and Arabic translations are also possible.

TSQAD comprises a core of highly trained and experienced staff with developed competencies in basic Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA), as well as a number of specialized fields (e.g. treatment of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), house and railway clearance, integration of MDD and MDM in Technical Survey and clearance operations, use of

Differential Global Positioning Systems - DGPS). The Division's technical capacity has been built over the past several years by trainers from the US military (US Navy, USEUCOM, US Defense Intelligence School), Technical Advisors from a number of leading HMA organizations (NGOs and commercial companies) and through international training institutions such as James Madison & Cranfield universities. Staff have also received specialized training in deep search and UXO detection methods from several manufacturers (e.g. Institute DR. FOERSTER, Vallon, etc).

Since 2001 till the end of 2016 the division's Training and Monitoring Team delivered more than 169 HMA related training courses, and trained more than 1758 trainees. 305 of trainees were foreign students. The principal fields of training have included:

- Basic Demining Course
- Technical Survey and Operations Safety
- HMA Familiarization Course
- Demining operations integration
- First Aid, Field Paramedics and Medical Evacuation
- Map reading and GIS
- EOD/BAC (IMAS Levels 1 & 2)
- Instructor Course
- House clearance
- Railway clearance
- Water well clearance
- QA/QC Course
- Information Management Course
- Team Leaders/ Supervisor Course
- Site management and supervision
- Explosive storage and transportation
- Mine Risk Education instruction

So far ANAMA has trained national mine action operators for Georgia, Afghanistan, Turkey and Tajikistan.

ANAMA is able to provide International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) compliant training programs in the following areas:

- General and Technical Survey
- Differential Geographic Information System (DGIS) and spatial data mapping
- IMSMA and Mine Action information management
- Basic Humanitarian Demining
- EOD Operations (IMAS levels 1 & 2)
- Explosive storage and transportation
- Ammunition Storage Management and Ammunition Storage Area (ASA) clearance
- Battle Area Clearance (including use of FEREX 4.032 Detection System DLG-GPS)
- Mine Dog Detection and dog handling
- Use of mechanical assets in clearance operations
- Integration of Mine Detection Dogs & Mechanical assets in Mine Action operations
- House and railway clearance



- Management of IEDs
- Area Reduction/Land Release Methodologies
- Mine Risk Education
- Survivor/Victim Assistance need assessment and response planning
- First Aid/Field Paramedic training
- Section & Team Leadership; Field Supervision & Management
- Training of Trainers
- Quality Assurance and Quality Control
- Logistics and Supply Management

*Training facilities and amenities*

The Goygol Regional Training Base (GGRTB), (where ANAMA TSQAD is delivering different types of training) was recognized by experts as fully equipped and suitable for training courses for local and international staff.

Location: GGRTB is located in Goygol city, some 360 km west of the capital city Baku and approximately 10 km south from Ganja, the second largest city in Azerbaijan.

Training facilities: GGRTB base except the office and other facilities consist of two separate training buildings: two classrooms (first is for 24 persons, and second is for 60 persons) equipped with computers, laser projectors. In addition there is a separate conference/meeting room.

Languages: ANAMA TSQAD instructors are able to teach courses in Azerbaijani, Russian, Turkish and English languages. If requested ANAMA can involve translators and interpreters.

Other facilities: Barrack for 28 trainees, guest house with 2 separate rooms, bath room, shower/kitchen, 2 separate buildings for 10 men, 8 very nice single hotel rooms with 24/7 free internet, laundry, heating station, garage, canteen for 72 people, and ect. There is also the choice of hotel accommodation in Ganja if alternatives to shared-lodging at the Centre are required. In this case, the Centre is able to provide daily transfers to and from Ganja city. In addition there is an International airport in Ganja city.

Sports: Volleyball, basketball, table tennis. It's planned to create a fitness room at the base as well.

Security: The Training Base is guarded by the Police.

Communications: Internet (line and WiFi), phone line and radio, fax and mass production color copy machine Workstation.

## OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

**1. Has your country notified the Depository of its consent to be bound by the 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) once it enters into force? Is your country considering doing so?**

Refer to Part I (p. 1)

## OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

**3. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance in clearing or otherwise minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.**

ANAMA initiated a project on clearance of 64 sq.km of Jeyranchel area in the north-west part of the country along Azerbaijani-Georgian border. The former Soviet Army military testing and training field was in active use during 1955 -1991 time period. The hazard from UXO and mines in the Jeyranchel represents a serious humanitarian, socio-economic and environmental threat to the local population.

The first phase of the ANAMA-NATO/NSPA Partnership for Peace Trust Fund Project "Jeyranchel Clearance Project" on the clearance of 19 sq.km was officially confirmed by NATO on October 4, 2011. The United States of America has taken the role of the Lead Nation for this project. The Government of Azerbaijan being deeply concerned with this situation and considering the importance of this project for the country contributed 50% of the total budget of the project. The United States and United Kingdom have also made contributions to the Project. Within the first phase of the Project 19 sq.km of the total 64 sq.km contaminated area has been cleared and 14.654 UXOs and 173 mines have been found and destroyed.

The second phase of the "Jeyranchel Clearance Project" on the clearance of 23 sq.km has started in July 8, 2014 and continued for 24 months. The United States of America remained the Leading Nation for this project. The Government of Azerbaijan again contributed 50% of the total budget of the project. Within the second phase of the Project 25 361 396 sq.m contaminated area has been cleared and 1553 UXOs have been found and destroyed.

The third phase of the Project also successfully continues. Within this phase 21 395 505 sq.m contaminated area will be cleared.

**4. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.**

ANAMA UXO Clearance Team has been trained within the framework of the NATO/NSPA-ANAMA joint project on clearance of unexploded ordnances in Jeyranchel, Azerbaijan and currently consists of 60 well-trained and fully equipped EOD. Along with the national trainers the international experts have also been involved in the trainings at the different stages of the project. This gave an opportunity to use the international experience of the trainers as well as benefit from the consultations of technical advisors appointed to Azerbaijan by NSPA.

Today within the package of standard trainings ANAMA is able to deliver all courses related to the Battle Area Clearance.