



GUATEMALA

Fulfillment of Article 5 Ottawa Convention

Intersesional Meeting - May 2006

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Political and legal steps

1992 - First request to the Demining Committee of the Inter-American Defence Board (suspended due to combats).

1994 – Agreement on Reestablishment of the Populations Rooted out by the Armed Conflict (Oslo, Norway).

1995 – “Law for risk reduction to inhabitants of zones affected by the armed conflict ...” Created the first Coordinating Commission of Demining Program

1996 - Agreement on the Definitive Cease of Fire (Oslo, Norway)

1996 – Agreement on Chronogram for Implementation, Fulfillment and Verification of the Peace Agreements (Oslo, Norway).

1997 – OAS supports the National Plan of Demining and Destruction of Explosive Ordnances. The Law of 1995 was modified to create an Executive Coordination Unit in the Congress of the Republic

1998 – Law to ratify the Ottawa Convention

1999 – Ratification of the Ottawa Convention (March)



Technical steps



- Development a sensitization program through informative campaign on TV, radio, newsletter and other means in the 23 indigenous languages.
- Development of cartographic data based on population and institution information.
- Visit population of areas where combats were hold.
- Access to areas where the Indigenous Peoples do not allow the presence of military or police members.
- Representation of the civil society.

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Technical steps



- URNG must provide information about any area affected by mines and UXO's in stock or deployed.
- Participate in the sensitization program to obtain information from the population.
- Localize and mark mines and UXO's together with Voluntary Firemen.
- Message of national reconciliation.
- 1996 – Previous experience in volcano Tajumulco (326 APM): MINUGUA (Blue Helmets), URNG and Army.



Technical steps

- Army proceed to destroy ordnances. Only Army is entitled to handle explosives
- Army and guerrilla had to exchange information: sensitive confessions on their activities during the conflict.

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Criteria

Mined field 1996

High Risk

Low Risk

No Risk





First priorities

- Clean areas where returnees would be resettled.
- Identify the attitude of habitants in certain regions.
- Level of popular acceptance to the Army, the former URNG and the Firemen.
- Violence level of people taking the law on their hands.



Verification of existence of mines in suspected areas

- After collecting information and maps, teams proceeded to localise and mark mines and UXO's.
- Zappers were supervised by MARMICA, which belongs to the Inter-American Defence Board –JID-.
- MARMICA was composed by foreign staff that advised, trained and certified mine action.

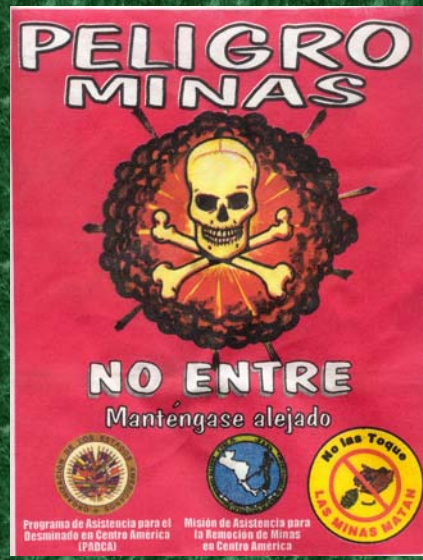
Steps to exclude civilians from suspected areas

Campaign of sensitization

23-language audiovisual material

Marking by LEXFOAM and mine marker PSS/12

International standardized stockades and posters



Time between the ratification of the Ottawa Convention and the Demining National Program

- First mine action period – 1996.
- Second period -1997- after Peace Agreements of 1996 (coincidence with adoption of Ottawa Convention).
- Demining Program starts in June 1998 and on the field, October 1998.
- Ratification of Ottawa Convention in March 1999 (Entry into force September 1999).
- Finalisation in December 2005.
- **7 years of Mine Action + 1 previous year.**

Financial and technical means

- General State Budget includes 1 million Quetzals (US\$ 90,000 - US\$ 120,000).
- UCE to manage international donations and goods acquired for the program.
- National personnel:
 - First period: UNHCR trained Volunteer Firemen and civilian refugees.
 - Second period: OAS and MARMICA trained Army Engineer Corps, demobilised URNG and Volunteer Firemen Corps.

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Financial support

- Donor countries, private institutions and persons
- OAS collected these donations.
 - US\$ 1 million to Guatemala annually
- Other main funds came from:
 - Canada
 - Denmark
 - France
 - Germany
 - Japan
 - Netherlands
 - Norway
 - South Korea
 - Sweden
 - Switzerland
 - USA
 - UK
 - Russia
 - Italy
 - Republic of China
(US\$ 80,000 e/year bilateral)



CERTIFICATION

- MARMICA supervised the whole process of mine action including the certification.
 - To review the field in case of missed points.
 - International rules based on the "*Manual de procedimientos operativos de desminado humanitario de la JID*". (www.jid.org)
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- Risk of finding explosives in the worked areas or inside non-affected areas by the internal conflict.
 - Demining team in the Army Engineer Corps to react in case of new discoveries of UXO's and mines.

