



AUSTCARE'S MINE ACTION PROGRAM 2007–2010

AIM

Austcare's Mine Action Program aims to reduce the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) on women, men and children, particularly in displaced and other vulnerable communities.¹ The Program is reviewed annually to incorporate lesson learned and maximise its impact.

Since 1989, Austcare has partnered with other leading mine action agencies and local communities to successfully conduct projects in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mozambique, and on the Thai-Burma border. Austcare's Mine Action Program is comprehensive and includes:

- immediate disaster management and emergency response, particularly in post-conflict situations; and
- recovery and long-term development assistance to reduce poverty and achieve self-sufficiency.

Austcare's Mine Action Program is shaped by Austcare's Mission: *"to assist refugees overseas, displaced people, returnees and those affected by landmines to rebuild their lives and to reduce poverty through the expert delivery of development programs in partnership with local communities and other agencies."*² The Mine Action Program enables Austcare to better serve those affected by landmines and ERW by:

- helping to prevent the use of landmines and ERW, including cluster munitions;
- reducing death and injury due to landmines and ERW;
- responding to and helping to ameliorate the impact of landmines and ERW during emergency post-conflict situations;
- assisting women, men and children to maximise the impact of sustainable development and escape poverty through risk reduction, integrated mine action (IMA)³, and survivor assistance programs; and
- developing programs that meet the specific needs of landmine survivors.⁴

GUIDELINES

Austcare's Mine Action Program works towards achieving the United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)⁵ and is in line with the UN guidelines for Mine Action. The UN defines mine action as *"activities which aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of mines and UXO ... Mine Action is not just about demining; it is also about people and societies, and how they are affected by landmine*

¹ Austcare defines ERW as UXO (unexploded ordnance), AEO (abandoned explosive ordnance), and landmines, and landmines as anti-personnel landmines (APL) and anti-vehicle mines (AVM).

² Austcare Strategic Plan 2003-2007. This document will be reviewed in 2007.

³ IMA aims to improve the socio-economic situation of mine affected communities through the integration of one or more of the 5 pillars of mine action into broader development programs.

⁴ Landmine survivors refers to any individual who has been directly injured by a landmine or other ERW and who has survived. Austcare recognises that any effort to assist landmine survivors must not create perceptions of inequity by excluding persons injured or disabled in another manner. Therefore *survivor assistance* involves the immediate and long-term care and rehabilitation of directly affected individuals, their families, and mine-affected communities.

⁵ Austcare recognises and supports the move by the Government of Cambodia to include Mine Action as Goal 9 of its MDGs.

contamination. The objective of Mine Action is to reduce the risk from landmines to a level where people can live safely; in which economic, social and health development can occur free from the constraints imposed by landmine contamination, and in which the victims' needs can be addressed".⁶

Austcare's Mine Action Program is guided by key policies and documents:

- the 1997 Mine Ban Convention⁷, and resolutions from meetings of State Parties;
- the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)⁸;
- the UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy 2006-2010;
- UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security;
- Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action*⁹;
- the Australian Government's Mine Action Strategy¹⁰;
- the 5 Pillars of Mine Action:
 - Mine Risk Education (MRE);
 - Humanitarian Demining, i.e. survey, mapping, marking and clearance;
 - Victim Assistance¹¹, including rehabilitation and reintegration;
 - Stockpile Destruction; and
 - Advocacy.
- The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
- National Mine Action policies of the countries in which Austcare works.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of Austcare's Mine Action Program are in accordance with the Goals stated in the Austcare Strategic Plan.

Goal One: REDUCE POVERTY

1.0 Reduce poverty and contribute to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through the development of sustainable services to communities and women, men and children affected by landmines and ERW.

Objective 1.1 – Provide essential services to women, men and children affected by landmines and ERW.

Work with women, men and children to design and implement mine action projects that build on the communities existing response to the problems caused by landmines and ERW.

Objective 1.2 – Risk Reduction

Reduce the risk of landmines and ERW in emergencies and immediate and longer-term post-conflict situations, with a focus on emergency clearance activities and mine risk education (MRE).

Objective 1.3 – Integrated Mine Action (IMA)

Work with women, men and children to reduce poverty and contribute to the achievement of the MDGs through linking mine action projects with early recovery and development efforts.

⁶ International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) 04.10 Ed. 2, January 2003

⁷ Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (also known as the Ottawa Treaty).

Refer: http://www.gichd.ch/fileadmin/pdf/mbc/text_status/Ottawa_Convention_English.pdf

⁸ The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

Refer: <http://www.gichd.ch/1060.0.html>

⁹ <http://www.genevacall.org/about/testi-mission/gc-04oct01-deed.htm>

¹⁰ Australian Government AusAID, Mine Action Strategy, May 2006

¹¹ Also referred to as *Survivor Assistance*, a term preferred by Austcare.

Objective 1.4 – Survivor Assistance

Respond effectively to the individual and community needs of landmine survivors.

Objective 1.5 – Gender Sensitivity

Establish the unique ways that women, men, and children are affected by landmines and ERW, and ensure that all planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Austcare projects is gender sensitive.

Goal Two: *INSPIRE HUMANITARIAN ACTION*

2.0 Inspire humanitarian action by mobilising support for and increasing awareness of landmines and ERW.

Objective 2.1 – Policy and Campaigning

Based on clear policies, campaign for the elimination of landmines and cluster munitions, and ensure that the international obligations that State's have with respect to ERW, such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), are met.

Objective 2.2 - Australian Support and Awareness

Build Australian community support and awareness for Mine Action and provide opportunities to engage in Mine Action.

Objective 2.3 – International Support and Awareness

Enhance Austcare's reputation as a global player in Mine Action by developing and sustaining viable international partnerships.

Objective 2.4 – Research and Advocacy

Provide quality, timely and relevant information to our supporters, partners and the public; and advocate awareness of the key issues to eliminate landmines and cluster munitions, prevent casualties from ERW, reduce poverty and assist landmine survivors.

Goal Three: *GROW AND SUSTAIN OUR FINANCIAL BASE*

3.0 Achieve financial sustainability to permit implementation of the Mine Action Program.

Objective 3.1 – Public Fundraising

Develop and implement successful Mine Action fundraising campaigns and partnerships.

Objective 3.2 – Institutional Fundraising

Enhance existing relationships with international and national donors to maximise resource mobilisation in the new aid environment.

Goal Four: *ACHIEVE BEST PRACTICE IN GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY*

4.0 Ensure that Austcare's Mine Action Program is conducted to the highest standards of governance and accountability.

Objective 4.1 - Integrity and Transparency

Conduct program activities in compliance with relevant standards and codes of conduct.

Objective 4.2 – Accountability and Responsiveness

Monitor and evaluate all programs to ensure effectiveness and quality, to maximise benefit to communities, and to ensure donor accountability.

Goal Five: VALUE AND DEVELOP OUR PEOPLE

5.0 Develop Austcare’s expertise and profile in Mine Action.

Objective 5.1 – Develop staff capacity

Ensure that Austcare develops a cadre of staff with substantial expertise in Mine Action.

Objective 5.2 Employment opportunities

Establish a Mine Action Register (MAR) of available mine action personnel.

CONCLUSION

Austcare’s Mine Action Program is an important component of Austcare’s work. Austcare invites stakeholder comments so that the Mine Action Program, through participatory development, continues to address the needs of women, men and children living in mine affected communities.

Annex A:

Austcare Mine Action Program Implementation Plan 2007-2010

Annex B:

Austcare Mine Action Program Position Statements