

Trust Fund projects: promoting security and defence reform

NATO Allies and Partners are working together to support practical demilitarization and defence reform projects with expert advice and resources, through a number of Partnership for Peace Trust Funds. Many of these projects are aimed at ensuring the safe destruction of stockpiles of surplus and obsolete landmines, weapons and munitions. Some projects are also helping to manage the consequences of defence reform through the retraining of former military personnel and initiatives to strengthen the integrity of defence institutions.

The end of the Cold War brought improved security throughout the Euro-Atlantic area. But it also left a dangerous legacy of aging arms, ammunition, anti-personnel mines, missiles, rocket fuel, chemicals and unexploded ordnance. Many of the affected countries lack the means to eliminate the threat posed by these stockpiles. Some countries also face the daunting task of downsizing their armed forces and transforming their defence structures to meet the demands of the evolving security environment.

The NATO Trust Fund policy is aimed at meeting these challenges. Established in 2000, this policy is an integral part of NATO's Partnership for Peace and Mediterranean Dialogue programmes of practical security cooperation. The projects set up under this policy are funded by voluntary contributions from individual NATO Allies and Partner countries.

Many of the Trust Fund projects are implemented in close cooperation with other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations. They actively contribute to achieving objectives set by

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Stockpiles of obsolete ammunition await disposal in Georgia.

DANGEROUS STATISTICS

Anti-personnel mines

Estimates put the total number of anti-personnel mines buried in the ground worldwide at 100 million. Global estimates of new landmine casualties each year vary between 15 000 and 20 000 people. In 2006, civilians accounted for three-quarters of recorded casualties – 34 per cent of these civilians were children.

Small arms and light weapons

Small arms are weapons intended for use by an individual and include pistols, rifles, submachine-guns, assault rifles and light machine-guns. Light weapons are designed for use by two or three persons serving as a crew and include heavy machine-guns, some types of grenade launchers, mortars, anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns.

Easy to acquire and easy to use, small arms and light weapons help fuel and prolong armed conflicts. All too frequently, the targets and victims are civilians. According to the United Nations and other sources, of the four million war-related deaths in the 1990s, 90 per cent were civilians, mostly women and children. It is estimated that there are over a half a billion small arms and light weapons in the world – enough for one in every 12 people. They are implicated in over 1 000 deaths a day.

wider international initiatives – for example, projects focused on mine action and preventing the spread of small arms and light weapons support relevant UN action plans on these issues.

The Trust Fund policy has proved to be a practical tool to support defence reform and the fight against terrorism, supporting the Alliance's efforts to improve security and stability across the Euro-Atlantic area. The destruction of surplus stockpiles of arms and ammunition reduces the threat to individual countries and their populations as well as the wider region. Projects aimed at enhancing physical security and stockpile management also ensure that surplus stockpiles are put beyond the reach of terrorists and criminals.

Evolution of Trust Fund policy

The Trust Fund policy was originally established in September 2000 to assist Partner countries in the safe destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines. It provided the Alliance with a practical mechanism to assist Partners to meet their obligations under the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer or Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

The initial success of the Trust Fund policy in the safe destruction of anti-personnel landmines led to an extension of the policy to support the safe destruction of small arms and light weapons (SALW). In this way, the policy is providing practical support to the implementation of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit trade in SALW in All its Aspects.

Trust Fund projects are also helping to destroy, missiles, conventional munitions, rocket fuel, and man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS). The latter are of particular concern since they are used for low-level attack on aircraft and constitute a serious threat against commercial and military aviation should they fall into the hands of terrorists.

In recent years, the scope of the Trust Fund policy projects has been further expanded to support wider defence reform initiatives. This includes assisting Partner countries in managing the consequences of defence reform through the retraining of former military personnel, and initiatives aimed at strengthening integrity and reducing corruption in defence institutions.

The Trust Fund policy has also expanded its geographical scope. At first, it focused on providing assistance upon request to any of NATO's Euro-Atlantic Partner countries, which take part in the Partnership for Peace programme (as of April 2008, there are 24 Partners). Since then, the Trust Fund mechanism has been extended to support projects in countries which participate in NATO's other security cooperation initiatives, such as the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative. More recently, it was agreed

that Trust Fund projects could be set up in countries where NATO is leading peace-support operations, paving the way for the recent launch of a project in Afghanistan.

Setting up a Trust Fund project

Trust Fund projects may be initiated by either NATO member states or Partner countries. All projects are led on a voluntary basis by a “Lead Nation”, which can be either a NATO member state or Partner country. The Lead Nation is responsible for gathering political and financial support for the project as well as for selecting an appropriate Executing Agent to oversee the development and implementation of the project.

Informal discussions with the NATO International Staff help determine the scope of the project. This may include technical advice from the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA, *see below*). In addition, other international organizations are consulted to establish support for the project, to confirm that there is no conflict or duplication of effort and, in some cases, for technical advice. (*see also page 6*).

The project proposal sets out in detail the work to be undertaken, the costs involved and the implementation schedule. Once the project proposal is agreed by the Lead Nation and Partner country concerned, it is presented to the Political-Military Steering Committee. This body serves as a formal forum to discuss the project and attract potential support and resources.

The formal launch of a project is the trigger to start raising funds in earnest. Subject to completion of formal legal agreements, work can start once sufficient funds have been received.

Role of NAMSA

The Luxembourg-based NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) is NATO’s principal logistics support management agency. However, NAMSA also plays an essential role in the development and implementation of Trust Fund projects.

NAMSA offers technical advice and a range of management services. It has often been appointed by Lead Nations to act as the Executing Agent for demilitarization projects and projects aimed at enhancing physical security and stockpile management. This involves overseeing the development of project proposals and the competitive bidding process to ensure transparency and value for money in the execution of projects. As the Executing Agent, NAMSA also oversees all operational aspects of a project and ensures that work is undertaken correctly, within budget, and to the highest standards of safety.



On 7 May 2008 at NATO Headquarters, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer (centre) applauds as the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Belgium (left) and the General Manager of NAMSA (right) shake hands after signing a Memorandum of Cooperation supporting a Trust Fund project to improve safety and physical security at munitions depots in Afghanistan.



Deadly unexploded ordnance is cleared from a former military base in Azerbaijan, which was the largest Soviet ammunition storage facility in the southern Caucasus region.



An explosive waste incinerator in Albania operated round the clock for two years – it is the only such example in the world.

Trust Fund projects

This map shows all Trust Fund projects which had been successfully completed, or were ongoing or in the final stages of planning in May 2008. Key facts are presented for each project (flags indicate donor countries and contributing organizations other than NATO). Unless otherwise indicated, the Executing Agent is NAMSA.

In addition to these country-specific projects, a new Trust Fund project aimed at building integrity and reducing corruption in defence institutions was launched in May 2008, led by Poland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, within the framework of the Partnership Action Plan on Defence Institution Building. (Projected costs: €450 000).

-  NATO members
-  Euro-Atlantic Partners
-  Mediterranean Dialogue countries

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO I

Aim: Destruction of 28 000 SALW
Cost: €375 000
Lead Nation: the Netherlands
Project duration: SEP 2003 – DEC 2003



SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO II

Aim: Destruction of 1.3 million anti-personnel landmines
Projected cost: €1.69 million
Lead Nation: Canada/Austria
Project duration: FEB 2005 – JUN 2007



SERBIA

Aim: Helping redundant military personnel find new jobs
Cost: €5.9 million
Lead Nation: Norway
Project duration: DEC 2005 – ongoing
Executing Agent: IOM



ALBANIA I

Aim: Destruction of 1.6 million anti-personnel landmines
Cost: US\$800 000
Lead Nation: Canada
Project duration: JAN 2001 – APR 2002



ALBANIA II

Aim: Destruction 11 500 tonnes SALW ammunition
Projected cost: €6.4 million
Lead Nation: Canada
Project duration: DEC 2002 – OCT 2007



BELARUS

Aim: Destruction of 700 000 anti-personnel landmines
Projected cost: €205 000
Lead Nation: Canada
Project duration: JAN 2006 – DEC 2006



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Aim: Retraining and reintegration of military and civilian personnel
Projected cost: €5.83 million
Lead nation: Croatia/the Netherlands/United Kingdom
Project duration: JUN 2006 – ongoing
Executing Agent: IOM



MOLDOVA I

Aim: Destruction of 325 tonnes of melange, 12 000 anti-personnel landmines and 300 tonnes of munitions
Cost: US\$1.1 million
Lead Nation: the Netherlands
Project duration: DEC 2001 – DEC 2002



MOLDOVA II

Aim: Repacking and centralization of 1 700 tonnes of dangerous chemicals
Projected cost: €658 000
Lead Nation: Belgium/Romania
Project duration: NOV 2005 – ongoing



This is a joint NATO/OSCE project in the framework of ENVSEC*

* The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) was launched by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme in 2002. NATO became associated with ENVSEC in 2004 in order to coordinate related activities, in particular under the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme. (For more information see www.envsec.org)

UKRAINE I

Aim: Destruction of 400 000 anti-personnel landmines

Cost: US\$800 000

Lead Nation: Canada

Project duration: FEB 2002 – MAY 2003



UKRAINE II

Aim: Destruction of 1.5 million SALW, 133 000 tonnes of munitions and 1 000 MANPADS

Projected cost: €7.9 million

Lead Nation: United States (phase 1)

Project duration: NOV 2005 – ongoing



UKRAINE III

Aim: Retraining and resettlement of 600 military personnel

Cost: €430 000

Lead Nation: the Netherlands

Project duration: FEB 2006 – ongoing

Executing Agent: the Netherlands



GEORGIA I

Aim: Destruction of 526 surface-to-air missiles and 45 warheads

Projected cost: €1.1 million

Lead Nation: Luxembourg

Project duration: NOV 2003 – FEB 2006



GEORGIA II

Aim: Destruction of 8 780 rockets and missiles

Projected cost: €480 000

Lead nation: Estonia/Latvia/Lithuania

Project duration: JUN 2008 – ongoing



KAZAKHSTAN

Aim: Destruction of 27 000 SALW, including 335 MANPADS

Projected cost: €240 000

Lead Nation: United States

Project duration: DEC 2005 – ongoing



AZERBAIJAN

Aim: Clearance of 600 hectares of unexploded ordnance

Projected cost: €1.6 million

Lead Nation: Turkey

Project duration: NOV 2005 – ongoing



JORDAN

Aim: Detecting explosive remnants of war and improving ammunition stockpile management

Projected cost: €3.4 million

Lead nation: Norway/Spain/Switzerland

Project duration: DEC 2007 – ongoing



AFGHANISTAN

Aim: Improvement of ammunition stockpile physical security and management

Projected cost: €6.3 million

Lead nation: Belgium/Canada/Luxembourg

Project duration: MAY 2008 – ongoing



TAJIKISTAN

Aim: Destruction of 1 260 anti-personnel landmines

Cost: €3 100

Lead Nation: Canada

Project duration: MAR 2004

Executing Agent: UNDP





Stockpiles of landmines are disassembled for recycling in Serbia. The recycled plastic is used to produce PVC sewage pipes (shown below).



Tonnes of dangerous chemicals are being repackaged in Moldova, under a project supported jointly by NATO and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Underlying principles

Six principles are fundamental to the Trust Fund policy:

- 1** Projects are initiated by NATO member states or Partner countries and funded on a voluntary basis. The Alliance does not determine which requests for assistance are turned into concrete projects. Member states individually decide which proposals they wish to support and develop further.
- 2** The beneficiary country is expected to provide maximum support to the project within its means. This includes political and administrative support to ensure smooth implementation of the project, as well as financial or in-kind contributions.
- 3** The Trust Fund aims to build local capacity and ensure sustainability. In most cases, the immediate project only addresses a part of a much wider problem. By developing local skills and capability, the Trust Fund provides the beneficiary country with new resources to address future problems.
- 4** Trust Fund projects seek to ensure adherence to the highest environmental, health and safety standards.
- 5** Recycling of materials is an integral part of the demilitarization projects. This is friendly to the environment and generates funds to reduce overall costs. No recycled material is used for military purposes.
- 6** All Trust Fund projects are transparent and verifiable. This reassures donors that the work is being done properly and their funds are being spent efficiently. The NATO Financial Controller oversees the financial aspects of each project.

Working with other organizations

NATO cooperates actively with other international organizations. This ensures coherence and effectiveness, and helps to avoid duplication of efforts.

NATO has to date cooperated closely with the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the European Commission (EC); and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

In some cases, international organizations have contributed financially to Trust Funds for specific projects. Occasionally, they act as the Executing Agent for projects because they have specific expertise and can provide technical advice, or are well placed to do so in a particular country. The IOM has taken on this responsibility for the retraining Trust Fund projects in the Balkans and the UNDP is the Executing Agent for a mine-destruction project in Tajikistan.

NATO also works closely with non-governmental organizations, such as Safer World, the Landmine Campaign and Transparency International.

Practical projects with concrete results

By May 2008, some 20 projects had been launched since the establishment of the Trust Fund policy, nine of which had already been completed. Trust Fund projects are making practical contributions to promoting security and defence reform in countries in the Euro-Atlantic area and beyond. The results generated are concrete and tangible, demonstrating the benefits of partnership in action (see also statistics on back cover).

Retraining former military personnel helps these people transition into civilian life and find new jobs. Destroying stockpiles of obsolete weapons, munitions and dangerous chemicals, removes the risk they pose to local populations in terms of environmental contamination, health hazards and accidental deaths. It also addresses the potential security threat that these stockpiles pose to the wider region should the material fall into the wrong hands. Most Trust Fund projects also provide work for local people and build local capacity.

While each Trust Fund project is important, some milestones stand out:

- The first project was launched in Albania in 2000, aimed at helping the country dispose of its stockpiles of anti-personnel mines and meet its obligations under the Ottawa treaty.
- The 12-year project launched in Ukraine in 2005 for the destruction of SALW, munitions and MANPADS is the largest demilitarization project of its kind in the world.
- In May 2007, the completion of the project to destroy the stockpiles of landmines in Serbia and Montenegro marked the end of landmine stockpiles in the entire Balkans.
- The project for the location and destruction of unexploded ordnance that was launched in Jordan at the end of 2007 was the first in a Mediterranean Dialogue country.
- The project launched in Afghanistan in May 2008 to assist with the management of its ammunition stockpiles is the first Trust Fund project in a country that is not a formal NATO Partner country.
- In 2008, a Trust Fund was established to build integrity and reduce corruption in defence institutions.



Children on the way to school pass by stockpiles of unexploded ordnance at a former military base in Azerbaijan.



Man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) due for destruction in Ukraine.



A Trust Fund project was launched in December 2007 to assist Jordan with the detection and destruction of unexploded ordnance. The project will increase the safety and security of people and improve land use in the affected areas as well as help build relevant capacity in the Jordan Armed Forces.



Ammunition from small and light weapons await incineration in Albania.



Surface-to-surface anti-tank missiles due for destruction in Afghanistan.

Trust Fund projects: key statistics

Between 2000 and 2008, some €40 million have been contributed to Trust Fund projects.

These projects have helped destroy:

- 105 million small arms ammunition
- more than 4 million landmines
- 2 million hand-grenades
- 270 000 pieces of unexploded ordnance (UXO)
- over 160 000 small arms and light weapons
- 8 700 tonnes of munitions
- 1 500 tonnes of chemicals, including rocket fuel
- 1 000 man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS)
- 530 high-altitude anti aircraft missiles.

Between 2005 and 2008, some 5 000 former military personnel have received retraining assistance from Trust Fund projects supporting defence reform.

Trust Fund projects directly employed more than 400 people in Albania, Azerbaijan, Serbia and Ukraine between 2005 and 2007.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Trust Fund website:

www.nato.int/pfp/trust-fund.htm

Partnership for Peace:

www.nato.int/pfp/pfp.htm

NAMSA:

www.namsa.nato.int/demil/news_e.htm

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www.nato.int/ebookshop

Information correct as of May 2008

NATO Backgrounders provide information on different areas of Alliance policy and activity. They are published under the authority of the Secretary General and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion or positions of individual member governments.

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BGR7-TFP-ENG-0508
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