



AR/101

04 July 2007

SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR/101

UNDP SERBIA / SEESAC TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE EOD CLEARANCE OF THE PARACIN EXPLOSION SITE

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 8 – SALW Stockpile Management Issues
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	OA 1 – Capacity Building OA 2 – Coordination Measures OA 3 – Information Management and Exchange Activities

There was an undesirable explosive event within the Serbian Ministry of Defence (MOD) ammunition storage facility at Paracin on Thursday 19 October 2006. The results of this explosive event impacted on the town of Paracin and the rural settlements of Cuprija and Jagodina, causing both significant and minor damage to civilian property, (damage levels dependent on distance from Paracin ammunition depot). No military personnel were injured but approximately 20 citizens of Paracin were injured due to the blast. Explosive Ordnance Disposal operations to clear the surrounding area have been ongoing, but the clearance of the depot site itself is a more complex task.



UNDP immediately offered technical support to the Government of Serbia in alleviating the impact of this incident. A request for initial technical assistance was received by UNDP from the Cabinet of the Minister of Defence and various project proposals were prepared. On 02 July 2007, Mr Dragan Ćutanovac, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Serbia and Mr Rastislav Vrbensky, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Serbia signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of the project *Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Capacity Development in the Serbian Ministry of Defence*. The project envisages technical assistance in terms of equipment, training, risk management and capacity building for the EOD unit in the Serbian Ministry of Defence. Technical advice will also be provided, on request, on other aspects of ammunition and explosive safety for the management of the Serbian stockpiles.

The implementation of this project has been generously funded by the government of the United Kingdom. Colonel Simon Vandeleur, the UK Defence Attaché, represented the government of the United Kingdom during the signing ceremony.

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