

ACTION FICHE FOR THE 2007 ENPI-EAST REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title	Destruction of PFM-1 series ammunition in Belarus		
Total cost	EC: € 4,000,000		
Aid Method	Project approach – Centralised management by the EC Delegation		
DAC-code	15066	Sector	Landmine clearance

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Strategic framework

The EC's support to the destruction of Belarus stockpiles of the PFM-1 series anti-personnel landmines is linked with Government of Belarus (GoB) ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer or Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) under which anti-personnel landmines stockpiles must be destroyed by States Parties at the latest 4 years after ratification). The EC support is justified from a humanitarian perspective, keeping in mind death and injury that Anti-Personnel Mines (APM) may cause to the Belarusian people.

The PFM-1 series mines (*PFM-1 and PFM-1S*) were designed to be disbursed by different types of delivery system, e.g. canisters, rockets and cluster bombs launched by helicopters, amongst others. Their specific design does not allow them to be either safely neutralized or disarmed. A version designated PFM-1S is also produced, which is designed to self destruct approximately 24 hours from arming.

The shelf life of the PFM-1 series munitions (*munitions containing PFM-1 or PFM-1S mines*) has been planned as 10 years, and this deadline has now long expired. Although the injuries they produce primarily result from the explosion, there are different toxic chemicals released into the environment. This adds a level of complexity to the destruction process, and creates a potential danger to the surrounding population and the environment. Moreover, the PFM-1 series munitions stockpiles are usually kept next to other types of munitions, some very old and, thus, unstable. This could lead to accidental explosions.

2.2. Lessons learnt

PFM-1 series munitions has never yet been destroyed nor dismantled on an industrial scale.

A similar project, aimed at disposal of PFM-1 series munitions stockpiled in Ukraine, is intended to be implemented shortly.

2.3. Complementary actions

On 14 November 2005, Belarus agreed with NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) and interested donor countries to implement a project to destroy all stockpiled antipersonnel mines other than PFM-series mines. All these mines, except for the POMZ types, are to be destroyed by open detonation. The project is

funded by Canada and Lithuania as lead countries in this NATO PFP project. NAMSA is providing project management, technical oversight and auditing services.

2.4. Donor coordination

No other donor is currently active in this field for Belarus, and can't nor be foreseen.

3. COUNTRY CONTEXT

3.1. Cooperation related policy of beneficiary country

Belarus acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty on 3 September 2003, and the treaty entered into force for Belarus on 1 March 2004. Belarus submitted its third Article 7 report on 24 April 2006, covering calendar year 2005.

3.2. Sector context

Decrees issued in September and October 2003 banned the stockpiling and use of antipersonnel mines that are not command-detonated, and assigned engineering forces to continue stockpile destruction. On 8-9 December 2003, the Belarus Campaign to Ban Landmines/SCAF in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a treaty implementation seminar in Minsk. A National Plan of Action for implementing the treaty has been drafted. Belarus ratified CCW Amended Protocol II on 2 March 2004.

In its April 2006 Article 7 report, Belarus declared a stockpile of 3,672,789 as of the end of 2005. This includes a total of 3,371,984 PFM-type mines and 300,805 other antipersonnel mines. Approximately 300,000 antipersonnel mines have been destroyed between 1992 and 2003.

In August 2003, the Specialized Demining Centre of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Belarus was established in Minsk.

4. DESCRIPTION

4.1. Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to support the GoB to fulfil the commitment taken through the ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty, which implies the irreversible destruction of the PFM-1 series antipersonnel landmines stockpiled in Belarus.

The project will be implemented by a contractor, selected through a tender process, which will be allowed to sub-contract up to a maximum of 20% of the project budget.

The destruction should be carried out on one (1) destruction sites, identified, provided and arranged by the GoB, in coordination with the Contracting Authority. This implies that the Contractor will have to establish a destruction facility on one (1) site provided and arranged by the GoB at no costs for the Contracting Authority or the Contractor.

The Contractor is free to choose its own technology, provided that it produces the above mentioned results. The Contractor must use the technology presented in its

tender dossier and approved by the Contracting Authority. The method must fulfil all requirements in accordance with the GoB legislation and International best practices.

Monitoring of the project progress is the actual tool for the verification of the destruction of the PFM-1 series ammunition and is a condition for releasing payments to the Contractor. It must be assured that the number of destroyed PFM-1 series mines can be verified. Verification is of special importance, as the GoB under the MBT Article 7, has to submit reports to the United Nations.

The quantity of the monitoring equipment to be deployed is also of the discretion of the Contractor. The equipment being a tool of the Contractor to implement its assistance, and not a kind of assistance in itself, is the property of the Contractor.

The project shall also cover personnel training and qualification, and must ensure that requirements for operating the facility are in accordance with GoB legislation. For non-permanent personnel a planned training program must be part of the QM program.

4.2. Expected results and main activities

The specific objective of the project is to support the effort of the GoB to destroy its PFM-1 series ammunition within 24 months from the signature of the contract.

4.3. Stakeholders

The priority target group is the citizen of Belarus and neighbour countries.

The beneficiary will be the Government of Belarus.

4.4. Risks and assumptions

The project is based on the assumption that the GoB accepts to contribute to the destruction of the PFM-1 series munitions project by carrying and bearing costs for a certain number of activities whose accomplishment is preliminary or complementary to the work to be accomplished by the Contractor.

The non fulfilment of any of the obligations under the GoB responsibility would slow down and possibly suspend the destruction project or even make impossible its achievement.

PFM-1 series munitions has never been destroyed nor dismantled on an industrial scale. This may create unexpected challenges and difficulties. One area that must be addressed in particular is the PFM-1S arming and self destruction timeline.

4.5. Conditionalities

The beneficiary should provide clear political, administrative and concrete commitment, as to be specified in the Terms of Reference, to allocate financial resources for the project.

4.6. Crosscutting issues

Good governance and environmental impacts.

5. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

5.1. Implementation method

Signature of a Financing Agreement with the Government of Belarus, under centralised management by the EC Delegation.

5.2. Budget and calendar

The total budget available is of €4,000,000. The EU funding will cover the physical destruction of the ammunition; the GoB will incur all other costs related to the destruction project.

The whole amount will be spent through a service contract to be signed with a contractor with very specific expertise of munitions destruction.

The project operational duration should not exceed 24 months.

5.3. Procurement and award of grants procedures

All contracts implementing the financing agreement must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents lay down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

All programme estimates must respect the procedures and standard documents laid down by the Commission, in force at the time of the adoption of the programme estimates in question.

5.4. Performance monitoring

The project will be monitored according to standard procedures.

Project monitoring and evaluation will be based on periodic assessment of progress on delivery of specified project results and towards achievement of project objectives.

In the evaluation both quantitative and qualitative indicators will be used.

5.5. Evaluation and audit

The project will follow standard procedures for evaluation and audit.