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**AVSI MINE ACTION PROGRAMME
2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

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INTRODUCTION

During 2006 AVSI Mine Action Programme developed activities in the fields of Mine Risk Education (MRE), Victim Assistance, and Data Collection, Mine and ERW (UXO) Reporting and Coordination. The MRE component of the programme disseminates safe behaviour messages through a schedule of trainings and sensitisations. TOT- Trainings of Trainers (3 days course), CAT Community Awareness Trainings (a single day course) were organised by the programme during 2006. Our attempts to sensitise large part of the population utilised also the communication channels of traditional drama and radio programmes. All activities of the Gulu Hospital Orthopaedic Workshop were supported financially by the Victim Assistance component of our programme as well as the IGA activities of the Gulu-Amuru Landmine Survivors Group (GLSG). One of the highlights of our programme in 2006 was the construction and the inauguration of the Gulu Landmine Survivors Group Pottery Production Workshop in Pece, Gulu. The realisation of a survey on the number of mine/UXO accidents during the period 1986 to 2006 which led to the publication of *Gulu-Amuru Districts Landmine/ERW Victims Survey Report* has also to be underlined as one of the main achievements of our programme as its is the first comprehensive assessment of the impact of landmines and ERW on the population of Northern Uganda.

1. MINE RISK EDUCATION

1a. TOTs & Community Awareness Trainings on MRE

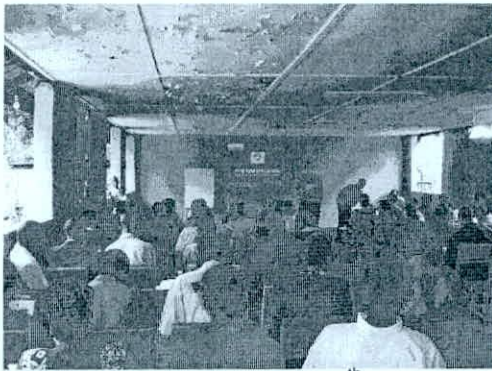
The realisation of Training of Trainers on Mine Risk Education in Lira, Gulu and Kitgum aimed to introduce the issue of mines/UXOs and enhance the capability of key actors of the society to train on safe behaviour the local population. Avsi Mine Action Programme developed also MRE Community Awareness Trainings (one day) in all sub-counties of Gulu and Amuru District, in 5 sub-counties of Lira, and in all sub-counties of Chua County in Kitgum. Avsi during 2006 organised trainings for police officers, councillors, teachers, NGOs (ICRC, NRC, UNICEF) aiming to enhance their knowledge about Mine Action to better fulfil their institutional role as servants of the community. An important objective of AVSI's Mine Awareness Trainings and TOTs is the promotion of Mine Action values and their dissemination. The population and institutions are gaining through awareness the ownership of Mine Action in Acholiland and Lango Region as reports about the presence of mines and ERW, safe behaviour and the importance of victim assistance become part of their daily

practices. To assure quality AVSI trainings follow the international standards on Mine Action set and monitored by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

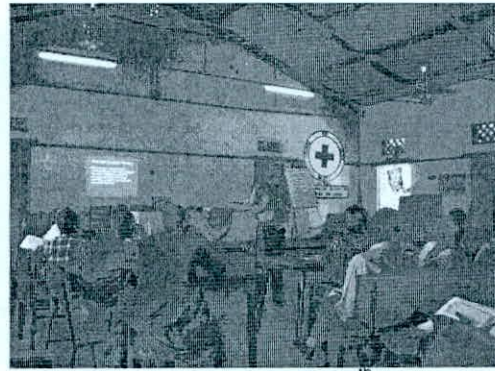
11 TOTs (Training of Trainers) were organised with the participation of 325 people for among others AVSI MRE Core Teams, Ugandan Police (Lira, Gulu, and Kitgum), Teachers (Lira), landmine survivors (Gulu, Kitgum), and Ugandan Red Cross (Gulu) during 2006. A Training of Trainers on MRE was requested by UNICEF at Kotido (Karamoja) in December 2006 due to a situation of ground contamination after recent armed clashes.

35 One-day MRE Awareness Trainings were organised with the participation of 1015 people. Among these events we could underline the importance of the training for the new elected councillors of Gulu district (at Gulu Council Hall), and the trainings for the International Red Cross (Gulu, Kitgum) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (Gulu) field staff.

20 Billboards displaying safe behaviour messages of MRE were planted in IDP Camps of Kitgum, Amuru and Gulu.



NRC staff training on MRE (27th Oct 2006)



ICRC staff training on MRE (26th Sept 2006)



Gulu District Councillors training (18th Oct 06)

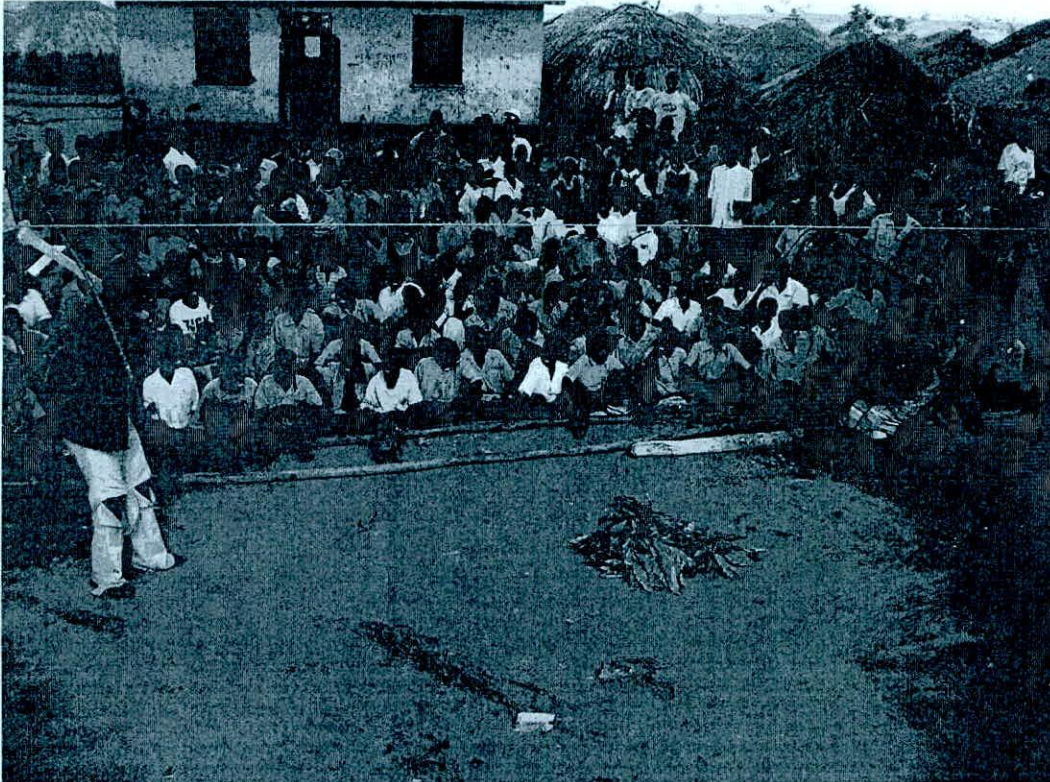


TOT for Gulu Police (23rd to 25th Oct 2006)

1b. Drama Sensitisation

During 2006 AVSI carried on training on MRE and forming Drama Groups in IDP Camps aiming at the sensitisation on safe behaviour utilising "Goga" a traditional method of portraying a social situation involving music and theatre. Six groups (Lira, Kitgum, Palukere, Acet, Awach, Gulu-Lamele) were trained or refreshed and deployed as part of our efforts of disseminate MRE messages in schools, learning centres, IDP camps, hospitals, police barracks. This activity is supported by the distribution of IEC material as T-shirts, posters, booklets portraying MRE messages. These drama groups are constantly monitored in order to assure the quality of the information diffused and utilisation of international standards during the performances.

During last year (2006) 30.000 people were reached by AVSI MRE Drama Sensitisation scheme in the 4 districts.



Mine Risk Education Drama Sensitisation in a Learning Centre (August 2006)

1c. Radio broadcasting

In order to take profit of a widespread channel of communication as the radio AVSI Mine Action Programme carried on during 2006 the organisation of talk-shows on MRE/Mine Action. These talk-shows are reaching good results as the population keeps reporting the presence of ERW and mine during the radio programme. The reactive feedback from the listeners indicates that the impact of our message through radio programme is considerable. Radio Programmes organised by AVSI are reaching 5 Districts from Radio Mega-Gulu, Radio Kitti-Kitgum, and Radio Wa-Lira.

1d. Reporting on mines and ERW

The impact of AVSI Mine Action Programme can be measured by the consistent feedback received from the population of the 4 districts concerning the reporting of ERW and mines present in our zone of intervention. Instead of reporting the presence of these devices to the military the local population prefers to report directly to our teams in the field or during radio talk-shows. AVSI is helping teams of deminers deployed by the Ugandan Mine Action Center with lists of mines and ERW reported by the population and with the availability of our staff and trained core teams to reach the hazardous areas.

2. VICTIM ASSISTANCE

2a. The support to the Gulu Regional Hospital Orthopaedic Workshop

Since 1989, AVSI has been working in the field of disability and rehabilitation in partnership with the Ugandan Ministry of Health. In 1998, AVSI constructed the Gulu Orthopedic Workshop, the only one of its kind in all of northern Uganda. Fully supported by AVSI and functioning within Gulu Regional Hospital, the workshop and associated departments offer a comprehensive program of medical rehabilitation at no cost to patients. Mine and war-related trauma survivors are measured and fit for prosthetic limbs or orthopedic appliances, given physiotherapy training to adapt to their new appliances, and provided counseling to cope with the psychosocial effects of their experience. Patients are fully accommodated for the duration of their treatment and their transportation to and from the hospital are catered for.

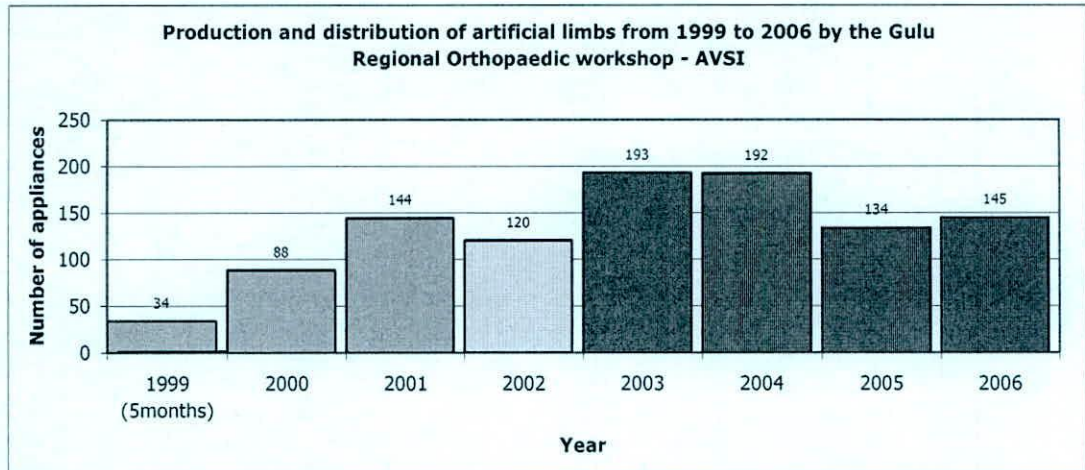
Beyond the medical rehabilitation achieved at the workshop, AVSI endeavours to care for survivors long after their physical wounds have healed. On leaving the workshop, patients are assisted with reintegration according to individual needs, through vocational training, income-generating activities, or assistance in going back to school. Further, AVSI both identifies patients in need and monitors progress of previous patients directly from the field. Monthly outreach programs allow social workers and medical personnel to track patients in their homes, where necessary adjustments or other support can be provided. AVSI's program of community-based rehabilitation has also improved access to services, raised awareness of disability issues in the community, and enhanced assistance to persons with disabilities, while prevention activities in the form of Mine Risk Education are promoting safe behaviour among the most affected communities in the region.

As a member of the International Convention to Ban Landmines (ICBL) in Uganda, AVSI is committed to promoting the comprehensive rehabilitation of survivors and helping them reclaim healthy, productive lives within their communities.

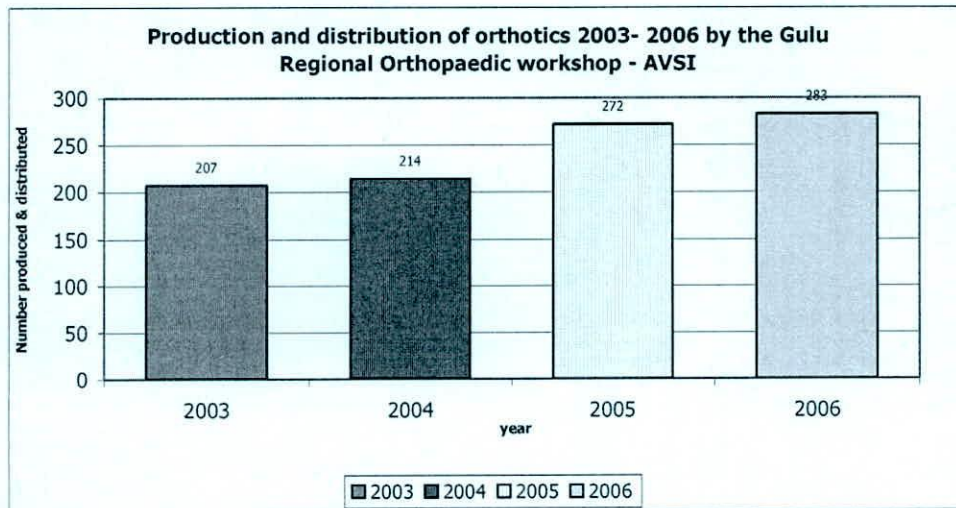


Physiotherapy Department at Gulu Orthopaedic Workshop.

During 2006 Gulu Orthopaedic Workshop produced 145 artificial limbs, 42 for female patients and 103 for males. See in the chart below the evolution of their production since the inauguration of the Workshop:

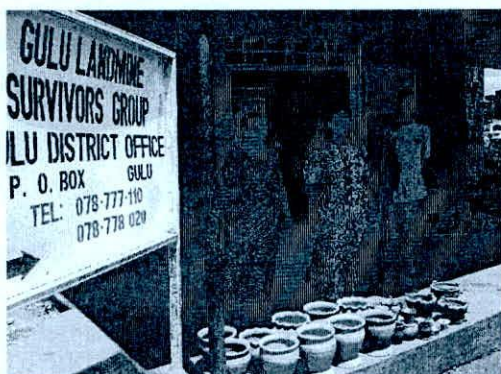


During 2006 Gulu Orthopaedic Workshop produced 283 orthotics appliances, 132 for female patients, 151 for males. See in the chart below the evolution of their production since January 2003:



2b. The support to landmine survivors

A number of landmine survivors, forced to rely on others for help, develop a feeling of hopelessness about their disability. Communities often neglect and isolate them, compounding a sense of desperation and leading some patients to turn to heavy drinking or other self-destructive means of relieving tension and sadness. To give to these patients a sense of productivity and a healthy way to channel their energy, AVSI Mine Action Programme has focused on the development of IGAs to groups of landmine survivors. Landmine survivors are counselled on their rights (National Policy on Disability) stimulated and supported to form associations of victims in order better promote their needs. During the last 3 years AVSI has supported the formation of the Gulu/Amuru Landmine Survivors Group (GLSG) with important results as the realisation of English and computer trainings, data-collection on landmine victims, and most recently the construction of the Pottery Production Workshop. The inauguration of the GLSG Pottery Production Workshop on the 4th October was one of the highlights of AVSI Mine Action Programme during 2006. The presence during the launching of the GLSG workshop of parliamentary and government authorities, operators, UN agencies reassure these victims of the conflict that they are not alone and that if we unite our forces we can achieve much more. The production of GLSG Pottery Workshop is already being commercialised and the profit shared by the 282 members of the group.



Sale of Pottery Production



GLSG Pottery Production Workshop- Gulu

3. DATA COLLECTION

3a. The Survey on mine/UXO accidents at Gulu and Amuru districts.

One of the main achievements of AVSI Mine Action Programme during 2006 was the realisation of the Landmines/ERW victim survey in Gulu and Amuru districts which led to the publication on 27th June 2006 of the *Gulu-Amuru Districts Landmine/ERW Victims Survey Report*. AVSI, working closely with the DPO, developed a system for data collection that focused on training IDPs, including landmine survivors themselves, to search their own communities for those affected by landmines and ERW. This empowered both community-ownership of the data and helped eased in the identification of cases. AVSI Landmine Victim Data Collection Programme is the first comprehensive snapshot of the impact of landmines and ERW on the population of Northern Uganda. It has canvassed all 53 IDP camps (Gulu and Amuru districts) as well as Gulu Municipality and many outlying areas. This data has been examined and evaluated to ensure accuracy and confidentiality for interviewees. AVSI was able to elaborate a map which discriminates the number of accidents by camp, type of mine or ERW involved and the number of casualties gathering that from 1986 to 2006. This data will help the efforts of demining as considering the number of accidents reported and the population of each area one can determined the most contaminated. See the Area/Population Affected by Landmine and ERWs Map in Annex number 1.

4. COORDINATION

AVSI works in partnership at all levels, both from within and outside the office. This represents both an important philosophy and an important strategy, as we believe that effective coordination emerges from a spirit of partnership.

In 2006 the national working group was empowered by the creation in 2006 with the help of UNDP of the Uganda Mine Action Center (UMAC), the authority responsible for the coordination of all mine action activities in the country. Monthly coordination meetings are held in Kampala at UMAC where different aspects of the mine action programme in Uganda are discussed.

On a regional level, activities are coordinated in Gulu through a body that is composed of UNDP, UNOCHA, Landmine Survivors Group, World Vision, CPAR, MAT, Ugandan Police, the UPDF, area hospital and others and is chaired by the District Rehabilitation Officer and co-chaired by AVSI. Various initiatives emerge from these meetings and all members contribute with ideas.

It will be necessary for the district authorities to take a strong coordination role and to ensure proper distribution of information and interventions.

On a local level, activities are always coordinated through the local leaders—camp leaders, local councillors, and others according to the situation.

The contribution of AVSI Mine Action Programme to the discussions for the elaboration of national policies and for the discussions on the Ugandan Mine Action standards has been fundamental as the experience (gained after 5 years of implementation), dimension and the achievements of our programme is recognised nationally and abroad for all Mine Action operators.



Areas/Population affected by Landmines/ERWs

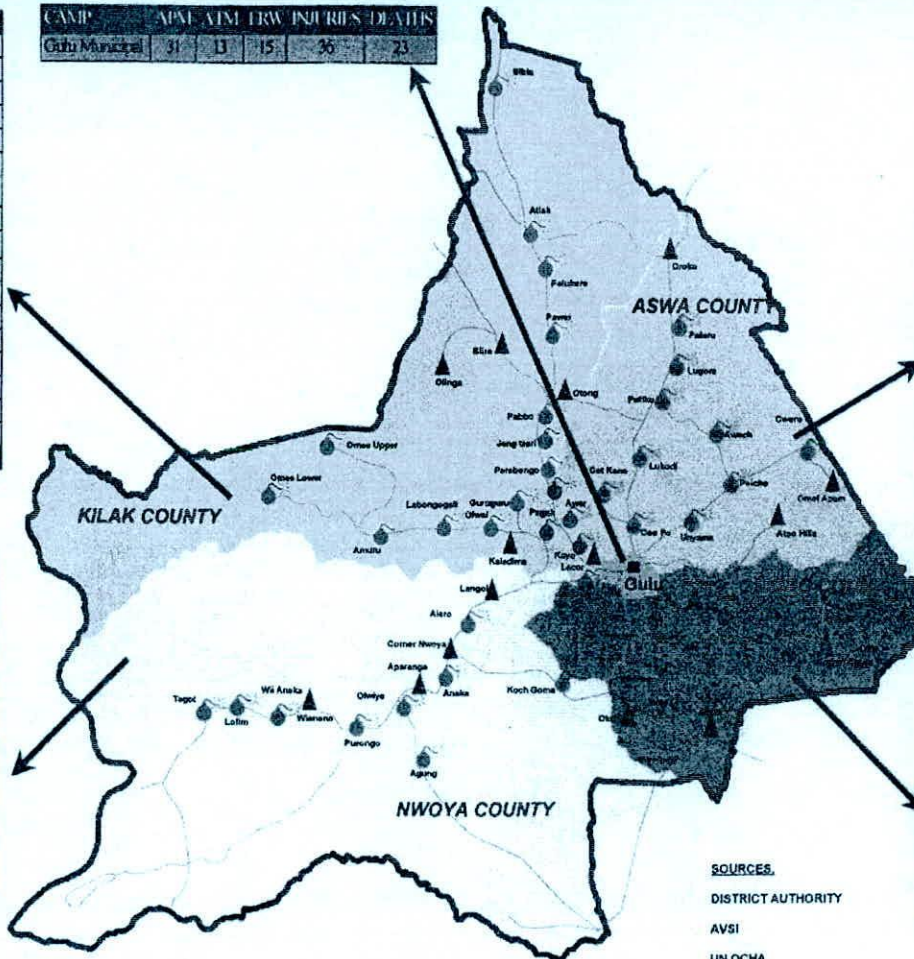
Survey Report Conducted by AVSI Gulu May 2006

CAMP	APM	VIM	ERW	INJURIES	DEATHS
Amaru	62	25	26	72	41
Attink	40	6	9	32	23
Awer	3	0	4	3	4
Bibia	4	0	3	3	4
Jonggari	1	0	2	2	1
Keyo	2	2	4	7	1
Kaladima	4	0	3	3	4
Pawel	8	0	4	4	8
Labonggali	8	1	4	10	3
Otwal	25	3	8	22	14
Omsae 1	0	0	2	1	1
Omsae 2	0	0	1	0	1
Otong	1	2	1	2	2
Pabbo	61	13	6	51	32
Pagak	11	0	4	12	3
Pahukero	2	0	2	0	4
Pansongo	14	7	4	17	8
Total	246	54	87	211	151

CAMP	APM	VIM	ERW	INJURIES	DEATHS
Gulu Municipal	31	11	15	36	23

CAMP	APM	VIM	ERW	INJURIES	DEATHS
Paicho	15	5	36	37	19
Patiko	6	4	21	18	13
Lugore	8	0	16	14	10
Awach	16	3	16	22	13
Owero	9	0	16	15	10
Lakroni	2	0	4	3	3
Palero	12	1	15	21	7
Cet kana	4	0	10	3	11
Coope	8	1	12	16	5
Lukurie	3	0	5	6	2
Uuyama	4	1	0	0	5
Total	87	15	151	155	98

CAMP	APM	VIM	ERW	INJURIES	DEATHS
Alokohum	11	1	3	13	3
Agung	6	2	4	6	6
Alero	56	5	25	54	32
Anaka	21	3	50	56	18
Comer Nwoya	0	3	0	1	2
Koch Goma	26	9	13	36	12
Langol	1	0	0	0	1
Lolim	19	1	3	7	16
Oliwyo	4	1	5	8	2
Purungo	12	4	17	18	15
Tegot	2	0	1	1	2
Wii Anaka	3	1	4	7	1
Apaninga	1	0	1	2	0
Total	151	29	123	196	107



CAMP	APM	VIM	ERW	INJURIES	DEATHS
Paicho	15	5	36	37	19
Patiko	6	4	21	18	13
Lugore	8	0	16	14	10
Awach	16	3	16	22	13
Owero	9	0	16	15	10
Lakroni	2	0	4	3	3
Palero	12	1	15	21	7
Cet kana	4	0	10	3	11
Coope	8	1	12	16	5
Lukurie	3	0	5	6	2
Uuyama	4	1	0	0	5
Total	87	15	151	155	98

SOURCES:
 DISTRICT AUTHORITY
 AVSI
 UN OCHA

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