

### Lead Nation



### Other Contributors



### Milestones

- October 2011 Trust Fund launched at the PPC
- April 2012 Mine clearance operations start
- July 2018 Operational clearance work completed.
- 20 September 2018 official closing ceremony held in Baku.
- 24 May 2019 project closing presented to NATO PCSC.

### Financial information

- Phase I, II and III estimated up to 6.11MEUR. Final cost 5.84 MEUR.
- The Government of Azerbaijan contributed 50% the total cost of the project.

The former Soviet Army military test and training range at Jeyranchel in Azerbaijan was in active use over the period 1955-1991. Unexploded ordnances (UXO) and mines remaining in the area present a serious humanitarian, socio-economic and environmental threat to the local population. The aim of the project was to clear the area.

During a visual survey in 2009, a large quantity of unexploded tank projectiles and artillery shells of different calibres, air-dropped bombs and other types of unexploded ordnance were seen on the surface. Most of these had been fired but failed to detonate and are in a hazardous state. The area around live firing targets contains very high concentrations of UXO, much of it buried. In addition, around 7 Sq Km of the Phase I area was contaminated with a mix of live and training anti-tank mines containing a live simulator capable of causing serious injury if stepped upon. The State Border Service patrols the whole area and there are two manned frontier observation posts inside the hazardous area and one just outside.

The total area of 64 Sq Km has been divided into three approximately 20 Sq Km phases: Phase I of the project involved the clearance of 19 Sq Km of the western section of the range over 28 months (April 2012 – July 2014). 173 anti-tank mines (live and training) and 14,654 live UXO were found and destroyed. Significant quantities of range scrap and other military debris were removed. Phase II completed in December 2016 having

cleared 1,553 items of live UXO and many tens of thousands of items of debris. Phase III started in January 2017 and completed in July 2018. The final phase was 22 Sq Km and of similar terrain to Phase II but less highly contaminated with no mines. 2,146 items of live UXO were cleared. Over 800,000 detections of suspected UXO and debris were made over the project, each requiring an individual assessment. Significant quantities of range scrap and other military debris were removed.

The key reasons for this project are:

- Make the area safe for local farmers and the State Border Service border patrols;
- Open up the area for Local Authority development, principally for agriculture;
- Access to the nationally important archaeological and historic sites in the area;
- Some of the UXO and mines will become increasingly unstable and ultimately more difficult to recover – it is necessary to clear the area of hazard;
- Unguarded explosives in the vicinity of the strategically important international oil and gas pipelines present a potential security threat;



Local inhabitant amongst EOD, 2009

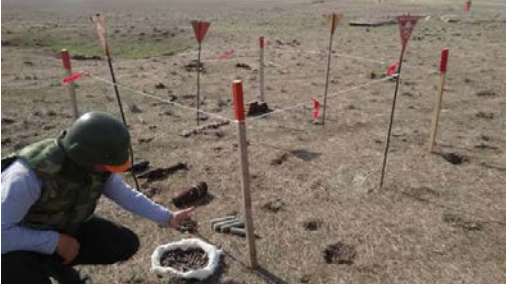


Media at Jeyranchel opening 9 May 2012

## The project



Recovered range scrap awaiting disposal



UXO collected from the Range



Manual clearance work



Airdropped bomb requiring clearance

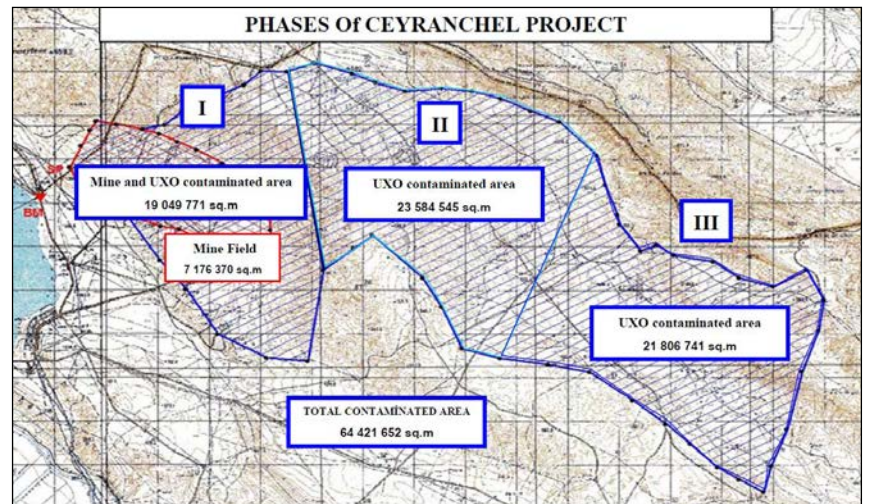


Inert debris from large rocket body buried 2 m deep

Prior to clearance work, Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action preparations (March – May 2012) included training and equipping the 48 man demining/EOD workforce, clearance to allow safe movement of the workforce into the area, the establishment of a temporary logistic base close to the area and development of detailed clearance plans. Phase I (April 2012 – July 2014) cleared UXO and mines from 19 Sq Km of the western section using two mechanical clearance machines (Bozena-5) and four mine detection dog teams for the 7 Sq Km minefield, and up to ten manual EOD teams for the remaining 11 Sq Km UXO area.

Phase II (July 2014 to December 2016) cleared the central 23 Sq Km using eight manual demining teams supported by mechanical digging equipment for deep buried items. The area consisted of largely open land with several weapon firing/impact areas with high levels of metallic contamination. No mines were anticipated or found.

Phase III was approximately 22 Sq Km and similar to phase II. Clearance was completed in July 2018. The official closing ceremony was held in Baku on 20 September 2018. The project closing was presented to NATO PCSC on 24 May 2019.



Jeyranchel area showing the three sections



### For further information

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