

This year, the Canadian Landmine Foundation is focusing its Night of a Thousand Dinners (N1KD) campaign on helping Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and other countries to become mine safe as quickly as possible. To do this, we will be funding two particular programs with the proceeds from N1KD:

- A significant demining project in BiH
- Canine Demine - Raise the most money for a mine detection dog and you get the opportunity to name it. *Be the TOP DOG!*



You may remember the tragedy of Ema Alic that we shared with you in the past. Her story touched us deeply. On April 10th, 2000, 11-year-old Ema and two of her friends were playing in a field north of Sarajevo. While playing, they were killed by an antipersonnel landmine.

This tragedy happened less than a year after Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) joined the Ottawa Treaty to ban landmines. A key part of the Treaty is that signatories become mine safe within 10 years of signing. With help from people around the world, progress has been made in BiH; however, there are still an estimated 220,000 mines and unexploded bombs in the ground. It is now evident that the country's commitment to be mine safe by 2009 will not be met. This fact was highlighted this year in March when three people were killed by a landmine in the town of Gorazde.

This is a terrible reminder that many mine-affected countries simply do not have the money to meet their international obligation. And the impact is felt by the poorest people. The longer it takes, the greater the toll - more injuries, more deaths and more poverty.

