

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

**THE GLOBAL ADVOCATE FOR THE ELIMINATION
OF MINES AND EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS**

**MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
MINE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE IN MINE ACTION**

4 April 2016

It has been a year of tremendous turmoil, worldwide. Conflicts continue to rage in Syria, in Iraq, in Libya, in Somalia and in the Sahel. Indeed, we have seen terrible images of immense suffering and unspeakable brutality, of hopelessness and despair; and yet we have also witnessed an incredible human spirit, an unstoppable fight for life, and so much bravery and compassion.

UNMAS, the United Nations Mine Action Service, plays a critical role in improving the immediate chances of survival of civilians and aid workers caught up in armed violence. UNMAS provides a long-term solution to the biggest problem facing the victims of war. How to return to a normal life.

Last year, Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon appointed me as the United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards to help mobilize the world's attention to the essential work UNMAS does in humanitarian responses and peace operations.

I am in awe of the people I work with at UNMAS, the energy and courage of the the men and women in this organization is astounding.

I am asking you to join me to promote their work and fund their programmes, so that you, too, can make a difference in eliminating the dangers of mines and explosive hazards

Your support, in what ever form it takes, will allow these incredible people, to literally make the world a safer place.