



# UNMAS

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## REPORT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL ON ASSISTANCE IN MINE ACTION PUBLISHED

The biennial Report of the Secretary-General on Assistance in Mine Action (A/70/207) was issued on 3 August, in advance of the 70th session of the General Assembly. The Report serves as the Mid-Term Review of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018, and draws on findings of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanism developed to measure progress towards the strategic objectives of the Strategy.

The Report notes that the number of people killed or injured by landmines has declined by two-thirds since a peak in 2005 and that, in affected countries participating in the M&E Mechanism, 51 per cent of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas have been declared safe and returned to communities.

However, the Report also highlights the increase in explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination as a result of ongoing conflicts and notes that casualty figures from ERW remain high. Humanitarian mine action responses to the evolving threats posed by an increasing range of ERW, for example remnant improvised explosive devices in Iraq, are also highlighted. The Report emphasizes that mine action remains critical to the safety of civilians affected by conflict, including refugees and internally displaced people, enables the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and contributes to socio-economic development.

The Report and a summary of the main points can be found on the UNMAS website [mineaction.org](http://mineaction.org).



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the opening of an exhibit entitled, "More than Mines", on the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April). Pictured with him is Ms. Agnès Marcaillou (right), UNMAS Director. (UN Photo/Mark Garten)

**more than mines**