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THE UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION SERVICE | ANNUAL REPORT 2006



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FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to present this 2006 annual report on behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

UNMAS-managed mine action coordination centres were integral to the ability of DPKO to fulfill its Security Council mandates in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, southern Lebanon and Sudan. UNMAS also made notable contributions in Western Sahara, Cyprus and Kosovo.

At the field level, UNMAS activities have joined UN national implementers, nongovernmental organizations, commercial contractors, and peacekeeping demining units in a concerted effort to eliminate the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war and to enable peacekeeping to function in the most optimal manner. From strategic planning to quality assurance of implementers, UNMAS has been a prime example of how complex mandates translate into results.

The greatest challenge faced by the mine action community in 2006 was the aftermath of the armed conflict in southern Lebanon that left as many as 1 million unexploded cluster munitions across the south. This was the first time since the Iraq war of 2003 that the UN system had to deploy assets under the *Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response*. Due to the dedication of UNMAS international and local civilian staff who remained in the south throughout the conflict preparing for the post-conflict period and excellent inter-agency and partner coordination at Headquarters, personnel and clearance assets were deployed just days after the

conflict. They made a major contribution to the safe deployment of a reinforced UNIFIL and the return of displaced populations.

As Chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, it was a pleasure for me to preside over collaborative processes resulting in the adoption of the UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy for 2006-2010, which sets clear, measurable objectives that have real meaning for the lives of men, women, boys and girls. Inter-agency efforts also culminated in a common UN position on the need for regulations to eliminate the terrible humanitarian impact of cluster munitions.



UNMAS is also an active contributor to the Department's reform process and efforts to advance gender equality in all substantive areas of work and in our staffing.

I congratulate UNMAS for its efforts in 2006.

Jean-Marie Guéhenno

Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations

UNMAS Headquarters Coordination and Thematic Activities



POLICY AND COORDINATION

Highlights

- UNMAS coordinated development of a results-oriented, UN inter-agency mine action strategy for 2006-2010.
- Secretary-General called on states to freeze use of cluster munitions in populated areas, dispose of inaccurate and unreliable cluster munitions, and devise effective norms to reduce and eliminate the horrendous humanitarian and development impact.
- The legal framework for ERW was strengthened by the entry into force of Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.
- The General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, which will improve protection of the human rights of survivors of landmines and ERW.
- All UN mine action programme managers received training in the legal framework related to mine action and the rights of survivors.

UN Mine Action Focal Point

In 1997 the Secretary-General designated UNMAS as the focal point for mine action within the UN system. The General Assembly welcomed this designation and has acknowledged that "mine action" includes efforts to eliminate the impact of both landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). UNMAS coordinates the preparation of the Secretary-General's biennial report to the General Assembly on assistance in mine action and represents the UN Mine Action Team in various intergovernmental forums and executive committees.

Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The UN Inter-Agency Policy, describes how the UN Mine Action

Team, which consists of the 14 UN entities that are engaged in mine action, makes decisions about operational and policy issues of common concern and works together towards a shared vision. Through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA), the Steering Committee on Mine Action, and the annual meeting of mine action national directors and UN advisers, UNMAS works with all mine action stakeholders to build consensus around mine action policy, strategy and operational issues.

Building Consensus on Policy and Strategy

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

UNMAS and its parent organization, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), are responsible for chairing and convening meetings of the IACG-MA. In 2006, the IACG-MA met monthly at the working level under the chairmanship of UNMAS' director, and in October 2006 at the principals' level under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. The monthly working group meetings provide a forum for discussion of current issues, threat monitoring, and decision-making about necessary action. The IACG-MA adopted a new UN inter-agency mine action strategy for 2006-2010, responded to emergency requests for mine action support from Guinea-Bissau and Western Sahara, ensured a rapid and well-coordinated response to the crisis in Lebanon, worked at the principals' level to formulate a UN position on cluster munitions, organized the ninth annual meeting of mine action national directors and UN advisers, and convened the first meeting of the

Geneva-based IACG-MA sub-group to facilitate continuous liaison with Geneva-based members of the UN Mine Action Team.

UN Mine Action Team

UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)
UN Mine Action Service of DPKO (UNMAS)
UN Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA)
UN Development Programme (UNDP)
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI)
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)
UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
World Food Programme (WFP)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Bank

Implementing the UN Inter-Agency Policy on Mine Action

In the first half of 2006, UNMAS extended the roll-out of *Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy* by translating it into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish and making all versions available on the Electronic Mine Information Network (E-MINE) website at www.mineaction.org. In addition, elements of the policy were integrated into the programme of the ninth annual meeting of mine action national directors and

UN advisers to ensure that both UN mine action staff and their national government counterparts are familiar with the policy and its application. In UNMAS field programmes, briefings and updates have been provided to the relevant government ministers and national mine action authorities regarding the policy and the UN roles and obligations in mine action.

New UN Mine Action Strategy for 2006-2010

On 20 April 2006, the IACG-MA principals adopted the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*. The new strategy complements the policy and reflects lessons learned during the implementation of the previous strategy, which covered 2001-2005. Above all, the new strategy is results-based. Its strategic goal and four strategic objectives, each with carefully outlined "major activities" and "indicators of achievement," focus on the expected impact of UN mine action by 2010 and will help to improve both prioritization and results measurement. An inter-agency task force has been established to monitor strategy implementation, and the Secretary-General will submit a report on progress to the 62nd meeting of the General Assembly in 2007.



Strategic Goal for UN Mine Action, 2006-2010

The UN will work with national authorities and in partnership with NGOs, the private sector, international and regional organizations and others to reduce the humanitarian and socio-economic threats posed by landmines and ERW, at which point UN mine action assistance will no longer be necessary.

Strategic Objectives

- Reduce death and injury by at least 50 percent.
- Mitigate the risk to community livelihoods and expand freedom of movement for at least 80 percent of the most seriously affected communities.
- Integrate mine-action needs into national development and reconstruction plans and budgets in at least 15 countries.
- Assist the development of national institutions to manage the landmine/ERW threat, and at the same time prepare for residual response capacity in at least 15 countries.

Gender and Mine Action

To ensure that women, men, boys and girls are involved in, and benefit from UN mine action initiatives, the IACG-MA Steering Committee on Gender and Mine Action developed a four-point programme of action to implement the *Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes*:

- Undertake a “gender audit” of all headquarters documents to mainstream gender-relevant considerations into the tools staff routinely use;
- Provide training opportunities for field staff;
- Conduct workshops with field staff to ensure that



the *Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes* are reflected in the annual work plans of mine action coordination centres and provide targeted support for country-specific initiatives; and

- Develop and pilot gender-sensitive impact assessment tools for use in the field, to determine the impact of mine action programmes on all members of beneficiary communities.

IACG-MA members completed the gender audit of a number of existing documents in 2006, including the generic terms of reference for assessment missions, the guidelines for preparation of the annual Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, and the UNMAS monthly reporting template for field programmes.

UNMAS ensured that the UN mine action strategy reflects a commitment to gender mainstreaming; sex-disaggregated data and gender considerations were woven into new planning and reporting documents. Guidance on the rules relative to sexual exploitation and abuse was provided to field staff, and the standard grant agreement with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was revised to ensure that it addresses sexual abuse and exploitation.

Throughout 2006, UNMAS continued to implement aspects of the DPKO Gender Action Plan for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. UNMAS participates in a number of inter-agency fora on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and reports on the mine action components of the Secretary-General's 2005 UN system-wide action plan for implementing the resolution. UNMAS is an active member of the Sub-Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and contributed to the preparation of the IASC handbook on gender mainstreaming in humanitarian emergencies.



Advocacy

Mine action advocacy goals are woven into the UN inter-agency mine action strategy. Major activities under Strategic Objective 3 of the UN inter-agency mine action strategy include advocating in international fora for mine action to be included in development policy and planning guidelines, supporting efforts to ensure the rights of survivors of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) within national programmes for persons with disabilities, and advocating for increased resources and support to be dedicated to persons with disabilities. An indicator of success will be the extent to which relevant treaty-monitoring bodies reflect compliance with human rights instruments that protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

To support field programmes with their advocacy efforts, UNMAS has developed and shared advocacy and resource mobilization-related profiles on major donors. Additionally, UNMAS provided two grants to the Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines to support their advocacy and educational activities.

Engaging Non-State Actors

UNMAS continues to support efforts to encourage armed non-state actors to make and comply with commitments relevant to landmines and ERW and supports the work of Geneva Call, an international NGO dedicated to urging non-state actors to respect international humanitarian norms. To date, Geneva Call has obtained the signatures of 31 non-state actors on the Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action, with three new signatures added in 2006.

UNMAS supported two projects implemented by Geneva Call and funded by the Government of Italy in 2006. The first project, which ended in May 2006, aimed at following up on commitments made by armed non-state actors in Sudan and Somalia. In Somalia, the project was negatively affected by continued fighting in Mogadishu, but managed to explore possibilities for beginning stockpile destruction activities. Signatories to Geneva Call's Deed of Commitment in Somalia showed a measure of progress in the implementation of their commitments, and an additional faction signed the Deed. In Sudan, where the Sudan People's Liberation Movement is a signatory to the Deed, the early stages of the project helped to increase understanding of a mine-ban norm and contributed to the development of the mine-ban policy for the Movement. Unfortunately, the Sudan project was cancelled in the aftermath of the death of the organization's leader, John Garang, in 2005.

The second UNMAS-supported Geneva Call project concluded at the end of 2006 and focused on developing a strategic approach to engaging armed non-state actors in a landmine ban. This approach was put into practice in Colombia, Myanmar, Senegal, and Somalia. UNMAS provided significant operational expertise and general advice for the preparation of Geneva Call's publication *A Global Report of NSA Mine Action*, which compiles and analyses data on non-state actors' involvement in the five pillars of mine action.

Mine Action Support Group

The Mine Action Support Group (MASG) is a donor forum chaired and convened by UN Member States

to discuss thematic and operational matters. It met in March, July and November under the chairmanship of the United States. By convening meetings in Geneva, the United States sought to attract representation from capitals and transform the MASG from an information-sharing forum to a donor-coordination forum. This year's meetings included briefings on programmes and gender mainstreaming initiatives and the integration of mine action into development programming, national strategic plans and management, and future donor strategies from UN agencies, NGOs, and other actors. UNMAS continued to coordinate the compilation of the UN contribution to the MASG quarterly newsletter.

Steering Committee on Mine Action

The Steering Committee on Mine Action, which is chaired by UNMAS, supports information-sharing among all major international mine action NGOs and institutions and the UN Mine Action Team on policy initiatives and operations. At the meeting in Geneva in July 2006, participants discussed: the UN mine action strategy for 2006-2010, the first International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, policy developments with respect to ERW and cluster munitions, and mine action initiatives in Western Sahara, Guinea-Bissau, and Chad.

Annual Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisers

The ninth international meeting of mine action national directors and UN advisers took place in Geneva from 3 to 5 July 2006, hosted by the Geneva

International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, sponsored by the Government of Switzerland, and jointly coordinated by UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF.

Topics covered in plenary sessions and workshops included gender issues, development mainstreaming, risk management and land release, victim assistance, surveys and surveillance, regional developments, and new developments at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. Overall, participants reported that the meeting was useful as an opportunity to network with one another and learn about new developments on major issues.

Integrating Mine Action Across the UN System

UNMAS continued to ensure that mine action issues were considered in inter-governmental deliberations and inter-agency initiatives. UNMAS proposed input for relevant reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and Security Council. UNMAS also participated in inter-agency working groups on topics such as sexual exploitation and abuse and gender equality and in meetings of the executive committees and the IASC.

In 2006 alone, mine action was referred to explicitly in Security Council resolutions 1655 and 1701 on Lebanon, 1706 on Sudan, and 1687 and 1728 on Cyprus. The references related to Lebanon emphasized the operational role of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in mine action, encouraged donors to increase contributions, and stressed the necessity for additional maps and minefield records. References in the resolution on Sudan cited

the need for parties to Agreements to cooperate with mine action partners to facilitate humanitarian demining. References related to Cyprus focused primarily on the need to extend demining operations to the Turkish Forces' minefields in the buffer zone.

The Secretary-General also explicitly referred to mine action in his reports to the Security Council on Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Western Sahara. Most references were made under a mine action sub-heading in which clearance data was provided, along with information on mine risk education, training of national staff, accident and casualty rates.

Mine action was included in the *Report of the Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security* to the Security Council in September 2006. UNMAS was commended for addressing the special needs of women and girls in all mine action programmes through the development and implementation of gender guidelines and gender training workshops. Mine action was also referred to in the *Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict* to the General Assembly and Security Council in October 2006.

The report's section on landmines discussed the Special Representatives' efforts to appeal to the international community to lend greater support to mine action programmes worldwide. Insurgency groups were also cited for using children to plant landmines and explosives. The report recommended that mine action initiatives be targeted to children and that prostheses be provided.

Shaping the Legal Framework for Mine Action

Achieving a world free of the threat of landmines in which landmine and ERW survivors are fully integrated into their societies requires compliance with a strong legal framework.

In July 2006, the UN Mine Action Team, along with the Implementation Support Unit for the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, held a day of training on the mine action legal framework, treaty implementation, and advocacy for all UN mine action programme managers and advisers. The purpose of the training was to increase the capacity of field staff to support compliance with international obligations and to advocate with states and non-state actors on the basis of the normative instruments referred to in the UN mine action policy. Guidelines on the mine-ban treaty's reporting requirements were distributed, and new fact sheets on the treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and human rights instruments, were developed to supplement the training.

Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty

UNMAS continued to support universal ratification and full implementation of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty in 2006. At the inter-sessional meeting of States Parties in May, UNMAS' director delivered a statement on behalf of the UN Mine Action Team, and UNMAS staff attended meetings of the Resource Mobilization Contact Group and the Universalization Contact Group.

In the field, UNMAS continued to assist programmes with the preparation of reports as required by the treaty's Article 7 and with the development and execution of national mine action plans that reflect treaty obligations. In 2006, Afghanistan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan submitted their Article 7 reports on time.

The Seventh Meeting of States Parties to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty took place in Geneva in September 2006. Victim assistance and cluster munitions were highlighted during the opening ceremonies as issues that require further attention from States Parties. States Parties' obligations to destroy all anti-personnel landmines in mined areas under their jurisdiction or control, as called for under the treaty's Article 5, were discussed during the meeting. The destruction of the anti-personnel landmines is to be completed within 10 years of the treaty's entry into force for a State Party, and the deadlines for some countries will occur in 2009. It is anticipated that a number of countries will not meet their deadlines, so the process for requesting extensions was discussed. A senior official from UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programmes delivered a statement on behalf of the UN Mine Action Team that discussed progress towards meeting the strategic objectives listed in the UN inter-agency mine action strategy for 2006–2010.

UNMAS helped ensure a smooth transition from the Afghan Co-Chair of the mine-ban treaty's Standing Committee on Victim Assistance to the Sudanese Co-Chair by working closely with Sudanese counterparts in Sudan and Geneva to support a continued focus on emergency response, inter-ministerial coordination, and the development of national victim assistance plans.

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

The 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects is also known as the "Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons," or CCW. In 2006, States Parties to the CCW continued discussions on mines other than anti-personnel landmines and ERW, including cluster munitions. The CCW's Third Review Conference took place in November. One of the outcomes was the establishment of a Sponsorship Programme to facilitate the participation of countries affected by landmines and ERW in CCW meetings (as initially suggested by UNMAS). UNMAS will serve as an adviser to the Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme.

The CCW's Group of Governmental Experts, which has received support from UNMAS and the IACG-MA since its establishment just after the Second Review Conference in 2001, continued its debate on mine action issues and submitted recommendations at the Third Review Conference on ERW, mines other than anti-personnel mines, and a compliance mechanism.

Explosive Remnants of War

On 12 November 2006, Protocol V of the CCW entered into force, "ushering in a new phase in global efforts to address the problems posed by explosive remnants of war," according to the Secretary-General. The Protocol seeks to minimize the serious humanitarian risks and effects of ERW in post-conflict settings. According to Protocol V, each High Contracting Party and party to an armed conflict



bears responsibility for the ERW in territories under its control at the cessation of hostilities, and must mark, clear, and remove or destroy ERW as soon as feasible. The Protocol also required High Contracting Parties and parties to armed conflicts to maintain and share records on the use of ERW and to take all feasible precautions to protect civilians and humanitarian missions and organizations from ERW.

On behalf of the UN Mine Action Team, UNMAS presented a working paper on the UN role in the implementation of Protocol V to the CCW's Group of Governmental Experts and delivered a statement on issues relevant to implementation during the special session of the Third Review Conference celebrating the entry into force of Protocol V. Lithuania (the Group of Governmental Experts' Coordinator for ERW) and the Netherlands (a key supporter of Protocol V) were among the countries that expressed appreciation for the UN contributions in this field.

Cluster Munitions

In 2006, UNMAS continued to take the lead in coordinating the UN position on cluster munitions, including chairing the IACG-MA Cluster Munitions Working Group. The work of the IACG-MA informed the Secretary-General's message to the CCW's Third Review Conference, in which he urged states parties to the CCW to make full use of that framework to devise effective norms that will reduce and ultimately eliminate the horrendous humanitarian and development impact of cluster munitions. In particular, the Secretary-General called on CCW states parties to freeze the use of cluster munitions against military assets located in or near populated areas, to freeze the transfer of those cluster munitions that are known to be inaccurate and unreliable, and to dispose of them, and to establish technical requirements for new weapons systems so that the risk they pose to civilian populations can be reduced.

In addition, this year UNMAS and UNICEF provided funding to enable the UN Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare and publish case studies on cluster munitions in Albania and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Mines Other than Anti-Personnel Mines

UNMAS continued to support the IACG-MA's common position that a new protocol on mines other than anti-personnel mines is needed to address the humanitarian concerns posed by these weapons and to supplement existing rules, such as those in the CCW's Amended Protocol II. In 2006, this position was reiterated by UNMAS' director during his

statement at the CCW's Third Review Conference. Unfortunately, the Review Conference did not agree on measures to strengthen existing law.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The activities and indicators under Strategic Objective 3 of the UN mine action strategy for 2006-2010 highlight the commitment of the UN Mine Action Team to ensure the protection of landmine and ERW survivors' rights. While Article 6 of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty commits States Parties to providing assistance, care, rehabilitation, and reintegration services for mine victims, it does not provide further guidance as to States' legal obligations towards survivors with disabilities. On 13 December 2006, the 61st General Assembly took a critical step towards protecting the rights of survivors by formally adopting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. This legally binding human rights instrument will open for signature by all UN Member States on 30 March 2007. When it is ratified by 20 States, it will enter into force and provide explicit guidance to mine-affected States Parties with respect to their obligations to disabled survivors of landmines and ERW.

UNMAS worked with the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities since 2002. The seventh session of the Ad Hoc Committee took place in New York from 16 January to 3 February 2006. UNMAS provided briefings to several Member States affected by landmines and ERW before the

session and participated in various side events.

In the lead up to the eighth session of the Ad Hoc Committee, which took place from 14 to 25 August 2006, UNMAS sent a letter to all anti-personnel mine-ban treaty States Parties to urge their support for the convention. UNMAS also worked with UNDP to contact members of the Forum for Mine Affected

Countries and urge them to participate in the final session of the Ad Hoc Committee. Ultimately, 72 States Parties to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and 16 members of the Forum of Mine Affected Countries attended the seventh and eighth sessions. The delegations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kenya, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, and Yemen included landmine and ERW survivors.



Assisting Victims and Survivors

In line with the UN mine action strategy's Strategic Objective 3, UNMAS is helping increase resources for survivors disabled by landmines and ERW and is ensuring that their needs are met within the context of national programmes and facilities for persons with disabilities.

In June, UNMAS negotiated a \$1.6 million grant from the Human Security Trust Fund (administered by OCHA with funds from the Government of Japan) to implement a project jointly with UNDP, UNICEF and UNOPS: "Crossing the Bridge of Peace: Victim Assistance and Mine Risk Education for Human Security in Sudan." The aim of the project is to assist Sudan in developing national capacity for sustainable victim assistance and socio-economic reintegration activities. The first phase of the project will involve two workshops on the development of a national strategy and work plan on victim assistance, tentatively in March and May 2007.

The Human Security Trust Fund initiatives are important precedents in expanding the funding base for mine action and for developing joint programming initiatives focused on victim assistance and human security.

Reducing Risk from Landmines and ERW

UNMAS continues to encourage all agencies and organizations in the UN system to integrate landmine and ERW safety training into their general safety briefings. This is largely accomplished in the field through coordination between the mine action coordination centres and UN security personnel in the field. At headquarters, UNMAS liaises regularly

with the Department of Security Services to ensure that mine safety training and general safety training are complementary and that mine safety training tools are used as part of security training in countries without mine action coordination centres or UN-managed mine action programmes.

A preliminary version of an interactive landmine-safety training CD-ROM was presented to field staff at the ninth annual meeting of mine action national directors and UN advisers in July 2006 for their review and feedback. The CD-ROM was finalized at the end of 2006 and will be widely distributed in early 2007. UNMAS is working to have abridged information from the *Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War Safety Handbook*, included in other relevant publications, such as the Protection Cluster Working Group's *IDP Protection Handbook*. UNMAS will publish the *Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War Safety Handbook* in Arabic, French, and Russian in 2007.



COMMUNICATING TO THE PUBLIC AND OTHER CONSTITUENCIES

Highlights

- First international day for landmine awareness gains media attention.
- "Kick-off" public service announcement wins fourth award.
- Nine out of 10 users surveyed rank E-MINE as a leading source for mine action information.

Coordinating Communications to Maximize Impact

UNMAS convened regular meetings of the IACG-MA Communications Working Group to develop common public information strategies. As a result, UN Mine Action Team members communicated messages that were consistent and mutually reinforcing, avoided duplication, and capitalized on each organization's communications networks. This coordination enabled the UN Mine Action Team to reach a large, diverse global audience to publicize major events, such as the launch of the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2007* and the first International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

First International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

In late 2005, the General Assembly declared April 4 the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The first opportunity to commemorate this Day was in 2006, and the Communications Working Group developed a global strategy of events and public relations materials. Events in New York included an exhibit in the visitors'

lobby of the UN Secretariat Building, a press briefing on April 3, a panel discussion featuring celebrities and key figures from the mine action community, and a message from the Secretary-General. UN-managed and supported mine action programmes, along with the governments of mine-affected countries commemorated the Day. For example, the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre for southern Lebanon hosted a gala fundraising dinner in Beirut; the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP, and UNICEF jointly organized an art exhibit and television programme; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Democratic Republic of the Congo made a statement on national television and radio; and the Government of Colombia, UNDP, and UNICEF organized a special event for landmine victims. Overall, the coordinated outreach for the Day resulted in dozens of events and hundreds of news stories in 49 countries. Much of the public and media outreach relied on information materials developed by UNMAS in consultation with other UN Mine Action Team members.

Most of the press coverage focused on one key message, which UNMAS and the UN Mine Action Team encouraged all UN offices to communicate: the problem of landmines and ERW remains large, but there is light at the end of the tunnel, provided that donors and mine-affected countries themselves remain committed to getting the job done.

Keeping Mine Action in the Public Eye

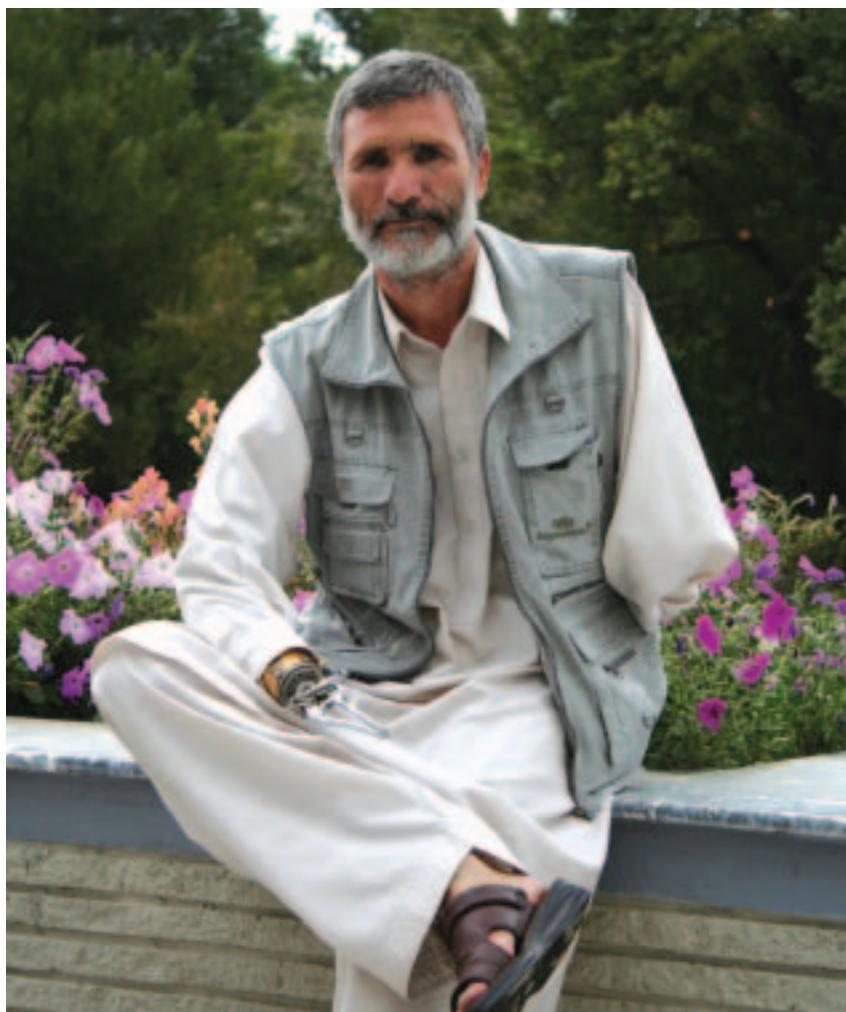
In 2006, UNMAS undertook media relations efforts that resulted in national and international news coverage and helped to keep mine action in the public

eye. For example, from its offices in New York and in Tyre, Lebanon, UNMAS carried out interviews, provided statistics and background information, issued news releases, provided briefings, and responded to media queries about the problem of unexploded cluster munitions in southern Lebanon. Coverage of the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions and the UN clean-up operation has been extensive, with hundreds of stories printed and broadcast worldwide. Other mine action news stories resulted from media outreach, such as news conferences, press releases, interviews, press trips, visits by the UNMAS director to donor countries, the entry into force of Protocol V to the CCW, and launches of reports.

The mine action public service announcement (PSA), "Kick-off," which vividly illustrates the way in which landmines intrude into the daily lives of average people, won the "One Show 2006 Silver Pencil" award in May. "One Show" is the most important advertising awards programme in the United States, and the "Silver Pencil" was the highest honour in the PSA category. This is the fourth major international award for this PSA, and news stories about the PSA continued into 2006. This coverage resulted in an increase in the number of people downloading the video from UNMAS websites from an average of 150 per day to as many as 380 per day in the days immediately following the new coverage.

Employing design guidelines developed by a commercial advertising firm for UNMAS in 2005, UNMAS produced new brochures describing the role of UNMAS and the UN Mine Action Team. The brochures are in the form of booklets of postcards, which can be detached and mailed, thus further increasing visibility for UNMAS and the UN Mine

Action Team. In addition, UNMAS managed the design, printing, and dissemination of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010, redesigned *Effective Coordination and Mine Action: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy* in line with the new Team brand, and produced *UNMAS in 2007: Activities and Requirements*.



Easing Access to Information Through E-MINE

The Electronic Mine Information Network (E-MINE), at www.mineaction.org, serves as the UN website on mine action. In 2006, E-MINE sustained an average of about 2,000 visits per day, with spikes in traffic coinciding with stories about UNMAS in major newspapers. In order to help keep project-related information on the site up-to-date, UNMAS automated the uploading of all projects and country overviews in the annual Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, saving hundreds of hours of staff time. In October, UNMAS launched an on-line survey of E-MINE users which found that nine out of ten users who responded ranked E-MINE as their first choice or among their top choices for mine action information. The number of subscribers to the UNMAS daily mine action news service, which keeps mine action practitioners, UN staff, policymakers, donors, and the general public abreast of progress and new challenges in mine action, reached 300 in 2006.

Building Country Programme Capacity for Communications

UNMAS provided briefing materials to all field programmes in advance of the International Day for Mine Awareness, the entry into force of Protocol V to the CCW, and the launch of the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2007*. UNMAS headquarters spearheaded a press trip to Sudan that resulted in several major stories about the Sudan programme in one of Germany's largest daily newspapers and also assisted the office in southern Lebanon with its international media relations. UNMAS headquarters staff

worked with field-based counterparts to help ensure that country programme newsletters and media outreach efforts are gender-sensitive, providing sex and age disaggregated data whenever possible, and highlighting the impact of landmines/ERW on all members of the beneficiary population.



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Highlights

- New web-based, automated system for producing the annual *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2007* improved efficiency and information-gathering and reduced costs.
- *UNMAS in 2007: Activities and Requirements* distributed in November to inform donors of financial requirements.

Portfolio of Mine Action Projects

The annual *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2007* is a reference tool produced principally in the field for the benefit of the entire mine action sector. As Chair of the Headquarters Portfolio Team, which includes UNICEF and UNDP, UNMAS held regular meetings to discuss lessons-learned from the preparation of the 2006 edition of the Portfolio to determine the schedule for the preparation of the 2007 edition and to review and issue Portfolio Preparation and Production Guidelines

(June 2006), the 2005 End-Year Review (March 2006), and the 2006 Mid-Year Review (July 2006). Letters were sent to MASG members and NGO appealing agencies to encourage their full participation in the 2007 Portfolio process in the field. The *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2007* was launched on 14 November 2006 and includes over 300 project outlines from over 100 appealing agencies. Coordinated announcements were issued in New York and the field by the Secretary-General, who urged Member States to sustain levels of funding to diminish the threat of landmines and ERW. The main launch, in Geneva, coincided with the entry into force of Protocol V of the CCW and included a panel featuring the Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs and the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection for UNHCR. The 2007 edition of the Portfolio contains an unprecedented number of projects focusing on ERW in addition to landmines.

In 2006, UNMAS designed and implemented an

Portfolio of Mine Action Projects: 2004-2007*				
Year	2004	2005	2006	2007**
Participating Countries and Territories	32 Countries 4 Territories	30 Countries 3 Territories	30 Countries 4 Territories	28 Countries 3 Territories
Appealing Agencies	83	91	103	116
Number of Projects	307	313	353	314
Funding Appeal	\$352 MILLION	\$378 MILLION	\$459 MILLION	\$437 MILLION
Funding Received	\$175 MILLION	\$241 MILLION	\$240 MILLION	\$112 MILLION
Shortfall	\$177 MILLION	\$136 MILLION	\$219 MILLION	\$325 MILLION

*Global projects are included in figures in this table
**As of January 2007

automated system to enable mine action field programmes, including national and international stakeholders, to input data to an on-line system, which can then be monitored and updated throughout the year. Country Portfolio Teams coordinate the gathering of information and input their submissions. The Headquarters Portfolio Teams used the system to assemble, substantively review and design the report. This automated system uploads country overviews, project proposals and budget and appeal amounts onto the E-MINE website. The new system was successfully piloted in Chechnya, Sudan, and Tajikistan. The automated system will be used at the field level by all participating mine action programmes for the 2008 edition. The initiative improved the appearance and reduced the production time of the publication.

Integrating Mine Action Into Humanitarian and Development Appeals

UNMAS seeks to ensure that mine action projects in the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects are also reflected in other humanitarian appeals, such as those produced by OCHA and UNICEF. Mine Action Portfolio Country Team members participate in humanitarian appeal working groups in the field to promote inclusion of mine action projects in humanitarian/development work plans and action plans, and in Consolidated Appeals Processes. The New York-based Portfolio Team has established an information-sharing mechanism with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to further promote integration.

Mine action projects were included in nine of the 11 countries or territories that were affected by

landmines or ERW and that participated in the 2006 humanitarian appeal process: Burundi, Chad, Chechnya, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal, the occupied Palestinian territory, Sudan and Uganda. In the humanitarian appeals for Burundi, Chechnya, Nepal, Uganda, and Sudan, mine action was included as a distinct sector.

The same was the case for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but the Humanitarian Action Plan process there took a regional approach, and mine action was included under the overall "protection" section in the provinces. In Colombia and the occupied Palestinian territory, mine action projects were merged into larger sectors such as protection, health or education. In the case of Chad, the appeal included only select mine action projects, so the Portfolio was a necessary complement to illustrate the full range of needs. Mine action was not included in the 2006 Consolidated Appeal Process for Ethiopia, largely because funds were provided by the World Bank for the national mine action programme. In Somalia, only emergency projects were included in the 2006 Consolidated Appeal Process, thus excluding mine action projects, which are focused largely on capacity-building.

UNMAS in 2007: Activities and Requirements

UNMAS in 2007: Activities and Requirements, published in November 2006, explains how the proposals for projects where UNMAS is listed as an "appealing agency" in the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2007* are related to strategic objectives in the UN mine action strategy for 2006-2010.

RAPID RESPONSE

Highlights

- Revised rapid response framework applied in Guinea-Bissau and Lebanon.
- Rapid response capacity strengthened.

Effective planning and rapid response are central to the UN Mine Action Team's efforts to mitigate landmine and ERW risks, expand freedom of movement (as called for under Strategic Objective 2 in the *UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*), in the immediate aftermath of conflict and other emergencies.

Framework for Planning and Response

The *Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response* was thoroughly reviewed and revised in 2004 and was put to the test twice in 2006. The first action under the Framework was driven by the emergency in Guinea-Bissau in March. The response required inter-agency planning and mobilization of financial, human, and technical resources. The second, and larger, effort under the Framework in 2006 involved the significant surge in mine action capacity required to respond to the humanitarian crisis in southern Lebanon (see Lebanon section below in Section II of this annual report). Thanks to support provided in previous years from the Finland, Holy See, Italy, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, UNMAS was able to react to the situation in Lebanon in a timely manner while also mobilizing dedicated resources. An evaluation of the efforts in Lebanon and Guinea-Bissau was completed in December 2006 and will be used to guide another revision of the Framework in 2007.



The United Kingdom provided critical initial funding for operational rapid response activities in 2006 for clearance, mine risk education and coordination in Guinea-Bissau, and subsequently in Lebanon.

Guinea-Bissau

In March 2006, fighting erupted on the border of Guinea-Bissau and Senegal as Guinea-Bissau's army attempted to expel an armed faction of the Senegalese rebel group Mouvement des forces démocratiques de la Casamance (MFDC). The fighting, which came to an end in April, displaced 10,000 Bissau-Guineans and destroyed 14 villages. The MFDC's use of landmines in villages and along major roads close to the border resulted in 26 civilian casualties and impeded both the safe return of internally displaced persons and the humanitarian response.

After the fighting began in March, the UN Resident Coordinator in Guinea-Bissau requested assistance from UNMAS to increase the UN Country Team's capacity to assist the national mine action authority (CAAMI) to address the new threat. As per the *Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response*, a Mine Action Planning Group with representatives from UNMAS, UNICEF, UNDP, OCHA, UNHCR, the World Food Programme, and UNOPS, was formed to develop an operational plan for the response in coordination with UNDP's chief technical adviser and the UNDP regional adviser for Africa. While the immediate recommendation to deploy an operations officer was processed, the UNMAS planning officer deployed for two weeks in April/May 2006, along with a technical adviser from the Swedish Rescue Service Agency (SRSA), for a fact-finding mission with local staff from the UNDP and CAAMI. The result of the mission was a plan that included the targeted verification of an essential road that had been closed due to an isolated mine accident and the deployment of a contractor to supervise local demining capacity in villages in the affected



area. UNMAS rapid response funds were combined with UNDP's Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery emergency funding and a grant provided to the UNDP country office by OCHA to provide for the contractor, equipment, and two technical advisers for operations and mine risk education over a three-month period.

Evaluation of the response in Guinea-Bissau showed the limitations of early contingency planning when hostilities erupt with little warning. The response itself was deemed effective, however the deployment was slower than hoped, largely because of the time required to find and deploy appropriate staff. Although staffing is an area of expertise and responsibility of UNOPS, UNMAS is looking at ways to increase the speed with which staff can be hired and deployed in urgent situations. Additional thought will also be put into future planning and response for smaller, lower-profile emergencies, such as Guinea-Bissau, where donor funding and the commitment of qualified staff is difficult to attract.

Building Rapid Response Capacity

In June 2006, UNMAS held a training exercise in Sweden which focused on setting up a mine action coordination centre in an emergency environment. The exercise is being promulgated as an excellent vehicle for developing practical skills and understanding with respect to how the UN "cluster approach" works at the field level. Such training exercises serve not only to enhance staff skills, but also to enable UNMAS to observe staff performance and determine which individuals would be most appropriate for deployment in an emergency. UNMAS has also facilitated the attendance of UN mine action staff at training courses provided by other institutions, such as Cranfield University, supported by the US Department of State.

In order to track staff training, UNMAS has initiated a training register indicating which UN mine action staff have attended formal training courses, which have attended training exercises, and how they performed during training. This roster will help to improve deployment speed in rapid response situations by identifying staff who may be temporarily transferred from their current assignments to an emergency, providing UNOPS with sufficient time required to deploy permanent staff.

Threat Monitoring and Assessments

UNMAS integrated input from UN Mine Action Team members, UN Country Teams, partner NGOs, and Member States to provide a threat monitoring matrix at monthly meetings of the IACG-MA throughout 2006. As per the *Framework for Mine*

Action Planning and Rapid Response, this monitoring is part of a system of contingency planning intended to help ensure that the UN is prepared to respond to developing threats.

While threat monitoring in 2006 tracked a number of potentially volatile scenarios, it failed to forecast the development of new landmine and ERW threats in Guinea-Bissau and Lebanon. As part of the follow-up to the evaluation of the responses in Guinea-Bissau and Lebanon, the inclusion of countries and regions in the threat monitoring will be reviewed in 2007. In addition, the new strategic and operational planning documents developed by UNMAS' Programme Management Section in 2006 include a risk management matrix to assist programmes in identifying potential internal and external threats.

UNMAS undertook two assessment missions to Nepal as part of planning for the deployment of a political mission supported by DPKO following the November 2006 signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Nepal and Maoist rebels (S/RES/1740 (2007)). A short visit was conducted in early October by the UNMAS planning officer, and in December an UNMAS programme officer took part in a DPKO technical assessment mission. The result of the assessments, which focused on minimizing the risk posed by the Maoist's improvised explosive devices that are to be surrendered during the cantonment process, was a concept of operations that includes the deployment of a contracted capacity with the ability to safely manage improvised explosive devices and to perform demolitions if required (to be deployed in early 2007).

QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR IMPACT SURVEYS

Quality assurance monitors (QAMs) were deployed to various surveys and reported to UNMAS, which chairs the UN Survey Certification Committee on the conduct and progress of ongoing landmine impact surveys and provides advice and guidance to survey teams to ensure that they meet certification requirements throughout the course of a survey. After reviewing the QAM reports, the UN Survey Certification Committee, comprising UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and a non-implementing member of the Survey Working Group, decides whether a survey will be certified. The Committee only certifies the survey process, not the actual output and result of the survey.

QAMs have been deployed in Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Senegal, Somalia, and Sudan. However, in light of developments over the past eight years, the Committee will review its continued role in the Survey initiative in early 2007 and convey any decisions and recommendations to the Survey Working Group for its consideration.

INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS

International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) serve as the industry standard in mine action and play a leading role in guiding mine-affected countries in the development of their own standards. The IMAS Review Board, which comprises representatives from UN agencies, donor countries, NGOs, commercial demining companies, and other key mine action stakeholders, is charged with considering new

standards and ensuring that each standard is reviewed and updated at least once every three years. During the Review Board meeting in July 2006, debate centred on the default safety distances between deminers and the minimum level of face protection recommended (discussions on both issues are on-going). There are two new IMAS that have been reviewed by the Review Board and are awaiting endorsement by the IACG-MA: one on mechanical demining and a guide for the drafting of contracts. Seven draft IMAS are under consideration by the Review Board: Guide for Management of the Environment, Guide for the Management of Victim Assistance, Guide for Quality Management in Mine Action, Guide to Risk Management in Mine Action, Battle Area Clearance, Demining Machine Operator's Safety, and Mechanical Area Reduction. As new standards are approved they are fully disseminated by UNMAS with the assistance of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.



DEVELOPING AND APPLYING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Highlights

- New machines doubled output in Cambodia.
- Testing of new equipment accelerated.

In February 2006, UNMAS and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining held a joint meeting with national and UN field staff, NGOs, commercial operators, and one research and development organization to discuss operational needs with respect to new technology and technology information management tools. Participants concluded that increased donor involvement, coordination and investment in technology would provide great returns. For example, a doubling of clearance rates in Cambodia in 2005 was attributed to a Japanese donation of 14 brush cutters. Effective coordination among donors could help produce similar successes.

Facilitating Information-Sharing on New Technologies

The February 2006 meeting showed a need for better information exchange on new technology (information is available, but it is not being accessed). In 2006, UNMAS helped disseminate information on new technology by supporting the Canadian-funded pages dedicated to technology in each issue of a quarterly magazine published by the James Madison University and by disseminating a technology newsletter.

In April 2006, UNMAS attended and assisted in the planning of the Croatian Symposium on Humanitarian Demining, organized by the Croatian

Mine Action Centre (CROMAC). This symposium is becoming the mine action sector's lead meeting on technical issues, specifically related to the use of machines. The meeting was not well attended by field personnel in 2006, and UNMAS, along with the International Test and Evaluation Programme (ITEP), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, and CROMAC, will be encouraging greater participation in 2007 to increase information-sharing and awareness on technical issues.



International Test and Evaluation Programme (ITEP)

UNMAS continued to advocate for trials of innovative or locally adapted mine action equipment and methodologies. UNMAS participated as an observer at the ITEP Executive Committee meeting in Brussels in March 2006, and UNMAS' director delivered a statement to the ITEP Board of Directors meeting in June. The director's statement highlighted three challenges for ITEP: continuation of ITEP's role in identifying effective new technology; increasing information about where existing techniques would be most cost-effective; and getting ITEP's information into the hands of the demining community. Between meetings, UNMAS facilitated information transfer to help set up trials for new equipment, and provided advice regarding what new equipment and techniques should be tested and what types of technology are most needed. In 2006, priorities were faster and more effective equipment for route verification and a system that can quickly prove that large areas contain no landmines or other ERW. UNMAS helped to arrange accelerated testing for a potentially revolutionary route clearance device that ultimately proved less effective than anticipated. The manufacturer will now address the inadequacies. UNMAS also helped to organize the trial of a large area reduction technique involving honeybees in August 2006, but the trial was cancelled due to security considerations.

Supporting Research and Development

While there is little funding available for mine action research and development at present, UNMAS continued to provide advice to firms and individuals about what technology is actually required. For example, in 2006 UNMAS promoted the need for cheap neutralization devices for destroying landmines that do not rely on explosives. Explosives are traditionally the easiest and most economical method for destroying landmines, however there are many safety and security issues related to their use and transport. UNMAS also provided advice to two private enterprises wishing to develop new technologies for mine action: one involves a mechanical plough and roller, and the other involves a towed rake and innovative neutralization system.



The Government of Japan has provided significant research and development funding for anti-personnel mine detection and destruction over the past five years, and tests of several Japanese-developed machines were conducted in Cambodia in 2006. UNMAS was invited by the Government of Japan to assist in the selection of machines to be tested, and encouraged ITEP involvement in the tests to help ensure statistical validity. UNMAS also advised the Afghanistan mine action programme on how to make optimal use of the Japanese mechanical devices tested in Afghanistan in 2005.

UNMAS Country Programmes and Activities

UNMAS continued its management of the UN mine action programmes in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea (in the Temporary Security Zone), southern Lebanon, and Sudan. In August 2006, UNMAS initiated a new mine action programme in Western Sahara and handed over responsibility and oversight for the mine action programme in Burundi to the Government of Burundi with support from UNDP.

UNMAS field programmes are managed through mine action coordination centres, which work with government entities, international organizations, NGOs, commercial demining companies, donors and other stakeholders in their areas of responsibility to coordinate:

- Impact surveys and assessments to determine the humanitarian impact of landmines and ERW;
- Prioritization, planning and tasking, accreditation, and technical safety standard-setting for survey and marking, landmine and ERW clearance, stockpile destruction, explosive ordnance disposal, and battle area clearance;
- Mine risk education and victim assistance initiatives;
- Information management and quality assurance;
- Public information and community liaison operations;
- Resource mobilization efforts; and
- The development of plans for the transfer of the mine action programme to national authorities, including capacity building and promoting the establishment of management infrastructure and institutional arrangements.



AFGHANISTAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

Highlights

- UNMACA assists Ministry of Public Health in drafting disability guidelines to be integrated into the country's health sector.
- UNMACA begins restructuring as part of effort to build capacity of national staff.
- New demographic data resulting from landmine impact survey leads to better targeting of mine risk education.

Context and Challenges

Some 2,370 Afghan communities are affected by more than 700 million square metres of land suspected to be contaminated by landmines or ERW. As many as 4.2 million Afghans live in these communities, which are spread across 32 of 34 provinces.

The contamination not only kills and maims, but it also impedes efforts to support livelihoods and human security because it hampers reconstruction and rural development projects.

Almost 60 Afghans fall victim to landmines or ERW each month, down from an estimated 150 to 300 per month in 2002, a reduction largely due to clearance operations and mine risk education by the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan. It is further estimated that about half of all recent victims are caused by ERW, often as individuals tamper with the deadly devices an attempt to gather and sell scrap metal to earn a living. Additionally, almost 40 percent of Afghanistan's mine victims are children between the ages of seven and 14, the highest documented rate for this age group in any country.

New Victims of Landmines and ERW*						
Age Group	INJURED		KILLED			Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male		
0-6	10	15	4	4		33
7-14	33	194	2	27		256
15-20	2	101	1	21		125
21-26	6	46	0	19		71
27-40	4	75	0	12		91
41+	2	35	1	7		45
UNKNOWN	4	26	1	0		31
Total	61	492	9	90		652

*As of November 2006

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

Direct support was provided by UNMAS staff who work closely with the UN Office of Project Services to oversee planning and implementation of programme activities. In addition, UNMAS deployed several staff on missions to the field in 2006. Missions focused on liaising with UN, governmental and donor representatives and to participate in strategic and operational planning.

Coordination and Capacity Building Activities

During the first half of 2006, representatives from UNMAS, UNDP, UNMACA and the UN Country Team reached agreement on a joint approach for a transition of responsibility for mine action to the Government. This agreement led to increased efforts to build the Government's institutional capacity. Meanwhile, UNMACA also commenced an internal restructuring to streamline and improve management and services and to build the capacity of national staff.

During the latter half of 2006, planning began for significant changes to the way UNMACA supports operations in the field. The changes will reduce costs and increase efficiency and the overall effectiveness of clearance and survey assets.

Integrating gender concerns into mine action remained central to UNMACA's activities, with a review of survey results to ensure adequate

sex-disaggregated data, tasking based on the survey results, and gender-sensitive community liaison mechanisms. UNMACA personnel also participated in a gender equality workshop organized by The Steering Committee on gender and mine action. In addition, UNMACA took steps to improve women's access to jobs and to promote a gender-sensitive work environment.

UNMACA continued to support the national economic and social development goals of the Government by providing inputs to the Afghan National Development Strategy and assisting with the drafting of "The Way Ahead," the national multi-year mine action strategy.

Afghanistan's National Operational Work Plan was accepted as part of the Afghan National Development Strategy, and the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan's Public Investment Programme is also part of Afghanistan's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. In late 2006, mine action was formally integrated into the national budget of Afghanistan, creating the opportunity for the Government to contribute to the programme through its finance mechanisms.

Extensive work continued on capacity building with implementing partners and with the Government, including management, administrative, logistic and financial training, and continued technical assistance. UNMACA assisted Government counterparts in the drafting of mine action legislation with inter-ministerial input. In particular, direct support was provided to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its role as Government focal point for mine action.

Support to victim assistance and mine risk education has focused on building the capacity of the Government to help construct sustainable systems for coordinating and implementing related activities. In this regard, UNMACA has supported the Ministries of Public Health, Martyrs and Disabled and Education in each of their focus areas to increase awareness and integration of mine risk education and victim assistance into each sector at the national level. UNMACA supported the development of the "Kabul Report" of September 2006, which outlined the Government's intention to address the needs of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities. Additional support was also given to the Government of Afghanistan in its role as Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance within the framework of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty, a role it approached with great commitment and energy.



UNMACA has also focused on additional advocacy, surveillance and data-gathering for Afghanistan's estimated 60,000 surviving mine victims. UNMACA assisted the Ministry of Public Health in drafting disability guidelines to be integrated into the basic health package and developed a strategy for the nationalization of victim assistance services, which entails an inter-ministerial disability task force, stronger regional activities, and capacity building for the Afghan Red Crescent Society. UNMACA, the Afghan Red Crescent Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross have also agreed to begin the transition of mine risk education activities to the Afghan Red Crescent Society in 2007.

Operations

Operations were significantly hampered in 2006 by disruptions in funding stemming partly from delays in some donor contributions and partly from reconstruction partners' new funding modalities, which restricted their funding of national NGO implementing partners. The disruptions resulted in the disengagement of 1,500 staff of implementing partners on 1 July 2007. Some of these staff, however, were recruited by international commercial demining entities which entered the mine action programme in greater numbers in 2006. It is anticipated that the role of commercial operators will continue and possibly expand in the future. Efforts were made to strengthen links to commercial bodies entering and operating in the country to ensure quality assurance and accreditation.

UNMACA continued to strengthen its coordination of accreditation in 2006. All organisations operating

in Afghanistan have now undergone accreditation and will be subject to oversight from UNMACA's quality management inspection teams. Additionally, UNMACA commenced accreditation of mine-detection dogs to ensure that standards are met and to reassure stakeholders that dogs are a reliable method for locating mines, despite a number of mine incidents in areas that had been cleared through this method. In the interim, all unaccredited dogs were removed from operations in December to undergo retraining. In support of this process, the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards were also reviewed in late 2006 with the intent of releasing a revision after consultation with implementing partners in 2007.

Information obtained through a landmine impact survey funded by the European Union resulted in a realignment of mine risk education to reflect clearer demographic priorities. Mine risk education is now targeted to young males who are at the greatest risk of accidents (a small percentage of the victims are girls and women). Nineteen assessment teams continue to travel throughout the country to evaluate post-clearance impact on communities and to update information collected through the survey. UNMACA is enhancing these teams to conduct additional community liaison functions as well.

Impact

The release of land through clearance and survey has continued to benefit Afghans who largely rely on subsistence agriculture and livestock herding for their livelihoods. It has also enabled vastly improved access to basic services, including education. Operations have also benefited reconstruction and

infrastructure projects. These operations included clearance of landmines and ERW from the Kabul International Airport and new or reconstructed power lines, water supplies and irrigation systems. These actions have been carried out in partnership with the Ministries of Power and Water, Rural Reconstruction and Development, Aviation, Planning and others. A decrease in casualties attributable to clearance operations and mine risk education has in turn reduced the burden on health infrastructure and will reduce the need for victim assistance in the future.

Security concerns, especially in the south and east, restricted some mine action activities and resulted in the need to shift assets away from areas of potential combat or insurgency. UNMACA's internal security team has strengthened its contacts with UN and partner security offices and information sources to enable better monitoring of the situation and ensure a secure environment for staff. Several mine action teams in the field were attacked, resulting in deaths, injuries and equipment losses. Despite these concerns, mine action operations have continued in many parts of the country, with cooperation and support from communities and shuras, which have helped improve security.



Hopes Grow as Afghanistan Focuses on the Disabled

When Haji Ahmad Shah stepped on a landmine in Kunar in eastern Afghanistan in 1986, the blast ripped off his left arm and mangled his right. He travelled 36 hours in excruciating pain, but by the time he reached a hospital equipped to deal with such severe trauma, infection had set in and the doctors had to amputate his right arm. He uses a prosthesis on his right stump with a clamp that helps him perform rudimentary tasks, such as holding a fork. But during the past two decades that he has spent without arms, he says his biggest source of assistance has been family and friends.

Shah is one of Afghanistan's estimated 675,000 disabled people, an estimated 60,000 of which are survivors of landmine and ERW accidents, according to Handicap International. "There are so many disabled people, and they have nothing," said 42-year-old Shah. Although the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan has cleared more than 1 billion square metres of contaminated land since 1989, almost 60 Afghans fall victim to landmines or ERW every month—and nearly half of the victims are children.

Today, Shah lives in Kabul and is the deputy director of the Community Centre for the Disabled. He works to create awareness about the plight of disabled people, and his efforts are paying off. The Government of Afghanistan, with support from the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA), as well as UNICEF and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, held its first National Landmine Victim Assistance Workshop in August 2006. The workshop drew officials from eight governmental ministries, eight international agencies, and nearly 20 national

and international NGOs. The participants worked together to develop a nationwide plan for providing better healthcare and economic opportunities to landmine/ERW victims and other disabled people. The participating ministries plan to approve a final version of the plan that will include concrete benchmarks to ensure the delivery of services and the protection of the rights of disabled people. Shortly after the workshop, the Ministry of Public Health opened a department that will focus on assisting the disabled.

"The issue of disability must be given greater priority within all Government ministries," said Mahmood Saikal, the former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs who served as the focal point for mine action for the Government of Afghanistan. "Developing a national plan is a long-term process that requires political will and commitment from all actors." The national plan is part of Afghanistan's efforts to fulfil international and national obligations to one of its most vulnerable communities.

A Look at Mine Action in Afghanistan

UN-supported mine action in Afghanistan began in 1989 with a UN-sponsored pilot project to establish local non-governmental implementing partners for mine action. The first of these, Afghan Technical Consultants, along with the international NGO Halo Trust and the commercial demining company RONCO, began full-scale mine-clearance operations later that same year. Other national and international NGOs and the Afghan Red Crescent Society began providing mine risk education the following year. In the following decade, services expanded to include assistance to mine victims, surveys, monitoring, evaluation and train-

ing. To enable expanded services, the number of personnel working under the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan rose to more than 4,500 by the end of 2001.

Activities were overseen by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan (UNOCHA) from 1989 until June 2002, when UNMAS assumed responsibility for supporting the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan in its implementation of humanitarian, developmental, and reconstruction priorities on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Activities are today implemented by more than 20 partner organizations under the coordination of the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA). The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan is the world's largest mine action initiative, employing more than 8,500 personnel throughout the country.

Oversight from the Government of Afghanistan is provided through a Mine Action Working Group, which meets regularly under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Group includes representatives from a range of ministries, implementing partners, international donors and UN entities. This body operates under the auspices of the Consultative Group on Security within the framework of the Afghan National Development Strategy and is an integral element of the Government's budget and planning process.

UNMACA also continues to work with the Government on the transfer of responsibility for mine action to an appropriate national body. To this end, UNMACA directly supports capacity building for coordination and monitoring processes and for the Government's participation in consultative and planning bodies.

BURUNDI

Highlights

- Countrywide general community survey was completed in May 2006.
- The UNMAS programme was completed in July and successfully transitioned to the Government of Burundi in August.
- Eighty-six percent of the suspected hazardous areas in three southern provinces were declared free of landmines and ERW.
- Mine risk education was provided to nearly 100,000 people in the most-affected provinces.
- 75 primary school teachers were trained to provide mine risk education as part of school curricula.

Context and Challenges

Burundi is emerging from 13 years of internal conflict during which an estimated 300,000 people lost their lives and the poverty rate in the country doubled. While all parties involved in the conflict reportedly used landmines, a limited number were actually used; they were often laid for only short periods before being subsequently re-planted in other locations. None of the parties to the conflict kept records of their mine-laying activities, and most remaining landmines and ERW are isolated devices, making it more difficult to identify hazardous areas.

As of the end of 2006, there were 180 confirmed landmine and ERW suspected hazardous areas, approximately half of which were believed to contain landmines and half to contain ERW. Now that peace has been largely restored and many refugees and internally displaced persons are returning to their homes, landmines and ERW represent a real danger

to the resumption of economic and social development. The most prevalent resource blockages are to agricultural and pasture land. Communities that rely mainly on subsistence farming are among the most at risk; because of high population pressures on the land, people continue to use hazardous areas despite the knowledge of earlier accidents.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

In anticipation of ONUB's completion of its mission at the end of 2006, UNMAS handed over its mine action responsibilities in Burundi to the Government with continued support from UNDP, after close strategic planning with the Burundi Mine Action Coordination Centre, UNDP and the Government.

Coordination and Training Activities

As of August 2006, the Government's Mine Action Coordination Centre was responsible for all humanitarian mine action activities in Burundi. Throughout 2006, the Centre fostered the development of mine action management capacity and helped ensure that mine clearance, quality assurance, battle area clearance, explosive ordnance disposal, minefield marking, and survey tasks were carried out in line with International Mine Action Standards. The Centre assisted in monitoring demining organizations and updating national standards, as well as establishing mine action coordination mechanisms on behalf of the Government. The Centre also worked with UNICEF on mine risk education and vic-

tim assistance and coordinated and supported the clearance and survey activities of a number of NGOs, including DanChurchAid, the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, Handicap International-Belgium, and Handicap International-France.

The Centre continued to provide feedback for the piloting of Version IV of the Information Management System for Mine Action. The most recent update includes a number of changes designed to improve the performance of the system's GIS components and the process used to create local data collection forms, ultimately providing users with faster access to maps and imagery.

Operations

A general community survey initiated by the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action in May 2005 was completed in May 2006. The data analysis produced a more accurate picture of landmine/ERW contamination and has been used to set priorities for clearance, marking, and mine risk education. The survey gathered data on more than 97 percent of all communities in Burundi through more than 67,000 interviewees from 2,657 collines and quartiers in 16 provinces. Women comprised 25 percent of the survey teams, which operated in mixed male-female teams. Thirty-five to forty percent of those interviewed were women, thus ensuring that survey results reflect the impact of mines on all members of the affected communities. The results show that almost 80 percent of all landmine and ERW victims are male, predominantly between the ages of 11 and 30. Male victims outnumber female victims in every age group largely because men tend to walk between

villages across mined areas, either in search of work or as members of armed forces or armed groups, while women tend to farm areas near to their homes. The provinces of Bubanza, Bujumbura Rural, Makamba, and Ruyigi have been identified as being the most affected. In accordance with these priorities, UNMAS provided funding to the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action in June 2006 to start clearance activities in Ruyigi and Rutana.

In accordance with priorities set by the Centre, DanChurchAid and the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action have developed national survey and demining capacities and offered rapid-response explosive ordnance disposal services. Clearance of suspected hazardous areas was completed in Gitega and Mwaro provinces in 2006, and clearance of suspected hazardous areas in Makamba, Rutana, and Ruyigi is expected to be complete by June 2007. In total, 65 percent of the country-wide suspected hazardous areas had been cleared by December 2006. Between April 2005 and December 2006, nearly 50,000 square metres of contaminated land were cleared and over 800 explosive devices were destroyed.

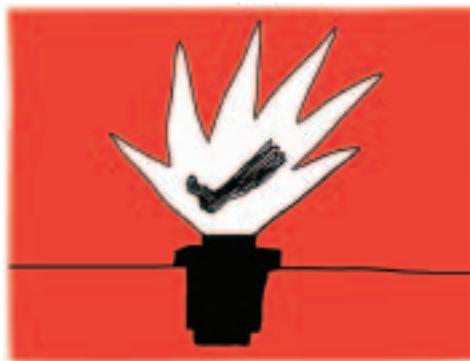
Mine risk education was provided to nearly 100,000 people (41 percent men, 35 percent women, 24 percent children) in the most-affected provinces. Handicap International-Belgium provided mine risk education in the most affected southern provinces and, in mid-2006, DanChurchAid initiated an innova-

tive approach to community-based mine risk education that uses the pre-existing church network to reach grass-root populations. UNICEF assisted the Centre in producing 240,000 leaflets, 52,000 posters, 165,000 schoolbooks, and 100,000 calendars with mine-risk messages, as well as 400 training displays and 3,000 training manuals in accordance with International Mine Action Standards.

Impact

The data collected through the general community survey has shown that the remaining landmine situation in Burundi is relatively limited and that strategic mine action efforts, such as the current accelerated rates of clearance of suspected hazardous areas, could result in highly and moderately impacted communities being free of landmine and ERW threats by July 2008. Technical survey, marking, fencing, and mine clearance are needed to reduce the overall socio-economic impact of landmines and ERW,

and mobile explosive ordnance disposal teams will help to reduce quickly the threat of isolated unexploded devices that remain scattered throughout former conflict areas. The general community survey has provided the Mine Action Coordination Centre and other national authorities with the information necessary to create a strategic mine action plan that can be swiftly implemented and might make Burundi one of the first mine-affected countries in Africa to be declared free from the impact of landmines and ERW.



Mine Action Paves the Way to Peace

Having spent five years in neighboring Tanzania while a conflict raged in her own country, Aline Kamikazi returned to her native Burundi in 2002. She farmed her land in Bigina in Makamba Province until one day in May 2006, when she found an unusual metal object, which she thought she could use to sharpen the blade on her plow. That metal object turned out to be a grenade, which exploded, wounded her arm, ripped into her leg, and killed one of her children who was sitting nearby. Aline was transported to the hospital in Makamba, where her right leg was amputated. To prevent similar accidents from happening elsewhere, the Mine Action Coordination Centre in Burundi in cooperation with UNICEF expanded mine risk education services to raise awareness about landmines and ERW, including grenades of the type that injured Aline. Together, the Centre and UNICEF, held meetings where mine risk messages were shared with communities, and trained 75 teachers in areas along the Tanzanian border to educate pupils about the dangers of landmines and ERW. As a result of clearance operations and mine risk education along the border, economic activities resumed. "The action against landmines gave us hope again," Aline says. "It is light in our every day lives. Before, it was all darkness," she adds with a smile.

A Look at Mine Action in Burundi

UNMAS set up the Mine Action Coordination Centre in Burundi in 2004 in response to Security Council Resolution 1545, which established the UN Operation in Burundi (ONUB). The Centre originally provided mine action support to aid the deployment of peacekeepers, oversee humanitarian mine action services and promote national ownership of the programme. The UNMAS programme was completed on 31 July 2006, and the Government of Burundi took over responsibility for the coordination and implementation of the mine action programme, with the support of UNDP, in August 2006. With this transfer, the Mine Action Coordination Centre became the national agency responsible for all humanitarian mine action activities. UNDP, UNICEF and other partners continue to provide an integrated programme of capacity development services to the Centre, which coordinates and implements mine action in support of humanitarian relief efforts, including clearing land needed for agriculture and creating safe passage for returning refugees and internally displaced persons and helping to pave the way for peace consolidation in Burundi.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Highlights

- Delivery of mine risk education services increased 201 percent.
- Integrated mine action teams were deployed to remote, previously inaccessible areas, using light vehicles or boats.
- Mine action was further integrated into the wider activities of UN funds and programmes, resulting in a more effective and holistic response.

Context and Challenges

The extent of the landmine and ERW problem in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains largely unknown. Continued fighting and logistical challenges presented by this large and impenetrable country have so far prevented a nationwide impact survey from being conducted. However, information collected by the Mine Action Coordination Centre and NGOs indicates that after decades of war, landmines and ERW are a considerable problem and that there are many victims.

The provinces of Equateur, Orientale, North and

South Kivu, and Katanga are the most affected. Since 2001, 1,357 areas suspected to be contaminated by landmines or ERW have been reported, and over 1,200 of these have not yet been cleared because of constraints that range from the lack of infrastructure outside major centres to the continued fighting in the east. While the ceasefire agreement among all forces signed on 10 July 1999 and subsequent negotiations in Sun City have allowed some mine action activities to be undertaken, the security situation remains fragile and the funding available for mine action has continued to fall short.

Nevertheless, 2006 saw an increase in the number of demining operations and a doubling in the involvement of national NGOs in mine action. The successful elections in 2006 may herald the beginning of increased humanitarian access and development. In this case, it is essential that mine action be adequately funded to ensure the safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons; the clearance of agricultural land, school grounds, villages, and water sources; and access to all major roads and paths for the local population and the humanitarian community.

Landmine/ERW Victims*				
Year	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
2005	37	6	4	47
2006	13	13	1	27
<i>Total (pre-2005 and 2006)</i>	1,202	471	255	1,928
<i>2005/2006 Comparison</i>	-65%	+117%	-75%	-43%

*Figures are only for areas where information is available

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS' director and chief of programme management visited the Mine Action Coordination Centre in June 2006 to meet with the UN Country Team, Government officials, and donors to clarify issues, mobilize resources, and emphasize the importance of encouraging the new Government's full support for mine action. The director presented the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010* and emphasized the importance of building capacity in the Mine Action Coordination Centre to eventually transfer responsibilities to a national structure. Governmental authorities guaranteed their support to and participation in this process. The approach and Strategy were also well-received by in-country donors, who pledged their continued support for mine action.

Coordination and Training Activities

In the absence of a formal governmental mine action authority, the Mine Action Coordination Centre maintained responsibility for planning, managing, and monitoring all mine action activities on behalf of the Government. Monthly mine action coordination meetings chaired by the Centre served as the forum for ensuring maximum participation and consultation with all stakeholders. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a pilot country for the "cluster approach" to humanitarian response coordinated by OCHA. Mine action is part of both the logistics and protection clusters. The Centre participated in coordination and planning meetings at all levels, ensuring

that humanitarian mine action is integral to the 2006 and 2007 Humanitarian Action Plans.

In addition to providing coordination, the Centre also maintained the Information Management System for Mine Action, served as a member of the MONUC senior management team, conducted accreditation of the six implementers seeking to undertake or continue mine action activities, and allocated available funding for mine action activities. The Centre also assisted the Government in complying with its anti-personnel mine-ban treaty obligations.

The Centre's gender focal point collaborated with the MONUC Gender Unit and implementing partners to establish good practices, such as the adoption of a "50/50 policy" for recruitment of all mine action personnel (including deminers); using gender balanced workshops to determine priorities for demining; focusing on giving women opportunities to rise to management positions within demining teams; and gender mainstreaming all outreach material (including surveys and mine risk education) to ensure that messages are equally accessible to all members of the target communities.

Operations

The Mine Action Coordination Centre is not itself an operational body. Instead, it coordinates the work of an array of operational mine action partners. The Centre's demining partners surveyed and marked 464 dangerous areas, cleared 721,188 square metres of land, and destroyed 545 landmines, 8,169 items of unexploded ordnance and 79,495 other devices. UNMAS provided funds to the Vietnam Veterans

Foundation of America to conduct survey activities and to DanChurchAid to conduct clearance operations, while MECHEM was contracted to provide demining support to MONUC peacekeeping operations. While their primary tasks have involved surveying and clearing campsites, bases and roads in support of MONUC peacekeeping operations, MECHEM was also tasked by the Centre to undertake various humanitarian demining operations.

During the second half of March 2006, the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation began survey activities around the town of Gbadolite in the Equateur region. Activities were forced to move to the area around Gemena, also in Equateur, following a security incident in Gbadolite in May, and the survey was ultimately completed in September. In total, the survey team visited 248 communities, 27 (11 percent) of which were found to be affected by ERW. In these affected communities, the survey found a total of 43 hazardous areas and 12 recent victims. In total, 567,733 people live in the affected communities, which are located in North Ubangi and South Ubangi districts. The survey had an immediate effect, as it enabled the Mines Advisory Group to prioritize their explosive ordnance disposal activities within the identified communities. Extensive survey work remains necessary throughout the country, and the

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation is seeking to expand its work to other provinces, with support from UNMAS,

DanChurchAid created a new team this year that deals exclusively with explosive ordnance disposal and includes an individual tasked with providing mine risk education and HIV/AIDS messages and with conducting surveys of dangerous areas. The team is highly mobile, enabling fast and effective destruction of ERW, teaches the local population about the dangers of landmines, and identifies new risks. The team is now based in South-Kivu, where returning refugees from Tanzania are particularly vulnerable to landmines and ERW.

Mine risk education partners included UNICEF, UNHCR, and many national NGOs. There was a marked increase in the delivery of mine risk education to affected communities, mainly as a result of the doubling of local NGOs involved in humanitarian mine action. In total, 166,627 people were reached throughout the country's areas affected by landmines and ERW. This represents a 201 percent increase over last year—a major accomplishment given the inaccessibility and remoteness of some of the country's worst affected areas, as well as the precarious security situation.

Delivery of Mine Risk Education Services in 2006

Year	Men	Women	Children	Total Beneficiaries	Mine Risk Education Sessions
2006	33,148	29,617	103,862	166,627	1,060

Impact

Operations under the coordination of the Mine Action Coordination Centre had a significant impact on the population and contributed to the enhanced efficiency and safety of the work of humanitarian actors and peacekeepers. The clearance of roads and paths allows the population to travel safely to markets, schools, hospitals, and churches. As travel by air is key in such a large country with little road infrastructure, the clearance and opening of two airports had a positive social and economic impact on their respective regions. Mine risk education has also played a critical role in areas that have not yet been reached by deminers, giving people the skills and knowledge to avoid potentially dangerous areas and items.

Clearance teams have been able to deploy more rapidly to investigate suspected hazard areas and ERW. In addition to clearance, in many cases the teams have been able to disprove the existence of hazards, enabling the population to put the land to productive use.

Mine action operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continue to expand and improve, however it is anticipated that victim and accident levels will rise as more information is gathered from previously inaccessible areas and as the return to normalcy in many parts of the country allows for greater freedom of movement and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. The mine action community therefore continues to coordinate its work with the wider humanitarian community for surveys and clearance operations in areas where refugees and internally displaced persons are returning home.

Water, Water Everywhere, But at What Cost?

On 2 August 2006, 23-year-old Espérance Tabu set off early in the morning to collect water from the pipeline that supplies Bunia with drinking water. Alongside the well-trodden footpath, the grassy ground was soggy from the recent heavy rains and the leak in the valve on the water pipe. Espérance filled her bucket and washed her face as she had done every morning since she returned from the camp where she and her family took refuge during the war. Perhaps she felt the stir of the baby in her womb and thought of the toddler that awaited her return home. She picked up the bucket and moved the heavy load onto her head. To maintain her balance, she stepped back into the soft, water-logged earth with the heel of her right foot. And there, life as she knew it ended with a deafening blow under her foot: a hot destructive wave pulverized her right leg below the knee and blew her left foot to shreds. Espérance had escaped the killing and maiming that countless other women had fallen victim to during the war, but another agent of war was lying in wait for her to pick up that bucket of water and step off the path, destroying the hope she had felt in returning home after peace had returned to her district.

Many women like Espérance fetch water along this same pipeline every day, as more than 200,000 people are reliant on this water source. In November 2006, upon a request from the non-governmental development organization CARITAS and with authorization from MONUC, the Mine Action Coordination Centre tasked MECHEM to find and destroy any and all of landmines that are still present along the 15-kilometre pipeline that runs from the mountains north of Bunia. Sourced from six wells, the water is channelled through a single pipe, which supplies many villages

before it branches out into Bunia. Anti-personnel landmines were planted at the reservoirs and in the countless control valves along the pipeline in order to cut off the water supply to Bunia. The area suspected to contain landmines along the pipeline is estimated to be approximately 1,500,000 square metres.

MECHEM conducted an initial investigation after the woman's accident in August and discovered that four more accidents had taken place in the immediate area since 2002. The full compliment of the MECHEM team in the country is working on this project when not working elsewhere on tasks for MONUC. All available resources, including mechanical ground clearance machines, mine detection dogs, and manual deminers are being used whenever available.

A Look at Mine Action in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Security Council Resolution 1291 of 2000 called on the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) "to deploy mine action experts to assess the scope of the mine and unexploded ordnance problems, coordinate the initiation of mine action activities, develop a mine action plan, and carry out emergency mine action activities as required in support of its mandate." Today, the Centre operates out of Kinshasa, Bunia (Ituri), and Bukavu (South Kivu) with a mandate to provide assistance and capacity building to the Government; to support MONUC's operations; and to coordinate all humanitarian mine action in the country. The UN-managed mine action programme is being undertaken in three phases. Phase one, which is now complete, involved the establishment of the Centre, assessment of the

humanitarian impact of the landmine/ERW problem in the country, implementation of emergency operations, and establishment of liaison and coordination mechanisms involving all mine action operators. Phase two is under way and has seen the opening of regional offices throughout the country, an enhanced focus on the implementation of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty on behalf of the Government, and the consolidation of mine action activities in support of the overall humanitarian strategy. Phase three will begin in 2007 and will focus on the creation of a national management body and institutional arrangements capable of assuming responsibility for mine action activities, the creation of a national operational capacity on mine action, and the consolidation of a mid- and long-term plan encompassing all mine action activities.



ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

Highlights

- 35, 914,183 square metres of land were declared safe and released to the people in the western and central sectors of the peacekeeping mission in the Temporary Security Zone.
- Kenyan deminers were trained in mechanical and mine-detection dog clearance methods.
- The Mine Action Coordination Centre of UNMEE held "Mine Action Open Day," attended by the diplomatic and donor communities.

Context and Challenges

Landmine and ERW contamination in the areas in and around the Temporary Security Zone are the result of Eritrea's nearly 30-year struggle for independence (1962-1991) and the two-year border war with Ethiopia from 1998 to 2000. Landmines and ERW remain a major threat to the people living and working in the Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas, preventing the people and communities in both countries from returning to normal life. Mine action activities include releasing land needed by internally displaced persons and returning refugees, taking a gender-sensitive approach to the provision of mine risk education, and disposing of explosive ordnance to ensure the safety of local populations. These activities also ensure the safe movement of UNMEE peacekeepers.

In October 2005, the Government of Eritrea began prohibiting UNMEE helicopter flights, thus preventing the implementation of evacuation procedures in case of a mine accident emergency. This policy forced the Mine Action Coordination Centre to stop clearance operations in the northern areas of the

Temporary Security Zone. Clearance operations are only permitted in areas where an UNMEE evacuation response would be possible in the event of an accident, thus clearance operations have been adversely affected. However, demining operations continue in other areas of the Temporary Security Zone. In late 2006, the Government of Eritrea also requested certain staff members from designated nationalities to leave the peacekeeping mission and imposed a limit on the amount of fuel available to UNMEE, further hampering the programme.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS headquarters continued to help ensure that sufficient mine action funds were available from the assessed peacekeeping budget and voluntary contributions and to serve as a link between the Mine Action Coordination Centre, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), and implementing partners. In October, UNMAS' director and chief of the Programme Management Section visited the Centre to review the programme's operational status and attended a meeting with the director-general of the Ethiopian Mine Action Office in Addis Ababa.

Coordination and Training Activities

The Mine Action Coordination Centre continued to refine its plans to provide mine action support for demarcation, in the event that demarcation proceeds. Should demarcation occur, funding requirements as reflected in the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2007* will increase substantially.

The Mine Action Coordination Centre is responsible for ensuring that all demining operators are accredited and meet quality assurance standards. Key quality assurance and accreditations were conducted with MECHEM' mechanical operators, MECHEM's mine-detection dog handlers, and the UNMEE Kenyan Contingent. The UNMEE Force Mine Action's mine risk education team conducted safety briefings to 3,479 newly arrived UNMEE personnel, as well as for staff from the International Committee of the Red Cross in Asmara and other personnel from UNICEF, UNDP, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and UNHCR. The Centre's mine risk education team recruited a female team leader for the Debub region and cross-trained female team members as trauma medics to assist when operating in remote areas.

The Mine Action Coordination Centre continued public outreach activities, hosting a "Mine Action Open Day" in May during which demining contingents, the explosive ordnance disposal team, mine risk education teams, MECHEM contractors, and the Medical Coordination Unit mounted demonstrations and conducted briefings for members of the diplomatic community and NGO representatives. For the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers in May, the Centre provided an interactive educational display at UNMEE headquarters in Asmara; the event was attended by numerous chil-

dren from the various local schools in Asmara. The Centre's Information Section in Asmara printed over 680 maps together with a large quantity of mine action-related posters for UNMEE and others partners, and continues to provide updated mine-specific maps to UNMEE, UN agencies, NGOs, and other organizations operating in the Temporary Security Zone.

Operations

Despite the helicopter ban, the Mine Action Coordination Centre continued to coordinate and conduct demining operations in the Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas to verify helipads and dam sites, and to assess the mine threat on roads, riverbeds and the verges of roads. Minefield clearance continued in the Central Sector, route clearance in the Western and Centre Sectors, and explosive ordnance disposal in the Centre Sector. In total, 3,252,005 square metres of land and 2,243 kilometres of roads were cleared, together with 35,914,183 square metres of land released through in-depth survey of previously suspect areas. Explosive ordnance disposal teams destroyed 2,028 items of unexploded ordnance and 13 landmines. The explosive ordnance disposal team operating north of the Temporary Security Zone conducted a landmine

Mine Risk Education Beneficiaries in 2006

	Male	Female	<i>Totals</i>
Adults	6,090	5,224	11,314
Children	6,468	4,646	11,114
Totals	12,558	9,870	22,428

impact survey in 21 villages, and the mine risk education teams conducted a minefield confirmation survey in the Centre Sector. Mine Action Coordination Centre staff in the Centre and Western Sectors continued to liaise with local authorities, militia and UN teams to obtain information about the mine threat and to inquire about any mine/ERW incidents.

Mine risk education teams targeted their community-based services to camps for internally displaced persons to prepare them to return home. Briefings addressed the different activities that specific groups will undertake upon their return, such as farming and grazing for men and household-related duties for women. Children have been identified as a high-risk group, and mine risk education has endeavoured to make adults aware of the dangers and risks to children caused by ERW. In total, the Mine Action Coordination Centre conveyed mine risk education messages to 22,428 people in 2006. Mine risk education teams also collected information on ERW, obtaining a total of 247 reports of ERW by year-end.

Impact

The activities undertaken by the UNMEE Mine Action Coordination Centre continued to enhance the safe mobility of UNMEE personnel, UN agencies, NGOs, and the local population of the Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas, as well as securing additional safe land for the return of internally displaced persons and refugees. More land is now available for agricultural use, helping to alleviate food security concerns. In addition, the Centre's initiatives also contribute to overall peace and confidence-building efforts along the border.

A Look at Mine Action in the Ethiopia/Eritrea Temporary Security Zone

Following the signing of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities by Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2000, UN Security Council Resolution 1320 authorized the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and established the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) between the two countries. The resolution mandates UNMEE "to coordinate and provide technical assistance for humanitarian mine action activities in the TSZ and area adjacent to it." In order to support this mandate, UNMAS set up the Mine Action Coordination Centre as part of UNMEE in mid-2000. The MACC continues to focus on responsibilities mandated by UN Security Council resolutions, including support to UNMEE's peacekeeping force, UN military observers and the demarcation project of the Ethiopian and Eritrean Boundary Commission. In 2005 the Mission's mandate was expanded to include humanitarian demining tasks within its area of responsibility, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1622.

LEBANON

Highlights

- Rapid response to the conflict in 2006 that littered southern Lebanon with up to 1 million sub-munitions resulted in destruction of almost 100,000 of these items before the end of the year.
- Operation Emirates Solidarity 2, funded by the United Arab Emirates, was launched and will remove the remaining landmine threat in the south by December 2007 (excluding UN delineated Blue Line between Lebanon and Israel).
- Gala dinner on 4 April commemorates the first International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

Context and Challenges

The Mine Action Coordination Centre of South Lebanon (MACC-SL) was focusing its attention on the clearance of an estimated 2.1 million square metres of land known to be contaminated by landmines, booby-traps, and unexploded ordnance prior

to the fighting in July and August 2006. This contamination threatened the safety of peacekeepers operating in the UNIFIL area of operations and nearly 250,000 people in 151 communities. The 34-day conflict between the Israeli Defence Forces and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon over the summer significantly increased the contaminated areas to be cleared of ERW, particularly cluster bombs. It is estimated that as many as 4 million cluster munitions were dropped or fired by Israel during the war and that potentially 1 million of these devices failed to explode on impact. The MACC-SL and the Lebanese Armed Forces located 838 cluster bomb locations and combined them into 376 areas, resulting in an estimate of 34,251,989 square metres of contaminated land. Since the cease-fire, many people have been injured or killed as a result of cluster munitions. Males over age 18 accounted for almost half the 175 casualties reported as a result of landmines and unexploded ordnance. Boys 18 years old or younger accounted for six of the fatalities and 57 of the injuries, with six females 18 years old or younger injured.

Landmine/ERW Victims in 2006					
Age Group	INJURED		KILLED		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
0-12	4	20	0	2	26
13-18	2	37	0	4	43
19+	8	85	0	13	106
Total	14	142	0	19	175

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS continues to serve as a liaison between the MACC-SL and the headquarters of UN agencies and other organizations working in Lebanon. UNMAS' director, chief of programme management, and the programme officer for southern Lebanon visited the MACC-SL twice in 2006, held meetings there with partners and donors, and visited operations. UNMAS headquarters staff helped to mobilize resources, including a Human Security Trust Fund grant for a programme developed in partnership with UNDP and UNOPS to support landmine and ERW clearance and socio-economic rehabilitation in southern Lebanon. UNMAS played an important role in securing the \$8.7 million required by the programme, including funds contained in the "Flash Appeal and Early Recovery" document, and more than 60 percent of the funding required for 2007 was secured by the end of 2006.

UNMAS continued to advocate for the UNIFIL mandate to include humanitarian demining and regularly provided input regarding the MACC-SL's activities for the Secretary-General's reports on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701. UNMAS also facilitated MACC-SL presentations to the Group of Governmental Experts of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and other fora, and assisted with media relations in order to raise awareness of the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions in Lebanon.

Coordination and Training Activities

The MACC-SL is the coordination hub for UN mine

action response in southern Lebanon, in collaboration with the NDO. During the first half of 2006, the MACC-SL provided support and technical advice to the UNIFIL Demining Coordination Cell in training the new Chinese battalion and facilitating the transition from the outgoing Ukrainian battalion. After the cessation of hostilities in mid-August, and in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1701, UNIFIL began to increase its troop numbers. As part of this expansion, UNIFIL has increased its demining and explosive ordnance disposal capacities. Through coordination with UNIFIL, the MACC-SL has gained agreement from the Force Commander for explosive ordnance disposal/battle area clearance teams to contribute to the humanitarian clearance of cluster munitions and other ERW within the UNIFIL Area of Operations. An estimated 57 explosive ordnance disposal and battle area clearance teams from UNIFIL, contractors and NGOs were under the direct coordination of the MACC-SL.

Rapid Response

With the initiation of hostilities in Lebanon in July, a Mine Action Planning Group was formed to deal with contingency and operational planning as prescribed in the *Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response*. The group, which included UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNOPS, OCHA, the World Food Programme, UNHCR, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Swedish Rescue Service Agency, the Mines Advisory Group, the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, and Response International, met on several occasions

during the conflict and just after the cessation of hostilities to develop a concept of operations in consultation with Lebanon's National Demining Office (NDO).

Planning benefited from the presence of UNMAS staff in Tyre (southern Lebanon) and the UNDP's chief technical adviser in Beirut throughout the conflict. The plan focused on the deployment of explosive ordnance disposal and battle area clearance teams to deal with the perceived accumulation of unexploded ordnance. Contracts for five explosive ordnance disposal teams, five battle area clearance teams, and three technical survey teams were tendered in early August to put the United Nations in position to assist the Government and the people of Lebanon shortly after the fighting stopped. In the wake of the conflict, when it became apparent that large quantities of cluster munitions had been used by Israel, especially in the last days of fighting, the composition of the contracted teams was altered to increase battle area clearance capacity. Mine risk education was also included in the concept of operations, in consultation with the National Mine Risk Education Steering Committee in Lebanon. Mass media and other awareness materials were developed and tested for suitability, effectiveness and gender sensitivity.

UNMAS hired a consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of the planning and response in Lebanon (the review also studied rapid response in Guinea-Bissau). The findings indicate that the overall response in Lebanon was rapid and effective, despite the lack of early contingency planning given the sudden outbreak and scale of fighting, and that the UN rapid response framework is well-suited for large,

high-profile emergencies. Areas for improvement include coordination in areas where different UN agencies have independent mine action responsibilities and an increased emphasis on mine risk education, which was overwhelmed by the rush of returnees in the days immediately following the end of the conflict.

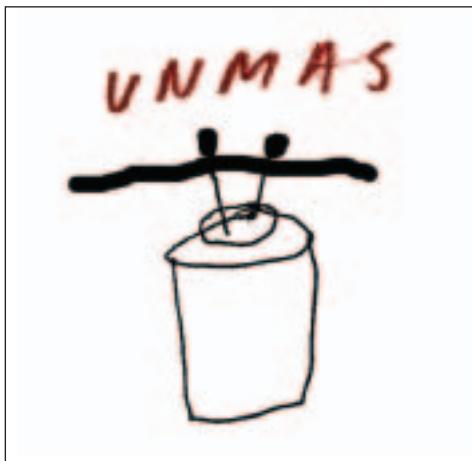


Operations

Prior to the conflict in July and August, two areas of southern Lebanon were contaminated with landmines and ERW: along the Blue Line between southern Lebanon and Israel and the area north of the Litani River ("Area 6"). The MACC-SL completed surveys in Area 6 to cancel or confirm contaminated areas. Between January and June, MACC-SL clearance operations with the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Mines Advisory Group resulted in 69,435 square metres of land being cleared and handed over to local communities.

All mine clearance activities were suspended in July, with efforts being redirected towards rapid-response explosive ordnance disposal. While limited mine clearance restarted in Area 6 in October, the focus throughout southern Lebanon remained and will remain on clearing cluster bombs and munitions. Recognising the urgent humanitarian need for landmine and ERW clearance, the United Arab Emirates decided to continue Operation Emirates Solidarity and provided funding to demine Area 6 and clear all cluster bomb sites in Areas 1-5. Following the conflict, all staff involved in operations, quality assurance and community liaison were reorganized into reconnaissance teams and tasked to systematically move throughout southern Lebanon and locate cluster bomb strikes in the absence of firing data from the

Israeli Defense Forces. The existing community liaison system provided a regular flow of information that greatly assisted in identifying strike locations. Battle area clearance teams were tasked to clear cluster munitions based on priorities starting with homes, schools, roads, and hospitals. The teams then prioritized clearing agricultural areas, such as olive and orange groves, tobacco farms and banana plantations. Almost 100,000 of the estimated 1 million cluster munitions were destroyed by the Lebanese Armed Forces, UNIFIL, organizations coordinated by MACC-SL, including BACTEC, Swedish Rescue Services Agency, the Armour Group, the Mines Advisory Group, and Norwegian People's Aid.



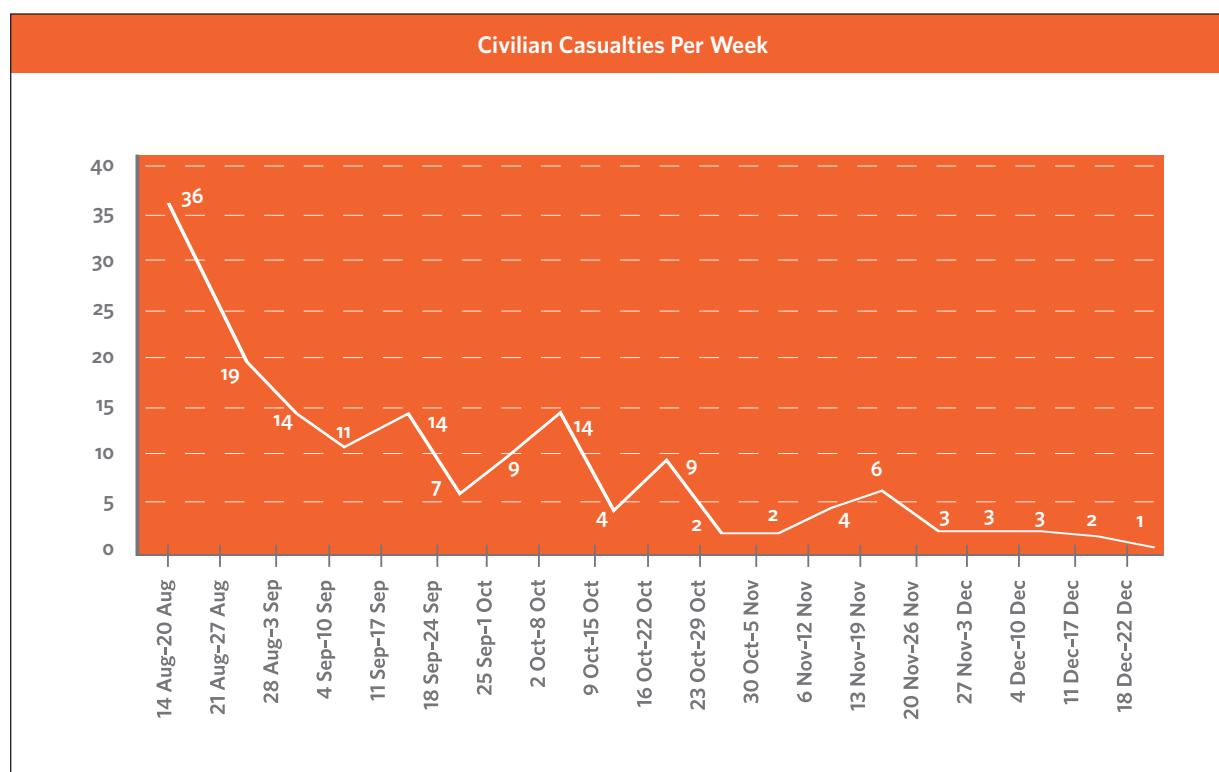
The MACC-SL continued to work with the NDO to coordinate and provide mine risk education in all areas of operation. Following the conflict, various public information efforts were initiated to increase awareness about the problem of cluster bombs. The MACC-SL has carried out a media campaign focused on the problem of cluster bombs and on-going efforts to clear them. Interviews and field visits were conducted with an array of media outlets, including Orbit TV, UN Inter-Regional Information Network, the Boston Globe, the London Times, BBC, Al Jazeera TV, New TV and many other press agencies. The MACC-SL and UNHCR also had a display during the Beirut International Marathon in November raise awareness about cluster bombs.

Impact

Immediately after the 14 August ceasefire, one of the key short-term aims of the mine action programme in southern Lebanon was to reduce the casualty rate. As the following graph shows, the MACC-SL and its partners achieved this critical goal. The timely clearance of roads, homes, communities, and agricultural areas in the second half of 2006 significantly decreased the threat that cluster munitions pose to all persons living or working in southern Lebanon, including the local population, the humanitarian and development assistance community (UN agencies, NGOs, and

regional donors), and UNIFIL personnel and troops. Extensive agricultural areas, which account for 70 percent of economic activity in southern Lebanon, were contaminated with cluster munitions during the conflict. The MACC-SL prioritized agricultural lands, including orchards and pastures, for clearance activities to facilitate the safe harvest of crops.

Removing the threat of landmines, cluster munitions and other ERW in southern Lebanon will enhance prospects for the reconstruction of homes, the re-establishment of livelihoods, and the restoration of conditions necessary for longer-term development.



A Safe and Productive Harvest

Deir Qanun En Naher, a village south of the Litani River, has 13 recorded cluster bomb strike locations. The unexploded cluster munitions scattered throughout the village and the surrounding area caused many accidents and prevented local farmers from using their lands or harvesting their crops. In the fall of 2006, the MACC-SL coordinated and prioritized battle area clearance operations to help ensure that olive and citrus orchards in Deir Qanun En Naher were declared free of cluster munitions before the end of the harvest season.

"My daughter's kids were sitting on this large tarpaulin while we were collecting the olives, then we were asked to stop the harvest until the area was cleared," says Zainab Ghassa. "When the battle area clearance team came, they found four M85 sub-munitions in the same spot where the kids had been sitting," she adds. "Thanks to the team, my husband and I were able to collect the olives safely in early December before the harvest time ended." Zanaib and her husband Mohamad have four children, and the family depends on olive orchards for a living. This year, despite the delays caused by the cluster munitions contamination, they were able to produce and sell almost 53 gallons of olive oil.

Youssef Ghassani, another resident of Deir Qanun En Naher, owns an orange orchard. "What MACC-SL

teams are doing is very humanitarian, and it minimizes the number of accidents in the village," Youssef says. "My orange field is saved, thanks to them. Cluster bombs were everywhere and especially hanging on the trees." Youssef says he and his wife, father, mother, and two brothers all earn their living from the orange crop. MACC-SL teams removed and destroyed more than 30 bomblets from the Youssef's orchard.

A Look at Mine Action in South Lebanon

Security Council Resolution 1337 of January 2001 led to the establishment of the Mine Action Coordination Centre of South Lebanon (MACC-SL) in January 2002. The MACC-SL is a joint United Nations and Lebanese Armed Forces structure mandated to coordinate mine action in southern Lebanon. The role of the MACC-SL is to provide planning, coordination, and quality assurance to ensure that landmine and unexploded ordnance clearance in southern Lebanon is done in the most effective, safe, and time-efficient manner, in accordance with International Mine Action Standards. The MACC-SL also supports and coordinates with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Following the hostilities of July and August, the MACC-SL supported the overall UN humanitarian response, addressing clearance and mine risk education needs and supporting the deployment of the expanded UNIFIL force after the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1701 in August 2006.

SUDAN

Highlights

- More than 7 million square metres of suspected dangerous areas were released through survey and clearance activities.
- Mine risk education was provided to 431,864 people.
- Over 130,000 items of abandoned and unexploded ordnance were destroyed.

Context and Challenges

After more than 20 years of civil war, as many as 21 of Sudan's 26 states might be affected by landmines or ERW. The true extent and impact of the landmine/ERW threat remains largely unknown, as there has been no in-depth countrywide survey of the problem. However, landmines and ERW continue to maim and kill people, obstruct the delivery of humanitarian aid, and hinder reconstruction, development and peace-building initiatives. As repatriation of internally displaced persons and refugees to southern Sudan

increases, the potential or perceived threat of landmines and ERW pose risks for food security, agricultural and economic activities, and freedom of movement.

Although the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement has generally been progressing, serious security problems in the south, along with annual heavy rains and the lack of infrastructure, have hampered or halted demining operations. In addition, the ongoing conflict in Darfur and the political instability in eastern Sudan have limited mine action teams' access to these regions.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS participated in regular DPKO planning meetings in 2005 and early 2006 to ensure the accreditation, training, and deployment of five military demining companies (Cambodian, Bangladeshi,

Landmine/ERW Victims in 2006	
By Sex	
Male	71
Female	8
Not Specified	13
Total	92

By Age Group	
Children	22
Adults	30
Unknown	40
Total	92

Kenyan, Egyptian and Pakistani) to the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). An UNMAS programme officer visited Sudan in November 2006 and coordinated regular logistic videoconferences throughout the year and regularly liaised with headquarters logistics, supply and engineering sections. In addition, the UNMAS policy coordination officer visited the programme to help prepare Sudan's "Article 7 report," as required by the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty.

Coordination and Training Activities

The UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) coordinated demining activities conducted by NGOs and com-

mercial companies receiving funding through the United Nations or bilateral funding. Coordination, logistical support, and technical advice were provided for an array of mine action partners by the UNMAO in Khartoum, as well as its regional and sub-offices, to facilitate smooth and safe implementation of activities throughout Sudan. The UNMAO also facilitated preparation, training and deployment of military demining units, including manual clearance teams and an explosive ordnance disposal team.

Building the capacity and operational capabilities of national mine action structures remained a priority in 2006. The National Mine Action Authority was established by Presidential Decree on 24 December 2005, and both the President and First Vice-President of the Government of National Unity attended an official launching ceremony on 7 March 2006. Under the National Mine Action Authority, the National Mine Action Centre in Khartoum and Regional Mine Action Centre for South Sudan in Juba were established. Both centres are hosted in (UNMAO) buildings to maintain the integrity of the programme and to enable the UNMAO to provide effective support. In October, the West Regional Mine Action Office was established to coordinate mine action in Darfur. UNMAO assisted with resource mobilization to establish the National Mine Action Authority's regional and sub-offices, and designed and assisted with the implementation of six national capacity development training sessions in Nairobi. The UNMAO's capacity-development support for the regional offices focused on operational and managerial capacity development, while UNDP focused on institutional capacity development and UNICEF provided mine risk education training to local authorities.



The UNMAO helped update the national mine action strategy of 2004, to reflect the current situation. The revision includes targets and goals to achieve successful transfer of responsibilities. The Sudan National Mine Action Strategic Framework and the Sudan Mine Action Policy Framework were finalized in June 2006.

Operations

The operational mine action response focused on three priorities: opening primary routes for humanitarian assistance, UNMIS operations, and the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees; emergency surveys, marking, and targeted clearance; and mine risk education targeted to internally displaced persons and refugees. In total, 7,900,145 square metres of suspected dangerous areas were cleared and 976 kilometres of road (UNMIS' deployment priorities and key return and trade routes) were verified or cleared. During these activities, 470 anti-tank landmines, 1,609 anti-personnel landmines, 133,943 items of unexploded ordnance, and 163,999 items of small-arm ammunition were destroyed. The UNMAO was also involved in monitoring the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and in May, in cooperation with Kenyan military contingents, it assisted the Sudanese Armed Forces with the destruction of ammunition stockpiles in Wau. Further stockpiles were destroyed in Malakal, Yei, and Juba.

On 4 April 2006, after decades of route closure, the UNMAO declared that it was safe to drive from Khartoum to Kampala without the threat of landmines or ERW, connecting northern and southern



Sudan via Kadugli, Abyei, Gogrial, Wau, Rumbek, and Yei. Despite the early onset of the rainy season, improved planning enabled route verification and clearance to be completed on several other key routes in northern and central Sudan.

A rapid response survey team from the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, with support from the UNMAO, completed verification of all known dangerous areas and roads in North Darfur, turning this large area on the map "from red to green," illustrating that the area is safe. This milestone was achieved within one year of the team's deployment to Darfur in April 2005.

The UNMAO prioritized marking and clearing "defensive mine belts," laid in rings around garrison towns. These rings pose a serious threat to returnees, who typically live on the fringes of towns (because of overcrowding in the centre of these towns) near or on contaminated land. Mine belts surrounding Malakal were a particularly serious problem. Although armed clashes in November resulted in additional ERW in the town, Malakal was cleared of all reported ERW by the end of 2006. Additionally, in Kurmuk in Blue Nile State, the UNMAO supported UNHCR and the World Food Programme by conducting battle area clearance and explosive ordnance disposal for a proposed way-station for refugees returning from Ethiopia.

Mine risk education reached 431,864 beneficiaries at way-stations and camps for internally displaced persons in 2006. These activities were coordinated by the UNMAO's mine risk education section, which is led by UNICEF in cooperation with the UNMIS Returns, Reintegration and Recovery Section, UNHCR, OCHA, the International Organization for Migration and other agencies involved in return programmes. In Malakal, where several mine accidents occurred as internally displaced persons and refugees returned without knowledge of the threat of landmines or ERW, clearance activities were complemented by a dedicated mine risk education team that visited surrounding communities.

To meet the needs of internally displaced persons and returnees throughout Sudan, two mine risk education teams previously working in camps in Khartoum were deployed to Kassala, and an addi-

tional two teams were deployed to Kosti and Al Dairen in South Darfur. In October, work began on production of a mine risk education film in collaboration with the National Mine Action Centre and Omdurman Radio/TV. The film depicts a family returning to a mine-affected area after many years and will be shown on local television and ways stations for returning internally displaced persons and refugees as part of a public information campaign. In addition, Association for Aid and Relief started a mine risk education materials-development project, supported by the Government of Japan.

Impact

The opening of key routes has improved freedom of movement for displaced persons, humanitarian workers, and peacekeepers, as well as enabling local traders and farmers to begin resuming their business. In particular, the opening of roads has been critical to providing greater aid distribution to the population at significantly lower costs than air transport.

The safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees over cleared roads reinforces the dividends of peace in Sudan. The battle area clearance and explosive ordnance disposal that the UNMAO coordinated with UNHCR and the World Food Programme's way-stations facilitated the safe passage of 2,500 refugees who had arrived by the end of May. In Malakal, the clearance activities to establish access lanes through minefields have helped ease the overcrowding of new returnees by enabling them to build their houses in former minefields, which are now safe.

First Sudanese Mine-Detection Dog Handler Accredited

Mohammed Hamid, a 29-year-old Sudanese graduate student from Khartoum, joined MECHEM, a South African commercial demining company, which is one of the UN Mine Action Office's implementing partners, in July 2005 as a mechanic's assistant in Kadugli. Mohammed, with his positive personality and eagerness to help, soon found himself also acting as an interpreter. He showed an interest in MECHEM's mine-detection dogs and asked if it would be possible to work with them.

In October 2005, Mohammed was offered the position of kennel hand and dog handlers' assistant. He was taught how to care for the dogs, the importance of general kennel maintenance, and about the dogs' health and well-being. Mohammed performed so well at these tasks that he was soon told by MECHEM management that he was a candidate for a job as dog handler. Handlers require specialized skills and experience, as well as detailed and advance accreditation by the UN Mine Action Office. The job entails dealing with explosive hazards and responsibility for the lives of people who use the ground surveyed by the dogs.

In January 2006, Mohammed attended a basic dog handler's course in his spare time. He made excellent progress and successfully completed training in September. On 16 November, Mohammed was evaluated by the UN Mine Action Office and received his Mine Detection Dog Accreditation. The following day, Mohammed was deployed to assist road clearance activities in South Kordofan.

Mohammed became the first-ever accredited mine-detection dog handler from Sudan and is contributing to the building of local operational capacity so that Sudan will eventually be able to manage mine action operations independently.

A Look at Mine Action in Sudan

The Emergency Mine Action Programme in Sudan was founded jointly by the Government of Sudan, the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement, and the United Nations in 2002. Under the Programme, UNMAS opened an office in Khartoum, set up coordination offices in Kadugli and Rumbek, and started implementing assessments and clearance operations in the Nuba Mountains.

Following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on 9 January 2005, the Security Council, through Resolution 1590, established the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) peace-keeping operation to support implementation of the agreement. In order to fulfil the UNMIS mandate on mine action, which included humanitarian demining, the UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) was established in Khartoum in 2005 to provide coordination and oversight for the management of all UN mine action activities in Sudan. With the assistance of UNMAO, the National Mine Action Authority and South Sudan Demining Authority were established, as required by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and the National Mine Action Centre (serving the north) and the South Sudan Mine Action Directorate (serving the south) are now operational.

WESTERN SAHARA

Highlights

- Mine Action Cell established as focal point for mine action within MINURSO.
- Survey and explosive ordnance disposal teams of Landmine Action UK deployed to Polisario-controlled areas.

Context and Challenges

Over 20 years of conflict have left Western Sahara affected by landmines and ERW, and it is estimated that 10,000 Saharawi nomads live in mine-affected areas on both sides of the earthen *berm* that was built by Morocco between 1982 and 1987 to secure the western part of Western Sahara. While no comprehensive impact survey has yet been conducted in the region, the Polisario has provided information to the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) with respect to their landmine

use, and the Government of Morocco has acknowledged use of landmines in the region, particularly along the *berm*. Information so far indicates that the areas around the *berm* are the most seriously affected, however in some cases, landmines have also been laid in rings around settlements and are reported in and around water holes and well-used roads and paths. Landmines remain a serious risk to nomads

in the region who rely on these paths and water sources, as well as hindering the repatriation of the estimated 165,000 Saharawi refugees who are currently living in camps in Algeria.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS visited MINURSO in February 2006 to finalize requirements for deployment of a landmine and ERW clearance operation in Polisario-controlled areas and was present at the first destruction by Polisario of 3,000 stockpiled anti-personnel landmines after Polisario's signature of the Geneva Call Deed of Commitment at the end of 2005. Following the establishment of the MINURSO Mine Action Cell, UNMAS played a critical role in the deployment of Landmine Action UK to Western Sahara by identifying funding and facilitating coordination with and support from MINURSO. UNMAS contributed to resource mobilization efforts that will enable the Landmine Action UK programme to continue in 2007 and helped MINURSO integrate financial provisions for mine action into its budget for 2007-2008.

Coordination and Training Activities

The newly-established Mine Action Cell serves as the focal point for mine action within MINURSO, coordinates the activities of Landmine Action UK, monitors the demining activities and explosive ordnance disposal of the Royal Moroccan Army, and is working to revive MINURSO's information collection and analysis through the Information Management



System for Mine Action. To help facilitate these activities, the head of the MINURSO Mine Action Cell attended the International Mine Action Technical Advisors and Managers Course, manage by Cranfield University, in Nairobi in August 2006.

Operations

After obtaining agreement from Polisario, Landmine Action UK established two small, highly mobile survey/explosive ordnance disposal teams in Polisario-controlled areas. Survey operations began in mid-October, and by mid-December the teams had identified 41 dangerous areas, completed 51 spot tasks, destroyed 49 items of unexploded ordnance, and completed four road-threat assessments in the Tifariti and Bir Lahou areas. No mine risk education was conducted, but Landmine Action UK is developing plans for a mine risk education project to begin in 2007 for Saharawi refugees and nomads visiting Polisario-controlled areas.

Impact

With a modification in the MINURSO concept of operations, the identification and clearance of hazards along MINURSO patrol routes will ensure the safety of peacekeepers and the nomadic people who roam the territory. The project has raised the profile of mine action, which had until recently remained a little-known problem outside Western Sahara. MINURSO's efforts have also increased dialogue with the Royal Moroccan Army and the prospects for further initiatives that will assist humanitarian relief and peace building look promising.

A Look at Mine Action in Western Sahara

The UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) was established in 1991 through Security Council Resolution 690. In early 1999, the Government of Morocco and the armed non-state actor Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Polisario) agreed to cooperate with MINURSO on mine action. MINURSO has since been working closely with the Royal Moroccan Army and Polisario on landmine and ERW destruction on their respective sides of the *berm* that separates the Moroccan and Polisario-controlled areas of Western Sahara. Following an UNMAS mission conducted in 2005 that identified a need for verification/survey, explosive ordnance disposal and clearance activities, MINURSO established a Mine Action Cell within its headquarters. In August, with funding from UNMAS and logistical support from MINURSO, the NGO Landmine Action UK began working in Polisario-controlled area, helping to create a comprehensive picture of the landmine and ERW problem and conducting landmine and ERW clearance to help ensure the safety of MINURSO's observer patrols, protect the local Saharawi nomad population, and prepare for the safe repatriation of Saharawi refugees.

GENDER EQUALITY IN UNMAS-MANAGED PROGRAMMES

In July 2006 strategies to achieve gender equality were discussed with the leadership of all UN-managed and UN-supported mine action programmes as part of the ninth annual meeting of mine action national directors and UN advisers. With support from the Governments of Canada and Denmark, the first workshop on implementing gender equality in mine action programmes was held in Dubai in September 2006 for the Middle East and Afghanistan. Mine action implementers, gender experts, and donors shared and analysed efforts to mainstream gender and drafted concrete action plans to pursue gender equality. Six mine action programmes, including those managed by UNMAS in Sudan and Afghanistan, participated in the workshop.

UNMAS has established gender focal points in each of its field programmes. The focal points hold operational or supervisory positions and are expected to help achieve gender-mainstreaming and gender-balance objectives. UNMAS has also begun connecting DPKO gender advisers to UNMAS programme staff and inviting the gender advisers to visit UNMAS

operations and suggest initiatives. In Afghanistan, women accounted for about 3 percent of national staff in 2006, compared to about 4 percent in 2005. This decrease is largely the result of the direct contracting of a number of national staff within the Afghan mine action programme. Two additional Afghan women joined the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan in 2006, bringing the number of national women employed from six to 10.

In Sudan, the number of international female staff increased from three at the end of 2005 to nine at the end of 2006. Although security concerns and the remoteness of some demining sites hindered recruitment of Sudanese women, the UN Mine Action Office added two female national staff to its administrative and substantive sections. In Lebanon the number of international female staff increased from zero to two in 2006, and the number of national female staff rose from six to 10. In UNMAS field programmes overall, women accounted for 13 percent of international staff in 2005 and 20 percent in 2006. The increase is a reflection of UNMAS and UNOPS on-going efforts to recruit more women.

Gender Balance in UNMAS—Managed Field Programmes as of 31 December 2006

Country	NATIONAL		INTERNATIONAL	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Afghanistan	10	308	6	13
Burundi	4	7	0	1
Democratic Republic of Congo	2	8	1	5
Ethiopia/Eritrea	16	39	2	7
Lebanon	10	17	2	12
Sudan	13	81	9	43
Total	55	460	20	81

SUPPORT TO OTHER PROGRAMMES

Funds Provided to UN Mine Action Partners

Capacity Building in Iraq

The Government of Japan provided funds to support UNDP's mine action capacity building project in Iraq through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. This project aims to provide support to coordination and management capacity of the national mine action programme. In 2006, after the urgent needs for victim surveillance and assistance were expressed by the National Mine Action Authority, an intensive workshop was organised with participation by key Iraqi officials and NGO experts. At the workshop, the National Mine Action Authority drafted the terms of reference for a pilot project on victim surveillance to be implemented in three governorates (Baghdad, Erbil and Basra). The pilot project should commence in 2007. Management training was provided for 15 middle managers from Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Centre and General Directorate for Mine Action in September 2006 in Amman, Jordan.

Support for Mine Action in Uganda

With funding from the Government of Denmark to the VTF, UNDP is supporting the establishment and deployment of two multi-purpose demining teams in Uganda to conduct mine clearance and rapid explosive ordnance disposal to facilitate early return and recovery of internally displaced persons who have been living in camps in the north for over a decade. These teams will be tasked and monitored by the Uganda Mine Action Programme, supported by

UNDP. In 2006, procurement of demining equipment and vehicles, and training of 22 police officers at the International Mine Action Training Centre in Nairobi were completed. The teams are preparing to deploy to Gulu, in northern Uganda, which is among the districts most affected by ERW.

Support to Other Implementing Partners

Victim Assistance in Cambodia

UNMAS provided funds from Japan's contribution to the VTF to the NGO Association for Aid and Relief to support socio-economic reintegration of survivors of landmines and explosive remnants of war and other persons with disabilities in Cambodia. Funds were used to support the Kien Khleang Vocational Training Centre for the Disabled in Phnom Penh, which offered courses in motorbike repair, electronic device



repair and tailoring for students from nine provinces. At the end of November, 31 students graduated from the school, and 28 of them have already been employed.

Staff Development Training (GICHD)

UNMAS provided funds from Japan's contribution to the VTF to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining for a project that aims to build the mine action skills of national mine action authority staff.



Republic of Serbia (Kosovo)

UNMAS issued a grant to Mines Awareness Trust to support their technical survey capacity in Republic of Serbia (Kosovo) from January through October 2006. A seven-man technical survey-explosive ordnance disposal team and a management and

community liaison element operated in support of the Kosovo Protection Corps, under direct operational control of the Office of the Kosovo Protection Corps Coordinator of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Management Section. The survey team located and destroyed 337 items (131 anti-tank mines, 153 cluster munitions and 53 items of unexploded ordnance, and over 117,000 square metres of land were subsurface cleared with over 7,500 square metres cleared manually).

UNMAS supported an assessment mission to Kosovo by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining at the request of the Office of the Kosovo Protection Corps Coordinator. The mission assessed the extent to which the remaining landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination had been underestimated and thus provided an inadequate basis for future planning. The assessment team found some problems with information management in the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Management section of Office of the Kosovo Protection Corps Coordinator, but concluded that these problems were modest and had not led to a substantial underestimate of the remaining contamination problem. Accordingly, the assessment team concluded that the Office of the Kosovo Protection Corps Coordinator and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams of the Kosovo Protection Corps had the capacity to address the remaining contamination. The report provided recommendations covering improvements in information management procedures; re-surveys of sites for which documentation was incomplete; and strengthening of the mechanisms through which members of the public can report mines, unexploded ordnance, and areas suspected of contamination.

UNMAS Financial Performance



FINANCIAL MONITORING AND CONTROL

UNMAS is committed to ensuring accurate and transparent management of funds contributed to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF), as well funds allocated for mine action programmes through the UN peacekeeping "Support Account" and under the mine action component of the UN peacekeeping missions' assessed budgets.

The VTF, which was established by the Secretary-General in 1994, finances operational and policy-related coordination activities; operational activities in UN-managed mine action programmes; quality-assurance oversight; assessment missions; policy, outreach, and advocacy initiatives; rapid response interventions; and the development of International Mine Action Standards. Funds in the VTF are also occasionally disbursed to UN partners to support activities in UN-supported mine action programmes.

The budget year for the VTF is 1 January through 31 December, while the budget year for the peacekeeping support account and peacekeeping assessed budgets runs from 1 July through 30 June. This annual report reflects information on funds administered under the peacekeeping support account and the mine action component of assessed budgets for four peacekeeping missions: the UN Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for half of the fiscal year starting 1 July 2005 through 30 June 2006, and half of the fiscal year starting 1 July 2006 through 30 June 2007.

To improve long-term resource management, monitoring and control, UNMAS assessed existing work processes and systems to develop specifications for a new tool that will automate budget formulation, financial monitoring of project implementation and generation of web-based reports for activities funded from extra-budgetary and peacekeeping resources. This new tool would also consolidate information on donor priorities and contributions and donor reporting obligations to enhance UNMAS' accountability and inform resource-mobilization strategies. Having considered the costs and benefits of various systems, the timeframe for customization, set up and implementation of the tool, and compatibility issues, UNMAS ultimately decided to acquire and customize the existing Profi system developed by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.



INCOME

Highlights

- Record \$51,029,053 million in contributions from a record 27 donors in 2006.
- Funds to clear cluster munitions from south Lebanon fully and quickly mobilized.

Fundraising and Donor Outreach

UNMAS focused in 2006 on engaging new donors and re-engaging previous donors to support mine action and to obtain funding for under-funded mine action activities, such as victim assistance and gender equality. Efforts included regular briefings for donor-country representatives at Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and advocacy missions undertaken by UNMAS' director and senior staff to meet with implementing partners, civil society organizations, and the media in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the European Commission's headquarters in Brussels.

UNMAS continued to support resource mobilization in the field by sharing information about donors and funding trends, producing an appeal (*UNMAS in 2007: Activities and Requirements*), providing guidance and support for local launches of the annual Portfolio of Mine Action Projects. Profiles were completed for 18 major donors and shared with field programmes in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, southern Lebanon, and Sudan to support local fund-raising efforts with international donor representatives. UNMAS headquarters staff briefed new programme staff for Afghanistan, the Democratic

Republic of the Congo and southern Lebanon who would carry out resource mobilization and donor outreach in the field.

Good Humanitarian Donorship

UNMAS encourages all donors to adhere to the principles of "good humanitarian donorship" and seeks to negotiate clear and concise contribution agreements that provide for flexible, multi-year funding and simplified reporting requirements. All of the new donors to the VTF in 2006 have accepted concise contribution agreements and have welcomed the UNMAS annual report as the sole report they require. UNMAS is very grateful to the governments of Australia, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the individual and anonymous donors, who accept this annual report to satisfy both substantive and financial reporting requirements. The governments of Austria, the Netherlands and Germany accept the annual report for substantive reporting purposes. The 2005 annual report, which was disseminated in April 2006, emphasized the wider socio-economic impact of mine action activities and sought to raise the visibility of donors.

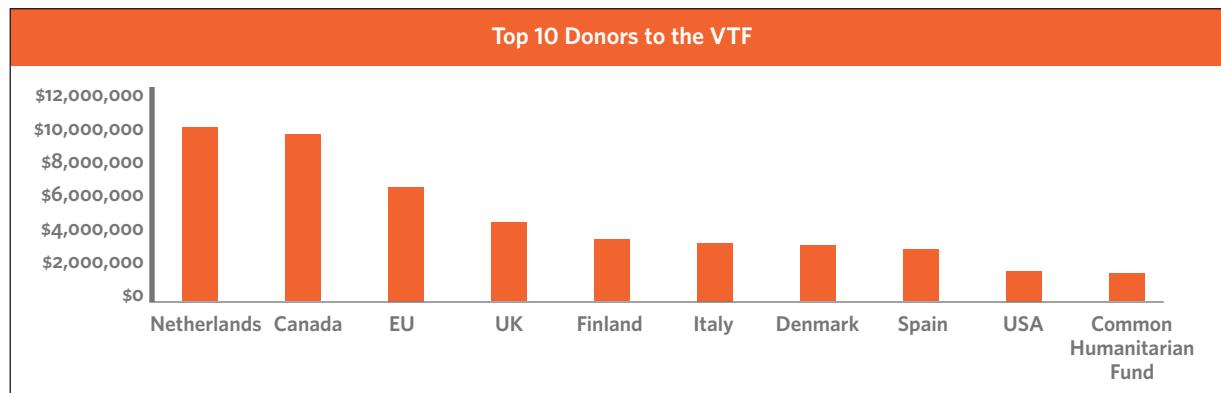
The governments of Denmark, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, anonymous and several individual donors provided unearmarked funds in 2006. The governments of Canada, Finland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom provided contributions for headquarters and field coordination activities.

Level and Sources of Income

The table below summarizes contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action and indicates donor earmarking. In 2006, a record 22 governments, the European Commission, the Common Humanitarian Fund for Sudan, students from the UN International School in New York City, individuals in Japan and the United States of America

and an anonymous donor together contributed a record \$51,029,053, a 0.4 percent increase over the \$50,804,665 contributed in 2005. In addition to the top 10 donors shown in the chart on the next page, UNMAS also received contributions from Australia, Austria, Chile, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Sweden, and Switzerland. Chile and Lithuania were first-time contributors in 2006.

Contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action in 2006, in US\$														
Donor	Advocacy	Afghanistan	Angola	Burundi	Congo Dem. Rep.	HQ Coordination	Ethiopia and Eritrea	Gender	Lebanon	Sudan	Unearmarked	Victim Assistance	Grand Total	
<i>Australia</i>									385,800					385,800
<i>Austria</i>									526,920					526,920
<i>Canada</i>	4,264,029			104,275	434,480		42,477	1,123,192	3,760,840					9,729,293
<i>Chile</i>									50,000					50,000
<i>Common Humanitarian Fund</i>										1,843,750				1,843,750
<i>Czech Republic</i>									94,616					94,616
<i>Denmark</i>	861,921						42,923	967,199		858,458				2,730,501
<i>Estonia</i>									25,042					25,042
<i>EU</i>	6,030,330									403,632				6,433,962
<i>Finland</i>		1,151,100				529,038			1,323,500					3,003,638
<i>Germany</i>										1,000,000				1,000,000
<i>Individual/ Anonymous</i>											485,097		8,842	493,939
<i>Ireland</i>										328,799				328,799
<i>Italy</i>	213,010								2,625,600					2,838,610
<i>Japan</i>			553,665								373,505			927,170
<i>Liechtenstein</i>											40,303			40,303
<i>Lithuania</i>	15,296													15,296
<i>Luxembourg</i>										128,140				128,140
<i>Netherlands</i>	1,533,280			542,000					5,000,000	3,012,000				10,087,280
<i>New Zealand</i>											239,050			239,050
<i>Spain</i>	1,636,400								267,362	602,638				2,506,400
<i>Sweden</i>						680,035								680,035
<i>Switzerland</i>										499,975				499,975
<i>UK</i>	235,090		117,545	293,866	900,740	117,545			2,578,175	176,318				4,419,279
<i>UN International School M2-01</i>		1,255												1,255
<i>USA</i>									2,000,000					2,000,000
Grand Total	213,010	15,727,446	1,255	671,210	940,141	2,544,293	117,545	85,400	18,924,320	9,799,178	1,996,413	8,842	51,029,053	



Past donors who did not contribute in recent years but provided funds again in 2006 include Austria, Spain, and the United States. Many core donors have sustained their funding levels for three or more consecutive years, ensuring a predictable funding base for mine action: Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the European Commission. In addition, a number of individuals and states responded to UNMAS' appeal for rapid response funding to address the humanitarian crisis caused by cluster munitions in southern Lebanon.

About 37 percent of voluntary funds contributed in 2006 were earmarked by donors for Lebanon, 31 percent for Afghanistan, and 19 percent for Sudan. UNMAS core coordination functions in New York and Geneva, including efforts to advance gender equality, received just over 5 percent of the total. The following pie chart illustrates the percent of UNMAS' income

that was received from the VTF, the peacekeeping support account, and peacekeeping assessed budgets.

The table on the next page shows the expenditure of funds in 2006. The "opening balance" represents a trust fund balance and includes contributions that have remained in the VTF pending determination of the most appropriate use. Information on voluntary contributions comprises funds that have been designated to finance project activities over two or more years. Other sources of UNMAS income include interest income accrued on funds managed by UNMAS and miscellaneous income, representing residuals due to savings on or cancellation of prior period obligations as well as refunds of unspent balances by implementing partners. Interest and miscellaneous income for the VTF are reported biennially by the United Nations in the Schedule of Individual Trust Funds. The expenditures portion of the table provides a snapshot of those expenditures which are attributable to three main sources of funding.



Status of Resources and Expenditure For Mine Action Programmes	
Opening Fund Balance of the VTF as of 1 January 2006	38,202,200
Income	
<i>Voluntary Contributions</i>	51,029,053
<i>Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</i>	42,132,750
<i>Peacekeeping Support Account Funds</i>	761,750
Total Income	93,923,553
Expenditure Attributed to 2006	
<i>Voluntary Trust Fund</i>	55,496,323
<i>Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</i>	26,967,304
<i>Peacekeeping Support Account Funds</i>	582,312
Total Expenditure	83,045,939

Expenditures

This section of the annual report includes information on expenditures from the VTF and on funds disbursed to implementing partners in 2006. This year, \$4,451,076 in VTF funds covered core UNMAS activities and thematic projects. On a few occasions in 2006, VTF funds totalling \$560,219 were allocated to other

UN organizations. This practice is only done at the specific request of a donor or when it constitutes the most appropriate way to achieve programme objectives. The amount \$50,224,116 covered the cost of operations and supported coordination in the field. All figures in the tables below represent US Dollars.

1. UNMAS Core Activities in New York and Geneva

Category of Expenditure	Expenditure
Personnel	2,518,666
Official Travel of Staff	430,609
Consultants and Expert Groups	126,916
Communications	37,800
Supplies, Materials and Furniture	7,133
Contractual Services (e.g. printing and data processing services)	39,311
Operating Expenses (e.g. utilities and rental of equipment)	31,030
Conference Services	551
Hospitality-Official Functions	881
Sub-Total	3,192,897
Programme Support Cost	415,077
Total	3,607,974

2. UNMAS Thematic Projects

Project	Funding Provided in 2006 to Implementing Partners and Expenditure	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2006
Advocacy	210,689	-
Gender Equality	57,890	-
<i>Coordination of Rapid Response Plan</i>	-	6,722
<i>Implementation of Operational Rapid Response Plan</i> ¹	337,007	12,073
<i>Landmine, UXO/ERW Safety</i>	-	3,398
<i>Landmine Impact Surveys</i>	162,241	1,462
<i>Technology-Information Exchange</i>	51,620	-
Total	819,447	23,655

¹Inclusive of funds allocated to the project in Guinea-Bissau

3. UNMAS Funds Provided to United Nations Partners

Country/Territory	Funding Provided in 2006 to Implementing Partners and Expenditure	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2006
Angola	-	1,706
Iraq	552,152	-
Uganda	6,361	-
Total	558,513	1,706

4. UNMAS Support to Other Implementing Partners and Programmes

Project/Implementing Partner/ Country/Territory	Funding Provided in 2006 to Implementing Partners and Expenditure	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2006
<i>Evaluation of National Capacity-GICHD, Republic of Serbia (Kosovo)</i>	17,407	-
<i>Survey of EOD Operations-MAT, Republic of Serbia (Kosovo)</i>	159,861	-
<i>Landmine Victim Assistance-AAR, Cambodia</i>	65,619	-
<i>Staff Development Training-GICHD, Multiple Countries</i>	18,025	-
Total	260,912	-

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Expenditures from peacekeeping assessed budgets totalled \$26,967,304 in 2006. These funds covered the costs of mine action activities conducted in conjunction with peacekeeping operations mandated by the Security Council in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Lebanon, and Sudan. Expenditures totalling \$582,312 from the peacekeeping support account covered the cost of headquarters personnel who support mine-action activities in peacekeeping operations. Programme support costs are included in these totals. All figures in the following tables are expressed in United States Dollars.



AFGHANISTAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

The 2006 funding appeal for the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan totalled \$76,135,024. UNMAS helped mobilize \$15,727,446 through the VTF (compared to \$28,673,358 in 2005). Donors provided additional bilateral or multilateral funds to national and international implementing partners directly, particularly in support of reconstruction and development tasks. Key partners were the US Agency for International Development, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. Funding provided to UN agencies and implementing partners from the VTF in 2006 amounted to \$25,217,843, with expenditures reported on funding received prior to January 2006 amounting to \$4,491,391. Of this total funding, 24.4 percent (\$7,237,404) was for coordination, procurement and quality assurance and capacity development, 1.1 percent (\$330,970) for monitoring, evaluation and training, 64.6 percent (\$19,190,938) for clearance of landmines and explosive remnants of war, 3.5 percent (\$1,046,184) for mine risk education, 5.7 percent (\$1,702,296) for mine survey and 0.7 percent (\$201,442) for victim assistance. While part of the

downturn in funding received in 2006 is the result of some contributions targeted for 2006 being received prior to the calendar year, it is also indicative of the global trend in the reduction of mine action support. The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan relies entirely on voluntary contributions and on relatively few key donors to provide the bulk of the funds (led by the European Commission and Canada), many of which provide funds through bilateral and multilateral means. As such, shifts in priorities within these key donors could be crippling for the future of the Programme.

The year also saw the planning and implementation of a number of key processes which will lead to increased efficiency and effectiveness in the future. These include shifts in operational drills, as well as adjustments in modalities and management mechanisms to streamline relationships with implementing partners. There was also continued rationalization of budgets and activities to ensure increased output for funds provided. This is a process that will continue in 2007 and beyond.

Source of Income in 2006

Voluntary Contributions	15,727,446
Total	15,727,446

Expenditures and Funding

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Funding Provided in 2006 to Implementing Partners	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2006	Total
Coordination and Capacity Building	6,926,281	311,123	7,237,404
Mine and ERW Clearance	15,679,666	3,511,272	19,190,938
Mine Survey	1,340,101	362,195	1,702,296
Mine Risk Education	873,084	173,100	1,046,184
Monitoring, Evaluation and Training	197,269	133,701	330,970
Victim Assistance	201,442	-	201,442
Total	25,217,843	4,491,391	29,709,234

BURUNDI

Voluntary contributions for the mine action programme in Burundi amounted to \$671,210 in 2006 (up from \$100,000 in 2005). Voluntary funds in the amount of \$855,847 were provided to implementing partners: the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, and UNOPS to carry out mine action activities on behalf of UNMAS. The expenditures attributable to prior year funding amounted to \$8,182.

Source of Income in 2006

Voluntary Contributions	671,210
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Total	671,210
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Expenditures and Funding

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Funding Provided in 2006 to Implementing Partners	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2006	Total
<i>Coordination</i>	308,182	8,182	316,364
<i>Technical Survey and Landmine, ERW Clearance</i>	547,665	-	547,665
Total	855,847	8,182	864,029

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Voluntary contributions to the programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo totalled \$940,141 (as compared to \$733,310 in 2005), while appropriations under the mine action component of the MONUC peacekeeping budget totalled \$4,276,800 (as compared \$2,952,450 in 2005). Provisional expenditures from peacekeeping assessed funds in the total amount

of \$3,563,844 ensured effective coordination, emergency survey and clearance of landmines and ERW. Voluntary contributions supported coordination, emergency survey and landmine and ERW clearance, amounting to expenditures of \$1,359,257. Funding was provided to UNOPS, DanChurchAid and the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation.

Source of Income in 2006

Voluntary Contributions	940,141
Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
<i>Coordination</i>	1,368,576
<i>Survey and Clearance</i>	2,908,224
Sub-Total	4,276,800
Total	5,216,941

Expenditures and Funding

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Funding Provided in 2006 to Implementing Partners	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2006	Total
<i>Coordination</i>	472,733	16,042	488,775
<i>Mine and ERW Clearance</i>	536,396	-	536,396
<i>Emergency Survey and Clearance</i>	334,086	-	334,086
Sub-Total	1,343,215	16,042	1,395,257
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
<i>Coordination</i>		1,140,430	1,140,430
<i>Survey and Clearance</i>		2,423,414	2,423,414
Sub-Total		3,563,844	
Total			4,923,101

ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

Funding for the mine action programme in Ethiopia and Eritrea (in the Temporary Security Zone) totalled \$7,782,350 and was available through the mine action component of UNMEE peacekeeping resources. The voluntary contribution in the amount of US\$117,545 was earmarked by the Government of the UK for the programme. Expenditures of \$114,101 from the VTF in the table

below are attributed to contributions received before January 2006. Expenditures from UNMEE assessed funds totalled \$5,169,478 in 2006. Implementation of the revised budget for the 2006/07 peacekeeping year is contingent on future developments in the field, particularly the resumption of the demarcation process with related mine clearance operations.

Source of Income in 2006

Voluntary Contributions	117,545
Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
<i>Coordination</i>	1,867,764
<i>Survey and Clearance</i>	5,758,939
<i>Mine Risk Education</i>	155,647
Sub-Total	7,782,350
Total	7,899,895

Expenditures and Funding

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Funding Provided in 2006 to Implementing Partners	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2006	Total
<i>Coordination</i>	-	95,663	95,663
<i>National Capacity Building</i>	-	18,438	18,438
Sub-Total	-	114,101	114,101
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
<i>Coordination</i>		1,240,675	1,240,675
<i>Survey and Clearance</i>		3,825,414	3,825,414
<i>Mine Risk Education</i>		103,390	103,390
Sub-Total		5,169,478	5,169,478
Total			5,283,579

Other Contributors—Government of Switzerland

Type of Contribution	Description
Personnel	4 EOD Specialists

IRAQ

Residual expenditure from funds provided prior to 1 January 2006 for programme activities in Iraq totalled \$136,390. UNMAS no longer has any direct management of the programme in the country. The only UNMAS-sponsored activity conducted in Iraq in 2006 involved the final elements of a capacity-building effort undertaken by InterSoS to facilitate the transition of responsibility from UNMAS to UNDP in support of the National Mine Action Authority and Iraqi mine action coordination bodies.

Source of Income in 2006

Voluntary Contributions	-
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Expenditures and Funding

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Funding Provided in 2006 to Implementing Partners	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2006	Total
Operations	-	136,390	136,390
Total	-	136,390	136,390

LEBANON

Voluntary contributions for the programme in Lebanon totalled \$18,924,320. The General Assembly appropriated initial funding for the maintenance budget of the mine action component of UNIFIL, and upon adoption of Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006) by the Security Council, additional funding was obtained under the Commitment Authority bringing the total available to \$1,414,900. The revised 2006/07 budget of UNIFIL has been submitted to the General Assembly and is currently under consideration. Total funding provided to implementing partners and expenditures of \$7,393,373 from the VTF and

\$595,416 from peacekeeping resources, ensured the overall coordination and oversight of mine action activities undertaken by UNIFIL to implement a mandate established through Security Council resolutions 1655, 1697 and 1701 (2006).

A total of \$6,338,637 has been provided to UNOPS for rapid response in southern Lebanon, following the 34 days of fighting in August 2006, and contracts were awarded to the Mines Advisory Group (for battle area clearance and survey) and BACTEC International (for battle area clearance and explosive ordnance disposal).

Source of Income in 2006

Voluntary Contributions	
<i>Coordination and Operations</i>	18,924,320
Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
<i>Coordination</i>	1,414,900
Total	20,339,220

Expenditures and Funding

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Funding Provided in 2006 to Implementing Partners	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2006	Total
<i>Coordination and Quality Assurance</i>	912,020	39,922	951,942
<i>Mine Clearance</i>	-	102,794	102,794
<i>Implementation of Operational Capabilities Under Rapid Response Plan</i>	6,338,637	-	6,338,637
Sub-Total	7,250,657	142,716	7,393,373
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
<i>Coordination</i>			595,416
Total			7,988,789

Other Contributors-UNHCR

Type of Contribution	Description
Equipment	10 Trucks

SUDAN

Income totalling \$38,457,878 includes \$28,658,700 appropriated by the General Assembly under the mine action component of UNMIS and voluntary contributions of \$9,799,178 (compared to \$15,584,359 in 2005). Resources for the mine action programme were allocated to UNOPS and non-UN implementing partners. These include Mines Advisory Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal in Equatoria, South Sudan, Integrated Mine Action Intervention in Support of Resettlement of Returnees to Blue Nile State in Sudan, and Mobile Mechanical Support to Mine Action in Sudan), Danish Demining Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Mine Risk

Education and Emergency Survey in South Sudan), Survey Action Center (Landmine Impact Survey in Blue Nile State in Sudan, and Landmine Impact Survey in Upper Nile State and Red Sea State in Sudan), and Association for Aid and Relief (Mine Risk Education: Materials Development and Implementation in Sudan). Of the peacekeeping assessed resources that were available, 22 percent were used for coordination and 78 percent for operations. These costs were related to emergency, explosive ordnance disposal and technical surveys, landmine and ERW clearance, mine risk education, route clearance and impact surveys.

Source of Income in 2006

Voluntary Contributions	9,799,178
Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	6,304,914
Operations	22,353,786
Sub-Total	28,658,700
Total	38,457,878

Expenditures and Funding

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Funding Provided in 2006 to Implementing Partners	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2006	Total
<i>Technical Assistance and Coordination</i>			
<i>Emergency Survey, Technical Survey, EOD, Manual Clearance</i>	2,038,769	90,778	2,129,547
<i>Mine and UXO Clearance, EOD and Technical Surveys</i>	3,763,556	11,615	3,775,171
<i>Mine Risk Education</i>	1,806,181	48,553	1,854,734
<i>Route Clearance</i>	265,020	-	265,020
<i>Landmine Impact Survey</i>	1,194,794	31,720	1,226,514
Sub-Total	9,812,070	182,666	9,994,736
 From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
<i>Coordination</i>			3,880,485
<i>Operations</i>			13,758,081
Sub-Total			17,638,566
Total			27,633,302

Other Contributors to Sudan-SRSA

Type of Contribution	Description
Personnel	
	<i>Logistics Adviser, Khartoum</i>
	<i>Administrative and Logistics Officer, Kadugli</i>
	<i>Administrative and Logistics Officer, Juba</i>
	<i>EOD Coordinator, Kadugli</i>
	<i>MDD Coordinator, Juba</i>
	<i>MDD Coordinator, Kadugli</i>
	<i>Programme Officer, Juba</i>

WESTERN SAHARA

UNMAS provided a \$652,996 grant from unearmarked contributions to the British NGO Land Mine Action for implementation of explosive ordnance disposal and technical survey activities in POLISARIO-controlled areas of Western Sahara. The objective of the project was to ensure safe operations of MINURSO personnel,

contribute to peace and confidence building and assist the local population. The project was implemented between May and December 2006. Forty-one dangerous areas were identified, four road-threat assessments were carried out, as well as 51 explosive ordnance disposal operations.

Source of Income in 2006

Voluntary Contributions	-
	-

Expenditures and Funding

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Funding Provided in 2006 to Implementing Partners	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2006	Total
Operations	652,996	-	652,996
Total	652,996	-	652,996

FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

CCW	<i>Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons</i>
DPKO	<i>Department of Peacekeeping Operations</i>
E-MINE	<i>Electronic Mine Information Network</i>
ERW	<i>Explosive Remnants of War</i>
IACG-MA	<i>Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action</i>
IMAS	<i>International Mine Action Standards</i>
IMSMA	<i>Information Management System for Mine Action</i>
MACC	<i>Mine Action Coordination Centre</i>
MASG	<i>Mine Action Support Group</i>
NGO	<i>Nongovernmental Organization</i>
SCMA	<i>Steering Committee on Mine Action</i>
UNDP	<i>United Nations Development Programme</i>
UNMAS	<i>United Nations Mine Action Service</i>
UNOPS	<i>United Nations Office for Project Services</i>
UXO	<i>Unexploded Ordnance</i>
VTF	<i>Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action</i>

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP ON MINE ACTION

DPKO	<i>UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations</i>
UNMAS	<i>UN Mine Action Service of DPKO</i>
DDA	<i>UN Department for Disarmament Affairs</i>
UNDP	<i>UN Development Programme</i>
UNICEF	<i>UN Children's Fund</i>
UNOPS	<i>UN Office for Project Services</i>
FAO	<i>Food and Agriculture Organization</i>
OCHA	<i>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</i>
OSAGI	<i>Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women</i>
UNHCHR	<i>Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights</i>
UNHCR	<i>UN High Commissioner for Refugees</i>
WFP	<i>World Food Programme</i>
WHO	<i>World Health Organization</i>
	<i>World Bank</i>

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