

Statement by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS
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and the region"
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*As delivered by Mr. Gilles Delecourt, Senior Programme Manager,
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I am speaking for the Mine Action Service of the United Nations.

A truly people-centered response means that it must be relevant to the priority needs and concerns identified by Syrians and refugees themselves.

Half of the population in Syria, approximately 11.5 million people, 1 in 2 Syrians is living in areas contaminated by explosive ordnance.

In the past five years, Syrians have been impacted by a recorded one explosive incident every 10 minutes.

Explosive ordnance accidents result in death or serious injury, leading to long-term physical and psychological trauma for survivors and their families.

Based on available data, an average of 1.5 people are killed, and 2 people are physically injured for each known explosive accident.

According to reports, most deaths and injuries occur in residential areas (40%), in agricultural land (35%) and on roads. 85% killed and injured are men and boys.

The future of Syria will be more easily secured when this contamination is reduced.

- Food security improved through release of land for agricultural purposes;
- Health care improved through safe physical access to facilities;
- Displacements and other movements safer through safe roads and safe homes;
- Vulnerable communities less marginalized through access to basic services and assistance to people with disabilities.

Greater access, both cross-line and cross-border, is needed to provide sustained and safe delivery of humanitarian aid.

Humanitarian mine action is core to “Protection” in the Humanitarian Response Plan for Syria.

Humanitarian mine action is a necessity which must be funded sufficiently and without restrictions.

An estimated \$53 million is needed by the humanitarian mine action sector for 2020.

This amount is almost insignificant when you realize that it will accelerate the progress you commit to in order to alleviate the human suffering of Syrian populations.

All Syrians and UNMAS thank you.