

UNMAS

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Danger!  
Mines!



OUR DONORS



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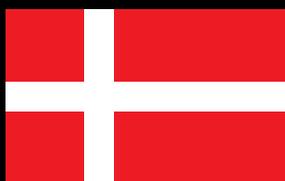
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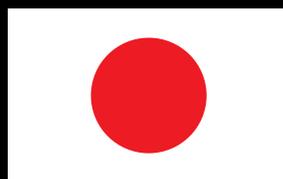
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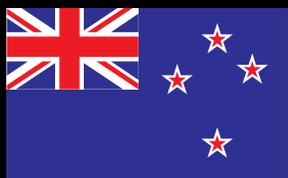
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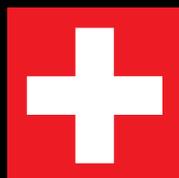
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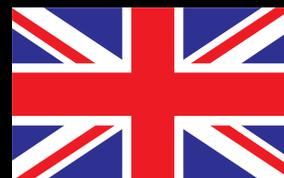
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UNITED KINGDOM

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## FOREWORD

As Chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), I am honoured to present to you the results achieved by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), a crucial component of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). The service made an invaluable contribution to humanitarian relief efforts, peace operations and development initiatives in 2009.

Mine action activities coordinated by UNMAS have positively impacted the lives and livelihoods of persons in conflict-torn societies, including Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Nepal, Gaza in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Somalia, Sudan and Western Sahara. They have contributed to the UN vision of a “world free of the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development, and where the needs of mine and ERW victims are met, and they are fully integrated into their societies.”<sup>1</sup>

As coordinator of the IACG-MA, UNMAS has contributed to enhancing global awareness on the humanitarian, development and environmental problems posed by landmines and ERW, as well as the need to address these problems appropriately, and promote the humanitarian standards contained in mine-action-related legal and political frameworks.

Our plans for serving communities are ambitious and far-reaching, and focus on meaningful, measurable change. Sustainable and sufficient donor funding is one crucial element of the mine action programme. Twenty-one donor governments, the European Commission, the International Trust Fund for

Demining and Victim Assistance (ITF), the Common Humanitarian Trust Fund for Sudan (CHF) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) contributed to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF) in 2009, compared to 19 donors in 2008. The total amount of US \$90.7 million received by the VTF, however, was lower than the US \$92.5 million received in 2008. The top three donors made 68.4 percent of all contributions: The European Commission gave US \$36.2 million, Canada provided US \$14.6 million and Japan offered US \$11.1 million.

The inspiring work accomplished by UNMAS and its plans for future activities would simply not have been possible without donor support. I encourage all mine action stakeholders to continue to assist UNMAS in 2010.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A L Roy'.

**Alain Le Roy**

UN Under-Secretary-General  
for Peacekeeping Operations



*Photo: Jacob Simkin*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Around the world, mine action programmes made significant progress in 2009. Some of the highlights are summarized here. In Afghanistan, an extremely challenging operating environment included rising criminality and insurgency, and attacks on a UN compound that necessitated temporary staff relocations. Operations were not affected, however, as the programme there has grown resilient and flexible over its 20-year history. A community-based approach employed for mine clearance, community empowerment, sustainable development and stabilization has proved a particularly effective way of operating in insecure areas. The strength of the approach lies in strong community ownership, fostered through a policy that calls for 90 percent local recruitment, enhanced safety of project staff and equipment, local income generation and preservation activities, and community commitment to successful and sustainable project outcomes. But without a significant scaling up of operations and sustainable international aid, Afghanistan will not meet its mine ban treaty and Afghan Compact obligations.

The clearance of contaminated areas in Sudan has significantly cut costs for aid delivery. According to the UNMAS internal impact assessment of the programme, the clearance of 36,000 kilometres of roads since 2005 has allowed approximately US \$150 million in savings in the cost of air transport for the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and humanitarian agencies. This is US \$10 million more than the entire mission budget of the UN Mine Action Office in Sudan (UNMAO) over that period.

In Chad, UNMAS completed the largest single clearance task in Am Dam (Ouaddai region); the city centre was cleared in just over two weeks. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mine risk educa-

tion was provided to 334,344 people through a variety of media and delivery methods. Casualties have been reduced by 24.3 percent, with 103 mine victims in 2009 compared to 136 in 2008. Sustainable funding remains the biggest challenge for the programme, however, and requires the constant attention of the donor community.

In January 2009, UNMAS activated the 2002 Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response to support overall humanitarian relief and rubble removal efforts in Gaza. UNMAS established the Standing Capacity for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response, which further strengthens the framework. This fast deployment modality upholds one of the key priorities identified in "A New Partnership Agenda—Charting the New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping," which was published by the UN Department of Field Support (DFS) and DPKO in 2009.<sup>2</sup> The programme in Gaza experienced a number of operational and administra-



tive constraints, including those related to access, the importation of equipment and freedom of operations. These were systematically addressed throughout the year, with important incremental progress.

Casualties from victim-activated devices in Nepal are on the decline, but remain among the highest in the world. Despite the reduction in casualties, landmines—and to a larger extent ERW typified by improvised devices—continue to pose humanitarian threats and are obstacles to peace, reconciliation and development.

In Somalia, UNMAS mine risk education reached over 103,981 people in affected communities. Casualty surveillance improved to allow for systematic cataloguing and analysis of injury trends and causes within south-central Somalia.

Since 1975, there have been an estimated 2,500 mine and ERW casualties in Western Sahara, although inadequate transport and communications infrastructure mean many casualties go unreported. As a result of the first systematic survey of the problem there, some 158 cluster munitions strike sites were identified, along with 37 minefields and 1 ammunition dump. Battle area clearance of 1.9 million square metres and sub-surface clearance of 887,694 square metres were completed, allowing over 2.7 million square metres of cleared land to be released. More than 1,800 ERW were destroyed during UN-supported operations.

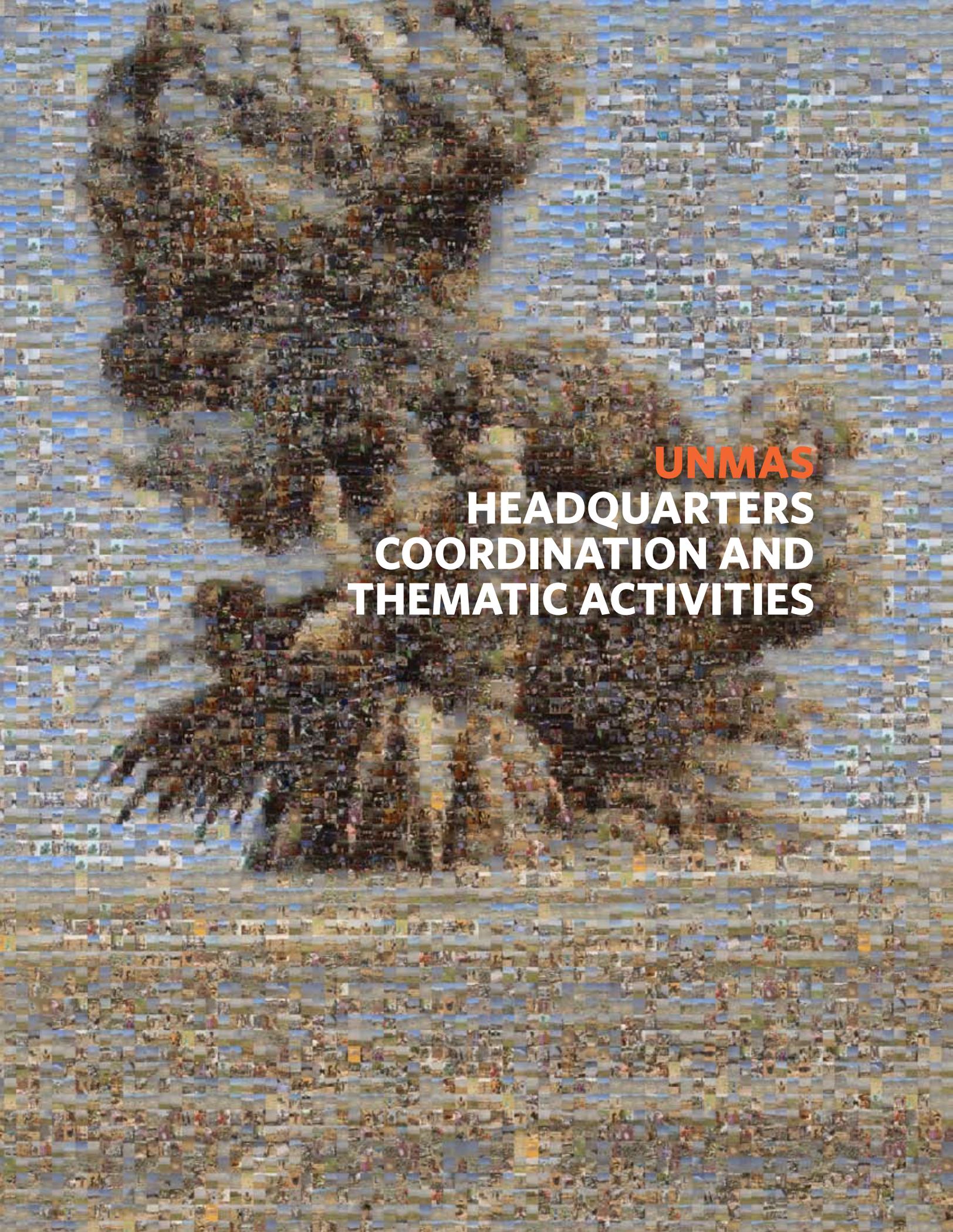
The goal of UNMAS is to broker liaisons internally and externally, including to expand contributions to mine-affected communities by leveraging the work of the UN Mine Action Team (UNMAT). UNMAS is also identifying new opportunities where it can play a leadership role and set new standards.

In 2009, UNMAS, as the UN mine action focal point in conjunction with UNMAT, commenced the review of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010, which will inform the development of the 2011-2015 strategy. Preliminary findings were included in the Secretary-General's "Report on Assistance in Mine Action" (A/64/287) and informed the UN General Assembly resolution on assistance in mine action (A/64/84). The findings highlight a decreasing trend in civilian deaths and injuries since 2006, the correlation between mine action and enhanced humanitarian and development responses, the integration of mine action in at least 25 national development and reconstruction plans, and the establishment of at least 28 national mine action authorities to ensure sustainability.

The Second Review Conference on the anti-personnel mine ban treaty, which took place in Cartagena, Colombia (the Cartagena Summit), marked an important moment for international advocacy efforts. It resulted in a renewed commitment by mine action stakeholders to "stay the course" and realize the elimination of all threats from mines.



*Photo: Christina Greene*



**UNMAS**  
**HEADQUARTERS**  
**COORDINATION AND**  
**THEMATIC ACTIVITIES**

## NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS

- *The biennial report of the UN Secretary-General on mine action assistance was submitted to the UN General Assembly.*
- *The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/64/84 on assistance in mine action by consensus.*
- *The Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA) reviewed the implementation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010.*

### Mine Action at the UN Security Council

UN mine action is conducted on the basis of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. In 2009, the UN Secretary-General provided 46 reports to the Security Council that included elements on mine action. These comprised 15 reports on specific countries or territories, namely Afghanistan, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Nepal, Somalia, Sudan and Western Sahara; 22 reports on peacekeeping operations, notably in the Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, the Golan Heights, Iraq, Lebanon and Sudan; and 9 thematic reports, including on women and peace and security, on children and armed conflict, on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and on peace-building in the immediate aftermath of conflict.

Regarding the important link between mine action and peace-building, the UN Secretary-General in his report to the General Assembly and Security Council on peace-building in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304) stated that support to basic safety and security, including

mine action, is a recurring concern, with international assistance frequently requested as a priority. He highlighted that UNMAS represented one of the cases in which a single entity within the UN acted as a “go-to source of knowledge, expertise and capacity.”

In two 2009 resolutions (S/RES/1882 and S/RES/1868), the UN Security Council expressed its concern over the threats that landmines and ERW may pose to children and civilian populations. In its resolution on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/RES/1894), the Security Council encouraged “the international community to support country efforts in clearing landmines and other explosive remnants of war and to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation and economic and social reintegration of victims, including persons with disabilities.” It welcomed the progress made in proceeding with demining activities in Cyprus (S/RES/1873 and S/RES/1898) and Afghanistan (S/RES/1868).

### Mine Action at the UN General Assembly

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on assistance in mine action on 10 December 2009 (A/RES/64/84). The resolution recognizes that “the United Nations has a significant role to play in the field of assistance in mine action through the United Nations Mine Action Team, including the United Nations Mine Action Service.” The General Assembly considers “mine action to be an important and integrated component of United Nations humanitarian and development activities.” The resolution noted “the integration of mine action in numerous United Nations peacekeeping operations.”



The resolution demonstrated international commitment and support for UN mine action assistance, acknowledging the primary responsibility of states in addressing the problem of landmines and ERW, and ensuring respect for the rights of affected individuals and communities. UNMAS provided technical advice to UN Member States during the negotiation of the resolution, notably to the delegation of Sweden, which coordinated the negotiations on behalf of the European Union.

As in previous years, UNMAS closely followed the negotiation and adoption of General Assembly resolutions referring to mine-action-related treaties or significant to mine action. These included resolutions connected to:

- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol (A/RES/64/154);
- The Convention on Cluster Munitions, which will enter into force on 1 August 2010 following the deposit of the 30th instrument of ratification on 16 February 2010 (A/RES/64/36);
- Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (A/RES/64/56);
- Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus (A/RES/64/51);
- Conventional arms control at the regional and sub-regional levels (A/RES/64/42);
- 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 (A/RES/64/67);
- The situation in Afghanistan (A/RES/64/11); and
- Realizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for persons with disabilities (A/RES/64/131).

## Other Elements of the Mine Action Agenda

### *The UN Secretary-General's "Report on Assistance in Mine Action"*

In close coordination with members of the IACG-MA, UNMAS prepared the UN Secretary-General's "Report on Assistance in Mine Action" to the 64th General Assembly (A/64/287). The report was informed by a series of field consultations with UNMAS-managed programmes, and national mine action programmes supported by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as inputs from other IACG-MA members.

In the report, the Secretary-General recommended a forward-looking agenda in which UN Member States should remain coordinated and committed to the goal of ending the suffering caused by landmines and ERW through the consistent provision of necessary resources to support mine action. Other relevant recommendations in the report included:

- The ratification of accession to the legal framework for mine action and its effective implementation;
- Continued support to developing the UN's capacity for rapid deployment in emergency and early recovery situations;
- The continued provision of sufficient national and international resources for mine action in support of development, emergency, humanitarian and peace operations;
- The acknowledgment of the potential role of UNMAS in developing further capabilities to advise and assist

peace operations in countering the threat and effects of improvised explosive devices (IEDs); and

- The expansion of resources and increased programming for all persons with disabilities, guided by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### *Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*

Over the course of 2009, under UNMAS coordination, UNMAT developed a survey to measure the progress made towards four strategic objectives outlined in the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010. An external expert facilitated analysis of the extensive data collected through the survey.

The analysis found that, since the adoption of the strategy and despite many challenges, mine-affected countries have made significant progress towards the four strategic objectives. Headway has been made in reducing death and injury, facilitating humanitarian



assistance and development activities, building national ownership, and integrating mine action into national development and reconstruction plans. Mine action efforts remain relevant, and require continued and sustained focus, assistance and funding. The most effective and responsive programmes are those designed around immediate and longer term needs, such as national ownership and sustainable development. Further analysis will be undertaken over the coming months to evaluate the degree of progress made on the strategy.

The survey was sent to 49 mine action programmes that receive or have received support from the UN system; 30 countries and territories fully completed the survey, and an additional six provided partial information. The following are highlights from the analysis under each strategic objective.

**Strategic Objective 1: Reduction of death and injury by at least 50 percent.**

- Preliminary findings do not indicate a single global trend on landmine and ERW casualties.
- Overall, the numbers of casualties were reported to be decreasing in 22 out of 30 mine-affected countries and territories that provided complete data. Mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance operations and full coverage of mine risk education in mine-affected communities have been cited as reasons for this trend.
- Eight out of 30 countries and regions reported an increase in casualties since 2006. In almost all cases, the increases have been due to specific circumstances such as resurgence of conflict (Iraq), suspension of mine action operations (Eritrea),

improved systems for victim data collection and reporting (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Jordan and Western Sahara), floods or natural disasters shifting the position of landmines (Western Sahara), increased access or return of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees to inaccessible or affected areas (Chechen Republic in the Russian Federation, Senegal and Somaliland), tampering with and collection of scrap metals (Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Zambia), and illegal migration (Cyprus).

- Pursuit of economic opportunities to alleviate poverty is reported to contribute to casualty and injury rates, even when preventive actions are taking place. Incidents occur, for example, when people trespass on properly marked or fenced areas to collect scrap metals and firewood or to herd animals, or tamper with UXO to resell its parts.
- The preliminary analysis of the data reinforces the continued need for and relevance of gender- and age-sensitive assessments, programmes and monitoring to best tailor interventions to the different needs and realities of men, women, boys and girls.

**Strategic Objective 2: Mitigate the risk to community livelihoods and expand freedom of movement for at least 80 percent of the most seriously affected communities.**

- Ninety-one per cent of respondents agreed that mine action has facilitated humanitarian and development activities, which has translated into greater freedom of movement and socioeconomic development.
- Mine action has particularly facilitated the opening of border crossing points; the reconstruction of roads, airports, hospitals and schools; the overall



improvement of infrastructure; the release of land for productive use; the resettlement of IDPs; assistance to and the rehabilitation of landmine and ERW survivors; and increased mine awareness, among many other outcomes.

- Preliminary analysis on the impacts of mine risk education on civilian deaths and injuries show a significant correlation between increased education and the reduction of deaths and injuries, especially among boys and girls.
- Measuring the degree to which Strategic Objective 2 has been achieved requires further inputs from country offices.

*Strategic Objective 3: Integration of mine action needs into national development and reconstruction plans and budgets in at least 15 countries.*

- Mine action has been integrated into national development and reconstruction plans in at least 25 countries.
- Twenty-eight countries reported having set up a national mine action authority. All have established a national mine action strategy; 20 have also created a national policy on mine action.
- Of those countries with a national mine action programme, all except for two indicated that they receive financial or in-kind support from their governments. Thirty countries and territories receive bilateral or international financial and/or in-kind support.
- Gender has reportedly been mainstreamed into national mine action plans in 21 countries. Further assessment should be carried out by examining relevant mine action plans, strategies and policies to evaluate the degree to which gender has indeed

been mainstreamed, as well as the quality and relevance of mainstreaming approaches. This was beyond the scope of the survey.

**Strategic Objective 4:** *Assist the development of national institutions to manage the landmine and ERW threat, and at the same time prepare for residual response capacity in at least 15 countries.*

- Among the 25 countries and programmes that have provided information on the residual response capacity of national mine action authorities, 14 have indicated that they have residual response capacity in all mine action areas, including: accreditation, coordination, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), mine clearance, mine risk education, procurement, public information media, quality assurance, resource mobilization and survivor assistance.
- Nine programmes have between six and nine types of the residual response capacities included in the survey; two have between one and five of these capacities.
- The survey does not assess the effectiveness and qualitative aspects of the reported response capacity in relation to the problem faced by each affected country or territory.
- Nineteen countries and territories have reported some capacity to secure resources. For those that have not, preliminary findings indicate that governments often have competing priorities or a lack of resources for carrying out mine action activities.
- Among the survey respondents, 22 countries are state parties to the anti-personnel mine ban treaty.

They cite various capacities to meet treaty obligations either with or without UN support and assistance. Nineteen have received support for mine clearance and related activities (Article 5), 20 for mine risk education (Article 5), 12 for victim assistance (Article 6), 11 for stockpile destruction (Article 4), 12 for the preparation of national annual reports (Article 7), and 9 for the preparation of national legislation (Article 9). An examination of what additional support countries will need to build their capacities and fulfill treaty obligations will be part of an ongoing review.

The survey analysis and review are aimed at enhancing the delivery of effective results, based on clear benchmarks and monitoring and evaluation methodologies, and informing the development of the next UN mine action strategy. This helps ensure that the support provided by UNMAT is tailored to the needs of countries and mine action programmes on the ground, and builds on lessons learned.



Photo: Johann Hattingh

## COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION MECHANISMS TO INCREASE VALUE FOR MONEY

- *Inter-agency coordination was enhanced with the active and regular use of subsidiary bodies to the IACG-MA, and a more dynamic consultative process.*
- *The Mine Action Support Group was reinvigorated.*
- *The 13th edition of the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects included submissions from 27 countries, territories and missions for 277 projects that cover all five pillars of mine action.*
- *The 12th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors involved the participation of 200 mine action stakeholders.*

### The Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action

The UN departments, programmes, funds and agencies involved in mine action in varying degrees coordinate their activities through the IACG-MA. The group is chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations at the principals' level and by the Director of UNMAS at the working level.

In 2009, the IACG-MA met once at the principals' level on 30 July 2009, and on a monthly basis at the working level. The monthly meetings provide a forum for discussing current issues and exchanging information on relevant updates, including ongoing monitoring of threat levels. They also help in preparing for upcoming meetings and activities. The group agrees on language for UNMAT speeches and interventions delivered at meetings of states parties to treaties relevant to mine action. In 2009, the group organized the 12th International Meeting for National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors, and coordinated advocacy events in connection with

the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April), the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the anti-personnel mine ban treaty (1 March) and the Second Review Conference on the treaty (30 November to 4 December). The group welcomed the Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) as a standing invitee in two of its working level meetings.

UNMAS continued to lead coordination efforts around cluster munitions, in particular to agree on a set of responsibilities for the United Nations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and also coordinated UN participation and interventions at all meetings related to cluster munitions in the context of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.



Photo: Johann Hattingh

Overall, UNMAS worked to ensure that the IACG-MA spoke with one voice on cluster munitions and promoted processes for both legal instruments.

UNMAS convened meetings of the IACG-MA's Communications Working Group and Steering Committee on Gender and Mine Action in 2009. It chaired meetings of the new Reporting Working Group, which was established in January to oversee the preparation of the UN Secretary-General's mine action report, and to establish a methodology for monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010. The Reporting Working Group met monthly and, with the assistance of the UN Department of Field Support (DFS), designed the survey that helped to monitor and analyse the implementation of the strategy in preparation for developing the subsequent strategy in 2010.

The IACG-MA established the Cartagena Task Force as an ad hoc mechanism to coordinate preparations for and participation in the Second Review Conference on the anti-personnel mine ban treaty. The task force met regularly up to the conference. IACG-MA coordination meetings were held daily during the conference.

### **The Committee on Mine Action**

It is vitally important for the United Nations to maintain touch with the views and perspectives of mine action implementing partner organizations. While these have traditionally been mostly non-governmental organizations (NGOs), growing needs and varying situations on the ground, coupled with the emergence of mine action as a mature humanitarian sector in its own right, have increasingly brought

commercial entities to the front of UN mine action endeavours. To ensure that diverse approaches are given an equal seat at the table, UNMAS chairs the Committee on Mine Action (CMA). Through it, all mine action practitioners, whether from UNMAT, NGOs or commercial partners, come together and discuss key issues.

This year, the CMA was convened at the 12th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors. It covered topics ranging from NGO interaction with the United Nations through the grants process to more commercial involvement in the emergency phase of a programme, where turnkey solutions delivering immediate results are needed to complement the longer process of capacity development.

### **The Mine Action Support Group**

On behalf of UNMAT, UNMAS continued providing logistical and technical secretariat support and coordinating UN substantive inputs to the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), the body of donors committed to providing political and financial support for eliminating landmine and ERW threats in humanitarian, peace operations and development contexts.

Under the chairmanship of the European Commission, MASG members met in Geneva in March 2009 to learn about the work and accomplishments of the Cluster Munitions Coalition, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), GICHD, the US State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement's "Quick Reaction Force" and UNMAT in "delivering as one" to ensure a cost-effective and integrated response to the global mine and ERW threat.

In addition to taking stock of emerging mine action trends, discussions centred on mine action funding in light of the global financial crisis and the uncertain future of the MASG forum.

*Photo: UNIFIL*



During the second MASG meeting in May 2009 in Geneva, members learned about the geographic expansion of the International Trust Fund for Demining and Victim Assistance (ITF) from South-Eastern Europe to Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and further intensified their discussions on the MASG's future. General consensus was reached on the utility of the forum as a platform for information exchange and donor coordination in the spirit of the Paris Declaration's principles of "donor harmonization" to avoid duplication, and "mutual accountability" between donors and partners to achieve results, along with the Accra Agenda for Action's commitment to "funding predictability." Members concluded with a decision to share their views and agree on a governance structure at the next meeting.

At the third meeting, chaired by the United States of America and held in New York, MASG members agreed to:

- Hold one expanded meeting per year with donor experts from capitals in attendance, featuring presentations on donors' plans, priorities and funding, and expert presentations on emerging mine action trends;
- Conduct ad hoc meetings for unforeseen emergencies that require donor coordination and cooperation;
- Maintain a focus on mines and ERW; and
- Have the United States of America as the MASG chair for 2010 and 2011, and consider hiring an expert to produce research studies and organize field trips at the request of MASG members, with funding from the United Kingdom.

### The Portfolio of Mine Action Projects

UNMAS organized the launch of the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2010, the 13th edition of the portfolio, in Cartagena, Colombia on 30 November 2009. The launch coincided with the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World, which marked the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the anti-personnel mine ban treaty. The UNMAS Director launched the portfolio and held a press conference. An annual publication, the portfolio draws on the coordinated inputs of UN agencies, national authorities, NGOs and donors, with guidance from the headquarters portfolio team. The team is led by UNMAS, and includes UNICEF and UNDP.

The portfolio provides an overview of how affected countries plan to address the problems posed by landmines and ERW in partnership with international organizations, NGOs and other actors at local, national and international levels. The 2010 edition includes submissions from 27 countries, territories or missions, with 277 projects covering all five pillars of mine action.

The largest funding gaps in 2010 are in Afghanistan (US \$144 million) and Sudan (US \$86 million). Africa accounts for the largest number of projects at 103. National NGOs submitted about 20 percent of all projects, either individually or as partner appealing agencies. Additional chapters or projects may be added to the online version at [www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org). Donors and stakeholders can monitor funding needs for each project.

Inputs to the 2010 portfolio were provided via web-based entry forms. The automation of the preparation process was further improved in 2009. Overall,

the 2010 edition appealed for US \$589 million, of which US \$565 million remained unfunded at the time of the launch. The 2009 edition sought US \$459 million, of which US \$437 million remained unfunded at the time of the launch.

### Integrating Mine Action into Humanitarian Appeals

Mine action portfolio country team members continued to participate in humanitarian appeal working groups to advocate for the inclusion of mine action projects in humanitarian and development plans as well as the consolidated appeals process. Among the 2009 humanitarian appeals, mine action projects were included in Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza, Somalia and Sudan. Their total appeal of US \$208.5 million was 78 percent covered.

In this spirit, the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) included an appeal for US \$104 million in the country's US \$604 million Humanitarian Action Plan, which was funded with US \$98.3 million through multilateral and bilateral support. Implementing partners coordinated by the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo requested a total of US \$3.8 million as part of the US \$946 million Humanitarian Action Plan; US \$292,000 was received. The Chad programme's appeal for US \$4.9 million was fully funded by the Government of Japan, and the Sudan programme secured US \$68.5 million of its US \$91.5 million funding request. While the Somalia programme's request of US \$3.3 million went unanswered, the United Kingdom and European Commission fully funded the mine action project of the Gaza Lash Appeal at US \$1 million.

### Synergies with Small Arms and Light Weapons Initiatives

UNMAS joined the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism, chaired by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in April, due to the synergies between the mine action and small arms and light weapons sectors.

UNMAS has contributed to the CASA Strategic Framework 2009-2013, which was adopted by the CASA principals in July 2010, as well as to draft guidelines for gender mainstreaming in the UN programme of action to eradicate all aspects of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. UNMAS has also provided its technical expertise to the development of the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS), for which the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) served as a model.

UNMAS is assisting UNODA in the development of the Technical Guidelines on the Stockpile Management of Conventional Ammunition. A UN General Assembly resolution on problems arising from the surplus accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles (A/RES/64/51) encouraged UN Member States to develop these guidelines to assist countries, on a voluntary basis, to improve their national stockpile management capacity, prevent the growth of surpluses and address wider risk mitigation. UNMAS is a member of the Technical Review Board, which met first in Geneva during 28-29 September 2009. UNMAS would have a central role in helping to operationalize these guidelines.

Photo: Christina Greene



## OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

- *In conjunction with UNMAT members—UNDP, UNICEF and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)—a needs assessment was launched in Gaza in January, and the rubble removal process was facilitated.*
- *Rapid response capacity was strengthened through an expanded planning exercise.*
- *Inter-agency assessments of mine action activities in Colombia, Egypt, Iraq and south-central Somalia took place.*
- *The evaluation of the Nepal mine action programme was completed.*
- *Liaisons with the UN Department of Safety and Security (DSS) ensured that mine and ERW safety training and general safety training were complementary.*
- *The ratio of female-to-male staff improved in international and national programmes, and the percentage of female staff members increased from 10.6 percent in 2008 to 13.5 percent in 2009.*

### Integrating Mine Action into Humanitarian and Development Programming

The human toll is the most vivid evidence of the impacts of mines and ERW. In the immediate aftermath of conflict, the requirement for mine action services is acute and requires broad coordination. UNMAS continued its work within the UN Protection Cluster Working Group as the lead for mine action. The annual Rapid Response Exercise was included in the cluster's work plan, and a number of member agencies sent staff to the exercise to enhance future coordination through the development of skills and familiarity with

how mine action protects at-risk populations. The portion of this report dedicated to the rapid response in Gaza highlights the practical work of UNMAS and its partners in mitigating the dangers of mines and ERW.

In terms of development, mine action clears the path for road construction, agricultural activity and housing construction, among other activities. The integration of UN mine action into national development plans as emphasized in Strategic Objective 3 results in effective planning, and the identification of resources and capacities for implementation.

### The Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response

The United Nations adopted the Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response in 2002, as part of the 2001 Mine Action Strategy, in order to provide a common basis for planning, threat monitoring and allocation of responsibilities, helping to ensure a predictable and efficient UN response at short notice.

Along with members of the IACG-MA, UNMAS monitors emerging and evolving mine and ERW threats globally, identifies and plans appropriate responses with members of UNMAT and relevant UN country teams, and facilitates the rapid deployment of assessment missions. Threat monitoring is conducted by the Programme Planning and Management Section. A consolidated review of emerging or evolving threats is delivered to the IACG-MA on a monthly basis.

Although not designed to address mine action requirements beyond the emergency phase, the framework guides the emergency deployment of appropriate resources and creates an environment conducive

to longer term planning. It helps in identifying and analysing potential emergency mine action situations, developing planning options and facilitating the rapid deployment of appropriate mine action resources. The framework is geared towards addressing the immediate mine action priorities of humanitarian agencies and/or peacekeeping missions, in addition to the needs of local communities and at-risk populations.

Rapid responses to an emergency and effective planning are key to reducing death and injury after a conflict, in line with Strategic Objective 1 of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006–2010. A successful response also increases freedom of movement, as called for under Strategic Objective 2.

### Building Rapid Response Capacities

In 2009, for the sixth consecutive year, UNMAS conducted a mine action rapid response exercise in coordination with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB).

The exercise took place under the Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response, whereby UNMAS deploys a mine action coordination team with MSB support to establish a mine action coordination centre.

The aim of the exercise is to provide opportunities for the United Nations to train selected staff in key positions and for MSB to train their staff on supporting mine action rapid response operations. It also helps validate and improve the Rapid Response Plan Operational Manual, including standing operating procedures. In 2009, the exercise consolidated improvements made in recent years. It broadened par-

ticipation by UN agencies and NGOs to reflect the complex inter-agency environment typical during an activation of the framework.

UNTV documented the exercise to expand knowledge among donors and partner organizations about how a rapid response to an emergency can unfold and what is done to train staff.<sup>3</sup>

### Standing Mine Action Capacity

The international community has been faced with numerous humanitarian emergency situations where landmines and/or ERW have posed humanitarian threats and obstructed relief efforts and/or peacekeeping deployments. As a result, a 2009 non-paper of the UN Department of Field Support (DFS) and DPKO, "A New Partnership Agenda—Charting the New Horizon for United Nations Peacekeeping," has identified fast deployment modalities in peacekeeping operations as a key priority.<sup>4</sup>

In his report on peace-building in the immediate aftermath of conflict, the UN Secretary-General stated that: "the immediate post-conflict period offers a window of opportunity to provide basic security, deliver peace dividends, shore up and build confidence in the political process, and strengthen core national capacity to lead peace-building efforts thereby beginning to lay the foundations for sustainable development... In too many cases, we have missed this early window."<sup>5</sup>

It is against this background, and due to the support of the Government of the United Kingdom, that UNMAS has begun establishing its Standing Mine Action Capacity (S-MAC). S-MAC has four main areas of responsibility: the Framework for Mine

Action Planning and Rapid Response, the reinforcement of existing programmes, the implementation of formal assessments and programme evaluations, and assistance with boards of inquiry.

As a standing rather than a stand-by capacity, S-MAC will not depend upon the availability of core staff from existing programmes, allowing it to deploy trained personnel with proven capacities quickly and uniformly. It will lead the operational deployment upon activation of the rapid response framework, and ensure that the most efficient and supportive programme is quickly established to build confidence and support for wider humanitarian and peace-building objectives.

In addition to providing an immediate response to emergency situations, S-MAC will reinforce UNMAS programmes during surge periods or in the absence of key staff. This will not only ensure consistency in programme delivery, but will allow for the dissemination of lessons learned and best practices as S-MAC staff move in and out of existing programmes. The intended aim is to ensure a high level of consistency, flexibility and cost-efficiency for all UNMAS programmes.

The evaluation capacity within S-MAC will provide the UNMAS Programme Planning and Management Section with the ability to conduct internal evaluations using staff not directly associated with the programme under review, thus providing a more objective assessment of strengths and weaknesses. This independence will also support boards of inquiry probing accidents and incidents involving mine action staff in UNMAS-managed programmes.

### **Rapid Response and the Gaza Intervention**

Between 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009, Israeli forces conducted a military operation in the Gaza Strip. It included bombardment from land, sea and air, and incursions into Gaza by Israeli troops. Before and during the operation, Palestinian militant groups fired rockets from Gaza into Israel and engaged Israeli troops on the ground. The bombardments resulted in casualties; the destruction of homes, livelihoods and infrastructure; and the debilitation of basic services. ERW and UXO contaminated the densely populated Gaza strip.

On 19 January 2009, following the cessation of hostilities and earlier calls by the UN Security Council for a ceasefire, as contained in Resolution 1860 (2009), UNMAS received a formal request from the UN Resident Coordinator to provide assistance in mine action. UNMAS activated funds committed by the Netherlands to launch a mine action needs assessment in conjunction with UNMAT members UNDP, UNICEF and OCHA. The first staff arrived in the region on 20 January and entered Gaza on 23 January. As a result of the assessment mission, UNMAT activated the operational components of the rapid response framework to mobilize financial, human and technical resources for mine action in Gaza.<sup>6</sup> With contributions from the European Commission and United Kingdom, UNMAS was able to maintain operations throughout 2009.

### **Mine Action Planning and Inter-Agency Assessment Missions**

After consultation with the UNDP Regional Bureau for the Arab States, UNMAS and UNDP conducted an inter-agency assessment of mine action activities

in south-central Somalia. UNDP has carried out activities in the region since 2007, but in light of the deteriorating security situation and the competing priorities of UNDP's broader activities, the assessment proposed three options for increased involvement by UNMAS, including full assumption of responsibilities in south-central Somalia. Those options were reviewed by the UN Country Team, which selected full UNMAS assumption of responsibilities as the preferred course of action. This began on 6 February 2009, with a transitional period through 31 March 2009 to which UNDP contributed a portion of the funding.

In April 2009, UNMAS and UNDP evaluated UNDP support to the national mine action programme in Egypt as planned in the programme's original project document. The intent was to review progress during the initial 18-month phase of the programme, which was partially funded by UNDP and UNMAS, and provide recommendations for future phases. The mission's findings were provided to the UNDP Country Office and the Executive Secretariat for the Demining



and Development of the North West Coast, and will inform future programme activities.

At the request of the Colombian Presidential Programme for Integrated Mine Action (PAICMA), UNMAS undertook a technical mission in June to advise on possible assistance to the execution of the planned Landmine Impact Survey, and to consult on other possible areas of collaboration. During the mission, which coincided with a larger planning workshop facilitated by James Madison University, PAICMA and UNMAS identified the need to develop operational coordination mechanisms for civilian humanitarian demining operators that may be introduced in Colombia. A project document was developed; advisory support in this area, which bolsters support provided by UNDP and UNICEF, will begin in early 2010.

At the request of the UN team in Iraq, UNMAS led an inter-agency assessment mission there in May 2009. It included UNDP and UNICEF, and was in part funded by the ITF. The intent of the mission was to address issues related to the organization of mine action under Iraqi authorities and to assess any future UN support to demining along the Iran-Iraq border, a focus of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq's (UNAMI) regional mandate for peace-building. The mission produced a report containing 69 recommendations, which have since been transmitted for consideration by UNAMI and the UN Country Team.

### Programme Evaluations

In June 2009, UNMAS commissioned Cranfield University to conduct an evaluation of its mine action programme in Nepal in support of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2006. Originally

part of the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), the Mine Action Unit, managed by UNMAS, is now part of the UN Country Team. It operates in conjunction with the longstanding mine action activities of UNICEF, and is the first field operation under the banner of UNMAT. The evaluation focused on capacity building activities to assist Nepalese Army engineer units in eliminating minefields from previous conflicts. The findings of the evaluation were generally very positive. They have informed modifications in UN programmes and assisted in securing continued funding from the UN Peace Fund for Nepal. These evaluations were made possible through support from the United Kingdom.



### Landmine Safety

With the support of the Netherlands, UNMAS continued 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 mine action coordination centres and UN security personnel. At headquarters, UNMAS liaises regularly with the Department of Safety and Security to ensure that mine and ERW safety training and general safety training are complementary, and that mine and ERW safety training tools are used as part of safety and security training, especially in countries without mine action coordination centres or a UN mine action presence.

UNMAS undertook a review of the Landmine and ERW Safety Project, particularly the products for mine and ERW safety training, towards developing a strategy for future products and training. The results of the review are expected in early 2010. They will guide the development of the project into the future, including in adding languages and media products for training.

### Gender and Mine Action

In 2009, UNMAS continued to promote gender equality in mine action to improve the quality and comprehensiveness of its programmes. This entails the full implementation of the provisions of paragraph 28 of "Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy."

UNMAS continued to participate in other inter-departmental and inter-agency gender forums, including the DPKO Gender Taskforce and the OCHA Gender Capacity Inter-Agency Steering Committee meetings,

## International Headquarters and Field Programme Staff by Gender

2008		2009	
Female	26(22%)	Female	35(30%)
Male	89(78%)	Male	83(70%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>

## International Field Programme Staff by Gender 2009

2009	
Female	23(24%)
Male	74(76%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>

## National Field Programme Staff by Gender

2008		2009	
Female	46(8%)	Female	52(10%)
Male	516(92%)	Male	471(90%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>523</b>

## Total International and National Field Programme Staff by Gender

2008		2009	
Female	72(10.6%)	Female	87(13.5%)
Male	605(89.4%)	Male	554(86.5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>641</b>

where UNMAS contributed to decisions on the selection, recruitment and deployment of gender advisors to field missions.

During the 12th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors, UNMAS, in coordination with UNMAT, dedicated a plenary session to providing an overview of the Gender Learning Cycle, as well as the recommendations

put forward by the participants in the 2008 global stocktaking field consultation held at the UN Logistics Base (UNLB). Good practices and lessons learned that were presented in the plenary session included those from implementing the Gender National Action Plans in Cambodia, the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and Nepal, and the monitoring and evaluation of progress on gender equality in mine action in Cambodia.

Following the 12th Annual Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisors, a regional gender workshop for Asia was organized. Participants from mine action programmes in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand discussed ways to support all mine action programmes in preparing, updating, and evaluating and monitoring the effectiveness of their tailor-made gender action plans. They also considered how to exchange knowledge on implementing the action plans, share lessons learned and good practices, seek inputs and field-oriented recommendations from the Asia region for the review of the Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes, and ensure that national authorities increase ownership of the action plan model and revised gender guidelines.

In 2009, the IACG-MA helped UNMAS revise the Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes (2004-2005) through the sharing of good practices and lessons learned from field programmes. The main objective of the revised guidelines is to provide advice on measures that should be implemented in mine action programmes to balance the participation of both women and men as beneficiaries, practitioners and decision-makers in mine action, and to ensure that mine action projects have a proportionate impact on women, girls, boys and men. The guidelines address issues pertaining to four pillars of mine action: mine clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance and advocacy. They can be an important tool for governments in developing partnerships with civil society, international actors, the donor community and other relevant entities. In early 2010, the IACG-MA Steering Committee on Gender and Mine Action adopted the guidelines, which were then endorsed by the IACG-MA at the working level.

At the Second Review Conference of the anti-personnel mine ban treaty, UNMAS coordinated an UNMAT side event together with the Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines (SCBL) on gender sensitization.

UNMAS examined sex-disaggregated statistics for national and international staff employed in mine action centres in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Chad, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Nepal, Somalia, Sudan and Western Sahara from 2008 to 2009. With respect to the previous year, the trend in 2009 shows the narrowing of the gap between the overall percentages of women and men employed in mine action centres.

Among international staff, the number of women increased in 2009, reaching the 30 percent mark. Women continue to attain senior positions in mine action, thus suring a more gender-balanced approach in decision-making. They also provide role models for women in mine-affected countries and territories.

## ASSISTING MINE AND ERW SURVIVORS AND PREVENTING RISKS

- *Victim assistance projects in Afghanistan, Sudan and Cambodia were supported.*
- *UNMAS contributed to revising the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) for mine risk education.*

### Victim Assistance

As indicated in “Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy,” the United Nations stands ready to assist programmes that address the needs of landmine and ERW survivors, preferably as part of national programmes to support all disabled people. In 2009, UNMAS continued to back initiatives promoting the rights of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities, along with their socioeconomic reintegration, especially in the context of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Victim assistance projects took place in a number of countries, including Afghanistan, Cambodia and Sudan.

The Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) engaged with civil society groups to advocate for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In cooperation with the International Assistance Mission (IAM) and the Physiotherapy Institute (PTI), it developed a project entitled “Support for Persons with Disabilities through Training of Physical Therapists in Afghanistan.” This aimed at expanding the capacity of physiotherapists and physiotherapy teachers to extend public health services to more communities in rural Afghanistan. The project became fully operational and will train 40 physiotherapy teachers in 2010.

The UN Mine Action Office in Sudan (UNMAO) multiplied its efforts to consult with national partners and practitioners on the issue of victim assistance as part of a project entitled “Victim Assistance and Humanitarian Mine Clearance in Sudan.” The project, supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), is geared towards providing a forum



for sharing good practices and lessons learned in assisting victims and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. UNMAO approved and launched 15 projects on vocational training, data collection, psychological recovery, socioeconomic reintegration and the production of mobility aids for landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities in northern and southern Sudan. The total cost of the projects is approximately US \$1 million. In April 2009, Sudan ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, due in part to the continuous advocacy efforts conducted by national and international mine action organizations.

In Cambodia, UNMAS supported two victim assistance projects with a contribution from the Government of Japan. These assisted with the production of wheelchairs and implementation of vocational training to facilitate socioeconomic reintegration of landmine and UXO survivors.

### Mine Risk Education

UNMAS undertakes mine risk education activities and supports related programmes in partnership with UNICEF and other humanitarian agencies. Programmes are planned and implemented to reduce risks to civilians, particularly refugees and IDPs in mine-affected countries and territories.

Globally, UNMAS is a member of the Mine Risk Education Advisory Board, established in 2009 and chaired by UNICEF; as such it has made contributions to the development of the revised IMAS for mine risk education. The final draft was approved by the IMAS Review Board in March 2010. UNMAS contributed comments to a non-paper, "Lessons Learned and the

Way Forward for Mine Risk Education," prepared by the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies, in the context of the anti-personnel mine ban treaty.



Photo: Jacob Simkin

## ENSURING CONSENSUS THROUGH RELEVANT TREATIES

- *The Cartagena Action Plan was adopted to provide guidance for the implementation of the anti-personnel mine ban treaty until the Third Review Conference in 2014.*
- *The Convention on Cluster Munitions reached the level of 30 ratifications.*
- *A survey of mine action centres on issues relating to disabilities was conducted and presented at the fourth meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG).*

### The Anti-personnel Mine Ban Treaty

In 2009, the treaty celebrated the 10th anniversary of its entry into force, and the Second Review Conference of states parties took place in Cartagena, Colombia from 30 November to 4 December. The conference was named “The Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World.”

UNMAS participated in and coordinated UN participation in the meetings of the standing committees of the treaty, also known as the intersessionals, in Geneva in May, as well as the first and second preparatory meetings for the conference and a number of regional workshops. The workshops took place in Managua (24-26 February), Bangkok (1-3 April), Dushanbe (7-8 July) and Tirana (7-9 October).

The conference highlighted the impressive progress that has been made towards a mine free world in the first decade of the treaty, and focused on the remaining challenges for states parties and other partners to achieve full compliance. The conference also reiterated that anti-personnel mines remain a problem that generates socioeconomic

consequences, along with great suffering and pain for people in a number of countries.

The conference adopted, among other documents, a review on the status and operation of the convention since the First Review Conference (2004), the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014, and the 2009 Cartagena Declaration (“A Shared Commitment for a Mine Free World”). These replace the 2004 Nairobi Action Plan, providing guidance and a framework for the implementation of the treaty in the coming years.

In preparation for the conference, UNMAS coordinated inputs from the IACG-MA to the draft documents under consideration by states parties attending the conference; most of these were reflected in the final versions. The conference granted extended Article 5 deadlines for the clearance and destruction of anti-personnel mines to Argentina, Cambodia, Tajikistan and Uganda.

UNMAS facilitated the coordination of UN participation at both the working and high levels of the conference. The UN Secretary-General delivered a video message on 30 November and designated his High Representative for Disarmament Affairs to represent him during the High-Level Segment. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Deputy Director of the UNDP Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Recovery and other high-ranking UN officials delivered statements. UNMAS coordinated the delivery of UNMAT interventions during thematic discussions on demining, mine risk education, victim assistance, and cooperation and assistance. The Government of Colombia invited the Director of UNMAS to deliver a statement during the opening ceremony,

which included the participation of Colombian Vice-President Francisco Santos Calderón.

UNMAS helped convene two UNMAT side events during the conference. The first one launched the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2010. The second, co-sponsored with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), highlighted the importance of gender mainstreaming in mine action. UNMAT sponsored an art exhibit on Cambodia, for which UNMAS provided logistical and financial support.

UNMAS joined UNICEF in providing financial support to a five-kilometre run organized by the Government of Colombia and Colombian civil society that took place the day before the official start of the conference. It helped raise awareness through public events and media participation.

### **The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons**

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons aims to protect military troops from inhumane injuries and prevent civilians from being harmed by certain types of arms. Two of its protocols are relevant to mine action: Amended Protocol II on mines, booby-traps and other devices, and Protocol V on ERW. Both protocols have an implementation regime, including annual meetings of high contracting parties. As in previous years, UNMAS in 2009 continued to closely follow deliberations relevant to mine action (particularly with regard to cluster munitions) in the context of the convention and the two protocols. UNMAS also coordinated the preparation and delivery of statements by UNMAT.

### *Amended Protocol II on Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices*

In 2009, the high contracting parties to Amended Protocol II convened a meeting of governmental experts to foster more substantial dialogue. The meeting specifically sought to discuss and explore ways that states may collectively combat the threat of IEDs. At the request of the coordinator for IEDs (Switzerland), UNMAS delivered a presentation on the types and generic groups of IEDs, and the specific challenges they pose to a UN mine and UXO programme.

### *Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War*

With regard to Protocol V, substantive consultations took place among high contracting parties on issues of common interest, including the earliest possible transmission of information on the use and abandonment of ERW to mine action implementers. Consultations in April 2009 were led by a number of coordinators appointed by the presidency of the annual conference. At the request of Lithuania, the coordinator for Article 3, UNMAS delivered a presentation on the importance of states providing timely information on where ERW might have been dropped, fired or abandoned. The presentation focused on the challenges of ERW clearance, the tangible benefits gained when accurate information has been provided, and the hindrances to clearance when it has not.

At the request of Slovakia, the coordinator for Article 4, UNMAS gave a presentation on the need for states to record and retain all relevant information at the time of firing explosive ordnance, and transfer it in a format similar to the Generic Electronic Template.

### *Negotiations on Cluster Munitions*

High contracting parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons called for renewed negotiations through a group of governmental experts on a proposal to address the humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions, while balancing military and humanitarian considerations. The proposal had been put forward in 2008. At that time, the text of a draft protocol on cluster munitions was produced to serve as the basis for negotiations. The group did not conclude its negotiations on the text, however; the high contracting parties mandated resumed negotiations in 2010.

### **The Convention on Cluster Munitions**

The Convention on Cluster Munitions reached the deposit of the 30th instrument of ratification on 17 February 2010, the threshold for the treaty to enter into force on 1 August 2010. The convention calls on the United Nations to reduce the humanitarian and socioeconomic threats posed by cluster munitions.

In 2009, members of the IACG-MA developed a matrix illustrating the relevance of each of the convention's articles to different UN bodies, and identifying possible roles and responsibilities. The document was prepared by UNODA, and includes inputs from

*Photo: UNIFIL*



UNDP, UNMAS, UNICEF and the UN Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), among others. It illustrates how the United Nations can contribute its experience and expertise in the areas of coordination, resource mobilization, local capacity development, institutional support, information management, training of personnel and quality management. The matrix received support by the IACG-MA principals.

UNMAS, in coordination with UNDP, OLA and UNICEF, and in consultation with other members of the IACG-MA and the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC), organized an advocacy event in support of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in New York on 18 March 2009. UNMAS participated in regional conferences in Santiago (14-15 September) and Bali (16-17 November) to promote the universalization of the convention. It delivered a presentation to the Berlin Conference on the Destruction of Cluster Munitions (25-26 June).

### The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol were opened for signature on 30 March 2007, and entered into force on 3 May 2008.<sup>7</sup> By the end of 2009, 75 Member States had ratified the convention and 48 had ratified the Optional Protocol.

The convention provides guidance on the human rights of landmine survivors. It helps signatories to fulfill victim assistance obligations under Article 6 of the anti-personnel mine ban treaty, Article 8 of Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and Article 5 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

UNMAS and the IACG-MA have used several opportunities to advocate for the ratification and effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, both at the field and global levels. They have called for a human rights-based approach to working with survivors of landmines and ERW, within broader national disability frameworks, as promoted by the convention. In 2009, advocacy activities took place at the 12th International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors, as well as at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socioeconomic Reintegration under the mine ban treaty.

### A Focal Point on Disability Issues

In 2009, UNMAS continued to participate in the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>8</sup> drawing on its role as focal point within DPKO for disability issues.<sup>9</sup> UNMAS took part in the third (30-31 March) and fourth (18-19 November) meetings of the IASG, in



New York and Geneva, respectively. The third meeting discussed a draft strategy and plan of action for implementing the convention and its Optional Protocol. UNMAS provided substantive inputs to drafting. The fourth meeting agreed on the final version of the plan and finalized discussions on the participation of civil society in the meetings of the IASG.

To further improve the capacity of the United Nations to assist landmine and ERW survivors and their families, and to advance a human rights-based approach consistent with the convention, UNMAS conducted a survey of 10 UNMAS-managed mine action programmes (Afghanistan, Chad, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, Lebanon, Nepal, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Sudan and Western Sahara) on issues relating to accessibility and hiring processes. The survey will update data on the employment of landmine survivors gathered through a previous UNMAS study.<sup>10</sup>

Implementing the convention's provisions improves mine action work and assistance to survivors and their families. For example, the convention explicitly states that persons with disabilities should have access to "the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas and all public and office buildings."<sup>11</sup>

Regarding work and employment, the convention indicates that "States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open,

inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities."<sup>12</sup> Persons with disabilities have the right to be employed in work of their choice and preference.

The disability survey findings were presented in a paper entitled "Survey of mine action centres on issues relating to disability" at the fourth meeting of the IASG. It found that UNMAS' Afghanistan, Lebanon, Kosovo and Sudan (in Khartoum and Juba) offices have recruited nine persons with disabilities in various positions, including in administration, operations, victim assistance and external relations. Recommendations on recruitment comprise: including a positive discrimination clause in vacancy announcements to encourage persons with disabilities to apply for jobs; selecting a person with a disability when they have qualifications equal to those of a person without a disability; and providing "reasonable accommodations" or funds should a person with a disability need assistive devices such as a prosthesis, crutch, Braille documents or hearing devices to be able to work.

The report on the third meeting of the IASG (IASG/2009/1) of 5 May 2009 and the report of the UN Secretary-General (A/64/128) of 7 July 2009 on "The Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol" both refer to UNMAS contributions and efforts to further promote victim assistance and the human rights of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities in mine action programmes.

### Extending Access to People with Disabilities

All of the mine action centres covered by the UNMAS disability survey are located in a city or a town that is easily accessible by car or public transportation. All are aware of the issue of accessibility for persons with disabilities. Only the Nepal mine action centre and the UNMAT Gaza Office have passenger lifts, and only the Afghanistan centre is slated to upgrade its interior premises.

Some mine action centres are unable to upgrade or renovate their premises due to financial or other reasons beyond their control, such as when office buildings are privately owned (Gaza) or managed by the DPKO mission (Western Sahara). The Afghanistan and Lebanon centres responded that they would be moving to new offices and would request more accessible premises.

In addition to the survey, UNMAS liaised with the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Section of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) in DPKO to collect a sample of field practice related to DDR. The DDR Section of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) reported that its building has a passenger lift, but the MINUSTAH Mission Support Building does not have a passenger lift, and persons with disabilities can only access the ground floor of the building.\*

Among the six DDR Community Violence Reduction project sites in Haiti, three sites are located on the ground floor and are accessible. Recommendations on accessibility include encouraging centres that are unable to renovate their premises due to financial reasons to implement minor upgrades such as installing ramps and Braille signs for commonly used areas such as conference rooms and ts.

\*The survey was completed before the 2010 earthquake that struck Haiti.

### Engaging Non-state Actors

Anti-personnel mines and other victim-activated weapons, including IEDs, are being used, often with devastating effect, by non-state armed groups in a number of countries, including Afghanistan, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Iraq, Myanmar, Pakistan and Peru. According to Geneva Call, an international NGO specializing in work on these groups, 39 have signed the "Deed of Commitment" to refrain from using anti-personnel mines, cooperate in mine action in areas under their control and destroy stockpiles.



Photo: Jacob Simkin

The UN Secretary-General's report to the Security Council entitled "The Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict" (S/2009/277) emphasizes continued efforts to engage armed non-state actors in upholding humanitarian norms and condemns inhumane acts of terror and violations against the safety of civilians. The report highlights the possible benefits of establishing a dialogue on protecting civilians through sensitization and training on international humanitarian law and human rights law standards, and encouraging non-state groups to comply with the "Deed of Commitment" to protect civilians during armed conflict. UNMAS believes that the implementation of the report's recommendations will reinforce the effectiveness of its mine action efforts and will help ensure that armed non-state actors are engaged in, and take responsibility for, international humanitarian norms.

UNMAS provided funds to Geneva Call for two projects. The first, funded by the Government of Italy, contributed to the organization of the Second Conference of Signatories of the Geneva Call Deed of Commitment in Geneva (18-19 June 2010). The second project was financed partially with funds provided by the Government of the Netherlands. It consisted of a series of advocacy activities involving national and local communities, as well as NGOs in Colombia.

## COMMUNICATING TO THE PUBLIC AND OTHER CONSTITUENCIES

- *Extensive global press coverage resulted from marking the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, and the launch of the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2010 in Cartagena, Colombia.*
- *The New York Times featured a video editorial on mine action in Afghanistan with a reference to UNMAS; CNN aired a segment on the 2009 rapid response training in Sweden conducted by UNMAS.*
- *The E-MINE website has a high Google page rank.*
- *UNMAS Facebook and Twitter pages were introduced.*
- *The IACG-MA endorsed new IMAS guidelines on land release, non-technical and technical surveys, and the management of training.*

### Communications Support

Meetings of the IACG-MA Communications Working Group and of the Cartagena Task Force, which UNMAS chairs, resulted in inter-agency plans to raise public and media awareness of mine action. Meetings bring together communications focal points from UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNODA and occasionally other members of the IACG-MA. Coordination of communications in 2009 led to extensive global press coverage, particularly around the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, and the launch of the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2010 in Cartagena.

UNMAS coordinated its communications efforts with the UN Department of Public Information in

New York and its global network of information centres, which played important roles in disseminating messages from UNMAS and the IACG-MA to local and international media.

UNMAS field offices relied on information materials provided by UNMAS headquarters to support their own media relations linked to global events, such as those used to support local commemorations of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine

Action and launches of the portfolio. The UNMAS Information Unit is in daily contact with its colleagues in the field, and ensures that public information material such as field newsletters, video documentaries and press releases are widely circulated at headquarters and to the wider mine action community.

### Keeping Mine Action in the Public Eye

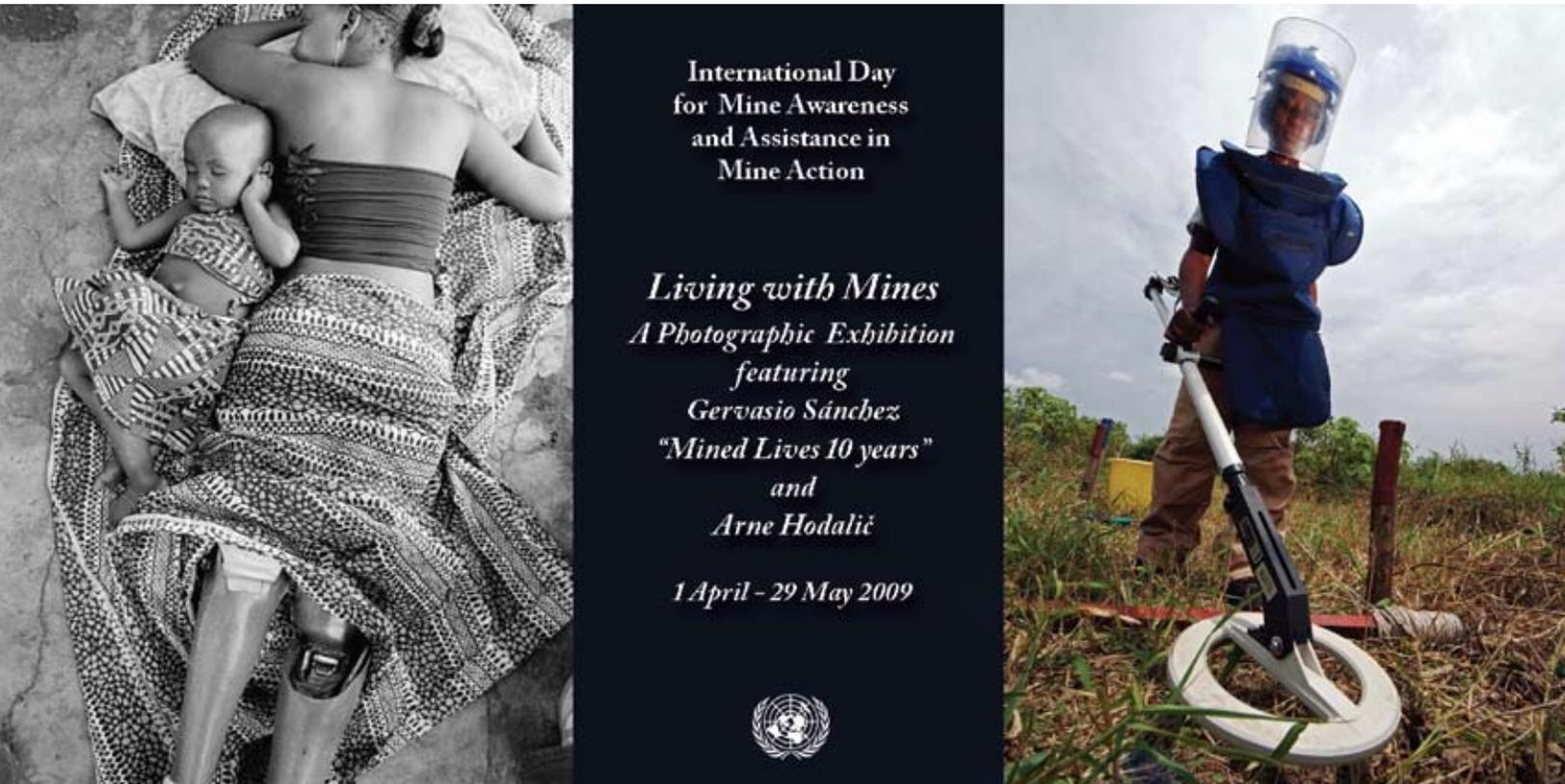
UNMAS media relations and other forms of outreach helped raise the profile of UNMAS among the media, NGOs, donors and the general public in 2009. UNMAS organized press briefings in New York and in Cartagena timed to coincide with the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World. These marked the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the anti-personnel mine ban treaty and the release of the UN Secretary-General's "Report on Assistance in Mine Action." Numerous stories were filed by media outlets such as AP, Reuters, Reuters AlertNet, IRIN, Al Jazeera, CNN and EFE; they focused mainly on the challenges faced by landmine survivors and the funding required for mine action operations in 2010. An art exhibit on demining activities in Cambodia opened during the Cartagena Summit with logistical and financial support from UNMAS.

Throughout the year, UNMAS provided journalists with background information and arranged interviews to enable them to develop news and feature stories, helping to boost reporting on mine action in the media. The New York Times featured a video editorial on mine action in Afghanistan with a reference to UNMAS. CNN aired a segment on the 2009 rapid response training in Sweden conducted by UNMAS. UNMAS paid the travel expenses for and organized UNTV's production of the CNN piece.

The 2009 International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was organized by UNMAS and in-



Photo: UNICEF



cluded a photo exhibit by Spanish photographer Gervasio Sanchez and a video of demining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by Slovenian photographer Arne Hodalič. The Under-Secretary-General for Public Information and the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions led the opening of the exhibition, which featured music by the singer-songwriter Lucy Woodward. Over 250 people attended.

UNMAS continues to circulate electronic "Today in Mine Action News" updates containing highlights from worldwide media sources on topical mine action stories. The circulation list includes UN field and headquarters colleagues as well as members of the wider mine action community.

### Website Management

UNMAS manages the content of the E-MINE website at [www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org). This website is the public face of the mine action work that the United Nations implements worldwide. It is a user-friendly resource containing relevant introductory information on mine action and detailed information including a fully searchable version of the annual Portfolio of Mine Action Projects.

Country by country, the portfolio details projects carried out by states, NGOs and UN entities. The development, editing, design, layout and production of the 2010 edition were carried out entirely through a content-management system in

E-MINE. This reduces the time and expense involved in the previous manual arrangements to compile and produce the publication.

E-MINE also contains links to relevant international legal documents and UN documents containing references to mine action, along with links to the recently created UNMAS Twitter and Facebook accounts. With over 1,200 followers between these two accounts, UNMAS continues to enhance its advocacy and strategic communications goals by reaching out to new audiences.



Improvements to the E-MINE website in 2009 included major updates to improve the accessibility of the website to persons with disabilities.

The site obtained a high Google page rank of eight in 2009.<sup>13</sup> It is updated weekly with mine action reports, public information materials and operational data from UNMAS mine action programmes. There are strong spikes in web traffic during special events, such as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

### **Building Awareness Within the United Nations**

UNMAS informed other parts of the United Nations about its mission and achievements by posting numerous stories to the news section of the UN “iSeek” intranet site, raising visibility about the cause of mine action and drawing attention to UNMAS’ integration into the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI). An article by the Director of UNMAS entitled “Achieving Zero New Victims of Landmines” was published in the UN Chronicle and the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Institute’s Freedom from Fear magazine, further expanding UNMAS’ visibility.

### **International Mine Action Standards**

IMAS have assisted many countries to draft their own national standards and assume greater responsibility for their own mine action programmes through the introduction of national legislation. While IMAS offer guidance, national standards provide requirements. In 2009, 4 new standards were endorsed, bringing the total to 47. The

IMAS website at [www.mineactionstandards.com](http://www.mineactionstandards.com) provides information for a wide variety of visitors.

The IMAS Review Board met in Geneva in 2009 and endorsed an annual work plan. Following an agreement to develop a technical note on mine action covering field risk assessments prior to deciding on what to do at a work site, a note was completed and posted on the IMAS website. Its guidelines have already been integrated into the work procedures of one large programme.

Additionally, a gender evaluation of IMAS was received, with recommendations already resulting in a number of changes in the standards.

New IMAS were presented to the IACG-MA at the principals' level and subsequently endorsed. These covered guidelines on land release, non-technical and technical surveys, and the management of training. Collectively, they provide a revised method of approaching suspected hazardous areas, and are expected to reduce the amount of land cleared where there are no mines and ERW found, thereby improving the efficiency of mine clearance. Work continues on the preparation of new IMAS relating to information management, demining machine operator safety, mechanical area reduction, and quality assurance/quality control after mechanical clearance. A periodic review of the series of IMAS on mine risk education is underway. It will result in a consolidation of these into one standard, with possibly an additional standard on community liaison activities.

During 2009, with the withdrawal of European funding for workshop agreements within the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN), existing workshop agreements were transferred into the

IMAS structure. They will be maintained in the same way as IMAS. They will continue to be known as CEN-WAs and updated as required. If needed, new workshop agreements known as Mine Action Workshop Agreements will be produced. The agreements provide guidance for the testing and evaluation of new technologies.

The IMAS once more served as a basic reference for the production of new guidelines in a related area. Following the General Assembly agreement to produce International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), the IMAS structure and experiences were shared as part of creating a framework and the new guidelines. Together, IMAS and IATG will provide a formidable reference library for action against mines and ERW, and the control of ammunition in storage depots and its subsequent disposal.

### **Developing and Applying New Technologies**

#### *International Test and Evaluation Programme*

UNMAS has been an observer to the International Test and Evaluation Programme (ITEP) on both the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors; it attended meetings of each in 2009. UNMAS and GICHD again supported a recommendation that the ITEP mandate should be extended past the 10-year point of June 2010. ITEP will not be extended, however, and so agreement was reached on the future handling of information collected within ITEP. UNMAS and GICHD will continue to liaise with contacts made during the mandate of ITEP, but now on a bilateral basis.

Advice was provided to one of the longstanding trials of dual sensor detectors held in Germany in 2009. Two devices were tested and the report is eagerly awaited. Early indications are that dual sensors have improved greatly and can effectively reduce clearance times in certain situations.

#### *Exchanging Information on New Technologies*

UNMAS and GICHD produced two editions of the joint Technology Newsletter containing several new articles. After 10 editions, new formats are under discussion to make the information more easily and readily available to a wider audience. With funds from the Government of Japan through the VTF, a project with GICHD will foster continued contributions to technology research and exchange, as well as cooperation with UNMAS.

While there were few technical meetings in 2009, once again, Croatia held its annual Symposium on Humanitarian Technologies, and UNMAS provided assistance to promote attendance. Field demon-

strations of demining machines took place, and new machines manufactured and tested in Croatia were demonstrated. Plans were also initiated for support to the symposium in 2010 as well as the bi-annual Technology Workshop sponsored jointly by UNMAS and GICHD.

#### *Supporting Research and Development*

Throughout the year, a variety of developers in mine action made enquiries to UNMAS and the Technology Coordinator. Positive but realistic advice was provided. One device, a roller, which has been discussed many times, has now secured development funds and was professionally tested in the United States. In addition, advice was provided to developers of an area detection system that uses genetically modified microbes; it has also progressed to the point of receiving national development funds.

The development of new personal protection equipment has been a concern for some time, but a new test procedure for face protection had to be withdrawn due to doubts over the equivalent value of explosives to be used in laboratory testing. At the same time, it was also possible to stimulate further tests in one ITEP member country. Results in 2010 are expected to verify the future testing regime and validate new designs for full-face protection for deminers.





**UNMAS**  
**COUNTRY PROGRAMMES**

## AFGHANISTAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

- A 36 percent reduction in casualties was achieved, from 734 in 2008, or an average of 61 per month, to 471 in 2009, or an average of 39 per month.
- 51,743 anti-personnel mines, 746 anti-tank mines and 1,152,738 ERW were destroyed.
- Clearance took place on 52 square kilometres of known and suspected minefields, and 103 square kilometres of battle area affecting 292 communities.
- VTF donor funding increased by 26 percent, from US \$46,805,297 to US \$59,170,788.
- The use of community-based demining expanded, fostering community empowerment, sustainable development and stabilization.
- Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating implementing partners were enhanced to increase efficiency, effectiveness and transparency.

### Context and Challenges

Afghanistan remains contaminated with 6,498 known hazardous areas, impacting 2,088 communities and 668 square kilometres of land. Further contamination continues to be recorded when discovered by survey teams or reported by communities. Mines and ERW have killed and injured thousands of Afghans over the last 30 years. They also rob farmers of their livelihoods, and impede housing, resettlement and grazing of livestock. Since ERW and landmines are used as the raw material for IEDs, clearance has strong implications for security and stabilization.

An average of 39 people per month were killed or injured by landmines and ERW in 2009, a decrease of almost 36 percent over 2008. This is in line with UN Strategic Objective 1. Travelling was the most high-risk activity, followed by playing and recreation, tending animals, and collecting water, food and wood.

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) is guided by the obligations of the Government under the anti-personnel mine ban treaty, which requires clearing all known anti-personnel mines by March 2013, providing mine risk education to the Afghan people, and assisting those who have been injured by mines and ERW.<sup>14</sup> Currently, MAPA has the capacity to remove approximately 90 square kilometres of hazards from the national database per year. To meet mine ban treaty targets, it must clear 166 square kilometres of hazards annually for the next four years. Unless the programme expands by 84 percent and sustains this expansion until 2013, the treaty targets will not be achieved.

MAPA continued to achieve significant progress in operations in 2009, including through innovative solutions for operating in insecure areas of the country. Implementers have increasingly adopted enhanced mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. Streamlined internal processes have increased transparency and maximized value for donor funding.

More than 20 international and national NGOs work on all five pillars of mine action throughout Afghanistan. More than 10,000 Afghan staff were employed in these activities in 2009; 500 mobile demining teams deployed, including manual, dog and mechanical clearance assets. Humanitarian mine action was carried out in accordance with a set of established planning criteria that prioritize mine clearance in ar-

## Casualties in Afghanistan, 2008

<i>Male</i>				
	Age 0-18	Age 19+	Age Unknown	Total
Injured	208	241	58	507
Killed	75	67	11	153
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>660</b>
<i>Female</i>				
	Age 0-18	Age 19+	Age Unknown	Total
Injured	38	19	1	58
Killed	7	9	-	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Total Male &amp; Female</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>734</b>

## Casualties in Afghanistan, 2009

<i>Male</i>				
	Age 0-18	Age 19+	Age Unknown	Total
Injured	179	136	-	315
Killed	46	45	-	91
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>406</b>
<i>Female</i>				
	Age 0-18	Age 19+	Age Unknown	Total
Injured	28	22	-	50
Killed	9	6	-	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Total Male &amp; Female</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>471</b>

eas associated with recent victims who have been identified by local authorities through area mine action centres, or that are slated for resettlement or development. Further ranking of hazards takes into account blockage information and communities with a higher risk of accidents based on regression analysis.

In 2009, the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) carried out the first pilot survey of Afghan women's attitudes to mine action. The survey exposed the enhanced anxiety experienced by women when a minefield lies in the centre of their community. In addition to assessing the impact of mines, the survey also looked at whether Afghan women felt that they could participate in mine action. Two-thirds of the women surveyed expressed a desire to be actively involved. The report asked for women's recommendations for mine action—most felt that MAPA priorities were in line with what they consider to be high-risk areas. But there was a perception that more efforts must be focused on mine risk education, particularly for women and children. In terms of gender equality in MACCA, efforts to address gender imbalances among national and international staff have yielded positive results, with women making up 6 out of 15 international staff, and accounting for 3 percent of national staff, up from 0.04 percent in 2005.

Mine action has been strongly integrated into national development planning. It is a benchmark in formal government development strategies, and part of the national MDGs. MACCA has formed strong relationships with a range of ministries to ensure the integration of mine action concerns in wider development plans, in line with Strategic Objective 3. MACCA has also worked to bring operations in line with government objectives out-

lined within the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghan National Development Strategy.

Enormous progress has been made by MAPA despite an extremely challenging operating environment. Criminality and insurgency rose throughout the year, as a result of which 2 mine action staff were killed, 24 were injured and 30 were kidnapped. Attacks on a UN compound necessitated temporary staff relocations, but operations were not affected by either event, as the programme has grown resilient and flexible over its 20-year history. Beyond complications relating to security, mobilization of adequate funding to meet mine action strategic targets remains a challenge. Without a significant scaling up of operations, Afghanistan will not meet anti-personnel mine ban treaty and Afghan Compact obligations.

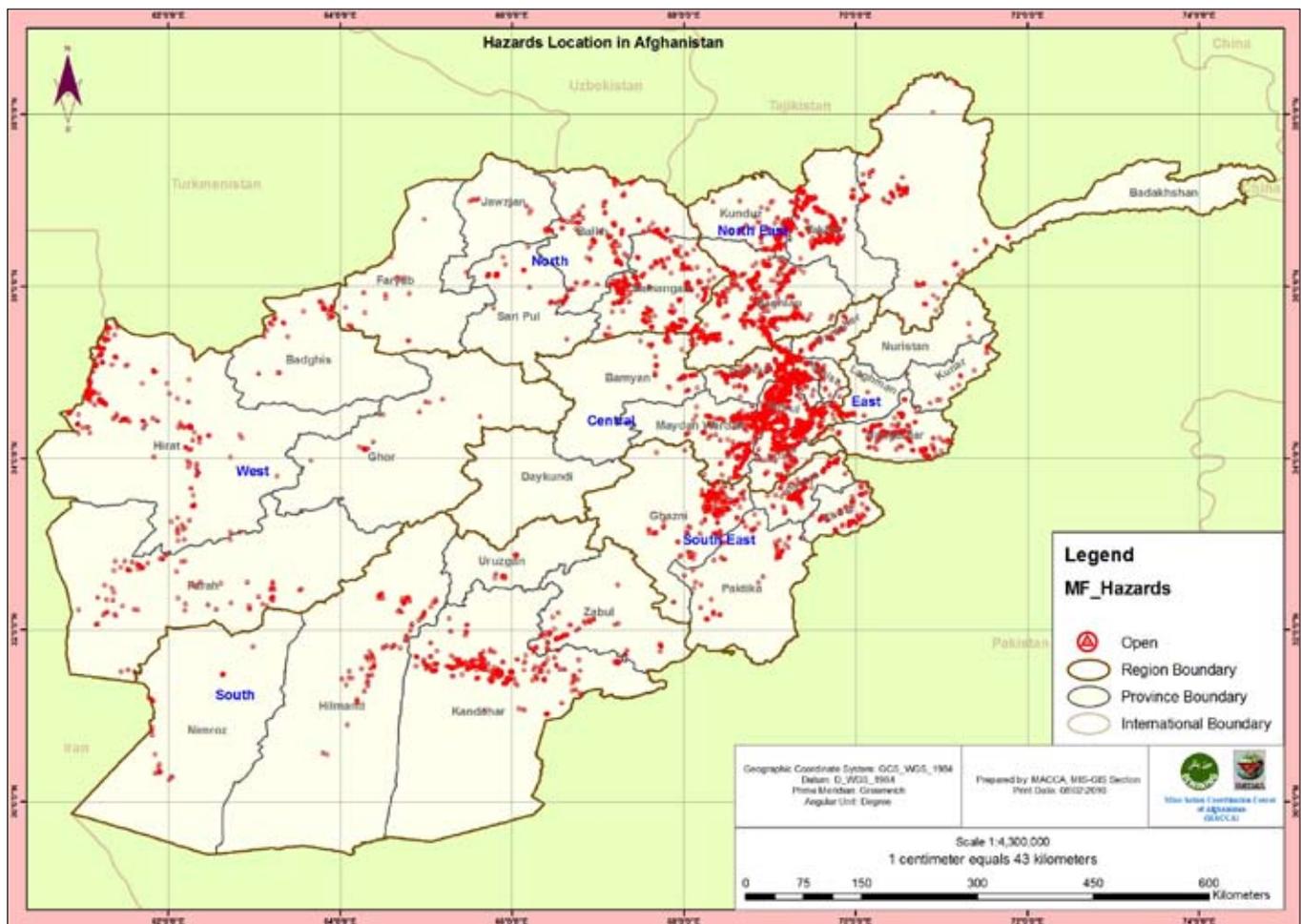
Plans for serving communities are ambitious, and focus on meaningful, measurable change. This kind of programme, however, rests on sustainable and sufficient donor funding.

#### *Geographic Coverage*

In 2002, the Government of Afghanistan entrusted interim responsibility for mine action programme coordination to the United Nations, a role implemented in the field through MACCA and its area mine action centres in Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar, Herat, Jalalabad, Gardez and Kunduz.

#### *Support from UNMAS Headquarters*

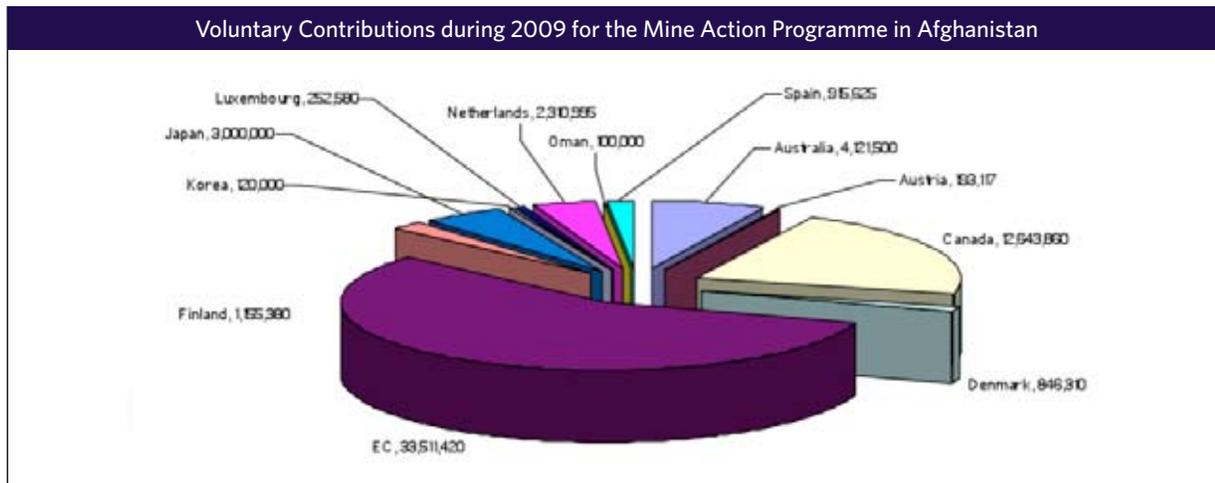
UNMAS is responsible for the oversight of planning, and the funding, monitoring and evaluation of pro-



gramme activities. During the period under review, UNMAS conducted frequent technical missions to the country, and met with representatives of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA); the UN Country Team, including UNDP and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); key donors and international partners; and implementing partners operating throughout the country.

UNMAS ensured direct coordination among the Government of Afghanistan and UN partners, and supported Af-

ghanistan as a prominent part of international resource mobilization through a range of donor briefings in capitals, and at permanent missions in New York and Geneva. These activities, in concert with those of MACCA in the field, have resulted in a 26 percent increase in the donor funding channeled through the VTF, from US \$46,805,297 in 2008 to US \$58,832,567 in 2009. Funding was provided by the European Commission and 11 governments, including multilateral contributions from the governments of Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Japan, the Republic of



Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Sultanate of Oman and Spain.

UNMAS worked with the Office of Operations of DPKO to ensure mine action was fully integrated into the reports of the UN Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan, and other briefing materials for consideration by senior management and UN Member States. Regular coordination activities were conducted with the Department of Safety and Security, OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank to ensure the visibility of the programme. Various media interviews and the placement of stories in the mainstream media helped maintain the profile of mine action in Afghanistan.

**Coordination and Training Activities**

UNMAS supports MACCA to assist the Government of Afghanistan in developing an appropriately trained and equipped national institution capable of achieving nationally defined mine action goals. Funded through the VTF, MACCA works in partnership with the gov-

ernment Department of Mine Clearance (DMC), an office of the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority. This relationship was formalized in an agreement in February 2008, with DMC relocating to the MACCA office site in April 2008. A plot of land acquired in 2009 will be used for constructing a new building for DMC; MACCA may also relocate its coordination and technical advisors there. DMC is now directly involved in the planning and coordination of mine clearance operations as the transition to a national authority progresses in line with Strategic Objective 4. The ongoing efforts of MACCA and DMC are guided by an Inter-Ministerial Board for Mine Action. In 2009, it met regularly to discuss transition and priority projects, and contributed to resource mobilization and the Government of Afghanistan’s decision to make its first financial contribution towards mine clearance—over US \$2.5 million for clearance of the Aynak copper mine.

MACCA’s coordination role continued to be focused on strategic and operational planning, including the execution and oversight of the 1387 and 1388 operational work plans, and development of the 1389

workplan (each plan runs from 1 April through 31 March, in line with the Afghan governmental year).<sup>15</sup> The plans guide the effective deployment and monitoring of over 500 operational teams and related quality assurance tasks, as well as ongoing information management for all mine action assets, whether funded through the VTF, bilaterally or commercially. MACCA has developed its role in supporting donors by advising on projects, regardless of whether or not they will be funded via UN mechanisms, and by working with implementers to develop projects in accordance with donor preference. This contributed to US \$98.3 million for mine action coming through the VTF and bilaterally.

In 2009, MACCA began implementing a “balanced score card” approach that evaluates implementing partners’ performance according to a range of criteria, both operational and institutional. This will enable MACCA to better advise donors on effectively allocating contributions.

MACCA is represented on the UN country team in Kabul, and participates in the OCHA-run Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) process, with a submission for 2010 that describes activities totalling US \$229 million.

MACCA reached out to donors through media and direct advocacy to encourage both multilateral and bilateral funding for MAPA, so that insufficient funding does not impede the goals of the programme. Figures on total funds required from bilateral and multilateral sources were presented at a press conference in January 2009, resulting in widespread international and national media coverage. This outreach, along with an appeal to donor nations by the UN Secretary-General initiated by UNMAS, directly resulted in additional bilateral funding from a number

of donors. Additionally, MACCA has gradually moved towards creating initiatives that provide donors with ownership of a specific area or type of activity. An example is the clearance of Central Bamyán district, including the World Heritage sites, in partnership with UNESCO. MACCA has also continued to develop a new website ([www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af)) to make information on MAPA more easily accessible for the media, donors, government and other interested parties.

### *Operations*

Operational achievements in 2009 included the destruction of 51,743 anti-personnel mines, 746 anti-tank mines and 1,152,738 ERW. A total of 52 square kilometres of known and suspected minefields were released through clearance and other means. Battle area clearance took place on 103 square kilometres of territory.

The drop in the quantities of landmines and ERW cleared in 2009 compared with 2008 is attributable to the 2008 clearance of densely mined belts surrounding Bagram airbase. These areas have now been completed. The average minefield the programme encounters now contains fewer mines laid without any pattern, but these produce equal hazards for people, impediments to development and threats to stabilization.

The Afghan NGO Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC) completed clearance of historically important areas around the Bamyán Buddhas, in partnership with specialist archaeologists from UNESCO and with funding from the Government of Japan. Even in the unstable province of Kandahar, progress was made on priority clearance tasks under a Canadian

International Development Agency (CIDA)-funded multi-year agreement. During the year, insurgent forces in the south of Afghanistan laid belts of IEDs that will likely become an ERW problem that UNMAS will have to tackle in the future, when, post-conflict, they are no longer considered weapons in play and become classified as ERW.

In response to the challenging security situation in portions of the country, a shift to increased community-based demining is proving to be an effective way of operating in the least secure areas while contributing to enhanced stability.

Clearance Achievements in 2009	
<i>Anti-Personnel Mines</i>	
2008	84,000
2009	51,743
<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>38.4%</b>
<i>Anti-Tank Mines</i>	
2008	1000
2009	746
<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>25.40%</b>
<i>ERW</i>	
2008	2,500,000
2009	1,152,738
<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>53.89%</b>
<i>Minefields Released (square kilometres)</i>	
2008	49
2009	52
<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>6.12%</b>
<i>Battle Area Clearance (square kilometres)</i>	
2008	112
2009	103
<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>8.04%</b>

**Impact**

Stabilization has been an increasingly relevant factor in the design of mine action projects. The concept of community-based demining was developed by MAC-CA in 2008 as a mechanism for demining in areas where acute insecurity made the existing model—mobile/roving demining teams operating from bases outside the affected community—less desirable. The concept was expanded due to increased donor interest. Operations now take place in the volatile provinces of Helmand, Uruzgan, Kandahar, Ghor, Nangahar and Kunar. The strength of the approach lies in community ownership; 90 percent of project staff is recruited from the local community, so the safety of project staff and equipment is enhanced. The benefits of employment and income generation remain in the community, strengthening commitment to success. Typically, projects focus on well-defined tasks and last for 18 to 24 months. This allows community members to accumulate sufficient savings to start small businesses and/or develop agriculture once demining is complete.

One positive byproduct is the engagement of otherwise under-employed young men, which gives them an income, a sense of purpose, and opportunities to invest in the social and economic development of their communities, and to be actively involved in the reconstruction of their country. This is in line with the London Conference statement claiming that economic growth and employment opportunities “are critical to counter the appeal of the insurgency, as well as being vital to greater stability in Afghanistan.”<sup>16</sup>

More than one million persons received mine risk education in 2009; 32 percent were female and 75 percent were children. The integration of mine risk education into the national school curriculum continued, with over 16,000 Ministry of Education teachers now trained to conduct mine risk education and relevant messages integrated into school textbooks for grades six to nine. Association for Aid and Relief (AAR)-Japan raised awareness of the dangers of mines through its Mobile Mini Cinema, which

reached over 50,000 Afghan children in 28 districts and 8 provinces. Handicap International (HI) continued to carry out mine risk education in the volatile provinces of Helmand and Kandahar.

MACCA has collaborative partnerships with three key ministries (the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled; the Ministry of Education; and the Ministry of Public Health) to provide technical assistance that supports the development and implementation of government disability policies and strategies based on the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the Afghanistan National Disability Action Plan of 2006-2011. Additionally, MACCA supports an inter-ministerial partnership that is institutionalizing national capacities to implement disability services; advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors; and create monitoring and information dissemination systems covering government and other stakeholders.

MACCA's victim assistance implementing partner is Development and Ability Organisation (DAO), which was founded in early 2004 to conduct advocacy and awareness activities and research on people with disabilities throughout Afghanistan. DAO developed, printed and distributed to the Government and media a Disability Terminology Handbook in local languages that promotes a positive regard for persons with disabilities. Over 1,600 men and 330 women from 15 provinces throughout the country, including persons with disabilities as well as a large number of government officials, have been trained in disability awareness, leadership and management. In 2009, a promotional film was produced and a roundtable discussion was broadcast on television on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. A range of radio and TV programmes produced for and by persons with disabilities were also broadcast.

Removing the threat of mines and ERW has resulted in a reduction in casualties by 77 percent since 2001 (from 2,027 to 471). This has been an essential step towards broader development. In many areas, mine

action has become a pre-requisite for any type of development work. Tangible benefits have thus arisen from mine action in line with UNMAS Strategic Objective 2 on mitigating risks to community livelihoods and expanding freedom of movement. Thousands of hectares of land have been released for agriculture and urban development. Clearance of the copper mine in Aynak, Logar province, which foreign investors plan to develop, will provide a significant economic boost and create thousands of jobs.<sup>17</sup>

It has not yet been possible to quantify the socioeconomic impacts of mine action, but a pilot project to study post-clearance livelihoods has been developed in conjunction with GICHD. It will be implemented next year, enabling MACCA to test planning criteria and enhance the understanding and achievement of development outcomes. The pilot project will be funded from the VTF.



### *Clearance of Areas of Historical Importance in Bamyan*

Demining operations resumed in Bamyan's four important archaeological areas in May 2009. There were a total of 21 suspected hazardous areas in the centre of Bamyan province, of which 17 were cleared in 2008. Demining operations in 2009 concentrated on four remaining sites in Ghulghula (Noisy) City, Zuhak City, the top of the Buddhas and Postai Faziil. As all of these sites carry special historical importance, the deminers were supported with technical supervision from UNESCO and the Afghan authorities to ensure historical preservation of these endangered World Heritage Sites. Before operations began, UNESCO trained deminers in the historical importance of the sites and how to handle artifacts they might encounter. It registered all historical relics found during operations. The sensitivity of the work required a slow and careful approach using extreme caution to avoid damaging the site.

Ghulam Dastagir, a deminer who works in Ghulghula City, said: "The clearance is different here compared to other minefields. Progress of clearance is difficult, and we say that we are like goldsmiths, since the land we are demining here is as precious as gold. We all get sample bags along with our other equipment. Whenever we find broken parts of pots and other artefacts we collect them in these bags and give them to the archeologist at the end of each day."

Najib Ahrar, head of the information and culture directorate in Bamyan, said: "Bamyan's historical sites will be preserved by 30 specially trained guards who are ready and waiting for demining operations to be completed. A team of tourist guides are also being trained." The clearance was completed in September and now this site, so precious to many Afghans, can once again be enjoyed in safety.

### *Community-Based Demining in Kunar*

Community-based demining can have a huge impact within just a few months, as shown by comments in a village in the province of Kunar.

*A community elder said:*

"The mines and ERW have created lots of problems for our village. We can't use much of our land for tending our livestock or collecting firewood and stones for building houses because we worry about mines. This has a big impact on our daily lives. When the community-based demining started in our village recently, our people were happy that they would soon be able to use the land again. Being able to graze our livestock, grow crops, and collect firewood and materials for constructing houses will have an extremely positive impact on our lives. The people of our village will be happy to be free from the deadly threat of mines and UXO. When the mine clearance operations started, they also had a positive impact on the social and economic situation of our villagers. A lot of jobs have been created for the residents of our community by this programme. We hope that the mine action programme will clear all mine-contaminated areas close to our village. As members of this Shura, we strongly support the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan activity in the area. We are very thankful to the MAPA for the clearance of mine-contaminated areas in our village. We will do all we can to ensure the security of their staff, vehicles and equipment."

*A community-based deminer said:*

"My name is Ahmad and I live in Kunar province with my wife and four children. I am very poor and was worried about being able to provide for my family before I started work with the community-based demining programme in our village. When the recruitment for community-based demining started, I was selected by

our community elders. The mine clearance training was very useful and interesting. As a Muslim, I believe that this is a form of worship of Allah, and I am very happy to do it. This job has really improved my life. Before, I was unemployed and travelled long distances looking for work to earn money to support my family. But now I am working close to my home village, I can earn money and go back to my family at night. I am happy that with my work as deminer, I can support my family and now I feel hopeful that my children's future will be bright."

*A woman whose husband is a community-based deminer said:*

"My name is Arzo and I am 35 years old. My husband is working as a community-based deminer in our village. When we returned back to our homeland from Pakistan in 1998, we didn't know there were mines laid near our village by Russian and Afghan military forces. When I was told by a neighbour there were mines near to our village, I was very afraid and did not want to go there. The mines and UXO make life very difficult for us. We cannot walk around that area and won't allow our children to go there to collect stones, firewood and tend the livestock. The clearance is really helping us since we know the threat of mines and UXO is becoming less day by day. I do worry about my husband and the risks of his work as a deminer, but I support him since it will help protect our people. We believe that his job as a deminer will be valued on the day of judgment. Since my husband started working as a deminer, there have been some positive changes in my life. We have been able to buy some new clothes for ourselves and our children, our economic situation has improved generally, and best of all, we are proud he is doing something good for our country. Before, my

husband was away from home a lot trying to earn money for our family, but now I am lucky he works close to our village and comes home every night. I am so happy and lucky. The people of our village are poor and there are not many opportunities for work or business, so this is a golden opportunity for them to work for this country and earn money as well. In the last 30 years, there has been a lot of civil war in our country, millions of people have been injured and killed, and many fled to Pakistan and Iran. The economic situation of the country was destroyed. Now we do not want to live like this anymore, we want permanent peace and stability in Afghanistan."



## CHAD

- 2,720,600 square metres of battle areas and 197 dangerous areas were cleared.
- 1,832 kilometres of roads were verified.
- 432 general mine action assessments in local villages were completed.
- 3,304 items of ERW and 13,077 pieces of small arms ammunition were destroyed.
- Operational capacity was expanded in three advanced operational bases in Iriba, Farchana and Goz Beida; one emergency response team deployed to Abéché.
- Emergency risk education took place for 2,858 people in Am Dam city and neighboring Haouich village.
- The largest single clearance task was carried out in Am Dam (Ouaddaï region); the city centre was cleared over two weeks.

### Context and Challenges

In accordance with the recommendations detailed in the "Report of the Secretary-General on Chad and the Central African Republic" (S/2007/488) and UN Security Council Resolution 1778 (September 2007), the Mine Action Unit (MAU) was established within the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) in 2008. It is based in Abéché, and aims to provide a safe and conducive environment for MINURCAT personnel, humanitarian aid workers, local populations, refugees and IDPs in eastern Chad. The unit's efforts are coordinated with a host of actors within MINURCAT and externally, most notably the National Mine Action Authority (CND) Regional Office located in Abéché, and in partnership with

UNDP and other UN agencies involved in mine action in Chad. Mine Tech International (MTI) has been contracted to provide MINURCAT with a road verification and mine/ERW clearance capacity.

The lack of a secure operating environment was the programme's biggest challenge in 2009. Insecurity in eastern Chad stemmed from a number of internal conflicts resulting in a reported 171,000 IDPs. The situation was further complicated by 260,000 refugees from Sudan and 70,000 refugees from the Central African Republic. The security situation fluctuated throughout the year, and even in times of relative calm was unpredictable. Operations have been postponed or cancelled due to the lack of available escorts to accompany road verification teams. Due to lack of funding, activities were limited to survey and clearance, with no mine risk education or victim assistance activities despite the obvious need.

### Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS participated in the recruitment and deployment of international staff, and deployed a technical assessment mission in March. The mission provided recommendations on the increased productivity of contracted assets and possible enhancement of UNMAS support to CND capacity development efforts. UNMAS also assisted with liaisons with donors and facilitated the receipt of funds from the Government of Japan for UNDP survey and clearance activities. Funding was provided by the Government of Spain to support MAU operations in 2009. The programme's sustainability was bolstered by an appropriation for mine action by the UN General Assembly within the MINURCAT 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 assessed budgets.

### Coordination and Training

Coordination with national partners was a challenge due to the physical separation between the MAU in Abéché and most other partners in N'djamena, the capital. This difficulty was overcome through coordination with the CND Regional Office in Abéché. Coordination in eastern Chad was the topic of extensive discussions with the CND planning technical advisor that clarified the scope of work. The MAU also helped prepare Chad's submissions to the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2010*, the major resource mobilization tool.

The MAU provided detailed input to the draft "Integrated Strategy Framework for Chad" elaborated by MINURCAT and the UN Country Team under the humanitarian response pillar. The unit also became an active member of the Chad Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, per Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005), which calls for monitoring six grave violations of children's rights in armed conflict. The MAU's responsibilities pertain to deaths and injuries of children resulting from mines or ERW.

The MAU and OCHA worked to merge their respective datasets to provide a more comprehensive picture of humanitarian activities, and mine and ERW contamination. Coordination between UNHCR and MAU also contributed to the preparation of the return process for IDPs where mines or ERW might prove an obstacle.

### Operations

The extent of mine and ERW contamination in Chad is not well defined, though the greatest impact is

thought to be in the east of the country. As part of the mine action programme's strategic approach, survey activities have been implemented to better define the contamination and impact in the MINURCAT area of responsibility.

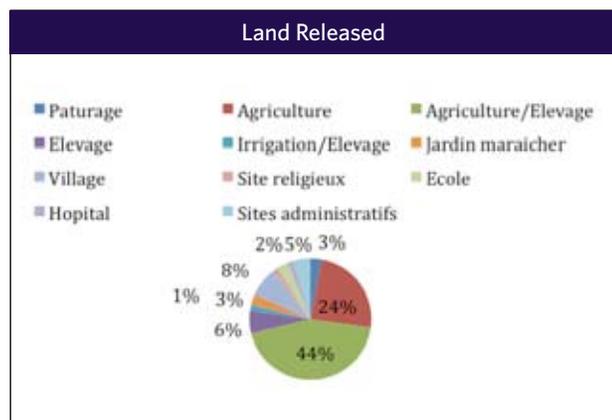
The main operational activities consist of route verification and identification, and clearance of dangerous areas. The MAU-directed activities in eastern Chad led to the verification of 1,832 kilometres of roads, 2,720,600 square metres of battle area clearance, 432 general mine action assessments in local villages, the clearance of 197 dangerous areas, and the destruction of 3,304 items of ERW and 13,077 pieces of small arms ammunition. The largest single clearance task was in Am Dam (Ouaddaï region) after fighting in May. Through the rapid redeployment of assets, the city centre was cleared over the course of two weeks, with 2.27 million square metres of battle area clearance, and 1,192 ERW and 5,712 pieces of small arms ammunition removed and destroyed. The MAU's community liaison team provided emergency risk education to 2,858 people in Am Dam city and neighboring Haouich village. The road clearance team verified

Description 2009	
<i>Battle Area Clearance (square metres)</i>	2,720,600
<i>Roads Verified (kilometres)</i>	1,832
<i>Munitions Found: ERW</i>	3,304
<i>Munitions Found: Small Arms Ammunition</i>	13,077
<i>UXO Victims: Killed</i>	24
<i>UXO Victims: Injured</i>	27
<i>Communities Visited</i>	432
<i>Dangerous Areas Identified</i>	216
<i>Dangerous Areas Cleared</i>	197

and cleared 72 kilometres of routes around Hauich village that were used by retreating combatants.

*Impact*

Given the dearth of information on mine and ERW contamination in eastern Chad, it is difficult to quantify the suffering they cause in terms of casualties and lost livelihoods. The surveillance system recorded 51 casualties in 2009, mostly young males, which is unfortunately a 2 percent increase over 2008. Road and area clearance in eastern Chad helped control casualties, and allowed inhabitants, most living on the margin due to the impact of armed violence, to resume use of resources formerly blocked by mines and ERW. Following clearance in and around Am Dam, 60 percent of the land cleared was put into agricultural use.



As in many peacekeeping operations, mine action in Chad plays a supporting role in ensuring the safety of the mission and its equipment, and, more importantly, in erasing the signs of conflict and danger, and opening the way for a more sustainable peace.

**A Community's Loss**

MAU that there had been a tragic accident in 'Arasai' quarter involving six boys who had been playing with ERW. The boys had found an item in an open field and brought it near a tree, where it exploded. Tragically, Ismail Al Hali, 12, and Ide Ahmat, 7, were killed, while four other boys, from 5 to 14 years old, were seriously injured and taken to the local Government Hospital. The loss of young life and injuries sustained has had an indelible impact on their families and the community in general.

The MAU tasked MTI with conducting an accident investigation. Despite some serious concerns over security in the area, the Farchana-based team deployed with the aid of MINURCAT armed escorts. The objective was to investigate the accident's cause and carry out subsequent clearance to protect the local population.

After meeting local authorities and community members, the MTI team located the place of the detonation. While family members grieved near the site, the team collected fragments and conducted a 100-square-metre visual search for any other ERW contamination. The item the boys had played with was identified as an anti-tank rocket.

During the investigation, members of the community informed the MTI team that they had seen similar "objects" in the vicinity of their villages. Villagers handed in several ERW that were found nearby. Due to the deteriorating security, Adré was categorized as off limits for further survey and clearance, however. Teams will return once the security situation improves.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- *Verification and clearance took place on 10,160 kilometres of roads and 1,668,000 square metres of land, mainly in the eastern part of the country; this has mitigated the risk to communities, returning refugees and IDPs, while facilitating their resettlement.*
- *There was a reduction in casualties by 24.3 percent, from 146 victims in 2008 down to 103 victims in 2009.*
- *Mine risk education was provided to 334,344 individuals through a variety of media and delivery methods.*
- *A new concept of operations was adopted; survey and clearance capacities were expanded.*
- *Mine action was integrated into the national stabilization plan and a capacity-building plan was developed.*

### Context and Challenges

In 2008, armed conflict and mass violence resumed in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular the Kivus and Province Orientale. These areas continue to be plagued by conflict, a critical humanitarian crisis and egregious human rights violations. Recent conflicts have resulted in a significant increase in the number of IDPs, and increased ERW contamination in areas that include IDP camps and major towns.

The UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) was established in 2002 to support the deployment of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), and to conduct humanitarian mine action on behalf of the local population, under the MONUC umbrella. The Government has also appointed UNMACC as the de facto

mine action authority until the creation of a national authority. It is responsible for the overall coordination, planning, prioritization, monitoring, and quality control and management of mine action activities.

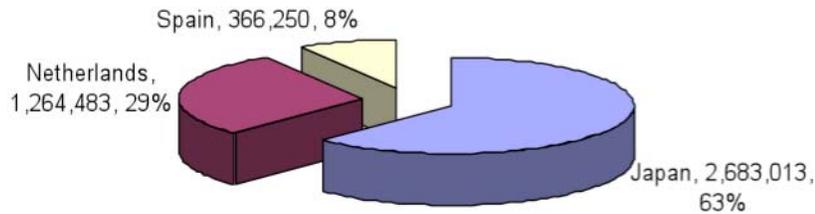
Logistics remain a major challenge, with an associated impact on the pace and scope of activities by UNMACC and implementing partners. Response timing is hampered due to the impacts of distance and weak infrastructure on the reporting of mine accidents and contamination, and the programme's ability to redirect appropriate assets.

Given the array of issues that the Congolese people face, from conflict to infectious disease and poverty, mine action resources are understandably limited. Through the generous support of the Government of Japan, survey and EOD capacities have been expanded, with considerable returns in terms of information and operational responses.

The mine action programme is committed to assisting people to live in safe and decent environments, and to rebuild their communities. The programme seeks results that benefit people today and generations to come. Its ability to help transform neighbor-



Voluntary Contributions during 2009 for the Mine Action Programme in Democratic Republic of Congo



hoods, communities and lives requires strong partnerships with both donors and implementing partners. Sustainable funding will remain the biggest challenge; it requires the constant attention of the donor community.

#### *Support from UNMAS Headquarters*

UNMAS deployed a technical mission in May 2009 to assist UNMACC in developing a quality management system. A second technical mission in July 2009 provided further advice and guidance in resource mobilization, capacity building and public relations. UNMAS assisted with donor liaison work that contributed to a significant amount of voluntary contributions from the governments of Japan, the Netherlands and Spain. The UN General Assembly appropriated funds for the mine action component within the MONUC peacekeeping budget.

#### *Coordination and Training*

In cooperation with the Congolese Government, UNMACC continued coordinating all mine activities, with particular emphasis on the eastern region of the country. Monthly coordination meetings were organized with all mine action

stakeholders, including implementing partners, UN agencies and government representatives. Liaisons were ensured with the coordinator of the UN Security and Stabilization Support Strategy (UNSSSS) for the east. UNMACC also coordinated with national and international partners and government representatives to develop submissions for the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2010. Other assistance supported national authorities in drafting an Article 7 report in accordance with the obligations of the anti-personnel mine ban treaty. UNMACC is part of all in-country UN humanitarian, development and stabilization mechanisms, and mine action objectives and activities are taken into consideration in the strategic planning for the protection cluster, UN Country Team, stabilization plan and security sector reform.

In 2009, the mine risk education officer at UNMACC worked jointly with national and international partners to develop draft mine risk education accreditation guidelines for national NGOs. A mine risk education workshop was organized by the Ministry of Education with the full support of UNMACC and cooperation of the mine risk education officer and national focal point. A workshop for trainers contributed to the integration of mine risk education in the national education system.

### *Operations*

General mine action surveys were conducted in Katanga and Kasai. As a result, UNMACC developed a new concept of operations to identify the scope of landmine and ERW contamination, and to provide immediate emergency EOD responses. In order to focus on the eastern region of the country, and to better monitor and support operations, UNMACC relocated its three regional offices to Kisangani, Goma and Lubumbashi.

Six international implementing partners were involved in mine clearance operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: two commercial companies contracted by the United Nations and four international NGOs. Teams from MECHEM, a commercial contractor, have continued to respond to MONUC's operational requirements as tasked by UNMACC, and to provide active support to the UNSSSS. A major achievement was the clearance of the Bangboka Airport in Kisangani. MECHEM teams also responded to clearance requirements in Goma, Masisi and Rutshuru following clashes in North Kivu. Despite challenging conditions, including destroyed bridges, difficult terrain and overgrown tracks, The Development Initiative (TDI), also contracted by the United Nations, was able to complete a general mine action survey and conduct spot EOD tasks in virtually the entire province of Katanga, providing the first accurate picture of contamination there.

Handicap International (HI)-Belgium teams continued to work in Orientale Province. The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) continued its operations in Equateur Province and in eastern Katanga. DanChurchAid (DCA), with support from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), oper-

ated in Kabumba and Mitondo of Kabalo Territory within the Tanganika District.

Mine risk education aimed at reaching some of the 800,000 IDPs reported by UNHCR and OCHA before they return to their homes. UNMACC international and national partners were able to reach 334,344 people through a variety of media and delivery methods.

A vote on the National Mine Action Law, originally scheduled for June, was unfortunately postponed by Parliament, but UNMACC continues its efforts to see the law formally adopted. Advocacy efforts have been developed to promote adoption of the draft law by the National Assembly. UNMACC has been advocating with the parliamentary coalition for mine action, and the MONUC Political Component has done likewise with the President and Vice-President of the National Assembly to inform all parties about the necessity and benefits of the legislation. Other advocacy takes place through the inclusion of mine risk education and humanitarian mine action training in the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) and police training programmes.

### *Impact*

A major step in reducing the number of landmine and ERW victims in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is to accurately define where contamination threatens the population and accidents have occurred. The survey and EOD operations launched in 2009 have significantly contributed to this objective. Almost the entire province of Katanga has been surveyed and deemed moderately affected.

While 334,344 men, women, girls and boys received mine risk education, this was a decrease of 39.2 per cent from the 549,457 people reached in 2008. The decline was due to financial resource constraints experienced by UNMAT partners. While there is no comprehensive victim surveillance system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNMACC statistics show 103 victims in 2009 compared to 136 in 2008. This decrease comes at a time of greater information gathering and population movement, both of which would have been expected to increase victim rates.

Mine action is based on the UNMACC concept of operations, which combines general mine action surveys, road and route verification, and direct clearance of identified dangerous areas. To date, the verification of 11,600 kilometres of roads and the clearance of 6 million square metres of land, mainly in the eastern region, have mitigated risks to communities, returning refugees and IDPs, while facilitating their resettlement. Surveys conducted in 2009 increased the knowledge base to guide prioritization and tasking.

As a sign of increased integration of mine action within national plans and budgets, mine action for the first time was integrated into the national stabilization plan with funds budgeted accordingly. This major step

came as a result of a request by the Ministry of Planning. The Ministry of Interior, which is responsible for mine action, demonstrated increased engagement in the issue, including through statements and activities in observance of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April.

To bolster national ownership, UNMACC developed a capacity-building plan aimed at assisting national authorities in progressively taking full responsibility for mine action. The first objective is to enhance the national mine action focal point system by developing an institutional structure that will manage mine action activities in accordance with international standards. The national mine action focal point is now located at UNMACC, and on-the-job training has begun, including through field missions and joint coordination of partners. The plan's second objective is to establish a small, but sustainable national mine action operational capacity drawing on national NGOs, the National Police and FARDC. It should be able to meet future residual mine action requirements stemming from the national strategy and obligations under the anti-personnel mine ban treaty. A number of national NGOs have already been conducting mine risk education, often in partnership with international entities, while positive discussions have taken place with the FARDC authorities.<sup>18</sup>

#### Signs of Progress

	<i>Mines Destroyed</i>	<i>UXO Destroyed</i>	<i>Miscellaneous Devices Destroyed</i>
2008	25	6,492	103,098
2009	92	38,381	56,927
<b>Percentage Change</b>	<b>268%</b>	<b>491.20%</b>	<b>45.39%</b>
	<i>Minefields Cleared (square kilometres)</i>		<i>Road Surveys (square kilometres)</i>
2008	557.6		N/A
2009	1,668		10,161
<b>Percentage Change</b>	<b>199.18%</b>		<b>N/A</b>

### **The Village of Mitondo**

On 11 November 2009, the village of Mitondo in Katanga Province was once again able to use a field long abandoned due to the presence of mines. In April 2009, DCA commenced clearance activities at the site. After five months of demining that located and destroyed 27 mines, DCA was able to release the land to the community. Approximately 2,000 people from Mitondo and adjacent settlements will benefit from the clearance.

On behalf of the people of Mitondo, the village chief, Mr. Mwune Konyi, expressed their gratitude. "Today, Mitondo was born a second time" he said. "For us there is nothing more that you need do. You brought back hope to this village and its surrounding areas."

Before the war, Mitondo was once the breadbasket of Katanga Province. Mr. Roger Mwamba, the Representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, emphasized that the assistance provided by the demining operations would help consolidate peace. WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) committed themselves to supporting the cultivation of the cleared land with seeds and agricultural tools.

The District Commissioner, Mr. Maurice Kyoni, expressed amazement at the meticulous work carried out by the deminers. He was also proud to see that Congolese men and women did the work. He expressed the thanks of the local authorities to UNMACC and DCA for developing local capacities and emphasizing gender equality. "The population of Mitondo relied on you and you were entrusted with this piece of land," he commented. "You handed over the land, freed of its threat, but you have also given your knowledge to these male and female deminers".

### **GAZA (OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES)**

- UNMAT EOD teams assessed 1,617 sites covering 876,596 square metres.
- 333 items of UXO were uncovered.
- 3,804 persons—3,235 men and 569 women—participated in English and Arabic language risk awareness sessions.
- Mine action technical risk assessments were conducted to support rubble removal.

#### *Context and Challenges*

With the conclusion of emergency mine action interventions, which were conducted immediately after the cessation of hostilities, as described in this report on page 20, UNMAT activities in Gaza transitioned to a more sustained mine action response in support of early recovery. During this phase, UNMAT's assistance continued to be critical in facilitating safe and efficient recovery operations for communities to regain their freedom of movement and livelihoods. Continuing the close inter-agency cooperation fostered during the rapid response, UNDP, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and other UN agencies worked together to provide logistics and security for UNMAT activities.

The programme experienced a number of operational and administrative constraints. Some limitations, including those on access and importation of equipment into Gaza and freedom of operations inside Gaza, were addressed throughout the year with incremental progress achieved.

*Support from UNMAS Headquarters*

In addition to leading the inter-agency coordination and mine action response planning mechanisms at headquarters, UNMAS support included technical missions by the Acting Chief of Programme Planning and Management that were specifically aimed at formalizing inter-agency mechanisms. Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$1,322,643 from the Government of the United Kingdom and the European Commission.

*Coordination and Training*

Given the close inter-agency cooperation inherent in the Gaza programme, it continued to operate under UNMAT throughout the year, as it had during the rapid response phase. The programme coordinated mine action inputs and support requirements under joint planning processes, such as those for the Consolidated Appeal and the Protection Cluster Strategy, and in activities to remove tens of thousands of tons of rubble generated by the conflict.

Efforts to ensure data collection and dissemination that had been made during the rapid response phase were extended. Expert advice was provided to UN and other international entities as required

to maintain safe conduct for assessments and other activities related to recovery.

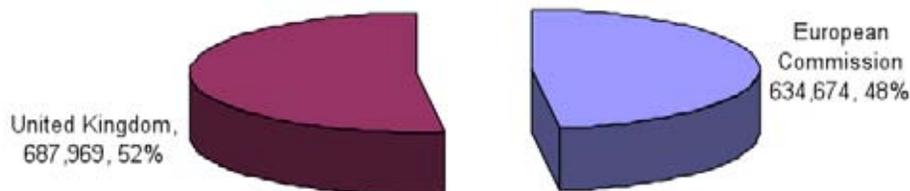
*Operations*

In Gaza, UNMAT conducted UXO risk assessments as part of a vital preparatory planning process to facilitate future recovery efforts. The assessments assisted partner agencies with rubble removal and aided other reconstruction efforts by implementing mitigation measures appropriate to the residual UXO risk.

Of the 2,052 sites that UNDP, UNRWA, ICRC and other organizations requested be assessed in preparation for rubble removal and rehabilitation, UNMAT EOD Teams assessed 1,617 sites covering 876,596 square metres. Out of these, 1,480 were residences and four were schools; 191 qualified as high impact, 397 as medium impact and 1,029 as low impact. In total, over 57,322 civilians were affected. High- and medium-impact sites, comprising 36 percent of those assessed, require further EOD support when humanitarian or contracted workers rehabilitate the sites.

EOD actions have uncovered 333 items of UXO; 167 were found during rubble removal activities, which commenced on 7 July 2009. Out of the total, 68

Voluntary Contributions during 2009 for the Mine Action Programme in Gaza



items were M15 anti-tank mines used as demolition charges in felling buildings, and 53 items were white phosphorus.

Given the limited number of qualified mine action staff, a key to enhancing the safety of UN, NGO and civilian personnel was the provision of decentralized risk education training. This was accomplished through a training-of-trainers designed for project managers, site supervisors and forepersons so they can educate the people they supervise.

Through this approach, 3,804 people—3,235 men and 569 women—participated in English and Arabic language risk awareness sessions. Among the beneficiaries were 2,877 personnel from UN agencies, local and international NGOs, and Palestinian civilian staff contracted to conduct rubble removal operations. An additional 927 civilians from at-risk groups, such as farmers working in or near the buffer zone, also received awareness training.

### *Impact*

The work of mine action in enabling humanitarian and development activities in Gaza has been significant. Activities such as rubble removal simply cannot happen without proper support from qualified technicians. Risk education has not only assisted in these primary tasks, but supported a number of other relief and development activities essential for civilians to go about their daily lives.

### ***EOD in Gaza City***

In October, Action Contre le Faim (ACF) requested UNMAT to assess Kraim Road as part of their “Emergency Cash for Work Food Security Programme.” The assessment confirmed that a house beside the road had been heavily shelled during Operation Cast Lead, creating a potential UXO hazard. This was verified by the owner, who located a large crater among water pipes used in his business supporting the water industry.

Following an EOD assessment, the team located a 750-pound M117 general purpose bomb, which was safely excavated a few hours later. The team’s work allowed the owner to resume his activities at full capacity. The operation also allowed ACF to continue its assessment of Kraim Road.



## LEBANON

- *The transition of mine action coordination to the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC) was completed.*
- *Technical strike data received from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) was analysed and handed over to the LMAC.*
- *The number of civilian victims fell by 59 percent, from 22 in 2008 to 9 in 2009.*

### Context

As a result of conflict in 2006, south Lebanon was heavily contaminated with unexploded sub-munitions and other ERW, in addition to its legacy of mines. This continues to threaten physical integrity, economic opportunities and peace-building.

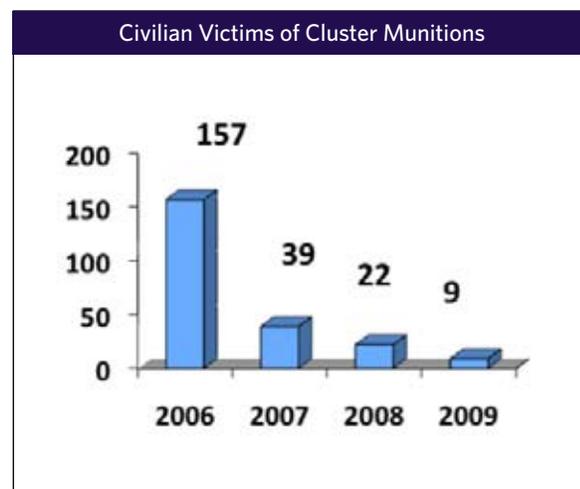
The 2008 Transition Strategy, which is directly linked to Strategic Objective 4 of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy 2006-2010, confirmed that primary responsibility for managing clearance operations should be handed over to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) through the establishment of the LMAC by 1 January 2009. Coordination of clearance operations in south Lebanon is now managed by the LMAC through its Regional Mine Action Center in Nabaytieh (RMAC-N). The UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC), now located at the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Headquarters, supported UNIFIL clearance and EOD assets, and acted as the liaison between the LMAC and UNIFIL. UNMACC's transition objective has been to support the LMAC in consolidating the national capacity for managing clearance operations in south Lebanon by providing RMAC-N with technical expertise and assistance in quality assurance and other operational matters. A Memorandum of Understanding between UNMAS and LMAC, signed by LMAC and UNMACC leaders, outlines roles and responsibilities for further implementation of the transition plan.

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1884 (2009), UNMACC carried out mine action tasks in 2009 in support of UNIFIL. To ensure the compliance of force clearance units with IMAS, UNMACC conducted EOD, battle area clearance and

demining training of Belgian, Chinese, French, Italian and Spanish contingents. This helped to decrease direct threats to civilians and UNIFIL in south Lebanon.

Unexploded cluster munitions and ERW continue to impede the livelihoods and threaten the safety of civilians and peacekeepers in south Lebanon. Since the cessation of hostilities on 14 August 2006, 227 cases of civilian casualties of unexploded cluster munitions have been reported, 21 of which were fatal.<sup>19</sup> The population at greatest risk consists of young men over 18 years of age, who represent 58 percent of the total victims from unexploded cluster munitions. Women over 18 years of age account for seven percent of casualties, and children represent 35 percent of all victims of unexploded cluster munitions. Accidents during clearance operations since August 2006 have resulted in 46 injuries and 14 fatalities among civilian and uniformed clearance personnel. In 2008, 13 accidents occurred, compared to 3 in 2009.

In 2009, the average number of victims overall was less than one per month. This marks a significant decrease in the casualty rate compared to the period immediately following the conflict when, on average, 35 casualties were reported per month. The number of victims in the first four and a half months after the conflict represented 69 percent of the total number of casualties from unexploded cluster munitions, whereas the total in 2009 accounted for only 4 percent.



### Support from UNMAS Headquarters

The UNMAS Acting Chief of Programme Planning and Management undertook a technical visit to south Lebanon in July to advise on transition issues, reconfiguration within UNIFIL, accreditation for force clearance units and the possibility of integrating civilian clearance assets into UNIFIL mine action. Subsequently, as part of a review of UNIFIL's operational capacities, UNMAS worked closely with UNIFIL on possible approaches to engaging clearance assets that would best serve mission priorities.

UNMAS headquarters facilitated liaisons with donors and the processing of funds through the VTF from the governments of Denmark, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom.

### Coordination and Training

On 12 May, UNIFIL received technical strike data and related maps on cluster munitions usage during the 2006 conflict from the IDF. The data were handed over to the LAF and UNMACC to analyse. Additional sites were identified through the analysis and desk assessment conducted by UNMACC, and the results of the analysis were officially conveyed to the LMAC on 12 June. In total, 282 additional sites that were more than 500 metres from known strike sites were identified. These potentially contaminated areas have been the subject of further survey by the LMAC; 116 were

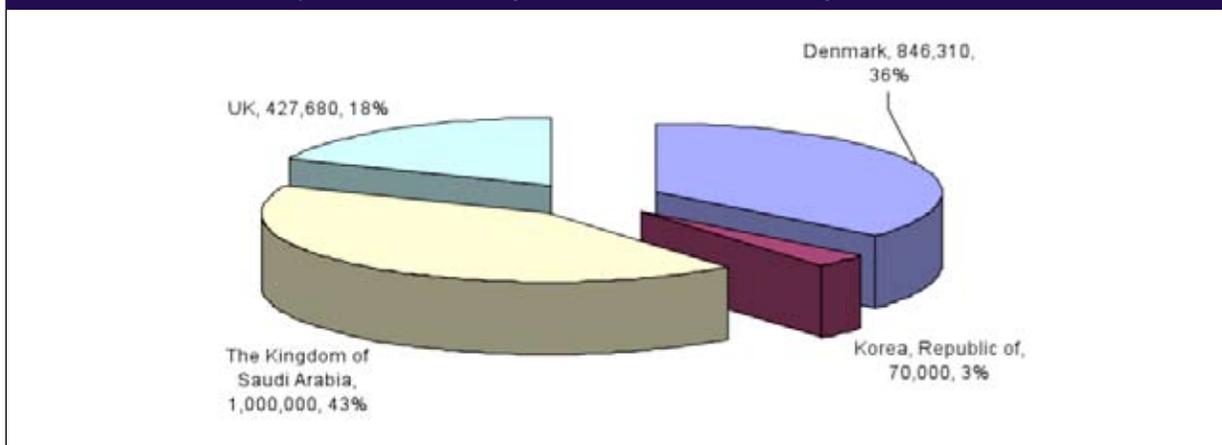
recorded south of the Litani River, within the UNIFIL area of operations.

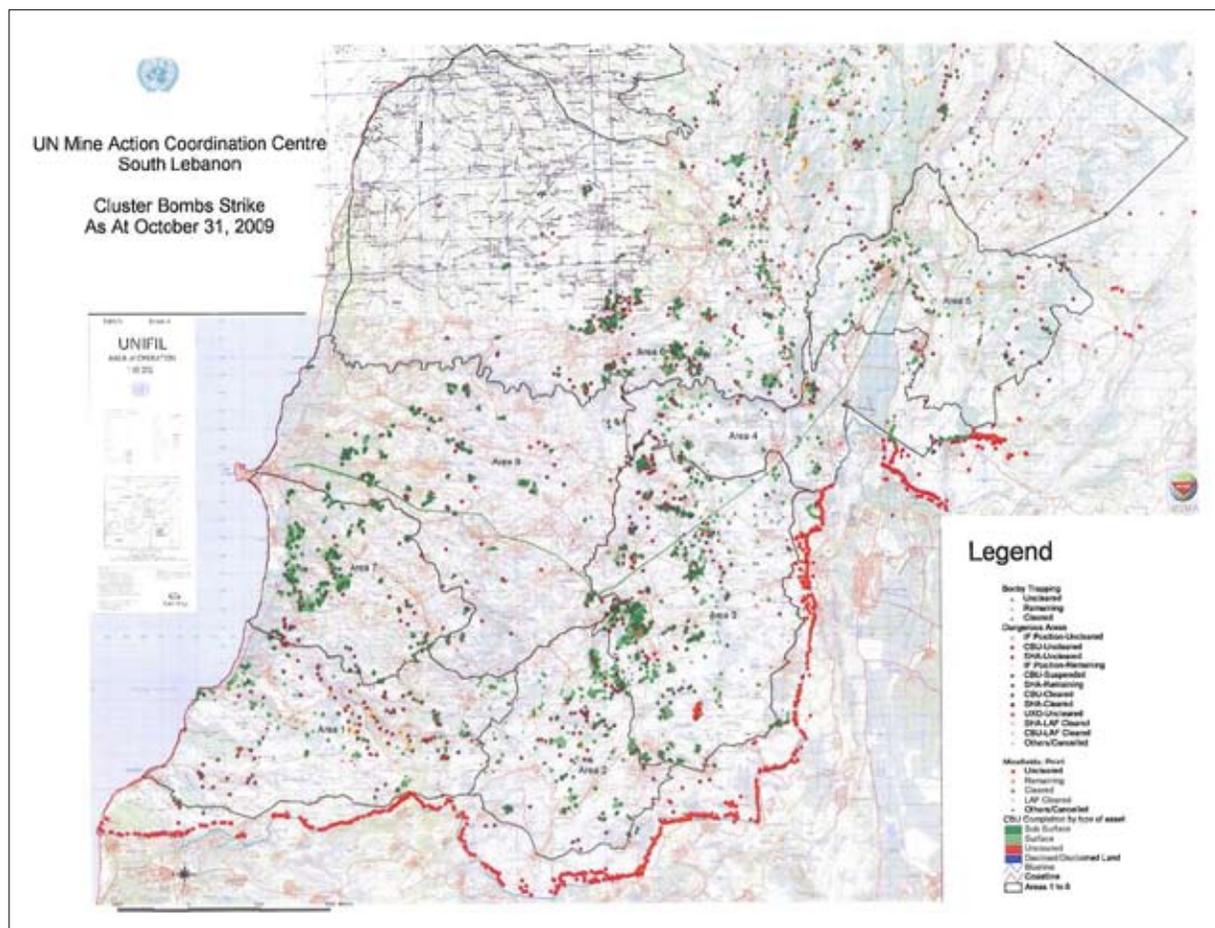
UNMACC's core form of support to UNIFIL has been to ensure effective coordination of UN and non-UN mine action activities. Support also involves providing landmine and ERW safety and risk education to all UN Truce Supervision Organisation Observer Group Lebanon (UNTSO OGL) teams, offering technical advice, conducting mine and ERW mapping, and recording information. The UNMACC lends expert support to the Tripartite Committee of Israel, Lebanon chaired by UNIFIL.

UNMACC, through the UNIFIL Force Headquarters, assisted with coordinating the tasking of clearance assets to support UNIFIL priorities, including the visible marking of the Blue Line. To date, 69 coordinates have been agreed. Additionally, 40 markers have been installed, with 23 under construction. Demining support for the construction of connectors for the existing patrol route along the Blue Line will benefit the LAF and UNIFIL in conducting patrols, thus contributing to security and peace-building within the mission area. Central to all of this has been the continued development of appropriate standard operating procedures, in accordance with Lebanese National Technical Safety Guidelines (NTSG) and IMAS.

Despite the transition arrangements, UNMACC continued its role as an advocate for mine action throughout south Lebanon. Most of its efforts have been to dispel the impression that the transition process sig-

Voluntary Contributions during 2009 for the Mine Action Programme in Lebanon





nals the end of large-scale clearance operations and to highlight the continued need for additional funds for clearance. While the problem has been reduced to a manageable level, and casualty rates have declined, much remains to be done before south Lebanon can be considered free from mines and ERW.

### Operations

With the handover of responsibility for coordinating clearance to the LMAC, UNMACC's mandate is mainly to support UNIFIL clearance assets. The expansion of UNIFIL in 2006 involved the deployment of a number of contingents with EOD and mine clearance capacities, including from Belgium, France, Italy and Spain, in addition to the existing Chinese company already deployed. To ensure the safety of deminers and end-users of land, UNMACC offered accreditation and quality management to all UNIFIL clearance units.

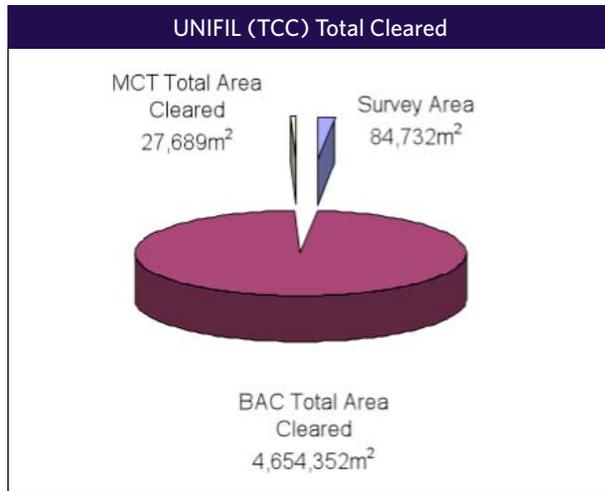
Two earlier projects continued into 2009. Contributions from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supported

three battle area clearance teams from BACTEC through March. The teams cleared 162,207 square metres, and located and destroyed 86 devices, including 77 sub-munitions. Other donors funded the coordination of clearance, staff and running costs leading up to the handover.

UNMACC oversaw the inter-agency project "Social and Economic Empowerment of Communities Affected by Cluster Bombs," which was funded by the Government of Japan through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. The project focused on cluster munitions clearance and socioeconomic rehabilitation of south Lebanon by clearing high-priority, high-impact cluster strike locations that barred access to usable land. The project was implemented in cooperation with UNDP and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG). Over two years, two teams released almost 1 million square metres of land, locating and destroying 787 cluster munitions and 55 UXO.

UNIFIL clearance in 2009 contributed significantly to overall clearance in south Lebanon. During the year, some

UNIFIL clearance resources were reassigned to work on the Blue Line marking project on the border. The change from battle area clearance to mine clearance has slowed down overall clearance, but the Blue Line marking project continues to be a high priority for UNIFIL. UNMACC provided support through accreditation, training and quality assurance.



### Impact

Unexploded cluster munitions and ERW continue to kill and injure people in south Lebanon. Operations coordinated by UNMACC and the LMAC, however, have contributed to a marked decrease in new casualties.

Clearance efforts have saved lives and secured livelihoods. By ensuring that priorities are closely linked to the agricultural cycle, UNMACC and the LMAC have, to a great extent, enabled civilians working in the agricultural sector to resume their activities with minimal personal risk. This normalization of activities complements the economic development initiatives of the Government of Lebanon, UN agencies and NGOs.

Training, accreditation and quality assurance of UNIFIL mine and battle area clearance assets have boosted the quality of clearance. UNIFIL can safely conduct patrols directly supporting the mandate provided by the Security Council. The visible marking of the Blue Line, assisted by UNMACC, helps in preventing inadvertent violations of resolution 1701 (2006) and in building confidence between the parties.

### Hope

Shortly after the end of the conflict in 2006, Mohammad Zayoun, a farmer who supports his family by harvesting wild thyme near the village of Maarakeh, some 15 kilometres from the city of Tyre, returned home from a day's work. He brought with him what his daughter Rasha took to be a toy, a small metal canister with a ribbon attached to the top. One evening, Rasha picked up the strange object and played with the ribbon, wondering what it was. "I felt a scratch of electricity," she said. "I threw it from me, and it exploded before it hit the ground." The detonation tore off her left leg and wounded her mother, Alia, and brother Qassem, 21, who were in the room at the time. The "toy" was a cluster bomb.

Rasha tragically lost her leg, but she has begun the process of healing, both physically and emotionally, mostly through sewing, drawing and designing beautiful dresses.

"I would like to have more money. I think my family is poor. Our house was destroyed during the July 2006 war. We have no furniture. We have walls and a roof. They are burnt and look really black.

"I have had more than 10 operations on my left leg. It was amputated below the knee. I wear a prosthesis. Look at it. It hurts. Now the fragments have been removed, but I have wounds in my right leg also. It hurts too. The last surgery was two months ago and lasted two hours. I don't know which type of weapon injured me, but I know that it was a weapon that comes from the sky."

For the last three years, Rasha has been studying and learning clothing design at an institute in Sarafand, an area near Saida. "I am well known as Rasha Zayoun, the girl who lost her limb from a cluster bomb brought back from a field to her home as if her name was written on it," she said. But she has desires to change that. "I will become Rasha Zayoun, the girl who never lost hope to become a famous clothing designer. I will not surrender; nothing will stop me from achieving my goal."

With her prosthetic limb, obscured underneath her jeans, she has learned to walk and hopes one day to open a tailor shop. "I may have lost my leg, but all the capacities of becoming an independent person are still alive."

Photo: UNFIL



### ***New Chances to Make Land Come Alive***

Born in a small village near El Hennyeh, 15 kilometres from the city of Tyre, Anis Abaddi is familiar with the difficult life of a farmer, and how it was made more challenging by the 2006 conflict.

"A large portion of these lands were made inaccessible to our community due to cluster bombs that were dropped in the 2006 conflict," said Anis, who owns a large citrus orchard. "The bombs were scattered everywhere, on the ground, hanging on the trees like ornaments. It was a no man's land."

In response to the threat, Chinese UNIFIL deminers were asked to clear the 35,717 square metres of orange and lemon groves. With the task completed in around 18 months, these formerly contaminated lands now represent a new chapter of hope for Anis.

"Now I will take this opportunity and move forward," he said. "These lands are going to come alive with farming to support me and my family."

## NEPAL

- 13 minefields were cleared, compared to 5 minefields in 2008.
- There was a 14.1 percent reduction in casualties, from 73 in 2008 to 64 in 2009.
- All remaining hazardous items in the seven Maoist cantonment sites were demolished.
- The development and implementation of a joint Capacity Development Plan took place in cooperation with the Nepal Army Mine Action Coordination Center (NAMACC).

### Context and Challenges

The 10-year conflict in Nepal that ended in November 2006 left portions of the country contaminated by mines and ERW. The Nepal Army laid minefields in 53 locations. An estimated 274 areas were contaminated with command-detonated improvised devices to protect military installations, police posts and infrastructure such as communications sites. A large number of IEDs used by the Maoist Army in place of conventional grenades and bombs also contaminate areas of the country.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 21 November 2006 and the Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Ammunition (AMMAA) of 8 December 2006 committed the Nepal Army and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), or CPN (M), to rid the country of threats from landmines and ERW, and to assist in clearing minefields and destroying stockpiles of ammunition and caches of IEDs within 60 days of signing the CPA.

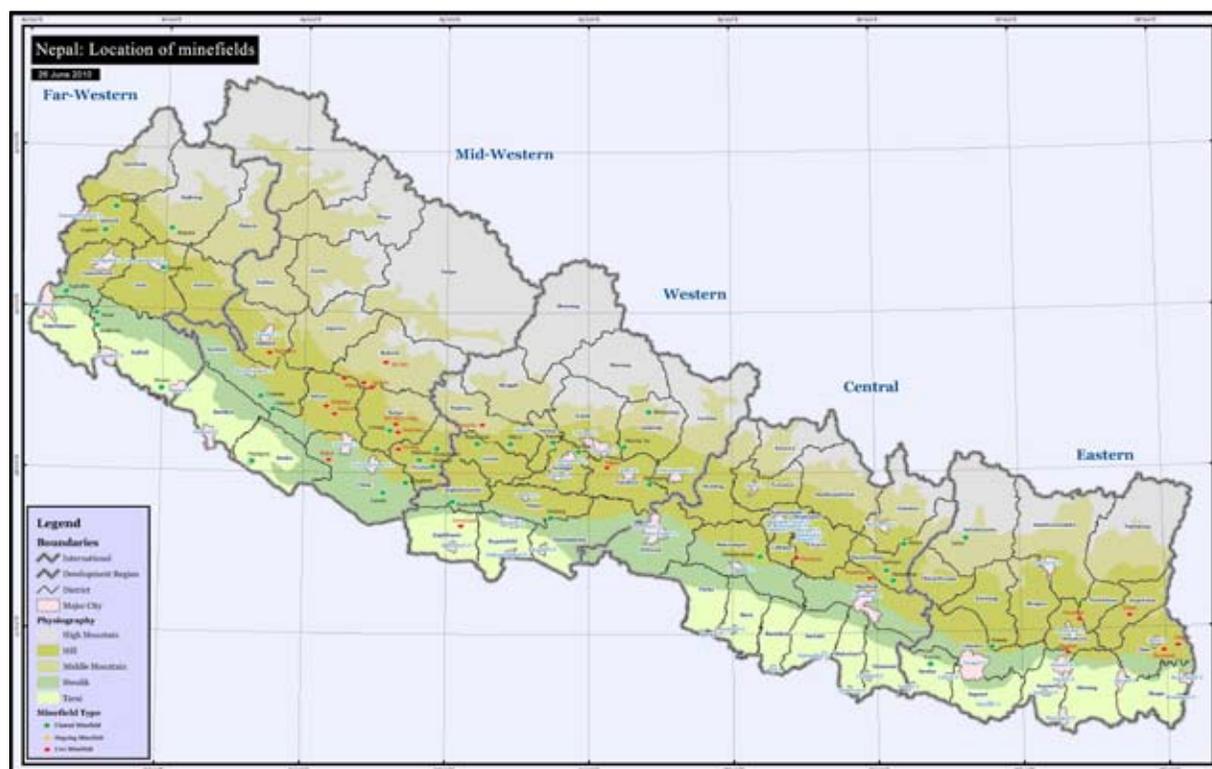
Casualties in Nepal (2009 compared to 2008)

Age 0-18	2008	2009	Percentage Reduction
Male	33	28	19.9
Female	13	7	85.7
Unknown	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31.4%</b>

Age 18+	2008	2009	Percentage Reduction
Male	17	16	6.3
Female	10	13	23.1
Unknown	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6.9%</b>

Total	2008	2009	Percentage Reduction
Male	50	44	13.6
Female	23	20	15.0
Unknown	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>14.1%</b>

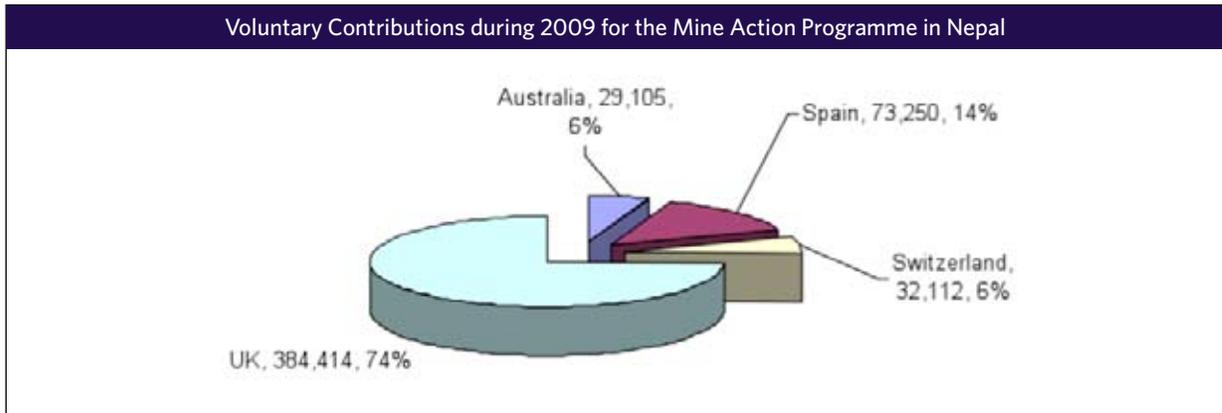
Casualties from victim-activated devices are on the decline, but remain among the highest in the world. Despite the reduction in casualties, landmines—and to a larger extent ERW typified by improvised devices—continue to pose a humanitarian threat and an obstacle to peace, reconciliation and development. In 2009, available data revealed 64 victims of mines and ERW, a 14.1 percent drop from the previous year, and an 83.4 percent reduction from 2007. The data indicate that the majority of casualties are caused by victim-activated IEDs, and are due to dangerous activities such as tampering. The majority of victims are less than 18 years of age.



After the conflict, the Nepal Army did not have the technical capacity, equipment or management capacity to deal with minefield threats, which prevented it from safely meeting its obligation under the CPA. Support was originally provided through a Mine Action Unit (MAU) within the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN). The unit eventually became part of an existing UNICEF programme on mine risk education and data gathering. This became the first field operation of UNMAT. UNICEF and UNMAS co-chair the Mine Action Joint Working Group (MAJWG) and assist the mine action community in developing appropriate responses to the country's mine action needs in demining, mine risk education, victim assistance and some advocacy. This arrangement mirrors the UNMAT concept and configuration at headquarters. It is designed to capture synergies between various UN agencies. UNMAT continues to work closely with UNMIN and other agencies in Nepal in support of UN Security Council Resolution 1825 and the implementation of the CPA.

The Nepal Government is not a state party to the anti-personnel mine ban convention, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons or the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Government has signed but not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Mine action is a priority area in Nepal's peace-building process. The Government has expressed a clear commitment to it and the commensurate assistance to victims spelled out in the CPA. A national Mine Action Steering Committee, chaired by the Minister for Peace and Reconstruction, and the Mine Action Technical Committee under the Steering Committee are responsible for government planning and implementation of mine action activities. In November, a taskforce formed by the steering committee submitted a National Mine Action Plan for Nepal through 2011. This plan, along with a newly established Mine Action Unit within the Ministry for Peace and Reconstruction, will reinforce national ownership and coord-



dination of mine action activities in Nepal. UNMAT will support the ministry in establishing the mine action office and implementing the national strategy.

#### *Support from UNMAS Headquarters*

In 2009, UNMAS headquarters provided substantive programme support and coordinated resource mobilization activities. Voluntary contributions of US \$518,881 came from the governments of Australia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom; these bridged a gap while funding was raised through the principal funding source, the UN Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN). A liaison was established with the UN Department of Field Support (DFS) to secure the transfer of equipment from UNMIN at the time of separation.

Visits to Nepal by the UNMAS Director and Programme Officer strengthened advocacy with senior government officials and helped inform the concept of operations for UNMAT in Nepal.

With the support of the United Kingdom, UNMAS commissioned an external evaluation of the Nepal programme from its beginning through mid-2009. It was conducted by Cranfield University, and geared towards assessing the effectiveness of UNMAT support in addressing Nepal's mine action needs. The findings were generally positive, especially in terms of the capacity building aspects of the programme.

The evaluation recommended the continuation of UNMAT technical support to the Nepal Army and quality assurance of clearance activities through 2011. It also suggested that UNMAT continue to facilitate the development of a national mine action strategy through coordination with stakeholders from the government and members of the MAJWG.

#### *Coordination and Training*

The UNMAS component of UNMAT in Nepal directly supports Strategic Objectives 1 and 4 of the UN inter-agency strategy through mine action activities with the Nepal Army and the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction.

In 2009, the capacity development, training and quality management activities with the Nepal Army continued to improve the effectiveness of demining operations and ensure compliance with IMAS. In February, the joint UNMAT-NAMACC Capacity Development Plan was finalized. It was based on an assessment of the current capacities of the NAMACC, and outlined a series of trainings to improve technical and middle management capacities over the next two years. In addition to ongoing capacity development and mentoring activities, training facilitated by UNMAT included courses on advanced demining, EOD Level III, IED disposal, the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and mine action management.



Advice and support to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in the development of a mine action office for planning and coordinating mine action occurred throughout the year. In October, the ministry-chaired Steering Committee met for the first time since 2007 and appointed a task force to develop a draft mine action work plan that was submitted in November. The plan is now being implemented.

UNMAT elaborated a work plan for 2009-2010. Regular reports to donors and the broader mine action community detailing UNICEF and UNMAS activities are produced jointly to ensure operational coordination. UNMAT coordinated Nepal's participation in the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2010, and submitted a number of proposals for mine risk education, victim assistance, advocacy and clearance from members of the MAJWG.

Together with members of the MAJWG, UNMAT hosted an event on 6 April to celebrate the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. Ambassadors from Australia and the United Kingdom, the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, the Director of the Nepal Army Military Engineers and the UN Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator all attended.

UNMAT advocacy efforts continue to encourage Nepal's accession to the anti-personnel mine ban treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNMAS supported three delegates who attended the Cartagena Summit. It will continue to advise the Government in its accession efforts and emphasize sensitization to all three conventions within the national strategy.

### *Operations*

Primary costs of the Nepal programme are funded by the multi-donor UNPFN. Contributions have been made to the fund by the governments of Canada, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, and supplemented by donations from Australia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom specifically for specialized demining equipment and training needs.

In 2009, considerable gains were made in the rate of clearance as well as the capacity to independently manage mine clearance operations. Thirteen minefields were cleared and 2,118 mines and 201 ERW destroyed. This is a marked increase in productivity compared to 2008, in which five minefields were completed. The increase can be attributed to improved operational efficiency among the demining platoons as well as greater capacity overall with the addition of a third demining platoon in October.

The safe destruction of 28,273 dangerous items stored in the seven Maoist cantonment sites was completed in December through coordination with the Maoist division commanders and the UNMIN Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee (JMCC). Including the 18,642 items destroyed in 2007 and 2008, the project has destroyed a total of 46,915 explosives

UNMAT's assessment of the EOD/IED capacity of the Nepal Army led the Embassy of the United Kingdom to bring in expert personnel to provide additional training on EOD and IED disposal to Nepal Army personnel so they can operate more effectively.

UNMAS continued to assist its UNMAT partner, UNICEF, in its role leading a comprehensive mine risk education campaign, in partnership with multiple actors, including the government, and national and international civil society organizations. Mine risk

education now covers most of the districts in Nepal. UNMAS also supported victim assistance activities implemented by UNICEF and its partners, including the development of a handbook on victim assistance and a five year national strategic framework for victim assistance devised by the government and key national and international stakeholders.

### *Impact*

Supporting the Nepal Army to deal with landmines, IEDs and ERW involves demining training and technical support in accordance with international humanitarian standards. This is a vital component of Nepal's peace process that has and will continue to achieve significant results in a relatively short time frame.

The clearance of mine and IED fields contributes to the security of the civilian population, promote freedom of movement and facilitates development activities. The Nepal Army clearance activities supported by UNMAS, along with the mine risk education activities assisted by UNICEF, continue to reduce the number of casualties, especially those related to ERW and IEDs stored in homes since the end of hostilities.

UNMAT support to the Government of Nepal to develop and implement a comprehensive and sustainable mine action strategy encompassing clearance, victim assistance, mine risk education and advocacy through the development of a mine action office within the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction contributes to government awareness and action towards securing a future free from the dangers of mines and ERW.

### *Emergency Clearance in Salleri*

The minefield that wove across the northern hillside of Salleri village was impossible not to notice. The heavy barbed wire fencing and signs lining the perimeter forbade entry and warned locals and visitors of the dangerous area that bordered the main road through town.

Close proximity to the town centre and a major transit route made the minefield a dangerous eyesore for all. More crucially, it restricted the free movement of people and animals, and denied arable land to the surrounding community. Its continued presence was also a reminder of war in a time when confirmation of peace is critical.

Laid by the Nepal Army in 2001 to create a defensive barrier around Army barracks during the insurgency, the minefield has had no military utility since the end of the conflict in late 2006. But it was not identified as an immediate priority for clearance.

That changed, however, in October 2009, when a reconnaissance of the minefield by officers from the Army's Engineering Corps noticed that the branches of a tree growing in the minefield had reached into a set of power lines. This entanglement posed a serious hazard to the surrounding population, as the electric charge from the power lines threatened to travel through the tree and discharge into the ground. This could cause a range of problems—from the shorting out of the power lines to the uncontrolled detonation of the mines in the ground.

In response to this threat, the Nepal Army demining platoon working in the nearby minefield of Manthali suspended operations temporarily in early November and moved to the Salleri minefield to conduct emergency clearance.

Prem Kumar Rai, the headmaster of the Jang Jagriti Lower Secondary School, recounted how members of the army demining team had come to the school to notify the teachers and students of the impending clearance work, and provide information about

the process and demolition timings. "The Army explained the demining process to us very carefully—and we have confidence that they will make the land safe for our use."

Ngawgang Sherpa, a young owner of a cheese shop on the main road adjacent to the minefield, anticipated the absence of the minefield with enthusiasm. "The minefield is a scar on Salleri and a memory of violent times in our past. When the mines are gone the land will be used for what it was meant for—animals grazing and children playing."

Clearance of the Salleri minefield was completed at the end of December and the demining platoon returned to Manthali minefield to continue scheduled clearance operations.



## SOMALIA

- Mine risk education reached over 103,981 Somalis living in mine-affected communities.
- Casualty surveillance was improved to allow for systematic cataloguing and analysis of injury trends and causes within south-central Somalia.
- The peacekeeping force enhanced its capabilities to protect itself and achieve its mandate.

### Context and Challenges

ERW and landmine contamination in Somalia is largely still undefined, although it is believed to be extensive, particularly in the south-central region, the location of the most intense recent conflict between Al-Shabaab, Hisbul Islam and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) forces. The presence of landmines is the legacy of extended warfare; local populations are generally aware of the minefields. Although landmines constitute a threat to life and an impediment to relief efforts and economic progress, their impact is believed to be less significant overall than that of more widespread ERW contamination. One of the primary objectives for mine action in Somalia is to establish better visibility of the nature of the threat as a necessary precursor to designing a clearance and mine risk education programme.

In January 2009, at the request of the UNDP Bureau for Arab States and the UNDP Country Office, UNMAS led an inter-agency mission to assess future UN involvement in south-central Somalia. Based on the mission's findings, UNMAS expanded its previous support role and assumed responsibility for mine action activities in the south-central region by creating UN Somalia Mine Action (UNSOMA). UNDP con-

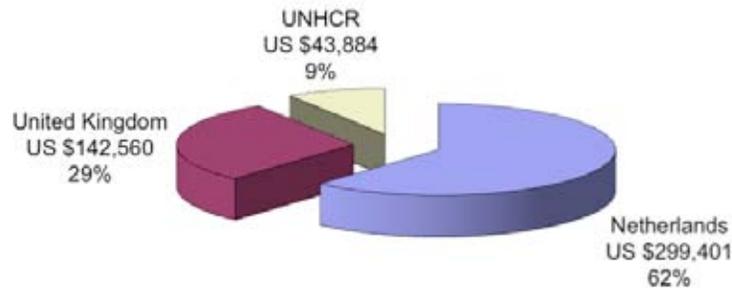
tinued to support local authorities in Somaliland and Puntland. UNMAS' assumption of responsibility took effect in February with a transition period through the end of March. Support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has been implemented on a large scale since March, following the establishment of the UN Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA). This has included the provision of comprehensive EOD training and mentorship, equipment and ongoing operational support. UNMAS' "Explosive Management Support for AMISOM" (EMSA) project, which is distinct in terms of funding and field personnel from UNSOMA activities, included the development and manning of an EOD operations and training centre for use by the AMISOM Joint EOD Troop.

UNSOMA has recorded 81 new mine or ERW casualties since 2008, although these figures do not represent a comprehensive snapshot of the impact of mines and ERW in south-central Somalia. Through an enhanced surveillance system, initial analysis indicates that the vast majority of casualties are males; boys under 18 years of age are the highest-risk group. Casualties are overwhelmingly the result of ERW. These data build on the rapid assessment completed in 2008. The surveillance system has been further maintained and updated by UNDP.

	Killed	Injured	Total
Girls*	1	6	7
Boys*	13	20	33
Women	1	5	6
Men	9	12	21
Unknown	6	8	14
<b>Total Casualties Recorded</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>81</b>



Voluntary Contributions during 2009 for the Mine Action Programme in Somalia



\$485,845 by the governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, as well as UNHCR.

#### *Coordination and Training*

Training for AMISOM EOD teams was launched in the middle of 2009, with the first EOD Level II qualified officers graduating in November. The training was supplemented by emergency first-aid training to equip AMISOM EOD teams with the knowledge required in the event of a mine or ERW casualty. UNSOMA worked in the latter half of the year to develop landmine safety materials and briefings for the AMISOM Force. UNSOMA continued to develop information-sharing networks with other humanitarian agencies. This has resulted in extensive advances in the volume and quality of information shared between the programme and UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF and WFP, among others.

UNSOMA coordinated submissions for the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2010 and the Consolidated Appeals Process for south-central Somalia, working with local and international NGOs and UN agencies to develop a holistic mine action response. EMSA worked with UN troop-contributing

countries and implementing partners to ensure that EOD support to AMISOM is managed in an efficient and effective manner.

UNSOMA engaged extensively with the UN Country Team to ensure mine action concerns were incorporated in all field assessments and projects. This has included participation in numerous security missions; medical, threat and feasibility assessments; and support to the specialized Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE) security training required for international staff operating in Somalia.

#### *Operations*

Field operations initiated from Baidoa recommenced in April, with mine risk education, victim surveillance, survey activities and information management proceeding until the disruption of operations in late December. These activities were supported by contributions from the Netherlands and UNHCR, and through in-kind contributions of personnel and equipment provided by Sweden through the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). Victim surveillance advances resulted in a greater picture of casualties in south-central Somalia. One finding was that

over two-thirds of casualties result from playing and tampering with ERW. To ensure that the most vulnerable groups can take full advantage of the benefits of mine action, UNSOMA works with a gender balanced team, with all components of mine risk education, EOD, and survey and quality assurance operations comprising both men and women.

Seventeen mine risk education facilitators continued operating in five of the nine regions of south-central Somalia, reaching 103,981 individuals. Based on the enhanced data collected on accidents, educational activities were directed at five priority regions: Bay, Gedo, Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle and Banadir. The Afgooye Corridor, which is home to over half a million IDPs living in ERW-contaminated areas and abandoned military facilities, was also the focus of targeted mine risk education activities. Conducted by UNICEF national child protection advocates, these reached 2,076 individuals. A four-person survey team was trained and deployed during the final quarter. Nine medics have been trained and qualified, and continued to support all operations, as well as to provide trauma support in the Bay regional hospital in Baidoa until December. Of the three EOD teams trained in 2008, two five-person teams returned to duty in May for refresher training. Given the deteriorating security situation in south-central Somalia, the level of on-the-job training has been an outstanding achievement.

EMSA work with AMISOM EOD teams resulted in the destruction of 143 devices in Mogadishu in October and November. Two EOD teams from the Ugandan contingent completed EOD Level II training, and have been equipped and provided with ongoing international EOD mentorship. Mine risk education and EOD activities in support of AMI-

Achievements in Mine Risk Education Delivery in Somalia	
<i>UNSOMA and Contractors Monthly</i>	<i>Total 2009</i>
Total Number of Locations	853
Sessions Delivered	2,758
Sessions in Schools	1,223
Boys	32,263
Girls	24,920
Men	20,044
Women	26,754
<b>Total Beneficiaries</b>	<b>103,981</b>

UNICEF Child Protection Advocates	
Number of Men	965
Number of Women	1,111
Total	2,076

SOM commenced in November and December, with 5,002 people going through training.

*Impact*

Somalia’s mine action programme is still in the developmental phase, with the adverse security situation precluding significant clearance operations. Despite these limitations, mine risk education has contributed to the safety and security of at-risk groups. Mine action has been deemed a priority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia to show the continued involvement of the UN in critical life-saving activities in south-central Somalia. The work supporting AMISOM continually enhances the ability of the peacekeeping force to protect itself and achieve its mandate.

### **Ahmed, a UXO Survivor at 14**

During a mine risk education session in the town of Jowhar in May, 14-year old Ahmed, who had fled from Mogadishu, told the story of how he survived an explosion that killed three boys and wounded two others.

"It was a Friday morning. We were four boys. I was the youngest. We were playing together in Daynile District (Mogadishu) and one of us found a shiny object hidden in a shrub," said Ahmed. "He shouted, 'Hey I found something nice!' and we all came to him to see what he found. It was an object we didn't recognize. Soon we started playing with it, hitting it with sticks, stones and other things."

A man chased the boys from the object, telling them that it was dangerous. He hid the shiny object. But the boys didn't listen to the man, and the next Friday they went in search of the object again.

"I and four other boys (including Ahmed's two older brothers) looked for the object and finally found it in a bush. We brought it to the playground where other children were playing football. We hit the object very hard again and again to see what was inside, but it wouldn't open. One of the boys told me to bring something harder to use to hit it. While I was looking, the object exploded and killed three boys and wounded two others."

Ahmed was not injured, but in his state of shock, could not remember where he lived. When he came to his senses, his parents were with him, crying; his two brothers had been killed.

"Since receiving mine risk education, I realize that any unknown object can be dangerous, so I don't touch anything I don't recognize anymore," says Ahmed, "I will mobilize the rest of my friends and community so they can benefit from what I have learned."



## SUDAN

- *The number of landmine and ERW victims has fallen by 65 percent since 2006.*
- *Opening 36,092 kilometres of roads has increased freedom of movement and the recommencement of trade.*
- *The translation of the National Technical Standard and Guidelines (NTSG) from English to Sudanese Arabic has facilitated the planned transfer of the mine action programme to national authorities by 2011.*
- *More than 955 square kilometres of land have been released using the new guidelines.*
- *Up to 68 percent of total dangerous and suspected hazardous areas have been cleared, and 95 percent of identified roads have been opened to increase freedom of movement.*
- *Community-based mine risk education was provided to 329,116 people in 2009.*
- *Seven hundred mine and ERW victims and persons with disabilities have been assisted.*

### Context and Challenges

The prolonged civil conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) caused serious devastation in many states of Sudan. It left behind a trail of destroyed public infrastructure and private property, and damaged the entire social fabric. As a result of the conflict, 19 of the country's 26 states were contaminated with landmines and ERW; this has led to deaths and severe injuries among women, men, boys and girls. During the conflict, landmines were used on major

routes, inside villages, near wells and across arable land, limiting freedom of movement and constraining farming, cattle grazing and inter-community trade. The fear of landmines combined with the general perception that many roads were mined led to road closures that impeded the movement of people, the return of IDPs, the delivery of humanitarian aid and the operations of UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

In 2005, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ended more than two decades of conflict. The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1590, which established UNMIS to support the CPA. In order to fulfill the UNMIS mine action mandate, the UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) was established in March 2005 as an integral part of UNMIS. It coordinates, facilitates and oversees quality assurance for all mine action activities in Sudan, unifies the activities of the Emergency Mine Action Programme, supports the UN peacekeeping operation and helps build national institutional mine action capacities. UNMAO is headquartered in Khartoum. Three regional UNMAO offices in Juba, Kadugli and El-Fasher coordinate operational activities in central and southern Sudan, as well as in Darfur. With the 2008 inception of the African Union-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the Darfur office became the UNAMID Mine Action Office.

In an effort to determine the scope of mine and ERW contamination in Sudan, UNMAO tasked the Survey Action Center (SAC) to conduct a landmine impact survey in 2005. The purpose of the survey was to map the extent of landmine and ERW contamination throughout Sudan, and to provide important information for setting priorities and planning mine action activities. The survey's final report is slated for release in 2010.

While the implementation of the CPA has been progressing, and the security situation has improved, security concerns have affected mine action in some areas. In Darfur, issues related to the International Criminal Court (ICC), continued conflicts between rebel groups and the Government, and competing tribal interests related to water resources, land rights and other issues resulted in the temporary suspension of mine action activities. Field deployments, especially in West Darfur, were hindered by numerous carjackings and armed attacks against UNAMID convoys. In South Sudan, the armed conflict in Malakal resulted in the disruption of clearance activities in Upper Nile. Due to tribal fighting, priority roads and areas in Jonglei State were not addressed, and assets originally designated for the region were relocated to the Equatorias. Lord's Resistance Army activity also had an impact on operations.

Poor physical infrastructure added to logistical challenges, especially during the rainy season. This has become a bigger issue as many mine action teams are now working farther away from major centres like Juba, Wau and Yei. Another impediment is the lack of funding, especially in eastern Sudan. As this region is outside of the UNMIS mandate, demining and capacity building activities are solely dependent upon voluntary contributions from donor countries.

#### *Support from UNMAS Headquarters*

UNMAS continued to support the mandates of UNMIS and UNAMID, liaison with stakeholders, and provide regular coordination on political, logistical, financial and resource mobilization matters. This encouraged contributions to the VTF by Canada, Italy,

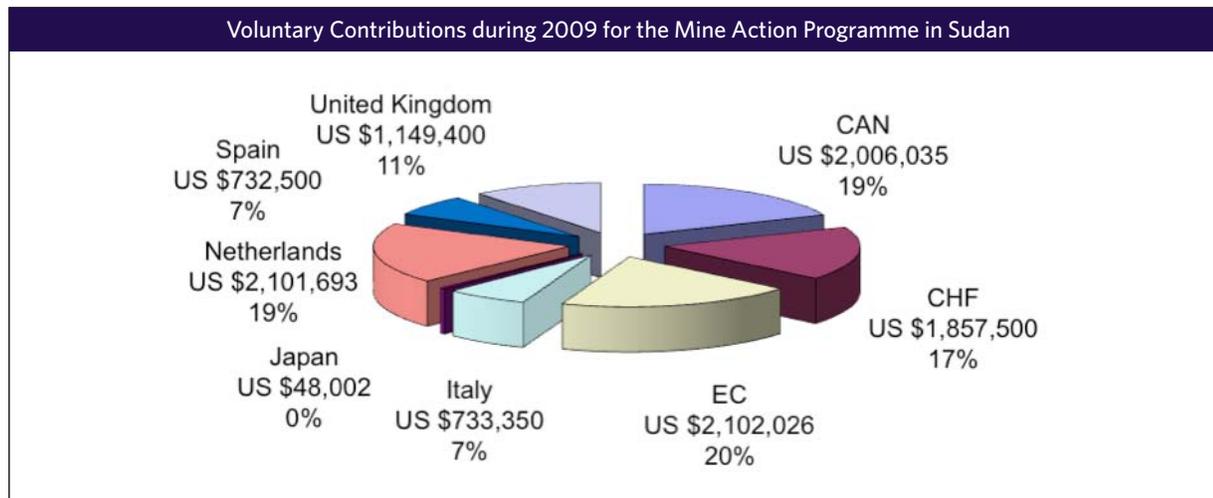
Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, the European Commission and the Common Humanitarian Trust Fund for Sudan (CHF).

UNMAS continued its liaisons with troop-contributing countries to ensure the smooth training, rotation and accreditation of troops, as well as the regular review of the composition of military demining companies from Cambodia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Kenya and Pakistan, in accordance with IMAS.

UNMAS programme officers conducted technical missions to support project implementation; liaise with peacekeeping mission staff, UN agencies and donors; and support national authorities to implement the transition plan. In support of Strategic Objective 4 of the UN inter-agency strategy, UNMAS aided the transition process by providing financial and technical assistance to on-the-job training for staff members from the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) and the South Sudan Demining Authority (SSDA), along with technical and policy advice.

#### *Coordination and Training*

In alignment with the priorities of national authorities and the two international missions, UNMAO coordinated mine action activities conducted by NGOs, commercial companies and UN military units via its head office in Khartoum, as well as through its 3 regional and 10 sub-offices. Launching the Sudan Mine Action Multi-Year Plan, translating the NTSGs from English to Sudanese Arabic, and providing on-the-job training to national mine action authorities and implementing partners were important activities in 2009.



UNMAO, in partnership with other UN agencies, national authorities, and local and international NGOs, officially finalized and produced the Sudan Mine Action Multi-Year Plan. This document serves as a standardized planning and resource mobilization document for all partners, identifying strategic priorities and benchmarks for mine action within the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Furthermore, it accords with the goals set out by the Sudan Mine Action Strategic and Policy Framework as well as Sudan’s commitments under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. It will guide annual planning, such as for the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, and the UN and Partners Work Plan.

UNMAS, in partnership with UNDP, provided valuable technical and financial assistance to NMAC and SSDA on a wide range of issues including planning, coordination, priority setting, resources mobilization, information management, quality assurance and the fulfilment of international obligations.

As part of practical training opportunities, UNMAO and other international organizations provided on-the-job training to 21 professionals—9 from NMAC and 13 from SSDA—covering quality and field opera-

tions management, EOD and programming. In preparation for mine action information management, eight NMAC and three SSDA staff members completed a training course on computer applications.

With in-country assistance from UNDP, Cranfield University conducted a comprehensive Training Needs Assessment of NMAC and SSDA in July, and prepared a training plan. It is based on the gaps identified and includes: a mine action quality management course, a resource mobilization and resource management course, an information management course and a process improvement course. These will be conducted in 2010.

UNMAO continued to contribute to peace-building between the parties to the CPA by maintaining high-level coordination, cooperation and information sharing between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA). This was achieved through an Information Management Committee established by the Joint Defense Board with support from UNMAO in 2007. With assistance from UNMAS, a formal accreditation process of the Joint Integrated Demining Units (JIDUs) started with the full accreditation of two teams in 2009.



With technical assistance from UNMAO, mine action activities in Sudan have been linked to broader recovery and development projects, and the return and resettlement of refugees and IDPs. These are considered the key elements to stability and long term peace-building.

With technical assistance from UNMAS and UNDP, national authorities mobilized approximately US \$3.5 million from the Government of National Unity (GONU), and approximately US \$1.5 million from the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS)—clear indica-

tors of national commitment to address the landmine and ERW problem. The GONU worked with UNMAS and UNDP to secure funding from the World Bank through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for the rehabilitation of some railway lines and approximately 200 kilometres of high-priority roads in the central and eastern parts of the country.

The mine action transition process continued at a steady pace, including various mine action capacity-building and transition activities. The NMAC, SSDA and their field offices are now fully and actively en-



*Photo: Ginerva Cuccinotta*

gaged in planning, coordinating, setting priorities for and reporting on mine action activities. These authorities made significant progress towards national ownership and leadership in mine action in 2009. On 11 November, a ceremony sponsored by UNMAO and NMAC was held to formally recognize the translation of the NTSG into Sudanese Arabic. The guidelines are a key reference for the safe conduct and management of demining activities throughout Sudan. Translation is a component of facilitating national ownership of mine action activities scheduled to take place in June 2011.

The NTSG on Land Release was launched in September, with implementation commencing in October; all mine action sector partners are fully using this reference. More than 955 square kilometres of land has been released through the guidelines, which contributed to effective planning and prioritization. The mine action programme also provided advice and support to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and election processes in the north and south.

### *Operations*

In 2009, the three main objectives for mine action in Sudan were: to reduce injuries and raise awareness of landmines and ERW, to help build national mine action capacities to facilitate the transition of mine action activities in June 2011 from the UN to national mine action institutions, and to remove ERW to increase humanitarian access.

A total of 7,152 kilometres of roads were opened, bringing the cumulative total to 36,092 kilometres since clearance began. In the south, the focus remained on linking remote regions to major towns and international borders. A number of roads were opened linking Raja to the rest of south-eastern Sudan. The focus on opening routes and resettlement

areas to aid the return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees included opening links to Boma, one of the major corridors for refugees from Ethiopia, as well as the Juba-Kajo Keji road for the resettlement of IDPs and refugees in Central Equatoria State. With increased development of the economy in southern Sudan, UNMAO responded to requests to allow for the widening and reconstruction of roads for increasing trade and commerce. In northern Sudan, route clearance facilitated the movement of refugees and IDPs, and permitted increased aid delivery to needy communities. Clearance of the Kauda-Talodi road, which had been previously closed to UN convoys, along with the Kalkada to Tumbera routes allowed communities in the surrounding areas to have better access to services provided by the Government and international organizations.

In February in the town of Malakal, fighting broke out. It killed an estimated 50 people and wounded another 100. UNMAO tasked the Cambodian Military Demining Company (CMDC), one of the five military demining units deployed to UNMIS, to survey and destroy any ERW left from the fighting. UNMAO also provided emergency mine risk education for the local inhabitants.

In May, clearance operations began in the town of Ullu, Blue Nile State. This area was deemed a top priority for humanitarian clearance, as the town is completely surrounded by minefields with only one road leading in and out, leaving no room for needed expansion due to the expected return of displaced and refugee populations. Residents must cross through minefields to collect firewood or use land for agriculture and livestock. Clearance commenced in four dangerous areas contaminated with anti-personnel and anti-tank mines and hundreds of cluster munitions; it is slated for completion in 2010.

Mine action activities in Darfur were implemented through a commercial contractor under the direc-

tion of the UNAMID Mine Action Office. Operational activities consisted of route assessments, general explosive hazard assessments, ERW demolitions, ERW risk education for IDPs and civilians, and training of teachers. There are numerous areas of significant ERW contamination, including Tawila, Muhajeria and Kulbus. The office focused on assisting UNAMID activities, with differing degrees of success due to the availability of force protection, permission from the Government of Sudan and accessibility to contaminated regions.

A partnership with UNICEF provided community-based mine and ERW risk education to 329,116 people in 2009. Over 767 teachers were trained under the School-Based Risk Education programme; they in turn reached an estimated student population of over 115,000. IDPs and returnees remained the key focus of mine and ERW risk education. Three organizations conducted risk education through the deployment of 36 teams. Over 50,000 copies of educational materials were produced and distributed. To cultivate national capacities to manage mine risk education, training workshops and on-the-job training were conducted for staff at the national authorities. This was coupled with joint monitoring visits by staff of UNMAO and the national authorities. The translation of the NTSG for Mine and ERW Risk Education into Arabic will assist national authorities in further understanding mine and ERW risk education. Activities aiming at ensuring a smooth transition from the United Nations to full national ownership will continue in 2010.

Victim assistance projects were ongoing, reaching over 700 mine and ERW victims and persons with disabilities. Coordination was strengthened through regular meetings of two coordination groups chaired by NMAC in Khartoum and the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs in Juba. In February, a national workshop involving all victim as-

sistance partners, along with relevant authorities, diplomats, and experts from Sudan and abroad, was organized to revise and update the National Victim Assistance Work Plan.

Operations were supported by the peacekeeping budget and generous contributions received through the VTF from Canada, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, the European Commission and the CHF. The programme was also supported by in-kind contributions from Sweden and Switzerland.

### Impact

Sudan's mine action programme is intended to reduce threats from landmines and ERW, including by opening routes and releasing once-contaminated land to communities. The opening of roads continues to improve freedom of movement and has a tremendous impact in facilitating the return of refugees and IDPs. Clearance operations have also resulted in the use of land for agricultural purposes. As community members have learned to keep themselves safe through mine risk education, the number of victims has fallen.

With limitations placed on the tasks performed by the UNAMID Mine Action Office,

it has conducted ERW clearance mainly in direct support of UNAMID. Its activities include clearance along routes used by UNAMID, removal of ERW identified by civilians and some assessments of impacted villages. As ERW are identified, every effort is made by the UNAMID Mine Action Office to deploy multi-tasking teams to the contaminated site.

In southern Sudan, activities were oriented around improving movement for returnees and increasing access to social services and infrastructure. Opened routes included Marial-Baai to Raja and Deim Zabeir to Raja, Narus to Boma and Juba to Kajo Keji. Cleared areas in Lobanok, Gulumbi and Kajo Keji allowed for the resettlement of returnees and increased access to agricultural land. Demining was also conducted in support of economic development: Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) surveyed areas for the construction of a hydropower station at Bedden Falls. Clearance of the Lafon Airfield helped in the establishment of the Bandingalo National Park.

In Kassala, multi-tasking teams completed survey and clearance operations in the villages of Abu Gamul and Al Lafa. This will facilitate the construction of a road between Kassala and Eritrea, promoting economic development, and the use of land for farming and herding.

Victims of Landmines and ERW Since 2005

	Unknown		Female		Male		Total		Total
	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	
45+	-	-	3	-	15	2	18	2	20
Adults	7	-	7	5	71	16	85	21	106
Child	-	-	21	5	80	53	101	58	159
Not Specified	33	16	11	3	101	35	145	54	199
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>484</b>

## Victims Per Year Since 2005

2005	Unknown		Female		Male		Total		Total
	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	
45+	-	-	1	-	4	1	5	1	6
Adults	-	-	1	1	20	6	21	7	28
Child	-	-	3	-	14	8	17	8	25
Not Specified	-	6	5	-	38	8	43	14	57
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>116</b>

2006	Unknown		Female		Male		Total		Total
	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	
45+	-	-	1	-	6	-	7	-	7
Adults	7	-	1	2	21	5	29	7	36
Child	-	-	2	1	22	7	24	8	32
Not Specified	3	5	4	1	35	17	42	23	65
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>140</b>

2007	Unknown		Female		Male		Total		Total
	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	
45+	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	2
Adults	-	-	-	-	11	2	11	2	13
Child	-	-	5	4	17	16	22	20	42
Not Specified	10	2	2	2	14	2	26	6	32
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>89</b>

2008	Unknown		Female		Male		Total		Total
	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	
45+	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Adults	-	-	3	2	8	3	11	5	16
Child	-	-	4	-	15	8	19	8	27
Not Specified	10	-	-	-	5	4	15	4	19
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>63</b>

Victims Per Year Since 2005 (cont.)

2009	Unknown		Female		Male		Total		Total
	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	
45+	-	-	1	-	3	-	4	-	4
Adults	-	-	2	-	11	-	13	-	13
Child	-	-	7	-	12	14	19	14	33
Not Specified	10	3	-	-	9	4	19	7	26
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>484</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>484</b>

Number of Victims by State

State	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Blue Nile	1	1	-	-	1	3
Central Equatoria	17	25	18	1	2	63
East Equatoria	1	-	2	3	7	13
Gadaref	-	-	2	-	-	2
Jongley	-	7	-	-	1	8
Kassala	8	21	3	18	6	56
Lakes	12	6	-	3	11	32
North Bahr El Ghazal	1	1	-	-	4	6
North Darfur	8	34	20	7	20	89
Red Sea	-	-	1	4	-	5
South Darfur	-	-	10	2	-	12
South Kordofan	45	4	7	5	4	65
Unity	-	1	-	10	3	14
Upper Nile	13	19	2	-	5	39
Warab	-	1	1	1	3	6
West Bahr El Ghazal	8	20	19	7	-	54
West Darfur	-	-	4	-	9	13
West Equatoria	2	-	-	2	-	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>484</b>

## Clearance and Release Since the Programme Began, By State

State	Cleared/Released			Identified So Far		
	Dangerous Areas	Minefields	Suspected Hazardous Areas	Dangerous Areas	Minefields	Suspected Hazardous Areas
Blue Nile	88	1	29	170	30	61
Central Equatoria	873	3	86	1,277	14	214
East Equatoria	783	4	76	930	34	83
Gadaref	0	0	0	1	0	4
Jongley	36	0	0	104	6	21
Kassala	57	5	12	96	29	56
Lakes	146	0	0	171	0	1
North Bahr El Ghazal	77	0	2	120	1	7
North Darfur	84	0	0	96	0	0
Red Sea	0	0	0	4	0	2
South Darfur	46	0	0	60	0	0
South Kordofan	652	32	29	782	119	98
Unity	15	0	0	27	0	2
Upper Nile	43	1	0	99	14	12
Warab	340	0	2	379	0	4
West Bahr El Ghazal	308	0	5	432	0	10
West Darfur	9	0	0	16	0	0
West Equatoria	244	0	13	357	0	30
White Nile	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,801</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>5,121</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>605</b>

## Number of Mine Risk Education Recipients Since 2007

Year	Boys	Girls	Men	Women	Unknown	Total
2007	222,750	197,557	203,546	193,700	35,897	853,448
2008	235,697	185,923	166,391	160,772	673	749,456
2009	102,169	84,673	74,060	68,215	0	329,116
<b>Total</b>	<b>560,615</b>	<b>468,152</b>	<b>443,997</b>	<b>422,686</b>	<b>36,570</b>	<b>1,932,020</b>

## Clearance and Release Since the Programme Began, By Year

Year	Dangerous Areas Identified	Dangerous Areas Cleared/Released	Minefields Identified	Minefields Cleared/Released	Suspected Hazardous Areas Identified	Suspected Hazardous Areas Cleared/Released
2002	202	1	-	-	-	-
2003	49	23	-	-	-	-
2004	329	47	7	-	-	-
2005	403	191	34	2	16	-
2006	802	440	11	1	113	-
2007	1,144	30	37	24	259	2
2008	1,480	1,317	112	8	152	206
2009	712	1,052	46	11	65	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,121</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>254</b>

## Number of Roads Opened from 2002-2009

## Kilometres

Suspected mined roads	2,305
Opened roads (through mine action)	36,092
Planned roads for the south	1,200
Planned roads for the north	819
Planned Roads for Darfur	5,570
Estimated length of the roads at the beginning of the project	56,969

Organizations conducting humanitarian and development activities enjoyed a higher level of access to previously inaccessible communities in 2009. In Abyei, a multi-tasking team conducted a survey that allowed for the construction of a new team site, while a team in Southern Kordofan conducted an EOD spot task that improved access to a local school. In Blue Nile State, a Pakistani military demining platoon cleared a minefield in Kurmuk that will be developed by an NGO to provide additional assistance to the people in the area.

The clearance of roads has resulted in significant savings in air transport for UNMIS as well as WFP. For UNMIS alone, from a baseline of some US \$212 million spent by the mission in its first full year of operation to date, year-on-year savings have equalled US \$150 million. This is approximately US \$10 million more than the mine action component of UNMIS managed by UNMAO has cost over that same period.

### ***A Donkey-and-Cart Story***

Khalid was getting by as a cultivator until 1991, when he drove to visit his family in Kuhliat, South Kordofan, and his car hit an anti-tank mine. As a result, he lost his right leg. "I wasn't aware of the risk of mines in the region, and there was certainly no mine risk education being done at the time," he said. "I have to care for nine people, including my wife, our children and our relatives, but after the accident I was suddenly unable to continue to support them the way I used to."

After the National Authority for Prosthetics and Orthotics provided him with a prosthetic limb at the rehabilitation centre in Kadugli, Khalid got in touch with the Nuba Mountains International Association for Development (NMIAD). The Sudanese NGO provides socioeconomic rehabilitation to persons with disabilities, including survivors of mines and ERW.

He received an insurance card that will facilitate his access to further rehabilitative care and a donkey cart, which brings him about six dollars per day in return for carrying water to the market. "People know me well now, and they trust me, so I've got regular customers." Khalid also has a small repair business where he fixes cars and bicycles, which he is planning to extend to generate more income.

Khalid thinks it is important that mine risk education projects continue in the area until the threat has been eliminated. With information he received from the Sudan Campaign to Ban Landmines (SCBL) a few years ago, he has taught his children about the dangers of mines and ERW, and how to recognize the signs in the area.

"We need more projects like NMIAD to help people with disabilities in this region, since the problem of landmines has affected so many of us."



*Photo: Johann Hattingh*

## WESTERN SAHARA

ducing the threat and to back progress in clearing the territory of ERW, which block freedom of movement for civilians and UN peacekeepers, potential development and the return of refugees.

Until 2009, the extent of contamination in Western Sahara beyond the heavily mined earthen berm that dissects the territory was not defined. Known mined areas often do not conform to traditional military pattern minefields, and are scattered in small groupings across numerous locations. The lack of discernable patterns makes identification of these areas difficult. Data from mine action survey work east of the berm indicates that mines have also been laid in rings around some settlements, and have been reported in and around water holes and well-used roads and paths.

The first systematic survey conducted east of the berm identified hundreds of dangerous areas that threaten freedom of movement, and the livelihoods of nomads and their families. Some 158 cluster munitions strike sites were identified, along with 37 minefields and one ammunition dump. In addition to the humanitarian and development impacts, these hazards pose a continued challenge to peace-building.

There have been an estimated 2,500 casualties since 1975, although inadequate transport and communications infrastructure mean many casualties go unreported. Fifteen accidents were recorded in 2009, including one involving a UN military observer patrol near Oum Dreyga on 30 August. Twenty-five casualties were recorded, consisting of 23 injuries and 2 deaths. Despite continued incidents, the mine and ERW threat in Western Sahara receives little visibility at the international level.

Mine risk education and victim assistance efforts have been extremely limited; medical facilities in many portions of the territory lack adequately trained staff and resources. Despite some assistance, an acute lack of economic opportunities plagues survivors. Psychological support in refugee camps is extremely limited.

### *Support from UNMAS Headquarters*

In 2009, UNMAS coordinated resource mobilization activities that garnered US \$397,651 in voluntary contributions from the governments of the Netherlands and Spain. This supplemented resources appropriated by the UN General Assembly for MINURSO's mine action component.

In response to the August accident involving 4 MINURSO military observers, UNMAS deployed an officer to assist with the investigation and report to the Mission Board of Inquiry.

The programme in Western Sahara has evolved from a small military coordination cell into a full-fledged coordination centre. As a result of recommendations made by technical missions, the programme also developed a stronger focus on the operational aspects and quality management of mine action.

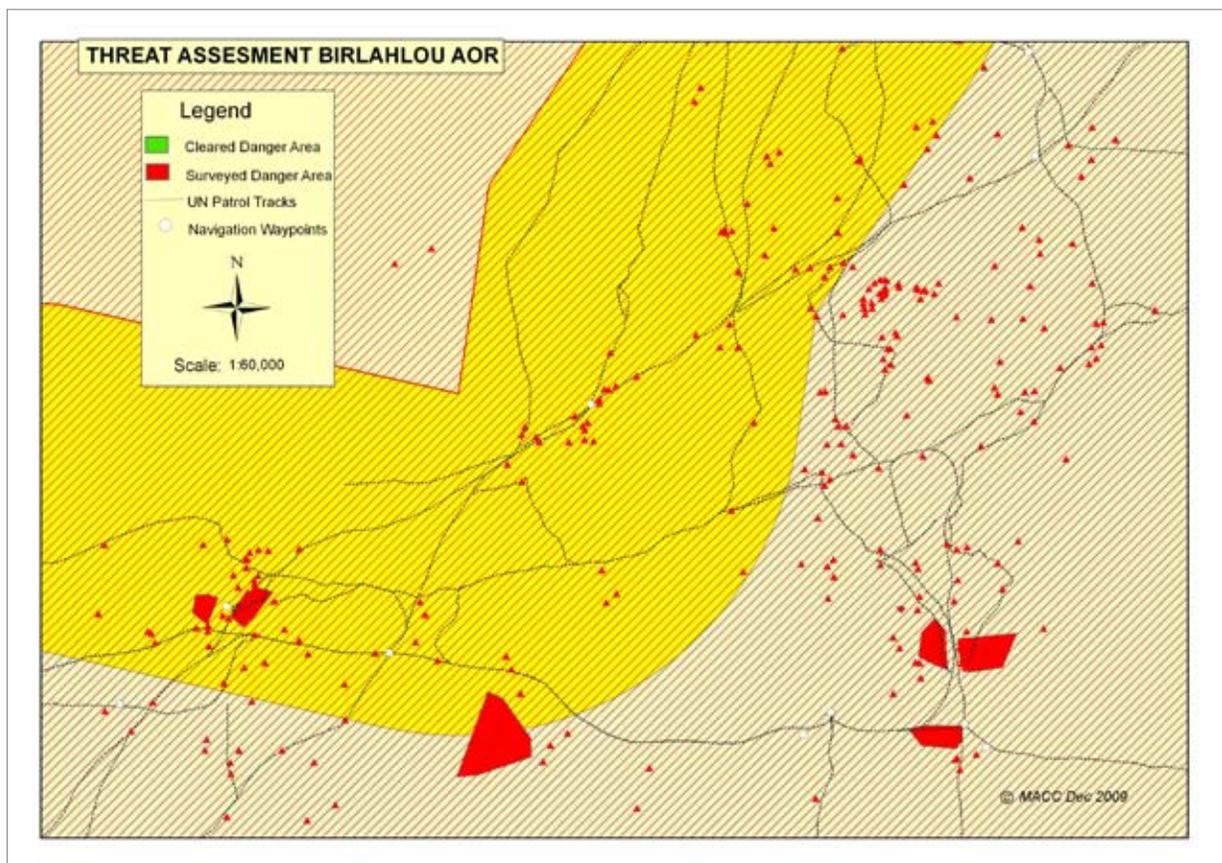
Although funding is not sufficient at this time to establish and maintain a mine clearance capacity, Landmine Action UK (LMA) teams perform a rapid response function that is at the disposal of MINURSO. This operational readiness is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in case of an accident or incident east of the berm. Regrettably, the rapid response team was called into use in April to

assist injured demonstrators near the berm. They had entered a hazardous area and detonated a mine, resulting in four casualties.

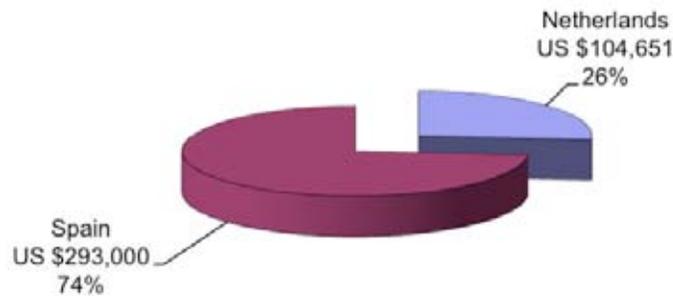
### *Coordination and Training*

Management and coordination of mine action has improved considerably since the establishment of the MACC. The IMSMA database has been fully established with support from GICHD and the deployment of a dedicated

information officer. Along with training provided to LMA staff, this has built capacity and allowed for information to be collected and provided to MINURSO team sites. To share and enhance the accuracy of information on the west side of the berm, the IMSMA system has also been installed in the Southern Command Headquarters of the Royal Moroccan Army (RMA), with the assistance of GICHD. The UNMAS senior technical advisor and IMSMA officer assisted in the first week of training for the system.



Voluntary Contributions during 2009 for the Mine Action Programme in Sahara



The MACC improved landmine safety training by developing a new handbook on operating in contaminated areas and increasing the use of the Landmine and ERW Safety Training DVD developed by UNMAS. MACC staff provided 244 men and 35 women with mine and ERW safety briefings. They comprised 251 military and 28 civilian staff.

Mine action responses are guided by survey data from the dangerous area survey undertaken by LMA and reporting by UN military observers and the local population. A joint initiative with GICHD to establish a comprehensive database of contaminated areas and the documentation of demining work contributed to ongoing efforts to coordinate mine action with the RMA on the west side of the berm. UNMAS is working with the RMA to enhance collaboration, and to verify the quality of data and dissemination methodologies in order to ensure the safety of UN military observers and the civilian population.

### Operations

Voluntary contributions supplemented the funds from the MINURSO Assessed Budget appropriated for support of the ERW survey and clearance opera-

tion, and the rapid response actions conducted by three battle area clearance and EOD teams on the east side of the berm. The dangerous areas survey conducted by LMA represents the first clear picture of contamination there; 158 cluster munitions sites, 37 minefields and one ammunition dump have been identified. In high-priority areas noted during the survey, LMA carried out battle area clearance of 1.9 million square metres and sub-surface clearance of 887,694 square metres. Clearance teams destroyed more than 1,800 items of ERW.

The RMA's clearance effort reportedly included a number of demining teams working throughout areas west of the berm. The RMA reported 14,797 items destroyed, including some stockpiled items. The Army prioritized all suspected areas in close proximity to populated areas, main travel routes and all areas where accidents have occurred.

The nomadic nature of large segments of Western Sahara's population hampers efforts to provide mine risk education, since individuals on the move are constantly encountering new locations, where they may be unfamiliar with the dangers. LMA has provided small-scale mine risk education sessions during social gatherings. In areas west of the berm, the Moroccan Government reportedly provided support to

communities by working through its local network of institutions to make the population aware of the dangers of mines and ERW.

### *Impact*

Although Western Sahara's population is sparse, it struggles in a barren land to find the basic elements of survival, such as water. Mines and ERW pose a threat to the 10,000 Saharawi nomads who roam the territory, and hinder the repatriation of the estimated 125,000 Saharawi refugees living in camps in Algeria. Mines and ERW that victimize family members, kill livestock and block access to transportation routes and grazing areas place an additional burden on people living on the margins of survival. They also impede the ability of UN peacekeepers to effectively carry out their mandate. The August accident involving four UN military observers serves as a stark reminder of the dangers they face.

In 2009, there were 15 known accidents involving mines and ERW that resulted in 25 victims, two of whom were fatally wounded. Virtually all victims were male, and many were young adults or boys. Accidents occur primarily when male members of households are engaged in economic activities, in particular in tending animals and following herds. As development and the search for scarce resources push the population into previously unused areas, exposure to risk rises as well.



### Oum Dreyga

The immense beauty of the landscape in Western Sahara belies the deadly hazards that lie beneath it. For decades, the full extent of the contamination from landmines and ERW has remained unknown. But the thousands of devices scattered across the territory continue to steal innocent lives and maim victims each year.

As part of their daily operations, nearly 200 UN military observers patrol thousands of miles of hazardous terrain to carry out the mandate of MINURSO. Observers come dangerously close to countless minefields and cluster munitions strike areas, most of which are not marked.

On 30 August 2009, the daily patrol for four observers came to an unexpected and violent end when one of their vehicles detonated a mine near Oum Dreyga. After the explosion, the four observers quickly activated a series of critical emergency operating procedures to protect the patrol and reduce further risk. Consistent with their training, they knew that additional mines might be nearby. Trained RMA staff responded quickly, arriving at the site to facilitate the safe removal of additional hazards. While the four observers escaped the blast without any major physical injuries, the explosion was a reminder of the many challenges that must be urgently addressed to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable solution for Western Sahara.



## UNMAS SUPPORT TO OTHER PROGRAMMES

### Cambodia

Two Cambodian NGOs—AAR Vocational Training for the Disabled (AAR VTD) and AAR Wheelchair Production for Development (AAR WCD)—continued to implement victim assistance activities with funding from UNMAS. AAR VTD provided vocational training to 58 persons with disabilities, including 35 mine and ERW survivors. Twenty received motorbike repair training, 14 took part in electronic appliance repair training, and 24 participated in sewing training. All the students took additional classes to develop literacy, English and other skills, and to learn about the rights of persons with disabilities, financial management, and HIV and AIDS. Out of the 58 graduates, 56 are employed or have opened their own workshops and manage to generate their own income.

AAR WCD produced and distributed 300 wheelchairs to persons with disabilities, mainly landmine survivors. A follow up survey showed that 90 percent considered their mobility improved through a wheelchair, and 85 percent felt that the family workload had been reduced. All these activities were supported by a contribution from the Government of Japan of US \$56,543.

### Colombia

The Colombian landmine and ERW problem is believed to be one of the most complex in the world. While Colombia is a state party to the mine-ban treaty, illegal armed groups continue to use mines in violation of international norms and national legislation. The precise nature and extent of the contamination remains unclear, but anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines are reportedly found along transport routes; around the bases of armed groups; and around schools, houses, national

parks, indigenous communities and coca production sites. Exacerbating the mine and ERW threat is the use of IEDs by hostile groups.

UNMAS contributed funding provided by the Netherlands to Geneva Call for a joint project with the Presidential Programme for Integrated Mine Action (PAICMA), and has initiated steps to ramp up technical support to humanitarian mine action. Collaboration with PAICMA will focus on the development of systems to regulate planning, tasking, record keeping and quality management related to civilian humanitarian demining organizations. These systems will help increase the accuracy and efficiency of civilian demining activities.

### Cyprus

In the aftermath of the conflict in Cyprus in 1974, significant areas of the island—mostly, but not exclusively, in the UN-controlled buffer zone that dissects it—were contaminated with landmines and ERW. As part of efforts to normalize life and prepare for a negotiated settlement, UNMAS, in support of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), has provided policy and technical oversight to mine clearance in the buffer zone. Funding from the European Commission is provided through the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS. In 2009, additional funding came from the Government of Cyprus, a clear indication of the project's importance. It assists in opening new crossing points between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, and clearing all known minefields, booby-trapped areas and suspected mined areas inside the buffer zone.

Progress in mine clearance has progressed well, with 84 percent of the minefields cleared since the start of

operations in 2004. In addition to a programme support mission from the Director of UNMAS in October 2009, the Acting Chief of Programme Planning and Management carried out a technical mission in July to monitor and facilitate programme implementation. UNMAS also contributed to the programme by securing an in-kind donation from a private company of 500 Thermite charges. The charges will be used to destroy anti-tank mines in an area where their detonation would pose risks.

UNMAS resource mobilization resulted in a voluntary contribution from the Government of Spain of US \$73,250. This will fund activities in 2010.

### Ethiopia

Ethiopia suffers from landmine and ERW contamination due to conflicts dating back to the foreign occupation of the mid-1930s. With the balance of the contribution from the Netherlands received in December 2008, UNMAS funded an element of the project "UNDP Technical and Capacity Building Support to Mine Action in Tigray, Afar and Somali Regions of Ethiopia." The aim of the project was to ensure the continuation of demining activities in the most affected communities of the three regions, while improving the demining capacity of the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO). Funds provided EMAO with replacement protective equipment for personnel required for continued operations.

UNMAS also supported a component of the HI project "Addressing Victim Assistance through Development of Physical Rehabilitation." Its purpose was to ensure that persons with disabilities, including mine and ERW survivors, are autonomous and well inte-

grated in their communities. Funded by a contribution from the Government of Japan of US \$100,409, the project improved access for an estimated 4,225 people, including mine and ERW victims, to physical rehabilitation services at the Dire Dawa and Jijiga hospitals. It also provided information to people with disabilities about the availability of such services.

Under the project, four new physiotherapists assigned to Jijiga and Dire Dawa hospitals will receive ongoing post-graduate mentoring. At least eight physiotherapy students from Gondar University will be supervised in fully equipped physiotherapy units during their two-month clinical placement in their third year of training. At least 50 staff from health and other institutions working on physical disabilities will benefit from information sessions. After completion of the project, medical rehabilitation equipment purchased for it will be donated to the participating hospitals.

### Guinea Bissau

Landmines and ERW are present in seven of Guinea-Bissau's eight regions. The most affected regions are Cacheu and Oio in the north, mostly due to contamination from the Casamance conflict. With a contribution from the Government of Spain, UNMAS provided funding for the project "Mine Risk Education in Guinea-Bissau: A Forgotten Emergency" from May to December. Implemented by UNICEF, the project assisted with the identification and training of risk education providers, and the development of a strategic communications plan with associated materials.

### Kosovo

With support from the Government of Spain, UNMAS funded a multi-skilled mine action technical survey team for mine clearance implemented by the Mine Awareness Trust (MAT). The team supported the EOD Management Section in Kosovo. It verified and cleared 180,820 square metres of hazardous areas, destroying 22 anti-personnel mines, 1 anti-tank mine and 162 ERW.

### Lao People's Democratic Republic

UNMAS continued its support for mine action in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) through a contribution from the Government of Japan. Funds helped strengthen the UNDP Country Office with the placement of a UXO Unit Chief, later reclassified as the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit Manager. This person assists the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) and UXO Lao programme. Activities in 2009 included extensive donor coordination, resource mobilization, and support to Lao PDR in preparations for the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Lao PDR was the fifth country to ratify the convention.

With funding from the Government of Austria, UNMAS backed UXO Lao clearance operations in Luang Prabang province.

### Mauritania

With funding from the Government of Spain of US \$73,250, UNMAS supported two projects, including "Survey in Mauritania" implement-

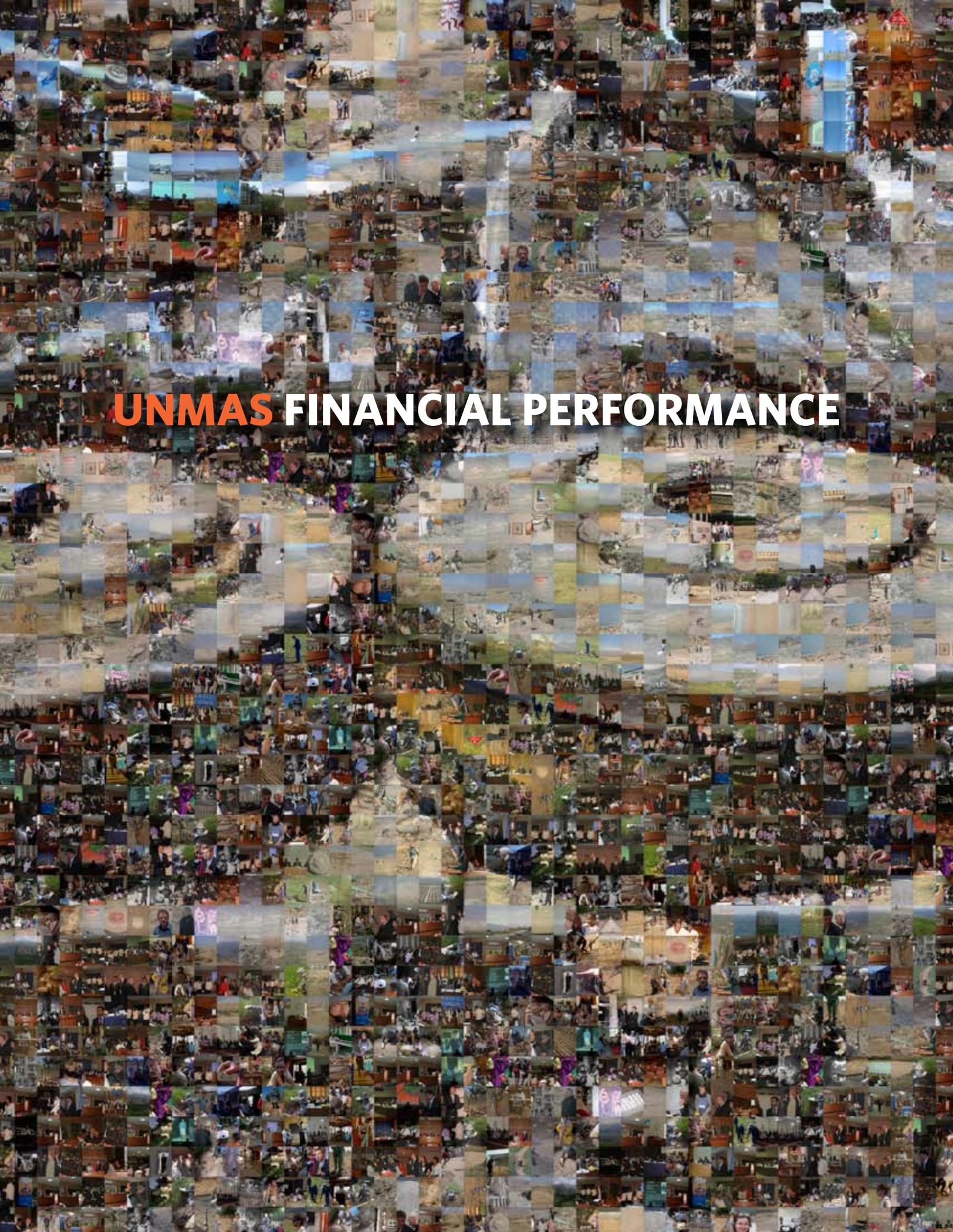
ed by UNDP. The objective of the project was to assist the National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development (PNDHD) in conducting survey operations in the region of Tiris Zemour.

UNMAS also aided the project “Emergency Training Team in Mauritania” through a grant agreement with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). The objective was to strengthen the operational capacities of PNDHD by training 10 national specialists in EOD and battle area clearance, in accordance with national and international mine action standards.

### Mozambique

UNMAS assisted a component of the Handicap International (HI) Mine Action Project in Mozambique with a contribution of US \$137,900 from Barcelona, Spain. This was the first VTF-funded project to receive support from a municipality. The project sustained the operational deployment of one integrated clearance and land release team for four months. Clearance in Sofala Province focused on the districts of Marromeu, with 5 dangerous areas; Maringue, with 3 dangerous areas; and Donde, with 7 hazardous areas. The three districts contain almost 200,000 people whose livelihoods will be improved with the release of some 238,000 square metres in the 15 areas.





**UNMAS FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

## FUNDING SOURCES AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE UNMAS MINE ACTION PROGRAMMES

- *Twenty donor governments, the European Commission, the International Trust Fund for Demining and Victim Assistance (ITF), the Common Humanitarian Trust Fund for Sudan (CHF) and UNHCR contributed to the VTF, compared to nineteen donors in 2008.*
- *The VTF received US \$90.7 million, compared to US \$92.5 in 2008.*
- *The top three donors contributed 68.4 percent of all contributions: the European Commission offered US \$36.2 million, Canada US \$14.6 million and Japan US \$11.1 million.*
- *Unearmarked funds of US \$1.7 million were provided by the governments of Andorra, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, New Zealand and Sweden.*
- *Canada, the CHF, the European Commission, Finland and the United Kingdom provided multi-year funding.*
- *Appropriations by the UN General Assembly for the mine action component of peacekeeping mission budgets increased by 5.7 percent from US \$65 million in 2008 to US \$68.9 million in 2009.*
- Contributions of donor governments, organizations and private individuals to the VTF;
- Funds allocated to UNMAS headquarters coordination activities by the UN Peacekeeping Support Account; and
- Allocation of funds from other UN trust funds, such as the CHF and the Peace Trust Fund for Nepal.

The VTF was established in 1994 under the UN Department for Humanitarian Affairs (DHA), which was the focal point for mine action within the UN system prior to the 1997 formation of UNMAS under DPKO. The fund was initially intended to provide special resources for mine action programmes and projects—including surveys, mine clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy activities—in situations where other funding is not immediately available. Activities funded in 2009 included, but were not limited to:

### Funding for UNMAS Mine Action

UNMAS programmes in the field and headquarters coordination activities are funded namely by:

- Appropriations by the UN General Assembly for the mine action components of seven peacekeeping missions—MINURCAT, MINURSO, MONUC, UNAMID, UNIFIL, UNSOA and UNMIS;
- Assessment missions to evaluate the scope of mine and ERW contamination;
- Emergency mine action where rapid intervention was required;
- Coordination and operational activities in UN-managed mine action programmes and the quality oversight of landmine impact surveys;
- Coordination, policy development and implementation, public outreach and advocacy initiatives of UNMAS;
- The development of IMAS; and
- Mine action activities by other UNMAT members.

The VTF supports activities in all five pillars of mine action: clearance, risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy for a world free of the threat of landmines and ERW. In 2009, the fund financed missions to assess the scope of problems with landmines and ERW, UN-managed field operations, coordination, advocacy and the work of the UN focal point.

UNMAS programmes have significantly expanded over the years. They now include initiatives in Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Nepal, Somalia, Sudan and Western Sahara. Mine action programmes managed by UNMAS as part of DPKO/UN Department of Field Support (DFS) operations remain a core activity. There are currently programmes associated with UNIFIL, UNMIS, UNAMID, MINURCAT, MONUC, MINURSO and UNSOA. UNMAS also manages the coordination of mine action activities in Afghanistan on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan.

Contributions to the VTF have totalled more than US \$551.3 million from its inception to 31 December 2009. The fund has been used by donors to channel resources to national programmes and NGOs, often through UNDP or UNICEF, in Cambodia, Chad, Lao PDR, Mozambique and Pakistan.

In the spirit of the UN vision of “a world free from the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development and where the needs of mine and ERW victims are met and they are fully integrated into their societies,” UNMAS aims to continue securing voluntary donations from existing donors and to expand the VTF donor base by exploring new funding opportunities, including through philanthropic foundations and endowment funds, private donations and gifts.

The following chart illustrates the percent of UNMAS income received through the VTF, the UN Peacekeeping Support Account Budget and the UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget.

Funding Sources for UNMAS Programmes in 2009	
<i>Voluntary Contributions</i>	<b>56%</b>
<i>Funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the mine action component of PK budgets</i>	<b>43%</b>
<i>Peacekeeping support account assessed contributions</i>	<b>1%</b>

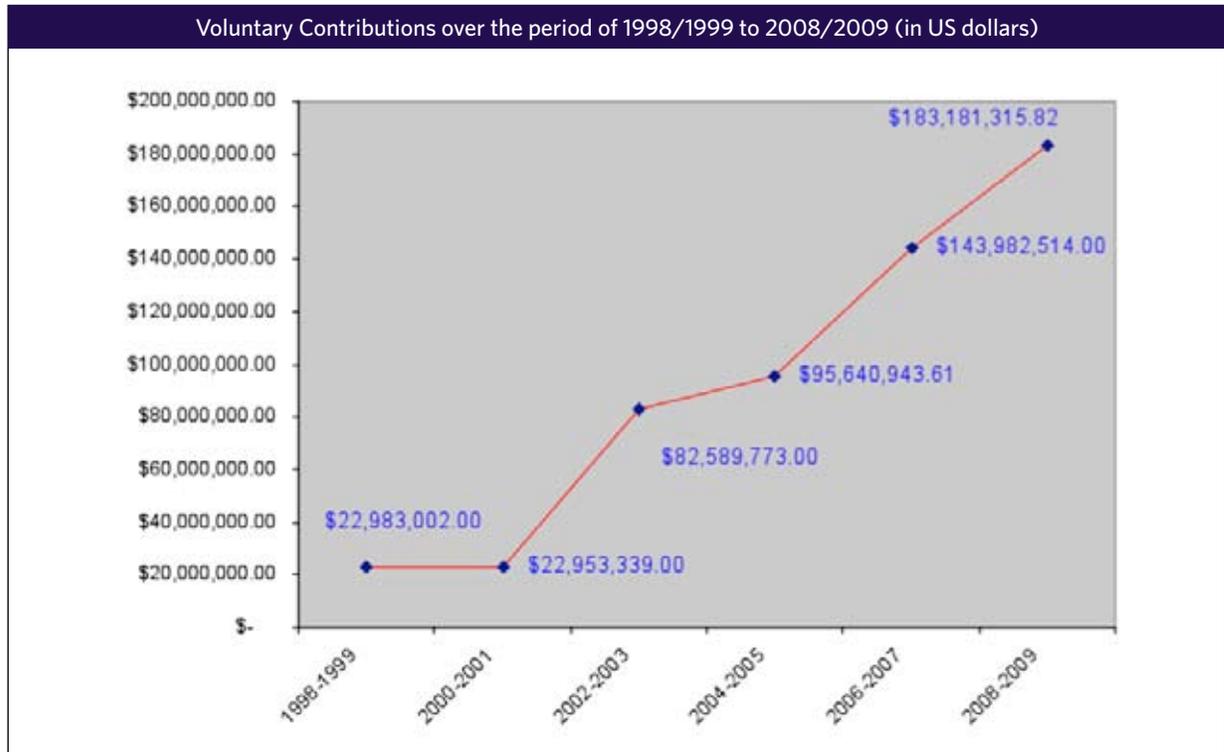
Other sources of income for UNMAS include the interest income accrued on cash balances. Detailed financial information on VTF performance is reported annually on the UN Financial Statements/Schedule of Individual Trust Funds, and is part of the audited consolidated financial statements of the UN trust funds.

### Ensuring Transparency and Accountability

UNMAS is committed to transparency and accountability in the financial management of all donor funds contributed to the VTF and funds allocated to mine action activities from the UN Peacekeeping Support Account, peacekeeping missions’ assessed budgets and UN regular programme budgets. To ensure efficiency and effectiveness in raising, allocating, monitoring and reporting on financial resources, UNMAS has implemented a programme and financial management system called ProFi. The system was developed in partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna. The UNMAS-specific system is based on a PeopleSoft platform for handling financial data and a Lotus Notes user interface.

UNMAS intends to further enhance ProFi functions related to the management of financial agreements with implementing partners, project management and budget formulation modules, and management reporting.

To best manage donor funding, UNMAS also embarked on the Lean Six Sigma project to reform VTF internal management processes. Among other accomplishments, this has resulted in a 20 working day reduction of the processing of incoming VTF funds. Field implementing partners receive funding 60 percent faster.



**Voluntary Contributions over the period of 1998/1999 to 2008/2009 (in US dollars)**

Biennium	Contributions (US\$)	Percent Change	Percent increase from 1998-1999 to 2008-2009
1998-1999	22,983,002		
2000-2001	22,953,339	(0.1)	
2002-2003	82,589,773	259.8	
2004-2005	95,640,944	15.8	
2006-2007	143,982,514	50.5	
2008-2009	183,181,316	27.2	697.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>551,330,888</b>		

**Fundraising and Donor Outreach**

As the UN mine action focal point, UNMAS is responsible for coordinating an effective and proactive mine action response. To do so, UNMAS relies heavily on extra-budgetary funding from donors through the VTF.

The fund has experienced steady growth since its inception. Over the last 12 years, donor contributions to the VTF have grown by 697 percent, from approxi-

mately 23 million in the 1998-1999 biennium to 183.2 million in the 2008-2009 biennium.

UNMAS field and headquarters personnel continued to maintain strong donor support by broadening the donor base and working towards sustainable and predictable funding levels. Specific activities in 2009 included:

- *UN Secretary-General Funding Appeal for Mine Action in Afghanistan*

As a result of a severe funding shortage for mine action in Afghanistan, the UN Secretary-General wrote to foreign ministers of 26 donor governments to urge support. The governments of Australia, Austria, Germany, Ireland, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Commission responded and reiterated their commitment to support the programme there.

Five governments and the European Commission contributed funds: Australia gave AUD \$5,000,000, Austria €135,000, the European Commission €21,750,000, the Netherlands US \$2,300,000, the Republic of Korea US \$120,000 and Spain US \$915,000. For the first time, the Sultanate of Oman provided US \$100,000 to the VTF.

In addition, five governments announced bilateral mine action support to Afghanistan: Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States.

- *UNMAS Donor Briefings*

As part of UNMAS' resource mobilization activities in donor and programme countries and at international fora such as the Mine Action Support Group

(MASG), UNMAS approached a number of new potential partners and donors to expand its political and financial support base.

- *Building and Consolidating New Partnerships*

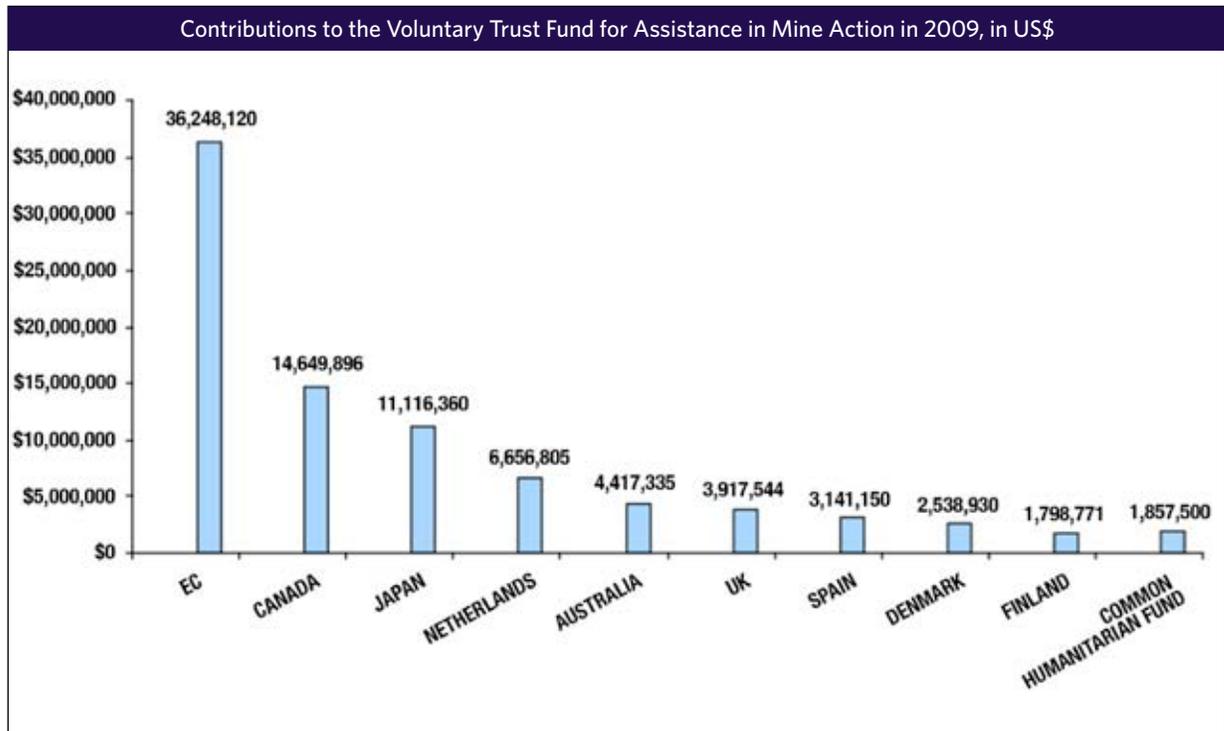
UNMAS strengthened its relationship with the governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates through a number of meetings and established new relationships with the governments of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman. UNMAS also engaged with foundations and individuals, and continued to assess the viability of receiving individual or even corporate donations in line with the Principles of the Global Compact through partners such as the UN Fund for Partnerships Office, the UN Office for Partnerships and the United Nations Foundation of the United States of America.

- *Columbia University Pro Bono Research Study*

To fully understand and adapt to changing donor priorities, UNMAS commissioned a pro bono research study from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. It will examine the UN's humanitarian responses and peace operations, analyse



Photo: Jacob Simkin



how they are reflected in donor governments' doctrines and describe how mine action relates to them.

- *Development of an Internal Resource Mobilization Strategy*

UNMAS has started devising a resource mobilization strategy that is closely aligned with operational requirements in the field and supportive of aid effectiveness.

### Principles of Good Practices in Humanitarian Donorship

In 2009, UNMAS continued to appeal to donors for predictable, flexible and needs-based funding. Accordingly, UNMAS asked donors to accept its Annual Report to satisfy substantive and financial reporting requirements set out in contribution agreements for VTF funds, to provide unearmarked and multi-year funding, and to support unforeseen mine action interventions under the Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response.

In this spirit, UNMAS would like to thank the Government of the Netherlands for accepting the

Annual Report as its sole reporting requirement. UNMAS welcomed the European Commission's generous two-year contribution of €21.8 million, and is grateful to the CHF, the European Commission, and the governments of Canada, Finland and Sweden for their ongoing multi-year contributions. UNMAS is also grateful to the governments of Andorra, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, New Zealand, Spain and Sweden for their unearmarked funds totalling US \$1.7 million or two percent of all funds contributed. UNMAS appreciates the willingness of the governments of Japan, the Netherlands and Spain to offer funds with a range of earmarking options. Special thanks are extended to the European Commission and the Government of the United Kingdom for their prompt support to mine action operations in Gaza in early 2009.

### Funding Overview

#### *Top Contributors to the VTF*

The top ten donors to the VTF contributed 95 percent of all voluntary contributions, a total of US \$86.2 million.

Contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action in 2009, in US dollars

Donors	Afghanistan	Cambodia	Chad	Colombia	Cyprus	Democratic Republic of Congo	Ethiopia	Gaza	HQ Coordination	Iraq	Laos
Andorra											
Australia	4,121,500								266,730		
Austria	193,117										92,982
Canada	12,643,860										
Common Humanitarian Fund											
Denmark	846,310								846,310		
EC	33,511,420							634,374			
Finland	1,155,380								643,391		
Italy											
ITF										17,358	
Japan	3,000,000	56,543	5,108,398			2,683,013	100,409				
Korea	120,000										
Liechtenstein											
Lithuania											
Luxembourg	252,580										
Netherlands	2,310,995			52,326		1,264,483			261,628		
New Zealand											
Oman	100,000										
Saudi Arabia											
Spain	915,625				73,250	366,250			219,750		
Sweden											
Switzerland											
UK				158,600				687,969	744,880		
UNHCR											
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>59,170,787</b>	<b>56,543</b>	<b>5,108,398</b>	<b>210,926</b>	<b>73,250</b>	<b>4,313,746</b>	<b>100,409</b>	<b>1,322,643</b>	<b>2,982,689</b>	<b>17,358</b>	<b>92,982</b>

Lebanon	Mauritania	Mozambique	Nepal	RRP	Senegal	Somalia	Sudan	Technology	Unearmarked	Western Sahara	Grand Total
									26,454		26,454
			29,105								4,417,335
											286,099
							2,006,035				14,649,895
							1,857,500				1,857,500
846,310											2,538,930
							2,102,026				36,248,120
											1,798,771
							733,350				733,350
											17,358
							48,002	119,995			11,116,360
70,000											190,000
									90,257		90,257
									5,000		5,000
											252,580
				261,628		299,401	2,101,693			104,651	6,656,805
									587,200		587,200
											100,000
1,000,000											1,000,000
	73,250	137,900	73,250	219,750	36,625		732,500			293,000	3,141,150
									994,955		994,955
			32,112								32,112
427,680			384,414	222,040		142,560	1,149,400				3,917,543
						43,884					43,884
<b>2,343,990</b>	<b>73,250</b>	<b>137,900</b>	<b>518,881</b>	<b>703,418</b>	<b>36,625</b>	<b>485,845</b>	<b>10,730,506</b>	<b>119,995</b>	<b>1,703,866</b>	<b>397,651</b>	<b>90,701,658</b>



Photo: UNMIL

UNMAS also received contributions from Andorra, Austria, the city of Barcelona (Spain), the ITF, Italy, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Sultanate of Oman, Sweden and Switzerland.

A majority of key VTF donors sustained their funding levels in 2009. Donors that significantly increased their contributions included the European Commission, which offered US \$36.2 million for programmes in Afghanistan, Gaza and Sudan, in comparison to US \$5.1 million in 2008 for Sudan. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provided US \$1 million in comparison to US \$500,000 in 2008 for Lebanon. The United Kingdom came forward with US \$3.9 million in 2009 for a variety of activities, including rapid response operations in Gaza, compared to US \$1.9 million in 2008.

Donor support to Afghanistan and Sudan amounted to 77.1 percent (US \$69.9 million) of the total amount received by the VTF. Chad was in third place with 5.6 percent (US \$5.1 million). Donors targeted 98 percent of funds for specific programmes and activities. For example, of the total 2009 contributions of US \$90.7 million, US \$69.9 million or 77 percent was earmarked for Afghanistan (US \$59.1 million or 65 percent) and Sudan (US \$10.7 million or 12 percent). To ensure coordinated global and operational mine action activities on the ground, UNMAS continued to encourage donors to provide funding that goes directly towards UNMAS headquarters coordination activities and is unearmarked. UNMAS is very grateful to Australia, Denmark, Finland, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom for their headquarters coordination contributions of US \$3 million or 54 percent of the total required.

## Summary of Income and Expenditures for Mine Action Programmes, 2009 (US dollars)

<b>Income</b>	
Voluntary Contributions	90,701,658
Funds appropriated by the UN General Assembly for the mine action component of peacekeeping budgets	68,851,252
Peacekeeping support account assessed contributions	1,017,850
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>160,570,760</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
VTF	79,163,456
Mine action component in peacekeeping missions	70,384,380
Peacekeeping support account	995,809
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>150,543,645</b>

**Funding Constraints**

The pattern of primarily earmarked and one-year extra-budgetary funding continues to have a direct impact on UNMAS' ability to plan in the medium- and long term. It stands in contrast with the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action principles of multi-year and unearmarked aid. The total amount of headquarters coordination and unearmarked funds amounted to US \$4.7 million or 5.2 percent of total funds contributed.

To enable UNMAS to plan strategically, ensure a timely mine action response in emergency settings, fulfill objectives of longer-term operational plans and assist other UNMAT members in the implementation of specific mine action requirements and mandates, UNMAS welcomes donors' continued and increased commitment to the Principles of Good Practices in Humanitarian Donorship.

**Financial Performance Overview**

An income of US \$160,570,760 was received from three major sources of funding for mine action programmes in 2009. There were related programme expenditures of US \$150,543,645 for the financial period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009.

Most donor contributions received by the VTF were earmarked for specific programmes or projects. The mine action components in seven peacekeeping missions (MINURCAT, MINURSO, MONUC, UNAMID, UNIFIL, AMISOM and UNMIS) were funded from appropriations by the UN General Assembly for peacekeeping mission budgets. The support account for peacekeeping operations covered the cost of six headquarters-based personnel who manage and oversee operational mine action activities carried out within the mandates of the seven peacekeeping missions.

Appropriations by the UN General Assembly for the mine action component of peacekeeping mission budgets increased by 6 percent, from more than US \$65 million in 2008 to about US \$68.9 million in 2009.

Voluntary contributions to the VTF decreased by 1.9 percent, from about US \$92.5 million in 2008 to just over US \$90.7 million in 2009.

Financial resources under the peacekeeping support account arrangements increased by 1.9 percent, from US \$999,300 in 2008 to US \$1,017,850 in 2009.

The costs of UNMAS coordination at headquarters, which were covered by the VTF, in 2009 amounted to US \$3,940,904, compared to US \$4,028,733 in 2008.

#### UNMAS Core Activities in New York and Geneva

Project	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2009	Expenditures from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009*	Total
Personnel	-	2,680,912	2,680,912
Office Travel of Staff	-	402,447	402,447
Consultants and Expert Groups (including ProFi**)	-	(62,144)	(62,144)
Communications	-	37,259	37,259
Supplies, Materials, and Furniture	-	27,163	27,163
Contractual Services (e.g., printing and data processing)	84,602	85,587	170,189
Operating Expenses (e.g., utilities and rental of equipment)	-	203,534	203,534
Conference Services	-	2,132	2,132
Hospitality-Official Functions	-	3,649	3,649
Grants	-	30,000	30,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>84,602</b>	<b>3,410,539</b>	<b>3,495,141</b>
<b>Programme Support Cost</b>	-	445,763	<b>445,763</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,602</b>	<b>3,856,302</b>	<b>3,940,904</b>

\*includes unliquidated obligations  
\*\*Reflects prior adjustments posted in 2009

Expenditures on UNMAS thematic projects reached US \$507,586, while those on joint projects with UNDP and UNICEF totalled US \$575,834.

#### UNMAS Thematic Projects

Project	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2009	Expenditures from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009	Total
Advocacy	-	280,314	280,314
Landmine/UXO/ERW safety	-	1,241	1,241
Coordination of the Rapid Response Plan	23,918	173,406	197,324
Gender equality	-	28,707	28,707
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,918</b>	<b>483,668</b>	<b>507,586</b>

## UNMAS Joint Projects with UN Partners (US\$)

Country/Territory	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2009	Expenditures from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009	Total
Egypt	9,124	31,497	40,621
Ethiopia	644	134,356	135,000
Eritrea	144,620	95,105	239,725
Guinea Bissau (mine risk education)	29,579	28,171	57,750
Laos PDF	64,006	36,185	100,191
Zambia	2,547	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>250,520</b>	<b>325,314</b>	<b>575,834</b>

As in the past, UNMAS also used donor contributions to the VTF to support other implementing partners and projects in Cambodia, Colombia, Mozambique and Serbia.

## UNMAS Support to Other Implementing Partners (US\$)

Project/Implementing Partner/ Country/Territory	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2009	Expenditures from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009	Total
Colombia	-	270,000	270,000
Mozambique	-	64,304	64,304
Survey of EOD operations, UNMAT, Republic of Serbia	-	264,168	264,168
Landmine Victim Assistance AAR Cambodia	-	39,660	39,660
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>638,132</b>	<b>638,132</b>

## UNMAS Country Programmes

### AFGHANISTAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

In 2009, UNMAS donors contributed US \$59,170,787 to support mine action operations in Afghanistan, a 20.9 percent increase from the US \$46,805,297 contributed in 2008. Five major donors out of 12 donors contributed US \$55,587,775, representing 93.9 percent of the overall 2009 funding received. The top five donors were: the European Commission (56.6 percent), Canada (21.4 percent), Australia (7 percent), Japan (5.1 percent) and the Netherlands (3.9 percent).

The Government of Canada provided US \$12,643,860 as part of a multi-year funding agreement to support operations nationally, with a focus on Kandahar, while the Government of Japan offered a further US \$10 million for operations in Bamyan and the border areas of Pakistan. Details of all donor contributions can be found on page 98 of this report.

While carryover funding from 2008 sustained operations for a large part of the year, the programme felt significant impacts from the global financial crisis towards the end of the reporting period, particularly due to exchange rate fluctuations and adjustments to donor disbursement schedules. As a result, the significant decrease in the monetary value of pledges necessitated adjustment to the planning and delivery of the programme in 2009.

Of the funding provided, 74 percent was earmarked for mine and ERW clearance operations, 5 per cent for mine risk education and victim assistance, and 21 percent for quality assurance operations, equipment procurement, direct national capacity development, and coordination among implementing partners and the Government. Bilateral donors continued to support the programme through the provision of some US \$32 million over the same period, targeting all five pillars of mine action, largely in full coordination with UN activities. Substantial additional funding

from a range of donors, including the US Department of Defense, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and various commercial entities supported a range of task-specific clearance, ground-checking and survey activities.

There is a critical need to diversify the donor pool to ensure the sustainability of the programme as it moves towards the goals outlined in the Afghanistan Compact (clearance of 70 percent of known hazards by December 2010), the MDGs and the anti-personnel mine ban treaty (complete clearance by March 2013). Continuous dependence on the limited pool of countries contributing to the mine action programme in Afghanistan might put the programme at significant risk of failing to meet its goals.



*Afghanistan Income*

From Voluntary Trust Fund	59,170,787
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,170,787</b>

*Expenditures*

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 Dec. 2009	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 Dec. 2009	Total
Coordination and Capacity Development	917,167	9,188,496	10,105,663
Landmine and ERW Surveys and Clearance	4,051,448	29,401,773	33,453,221
Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance	132,954	1,142,975	1,275,929
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,101,569</b>	<b>39,733,244</b>	<b>44,834,813</b>



Photo: Jacob Simkin

## CHAD

Voluntary contributions from the Government of Japan to the programme in Chad totalled US \$5,108,398, while the UN General Assembly appropriation for the mine action component of the MINURCAT peacekeeping budget totalled US \$3,701,750. UNMAS provided US \$205,556 to the UNDP assistance programme to the Chadian Mine Action Authority for implementing survey, and landmine and ERW clear-

ance activities. Another US \$162,074 went towards enhancing the coordination capacity of the MINURCAT Mine Action Unit. Provisional expenditures from MINURCAT assessed funds in the total amount of US \$3,731,808 ensured effective coordination, and went towards contracts for road verification and EOD activities within the mission area of operations in eastern Chad.

### Chad Income

<b>From Voluntary Trust Fund</b>	5,108,398
<b>From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</b>	
Coordination	888,420
Operation	2,813,330
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>3,701,750</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,810,148</b>

### Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2009	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 Dec. 2009	Total
Coordination	-	205,556	205,556
Clearance	126,548	35,526	162,074
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>126,548</b>	<b>241,082</b>	<b>367,630</b>
<b>From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</b>			
Coordination	-	895,634	895,634
Operations	-	2,836,174	2,836,174
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,731,808</b>	<b>3,731,808</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,548</b>	<b>3,972,890</b>	<b>4,099,438</b>

## THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Voluntary contributions from the governments of Japan, the Netherlands and Spain to the programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo totalled US \$4,313,746, while appropriations for the mine action component of the MONUC peacekeeping budget totalled US \$4,378,151. Provisional expenditures from MONUC-assessed funds of US \$5,339,564 ensured effective coordination, emergency surveys, and clear-

ance of landmines and ERW. Voluntary contributions supported coordination, emergency surveys, landmine and ERW clearance, mine risk education, and initiation of victim assistance, with expenditures amounting to US \$5,522,788. The cost of the programme was also funded from the balance of 2008 contributions carried over to 2009.

### *The Democratic Republic of the Congo Income*

<b>From Voluntary Trust Fund</b>	4,313,746
<b>From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</b>	
Coordination	1,444,790
Operation	2,933,361
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>4,378,151</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,691,897</b>

### *Expenditures*

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2009	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 Dec. 2009	Total
Coordination	888,027	2,323,973	3,212,000
Clearance	1,104,083	2,115,856	3,219,939
Mine Risk Education	5,785	270,922	276,707
Victim Assistance	-	812,037	812,037
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,997,895</b>	<b>5,522,788</b>	<b>7,520,683</b>
<b>From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</b>			
Coordination	-	1,762,056	1,762,056
Operations	-	3,577,508	3,577,508
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,339,564</b>	<b>5,339,564</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,997,895</b>	<b>10,862,352</b>	<b>12,860,247</b>

## GAZA

Voluntary contributions of US \$1,322,643 were provided for the programme in Gaza by the Government of the United Kingdom and the European Commission. These allowed life-saving operations to take place throughout Gaza during 2009. Mine action interventions included risk assessments, EOD operations, training to raise awareness and coordination with stakeholders.



Photo: UNRWA

### Gaza Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	1,322,643
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,322,643</b>

### Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 Dec. 2009	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 Dec. 2009	Total
Clearance	-	257,500	257,500
Coordination	836,810	826,424	1,663,234
<b>Total</b>	<b>836,810</b>	<b>1,083,924</b>	<b>1,920,734</b>

## LEBANON

Voluntary contributions of US \$2,343,990 were provided by Denmark, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom.

In addition, projects for the coordination, and quality assurance of mine and UXO clearance, and the continuation of operational clearance capacities in south Lebanon were partially funded from 2008 contributions. Funds appropriated by the UN General Assembly for the mine action component of the UNIFIL budget of US \$2,424,250 facilitated the safe return of IDPs and contributed to enhanced mobility of the UNIFIL troops in the area.



Photo: UNIFIL

### Lebanon Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	2,343,990
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	2,424,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,768,240</b>

### Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2009	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 Dec. 2009	Total
Clearance	-	847,485	847,485
Coordination and Quality Assurance	489,122	1,822,227	2,311,349
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>489,122</b>	<b>2,669,712</b>	<b>3,158,834</b>
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination	-	1,779,345	1,779,345
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,779,345</b>	<b>1,779,345</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>489,122</b>	<b>4,449,057</b>	<b>4,938,179</b>

**MAURITANIA**

The government of Spain contributed US \$73,250 to the mine action programme in Mauritania. Funds supported the UNDP assistance programme for the Mauritanian Mine Action Authority in implementing survey, landmine and ERW clearance activities, and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) in enhancing the operational capacity of the Mauritanian programme.

*Mauritania Income*

<b>From Voluntary Trust Fund</b>	73,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,250</b>

*Expenditures*

<b>From Voluntary Trust Fund</b>	<b>Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Expenditures for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Total</b>
Capacity Development	-	50,856	50,856
Clearance	113	84,033	84,146
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>134,889</b>	<b>135,002</b>

## NEPAL

Voluntary contributions of US \$518,881 to the programme in Nepal were provided by the governments of Australia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

UNMAT continued developing and supporting NAMACC and Nepal Army mine clearance teams. The objective was to assist the clearance teams in developing key management support functions to safely and effectively undertake minefield clearance tasks.

### *Nepal Income*

From Voluntary Trust Fund	518,881
<b>Total</b>	<b>518,881</b>

### *Expenditures*

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 Dec. 2009	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 Dec. 2009	Total
Coordination	2,431	348,597	351,028
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,431</b>	<b>348,597</b>	<b>351,028</b>

## SOMALIA

Mine action operations in south-central Somalia in 2009 included clearance, mine risk education and surveys. Training of EOD teams to increase national capacities was conducted. Unfortunately, the security situation has had a detrimental effect in limiting operations.

The mine action programme in Somalia was supported from an earmarked contribution to the VTF of US \$485,845 by the Government of the Netherlands. Funds of US \$6,073,000 for mine action activities supporting AMISOM were made available under the commitment approved by the UN General Assembly.

### *Somalia Income*

<b>From Voluntary Trust Fund</b>	485,845
<b>From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</b>	
Coordination	2,064,968
Operation	4,008,032
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>6,073,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,558,845</b>

### *Expenditures*

<b>From Voluntary Trust Fund</b>	<b>Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Expenditures for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Total</b>
Coordination, Mine Risk Education Surveys and Clearance	306,138	413,338	719,476
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>306,138</b>	<b>413,338</b>	<b>719,476</b>
<b>From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</b>			
Coordination	-	1,685,800	1,685,800
Operations	-	3,272,080	3,272,080
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,957,880</b>	<b>4,957,880</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>306,138</b>	<b>5,371,218</b>	<b>5,677,356</b>



Photo: Noe Nielsen

## SUDAN

The 2009 funding combined US \$40,885,051 appropriated by the UN General Assembly for the mine action component of UNMIS with voluntary contributions of US \$10,730,506 from the governments of Canada, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, the European Commission and the CHF. A 56.1 percent decrease in voluntary contributions, from US \$24,447,504 in 2008, resulted in reductions in assets and support, especially in activities not covered by the peacekeeping mandate. The programme in Sudan relies on the services and expertise of a wide range of implementing partners, including the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Mines Advisory Group (MAG, surveys and clearance), the Survey Action

Center (SAC, landmine impact surveys), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA, surveys and clearance), Association for Aid and Relief (AAR)-Japan (mine risk education), DanChurchAid (DCA, surveys and clearance), the Christian Blind Mission (victim assistance) and Nuba Mountain Mine Action Sudan (clearance and capacity building). The last group is the national NGO directly involved in operational capacity development with UNMAS assistance.

The peacekeeping appropriation for UNMIS supported rapid response emergency surveys, EOD and battle area clearance, landmine and ERW clearance, mine risk education, and transport route verification and clearance.

### Sudan Income

<b>From Voluntary Trust Fund</b>	10,730,506
<b>From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</b>	
Coordination	11,856,665
Operation	29,028,386
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>40,885,051</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,615,557</b>

### Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2009	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 Dec. 2009	Total
Integrated landmine and ERW surveys and clearance	2,580,625	15,127,803	17,708,428
Technical assistance and coordination	10,109	4,808,068	4,818,177
Mine Risk Education	-	659,518	659,518
Victim Assistance	-	1,261,179	1,261,179
Landmine Impact Survey	-	777,498	777,498
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>2,590,734</b>	<b>22,364,066</b>	<b>25,224,800</b>
<b>From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</b>			
Coordination	-	12,474,452	12,474,452
Operations	-	30,540,300	30,540,900
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,015,352</b>	<b>43,015,352</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,590,734</b>	<b>65,649,418</b>	<b>68,240,152</b>

## DARFUR

The cost of the mine action programme in Darfur was covered from funds appropriated by the UN General Assembly for UNAMID. Funding of US \$10,806,650 facilitated the work of three rapid response teams and the deployment of one route verification team to conduct emergency surveys, battle area clearance and route verification in South and West Darfur, as well as mine and ERW risk education for the local population and IDPs. UNMAS,

through UNMAO and the Western Regional Mine Action Office (WRMAO), coordinated, planned and implemented mine action operations to enable UNAMID to accomplish its mandated activities. The regional office of WRMAO in El Fashir, and its sub-offices in El Geneina and Nyala, continued to coordinate mine action activities among UNAMID, the UN agencies, NGOs, and central and local authorities, and provide necessary quality assurance.

### *Darfur Income*

<b>From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</b>	
Coordination	2,377,463
Operation	8,429,187
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,806,650</b>

### *Expenditures*

<b>From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</b>	<b>Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2009</b>	<b>Expenditures for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Total</b>
Coordination			
Operation	-	2,390,047	2,390,047
	-	8,473,804	8,473,804
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,863,851</b>	<b>10,863,851</b>

## WESTERN SAHARA

Voluntary contributions from the governments of the Netherlands and Spain totalled US \$397,651, while appropriations under the mine action component of the MINURSO peacekeeping budget totalled US \$582,400. Joint funding from the Netherlands, New Zealand and Spain ensured that essential resources were available to conduct mine detection, ERW clearance operations and survey activities in Polisario-controlled areas. The contributions also covered technical assistance for data collection and analysis

activities, and coordination with key stakeholders involved in the MINURSO area of operations.

The MINURSO budget covered support for coordination and operations, equipment costs, and a rapid clearance and survey team within the eastern part of the mission area of operations. These activities were aimed at alleviating the threat of landmines to the local population as well as to UN personnel during patrols.

### Western Sahara Income

<b>From Voluntary Trust Fund</b>	397,651
<b>From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</b>	
Coordination	203,840
Operation	378,560
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>582,400</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>980,051</b>

### Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2009	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 Dec. 2009	Total
Clearance	2,481	954,190	956,671
Coordination	-	50,358	50,358
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>2,481</b>	<b>1,004,548</b>	<b>1,007,029</b>
<b>From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</b>			
Coordination	-	243,803	243,803
Operations	-	452,777	452,777
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>696,580</b>	<b>696,580</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,481</b>	<b>1,701,128</b>	<b>1,703,609</b>

## ENDNOTES

Page 3. "Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy," 2005, page 5.

Page 5. "A New Partnership Agenda—Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping," July 2009, [www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon.pdf).

Page 21. To view the CNN version, see: <http://edition.cnn.com/video/data/2.0/video/world/2009/12/05/wv.fickling.un.mine.train.untv.html>

Page 21. See [www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon.pdf).

Page 21. A/63/881-S/2009/304, 11 June 2009.

Page 22. For more information on the operational response, please see section 7.4 on the Gaza programme.

Page 32. UNMAS participated in the Second Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2 to 4 September 2009) in New York.

Page 32. The IASG was established upon a recommendation of the 2006 High-Level Committee on Programmes of the Chief Executives Board to prepare a strategy to promote UN support for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities within the UN system.

Page 32. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol were adopted on 13 December 2006 at UN headquarters in New York, and were opened for signature on 30 March 2007. There were 85 ratifications of the convention as of 19 April 2010, including by a number of mine-affected countries, and countries with victims of landmines and ERW.

Page 33. A paper entitled "Employment of Landmine Survivors at the Mine Action Center" was prepared by Akiko Ikeda of UNMAS in October 2006.

Page 33. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 9 on "Accessibility."

Page 33. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 27 on "Work and Employment."

Page 38. Page rank is mostly determined by the number and importance of sites linking to your site. Other sites with a page rank of eight include YouTube, Twitter, Digg and BusinessWeek.

Page 42. MAPA is the collective name for all mine action implementers working throughout Afghanistan. MACCA is an UNMAS project designated by the Government of Afghanistan to coordinate multilateral, bilateral and commercially funded mine action in Afghanistan. UNMAS further contributes to operations through the funding of implementing partners via the VTF.

Page 46. See: [www.macca.org.af/index.php?page=en\\_Reports+and+Plans](http://www.macca.org.af/index.php?page=en_Reports+and+Plans).

Page 48. See: <http://afghanistan.hmg.gov.uk/en/conference>.

Page 49. See: [www.macca.org.af/press\\_release/Press%20Release%20Copper%20Mines.pdf](http://www.macca.org.af/press_release/Press%20Release%20Copper%20Mines.pdf).

Page 58. Statistics for 2008 have been revised based on the latest information available at the time of this report.

Page 62. From the "4th LMAC Quarterly Report" for 2009. All photos by UNMAS unless otherwise noted.



Photo: Kike Arnal

## ACRONYMS

AAR-Japan: Association for Aid and Relief-Japan	MMINURSO: UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
AAR VTD Association for Aid and Relief, Vocational Training for the Disabled	MINUSTAH: UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti
AAR WCD: Association for Aid and Relief, Wheelchair Production for Development	MoE: Ministry of Education
AMISOM: African Union Mission in Somalia	MoLSAMD: Ministry of Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
ARCS: Afghan Red Crescent Society	MONUC: UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo
CEN: European Committee for Standardisation	MoPH: Ministry of Public Health
CHINBATT: Chinese Battalion	MSB: Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (formerly SRSA, Swedish Rescue Services Agency)
CIDA: Canadian International Development Agency	NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization
CND: Commissariat National de Déminage	NGO: Non-governmental organization
CROMAC: Croatian Mine Action Centre	NMAC: National Mine Action Centre
DANIDA: Danish International Development Agency	NPA: Norwegian People's Aid
DCA: Dan Church Aid	OCHA: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
DMC: Department of Mine Clearance	OHCHR: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
DPKO: Department of Peacekeeping Operations	ONUB: UN Operation in Burundi
EDA: Eritrean Demining Authority	OPORLSI: Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions
EMAO: Ethiopian Mine Action Office	Polisario: Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro
E-MINE: Electric Mine Information Network	ProFi: Programme and Financial Information Management System
EOD: Explosive Ordnance disposal	RMA: Royal Moroccan Army
ERW: Explosive remnant of war	RMAC-N: Regional Mine Action Centre in Nabatieh
FSD: Swiss Foundation for Mine Action	SCSMAC: South Central Somalia Mine Action Centre
IDF: Israeli Defense Forces	SIDA: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
CPA: Comprehensive Peace Agreement (Sudan)	SPLA: Sudan Sudan People's Liberation Army
CPA: Comprehensive Peace Accord and Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies (Nepal)	SRSA: Swedish Rescue Services Agency
GICHD: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining	SSDC: Southern Sudan Demining Commission
HI: Handicap International Belgium	TDI: The Development Initiative
HSTAMIDS: Us Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System	TMM: Threat Monitoring Matrix
IACG-MA: Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action	TSZ: Temporary Security Zone
IASG: Inter-Agency Support Group	UNAMA: UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
ICBL: International Campaign to Ban Landmines	UNAMID: United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur
ICRC: International Campaign of the Red Cross	UNDOF: UN Disengagement Observer Force
IDPs: Internally Displaced Persons	UNDP: UN Development Programme
IED: Improvised Explosive Device	UNESCO: UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IMAS: International Mine Action Standards	UNFICYP: UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
IMSMA: Information Management System for Mine Action	UNHCR: UN High Commissioner for Refugees
ITEP: International Test and Evaluation Programme	UNICEF Children's Fund
ITF: International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victim Assistance	UNIFIL: UN Interim Force in Lebanon
LAF: Lebanese Armed Forces	UNMAO: UN Mine Action Office
Lao PDF: Lao People's Democratic Republic	UNMAS: UN Mine Action Services
LIS: Landmine Impact Survey	UNMAT: UN Mine Action Team
LMA: Landmine Action UK	UNMEE: UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
LMAC: Lebanese Mine Action Centre	UNMIL: UN Mission in Liberia
MACC: Mine Action Coordination Centre	UNMIN: UN Mission in Nepal
MACCA: Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan	UNMIS: UN Mission in Sudan
MACC-SL: Mine Action Coordination Centre-South Lebanon	UNMOGIP: UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
MAG: Mines Advisory Group	UNODC: UN Office on Drugs and Crime
MAPA: MINE Action Programme for Afghanistan	UNOMIG: UN Observer Mission in Georgia
MASG: Mine Action Support Group	UNOPS: UN Office for Project Services
MAU: Mine Action Unit	UNTFHS: UN Trust Fund for Human Security
MDC: Mine Dog & Detection Centre	UNTSO OGL: UN Truce Supervision Organization, Observer
MDGs: Millennium Development Goals	
MINURCAT: UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad	

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