



THE UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION SERVICE | ANNUAL REPORT 2007

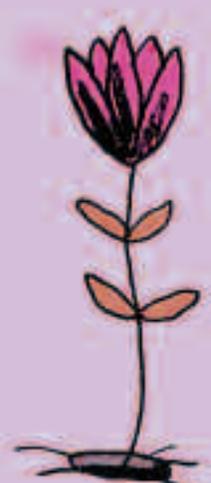


FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

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

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

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



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FOREWORD

The operations managed by the United Nations Mine Action Service—or UNMAS—in 2007 allowed tens of thousands of people in hundreds of communities to resume their normal lives, reclaim their livelihoods and put formerly dangerous land to safe and productive use. In addition, thousands of kilometres of mined roads were cleared, enabling men, women, girls and boys to once again travel safely to markets, health centers and schools. Fewer civilians are living in fear in the nine countries or territories where UNMAS works.

UNMAS continued to pursue the goals set forth in the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy for 2006 to 2010. It helped a number of countries meet their obligations under international treaties, particularly the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty. With support from UNMAS, for example, Afghanistan was able to complete destruction of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines in 2007.

One of the more remarkable achievements of the year was the removal of more than one hundred thousand unexploded cluster munitions from 32 million square metres of land in southern Lebanon. Also, in support of an international effort to address cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians, UNMAS played an important role in coordinating United Nations input into a new Convention on Cluster Munitions, which will open for signature in Oslo in December 2008.

The impressive accomplishments of UNMAS—through its field operations and its headquarters-based policy guidance and coordination services—helped garner a record \$93 million in voluntary donor support in 2007. This unprecedented level of support for UNMAS activities is greatly appreciated.

Progress in eliminating the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war comes, however, at a high human cost to the United Nations mine action community, which saw a surge in the number of deminers falling victim to violent attacks. In Afghanistan alone, 14 mine action personnel were killed, and many more

injured or taken hostage in numerous incidents last year. The United Nations strongly deplores these attacks on individuals who have helped so courageously to bring peace and security back to communities by finding, removing and destroying landmines and explosive remnants of war.

The central role UNMAS plays in the peace and security sector was underscored when it became a key component of the newly established Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions—OROLSI—within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in 2007. OROLSI brings together UNMAS, the Police Division, the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Section, the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section and a Security Sector Reform capacity under one institutional roof. This important restructuring does not change UNMAS' designation by the General Assembly as the mine action focal point within the United Nations system.

As Chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action, I am greatly impressed and heartened by the results that have been achieved within the mine action sector. UNMAS has been central to this success, providing leadership and coordination to ensure the work of the 14 different United Nations mine action entities is efficient and effective. In the decade since its establishment, UNMAS has proven to be good value for donors, a vital source of support for the safe deployment of peacekeepers, and an indispensable partner for mine-affected countries recovering from war.



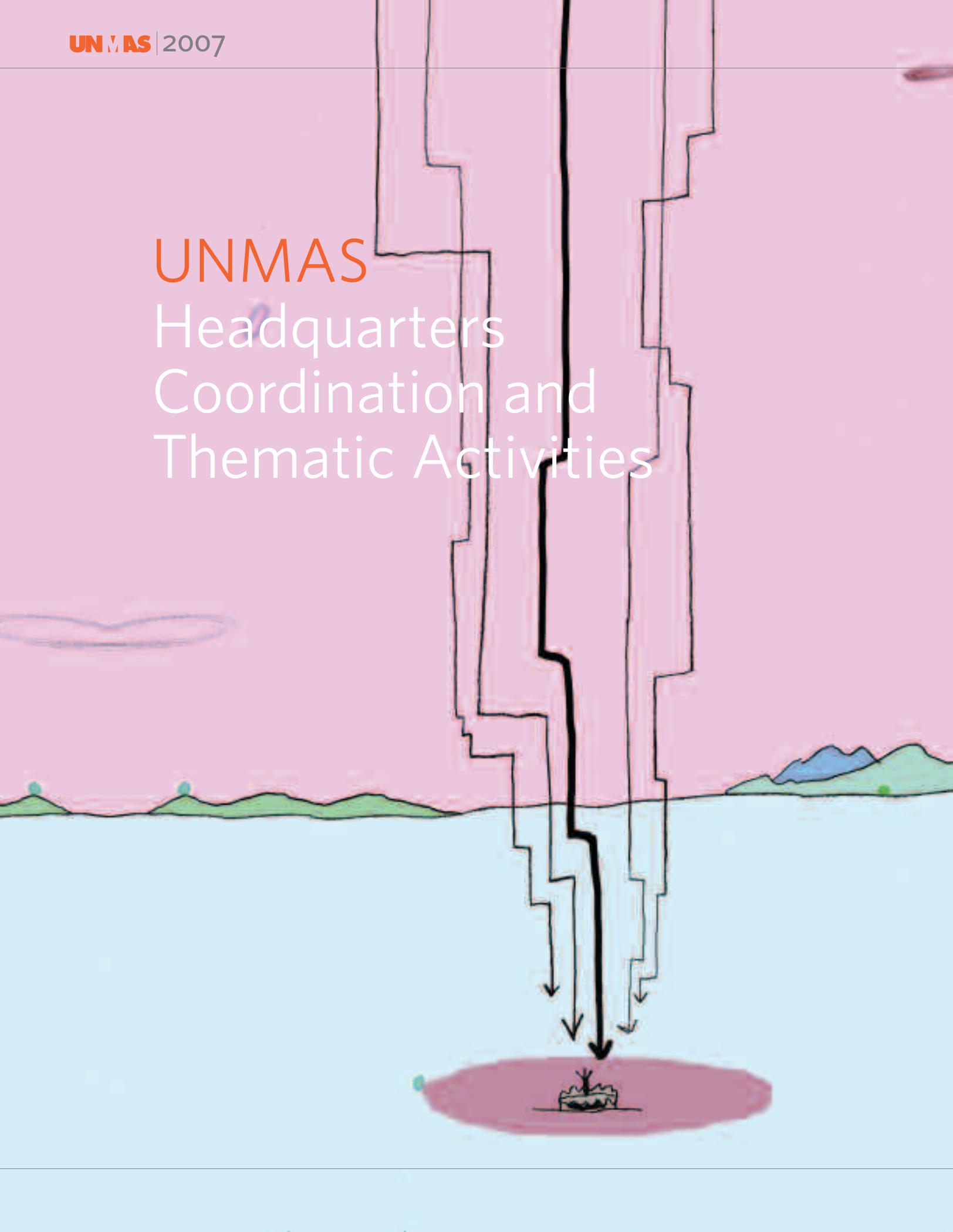
Jean-Marie Guéhenno

Jean-Marie Guéhenno

Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

UNMAS

Headquarters Coordination and Thematic Activities



POLICY AND COORDINATION

Highlights

- UNMAS celebrated its 10th anniversary.
- The General Assembly reaffirmed UNMAS' role as the focal point for mine action within the UN system.
- The UN Mine Action Team supported efforts by Member States to develop a legally binding instrument that addresses the impact of cluster munitions.
- The Secretary-General reported on progress and challenges in mine action in over 40 reports to the Security Council on a wide range of country situations and thematic issues.
- Seven mine action programmes from the Africa and Asia regions developed gender-sensitive action plans that should inform the way they conduct routine business in the coming year.

Mine Action on the Agenda of the General Assembly

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) prepared the Secretary-General's *Report on Assistance in Mine Action* to the 62nd General Assembly (A/62/307). Much had transpired since the previous report was submitted to the 59th General Assembly. The report draws attention to a number of accomplishments, including: a decline in casualties from landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW); release of land for safe and productive use by communities in affected countries; an increased level of national capacity to manage complex mine action programmes; the integration of mine action into development and reconstruction planning; a recognition in some mine action programmes' work plans of the importance of advancing gender equality and the rights of persons with disabilities; and a well-coordi-

nated approach among the many UN system partners engaged in mine action. The report also presents a 15-point agenda for the future, in which the Secretary-General urged the strengthening of the legal framework for mine action and called for a legally binding instrument to address the impact of cluster munitions on civilian populations.

UNMAS worked closely in support of negotiations led by the European Union in the 4th Committee, and on December 17, 2007 the General Assembly adopted Resolution A/62/99, Assistance in Mine Action. In addition to reaffirming the role of UNMAS as the focal point for the coordination of mine action within the UN system, this new resolution provides several



important new elements that will inform operations. The resolution emphasizes the importance of conducting activities in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and IMAS-compliant national standards; identifying all affected areas in the most efficient manner possible; mainstreaming victim assistance into development plans; taking gender into consideration in the implementation of activities; and incorporating explicit references to mine action in relevant ceasefire and peace agreements.

UNMAS communicated the salient features of the new resolution to all its programme managers and requested field components to continue monitoring the implementation of our mine action mandate, as spelled out in relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and the *UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*, and provide relevant updates in key reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and the Security Council. The most recent report to the General Assembly can be found at www.mineaction.org, and the next *Report on Assistance in Mine Action* will be presented to the 64th session of the General Assembly.

Additionally, in 2007, mine action was referred to in General Assembly resolutions 61/18 on Afghanistan, 61/100 on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and 61/219 on Angola. The resolution on Afghanistan urged the Government of Afghanistan to cooperate with the UN mine action programme and to meet its responsibilities under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. The resolution on Angola appealed for continued donor contributions to mine action activities and encouraged the Government of Angola to continue mine action efforts. The resolution on the Convention on Certain Conventional

Weapons urged States to become parties to the convention and its protocols and discussed the need to address the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions.

Integrating Mine Action Across the UN System

UNMAS continued to ensure that mine action issues were considered in inter-governmental deliberations and inter-agency initiatives. UNMAS proposed text for numerous reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council and the General Assembly and participated in inter-agency working groups on sexual exploitation and abuse, gender, and humanitarian response.

The Security Council referred to mine action in three resolutions last year. Resolution 1756 on the Democratic Republic of the Congo referred to the mandate of the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to assist the Government in improving its demining capacity. Resolution 1758 on Cyprus urged Turkish Forces and the Turkish Cypriots to allow the resumption of demining activities. And resolution 1773 discussed the importance of continued efforts to clear unexploded ordnance from southern Lebanon.

The Secretary-General explicitly referred to mine action in 42 reports to the Security Council, including those on Afghanistan, Chad and the Central African Republic, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Georgia (Abkhazia), Guinea-Bissau, UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, Somalia, Sudan, Sudan (Darfur), Uganda and Western Sahara. Reports



often included dedicated sections that updated the Security Council on the implementation of a specific mission's mine action mandate, which may include clearance of landmines and ERW, verification of routes required for mission deployment, provision of risk education, training of national staff, and the compilation of data on casualties and accident rates. The Secretary-General submitted five reports to the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. These reports present information substantiating child rights violations in six categories requested by the Security Council. In 2007 the Security Council learned that landmines and ERW killed

and maimed children in Somalia, Uganda, Chad, Myanmar and in southern Sudan, and were used in attacks on schools and hospitals in Uganda. The report on children and armed conflict in Myanmar conveys unconfirmed reports that the Karenni National People's Liberation Front has recruited children into its ranks to search for landmines laid by other armed groups.

The Secretary-General's Report on *Women, Peace and Security* to the Security Council recognizes UNMAS' active efforts to incorporate a gender perspective in mine action activities and to organize the first



Gender Equality in Mine Action Workshop in 2006. The Secretary-General's Report to the Security Council on the *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict* in October 2007 and on *Children and Armed Conflict* in December 2007 called upon States to develop a legally binding instrument to address the impact of cluster munitions.

Finally, the *Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict* to the General Assembly in August 2007 stated that inter-agency standards, such as the UN inter-agency policy on mine action (*Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy*),

reflect an increased emphasis on humanitarian accountability and provide frameworks for more effective responses. The report also notes that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provide guidance to States on how to assist victims of landmines and ERW.

The *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Follow-up to the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon* to the Human Rights Council, extensively discussed the cluster munitions situation in southern Lebanon following the 2006 war.

Building Consensus on Policy and Strategy

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

UNMAS and its parent organization, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, chair and convene the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA). The organizations that participate in this group are known as the UN Mine Action Team. In 2007, the IACG-MA met monthly at the working level under the chairmanship of UNMAS' director, and in September 2007 at the principals level under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. The monthly working group meetings provide a forum for discussion of current issues, threat-monitoring and decision-making.

Salient issues in 2007 included: the establishment of a mine action centre in conjunction with the peacekeeping operation in Nepal, the provision of support to mine action efforts in Somalia, the coordination of the UN Mine Action Team's involvement in the meetings of States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the mine-ban treaty, and the coordination of support to the Mine Action Support Group (MASG).

The IACG-MA principals met on September 17, 2007 to prepare the UN Mine Action Team to speak with one voice on the matter of cluster munitions in upcoming meetings of the "Oslo Process" and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The principals also endorsed new IMAS on the drafting of mine action contracts and mechanical demining.

UN Mine Action Team

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



Geneva Sub-Group of the IACG-MA

A Geneva-based IACG-MA sub-group was organized in late 2006 to foster effective information-sharing among Geneva-based IACG-MA representatives and between Geneva and New York-based members, and to convene periodically to coordinate, organize, inform or plan relevant initiatives under the guidance of the IACG-MA in New York.

At the March 2007 meeting, colleagues from UNHCHR updated the group on the Human Rights Council's consideration of the impact of cluster munitions used in Lebanon in 2006, and on the progress toward entry-into-force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Colleagues from the UN Mine Action Office in Sudan briefed on the implementation of a victim assistance project funded by the Human Security Trust Fund, and UNMAS led a discussion on the way in which mine action has been integrated into the Protection

Cluster Working Group, which is a vehicle for coordinated programming at the field level.

Cluster Munitions Working Group of the IACG-MA

UNMAS continued to chair the Cluster Munitions Working Group of the IACG-MA, which was the coordinating forum for the UN Mine Action Team's participation in relevant discussions within the Convention on Convention Weapons and the Oslo Process on cluster munitions.

IACG-MA Steering Committee on Gender and Mine Action

In 2007, UNMAS continued to convene and chair the IACG-MA Steering Committee on Gender and Mine Action to advance the implementation of the *Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes*. With support

Staff of UNMAS Field Programmes, Sex-Disaggregated Statistics, 2007

Location	National		International	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
<i>Afghanistan</i>	11	332	6	17
<i>Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>	2	8	1	5
<i>Eritrea/Ethiopia</i>	18	55	2	9
<i>Lebanon</i>	11	20	3	18
<i>Sudan</i>	14	88	8	47
<i>Western Sahara</i>	0	0	1	0
<i>Nepal</i>	0	0	1	2
Total	56	503	22	98

from the Government of Denmark, UNMAS initiated a desk review of mine action programme evaluation tools to ascertain whether the sector is assessing its impact through a gender-sensitive lens, and conducted the second regional workshop to advance gender equality in UN-managed and supported mine action programmes. The second regional workshop took place in Nairobi, Kenya, September 25-27, 2007, and brought together programmes from Africa and Asia, representatives of the UN Mine Action Team, gender experts, donor representatives, and non-governmental organization partners. The workshop focused on implementation of the *Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes* in specific countries, as one element of a multi-faceted strategy to achieve gender equality in UN mine action activities. Colleagues representing programmes in Cambodia, Ethiopia, the Temporary Security Zone between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Sri Lanka and Sudan produced gender-sensitive action plans that integrated gender considerations into their ongoing survey, clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance activities. A representative of the Jordan mine action programme, which was represented at the first gender and mine action workshop in 2006, joined the second workshop to encourage colleagues to address these issues and to report on Jordan's successful efforts to conduct gender-sensitive impact surveys.

UNMAS subsequently devoted a new section of the UN Mine Action Team's website (the Electronic Mine Information Network, or E-MINE, at www.mineaction.org) to gender equality in mine action to serve as a source of information and inspiration for mine action practitioners.

UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy

UNMAS continued to focus its work and the coordination of the UN Mine Action Team to achieve the vision to reduce the humanitarian and socio-economic threats posed by landmines and ERW, at which point UN mine action assistance will no longer be necessary as contained in the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*. Realization of the strategic goals of reduced casualties, increased access, integration into development plans and the building and strengthening of national ownership was introduced as the guiding drivers in all UNMAS field programmes. The development of programme level strategic plans based on the four objectives then informed the development of operational plans with outputs geared toward fulfilment of the overall strategy. Details on the strides made in each programme to reach these objectives can be found in the individual programme descriptions of this report.

In addition to its own operational activities, UNMAS continued to work with inter-agency partners who have responsibilities related to the strategy through the IACG-MA mechanisms. The formation of a headquarters working group and the development of a strategy-tracking mechanism will help ensure system-wide cohesion in meeting the ambitious goals of the strategy.

Advocacy

Mine action advocacy objectives are woven throughout the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*. To advance the Team's advocacy in support of ratification of and

compliance with relevant international legal instruments, UNMAS, UNDP and the Implementation Support Unit of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty organized a half-day treaty workshop in the margins of the 10th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisors.

In a continuing effort to support field programmes with their advocacy efforts, UNMAS, drawing on funding support from Sweden, initiated a joint effort by the UN Mine Action Team and Landmine Survivors Network to produce an advocacy kit on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Using funds from Italy and other donors, UNMAS also supported advocacy and educational activities, including efforts to raise awareness of the impact of cluster munitions, by providing grants to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Engaging Non-State Actors

Non-state actors are now reported to be using anti-personnel mines or other victim-activated weapons in at least eight countries and territories, while new use by governments was reported in only two countries or territories in 2007. According to the 2007 *Landmine Monitor Report*, non-state actors used anti-personnel mines in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Colombia, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan and the Russian Federation.

UNMAS continues to support efforts to encourage non-state actors to make and comply with

commitments relevant to landmines and ERW and supports the work of Geneva Call, an international non-governmental organization dedicated to urging non-state actors to respect international humanitarian norms. To date, Geneva Call has obtained the signatures of 35 non-state actors on the “Deed of Commitment for the Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action,” with four new signatures in 2007, three in Myanmar and one in Iranian Kurdistan.

UNMAS provided a grant to Geneva Call, with funds from the Government of Italy, to ensure the continuity of core activities throughout 2007. In addition, Geneva Call published a third volume of research on armed non-state actors and landmines: *Towards a Holistic Approach to Armed Non-State Actors*. UNMAS supported this project with grants in 2005 and 2006, and with advice and expertise throughout the preparation of the report.



Mine Action Support Group

UNMAS continued to provide support on behalf of the UN Mine Action Team to the group of donor States concerned about the humanitarian, developmental and peace-building impact of landmines and ERW, referred to as the Mine Action Support Group (MASG). Under the Chairmanship of the United States of America, meetings took place in Geneva in March, June, and December, and in New York in October. The meetings focused on survivor assistance, mine action in the Balkans and the Middle East, national plans, creative approaches to resource mobilization, gender, ammunition safety and other overarching themes.

The meeting in March included a briefing by participants in a MASG field trip to Cambodia that same month. The trip provided MASG members an opportunity to meet national authorities, international and national implementing partners and people in mine-affected communities. UNMAS assisted in the planning and execution of the trip. In addition to functioning as the MASG secretariat, UNMAS provided substantive support to meetings through presentations on geographic or thematic issues.

Annual Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisers

The 10th Annual Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisers took place in Geneva in March 2007 under the auspices of the UN Mine Action Team, chaired by UNMAS, with support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. The meeting included over 200 repre-

sentatives from over 30 national programmes, donor States, implementing partners and related academic and research institutes. The agenda covered topics such as UN capacities and assistance, perspectives on risk, capacity development and transition to national ownership, advances in technology and resource mobilization. The meeting provided an opportunity for information exchange, networking and the sharing of lessons-learned and best practices.



Shaping the Legal Framework for Mine Action

Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty

UNMAS continued to support universal ratification and full implementation of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty in 2007. UNMAS participated in the many events convened to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the treaty in Austria, Belgium, Norway and Canada and coordinated the delivery of a joint statement of the principals of the UN Mine Action Team on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the treaty's adoption on September 18.

In the field, UNMAS continued to assist national authorities with the preparation of transparency reports required by Article 7 of the treaty and with the development and execution of national mine action plans that reflect the treaty's obligations. UNMAS made a special effort to encourage the submission of Article 7 reports by States Parties that had not yet provided the required initial report. Consequently, Sao Tome e Principe submitted its initial report.

UNMAS coordinated the preparation of the UN Mine Action Team's input to the *Dead Sea Progress Report* on implementation of the treaty and coordinated the preparation and delivery of statements to the intersessional meetings of States Parties in April and the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the treaty in Jordan in November. Imminent mine clearance deadlines and the deadline extension request process were topics highlighted during the Jordan event. Victim assistance and cluster munitions were also recurrent issues in speeches and interventions during the meeting.

UNMAS supported the work of the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration (Austria and Sudan). The UNMAS Geneva Liaison Officer and the victim assistance team at the UN Mine Action Office in Sudan successfully linked the work of this Standing Committee with the preparation of Sudan's Strategic Framework and Work Plan for Victim Assistance.

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

The 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects is also known as the "Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons," or CCW. In 2007, States Parties to the CCW continued to discuss mines other than anti-personnel mines but turned their attention largely to ERW, including an explicit focus on cluster munitions.

UNMAS served as observer to the Steering Committee of the Sponsorship Programme, which was fully implemented in 2007. Representatives from countries with UNMAS-managed programmes in Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo were sponsored to participate in the CCW's Meeting of States Parties.

ERW

The CCW's Protocol V on ERW provides an essential framework for the post-conflict clearance of abandoned and unexploded ordnance and ensures that risk-reduction education is initiated at the earliest possible moment. Protocol V obliges each High



Contracting Party and party to an armed conflict to take responsibility for the ERW in territories under their control at the end of hostilities, and to clear, mark, and remove or destroy ERW as soon as feasible. The protocol also requires the maintenance and sharing of records on the use of ERW and the initiation of all feasible precautions to protect civilians and humanitarian missions and organizations from ERW.

UNMAS coordinated the UN Mine Action Team's contributions to discussions and consultations on the

implementation of Protocol V throughout the year. UNMAS delivered a statement on behalf of the UN Mine Action Team at the First Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on ERW in November, expressing support for the effective implementation of Protocol V and welcoming the recommendations made by the Preparatory Committee. UNMAS also submitted a generic, electronic template for the recording of information regarding used or abandoned explosive ordnance. High Contracting Parties accepted the template on a trial basis and urged all High Contracting Parties to include in their reports the information outlined in Part I of Protocol V's Technical Annex. The Second Conference in 2008 will consider adopting the generic template definitively. Two new databases to be managed by the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs were established at the First Conference: one consisting of the initial and annual national reports, and the second consisting of national requests for assistance and cooperation. UNMAS will continue to ensure UN support for the ratification and implementation of Protocol V.

Cluster Munitions

The UN Mine Action Team has often expressed its concern over the humanitarian, human rights and development impact caused by the use of cluster munitions. The Team observed first-hand how the large number of unexploded submunitions in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and other countries or territories in which the UN supports mine action, generate injuries and fatalities, impede humanitarian action and the rapid deployment of peacekeepers, hamper development efforts in affected societies and complicate the movements of displaced persons.

In November 2006, at the Third Review Conference of the CCW, the UN Secretary-General called on High Contracting Parties to freeze the use of cluster munitions against military assets located in or near populated areas, to freeze the transfer of those cluster munitions that are known to be inaccurate and unreliable, and to dispose of them, and to establish technical requirements for new weapons systems so that the risk they pose to civilian populations can be reduced. The Third Review Conference charged the CCW Group of Governmental Experts “to consider further the application and implementation of existing international humanitarian law to specific munitions that may cause ERW, with particular focus on cluster munitions, including the factors affecting their reliability and their technical and design characteristics, with a view to minimizing the humanitarian impact of the use of these munitions.”

The Group of Governmental Experts met in June 2007 and, while they recognized the humanitarian concerns associated with the use of cluster munitions, the Group left any decision on how to address these problems in the hands of the Meeting of High Contracting Parties. At the Meeting of CCW High Contracting Parties in November 2007, delegations considered this recommendation and heard the following appeal from the UN Secretary-General:

“The United Nations calls on Member States to address immediately the horrendous humanitarian, human rights and development effects of cluster munitions by concluding a legally binding instrument of international humanitarian law that: prohibits the use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians; requires the destruction of current

stockpiles of those munitions; and provides for clearance, risk education and other risk mitigation activities, victim assistance, assistance and cooperation, and compliance and transparency measures. Until such a treaty is adopted, the United Nations calls on Member States to take domestic measures to immediately freeze the use and transfer of cluster munitions.”

The High Contracting Parties subsequently charged the Group of Governmental Experts to negotiate a proposal to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations and to report on progress made to the next meeting in November 2008.

In November 2006, Norway had announced its intention to convene an international conference in Oslo to start a process outside of the CCW to negotiate an international ban on cluster munitions that have unacceptable humanitarian consequences. On 22-23 February 2007, the Government of Norway hosted a number of countries, UN and humanitarian organizations to explore ways to address the humanitarian and socio-economic impact of cluster munitions. The Conference agreed on a Declaration committing states to conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument prohibiting the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians and to establish a framework for cooperation and assistance. Signatories of the Oslo Declaration agreed to participate in a series of meetings, thus kicking off the “Oslo Process” on cluster munitions.

On 23 February 2007 the Spokesperson for the Secre-

tary-General released a statement indicating that the Secretary-General was encouraged by the Oslo Declaration, welcomed all progress to reduce and ultimately eliminate the horrendous humanitarian effects of cluster munitions and stated that the Oslo process supplements the intense efforts under way to address the impact of these weapons on civilians under the broad multilateral forum of the CCW. The statement also indicated that the Oslo and CCW processes have the same humanitarian objective and should not be seen as in competition with one another but rather as complementary and mutually reinforcing.

On April 4, 2007, on the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the UN Secretary-General called on the international community to address immediately the horrendous humanitarian effects of cluster munitions and applauded and encouraged all endeavours to reduce, and ultimately eliminate the impact of cluster munitions on civilians.

UNMAS participated, ensured coordination of the UN Mine Action Team, and prepared background papers for use by the Team at the second and third Oslo Process meetings in Lima, Peru (May 23-25, 2007) and Vienna, Austria (December 5-7, 2007). The Secretary-General issued a message on December 4 noting that the Vienna Conference provided a further opportunity to give impetus to dealing decisively with the appalling inhumane impact of cluster munitions.

The UNMAS Geneva liaison officer contributed to the initiative taken by Handicap International to identify recommendations for victim assistance provisions in a future treaty on cluster munitions within the Oslo Process. These recommendations, which include

a broad definition of the term “victim,” recognition of a range of elements that constitute victim assistance, a requirement that States Parties develop national plans of action, and recognition of the principles of non-discrimination and gender-sensitivity, were introduced at the Vienna conference on cluster munitions.

Mines Other than Anti-Personnel Mines

The UN Mine Action Team delivered a statement to the 9th Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to the CCW’s Amended Protocol II on mines, booby-traps and other devices, highlighting the need to strengthen international rules applicable to mines other than anti-personnel mines—MOTAPM—and recalling its common position on this issue. (This common position, first presented to the Group of Governmental Experts in March 2004, is summarized in the following four elements: all MOTAPM should contain self-destruction mechanisms or at least mechanisms for self-neutralization or self-deactivation; MOTAPM should be detectable by commonly available technical mine detection equipment; MOTAPM should not be fitted with anti-handling devices; and MOTAPM should not be fitted with sensitive fuses that can be activated by the presence, proximity or contact of a person.) The UN Mine Action Team’s statement also encouraged States Parties to make further use of annual conferences to enhance the exchange of information and to take collective action on MOTAPM issues.

The Group of Governmental Experts had no mandate to work on MOTAPM in 2007, and discussions on this issue at the CCW Meeting of High Contracting Parties led only to the retention of the issue on the agenda for the 2008 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties.



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 March 30, 2007. By the end of 2007 some 13 states had ratified, including States affected by landmines or ERW (Bangladesh, Croatia, India and Nicaragua). This convention provides explicit guidance to countries affected by landmines and ERW regarding the rights of survivors and will help States fulfil victim assistance obligations pursuant to Article 6 of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and Article 8 of Protocol V of the CCW.

Having participated in the development of this treaty since 2002, UNMAS is now well-placed to represent the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. At the first support group meeting in New York, December 13-14, 2007, UNMAS noted the importance of the treaty for the work of many peacekeeping colleagues, and recommended that guidance and training materials be developed to ensure coherent UN support for treaty implementation.

UNMAS and the UN Mine Action Team advocate continuously for treaty ratification, including at meetings of States Parties to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and at the annual meetings of mine action programme directors and UN advisers. In 2008 all UN-supported mine action programmes will receive the advocacy kit on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities being developed jointly by the UN Mine Action Team and the Landmine Survivors Network.

Assisting Victims and Survivors

In line with Objective 3 of the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006–2010*, UNMAS continues to assist national authorities to advocate for increased resources and support for persons with disabilities, including survivors of landmines and ERW. UN efforts in this regard are guided by the UN mine action policy (*Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy*) and the inter-agency strategy, which state that the needs of survivors should be addressed within the context of national programmes and facilities for persons with disabilities.

One indicator of achievement of the strategy's Objective 3 is the extent to which the reports to, and observations of, relevant treaty-monitoring bodies reflect compliance with international human rights instruments that protect the rights of persons affected by landmines and ERW. In 2007 the Government of Eritrea's *Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child* stated that 73 percent of victims of landmines and ERW in the period covered by the report were children; the National Demining Authority is conducting clearance and is targeting risk-awareness efforts for at-risk children; and the community-based rehabilitation programme within the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare has been adjusted to address the needs of landmine victims and now provides access to emergency care, orthopedic workshops and school integration. The report of the Government of Croatia to the Committee on the Rights of the Child cites the Government's recent ratification of the CCW and Amended Protocol II and anti-personnel mine-ban treaty as steps toward improving the protection of children's rights. UNMAS recently launched a human rights treaty-monitoring

database on the E-MINE website to help mine action programmes ensure that relevant information is included in reports to the various treaty bodies.

Upon request from the co-chairs of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty's Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-economic Reintegration (Austria and Sudan), UNMAS provided general advice in the preparation of the agenda for their 2007 work. In addition, UNMAS linked the work of the Co-Chairs with the two workshops organized by national authorities and the UN Mine Action Office in Sudan to develop a national strategic framework and work plan for victim assistance. The workshops were supported by a grant from the Government of Japan, through the UN Human Security Trust Fund.

To help improve the availability of effective victim assistance tools for field programmes, UNMAS provided a grant to the Landmine Survivors Network, enabling the publication of the *Prosthetics and Orthotics Project and Programme Guides* and the presentation of these tools at the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty's intersessionals. UNMAS and the Landmine Survivors Network convened a side event on victim assistance during the Eighth Meeting of States Parties in November, stressing that the legal framework for assisting victims and survivors extends beyond the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and includes the CCW's Protocol V on ERW and, most notably, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Reducing Risk

UNMAS continues to encourage all agencies and organizations in the UN system to integrate land-

mine and ERW safety training into their general safety briefings. This is largely accomplished in the field through cooperation between the mine action coordination centres and UN security personnel. At headquarters, UNMAS liaises regularly with the Department of Safety and Security to ensure that landmine and ERW safety training and general safety training are complementary and that safety training tools are used as part of security training in countries without mine action coordination centres or a UN mine action presence.

A landmine and ERW safety training DVD was released at the 10th Annual Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisers in March 2007. The limited initial production run of 1,000 copies has been widely circulated and has received favourable reviews from users. In 2008, UNMAS intends to work with the developers at the University of California at Los Angeles to develop the DVD in languages other than English and make the product available through web-hosting. UNMAS has contributed abridged information from the *Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War Safety Handbook* in other relevant publications, such as the Protection Cluster Working Group's *IDP Protection Handbook*. Subject to available funding, UNMAS intends to publish the *Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War Safety Handbook* in Arabic, French, and Russian, Dari and Pashto in 2008.

Public-Private Partnerships: Schonstedt

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations was approached by West Virginia-based Schonstedt

Instrument Company, which makes magnetic locators used in the detection of ERW, with an initiative to provide magnetic locators free of charge to under-funded mine action programmes across the globe. The initiative linked the donation of a locator to the sale of a new Schonstedt pipe and cable locator used by utilities, construction and facilities management sectors in the United States, Europe and around the world. Schonstedt committed to continue the initiative over the long term.

UNMAS serves as the coordinator of the initiative on behalf of the UN Mine Action Team, linking Schonstedt with eligible programmes and projects. During the first nine months of the initiative, 50 locators, with a retail value of over US\$50,000, were donated to programmes in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Somalia, Tajikistan and to the International Mine Action Training Centre (IMATC) in Kenya, with close to 30 additional units slated for delivery in early 2008. The initiative has been included in the US State Department's Mine Action Public-Private Partnership Program.

The first units to ship included three locators purchased as a charitable donation by a Quaker organization in New Jersey at a reduced price offered by Schonstedt. This in turn led Schonstedt to expand the initiative by offering to match the number of units contributed by private individuals and groups that purchase units at retail price. All donations are formally acknowledged by Schonstedt, UNMAS, the US State Department and the recipient programme. More information is available at the Schonstedt website at www.schonstedt.com.

COMMUNICATING TO THE PUBLIC AND OTHER CONSTITUENCIES

Coordinating Communications to Maximize Impact

As a result of Mine Action Communications Working Group meetings convened by UNMAS in 2007, the UN Mine Action Team communicated consistent, complete and strategic messages to the media and other audiences, raising awareness about milestones, such as the 10th anniversary of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

The Mine Action Communications Working Group consists of communications focal points from UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, ODA, and occasionally other members of the UN Mine Action Team. The Working Group met eight times in 2007 to coordinate and plan information initiatives for major events, identify upcoming news opportunities and agree on common approaches to media outreach.



International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

Events and media outreach coordinated or supported by UNMAS for the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (April 4, 2007) resulted in news coverage in 41 countries. Several widely published wire service articles resulted from curtain-raiser press briefings led by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on April 3 in New York and by senior staff of UNHCR in Geneva. Also on April 3, more than 1,000 television newsrooms around the world received a video news report produced jointly by the UN Mine Action Team and the Department of Public Information about landmines in Colombia and cluster munitions in Tajikistan through the United Nations' UNIFEED service. UNIFEED distributes video from throughout the UN system to a global network of broadcasters.

On April 4 in New York, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened *Enduring Fear*, a month-long exhibition of photographs about the people affected by landmines and ERW. UNMAS organized the exhibit, which was seen by an estimated 80,000 visitors. UNMAS mounted a similar exhibit on the Day in Geneva's Palais des Nations. Also on April 4 in New York, the Humanitarian Demining Training Center set up a one-day exhibit of landmines and ERW. The exhibit was seen by an estimated 3,000 visitors. UNICEF displayed children's drawings about landmines and hosted mine-risk education workshops, underscoring for visitors that mine action entails much more than demining. The anti-personnel mine-ban treaty was on display, and computers were set up to allow visitors to use the recently released landmine and ERW safety interactive training program.

Throughout the Day a number of national television broadcasters, such as Russia Today, and global networks, such as Al-Jazeera, broadcast the UN Mine Action Team's video public service announcements, which convey that landmines destroy lives and livelihoods and that landmines would not be tolerated anywhere if they were a threat in the major Western industrialized countries. These public service announcements directed viewers to websites where they could learn more about the United Nations' efforts to eliminate landmines and where they may

make donations to an array of non-governmental organizations. More than 9,300 visitors to these websites used them to link to the non-governmental organizations' on-line donation pages in 2007.

Keeping Mine Action in the Public Eye

Spotlighting Less-Noticed Mine Action Programmes

UNMAS and UNDP organized a press trip to Tajikistan in June to draw attention to the country's struggle against landmines and its effort to clean up unexploded cluster munitions remaining from the civil war in 1993. The trip coincided with international negotiations toward a new international instrument to deal with cluster munitions, the 10th anniversary of Tajikistan's peace accord, and the various observances of the 10th anniversary of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. Numerous stories were filed by Reuters, BBC television, BBC radio, and a Russian daily, *Kommarsant*. The Reuters stories were published in Russian and English and appeared in newspapers ranging from the *Washington Post* to the *Moscow Times*. Coverage tended to focus on the problem of unexploded cluster munitions and the impact of these weapons on civilians and on the limited amount of funds available for the clean-up effort.

Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Mine-Ban Treaty

UNMAS produced a special publication to mark the 10th anniversary of the anti-personnel mine-ban





treaty. The publication profiled 10 people who have worked for the United Nations in mine action or who have been personally affected by landmines or ERW in the 10 years since the treaty opened for signature in Ottawa in December 1997.

Getting the Word Out: Speeches, Presentations and Media Relations

UNMAS drafted messages and speeches for senior UN officials, gave presentations or talks to partner organizations and community groups, and many of its staff were interviewed by major media throughout the year to raise the profile of United Nations mine action. Topics addressed in media interviews ranged from the problem of landmines and ERW in the Arab States (Al Jazeera) to the prospects for achieving a mine-free world (*The Hindu*).

UNMAS presented numerous story ideas to media throughout the year, resulting in news and feature

stories. This type of outreach yielded news and features, such as the ones published by the Philadelphia *Inquirer* and newspapers in neighbouring towns about UNMAS' initiative to channel donated metal detectors to countries seeking to clean up unexploded cluster munitions.

UNMAS organized the launch of and briefing about the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2008*, in Jordan on November 19. The launch featured the national directors or senior officials from three countries featured in the publication.

Website Management

Improvements to the Electronic Mine Information Network (E-MINE) website at www.mineaction.org in 2007 included the addition of a UN documents library feature, which enables users to access mine action-related reports and resolutions of the UN inter-governmental bodies. A restructuring of other sections dealing with treaties and law and strategies and policies simplified navigation to these materials.

In addition to improving content for users, UNMAS also strengthened E-MINE's content-management system. The development, editing, design, layout and production of the annual Portfolio of Mine Action Projects were carried out entirely through the upgraded system. The new system had been piloted in three countries in 2006 but was used by all headquarters Portfolio staff and the Country Portfolio Coordinators in more than 30 countries for the first time in 2007. The new system reduced the time and expense involved in the previous, manual arrangements to compile and produce the publication.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Portfolio of Mine Action Projects

The *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2008* was launched on November 20, 2007 in Jordan, during the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. The *Portfolio* is an annual publication, coordinated among representatives of the United Nations, national authorities, non-governmental organizations, and donors in the field, with guidance from the Headquarters Portfolio Team comprising representatives from UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF.

The document provides an overview of the way in which affected countries plan to address the problems posed by landmines and ERW. The 2008 edition includes submissions from 30 countries and three territories. Cyprus, Egypt and Senegal joined

the Portfolio for the first time, while Croatia, the Republic of Serbia (Kosovo) and Somalia returned to the process after not having participated for a year or more. More than half of the record 383 projects proposed for 2008 are in Africa. Additional chapters or projects may be added to the on-line version on the E-MINE website, which allows donors and stakeholders to monitor funding needs for each project.

The automation of the Portfolio preparation process was further improved in 2007; hands-on training was provided to country coordinators, and input to the 2008 Portfolio was provided via web-based data entry forms. The 2008 edition presents an overall appeal of US\$404 million, of which US\$365 million remained unfunded at the time of the launch.

Portfolio of Mine Action Projects: 2004-2008					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Participating Countries and Territories	32 Countries 4 Territories	30 Countries 3 Territories	30 Countries 4 Territories	29 Countries 3 Territories	33 Countries 4 Territories
<i>Appealing Agencies</i>	83	91	103	124	110
<i>Number of Projects</i>	307	313	353	347	383
<i>Funding Appeal</i>	US\$352 MILLION	US\$378 MILLION	US\$459 MILLION	US\$453 MILLION	US\$404 MILLION
<i>Funding Received</i>	US\$175 MILLION	US\$241 MILLION	US\$240 MILLION	US\$310 MILLION	US\$39 MILLION
<i>Shortfall</i>	US\$177 MILLION	US\$136 MILLION	US\$219 MILLION	US\$143 MILLION	US\$365 MILLION

Integrating Mine Action into Humanitarian and Development Appeals

In 2006, mine action projects were included in nine humanitarian appeals. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, mine action was the most well-funded sector: 96 percent of mine action sector requirements contained in these nine appeals were met.

In 2007, Mine Action Portfolio Country Team members continued to participate in humanitarian appeal working groups in the field to promote inclusion of mine action projects in humanitarian and development work plans and action plans, and in the Consolidated Appeals Process.

Of the 24 Consolidated Appeals that constitute the

Humanitarian Appeal 2008, launched in December 2007, mine action projects were included in three countries and one territory: Chad, Somalia, Uganda and the occupied Palestinian territory.

Later in the month, the Sudan Work Plan was launched. It also included mine action projects. Of those appeals, the Sudan Work Plan presented by far the largest appeal, with 959 projects amounting to US\$2.29 billion, of which 12 projects were in the mine action sector with a combined value of US\$70 million.

For those affected countries which will not have a consolidated appeal in 2008, the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects will continue to be the primary tool to illustrate the overall needs in these countries.



RAPID RESPONSE

Highlights

- Rapid mobilization of capacity for Nepal.
- Rapid response capacity strengthened through expanded planning exercise.

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

Framework for Planning and Response

UNMAS tapped unearmarked funding to activate the *Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response* to mobilize financial, human, and technical resources to support mine action in Nepal, augmenting the limited initial capacity provided under the auspices of the UN Mission in Nepal. The Framework itself remains under active review.

Nepal

UNMAS undertook two assessment missions to Nepal as part of planning for the deployment of a special political mission supported by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations following the November 2006 signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Nepal and Maoists. The assessments helped shape the nature of the rapid response, which included the deployment of staff in January 2007 to provide an essential coordination capacity and to coordinate the work of

the organization that was contracted to carry out destruction of surrendered improvised explosive devices at seven cantonment sites throughout the country. The rapid response effort effectively closed in July with the transition of staff to Mine Action Unit of the UN Mission in Nepal and the development of mine clearance training for the Nepal Army. Key achievements conducted under the rapid response effort included inspections of improvised explosive devices and storage facilities, negotiations with responsible parties and the consequent development of a programme to dispose of the devices, development and delivery of a mine clearance training package for the Nepal Army, support to the establishment of a national mine action authority, and preparatory work for the establishment of the Information Management System for Mine Action as the primary information management tool.

Building Rapid Response Capacity

In June, UNMAS held the fourth annual rapid response training exercise in Sweden in conjunction with the stand-by logistic support partner, Swedish Rescue Services Agency. This activity focused on setting up a mine action coordination centre in an emergency environment, with inter-agency representation reflecting the coordination mechanisms prescribed within the "Protection Cluster." The "cluster approach" to the international community's response to humanitarian crises was established in 2005 and aims to ensure that global capacity is built up and maintained in all the main sectors or areas of response, with a view to ensuring timely and effective responses in new crises. Mine action is included in the protection cluster, which is led by UNHCR.

Broader representation of UN entities in this year's rapid response exercise made the experience more realistic because it more closely reflected typical crisis situations where many players are involved. The exercise is being promoted as an excellent way to develop practical skills and help participants understand how the UN cluster approach works at the field level and has therefore been integrated into the Protection Cluster Working Group's annual work plan. Such training exercises enable UNMAS to observe staff performance and determine which individuals would be most appropriate for deployment in an emergency.

UNMAS has developed a training register to track which UN mine action staff have attended formal courses or training exercises, and how each participant performed. This roster will improve the speed of deployment in rapid response situations by identifying staff who may be temporarily and rapidly transferred from their current assignments to an emergency until long-term staff are identified and deployed.

Threat Monitoring and Assessments

Mine Action Planning and Inter-Agency Assessment Missions

UNMAS continued to provide regular tracking of emerging and evolving threats to the IACG-MA and led inter-agency assessment missions to Somalia in June and Nepal in November.

The Somalia mission involved representatives from UNMAS, UNDP, UNOPS, UNICEF, and the UNHCR and aimed to allow a better understanding of mine ac-

tion concerns in south-central Somalia where no consolidated activities had taken place for the past 16 years. The assessment team consulted with UN and non-governmental partners in Nairobi, Kenya and in Baidoa and Mogadishu in Somalia. The threat in Somalia is typified by a limited landmine problem and a more immediate humanitarian concern of ERW from years of conflict including recent efforts by the Transitional Federal Government and the Ethiopian Armed Forces to unseat the Islamic Court Unions. The team's report offered recommendations for strengthening existing UNDP mine action activities in the northern regions of Somaliland and Puntland and establish a framework for a joint programme between UNDP and UNMAS, given the humanitarian nature of mine action concerns in south-central Somalia and the extensive operational requirements on the UN programme.

The inter-agency assessment mission to Nepal included representatives of UNMAS, UNICEF, UNOPS, and the UN Mission in Nepal. Although the UN Mission in Nepal has a limited mandate in mine action, the assessment sought to form a broader understanding of all mine action concerns country-wide. The assessment included consultations with representatives from government, the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations in Kathmandu and a field visit to the Nepal Army demining training programme in Khimti. The threat in Nepal derives from well-defined anti-personnel landmine contamination around the Nepal Army's defensive perimeters and from ERW contamination around clash sites and around positions reinforced mostly by improvised explosive devices. The report, which will be published in early 2008, suggests a framework for the Government of Nepal to coordinate and execute mine action with appropriate support from UNMAS, the UN Mission in Nepal, and UNDP.

Programme Evaluations

UNMAS is committed to transparent management of mine action programmes and used funding from the United Kingdom to undertake an external substantive evaluation of the programme in Sudan in March 2007.

The comprehensive evaluation of the Sudan Mine Action Programme was carried out by three independent consultants, who observed that the Programme had strengthened inter-agency coordination over the past two years. The three UN entities providing support to the programme—UNOPS, the UN Mission in Sudan, and UNMAS—have been performing fairly well overall. The demining contracts led by UNOPS with various implementing agents appear to be working well in the opinion of clients (UNMIS) and the agents themselves.

However, it was also observed that the Programme did not yet have an extensive knowledge of the extent and impact of the landmine problem and needed to focus more on the landmine impact survey and other survey methods to have a better idea of the problem. There was a tendency for the Programme to concentrate on landmine clearance. There was a need to focus more on all aspects of mine action including mine risk education, victim assistance, and capacity building. It was also observed by the team that the biggest weakness in the Programme was in the area of capacity development. It was recommended that UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF make a more concerted effort to address the issue of capacity building and to develop a joint plan with planned activities, milestones and outputs commensurate with the residual landmine problem in the country in 2011.

In 2008 UNMAS is planning to expand the project and complete an external evaluation of financial management practices and internal control systems of the non-UN implementing partners in Sudan.



INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS

International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) continue to serve as the industry standard in mine action and play a leading role in guiding mine-affected countries in the development of their own standards. The IMAS website at www.mineactionstandards.org saw a substantial increase from 2006 in the average number of unique visitors (17.4 percent) as well as the average number of visits (24.3 percent) and pages visited (32.9 percent).

The IMAS Review Board, which comprises representatives from UN agencies, donor countries, non-governmental organizations, commercial demining companies, and other key mine action stakeholders, is charged with considering new standards and ensuring that each standard is reviewed and updated at least once every three years. A Review Board meeting was held in March 2007, and a consolidated report on the state of new and revised IMAS was presented to members.

New standards on mechanical demining and on the management of contracts were later presented and endorsed at a meeting of the IACG-MA at the principals level. Subsequent to this meeting, four additional standards were finalized for endorsement by the IACG-MA: Guide to the Establishment of Mine Action Programmes, Battle Area Clearance, Protection of the Environment, and Guide for the Evaluation of Mine Action Intervention.

Work continued on the drafting of eight potential new standards: Guide for Development of National Mine Action Standards, Information Management, Management of Training, Guide for Management of Victim Assistance, Guide to Quality Management in Mine Action, Guide to Risk Management in Mine

Action, Demining Machine Operators Safety, and Mechanical Area Reduction. As new standards are approved, they are disseminated by UNMAS with the assistance of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. Initial discussions were held at a meeting of field operators in November 2007 to direct the revision of the approach to land release and site-specific surveys. This will result in a major revision of two existing IMAS concerning the collection and evaluation of information.

UNMAS also provided considerable input to several projects with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) to provide additional standards for mine action. CEN was founded in 1961 by national standards bodies in Europe and develops voluntary technical standards to promote free trade and the safety of workers and consumers. A CEN standard for the testing of Personal Protective Equipment was finalized at the end of the year and is now available as a CEN Workshop Agreement (15756-2007). CEN Workshop Agreements are consensus-based specifications, drawn up in an open workshop environment. Two CEN workshops were held on the processes to be followed after the use of demining machines, leading to amendments and further development of draft standards now awaiting final endorsement. A CEN workshop on the characterization of soils was also informed by UNMAS and was extended into 2008, considering the difficulties involved in producing clear guidance in this matter.

UNMAS also provided advice at short notice to the preparation of trials for the selection of a suitable metal detector mine clearance operations in Egypt. The authorities used the CEN Workshop Agreement 14747 to guide the test procedures.

DEVELOPING AND APPLYING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Facilitating Information-Sharing on New Technologies

The United Nations and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining supported the Symposium on Technology organised by Croatian Mine Action Centre and hosted by the Government of Croatia in April. Because of additional promotion and assistance provided through UNMAS, attendance at the symposium was considerably broader than in previous years, and the event was deemed by participants to be the most successful to date. Mechanical demining was the main topic for discussion, with an impressive practical demonstration of flails and tillers. Donors were informed about the advantages of using mechanical systems.

James Madison University's *Journal of Mine Action*, which includes a section funded by the Government of Canada on technical issues, and the *Technology Newsletter*, produced jointly by UNMAS and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, were the main methods for disseminating information about mine action technologies in 2007. In the absence of internationally funded technology meetings, these publications are the principal means for the technology community to share information and keep abreast of research and development.

International Test and Evaluation Programme

UNMAS promotes trials of innovative or locally adapted mine action equipment and methodologies. UNMAS fulfilled its role as observer at the ITEP Executive Committee meetings and the annual ITEP Board of Director's meeting. Priorities include faster

and more effective equipment for route verification and a system that can quickly prove that large areas contain no landmines or ERW. The latter would accelerate land release.

UNMAS participated in a workshop in Berlin that dealt with systematic testing of metal detectors, characterisation of soils, and a field guide for the testing of metal detectors (an addition to the CEN Working Agreement 14747).

UNMAS facilitated the provision of information and provided advice for ITEP trials of dual-sensor detectors for close-in detection. These trials did not take place as planned because two major equipments were withdrawn. One dual-sensor device, however, was tested independently and is now also being tested for quality assurance in Croatia.



Supporting Research and Development

UNMAS called for and helped arrange testing for a potentially revolutionary facial protection system in 2007. The testing and follow-up technical advice could make the new equipment available to deminers in 2008.

A Government of Japan research and development project for anti-personnel mine detection and destruction equipment ended in 2007. UNMAS was involved in arrangements for testing of some of this equipment in Cambodia, Afghanistan and Croatia and attended the concluding symposium in Tokyo.

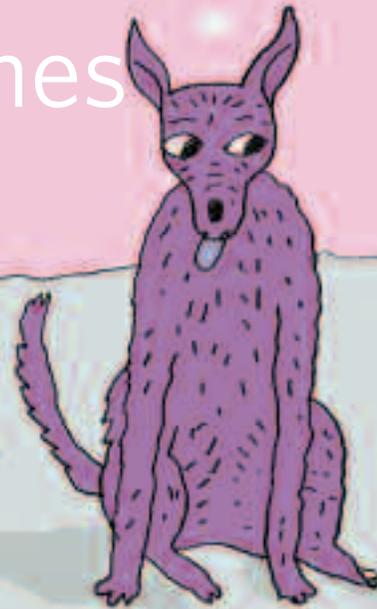
The ground-penetrating radar developed by a Japanese University research team is now undergoing practical live trials in Croatia, and several machines have completed final acceptance trials for operations in Afghanistan. UNMAS will continue to offer advice and coordination in support of any future research and development as well as the follow-up deployment of successful prototypes.

Throughout 2007, UNMAS' technology coordinator responded to technical questions and advice on cluster munitions, improvised explosive devices, ground-penetrating radar, mechanical demining equipment, neutralization devices and many other topics.



UNMAS

Country Programmes and Activities



In 2007, UNMAS continued its management of the UN mine action programme in Afghanistan on behalf of the Government. UNMAS also managed mine action as part of peace-keeping operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or MONUC), in the Temporary Security Zone between Ethiopia and Eritrea (UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, or UNMEE), in southern Lebanon (UN Interim Force in Lebanon, or UNIFIL), and in Sudan (UN Mission in the Sudan, or UNMIS). UNMAS initiated a mine action programme as part of the UN Mission in Nepal, or UNMIN, expanded capacity in preparation for the deployment of the African Union/UN Hybrid operation in Darfur, or UNAMID, and increased coordination and technical support for the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, or MINURSO. UNMAS also provided support and staffing to the existing UNDP effort in Somalia.

UNMAS field programmes are managed through mine action coordination centres that work with government entities,

international organizations, non-governmental organizations, commercial demining companies, donors and other stakeholders in their areas of responsibility to coordinate:

- impact surveys and assessments to determine the location and humanitarian impact of landmines and ERW;
- prioritization, planning and tasking, accreditation, and development of technical safety standards for survey and marking, landmine and ERW clearance, stockpile destruction, explosive ordnance disposal, and battle area clearance;
- mine risk education and victim assistance initiatives;
- information management and quality assurance;
- public information and community liaison operations;
- resource mobilization efforts; and
- the development of plans for the transfer of mine action programmes to national authorities, including capacity building and promoting the establishment of management infrastructure and institutional arrangements.

AFGHANISTAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

Highlights

- The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan took significant steps toward transition of responsibility for mine action from the United Nations.
- The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan adjusted its approach to operations and procedures to increase outputs and achieve more with available funds.
- Key posts within the Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan continue to be nationalized, including that of the first Afghan director as part of an ongoing effort to increase national ownership and participation.

Context and Challenges

The widespread use of landmines and ERW from more than two decades of conflict have made Afghanistan one of the most heavily contaminated

countries in the world with more than 4.9 million Afghans living in 2,822 affected communities. An estimated 770 square kilometres of land contain 4,019 suspected hazardous areas, while landmines and ERW kill or injure an average of 61 Afghans each month. A total of 734 people were reported killed or injured in 2007, with males accounting for about nine of every 10 casualties, and children accounting for about one in every two casualties.

Afghanistan is a State Party to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and a signatory to the CCW. In October 2007, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan reported that it had successfully completed the destruction of all known stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, bringing it into compliance with its anti-personnel mine-ban treaty obligations. The Government also integrated its treaty obligations into the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, while including related benchmarks in the national

Casualties in Afghanistan, 2007

Casualties in Afghanistan, 2007				
<i>Male</i>				
	Age 0-18	Age 19+	Age Unknown	Total
<i>Injured</i>	208	241	58	507
<i>Killed</i>	75	67	11	153
Total	283	308	69	660
<i>Female</i>				
	Age 0-18	Age 19+	Age Unknown	Total
<i>Injured</i>	38	19	1	58
<i>Killed</i>	7	9	-	16
Total	45	28	1	74
Total Male & Female	328	336	70	734

Millennium Development Goals, contributing to the achievement of Objective 3 of the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*. Clearance activities remain focused on meeting these obligations and reaching the national goals on time.

Security conditions in Afghanistan remain volatile, with the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan having been subjected to a number of attacks, robberies, abductions and intimidation in 2007. Eight demining personnel were killed, and equipment valued at an estimated US\$500,000 was hijacked, stolen or ambushed. As a result of these conditions, the majority of mine action assets were relocated from the south to other regions where security conditions were more conducive to continued operations. Security procedures were also strengthened nationally, and the situation remains under review.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS' headquarters continued to provide oversight and guidance, coordination services, technical advice, and donor relations to the Afghanistan programme. This support from headquarters included regular technical missions to the country by the UNMAS director and other staff to meet with senior officials of the Government, donors with embassies in the country, and local UN officials. UNMAS' trust fund manager and resource management officer also traveled to Afghanistan to conduct in-country briefings for staff of the Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan on issues related donor relations and funds management.

Briefings were also conducted for senior staff of the Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan who traveled to New York or to other countries as part of international coordination efforts. The focus of these missions was provision of direct support and guidance to the transition process, including through strategic-level meetings with the minister of foreign affairs, as well as through consultations on programme design to respond to the changing political and security environment in the country. This has contributed to the achievement of Objective 4 (on the development of national capacities) of the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*.

UNMAS conducted regular consultations with the international donor community at headquarters and in donor capitals, assisting in the mobilization and processing of more than US\$57 million through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, including significant contributions from the Government of Canada and the European Commission. UNMAS supported coordination with the UN departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Field Support, Safety and Security, and Political Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNDP, UNICEF, and the World Bank. Briefings on the programme were also conducted for various technical, public information, educational and media activities globally.

Coordination and Training

At the request of the Government, the Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan, which is funded through contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, continued the coordination of all mine action throughout the country including the

conducting of strategic and operational planning and the tasking of national and international non-governmental organizations and commercial companies, while also supporting the process of transition of responsibility for mine action to the Government. The Centre ensured integration of activities with other UN partners in the country under the coordination of the Relief, Recovery and Reconstruction Pillar of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. The Centre also worked with other partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Afghan Red Crescent Society, and development partners such as the United States Agency for International Development and the World Bank to ensure effective integration of mine action into wider reconstruction plans in support of Objective 3 of the UN inter-agency mine action strategy. The Centre implemented its field-level coordination functions through Area Mine Action Centres in Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar, Herat, Jalalabad, Gardez, and Kunduz. These Area Mine Action Centres worked with local communities to task mine action assets in line with an Integrated Work Plan produced by the Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan, while coordinating quality assurance and ensuring effective management of mine action information.

The Centre continued the successful direct liaison with the donor community, including major development partners and regional organizations. As a result of these efforts, the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan received continued bilateral and multilateral support from Australia, Belgium Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Mine Action

Centre for Afghanistan also worked with the World Bank and the US Agency for International Development on funding development projects.

The Centre increased its support for the Government of Afghanistan in the implementation of its national oversight role through the Mine Action Consultative Working Group, a subset of the Security Consultative Group within the National Development Framework. As a result, the Government took a range of critical steps toward assuming overall responsibility for the coordination of all mine action in the country, in line with Objective 4 of the UN inter-agency mine action strategy. Led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, extensive discussions among all partners occurred throughout the year, resulting in a Mine Action Symposium in December attended by all key Ministries and representatives of the implementing partners, the donor community, and the United Nations. The meeting resulted in a decision by the Government to establish an Inter-Ministerial Body for the oversight of mine action, and the decision to designate a lead entity within the Government. These efforts were further strengthened by the Government by integrating mine action requirements within the Core Development Budget of the country.

Additional critical steps were also taken by other elements of the Government, particularly those focused on mine risk education and victim assistance. This included the signing of Memoranda of Understanding with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Health, and Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled. Based on these arrangements, Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan-supported offices were created within each Ministry to focus on the planning and support of activities

implemented by the ministries in support of advocacy and assistance for persons with disabilities and mine risk education. Additionally, the Centre assisted in the development of the operational capacity within the Afghan Red Crescent Society for the implementation of mine risk education in the field.

The Centre also underwent significant changes, with the nationalization of senior posts, including the appointment of the first Afghan as programme direc-



tor. This process increased national ownership and the level of sustainability in the programme and will continue into 2008. The first female deputy director was also recruited. In 2007, there was an overall increase in the number of females working within the Centre. Women accounted for 26 percent of international staff, and 3 percent of the national staff.

The Centre's staff participated in gender mainstreaming, gender awareness and gender analysis training and began developing internal training packages to advance gender issues in the future. The Centre also evaluated programme-wide training to ensure inclusiveness, not only for women and girls, but also for persons with disabilities, and to ensure mainstreaming of appropriate gender and rights issues. Achieving progress on gender issues remains challenging in Afghanistan, due to both the cultural environment, and limited facilities for appropriate training or activities in some areas.

Also in 2007, some national staff underwent training—in Afghanistan, India and Sweden—in project management, victim assistance, administrative processes, and English-language skills. The Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan instituted an exchange programme with UNMAS-managed mine action programmes in Sudan and Lebanon in order to further develop national staff skills and learn lessons from other countries.

Operations

The Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan oversaw the restructuring of Afghan non-governmental organizations supported by the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action to increase their opera-

tional effectiveness and efficiency. This included a shift to “one-man/one-lane” drills, the introduction of an integrated tool-box approach with survey, manual, mechanical and dog assets, and the reorientation of some single service organizations into integrated assets. These activities were based on a review of operational activities in 2006 and were steadily introduced after appropriate training and preparation. It is envisaged that these shifts will see an increase in productivity in 2008 as the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan focuses on doing more with less. In late 2007, the Centre also commenced planning for the introduction of more project-based survey and clearance operations, which will further focus the activities of operational assets on areas of greatest need.

The Centre oversaw the deployment of 525 mine action team assets nationwide. Among the non-governmental organizations were 165 manual demining teams, 49 mechanical demining teams, 59 mine detection dog assets (sets and groups), 52 explosive ordnance disposal teams, 20 weapons and ammunition disposal teams, as well as 105 mine risk education teams. Commercial companies provided a further 32 clearance assets. A total of 22 landmine impact assessment teams were also deployed to conduct ongoing review of impact survey information and identify the outcomes of previous clearance work, and 21 quality management inspection teams were also operating across the country.

The orientation of these assets was shifted throughout the year in response to summer and winter planning seasons and security issues. Increased attacks on mine action teams, particularly in the south, led to the redeployment of a large part of the capacity in that region to other locations, which were

more conducive to safe work. Those assets that remained in the south were centralized in areas close to Kandahar City which were considered more secure. Mine risk education assets continued to operate safely in the south and were not shifted. The Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan worked with implementing partners to review the Afghan Mine Action Standards, a process which will continue under the auspices of a formal Review Board to be established in early 2008. Twenty-one organizations received accreditation from the Centre, including 10 non-governmental organizations and 11 commercial entities. The Centre also oversaw the establishment of an accreditation programme for mine detection dogs, with 220 dogs having successfully completed this process.

Clearance teams returned more than 28 square kilometres of suspected minefields to communities for productive use, while more than 145 square kilometres of suspected former battlefield were also released through deployment of battle area clearance or explosive ordnance disposal assets. During these activities, over 26,599 anti-personnel mines, 657 anti-tank mines, 978,489 items of unexploded ordnance and other devices and 717,826 items of small arms ammunition were destroyed. Over 69 square kilometres of land affected by landmines and ERW were surveyed throughout the year, and more than 1.6 million people—42 percent of them female—received mine risk education. Additionally, more than 12,000 teachers and child protection officers were trained in the delivery of mine risk education and disability awareness, with the Ministry of Education now implementing mine risk education in more than 6,000 schools nationwide. These operations contributed directly to the achievement of Objective 1 (on casualty-rate reduction) and Objec-

tive 2 (on increased mobility and access) of the UN inter-agency mine action strategy.

Impact

The principal objective of the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan is to reduce the deadly threat posed by landmines and ERW and provide a safe environment for the population to live, development to take place, and the continued recovery of the country. Mine action has continued to play a vital role in spurring economic activity in previously contaminated areas by releasing land for agriculture, pasture, housing, and reconstruction and enabling mobility and access to areas which had previously been considered too dangerous. These activities in turn provide real benefits to local communities who can develop income and trade, while also reducing the stress on an already-overstretched disability infrastructure by reducing casualty rates.

As the priorities of the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan are determined with input from communities through consultations with shuras and other governance structures, mine action also focuses on areas where the need is highest and the resulting impact more significant, while also often being targeted to areas where there has been limited other development. Wherever possible, mine action has also been planned and implemented as a critical means for facilitating construction and development tasks supported by entities and donors such as the World Bank, UNDP and the US Agency for International Development. This has included the clearance of areas for the building of vital power projects, such as the Hairatan-Pul-i-Khumri transmission lines, and water

projects, such as the Khakaji and Sarde dams. These actions will also ensure a sustainable power sector, access to primary and secondary roads, and integration into broader projects, such as the Regional Initiative for Sustainable Economy with agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The mine action community has also played a critical role in the disability sector in Afghanistan. For example, the Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan and Government counterparts, drafted national legislation and policies regarding persons with disabilities, while the Centre has also worked to develop and integrate effective advocacy strategies and programmes at the ministerial level and within relevant governmental frameworks such as the Afghan National Development Strategy.

These activities have strengthened the infrastructure to support persons with disabilities through creation of disability support units in relevant ministries as noted above while also assisting in the development of projects and facilities for direct support at the field level, coordinated with the Area Mine Action Centres.

The Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan and the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan also assisted the Government in making strides towards meeting their obligations under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty through operational clearance, support to the destruction of stockpiles, and assistance to the Government in taking steps toward taking full responsibility for mine action at the national level. This has promoted sustainability and supported long-term viability of the programme while ensuring that the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan continues to meet the needs of all Afghans at all levels.

Villagers of Jabay Reclaim Their Land

When 36-year-old Musafer Khan heard of a programme that would allow him to fight the hidden killers that had stalked his family and neighbours for years, the father of six had no hesitations about his next move.

“My family and I know that if I or people like me are not ready to become deminers and work to save the lives of others, then the lives of Afghans will always be at risk,” Musafer said.

Musafer had grown up in Jabay, a small village nestled deep in Hisarak district in the province of Nangarhar near Afghanistan’s border with Pakistan. He had watched the mines and unexploded ordnance hidden beneath the ground lay claim to a long list of innocent victims, including a cousin who lost her leg and another cousin who lost his life.

The deadly devices also blocked vital grazing land and contaminated a stream used to irrigate roughly 300 acres of cropland, wreaking economic havoc in a village dependent on agriculture and livestock for income.

“We lost our brothers, our children and our livestock, and we were not able to cultivate our farms,” said Haji Inser Gul, a 60-year-old farmer in Jabay who had struggled to support his wife and 12 children.

Now Inser is looking ahead to a brighter future after Musafer and other young men from Jabay received training from Afghan Technical Consultants, an Afghan non-governmental organization that began tackling the problem of mines and unexploded ordnance in 1989, through the Community-Based Mine Clearance Programme funded by the United Nations Association of

the United States of America’s Adopt-A-Team initiative. Musafer estimates that he has found eight mines and several deadly pieces of unexploded ordnance in his nearly two-year career as a deminer.

The Community-Based Mine Clearance Programme trains young men in contaminated Afghan communities to undertake mine clearance and to provide mine risk education in their community—enabling them to improve living conditions in their villages, earn an income, boost the local economy and contribute to the overall goal of freeing Afghanistan of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

The community-based deminers work to clear their communities and surrounding, contaminated areas. The teams have operated in eastern Afghanistan in the province of Nangarhar in the districts of Sorkhod, Khugiany, Chaparhar, Agam, Rodat, Mohmandara, Dehbala and Hisarak.

The teams are disbanded after they resolve the landmine and unexploded ordnance problem in their area, and new teams are then created in other contaminated areas. Community-based demining has emerged as a successful method to combat the landmine and unexploded ordnance problem in Afghanistan and to increase the quality of life of affected villagers.

Azizullah, 33, has worked with Musafer as a deminer in the community-based demining programme for nearly two years. He is married with eight children and says that his family is proud of the work he is doing despite the ever-present danger that it entails.

“My family feels that this is a good job and a way to save the lives of my people,” Azizullah said. “My family

and I think that all people have the right to live in a non-violent area without risk."

Both Azizullah and Musafar are close to granting their neighbours in Jabay that fundamental right. They and their fellow deminers from Jabay have returned 113,428 square metre of land back to the villagers and destroyed 11 anti-personnel landmines, one anti-tank mine, 27 pieces of unexploded ordnance and collected nearly 438,000 metal fragments left over from past battles.

Their first task in Jabay was to clear the stream of the landmines and unexploded ordnance that had prevented the irrigation of fertile farmland. Today, their work has allowed the farmers in Jabay to grow cotton, watermelon and wheat that is reinvigorating the economy, and spirits, in the remote village.

"Demining is really important and is a giant help to our community," said Inser. "If there is no demining then we would not be able to use this land. The area that is cleared from mines and unexploded ordnance is providing us with new life, and let's us use the land for any purpose we want."

Indeed, houses and shops are sprouting up on the newly cleared land as the residents of Jabay bet on a more promising future and use the opportunity to expand their village.

"As a result of demining, our community is able to use more areas," said Mohammad Omar, a 45-year-old farmer with eight children. "We are using the area to build our houses and to take construction material such as soil, stone and sand."

Jabay is just one of more than 2,000 communities in

Afghanistan contaminated with landmines and unexploded ordnance after more than two decades of conflict, but the deminers of Afghanistan stand ready to face the enormous challenge facing their country. "I am ready to continue to be a deminer until there is no threat of mines in Afghanistan, or in any other country," said Musafar.

A Look at Mine Action in Afghanistan

UN-support mine action in Afghanistan began in 1989 with a pilot project to establish local non-governmental implementing partners for mine action. The first of these, Afghan Technical Consultants, along with the international non-governmental organization Halo Trust and the commercial demining company RONCO, began full-scale mine-clearance operations later that same year. Other national and international non-governmental organizations and the Afghan Red Crescent Society began providing mine risk education the following year. In the following decade, services expanded to include assistance to mine victims, minefield and battlefield surveys, monitoring, evaluation and training. To enable expanded services, the number of personnel working under the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan rose to more than 4,500 by the end of 2001.

Activities were overseen by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan (UNOCHA) from 1989 until June 2002, when UNMAS assumed responsibility for supporting the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan in its implementation of humanitarian priorities on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Today, activities are implemented by more than 20 partner organizations under the coordination of the Mine Action Centre for



Afghanistan. The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan is the world's largest mine action initiative, employing more than 8,500 personnel throughout the country. Activities have also increased to focus on advocacy for mine victims and persons with disabilities, as well as integrating the clearance needs of the wider developmental and reconstruction activities throughout the country.

In 2007, Government oversight was provided through a Mine Action Consultative Working Group, which met regularly under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Group included representatives from a range of ministries, implementing partners, international donors and UN entities. This body operated under

the auspices of the Consultative Group on Security within the framework of the Afghan National Development Strategy and is an integral element of the Government's budget and planning process. Late in 2007, the Government, under the direction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, established an Inter-Ministerial Board for mine action, which in early 2008 identified the Department of Mine Clearance within the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority as the national counterpart for mine action within the Government. The Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan is now mapping a way forward in partnership with the Department of Mine Clearance to support the transfer of appropriate responsibilities to ensure full governmental responsibility for mine action in Afghanistan in the future.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Highlights

- Mine action included on the agenda of newly elected government.
- More efficient coordination mechanisms improved productivity of field operations.
- Sharp increase in mine risk education outreach doubled the number of beneficiaries.

Context and Challenges

Continued conflicts typified by rebel movements against Government forces presented security concerns and limited movement, hampering mine action operations in the eastern part of the country in 2007. In addition to these challenges, the evolving political situation in the country and rapid turnover of national counterparts delayed development of the Government's mine action institutional capacity and set back plans for the eventual handover of responsibility from the United Nations. The exact scope of the landmine and ERW problem in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains unknown, as continued fighting and the sheer logistical challenges have so far prevented a nationwide survey from being conducted. However, information collected by the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre and non-governmental organizations indicates that after decades of war,

landmines and unexploded ordnance are a considerable problem, and the reported number of casualties may be only a fraction of the actual total, considering how limited victim surveillance has been. Indeed, the surveillance system only covers those parts of the country where mine action operators have been active for several years, and therefore where the number of accidents has already decreased. Accurate information from other parts of the country is not yet available.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS continued its support of the programme through regular input into the Secretary-General's Reports on the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or MONUC, and participation in meetings of the Executive Committee on Humanitarian affairs related to the country. The UNMAS director and other UNMAS staff visited the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre in Kinshasa in October, and met the UN Country Team, government officials and implementing partners to clarify issues and emphasize the importance of mobilizing the new Government's support for mine action. The director described the Centre's role and priorities, stressing

Recorded Victims of Landmines and ERW, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2007

Men	Women	Boys and Girls Under 18	Unknown Sex or Age	<i>Total</i>
12	6	4	1	23

the need to enact national legislation, establish a national mine action authority, and build local capacity. The UNMAS delegation urged ratification of relevant treaties and encouraged participation in treaty-related meetings and in the General Assembly's 4th Committee negotiations on assistance in mine action. Government officials stated their support, assured their participation, and indicated that responsibility for mine action would fall under the Ministry of the Interior.

Coordination and Training

Due to the absence of a national mine action authority, the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre continued to coordinate all mine action on behalf of the Government. The coordinating role of the Centre has been essential in supporting operations in the field and in better integrating mine action into humanitarian initiatives. The Centre consolidated its responsibility for coordination in the mine action sector by improving internal measures and accountability. Today, all international and national operators now work closely under the coordination of the Centre.

The Centre's monthly coordination meetings evolved into a forum where mine action issues are discussed and decisions are made. The UN Country Team elevated the Centre to full membership, equal to agencies, funds and programmes, in recognition of the significant impact of landmines and ERW and the potential assistance mine action may provide in facilitating work in other sectors. This has led to integration of mine action into the country's Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan, through the Stabilization

Plan and in all programmes for transition to development in support of Objective 3 of the UN inter-agency mine action strategy. In addition, the Centre successfully involved the Government, through ministry and Army personnel assigned mine action functions, to facilitate the work of operators in areas such as customs clearance, administrative issues and authorization of activities within the country.

The Centre enhanced its coordination capabilities, particular in the areas of information management and resource mobilization, through stronger coordination with donors and the United Nations and humanitarian community and through improved public information. The Centre carried out activities related to its mandate as cited in Security Council resolutions 1291 (2000) and 1756 (2007): support to MONUC, coordination of humanitarian mine action and assistance to the development of national mine action capacities.

The Centre developed a fund-raising mechanism, which has begun to bear fruit, especially through the Consolidated Appeal Process. Public information and media relations were strengthened through regular publication of newsletters and through outreach associated with the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The Centre provided the accreditation or procedures for operators seeking to undertake or continue mine action in the country. In addition to its support for MONUC, humanitarian and developmental field operations, the Centre increased support for oil and mineral exploration authorized by identifying contractors to facilitate these essential economic activities to restart the nation's economy. Support for mine risk education aimed to increase local capacities.

In support of Objective 4 of the UN inter-agency mine action strategy, capacity-building improved through the appointment of a national focal point for mine action from the Ministry of Interior and a mine action operations officer from the Forces Armées Congolaises' Corps of Engineers. The UNMAS delegation's visit in October raised the importance of capacity building in meetings with high-level government officials. A new draft law to enable the Democratic Republic of the Congo to fulfill its obligations under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and establish governmental mechanisms for mine action coordination has been prepared and circulated within the Government. The support aimed at meeting treaty obligations included preparation of the country's annual "Article 7 Report," draft legislation on mine action, advocacy for establishing a national mine action structure, and stockpile destruction.

Operations

Five international operators were involved in mine clearance operations and mine risk education in 2007: MECHEM (contracted in support of MONUC), non-governmental organizations Handicap International-Belgium, the Mines Advisory Group, DanChurchAid, and a commercial company, Minetech. Survey and clearance operations resulted in the return of 367,909 square metres of land and the destruction of 152 landmines and 28,405 pieces of unexploded ordnance.

MECHEM continued its demining support to MONUC with mine detection dogs, manual demining, mechanical demining, and explosive ordnance disposal to enable deployment and ensure mobility.

MECHEM operates out of Bunia in the Ituri District. MECHEM operated in Oriental and Kinshasa provinces in 2007.

MECHEM responded to emergency tasking to assist MONUC in clearing a portion of road between in Dhera and Nioka, where anti-tank mines were planted. MECHEM also supported the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. A total of 7,109 weapons and pieces of ammunition were successfully destroyed in April.

A major task in Mwanga resulted in the handing over of 33,729 square metres of land to local authorities during a ceremony on April 4, 2007—the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. A MECHEM emergency response team was deployed to provide technical assistance and to conduct explosive ordnance disposal in Kinshasa after the riots and clashes between former Vice President Bemba and Government soldiers. While in Kinshasa, MECHEM cleared 1,300 square metres with manual deminers and 4,700 square metres with mine detection dogs. MECHEM also destroyed ERW found throughout the city in the wake of the violence.

Handicap International-Belgium continued working in Orientale Province, particularly around Kisangani and in the north (Isangui, Buta, Isiro), where the organization led an effort to collect data, carry out an impact survey, and raise the awareness of civil servants about the risk of landmines and ERW. Efforts were also made in 2007 to raise awareness among communities by creating and training community-based mine risk education organizations. In order to enhance community structures, steps were taken, as part of the Community Support

Programme (*Appui Communautaire*) to ensure the transmission and sustainability of mine risk messages through community-based organizations.

Explosive ordnance disposal and demining have been carried out around Kisangani and in the northern region. A three-month project was also implemented in Lubutu (Maniema Province) during which mine risk education, data collection, explosive ordnance disposal and demining took place.

Handicap International-Belgium continued its transfer of skills to national staff through the training of four explosive ordnance disposal team leaders in the *Centre de perfectionnement aux Actions de Déminage et Dépollution* in Ouidah, Benin. All received level-three certifications.

Mine risk education continued in Katanga Province, in Moba and Pweto, where more and more refugees are returning. Surveys were conducted in Katanga and Equateur provinces, where several new dangerous areas were found. After the explosion of a large stockpile in Mbandaka (Orientale Province), the Mines Advisory Group has been involved in clearing a one-kilometre radius around the ammunition depot. With funding from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development and Belgium, the Mines Advisory Group MAG deployed community liaison/mine risk education and

clearance teams to Pweto and Pepa in Katanga.

DanChurchAid continued survey, clearance and mine risk education activities in Katanga, South-Kivu and Maniema. In Katanga, three demining teams worked in Kabalo, and one each in Nyunzu and in Malemba. The project was funded through the Pooled Fund, but activities were delayed due to floods in the area, mainly on the Manono-Ankoro axis. A stockpile of six tons of ammunitions in Kindu was destroyed.

MINETECH was sub-contracted in mid-2007 by a commercial company, Surestream (which was conducting oil exploration in Muanda, Bas-Congo Province), to carry out general surveys of landmines and ERW and route verification. MINETECH cleared more than 18,000 square metres of land in that area and destroyed 80 mines.

Five national non-governmental organizations provided mine risk education and collected data in Equateur, North and South Kivu provinces, and South Ubangi District. The non-governmental organizations represent the first national operational capacity in mine action. Their activities, along with those of international non-governmental organizations, resulted in a steep increase in coverage of mine risk education and improvements in the victim-surveillance system.

The UN Mine Action Coordination Centre has contin-

Beneficiaries of Mine Risk Education, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2007

Male	Female	Children	Total	Sessions Delivered
76,989	67,484	217,021	361,494	2,411

ued raising awareness about the need to declare and destroy stockpiled mines. Meanwhile several important abandoned stockpiles have been discovered and addressed in Kalemie and Mbandaka, and in Katanga and Equateur provinces.

The Centre has registered in the Information Management System for Mine Action more than 1,900 victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance. To date, no specific victim assistance projects exist in the country, but several national and international non-governmental organizations are carrying out projects that support persons with disabilities: Handicap International-Belgium, the National Red Cross Society, and Caritas. The International Committee of the Red Cross is assisting victims of war. Only a minority of mine victims receive assistance through

these projects. The majority must seek assistance from the national health system, which lacks the capacity to provide appropriate support.

UNMAS played a critical role in securing voluntary funding to support the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre and its implementing partners through contributions from Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom, as well as an allocation from the Democratic Republic of the Congo Pooled Fund. UNMAS also helped MONUC incorporate provisions for mine action into its budgeting for 2007-2008.

Impact

Most mine action activities, particularly clearance of landmines and ERW, are taking place in or around affected communities and along access paths to fields and water-collection points. Males account for most casualties in many countries affected by landmines and ERW, but in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, women account for a significant share—about 35 percent. Many women work in the fields and are therefore more exposed to danger. Demining operations therefore provide women greater freedom of movement as they carry out their daily routines. Clearance activities also allow for renovation of vital infrastructure, construction of housing, and release of agricultural land. This directly benefits thousands of people, including numerous returning internally displaced persons and refugees in the eastern part of the country, allowing them to settle safely and make a living from agriculture. Prioritization for clearance and mine risk education is based on results of surveys and in line with UNHCR's plans for the return of refugees.



Normal Life Returns to Community Once Littered with Ordnance

Several years ago Ugandan Forces occupied Camp Ndromo, approximately two kilometres West of Bunia, as part of a military incursion to combat rebels who threatened Uganda. The camp included an ammunition storage facility. After the departure of Ugandan troops, this camp was occupied by MONUC, and local communities used the surrounding areas for agriculture purposes.

Two years ago, however, what remained in the ammunition depot exploded, and a large amount of unexploded ordnance scattered throughout adjacent fields, hindering the cultivation of crops and disrupting the lives of the local population. According to one local mother, "one day it was safe, and the next we were not sure."

People could not use their land because of the contamination. Finally, a piece of unexploded ordnance blew up near a playground. It resulted in no injuries but nevertheless triggered a request by local leaders for assistance from the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre. Under the coordination of the Centre, the demining firm Mechem initiated clearance operations of the contaminated area in May.

A total of 351 explosive items were recovered, and 35,183 square metres of land were cleared and handed over to the local authorities in July. The land is once again back in agricultural use by the local population, and a second area is currently being cleared to ensure the safety of the community and to enable the resumption of social and economic activity. Shouts of thanks greeted the staff of the Centre and Mechem at a handover ceremony.

A Look at Mine Action in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Security Council Resolution 1291 of 2000 called on the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) "to deploy mine action experts to assess the scope of the mine and unexploded ordnance problems, coordinate the initiation of mine action activities, develop a mine action plan, and carry out emergency mine action activities as required in support of its mandate." In addition, Security Council Resolution 1756 (2007) decided that MONUC will have the mandate to assist the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in enhancing its demining capacity. The UN Mine Action Coordination Centre operates out of Kinshasa, Bunia (Ituri), and Bukavu (South Kivu) with a mandate to provide assistance and capacity building to the Government, to support MONUC's operations, and to coordinate all humanitarian mine action in the country. The United Nations-managed mine action programme is being undertaken in three phases. Phase one, involved the establishment of the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre, assessment of the humanitarian impact of the landmine/ERW problem in the country, implementation of emergency operations, and establishment of liaison and coordination mechanisms involving all mine action operators. Phase two is still under way and has seen the opening of regional offices, an enhanced focus on the implementation of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty on behalf of the Government, and the consolidation of mine action activities in support of the overall humanitarian strategy. Phase three began in 2007 with the election of a new Government and is focusing on the creation of a national management body and institutional arrangements capable of assuming responsibility for mine action activities, the creation of a national operational capacity in mine action, and the consolidation of a mid- and long-term plan encompassing all mine action activities.

ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

Highlights

- More than 1.9 million square metres of land cleared and returned to communities, mainly for farming and cattle grazing.
- 5,901 kilometres of road cleared or verified to be clear of mines, thus supporting mobility of personnel of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), including 2,800 UN Military Observers' patrols, and allowing civil freedom of movement for civilians.
- Mine risk education tailored to 55,445 people according to their age and sex, and landmine and ERW safety training provided to all new UNMEE staff.

Context and Challenges

Landmine and ERW contamination in and around the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) is the result of Eritrea's struggle for independence from Ethiopia from 1962 to 1991 and the two-year border war with Ethiopia from 1998 to 2000. Landmines and ERW remain a major threat to people living and working in the TSZ and adjacent areas and preventing communities in both countries from returning to normal life. Mine action activities in 2007 included releasing land needed by communities, taking a gender-sensitive approach to the provision of mine risk education, and explosive ordnance disposal to ensure the safety of local populations. Fundamental to the mine action activities of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, or UNMEE, is the safe movement of peacekeepers and personnel.

The State of Eritrea acceded to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty on August 27, 2001, and the treaty

entered into force for the country on February 1, 2002. Eritrea has not enacted domestic legislation or reported any new national measures to implement the treaty, as required by Article 9. Eritrea is not a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia signed the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty on December 3, 1997, ratified it on December 17, 2004, and became a State Party on June 1, 2005. Ethiopia has not yet reported on any steps (such as penal sanctions) toward implementing the treaty domestically, as required by Article 9. Ethiopia is not a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

The UNMEE mandate is limited to the 25 kilometre-wide TSZ and adjacent areas, 15 kilometres on either side. Despite its limited geographic mandate, UNMEE's Mine Action Coordination Centre, or MACC, liaises with national authorities in Ethiopia and Eritrea, providing support to national priorities whenever possible within its mandate. Discussions were carried out with both the Eritrean Demining Authority and the Ethiopian Mine Action Office in 2007 to discuss and enhance operational support and coordination and to share data for the Information Management System for Mine Action.

UNMEE's mine action activities continued to function under restrictions imposed by the Government of Eritrea, which has banned UNMEE helicopter flights since 2005 and imposed prohibitions on certain nationalities to participate in the mission in 2006. The helicopter ban continued to limit the area of operations because it resulted in deficiencies in medical-evacuation support, and the prohibition on certain nationalities presented challenges in identify-

ing qualified international staff. In addition to these restrictions, the MACC faced local restrictions on demining and explosive ordnance disposal by local authorities, principally in Eritrea. Despite these hindrances, the MACC and its implementers maintained a high operational tempo.

The MACC's mine action achievements are regarded as a critical enabler for the UNMEE's mandated tasks. As well as ensuring that adequate support is provided to assist in the achievement of overall mission objectives, stakeholders were engaged through regular meetings to enhance support to civil society, primarily through the provision of support for UNMEE's quick-impact projects.

Casualty rates remained constant from 2006 through 2007, with 24 reported accidents resulting in 14 dead and 44 injuries. Young men and boys remained the most at-risk group, with males accounting for 11 of the fatalities. Children under 18 accounted for 50 percent of fatalities. Young males accounted for most of the 44 reported injuries (females older than 18 accounted for three of the injuries). Two accidents involving suspected newly laid anti-vehicle mines on roads accounted for 65 percent of the year's reported casualties.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS headquarters provided technical oversight and guidance to the programme including a technical mission to the region. UNMAS managed the transi-

tion to a new programme manager, who travelled to New York for a comprehensive induction. UNMAS continued to ensure that sufficient mine action funds were available from the assessed peacekeeping budget and voluntary contributions and to serve as a link between the MACC, the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and implementing partners. MACC staff also attended the gender workshop organized in September by UNMAS in Nairobi, where they developed a gender work plan to enhance opportunities for women at the MACC and ensure that the benefits of mine action reach all community members in the TSZ.

Coordination and Training

The MACC continued to refine its plans to provide mine action support for demarcation, although the dissolution of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission has left that process in an uncertain state.

The MACC is responsible for ensuring that all demining operators working within UNMEE are accredited and adhere to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Accreditation and quality-assurance activities were conducted with MECHEM's mechanical operators and mine-detection dog handlers, and the UNMEE Kenyan demining contingent. MACC staff and mine risk education teams conducted safety briefings to newly arrived UNMEE personnel, as well as for staff from non-governmental organizations and other UN agencies. This year 100 percent coverage of deployed UNMEE staff was achieved.

The MACC continued public outreach activities and was involved with such diverse events as the Sixth

Eritrea Book Fair in March, the International Day of UN Peacekeepers in May, and the International Day of Peace in September. MACC efforts in support of such national events have involved the provision of mine risk education materials and presentations, capability demonstrations and other awareness-raising activities.

The MACC, in association with the Eritrean Demining Authority, UNICEF, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information and the Eritrean Red Cross Society commemorated the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on April 4, 2007, which took place at the Exposition Site in Asmara. During the event, a variety of mine risk education activities, landmine garden demonstrations, games with the children, and video presentations in different languages took place. On display were mechanical demining equipment and information materials, and first-aid briefings and mine-detection dog demonstrations were held. Speeches were delivered by both the UNDP resident coordinator and the Eritrean Demining Authority's general manager. The event was attended by Government officials, ambassadors, representatives from diplomatic offices and the United Nations, and the general public.

The MACC assisted the Eritrean Demining Authority and Government and UN implementing partners with the development of the annual submission for the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2008*, requesting just under US\$2.5 million.

Operations

The MACC's work plan is based primarily on objec-

tives 1 and 2 of the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*, and supports the implementation of various UN Security Council mandates and amendments. Operational activities are focused on ensuring freedom of movement for UNMEE staff and projects, supporting the humanitarian goals of the mission by decreasing casualty rates within the MACC's area of operations (a task made more difficult by the recurring use of anti-vehicle mines by unknown parties), and allowing access to land predominantly for agricultural purposes.

The MACC also has a mandate to support the demarcation of the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea. However because of the continued political impasse, this has not been realized. The bulk of funding for the MACC is provided from the UNMEE assessed budget, with approximately 5 percent of the total effort supported by the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action being made possible through contributions from Spain and the United Kingdom and through unearmarked funds.

The MACC continued to coordinate and conduct demining operations in the TSZ and adjacent areas to support UNMEE and clear land to aid the humanitarian goals of the mission. It has also addressed the mine threat on roads, riverbeds and verges of roads to improve freedom of movement. Minefield clearance, route clearance and assessment and explosive ordnance disposal continued in Sector Centre and Sector West, while some explosive ordnance disposal tasks were carried out in Sub-Sector East. In total, 1,929,413 square metres of land were cleared and handed over to local communities for agricultural purposes, and 1,800 kilometres of roads were cleared and 4,044 kilometres assessed and verified.

Mine Risk Education Beneficiaries in 2007

	Male	Female	Total
Adults	5,750	6,705	12,455
Children	24,573	18,417	42,990
Total	30,323	25,122	55,445

Mine clearance and explosive ordnance disposal teams destroyed 1,668 items of unexploded ordnance, 134 anti-tank mines and 49 anti-personnel mines, with a further 501 found items cached ready for future demolition. A reorganization of contractor capabilities to generate an integrated approach to area preparation is reaping benefits through more efficient clearance operations and consequently improved rates of land release.

The explosive ordnance disposal and mine risk education teams conducted minefield confirmation surveys in Sector Centre and West in 2007. MACC staff in the Sector Centre and Sector West continued to liaise with local authorities, militia and UN teams to obtain information about the landmine threat and to inquire about any landmine/ERW incidents.

The MACC's philosophy is to ensure that the beneficiaries from mine action activities are gender balanced wherever possible. Current mine risk education practices take this into account by ensuring each team has a female instructor, and that briefs are targeted to affected communities and schools. An analysis of available statistics shows that males accounted for 54.7 percent and females 45.3 percent of the total beneficiaries of mine risk education briefings in 2007, with higher percentages for children under 18 years of

age. Mine risk education teams targeted community-based services to camps for internally displaced persons to prepare them to return home. Briefings addressed the different activities that specific groups will undertake upon their return, including identification of at-risk groups by activity and gender. Children have been identified as a high-risk group, and mine risk education has endeavoured to target children while also making adults aware of the dangers and risks to children caused by ERW. In total, the MACC conveyed mine risk education messages to 55,445 people in 2007.

Impact

The activities undertaken by the MACC continued to enhance the safe mobility of UNMEE personnel, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the local population of the TSZ and adjacent areas, as well as ensuring rural communities' safe access to land. The MACC has developed contingency plans for a range of scenarios that may develop along the border, with the scope of work for 2008 depending on what shape UNMEE may take in the new environment since the dissolution of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission without an enduring resolution of the border dispute.

Revisiting an Area Affected by War

Sied Mahmud lives in Debasit, in Tserona Sub Zoba, where landmines had been planted during the two-year border war with Ethiopia from 1998 to 2000.

In 2002, he became a victim of a landmine while tending his cattle in the Egri Mekel surroundings. "While walking with the cattle, there was an explosion," Sied says. "I don't really recall what happened afterward, but when I woke up and saw blood on my legs, I screamed for help." Members of the community took him to the hospital, where he remained for three months. He was 14. After he left the hospital, he and stayed at an internally displaced persons camp in Deda for almost three years. They had lost their home, they had no income, and landmines contaminated their land.

The UNMEE Mine Action Coordination Centre's teams have since cleared the landmines from his mother's land, which he farms while he waits for his own land to be allocated to him by the government. Today, Sied is 19 and married and has two children. He says he is happy

that he can now help sustain his mother and his own family and not rely on food aid. "Removing mines from the land has allowed our family and many others in Eritrea to plough their land." He adds, "I feel for those who placed the mines. They destroyed lives and caused a lifetime of suffering to many innocent people."

Walking through the cleared field and pointing to his 15-metre strip of land on which teff has been planted, Sied says he hopes that demining continues in other parts of the country to enable other people to return to their villages and farm again.

A Look at Mine Action in UNMEE

Following the signing of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities by Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2000, UN Security Council Resolution 1320 authorized the formation of UNMEE and established the Temporary Security Zone between the two countries. The resolution mandates UNMEE "to coordinate and provide technical assistance for humanitarian mine action activities in the TSZ and area adjacent to it." In order to support this mandate, UNMAS set up the Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC) as part of UNMEE in mid-2000. The MACC continues to focus on responsibilities mandated by UN Security Council resolutions, including support to UNMEE's peacekeeping force, UN military observers and the demarcation project of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, which ceased to exist after November 2007. In 2005, the Mission's mandate was expanded to include humanitarian demining tasks within its area of responsibility, pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1622. The mandate was most recently extended until July 31, 2008 via Security Council Resolution 1798 of January 30, 2008.



LEBANON

Highlights

- Rapid decrease in civilian casualties from cluster munitions.
- Clearance and return of 32.6 million square metres of contaminated land.
- Progress on the overall transition process, with the finalization of a Transition Memorandum of Understanding with the Lebanese Authorities to be signed in early 2008.

Context and Challenges

The 2006 conflict contaminated southern Lebanon with hundreds of thousands of unexploded cluster munitions, unexploded aerial bombs and other types of unexploded ordnance. In addition, the area is affected by its previous legacy of landmines.

The ERW threatens the physical safety, blocks economic opportunities, and hampers the overall peace process. Since the cessation of hostilities, 172 civilian casualties and 20 fatalities from unexploded cluster munitions have been reported (32 civilian casualties and seven fatalities of other unexploded ordnance have also been reported). Additionally, 13 deminers have been killed, and 34 injured. The group at greatest risk is young men over 18, representing 57 percent of the total victims from unexploded cluster munitions. Females account for 18 percent, and children 35 percent, of all victims from unexploded cluster munitions.

The Mine Action Coordination Centre of South Lebanon (MACC-SL) is responsible for the effective, safe and efficient management of cluster munitions and landmine clearance operations in southern

Lebanon in accordance with International Mine Action Standards and National Technical Standards and Guidelines). MACC-SL is a tripartite structure staffed by personnel from the United Nations Mine Action Service, the Lebanese Armed Forces and the United Arab Emirates who together provided operational coordination, planning and quality assurance functions in 2007 for some 61 battle area clearance teams, eight explosive ordnance disposal teams, and 20 demining teams. The rapid increase of the mine action capacity in southern Lebanon has allowed more than 1,100 Lebanese to find meaningful employment and consolidate a strong and sustainable national mine action capacity.

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1773 (2007), the MACC-SL supported, and coordinated its operations with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which has a capacity of about 16 battle area clearance teams, 14 explosive ordnance disposal teams, and three demining teams, depending on the rotations of troop-contributing countries. Throughout 2007, a total of 37 battle area clearance/explosive ordnance disposal teams and nine demining teams were trained and accredited. Once accredited, some of the UNIFIL teams were tasked by MACC-SL when conducting battle area clearance, explosive ordnance disposal or demining operations.

As a result, MACC-SL coordinated the clearance and reduction of 32.6 million square metres of contaminated land through operations carried out jointly by the Lebanese Armed Forces, UNIFIL, and the United Nations-contracted service providers and supported by bilateral and in-kind contributions (such as the battle area clearance team provided by the New

Zealand Defense Force). When the MACC-SL began the clean-up operation after the 2006, cluster munitions were thought to have contaminated about 32 million square metres of land. After the recent discovery of additional contaminated sites, however, the scope of the problem was revised to an estimated 38.7 million square metres. Operational planning is constantly being adjusted to meet conditions on the ground, particularly as new strike areas are discovered. The lack of detailed strike data from Israel has prevented accurate and comprehensive planning.

The MACC-SL had intended to hand over the residual mine action problem in southern Lebanon to the Lebanon Mine Action Centre by December 31, 2007. However, in May 2007, the Lebanon Mine Action Centre's director requested that the MACC-SL work through 2008 to enable the completion of capacity-building activities and ensure the hand-over of a manageable programme to the Lebanon Mine Action Centre after December 2008. A Memorandum of Understanding was negotiated to this effect between the United Nations and the Lebanon Mine Action Centre.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS' headquarters staff conducted three field missions to southern Lebanon in 2007 (including a joint technical mission with UNOPS), to hold consultations with partners and donors, visit operational activities, and support the coordination of the transition to national responsibility for the programme. Headquarters staff continued to mobilize resources

from the UN peacekeeping assessed budget, voluntary contributions, and the United Nations Human Security Trust Fund. Coordinated fund-raising efforts enabled the programme to be fully funded this year. UNMAS regularly provided language for the Secretary-General's reports on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701, and included information on the impact of cluster munitions in Lebanon in the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on protection of civilians, and the 10-year "Machel strategic review" of the 1996 UN report, *Impact of Armed Conflict on Children*. UNMAS used a number of outreach strategies and advocacy opportunities to raise awareness of the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions in Lebanon.



Coordination and Training

Operationally, MACC-SL coordinated and conducted quality assurance of all clearance activities of nine organizations (with a total of 1,300 personnel): the ArmorGroup, BACTEC, DanChurchAid, Handicap International, Mines Advisory Group, the New Zealand Defense Forces, Norwegian People's Aid, the Swedish Rescue Services Agency and the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action.

Operations by UNIFIL's mine action capacity were well-coordinated with the UNIFIL Combat Engineer Section. Moreover, MACC-SL successfully trained one battle area clearance sampling team of the Lebanese Armed Forces. The team was accredited in June 2007, as were 12 BACTEC-trained demining teams of the United Arab Emirates.

The MACC-SL coordinated the drafting of the *2007 United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy for South Lebanon* and a subsequent work plan, which was endorsed by the heads of UN offices in southern Lebanon in March 2007. This process took place within the Protection Cluster Working Group, chaired by the UNHCR. Although the document did not have any operational relevance, its production facilitated a fruitful dialogue among UN agencies involved in mine action in southern Lebanon. The MACC-SL provided substantive inputs to mainstream gender and disability rights into UNMAS mine action programming initiatives and provided Lebanon's prime minister with weekly operational progress reports.

A gala dinner to commemorate the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was organized on April 4. The event was organized

by the MACC-SL to recognize the generous support received by stakeholders following the 2006 war. The event was completely sold out, with 500 participants, including representatives from most embassies, non-governmental organizations, the United Nations, the Lebanese Armed Forces, deminers and other partners who support mine action throughout Lebanon. The event was well-covered by national and international media.

Operations

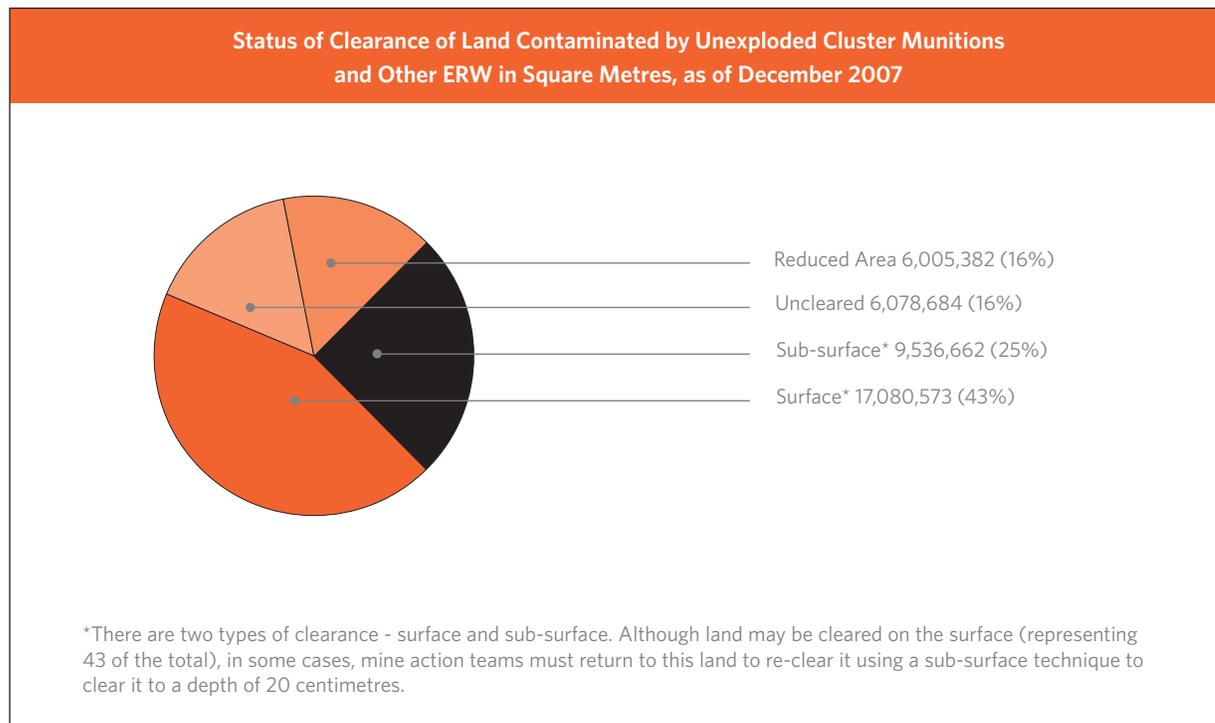
From August 2006 to December 2007, MACC-SL coordinated the clearance of 43 percent of the surface, 25 percent of the sub-surface, and returned 16 percent to communities as a result of actions other than clearance or through the identification and destruction of 138,750 individual cluster bomblets, 12,727 items of unexploded ordnance and 500 unexploded bombs. About 16 percent of southern Lebanon remained uncleared as of the end of 2007, and new victims are claimed regularly.

These successful operations would have not been possible without the strong support from donors who provided the required funds bilaterally or through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. These donors included Australia, Austria, Canada (Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Canadian International Development Agency), the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. With support from the United Arab Emirates, the "Operation Emirates Solidarity" Project provided the operational capacity to

clear some 60,000 landmines between 2001 and 2004, and after the 2006 conflict, the United Arab Emirates renewed the project by committing to bilaterally finance the clearance of the remaining landmines and booby-traps in Area 6 and unexploded sub-munitions in Areas 1 to 5. As of December 2007, in addition to land contaminated by cluster munitions, Operation Emirates Solidarity cleared 564,944 square metres of land contaminated by landmines in southern Lebanon (excluding those laid along or adjacent to the Blue Line).

In addition, a joint UNDP-MACC-SL two-year project commenced in March 2007 with funding from the UN Trust Fund for Human Security provided by the Government of Japan. The project aims to clear unex-

ploded cluster munitions through two battle area clearance teams from the Mines Advisory Group, to implement post-clearance projects, and to build local capacities through vocational training workshops. As of November 2007, the two battle area clearance teams cleared 405,130 square metres of land and destroyed 240 items in five communities. Moreover, post-clearance projects have been identified and will soon be implemented, and UNDP-led vocational training workshops are under way. The MACC-SL subscribes to an extensive community and consensus-based post-clearance review process. The objective of this process is to instill community confidence in the clearance activities that have already taken place and to provide insights into gaps in livelihoods. After the clearance of a particular area is completed,

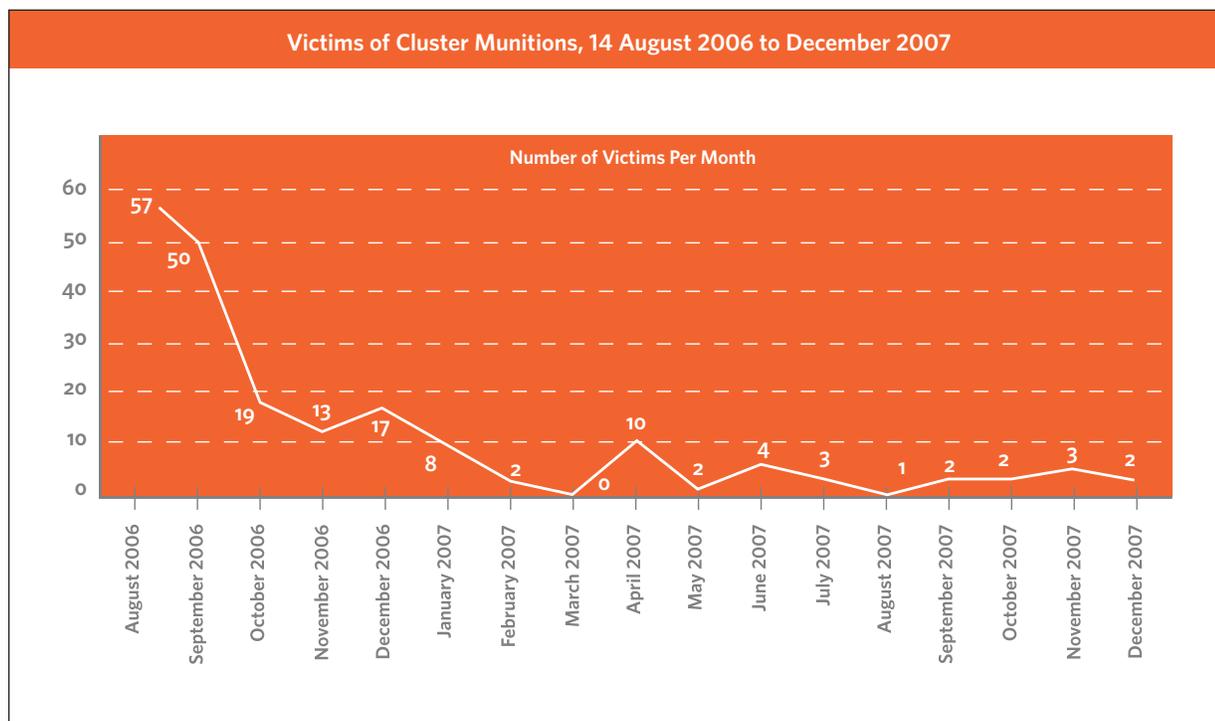


the post-clearance review officer liaises with a village chief (*mukhtar*), mayor, landowner or men, women, boys and girls who were using the land prior to its contamination to assess whether they are confident the land is safe for them to use and whether or not the land is actually being used. If the community is not using the land, the post-clearance review officer assesses the obstacles to use on an individual basis and identifies possible solutions, which range from confidence-building measures to small projects to finance the repair of essential infrastructure, such as wells. The Information Management System for Mine Action is then populated with information on resumed use of land to produce a post-clearance profile, allowing better tracking of the impact of clearance efforts for all segments of the population.

Impact

Unexploded cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance continue to kill and injure people in southern Lebanon. However, the graph below highlights how MACC-SL's operations greatly contributed to a marked decrease in new casualties.

Clearance efforts have saved lives and livelihoods. By ensuring that clearance priorities are closely linked to the agricultural cycle, the MACC-SL has, 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 other non-governmental and UN agencies.



Building Communities' Confidence in Southern Lebanon

By 11am on August 14, 2006, the day the ceasefire went into effect, Hamzeh, along with the other families traveling the convoy, arrived home in Al-Bazuriyah. Some of their homes had been destroyed or damaged, and the streets, football field, public garden and the area around the school were littered with cluster munitions.

"Our parents told us not to touch anything," says 12-year old Hamzeh. It took several weeks before the cluster munitions were cleared from the football

field and school, and even longer for the agricultural fields to be cleared.

Al-Bazuriyah, just outside of the city of Tyre, is typical of southern Lebanese villages contaminated by cluster munitions. Most of the 12,000 inhabitants earn their living from producing lemons, oranges, and olives. So far, four people there have been injured by accidents with cluster munitions, and one person died. Dianna, 13, recalls that her neighbour was one of those injured. "Now that we have seen the teams working and the area has been cleared, we are no longer afraid to go out on to the streets, take a picnic or play in the playground. But we are still afraid to go into the fields."



Although almost all of the village of Al-Bazuriyah and its surrounding orchards have been completely cleared, the impact of the war and cluster munitions lingers on. "Even though there is no war, the children are still afraid, and they cannot concentrate on their lessons," says Huda Jaffal, a teacher at the Al-Bazuriyah public school. "When clearance teams are working far away and we hear them conduct demolitions, it still gives us a fright here." Building confidence to resume normal activities and reconnecting the social fabric of the village are significant task challenges. Community liaison officers of the MACC-SL and other staff work with affected communities to inform them of the clearance process at each stage and assess the impact of clearance operations that have already taken place. In Al-Bazuriyah, 18 cluster-bomb strikes were confirmed, and to date, the MACC-SL has coordinated the location and destruction of 1,934 cluster munitions, and 230 additional items of unexploded ordnance.

As part of a project funded by the Human Security Trust Fund to promote freedom from fear, the

MACC-SL formulated micro-projects to assist some of the most vulnerable communities throughout Nabatiyah province. These projects ranged from building public gardens where children may play safely to providing farming implements, plants and livestock to encourage farmers to resume using formerly contaminated land.

A Look at Mine Action in Southern Lebanon

Security Council Resolution 1337 of January 2001 led to the establishment of the Mine Action Coordination Centre of South Lebanon (MACC-SL) in January 2002. The MACC-SL is a joint United Nations and Lebanese Armed Forces structure mandated to coordinate mine action in southern Lebanon. The role of the MACC-SL is to provide planning, coordination, and quality assurance to ensure that clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnance in southern Lebanon is done in the most effective, safe, and time-efficient manner, in accordance with International Mine Action Standards.

The MACC-SL also supports and coordinates with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Following the hostilities of July and August 2006, the MACC-SL supported the overall UN humanitarian response, addressing clearance and mine risk education needs and supporting the deployment of the expanded UNIFIL force after the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1701 in August 2006 and Council Resolution 1773 (2007). In coordination with the Lebanon Mine Action Centre, the MACC SL is developing a transition strategy to return all delegated responsibilities for clearance operations in southern Lebanon to the Lebanon Mine Action Centre after 2008.

NEPAL

Highlights

- With assistance from the United Nations a national steering committee for mine action was established.
- Projects implemented to assist in the safe handling and demolition of improvised arms collected in the seven Maoist cantonments and to train and operationally supervise two mine clearance teams within the Nepal Army.

Context and Challenges

From 1996 to 2006, Nepal was gripped by a Maoist insurgency that coincided with and influenced political change in the country. The insurgency was initially dealt with by the Nepal Police, but the Nepal Army was actively involved from 2000 onward. The conflict has been typified by violent clashes with Maoists who relied on homemade bombs because they lacked funds and access to commercially manufactured weapons. Improvised weapons were also used by the Nepal Army and Police. Since 2005, efforts had been made to reach a peaceful settlement to the conflict. On the basis of Security Council Resolution 1740 (2007), the United Nations launched the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) in early 2007 to assist the Seven Party Alliance Government and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists) to implement the November 21, 2006 Comprehensive Peace Accord. The conflict resulted in landmine and ERW contamination across the country. Prior to the establishment of UNMIN, UNICEF, in partnership with a local human rights organization, the Informal Sector Service Centre, had introduced a comprehensive surveillance system that reported victim-activated explosions. Initially a media-based reporting system,

it later came to receive active support by affiliates of the Informal Sector Service Centre in each of the 75 districts in the country. Data show that accidents have taken place in 60 of the 75 districts in Nepal between 2005 and 2007. In 2006, 169 people were killed or injured in 98 explosions; 67 percent were males, and 53 percent of the total were children. In 2007, 101 casualties were registered in 41 incidents; six were mine casualties; 35 percent of the casualties were men, 38 percent boys, 18 percent women and 9 percent girls. This information reveals a sharp decrease in the number of victims annually, with 2007 registering the lowest total since data collection began in 2004, yet 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.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS ensured the rapid deployment of a Mine Action Unit within UNMIN and the efficient contracting of operational capacities by securing voluntary and assessed contributions and support from the UN Nepal Peace Fund that was created in March 2007 to mobilize resources to the UN system in Nepal in support of activities of clear, and short-term relevance to the peace process.

UNMAS also led an inter-agency assessment mission to identify the long-term requirements for mine action, and recommend options for post-UNMIN assistance.

Coordination and Training

According to the Comprehensive Peace Accord and Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies, both sides “shall assist each other to mark landmines and booby-traps used during the time of armed conflict by providing necessary information within 30 days and to defuse and remove/lift and destroy them within 60 days,” and, “All improvised explosive devices will be collected at designated sites at a safe distance from the main cantonment areas. Unsuitable devices will be destroyed immediately.” Additionally, the agreement states, “The parties will provide maps and sketches showing current dispositions...of minefields, landmines, unexploded ordnance, standard explosives, improvised explosive devices and exact location of such items.” While the timelines included in the agreement were unrealistic even if a high level of capacity existed, the two sides remain obliged to comply with the commitments they have made. The provision of maps and sketches, which is relevant mostly for the Nepal Army, has been partly met. The Nepal Army has submitted maps of all 53 minefields, but details on the 275 or more security positions reinforced with command-detonated devices had not yet been disclosed as of the end of 2007.

The Mine Action Unit has worked with the Maoist army in the management and demolition of improvised devices. A British commercial company, ArmorGroup, was contracted for this purpose. ArmorGroup conducted an audit of all the improvised explosive devices in storage, which amounted to 6,789 kilogrammes of items (in net explosive content), including more than 52,000 items (this term includes not only improvised explosive devices,

but also detonators, bulk explosive factory-made munitions and other explosive accessories). Of the devices surrendered, 97.5 percent were deemed too dangerous to store by UNMIN's Mine Action Unit and have been slated for destruction. To date, more than 50 percent of these items have been destroyed in a cooperative process between the Maoist army and UNMIN (through ArmorGroup).

The Mine Action Unit has also worked with the Nepal Army to enhance their capacity to clear their 53 minefields and more than 275 security positions that were reinforced with improvised explosive devices in compliance with International Mine Action Standards through the provision of training and supervised clearance of live minefields. To date, one minefield has been cleared by the Army as part of the UNMIN Mine Action Unit/ArmorGroup training, and clearance is on-going at two additional minefields.

The Mine Action Unit is also assisting national authorities to create a national mine action authority. As part of that effort, the Mine Action Unit successfully encouraged the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, in its capacity as chair for the Mine Action Steering Committee, to send a delegation to the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty in Jordan. UNMIN senior leadership and Mine Action Unit colleagues are urging the government to ratify the treaty as soon as possible.

In September, at the request of UNMAS, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining installed the Information Management System for Mine Action, provided five days of training to four Nepal Army personnel and one representative from the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, and conducted a follow-up visit in December to support effective information management within the Nepal Army Mine Action Coordination Centre.

Casualties in Nepal, 2007

Casualties in Nepal, 2007			
Male			
	Age 0-18	Age 19+	Total
<i>Injured</i>	33	30	63
<i>Killed</i>	6	5	11
Total	39	35	74
Female			
	Age 0-18	Age 19+	Total
<i>Injured</i>	9	16	25
<i>Killed</i>	-	2	2
Total	9	18	27
Total Male & Female	48	53	101

Nepal's participation in the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2008* was coordinated by UNICEF through the Mine Action Joint Working Group, a forum of national and international non-governmental organizations (and implementers), UN agencies, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (which is responsible for mine action within the Government of Nepal), the Nepal Army, Armed Police and Police (the Maoist Army is also invited but does not participate). The coordination of the Portfolio is a consultative process, reflecting the shared vision of the Mine Action Joint Working Group. The UNMAS/Government of Nepal Portfolio projects were to be further discussed at a meeting of the Mine Action Steering Committee, chaired by Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Ram Chandra Poudel to ensure the projects are in line with the vision of the Steering Committee for a mine-free Nepal.

On April 4, 2007, in commemoration of the second International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, UNICEF coordinated a meeting for mine action stakeholders, donors and the media. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General made a statement highlighting the commitment of UNMIN to assist the parties in meeting their mine action obligations.

The initiatives in Nepal in 2007 benefited from funding from the United Kingdom.

Operations

Nepal has a limited landmine problem in terms of the quantity of minefields and their impact on the local communities. Almost 90 percent of casualties stem from improvised explosive devices. With adequate funding and political commitment, Nepal can become

free from the threat of landmines by 2012. UNMAS supports clearance and capacity-building activities in accordance with the strategic objectives of the UN inter-agency mine action strategy. Objective 1 calls for a 50 percent reduction in casualties over the period 2006-2010; Nepal achieved a 42 percent decrease in casualties from 2006-2007 alone. This decrease is most likely attributable to the cessation of open hostilities and increased fencing, marking, clearance and mine risk education. Minefield clearance and the demolition of improvised explosive devices in the Maoist cantonments are contributing to the achievement of objective 2, which calls for an increase in the freedom of movement and access to land. Objective 3 calls for integration of mine action needs into national development plans and budgets, and to this end the Mine Action Unit assisted in the formulation of the inter-ministerial steering committee that draws the education, peace and reconstruction, defense, foreign affairs and home ministries as well as the Maoist into mine action. Objective 4 aims to ensure that national institutions are able to manage the residual threat with little or no international support, and UNMAS believes that the capacity development it is providing to the Government and Nepal Army Engineers may enable fully nationalized operations by the end of 2008. Nepal will require adequate national structures to address its extensive ERW contamination over the long-term.

UNMAS contracted ArmorGroup to undertake a detailed audit of all improvised explosive devices and ERW stored by the Maoist Army in the seven main cantonment sites and to assist in the safe storage and eventual destruction of these items under the supervision and technical guidance of the Mine Action Unit. The audit was completed in June. However, limited cooperation from cantonment commanders at some

sites meant that ArmorGroup teams were able to undertake partial or complete demolitions at only five of the seven cantonment sites. In September, 32 Nepal Army personnel completed the four-week basic deminer training, and four medics completed deminer medical training. The training proceeded well and attracted the attention of a number of high-level officials within the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, as well as the national media. The second phase of the training—clearance of a live minefield—was completed in November at the hydropower station at Khimti. This represents the first clearance activity required to clear the 53 anti-personnel minefields laid by the Nepal Army, and is an important stepping stone toward the fulfilment of the Nepal Army's obligations under the Comprehensive Peace Accord and the Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies. Gender consider-

ations are reflected in all operational planning of the Mine Action Unit. In terms of survey, special consideration is given to integrating gender and caste relations into the methodology to ensure a comprehensive picture of contamination and its impact.

Impact

Mine action in Nepal is in direct support of the peace agreement, and substantial progress has been made since the establishment of the Mine Action Unit. The management and destruction of improvised explosive devices at cantonment sites also helped avert any possible accidents that would have disrupted the peace process. Clearance of Army-laid minefields and Maoist improvised explosive devices directly demonstrated to the public that the Comprehensive



Peace Accord was being implemented and that the parties remained committed to the peace process. Furthermore, these activities increased the freedom of movement of communities near minefields and cantonment sites. The clearance of the minefield at Khimti yielded a direct socio-economic benefit as it will allow the hydro-electric station at the site to expand its activities.

At the end of 2007 the Government of Nepal had its first mine action strategy, a national mine action authority mandated to implement specific provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Accord and the Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies, and an operational plan for the clearance of all remaining 52 minefields by the Nepal Army Engineers by 2012 if adequate resources and political will are forthcoming.

The Government has assumed the mine action portfolio but has yet to allocate a budget line to mine action and refers continuously to its own lack of capacity to implement the mine action provisions of the Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies. The Mine Action Unit will continue to develop capacity within the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, engaging the support of partners such as the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, external consultants, UNDP and UNICEF. UNMAS and the Mine Action Unit will also continue to support the full engagement of the government in all relevant treaty regimes, including the mine-ban treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Mine Clearance Aids Power Generation

The Nepal Army's engineering units were deployed through the UNMIN Mine Action Unit's training project to undertake supervised clearance of a minefield in Khimti, 80 kilometres east of Kathmandu. The minefield, divided into three distinct sections, including one along a steep hillside, was placed in defense of the Khimti hydro-electric station. According to Pål Johansen, the Station Manager, "the mines have actually been an obstacle to our company since they were laid some six years ago." The clearance of the minefield means the company, NEA, may finalize perimeter fencing, clean drains and culverts, clear brush and shrubs close to the perimeter fencing and access water pipes and electrical cables close to the former minefields. These improvements will allow NEA to complete construction of a second transmission line. The minefield had hampered the construction of cable ducts and transmission towers, so its clearance has contributed to the plant's output and therefore benefits the development of the country. In addition it "surely gives greater personal security for all staff/villagers with families living close to the mine fields," Johansen says, adding that the clearance gave "a small but clear signal to all of us living close to the minefields that the peace process has moved a little in the right direction since last year."

A Look at Mine Action in Nepal

The 10-year internal conflict in Nepal resulted in landmine and ERW contamination across the country. Starting in 2005, efforts had been made to reach a peaceful settlement to the conflict. On the basis of Security Council Resolution 1740 (2007), the United Nations launched the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) in early 2007 to assist the Seven Party Alliance Government and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists) to implement the November 21, 2006 Comprehensive Peace Accord. UNMIN's Mine Action Unit supports clearance and capacity-building activities.

SOMALIA

Highlights

- South Central Somalia Mine Action Centre established in November 2007 as a collaborative effort with UNDP, Swedish Rescue Services Agency, and UNMAS.
- Support provided to African Union mission, AMISOM.
- UNMAS-funded programme officer takes up new post in October.

Context and Challenges

The contamination of ERW and landmines in Somalia is to an extent still undefined, although it is believed to be extensive, particularly in the South Central region, where the most recent intense conflicts have occurred. While the problem of landmines is a legacy from extended periods of warfare, the minefields themselves are understood to be generally known to local populations.

Thus, while constituting a threat to life and an impediment to relief efforts and economic progress, the impact of landmines is believed to be generally less significant than that of the more widespread ERW contamination. The situation is complex, and one of the primary objectives for mine action in Somalia is to establish better visibility for the nature of the threat itself as a necessary precursor to the design of a programme of clearance and mine risk education.

The South Central region has been without an effective government since 1991, and consequently there are no established national mine action authorities.

What capacity has been developed over time under the auspices of the Transitional Federal Government is limited to a rudimentary explosive ordnance disposal capability established within the Police Force with the support of UNDP.

Limited support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has been implemented through UNDP Somalia in terms of provision of mine detection equipment and technical advice.

The current security situation effectively precludes the establishment of a significant international presence in most of the region, although a limited presence has been established in Baidoa, with the creation by UNDP (in conjunction with the Swedish Rescue Services Agency) of the South Central Somalia Mine Action Centre in November 2007.

Somalia is not a state party or signatory to any mine action related legislation or treaties.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS has supported the UNDP-led effort in Somalia with the recruitment and funding of a programme officer, who is based in Nairobi, working in conjunction with the UNDP Rule of Law and Security Mine Action Programme. UNMAS also assists with donor liaison and contributes to discussions within the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations on possible intervention strategies.



Coordination and Training

UNMAS participated in a multi-agency assessment mission to Somalia in June 2007. The recommendation for UNMAS to establish a programme officer position in Nairobi was acted upon, and the recently appointed incumbent has begun work to develop project proposals for the various appeals processes and establish the framework for mine action in Somalia in 2008.

Operations

Field operations initiated from Baidoa were scheduled to commence in January 2008, with one of the first tasks being the establishment of baseline data and Swedish Rescue Services Agency's recording the data in the Information Management System for Mine Action. As of December 2007, there were no UNMAS-sponsored mine risk education or other operational activities under way.

Impact

The mine action programme in Somalia is still in the developmental phase, with resource mobilization to support a programme of work in 2008 under way. The adverse security situation in the region has precluded any significant mine action effort to date, with minimal activities under way by non-governmental organizations. The 2008 mine action effort in Somalia will be very much a collaborative effort between UNMAS, UNDP, the Swedish Rescue Services Agency and other partners, with the role of UNMAS increasing as the environment becomes more permissive for operations.

A Look at Mine Action in Somalia

UNMAS is providing support to UNDP as the current lead agency for mine action in Somalia. UNDP Somalia supports two mine action centres functioning in Somaliland and Puntland via its Rule of Law and Security programme headquartered in Nairobi. These efforts are largely successful but are of a much smaller scale than what may be required should a comprehensive mine action programme be initiated to cover the entire country, inclusive of the South Central region. There is so far no effective mine action coordinating capacity within the South Central region, although UNDP started rolling out such an organization in Baidoa in October. The assumption of this function by UNDP is based on the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed on May 16, 1977 that serves as the agreement for all UNDP activities in Somalia. UNMAS has supported the mine action effort via placement of a programme officer in Nairobi working within the UNDP Rule of Law and Security Mine Action Programme.



SUDAN

Highlights

- 9,102 kilometres of road opened, increasing freedom of movement and safety.
- Mine risk education provided to 783,726 people.
- Destruction of 2,714 anti-personnel mines, 1,289 anti-tank mines, 316,400 pieces of unexploded ordnance and 135,586 small arms ammunitions.
- National Victim Assistance Strategic Framework approved; needs assessment and pilot victim assistance projects initiated.

Context and Challenges

After more than 20 years of civil war, as many as 19 of Sudan's 25 states may be affected by landmines or ERW. The true extent and impact of the landmine/ERW threat remains unclear, although comprehensive survey activities are resulting in more and better information about it. Landmines and ERW continue to cause casualties, obstruct the delivery of humanitarian aid, and hinder reconstruction, development and peace-building initiatives. As repatriation of internally displaced persons and refugees increases, the real or perceived threat of landmines and ERW poses obstacles to food security, economic activities, and freedom of movement.

Mine action faces a number of challenges, including serious security problems in South Sudan, a longer than normal period of annual rains, and the lack of adequate infrastructure. These challenges have hindered smooth implementation of demining operations, and at times caused them to halt altogether in certain areas. The ongoing conflict in Darfur and the political instability in eastern Sudan also limited mine action teams' access to these regions.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS support included regular monitoring and policy guidance as well as planning support for the increased UN presence in Darfur and regular coordination on political, logistical, financial and resource mobilization matters. The 2007/2008 Mine Action Assessed Budgets for the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) were prepared and approved by General Assembly. An UNMAS programme officer conducted an extended technical visit to provide support and identify constraints and challenges in the coming period. In collaboration with colleagues from the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNMAS continued its support to troop-contributing countries to ensure the smooth training, rotation and accreditation of military demining companies from Cambodia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Egypt and Pakistan in accordance with International Mine Action Standards. UNMAS commissioned an independent evaluation of the programme in the first quarter of 2007 and made substantive and administrative changes to the programme based on the evaluators' recommendations.

Overall the evaluation found the programme to be well-managed with additional attention required in the area of national capacity development, which will be a key activity in 2008 for the United Nations. Sudan served as a co-chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance, and UNMAS assisted their activities in country and also in Geneva through the UNMAS Liaison Officer.

Coordination and Training

The UN Mine Action Office in Sudan (UNMAO) continued to coordinate all demining activities conducted by non-governmental organizations, commercial companies and troop contributors that were funded directly by the United Nations or bilaterally and provided logistical support and technical advice through its headquarters in Khartoum and three regional and eight sub-offices to facilitate smooth and safe implementation of activities.

Building the capacity and operational capabilities of national mine action structures remained a priority, in line with Objective 4 (on building national capacities) of the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*. As was observed in the programme evaluation, additional attention is required to address capacity development, which has been bolstered through the deployment of a UNDP technical advisor in Juba. UNMAO assisted with resource mobilization to establish the National Mine Action Centre in Khartoum and the regional offices of the South Sudan Demining Commission and implemented three national management-development courses in Nairobi at the International Mine Action Training Centre. UNMAO's support for the regional mine action offices focused on operational and managerial capacity development, while UNDP focused on institutional capacity development, and UNICEF provided training in mine risk education to local authorities. The South Sudan Demining Commission began establishing regional offices in Juba, Yei, Malakal and Wau, and the National Mine Action Centre established an office in Kassala and developed plans for offices in Kadugli and Damazine. In September, preparatory operations began for the Nuba Mountains Mine Action Sudan,

the first national non-governmental organization to be funded by the United Nations to carry out demining activities.

UNMAO also facilitated the training of 120 additional deminers of the Joint Integrated Demining Units divided equally between the Sudan Armed Forces and Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army personnel at the International Mine Action Training Centre. The Joint Integrated Units, of which the Joint Integrated Demining Units are a component, are a key provision of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to form a national defense force, and the Joint Integrated Demining Units have been, in their clearance of the Babanusa-Wau railway line slated for rehabilitation by the World Bank, a prime example in how the two former warring parties can work jointly in a positive way for the people of Sudan.

UNMAO coordinated the preparation of Sudan's submission for the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2008* in coordination with national authorities and implementing partners through preparatory meetings. UNMAO ensured that all the projects were in line with the national strategic framework and approved by the national authorities. UNMAO and the Government arranged a wide range of activities on the International Day for Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on April 4 in Khartoum, Juba and several other locations. Activities included press conferences by representatives of the United Nations and the Government and landmine survivors, a public rally in Khartoum, an exhibition and soccer match at camps for internally displaced persons, and a mine risk education campaign. UNMAO representatives and national counterparts from the North and the South participated in the Gender and Mine Action Workshop in Nairobi in

September 2007, which developed a proposed gender action plan for the programme.

Operations

With an increased capacity on the ground, the operational mine action response focused on three key priorities: opening up primary routes for humanitarian assistance activities, UNMIS operations and the safe and sustainable return of internally displaced persons and refugees; emergency surveys, marking, and targeted clearance; and targeted mine risk education, especially for internally displaced persons and refugees. These activities directly supported Objectives 1 and 2 of the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010* for reduction in casualties and increased freedom of movement and access. An increased number of demining assets were deployed to Malakal at the start of the new demining season in October 2007 to compensate for time lost when operations were suspended in November 2006 as a result of fighting in the area.



In total, 24,089,424 square metres of suspected dangerous areas were cleared including 18,260,000 square metres of battle area surface clearance. A total of 9,102 kilometres of roads required by UNMIS and key return and trade routes were verified safe by survey teams, and 916 kilometres were physically cleared of landmine and ERW contamination. During these activities, 1,289 anti-tank mines, 2,714 anti-personnel mines, 316,400 pieces of unexploded ordnance and 135,586 items of small arms ammunition were destroyed. In an effort to clarify the extent of mine and ERW contamination, impact surveys were completed in Northern Bahr Al Ghazal and the Eastern States, enabling UNMAO to better plan and prioritize operations. Impact survey teams involved women in several states to capture comprehensive information of contamination and impact.

UNMAO was actively involved in monitoring the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and, with the cooperation of UNMIS military contingents, assisted the Sudanese Armed Forces with the destruction of ammunition stockpiles throughout the country. The official destruction ceremony of the first batch of 4,488 anti-personnel mines of various types took place on April 30, 2007 in the Al-Salit area of Khartoum-North, where the commitment of Sudan to meet its obligations under Article 4 of the anti-personnel mine ban treaty and destroy the remaining stock-piled anti-personnel landmines before the deadline of April 30, 2008 was reaffirmed.

Most of the main roads in the South have been cleared, linking Juba to Limbe, Kajo, and Bor. This not only facilitated the safe movement and return of displaced populations but also improved security in the area by allowing UN peacekeepers and local police to gain access for their patrols. Links to Wau from Abeyi, Aweil,

Rumbek and Deim Zubair were opened, allowing for safer and more orderly return of internally displaced persons and refugees. Three major return corridors were opened in Blue Nile to facilitate the return of refugees. Similar clearance to facilitate returns and freedom of movement took place in South Kordofan. The main effort of the Western Regional Mine Action Office has been to assess and clear ERW contamination in North Darfur. To date, 71 dangerous areas were identified in North and South Darfur, and some 60 of these areas were cleared. Some 31,429 square metres were cleared and 874 explosive devices were destroyed in North and South Darfur, and 1,651 kilometres of road were determined to be safe.

The UNMAO mine risk education section, led by UNICEF, in cooperation with the UNMIS Returns, Reintegration and Recovery Section, UNHCR, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the International Organization for Migration and other agencies provided mine risk education to 783,726 people in 2007. Beneficiaries included internally displaced persons in camps and at way-stations, raising their awareness and knowledge of how to reduce their exposure to landmines and ERW. The number of people receiving mine risk education has risen significantly over the past three years, with 40 mine risk education teams operational (25 in the South and 15 in the North). In addition to emergency mine risk education, more sustainable solutions were developed, including the introduction of mine risk education into existing education structures. Outreach through public information and mass media were also expanded, through three special information campaigns. Thanks to the generous and sustainable donor contributions, the UNMAO was able to expand its mine risk education capacity and steadily increase beneficiaries.

Mine Risk Education Beneficiaries by Year, Gender and Age Group

Year	Children			Adults			Mixed Age			Unknown	Total
	Male	Female	Mixed	Male	Female	Mixed	Male	Female	Mixed		
2005	4,135	3,128	31,197	4,884	1,010	18,983	6,961	3,410	194,090	95,068	362,866
2006	5,696	2,960	5,055	29,923	26,521	40,714	10,121	3,755	240,015	159,554	524,314
2007	7,169	6,659	2,284	115,816	111,018	24,303	1,845	1,236	233,422	279,974	783,726
Total	17,000	12,747	38,536	150,623	138,549	84,000	18,927	8,401	667,527	534,596	1,670,906

While it has not been possible to establish a truly comprehensive nation-wide surveillance system, UNMAO received reports of 72 casualties over the year. Young men and boys were the primary at-risk group because of their involvement in herding or because of their tampering with devices they found.

The UNMAO victim assistance team worked closely with the National Mine Action Centre, the South Sudan Demining Commission and the South Sudan

War Disabled Widows and Orphans commissions. With funds from the Government of Japan through the UN Human Security Trust Fund, a needs assessment was carried out in South Sudan in the areas of Wau and Juba. A total of 1,548 landmine and ERW victims were identified using standardized questionnaires, and the information was recorded in the Information Management System for Mine Action. Two victim assistance national workshops, one in Khartoum and one in Juba, were also organ-

Landmine Victims in Sudan, 2007, by Sex and Age Group

	Children	Adults	Not Specified	Total
Male	30	14	15	59
Female	7	0	2	9
Unknown	0	0	4	4
Total	37	14	21	72



ized under the Human Security Trust Fund project. The workshops included representatives from the Government, civil society and experts in the subject matter and provided opportunities to introduce the national strategic framework and national work plan.

The National Victim Assistance Strategic Framework was approved by the Government through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and the Mine Action Authority. The framework includes six objectives mainly to enhance existing capacity, develop new activities and mobilize necessary resources to address the needs of victims and survivors. The National Victim Assistance Work Plan received informal approval by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs with formal adoption expected in early 2008. The framework and draft work plan are available on-line at www.sudan-map.org.

UNDP selected 11 victim assistance projects to receive support from the Human Security Trust Fund. The projects address the needs of landmine and ERW victims in target areas in the North and South, mainly by vocational training and provision of mobility aids. A photo exhibit was commissioned with the funds from the Human Security Trust Fund to depict the lives of landmine and ERW victims in their societies and the difficulties they face. The best photos of survivors from various parts of the country will be displayed at exhibitions in Khartoum and Juba in early 2008.

Operations were supported by contributions received through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action from Canada, the European Commission, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, as well as through an allocation from the Common Humanitarian Fund.

Impact

The principal objective of the programme is to support UNMIS' mandate from the Security Council to provide humanitarian demining assistance and to enable overall mission objectives, including the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, the return of internally displaced persons and refugees, and the provision of humanitarian assistance and emergency relief. The opening of key routes facilitated UNMIS' movement and increased its ability to monitor the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The opening of key routes had an enormous impact upon the local economy in 2007, allowing trade to recommence with neighbouring countries, as well as facilitating renewed and much-needed agricultural production.

First Sudanese Mine Clearance NGO Receives UNMAS Grant

Muluk Ruya Abugrenat joined the Sudanese People's Liberation Army when he was 17. Initially trained as a military engineer and appointed head of the engineering unit during the civil war, he was later trained as a deminer and started working for an international mine action organization in Sudan in 1998. In 2002, while working for UNMAO, Muluk devised his own vision for a national mine action non-governmental organization. After much research and persistent effort, Nuba Mountains Mine Action Sudan (NMMAS) was registered with the Government as a non-governmental organization in June 2005.

The development of NMMAS was helped along by an introduction to representatives of WAY Industries of the Slovak Republic. WAY makes the Bozena flail used for ground preparation in demining operations. What began as a briefing for WAY on the mine situation in the Nuba Mountains soon turned into a proposal by Muluk for NMMAS to provide demining services to support the aspirations of the people of Sudan and help in the long road to recovery after years of war. The people from WAY Industries were convinced and offered to assist. The initial offer of training soon grew to the donation of a Bozena-4 flail in response to a proposal Muluk submitted through UNDP Slovakia and supported by Slovakian Aid and WAY. After numerous logistical and customs challenges familiar to any non-governmental organization, the flail finally arrived in Juba in January 2007, and WAY Industry sent two specialists from the Slovak Republic to train operators and mechanics.

It was not long before Muluk was devising his next proposal, with assistance from Jan Bosman, the UNMAO regional coordinator in the Nuba Mountains, this time to

UNMAS, to support clearance operations in Blue Nile State in Eastern Sudan, which was approved in 2007. The NMMAS project supports manual mine clearance conducted by the Pakistani Military Demining Contingent of UNMIS with mechanical ground preparation. Together they are working on clearing vast areas of mine-affected land along the Ethiopian border in Blue Nile State. By providing mechanical ground preparation, the work of the deminers has been greatly facilitated, enabling the land to be cleared faster and more efficiently.

Muluk is a prime example of the dedication and resilience of the Sudanese people and the efforts of so many to realize a peace dividend made possible through the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Muluk says he is delighted that his vision has been realized and that his organization is helping to achieve a Sudan free of landmines and ERW. As for NMMAS, it has three proposals in the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2008* aimed at strengthening sustainable national capacity in mine action.



A Look at Mine Action in Sudan

The UN Emergency Mine Action Programme was established in March 2002 at the request of the Government of Sudan and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement. In 2005, both the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and UN Security Council Resolution 1590 (2005) mandated that the United Nations should provide humanitarian demining support to Sudan. UNMAS established the UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) in March 2005 as an integral part of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Mission in Sudan to unify the activities of the Emergency Mine Action Programme by the UN agencies, support UN peacekeeping operation, and build national mine action capacities, under the overall supervision of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) and Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator.

In Darfur, the West Regional Mine Action Office was established in October 2005 to coordinate the region's mine action activities to address ERW and unexploded ordnance from recent conflicts. An African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) was established by UN Security Council Resolution 1769 on July 31, 2007, and the UNMAO/West Regional Mine Action Office became an integral part of UNAMID. UNMAO continued to provide support to the National Mine Action Centre and the South Sudan Demining Commission by providing managerial and operational capacity-development training and funding support to national non-governmental organizations for the establishment of an indigenous mine action capacity.

WESTERN SAHARA

Highlights

- Strengthened mine action capacity within MINURSO.
- Continued support of Landmine Action UK survey and explosive ordnance disposal in eastern areas of the territory.
- Engagement of the Royal Moroccan Army on mine action activities.

Context and Challenges

Over 20 years of conflict have left Western Sahara affected by landmines and unexploded ordnance, and it is estimated that 10,000 Saharawi nomads live in mine-affected areas on both sides of the earthen *berm* that was built by Morocco between 1982 and 1987 to secure the western part of Western Sahara. While no full landmine impact survey has yet been conducted in the region, the Polisario has provided information to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), with respect to their landmine use and the Government of Morocco has provided MINURSO with its information regarding suspected hazardous areas in the region. Information to-date indicates that the areas around the *berm* are the most seriously affected; however in some cases landmines have also been laid in rings around settlements and are reported to contaminate areas in and around water holes and well-used roads and paths. Landmines remain a serious risk to nomads who rely on these paths and water sources and hinder the repatriation of the estimated 165,000 Saharawi refugees who are currently living in camps in Algeria. Since 1975 the Royal Moroccan Army has registered 2,171 casualties including 541 fatalities.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

Following a technical mission to MINURSO in April 2007, UNMAS played a critical role in the recruitment and deployment of a senior mine action technical advisor to enhance the capacity of MINURSO in the area of mine action. UNMAS has also supported on-going operational activities in Western Sahara—especially those of Landmine Action—which thus far have been funded from voluntary contributions from Austria, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

Coordination and Training

The Mine Action Centre has focused on information management and landmine and ERW safety training for UN personnel. Under the coordination of the new senior technical advisor, the Mine Action Centre is now working on data collection and recording the data in the Information Management System for Mine Action. The latest version of the System was installed at MINURSO and will be operational in 2008. Additional survey will be required to map dangerous areas and ensure that ERW spot tasks have been verified and recorded in a central database. In this regard, stronger ties have been established with the Royal Moroccan Army and Landmine Action, which are working in the field, to ensure the Mine Action Centre has the most complete and up-to-date information possible regarding contaminated areas in Western Sahara. The safety of UN personnel is being addressed through enhanced landmine/ERW safety training. All personnel are now required to complete the new UNMAS interactive DVD safety training course, and standard operating procedures for dealing

with contaminated areas are being revised and improved to ensure that they provide clear guidance to all personnel circulating in contaminated areas.

Operations

Landmine Action has been working east of the *berm* in Western Sahara throughout 2007 and has focused on carrying out surveys, in coordination with MINURSO's UN military observers and local communities. Three areas have been completed: Bir Lahlou, Tifariti and Mehaires. Landmine Action carried out destruction of high-priority ERW spot tasks and began battle area clearance in the areas of Tifariti and Mehaires. Through November, 83 hazardous areas and 332 spot tasks were recorded. As many as 56 spot tasks were completed and 482 items of unexploded ordnance destroyed. For 2008, Landmine Action plans to complete the survey of areas on the east side of the *berm* and expand clearance operations, if funding is available. Landmine Action will receive a new grant from UNMAS in 2008 to continue operations on a minimum level.

The Royal Moroccan Army launched a large-scale demining operation with roughly 10,000 personnel deployed throughout the area west of the *berm*. The Mine Action Centre is now in consultations with the Royal Moroccan Army to examine areas where additional support could be provided to enhance their efforts, especially given the enormous area they are currently facing in terms of survey and clearance. The Royal Moroccan Army reported that they cleared or verified 209 square kilometres, destroying 890 landmines and 1,700 large calibre items of unexploded ordnance. The Royal Moroccan Army noted



that this has been a difficult operation due to their limited means. They have noted their hope that external support could be forthcoming to enhance the speed of their operations.

Impact

The progress made to date is proof that operations can take place within the relatively harsh and challenging context of Western Sahara. The survey being carried out by Landmine Action will allow a comprehensive picture of the contamination east of the *berm*, and on-going consultations with the Royal Moroccan Army on areas west of the *berm* is significantly enhancing the information available on the total contamination in Western Sahara.

During the Royal Moroccan Army's landmine/ERW clearance activities, landmines and unexploded ordnance were discovered close to settlements and high-traffic areas. For example, three anti-tank mines were recently discovered on a road frequently used by UN Military Observers, and three large calibre items of unexploded ordnance were removed from an area close to the UN Team Site near Oum Dreyga. Although the vast territory of Western Sahara is sparsely populated, Landmine Action teams are working in many high impact areas, often in proximity to main roads or highly frequented tracks. In addition, nomadic populations in search of water to sustain themselves and their animals commonly located their camps close to dangerous areas, such as cluster-bomb strike areas. The clearance of these areas provides much needed protection to the nomadic populations, but also to their animals, which provide the basis of their sustenance in this harsh and difficult territory.

Cluster Munitions Clean-up Gives Safe Passage to Travelers

Landmine Action has been conducting survey and limited explosive ordnance disposal and battle area clearance since late 2006 in Western Sahara. Comprehensive survey is limited by the lack of information available because the population is largely nomadic. As a result, Landmine Action relies heavily on MINURSO and Polisario information when conducting its operations. Landmine Action is, however, called upon to assist in situations where ERW is posing a direct threat to the local population.

Udei Ajakani is a wadi, which has traditionally been a stop on the way from the Rabouni refugee camps to Tifariti. Situated approximately 50 kilometres to the east of Bir Lahlu, Udei Ajakani is half a day's drive from Tifariti and a convenient lunch spot. A family has established a business in the wadi catering to weary travelers. The Sarahawi people decided to hold their national congress in Tifariti in mid-December 2007. The settlement was therefore expected to see its population swell from a few hundred to almost 10,000 for the three-day event.

There were significant concerns expressed by the organizers of the congress about the safety of the route to Tifariti. Landmine Action had identified dangerous areas in the vicinity of the Udei Ajakani wadi. Landmine Action deployed a team to the wadi and destroyed some 40 BLU-63 cluster munitions close to the main paths taken by travelers through the wadi. While there remains battle area clearance still to be conducted in the area surrounding Udei Ajakani, no incidents were reported in the area despite all these people traveling to through stopping at the wadi.

A Look at Mine Action in Western Sahara

The UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) was established in 1991 through Security Council resolution 690. In early 1999, the Government of Morocco and the armed non-state actor the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Polisario) agreed to cooperate with MINURSO on mine action.

MINURSO has since been working closely with the Royal Moroccan Army and the Polisario on the destruction of landmines and unexploded ordnance on their respective sides of the *berm* that separates the Moroccan and Polisario-controlled areas of Western Sahara.

Following an UNMAS recommendation, MINURSO established a small Mine Action Cell within its headquarters in 2006. Since August 2006, with partial funding from UNMAS and logistical support from MINURSO, the non-governmental organization Landmine Action UK has been working in the eastern areas, helping to create a comprehensive picture of the landmine and ERW problem and conducting landmine and ERW clearance to help ensure the safety of MINURSO's observer patrols, protect the local Saharawi nomadic population and prepare for the safe repatriation of Saharawi refugees.

In early 2007 the Royal Moroccan Army initiated a landmine/ERW clearance project within the western areas of the territory in order to address the fact that a significant number of civilian casualties were occurring each year.

SUPPORT TO OTHER PROGRAMMES

Funds Provided to UN Mine Action Partners

Capacity Building in Iraq

The Government of Japan provided \$552,152 to support UNDP's mine action capacity building project in Iraq through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. This project aims to support coordination and build the management capacity of the national mine action programme and launch a pilot project on victim surveillance to be implemented in the governorates of Baghdad, Erbil and Basra. Efforts to develop a mine action information management policy for use of the Operational Activity Security Information System and the Information Management System for Mine Action in Arabic have been initiated. The project is scheduled to be completed in early 2008.

Support for Mine Action in Uganda

With funding from the Government of Denmark to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, UNDP supported the establishment and deployment of two multi-purpose demining teams in Uganda to conduct humanitarian demining, including explosive ordnance disposal and battle area clearance/technical survey.

This has facilitated the early return and recovery of internally displaced persons who have been living in camps in the north for over a decade. These teams were tasked and monitored by the Uganda Mine Action Programme, supported by UNDP. The teams deployed to Gulu and Amuru, in northern Uganda, which are among the districts most affected by ERW.

Over 600 items of ERW were destroyed, and 34 hazardous areas demined and rendered safe, with the project completed by December 31, 2007.

Support for Mine Action in Zambia

With funding from the Government of the Czech Republic and the United Nations International School to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, UNICEF is preparing to support the training of



mine risk education instructors to work in four Zambian refugee camps. This effort has been developed to address a need identified by the Zambia Mine Action Centre for mine risk education to be provided to Angolan, Congolese and other refugees remaining in Zambia. These refugees require mine risk education to promote safe mine risk behavior prior to any repatriation. The training of trainers will be delivered by the Zambian Mine Action Centre in conjunction with supervision and oversight provided by expert advisers from UNICEF from January through June 2008. The effort will be supported logistically by the Government of Zambia and is intended to reach some 30,000 Angolan, 45,000 Congolese and 2,200 refugees of other nationalities. Training will be conducted in camps at Mayukwayukwa, Meheba, Mwanga and Kala.

Initial plans to undertake some of the mine risk education in 2007 were re-phased to reflect the Zambian Mine Action Centre's decision first to undertake a comprehensive national survey of mine victims. The decision affected the capacity available to undertake the mine risk education effort. The deteriorating security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which resulted in the suspension of plans to repatriate refugees to that country, and the onset of the rainy season combined to reduce the urgency of the need to undertake the mine risk education effort.

Support for Mine Action in the Lao People's Democratic Republic

UNMAS continued its support for mine action in the Lao People's Democratic Republic through a 2005 contribution of US\$279,953 from the Government of

Japan. This support has strengthened the UNDP Country Office through the provision of a dedicated programme officer who helps support the National Regulatory Authority and UXO-Lao as an implementing agency. Activities included enhanced resource mobilization, support to Lao participation in the "Oslo Process" on cluster munitions, participation in the UNMAS-sponsored gender workshop in Nairobi, and the commissioning of a gender-sensitive study on the impact of unexploded ordnance. This contribution will support the project up to April 2008.

Support for Mine Action in Egypt

An agreement was reached between UNMAS and UNDP to support the mine action programme in Egypt with funds from the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. The project is also funded by the Government of Egypt and its Ministry of International Cooperation, and donors such as UNDP (Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery), the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, and the British Embassy in Egypt. The project aims to provide pilot support for the creation of an executive secretariat to deal with the issues of coordinating the implementation of a national plan for the development of the Northwest Coast and Inland Desert. While clearing landmines and developing the area, the executive secretariat will also act as the national focal point to receive and manage international support and liaise with international donor community. The estimated budget for the pilot phase of the project is US\$3,213,106. The project will be implemented from January 2007 to June 2009, and the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action is providing US\$150,000 to cover 14 months of the project.



Support to Other Implementing Partners

Staff Development Training

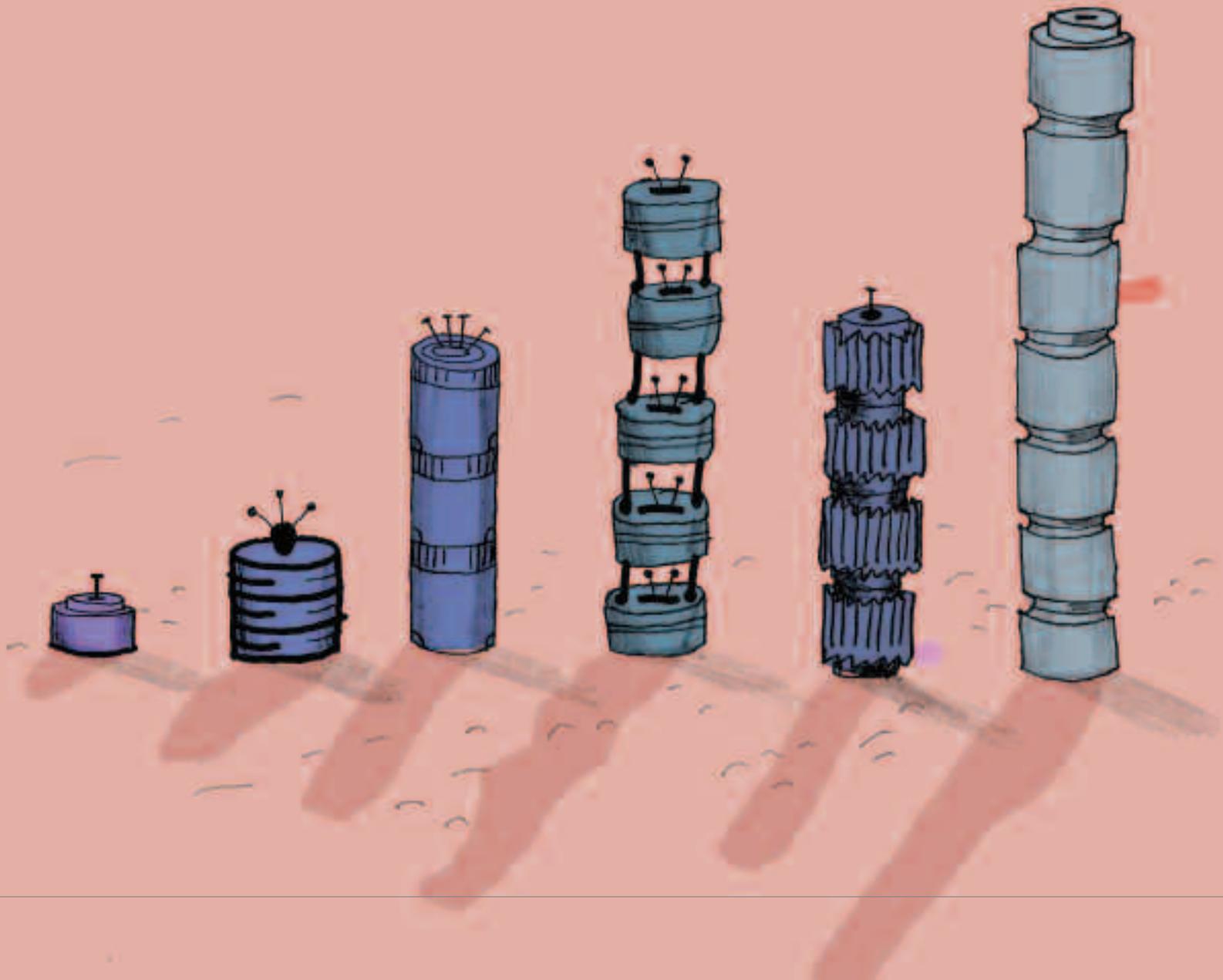
UNMAS provided \$36,050 from Japan's contribution to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining for a project that aimed to build the mine action skills of staff of national mine action authorities through two training workshops and the sponsorship of one trainee to attend the 2007 International Programme for Development Education Training at Carleton University. This project was largely completed in 2007, with one training workshop rescheduled for early 2008.

Support for Mine Action in Cambodia

Drawing on funds provided by the Government of Japan in 2006, UNMAS provided a grant to AAR Japan to support survivor assistance activities at Kien Khleang, including vocational training for mine survivors and the production of wheelchairs. AAR Japan established two local non-governmental organizations to assume responsibility for the two projects: AAR Vocational Training and AAR Wheelchair Production. With continued funding from the Government of Japan made available in 2007, UNMAS provided grants to each of the newly formed Cambodian non-governmental organizations to continue their work, with support from AAR Japan. The project employed 17 local staff (25 percent of them female), some with disabilities, and assisted 53 trainees (43 percent of them female) with various disabilities, in developing vocational skills to assist in their reintegration.

UNMAS

Financial Performance



FINANCIAL MONITORING AND CONTROL

To strengthen financial monitoring and control, UNMAS launched the adaptation of a budgeting, financial management and project implementation system used by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. The ProFi system will better equip UNMAS to make more efficient use of resources from the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, forecast funding needs and income, and streamline the process of project identification, implementation and financial reporting.

A consultant was hired to tailor ProFi to UNMAS' needs after UNMAS developed a detailed implementation plan, set priorities, finalized business specifications and defined benchmarks for success. A team based in Vienna is testing ProFi applications in a pre-production environment and is already testing some elements a "staging" environment. The team has developed an UNMAS-specific module—based on a PeopleSoft

platform—for handling financial data. UNMAS users have already been given secure access to the system. UNMAS' ProFi system currently includes the following modules:

- UNMAS-ProFi Lotus Notes based Portal;
- A funding application, which covers all UNMAS donor profiles;
- Lotus Notes-based automated portfolio repository;
- A PeopleSoft-based UNMAS Business Unit, including new chart of accounts; and
- A fiscal 2008 Projects Portfolio, implemented in PeopleSoft-based UNMAS financials, comprising a project segments structure and budgets.

In 2008, UNMAS will further develop the system and launch a number of additional modules, including an application for managing funding agreements and a web-reporting facility.



INCOME

Highlights

- Twenty-four donors contribute a record US\$92,955,455 to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action.
- Canada contributes US\$31.9 million, and the European Commission contributes US\$21.7 million.
- Andorra, Denmark, Estonia, the Holy See, Liechtenstein, and New Zealand provided unearmarked funds.
- United Kingdom and Sweden pledged three-year contributions to UNMAS programmes.
- Assessed contributions provided through peacekeeping mission budgets increased 28 percent—from US\$42,132,750 in 2006 to US\$53,819,454 in 2007.

Fundraising and Donor Outreach

The activities of UNMAS at headquarters and in the field are funded by assessed contributions for peacekeeping operations and a special political mission (UNMIN), the generous contributions of donor governments, organizations and private individuals, and the United Nations “Peacekeeping Support Account.” The voluntary contributions are channeled through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. Resource mobilization in 2007 entailed visits to donors in capitals and programme countries, briefings for Permanent Missions to the United Nations, and interaction with donor countries through fora such as the Mine Action Support Group.

Since its creation in 1994 through 2007, the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine received more than US\$400 million. In May 2007, UNMAS

Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action

The Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action was established by the Secretary-General in 1994 to provide special resources for mine-action programmes and projects, including surveys, mine clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance and advocacy activities, in situations where other funding is not immediately available. Activities that are funded from the Trust Fund include, but are not limited to, assessment missions to evaluate the scope of a landmine/ERW problem; emergency mine action where rapid intervention is 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 UNMAS outreach and advocacy initiatives; development of International Mine Action Standards; and mine action activities of other UN Mine Action Team members.

introduced a 2 percent direct-cost recovery rate on voluntary contributions to help fund UNMAS' headquarters activities. This measure, along with seeking a wider pool of donors to directly support UNMAS' headquarters costs, helped to ensure that headquarters coordination costs are met, and enabled the majority of the Voluntary Trust Fund resources to be used directly for operational and field activities.

UNMAS has also called on donors to provide dedicated funding for UNMAS' headquarters coordination. UNMAS is very grateful to Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden, which responded to UNMAS' request to contribute directly to UNMAS headquarters coordination or allocated a portion of their unearmarked contributions for this purpose. These donors have together contributed almost US\$2.3 million, or 53 percent of the total requirement toward this activity.

In an effort to expand funding possibilities, UNMAS explored establishing new arrangements with partners. To that end, UNMAS and the International Trust Fund for Demining and Victims Assistance signed a memorandum of understanding in 2007 for the joint funding of projects. This mechanism capitalized on each entity's comparative advantage and expanded the reach of both organizations in the effort to eliminate the harm caused by landmines and ERW.

Good Humanitarian Donorship

UNMAS has encouraged all donors to adhere to the principle of "good humanitarian donorship," which includes flexible, multi-year funding and simplified reporting requirements. In support of this principle,

UNMAS encourages all donors to accept its annual report as the official substantive and financial report for contributions received in the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. In 2007, UNMAS welcomed the Republic of Korea as a returning donor (the previous contribution was in 2001), which joined other UNMAS donors in demonstrating good humanitarian donorship by accepting the annual report as the official reporting tool.

In order to allow allocation of funds where and when they are needed most and to ensure sustainability of operations in the field and headquarters, UNMAS works with its donors to negotiate unearmarked funds or multi-year contributions wherever possible. A number of donors have over the years responded positively and contributed sustained funding in such ways. UNMAS is grateful to Andorra, Denmark, Estonia, the Holy See, Liechtenstein, and New Zealand, which provided unearmarked funds in 2007, and to Japan, the Netherlands, and Spain, which provided funds, indicating a range of options for how they could be used. The United Kingdom and Sweden have pledged three-year contributions to UNMAS programmes.

Level and Sources of Income

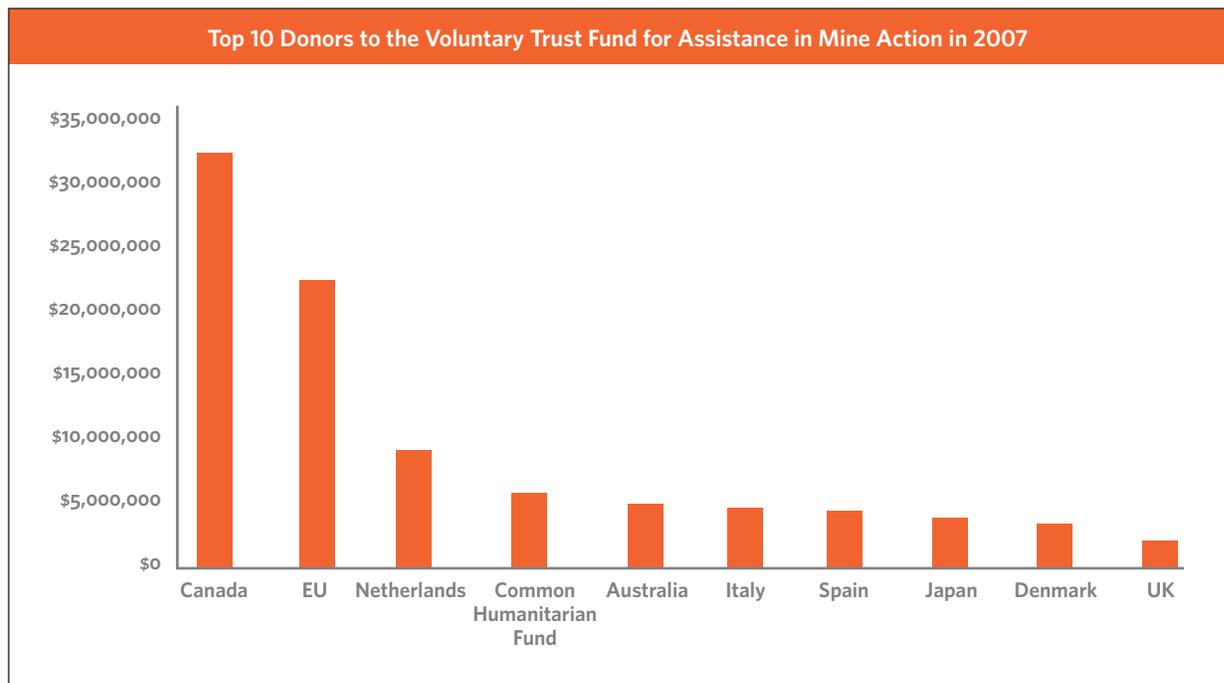
The following table summarizes donor contributions and earmarkings for the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action in 2007. UNMAS surpassed last year's record number of donors and the total amount of funds received. In 2007, 21 governments, the European Commission, the Common Humanitarian Fund for Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo Pooled Fund together contributed a record US\$92,955,455, compared to US\$51,029,053 in 2006.

Contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action in 2007, in US\$												
Donors	Advocacy	Afghanistan	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ethiopia and Eritrea	Gender Equality	Headquarters Coordination	Lebanon	Sudan	Western Sahara	Unearmarked	To be Earmarked by Donor	Grand Total
Andorra										66,942		66,942
Australia		2,109,000				260,130	1,658,300					4,027,430
Austria										143,210		143,210
Canada		27,482,144				422,190	1,377,648	2,631,148				31,913,131
Common Humanitarian Fund								4,669,525				4,669,525
Czech Republic							55,200					55,200
Denmark		902,935			90,131		996,819			883,704		2,873,588
Estonia										10,000		10,000
European Commission		21,545,976						111,190				21,657,166
Finland		1,213,470				377,104						1,590,574
Holy See										6,000		6,000
Italy	511,226						1,462,400	2,003,483				3,977,109
Japan								3,000,000			324,949	3,324,949
Korea, Republic of							200,000					200,000
Liechtenstein										41,480		41,480
Lithuania		19,779										19,779
Netherlands		4,002,437	925,925			308,642	133,787	2,962,960	606,953			8,940,704
New Zealand							606,706			345,700		952,406
Spain			388,551	396,191		212,828	916,122	1,690,036				3,603,727
Sweden						714,625		250,000				964,625
Switzerland							256,410					256,410
United Arab Emirates							1,500,000					1,500,000
United Kingdom							1,961,500					1,961,500
Democratic Republic of the Congo Pooled Fund			200,000									200,000
Grand Total	511,226	57,275,741	1,514,476	396,191	90,131	2,295,519	11,124,891	17,318,342	750,163	1,353,826	324,949	92,955,455

The following chart shows the top 10 donors, based on funds received in 2007. There were two donors that each provided more than US\$20 million: Canada (US\$31.9 million) and the European Commission (US\$21.7 million). In addition to the top 10 donors, UNMAS also received contributions from Andorra, Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, the Holy See, Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and the Democratic Republic of the Congo Pooled Fund.

A majority of the core donors to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action have sustained their funding levels for the last three to four years, ensuring a predictable and reliable funding base for

mine action. It is worth noting that two donors have recently emerged as strong sources of support for mine action: Spain, which provided an annual contribution of US\$2 million for two consecutive years, and the Common Humanitarian Fund for Sudan, which increased allocations for mine action projects in the Sudan Work Plan for the second year in a row. In addition, three core donors have significantly increased their level of support in the past two years: Australia, Canada and the Netherlands. The surge in donor support for mine action in Afghanistan accounted for about 62 percent (US\$57,275,741) of the total amount received into the Trust Fund in 2007. A number of key contributors for Afghanistan released an increased amount of funds for use over the period

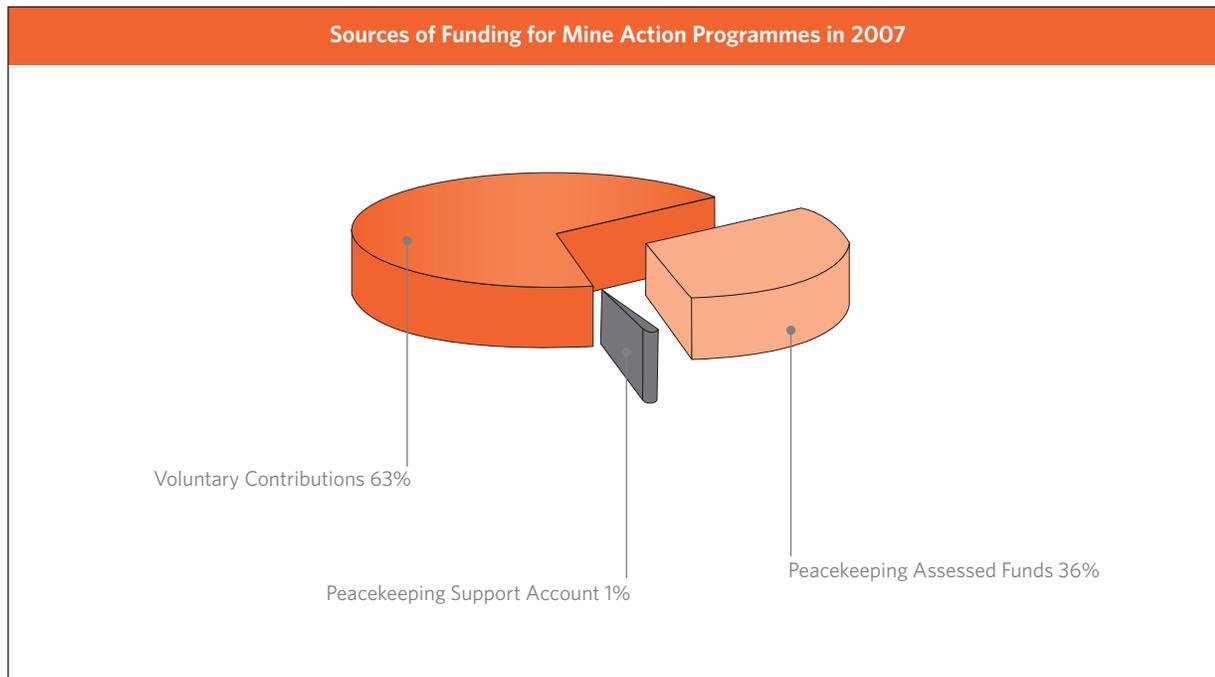


2007-2008, including Canada (about US\$27.5 million) and the European Commission (about US\$21.5 million). Additionally, in December 2007, Canada announced a pledge of CAN\$80 million to Afghanistan for the 2008-2011, while discussions on future support packages were also begun with the Governments of Australia, Japan and with the European Commission for further support from 2009.

Second to Afghanistan was Sudan, with US\$17,318,342, or 18.6 percent of the total in 2007. Lebanon was the third-largest recipient of funds, with US\$11,124,891, or 12 percent of the total. Because of continued strong donor support to address the aftermath of 2006 conflict, UNMAS' programme in

Lebanon was fully funded in 2007. The following chart illustrates the percent of UNMAS' income received through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, the peacekeeping support account, and the peacekeeping assessed budgets.

Other sources of UNMAS income include the interest income accrued on cash. Miscellaneous income represents residuals and refunds received from implementing partners due to the combination of unutilized balances and savings on or cancellation of prior-period obligations. Interest and miscellaneous income for the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action are reported biennially by the United Nations in a "Schedule of Individual Trust Funds."



Expenditures

This section and the following table show income, expenditures, and funds disbursed to implementing partners in 2007. The “opening balance” in the table represents the trust fund balance at January 1, 2007 and includes contributions that have remained in the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action from prior years (as well as 2006 contributions that were received in December 2006 and January 2007 and attributed to 2006 income) pending determination of the best use of these funds. Voluntary contributions include funds that have been made available for programme activities over 2007 and a small share of funds contributed by donors for activities beyond 2008. The expenditures portion of the table provides a snapshot of expenditures attributable to the three main sources of funding for UNMAS’ programmes.

Resources and Expenditures for Mine Action Programmes	
Opening Balance of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action as of January 1, 2007	54,435,612
Income	
<i>Voluntary Contributions</i>	92,955,455
<i>Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</i>	53,819,454
<i>Peacekeeping Support Account Funds</i>	925,480
Total Income	147,700,389
Expenditure	
<i>Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action</i>	64,119,331
<i>Peacekeeping Assessed Funds</i>	51,141,056
<i>Peacekeeping Support Account Funds</i>	664,066
Total Expenditure	115,924,453

The following tables detail expenditures from the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action and the funds disbursed to implementing partners in 2007. Table 1 shows that the total requirements for UNMAS' core activities in 2007 amounted to US\$4,210,306 (compared with US\$3,607,974 in 2006). All figures in these tables are expressed in US Dollars.

1. UNMAS Core Activities in New York and Geneva

Category of Expenditure	Expenditure
<i>Personnel</i>	2,514,458
<i>Official Travel of Staff</i>	487,245
<i>Consultants and Expert Groups (including ProFi)</i>	437,302
<i>Communications</i>	37,092
<i>Supplies, Materials and Furniture</i>	7,725
<i>Contractual Services (e.g., printing and data processing)</i>	84,523
<i>Operating Expenses (e.g. utilities and rental of equipment)</i>	242,369
<i>Conference Services</i>	661
<i>Hospitality-Official Functions</i>	1,927
<i>Training</i>	3,798
Sub-Total	3,817,099
Programme Support Cost	393,207
Total	4,210,306

2. UNMAS Thematic Projects

Project	Funding Provided in 2007 to Implementing Partners and Expenditure
<i>Advocacy</i>	294,379
<i>Gender</i>	50,579
<i>Victim Assistance</i>	6,180
<i>Rapid Response Project</i>	11,794
<i>Quality Monitoring</i>	149,594
<i>Landmine and ERW Safety Project</i>	17,640
Total	530,166

3. UNMAS Funds Provided to United Nations Partners

Country/Territory	Funding Provided in 2007 to Implementing Partners and Expenditure
<i>Lao People's Democratic Republic</i>	199,130
<i>Angola</i>	11,892
<i>Uganda</i>	222,639
<i>Zambia</i>	81,712
Total	515,373

4. UNMAS Support to Other Implementing Partners

Project, Implementing Partner/Country/Territory	Funding Provided in 2007 to Implementing Partners and Expenditure
<i>CROMAC Technology Coordination (Croatia)</i>	30,900
<i>Evaluation and National Capacity-GICHD, (Republic of Serbia-Kosovo)</i>	87,107
<i>Landmine Victim Assistance, AAR (Cambodia)</i>	53,812
<i>Mine Risk Education, AAR Japan (Sudan)*</i>	616,864
Total	788,683

*The total for these initiatives includes US\$257,301 carried over from 2006.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Expenditures from the peacekeeping assessed budgets totaled US\$36,393,611 in 2007. These funds covered the costs of mine action activities conducted in conjunction with peacekeeping operations mandated by the Security Council and a special political mission (UNMIN). Expenditures totaling US\$664,066 from the peacekeeping support account covered the cost of headquarters personnel who support mine action activities in peacekeeping operations. Programme support costs are included in these totals. All figures in the following tables are expressed in US Dollars.



AFGHANISTAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

In 2007 US\$57,275,741 was received into the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action to support operations for the period 2007-8. A large share of those funds were contributed by two long-standing donors to the programme—Canada (US\$27,482,144) and the European Commission (US\$21,545,976)—with all other contributions coming from five other countries. This increase in funding allowed for the expansion of operations supported by the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. Meanwhile, funds were used more efficiently as a result of initiatives by the Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan that focused funds on core operational activities and streamlined implementing-partner structures to increase outputs. These funds and those carried over from 2006 supported a Voluntary Trust Fund budget for 2007 of US\$43,188,282, with additional grants totaling US\$653,651. Of this funding directed through the United Nations, 67 percent was targeted at landmine and ERW clearance operations, 4 percent on mine risk education and victim assistance, and 29 percent on quality-assurance operations, equipment procurement, direct capacity development within implementing partners and the Government of Afghanistan, and coordination. Of the funds received into the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine

Action in 2007, US\$13,433,808 was carried over for use in the first quarter of 2008 in accordance with agreed donor timelines. Bilateral donors continued to support the programme through the provision of more than US\$30 million over the same period, targeted at all areas of mine action, largely in full coordination with the United Nations. The United States remained the largest bilateral donor to mine action in Afghanistan in 2007 with contributions from the Department of State and Department of Defense together totaling more than US\$20 million. While the increase in donor funds received in 2007 was significant, the limited number of countries contributing to mine action in Afghanistan leaves the programme at risk should any of the larger contributions not be maintained in the future. As a result, there is a critical need to diversify the donor pool in 2008 to ensure the sustainability of the programme in the medium term and to build on the substantial investment already made since 1989. To this end, increased funding through any and all channels will be needed to achieve the international community's obligations under the Afghanistan Compact (clearance of 70 percent of the known hazard by December 2010) and to meet obligations under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty to complete clearance by March 2013.

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	57,275,741
Total	57,275,741

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	
<i>Coordination</i>	5,690,440
<i>Capacity Development</i>	203,907
<i>Landmine and ERW Clearance</i>	16,597,116
<i>Mine Risk Education</i>	1,185,508
<i>Monitoring, Evaluation and Training</i>	33,194
Total	23,710,165

BURUNDI

Voluntary contributions to the programme in Burundi that were carried over from 2006 totaled US\$58,358, which supported coordination, technical survey and landmine and ERW clearance. Funding was provided to the UN Office for Project Services and the non-governmental organization, Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (Fédération Suisse de Déminage).

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	58,358
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Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	
<i>Coordination</i>	52,358
<i>Technical Survey and Landmine and ERW Clearance</i>	6,000

Total	58,358
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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Voluntary contributions to the programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo totaled US\$1,514,476, while appropriations under the mine action component of the MONUC peacekeeping budget totaled US\$3,431,700. Provisional expenditures from MONUC assessed funds totaling US\$3,250,863 ensured effective coordination, emergency survey and clearance of landmines and ERW. Voluntary contributions supported coordination, emergency survey and landmine and ERW clearance, with expenditures amounting to US\$928,626. Funding was provided to the UN Office for Project Services and DanChurchAid.

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	1,514,476
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
<i>Coordination</i>	1,143,900
<i>Landmine and ERW Survey and Clearance</i>	2,287,800
Sub-Total	3,431,700
Total	4,946,176

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	
<i>Coordination</i>	454,132
<i>Landmine and ERW Clearance</i>	165,390
<i>Emergency Survey and Clearance</i>	309,104
Sub-Total	928,626
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
<i>Coordination</i>	1,083,621
<i>Survey and Clearance</i>	2,167,242
Sub-Total	3,250,863
Total	4,179,489

ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA (TEMPORARY SECURITY ZONE)

Income for the mine action programme in Ethiopia and Eritrea (in the Temporary Security Zone) totaled US\$7,578,295 and was available primarily through the mine action component of UNMEE peacekeeping resources. Expenditures of US\$497,094 from the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action in the table below are attributed to unearmarked

contributions received before January 2007. Expenditures from UNMEE assessed funds totaled US\$6,764,375 in 2007. Implementation of the revised budget for the 2007/08 peacekeeping year is contingent on future developments in the field, particularly the issue of whether the UN mission will continue and if so, in what form.

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	396,191
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
<i>Coordination</i>	2,208,995
<i>Landmine and ERW Survey and Clearance</i>	4,954,431
<i>Mine risk Education</i>	18,678
Sub-Total	7,182,104
Total	7,578,295

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	
<i>Coordination</i>	347,966
<i>Clearance</i>	99,419
<i>Survey/Mine Risk Education</i>	49,709
Sub-Total	497,094
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
<i>Coordination</i>	2,080,514
<i>Survey and Clearance</i>	4,666,269
<i>Mine Risk Education</i>	17,592
Sub-Total	6,764,375
Total	7,261,469

LEBANON

Voluntary contributions to the programme totaled US\$11,124,891 with a significant amount of contributions received and reported in 2006 for funding 2007 operations. Total funding provided to implementing partners—DanChurchAid and the UN Office for Project Services—to carry out mine action activities amounted to US\$15,387,541. Expenditures from the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action in the following table should be attributed to contributions received both in 2006 and

in 2007. Appropriations under the mine action component of the UNIFIL peacekeeping budget totaled US\$2,737,590 (as compared to US\$1,414,900 in 2006). Provisional expenditures from peacekeeping assessed funds in the total amount of US\$2,296,381 ensured the overall coordination and oversight of mine action activities under UNIFIL mandate in southern Lebanon. The US\$171,076 disbursed in 2007 was for the Rapid Response Plan project, which was implemented in southern Lebanon only in 2006.

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	
<i>Coordination and Operations</i>	11,124,891
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
<i>Coordination</i>	2,737,590
Total	13,862,481

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	
<i>Coordination and Quality Assurance</i>	1,632,671
<i>Clearance of Landmines, UXO, Cluster Munitions</i>	13,754,870
<i>Rapid Response Plan Attributed to 2006 Operations</i>	171,076
Sub-Total	15,558,618
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
<i>Coordination</i>	2,296,381
Total	17,854,999

NEPAL

Voluntary contributions to the programme in Nepal totaled US\$32,735. Appropriations under the mine action component of the UNMIN regular budget totaled US\$253,526, ensuring effective coordination of destruction of explosive devices and clearance of landmines.

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	32,735
From Regular Budget	253,526
Total	286,261

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	
Coordination	32,735
From Regular Budget	
Coordination	253,526
Total	286,261

SUDAN

Income of US\$57,413,078 included US\$33,375,338 appropriated by the General Assembly under the mine action component of UNMIS, US\$6,719,398 for UNAMID, and voluntary contribution of US\$17,318,342 (compared to US\$9,799,178 in 2006). Increased donor funding allowed the expansion of mine action assets in country, as well as the provision of support for development of indigenous operational capacity. Voluntary contributions were allocated to the UN Office for Project Services and non-governmental organizations working in Sudan. These non-governmental organizations included the Mines Advisory Group (explosive ordnance disposal in South Sudan, integrated mine action intervention in Blue Nile, and mobile mechanical support), Danish Demining Group

(explosive ordnance disposal, mine risk education and emergency survey in South Sudan), Survey Action Center (landmine impact survey), Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (mine risk education and material development), DanChurchAid (explosive ordnance disposal in South Kordofan) and Nuba Mountain Mine Action Sudan (mechanical support and capacity-building), which is the national non-governmental organization whose activities received UNMAS support as part of operational capacity development. Peacekeeping assessed resources for UNMIS and UNAMID supported rapid response, emergency survey, explosive ordnance disposal, battle area clearance, landmine and ERW clearance, mine risk education and route verification and clearance.

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	17,318,342
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
<i>Coordination</i>	6,655,489
<i>Operations</i>	26,719,849
Sub-Total	33,375,338
Total	50,693,680

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	
<i>Technical Assistance and Coordination</i>	3,577,913
<i>Integrated Landmine and ERW Survey and Clearance</i>	6,814,768
<i>Route Verification and Clearance</i>	4,418,000
<i>Landmine Impact Survey</i>	1,588,033
<i>Mine Risk Education</i>	413,102
Sub-Total	16,811,816
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
<i>Coordination</i>	6,655,489
<i>Operations</i>	26,719,849
Sub-Total	33,375,338
Total	50,187,154

DARFUR

Income

From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	6,719,398
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Expenditures

From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	1,064,967
Operations	4,135,606

Total	5,200,573
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SOMALIA

Funding for the mine action programme in Somalia totaled US\$40,789. Activities were supported entirely from unearmarked funds from the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. A further US\$157,357 was allocated in 2007 in anticipation of efforts to be undertaken in 2008.

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	198,127
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Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	
Coordination	198,127

Total	198,127
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WESTERN SAHARA

UNMAS provided a US\$228,708 grant from a contribution of the Netherlands to the British non-governmental organization Landmine Action for ERW clearance and survey activities in POLISARIO-controlled areas of Western Sahara, and US\$50,556 to the UN Office for Project Services for recruitment of a senior mine action technical advisor within the MINURSO Mine Action Cell.

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	626,707
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Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	
<i>Clearance</i>	228,708
<i>Coordination</i>	50,556
<i>Total</i>	279,265

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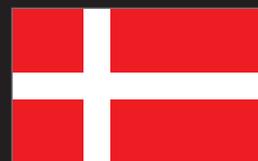
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