

Draft Final Report

Emergency Mine Action Project – Yemen Phase II Final Evaluation

Project ID: 00138840- Start date: 1 October 2021 – End date: late 2023.

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Evaluation commissioner: UNDP Yemen

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Project/Outcome Information		
Project/Outcome title	Emergency Mine Action Project- Phase II	
Atlas ID	Award ID : 00138840 Output ID : 00128797	
Corporate Outcome and Output	<p>CPD Outcome #3: All people in Yemen benefit from inclusive peace processes.</p> <p>Project Outputs: 1. National Mine Action Authorities have improved capacities to carry-out mine activities that are consistent with priorities. 2. ERW clearance and land release interventions are delivered in contaminated communities.</p> <p>3. The Yemen Mine Action Authorities have capacity to effectively coordinate, regulate and plan the mapping of ERW contamination and assessing the impact using primary and secondary sources and fulfill international treaty obligations.</p> <p>4. The communities at risk have increased their knowledge on identifying, dealing, and avoiding mines and unexploded ordnance.</p>	
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Region	Middle East	
Date project document signed	22 September 2021	
Project dates	Start	Planned end
	1 October 2021	30 September 2026
Project budget	Total resources required : USD 75,968,150 (Oct 2021- Sept 2026) Resources required October 21- March 2023: USD 17,908,056 Total budget 1 Oct 2021 – 31 March 2023 (period of evaluation): USD 14,892,407.45	
Project expenditures at the time of evaluation	USD 13,140,502 (88%)	
Funding Source	UNDP, Netherlands, US DOS, UNOCHA-YHF, Germany, UN (CERF), UK-FCDO.	
Implementing party	Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC)	

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Evaluation type (project/outcome/thematic/ country programme etc.)	EMA Project Phase II – Final Evaluation	
Final/midterm review/other	Final Evaluation	
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	01 October 2021	31 March 2023
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Disclaimer

The content of the assessment is the sole responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily reflect the views of the various authorities, UNDP, UN entities and agencies, Ministries, Institutions, International Organizations, INGOs and NNGOs.

Acronyms

AoR	Area of Responsibility
APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention-December 1997)
AWP	Annual Work Plan
AXO	Abandoned Explosive Ordnance
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions
C-IED	Counter- Improvised Explosive Device
CIMP	Civilian Impact Monitoring Project
CMR	Cluster Munitions Remnants
CPD - CPF	Country Programme Document - Country Programme Framework
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CW	Conventional Weapons
DDG	Danish Demining Group (rebranded in 2021 as DRC)
DRC	Danish Refugee Council Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding Sector
EH	Explosive Hazards
EMAP	Emergency Mine Action Project (UNDP Yemen)
EO	Explosive Ordnance
EORE	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
ERF	Emergency Response Fund
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GMP	Global Maritime Programme
HALO Trust	Hazardous Area Life Support Organization
HI	Humanity Inclusion (ex-Handicap International)
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IEC	Information, Education & Communication materials
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
IMAS	International Mine Action standards
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IPs	Implementing Partners
KEQ	Key Evaluation Question
KII	Key Informant interviews
MA	Mine Action
MANPADS	Man-Portable Air-Defence System
MDDU	Mine Dog Detection Unit
MRE	Mine Risk Education

MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
NMAA	National Mine Action Authority
NMAC	National Mine Action Committee
NMAS	National Mine Action Standards
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
NTS	Non-Technical Survey
OECD/DAC	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development/ Development Assistance Committee
PwDs	People with Disabilities
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
REMAB	Regional Executive Mine Action Branch
SADD	Sex-and Age-Disaggregated Data
SCMCHA	Supreme Council for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals – Agenda 2030
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
TDI	The Development Initiative
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Term of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
TS	Technical Survey
UFE	Utilization-Focused Evaluation
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UN SDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Yemen
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNMHA	United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNWHO	United Nations World Health Organization
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VA	Survivors/Victim Assistance
YALS	Yemen Association of Landmines Survivors
YEMAC	Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre
YMACC	Yemen Mine Action Coordination Centre
YRCS	Yemen Red Crescent Society

Executive Summary

Context

The successive waves of armed conflict that have erupted in the country since 1962 and more recently since late 2014, have produced massive Explosive Ordnance (EO) contamination. Combatants laid mines and explosive devices in fields and along the roads without marking locations. Much of the population now live in or near areas heavily contaminated by explosive ordnance. The scale of explosive ordnance contamination presents a daily and significant risk, threatening the lives and livelihoods of local communities, blocking access to infrastructure and basic services, hindering the safe delivery of humanitarian aid to millions of civilians struggling with food insecurity, and increasingly to people returning to their communities. ERW and IED contamination continue to harm civilians and damage their homes and infrastructure. Women and children are significantly affected by the ongoing conflict and the threat of explosive remnants of war.

Mine Action Background

Consequently, to the conflict from 2015, management of mine action in Yemen is divided along the lines of the conflict that erupted in late 2014. The set of operational activities with International Mine Actions (INGOs) is confined mainly in the South. In the North, mine action is reportedly limited, mainly to spot tasks, EORE, little survey and constrained by reduced resources and access for international staff is restricted. YEMAC, which played a key national role since 1999, with more than 1,200 staff (700 in the south and 500 in the north) is working in 20 of Yemen's 22 governorates across the country, in various districts.

YEMAC, which has split into two, centered round Sana'a (under North area) and Aden (under south area), is supported by the Regional Executive Mine Action Branches (REMABs). YEMAC south has regional offices in Taiz (2019), plus Al-Mukalla (2004) and the main based in Aden (1999).

YEMAC North has offices in Sana'a (main base) and regional offices in Sa'ada (2016) and Hodiedah to support mine action operations around these areas. UNDP Yemen has a long-term engagement since 1999 in supporting the country's humanitarian mine action and works tirelessly to address the threat of mines, UXO, and war remnants throughout the country and assist the National Authorities. Mine action in Yemen has a critical role to play in enabling progress towards the goals defined in the 2030 agenda, from the project's contributions to the main SDGs 16, 2, 5, 8, 10, 15, 17.

The Project is aligned with different key strategic documents as UNDP global Strategic Plan 2022-2025, UNSDCF 2022-2024, CPD 2023-2024 and the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023, the United Nations Development Programme. The UNDP's Emergency Mine Action Project Phase II, which started in October 2021, contributes considerably to a wide spectrum of mine action activities in Yemen through supporting the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC), the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) and the last established structure the Yemen Mine Action Co-ordination Centre (YMACC).

Evaluation Aim

UNDP has commissioned between May and June 2023 an independent final evaluation to assess the project's progress towards restoration of services and access to key infrastructure, reducing injuries and fatalities, and normalization of recovery and economic activity in targeted areas and may influence the continuation of the project or act as a final evaluation should no further funding be available. Due to funding shortfalls, UNDP is beginning the process of closing out and entering in a "recalibration phase" of its intervention in the mine action sector. The final project evaluation serves as an important learning and accountability tool, providing the UNDP members, Authorities, key national stakeholders and donors in the targeted governorates and districts, with an impartial assessment of the results generated, including gender equality measures and women's empowerment.

The final evaluation covered the four project outputs as follows:

- Output 1: National Mine Action Authorities have improved capacities to carry-out mine activities that are consistent with priorities;
- Output 2: ERW clearance and land release interventions are delivered in contaminated communities;
- Output 3: The Yemen Mine Action Authorities have capacity to effectively coordinate, regulate and plan the mapping of ERW contamination and assessing the impact using primary and secondary sources and fulfill international treaty obligations;
- Output 4: The communities at risk have increased their knowledge in identifying, dealing and avoiding mines and unexploded ordnance.

As per UNDP Evaluation Guidelines, the evaluation assesses the project's relevance, effectiveness/outcome (impact), efficiency and sustainability as well as Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) and Disability, and identify and document lessons learned, and provide recommendations to inform future project phases.

In line with this requirement, an international consultant has been engaged remotely (due to security situation) to work with a national consultant on site to undertake the review. The evaluation used a collaborative and participatory approach to ensure close engagement with the UNDP team, national counterparts, mine action actors, donors and other key stakeholders.

The Project Evaluation covered the period of project implementation from 01 October 2021 to 31 March 2023. According to the security environment, long distances, travel delays and road constraints as well as difficulties in obtaining safety clearance access from relevant authorities for conducting field visits, and based on the extensive review of available documentation, the field visits were conducted to 5 governorates as follows, (1) Sana'a (North) and (2) Aden (3) Abyan (4) Lahij and (5) Hadramout (South).

Field data was gathered through semi-structured, opened, individual and group interviews with a total of 81 stakeholders and actors between Sana'a and Aden areas, with the international and the national consultant remotely/on-line and in-person (field level/individual meetings and focus group discussions/FGD with 4 to 8 persons each) including 36% of women. Not all Key Informants were available for interview – of the 52 requested individual interviews with a kind email reminder, 39 were completed.

Findings structured as per evaluation criteria

The performance of the project examined, according to the evaluation criteria used for this purpose, was evaluated based on a satisfaction/performance scale of five points (1 being lowest to 5 the highest). In view of the findings with a focus on outcome/outputs level change, the evaluation considers the results of the implementation of the EMA phase II project as satisfactory: 'the level of results is encouraging, given the operating context, security situation and funding shortfall', with a score of 4,25/ 5. This score is obtained from the average of the scores attained from the perception of the key informant interviews and focus groups discussions for the various criteria evaluated as follows:

Relevance/Coherence

Finding 1. The emergency mine action project was aligned with UN national strategic priorities and responded with an inclusive and sustainable approach in preventing and mitigating the threat of explosive remnants of war by fostering community resilience and creating local governance networks to report issues of threat issues.

Finding 2. Conflict over recent periods has led to an increased demand and need for mine action activities and an enhanced role for UNDP in this area. These activities are expected to reduce the risk of disaster and prepare communities to cope with the presence and negative effects of explosives and enhance better cohesion through community dialogue.

Finding 3. The project's objectives, backed by a thorough analysis of the impact of explosive ordnance (EO) on civilians, are coherent and aligned with the population's expectations of minimizing the risk of EO contamination in various regions of the country. This is achieved through facilitating humanitarian aid and implementing community development initiatives.

Finding 4. A general commitment has been perceived to the principles that mine action activities benefited to community -women and men, boys and girls in this difficult crisis context and environment at risk.

Effectiveness/Outcome (Impact)

Finding 5. UNDP in Yemen has contributed substantially to the development of institutional capacity for mine action as a dynamic learning process, fostering a responsible response that meets the needs of stakeholders and adapting the interaction between the intervention of the mine action and context, which helped to achieve the results defined of the EMA II project.

Finding 6. Mine action intervention in Yemen enables the building of bridges between immediate humanitarian aid/emergency response and development in many of the most impacted areas of the country. The project was able to manage the issues much better in the south than in the north.

Finding 7. The project intervention logic ties the three different types of intervention-humanitarian/emergency-development-peace nexus. Humanitarian and developmental interventions take place in longer-term setting and less than two years is too short a time to appraise the results which must be monitored over a longer period to determine its likely outcome.

Finding 8. The project through UNDP has played a critical role in supporting the implementation of a coordinated mechanism and development of plans and tools necessary for the effective management and reduction of explosives hazard risks within the Yemen Mine action Coordinating Centre (YMACC) in Aden for south areas. This resulted in more effective national mine action implementation and coordination of all the relevant activities which are already showing signs of improved efficiency, effectiveness, and impact.

Finding 9. The project benefited from the field evidence of YEMAC, data analysis from YMACC and operational humanitarian actors such as OCHA with its humanitarian cluster protection which helped to appreciate the evolving situation of explosive threats, volatile security situation and led to appropriate emergency response planning.

Finding 10. Thanks to advocacy by UNDP, mine action INGOs and organizations have been working in the southern areas which has made amazing achievements under tough circumstances, due to their determination. UNDP also managed striking partnerships with the GICHD and MSB to better serve the Yemeni people through the development of YMACC information management and the strengthening of YEMAC field operations.

Finding 11. Mine action activities conducted by YEMAC in targeted areas, facilitate the transportation and freedom of movement of communities and internally displaced groups, promote equality and inclusion, and provide a safe overall working and living environment. Results of project's activities have also supported social cohesion including equality and inclusion and peace building efforts locally.

Finding 12. UNDP has supported mine action with the aim of reducing poverty reduction. In most places visited, there is evidence of improvements in standards of living over the course of mine action activities, although the extent of the clearance efforts is difficult to quantify.

Efficiency

Finding 13. UNDP Yemen is considered by stakeholders as especially well positioned to advocate for national ownership and is perceived as a neutral, credible, and valuable partner, valued for its expertise and proven efforts in fostering mine action operations.

Finding 14. The project was efficient in utilizing the programme's resources using UNDP efficient rules and regulations. UNDP has established partnerships with different types of actors such as donors, UN

agencies, International and national NGOs, as well as a private company to assist Yemen and by bringing their own relative advantages of improving performance through training and capacity development interventions. Due to the lack of funds available, UNDP is currently questioning its concept of operational support for mine action.

Finding 15. Prioritization of criteria for the mine action project consistently emerges as an issue across a number of domains as community development, development linkages, donor coordination, gender-related results and project's monitoring and field operations evaluation (M&E) system. These efforts need to be reinforced from more detailed data of the beneficiaries and the impact on their domestic life. It used more success stories and analysis of change regarding the situation of post clearance as a relevant tool for resource mobilization. The M&E system does not sufficiently capitalize on project experiences for effective learning.

Sustainability

Finding 16. Through the development of survey and land release methodologies and the provision of specialized training, productivity has been enhanced. The facilitation of long-term engagement with mine action INGOs and short-term collaboration with commercial entities in the southern region has demonstrated notable success in elevating standards and operational effectiveness.

Finding 17. Consultation, buy-in, and project outcome/outputs are closely interlinked. By supporting the installation of YMACC, the project contributes to the preservation and the sustainability of the implementation capacity management and coordination of much needed ERW risk education/clearance activities.

Finding 18. Without a strong mobilization and communication strategy, and effective national ownership, Mine Action in Yemen cannot sustain the acquired potential of the intervention to ensure the sustainability of impacts despite the great progress made in capacity strengthening.

Finding 19. The project encountered various social and political risks in the volatile conflict context that had the potential to compromise the sustainability of its outputs and outcomes. Moreover, there were challenges related to the procurement and supply of technical equipment, including detectors and other necessary materials for demolition and demining activities.

Human Rights

Finding 20. The project advocates for a mine action approach based on human rights principles and encourages communities to freely communicate and report their concerns within local governance networks.

Finding 21. UNDP's support to mine action in Yemen has made a significant contribution to enhancing human safety by effectively reducing the threat.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) and Disability

Finding 22. UNDP has contributed to the gender equality not only in making women, girls and the most vulnerable aware of mines and safety measures, it has paved the way for more trainings which has produced some positive results.

Finding 23. The project contributed to addressing structural inequalities which assume women can't participate in the mine action awareness and the removal of explosive items and has conducted many training sessions for women, raising awareness of the importance of engaging women in this sector by highlighting success stories.

Finding 24. The project has produced some potentially promising results by encouraging YEMAC south to train and deploy women teams. It also succeeded in making youth, women, girls and the most vulnerable aware of ERW concern and safety measures.

Finding 25. Inclusivity has been addressed in the planning phase, based on local surveys, using female surveyors where possible, gender and age sensitized processes and forms. Gender and disability equality-sensitive hiring and management practices need sound gender and equal opportunity policies.

Project experience / Best practices (BP)

Take special attention to the beneficiaries of field operations:

- The project willingness to invest time in community consultations at all levels (men, women, boys and girls) to build trust, keep lines of communication open and understand priority needs and concerns is a significant step. By applying 'do no harm' approaches, for example, making efforts to ensure that local communities feel that they benefit from interventions, actively addressed key issues and concerns.
- The Post-clearance impact assessments conducted with TPM agent ensured that the cleared land is effectively used, how those issues affected rights-

holders, and that the local population has confidence in clearance operations.

- Considering the traditional and social culture, the encouragement of women to become actively involved in mine action operations, i.e. in risk education, survey and clearance teams, has increased society's confidence in the local constraints due to contamination by explosive ordnances.

-The important attendance and participation in explosive ordnances risk education are regarded locally as opportunity to socialize and foster community resilience and better self-confidence. The innovative approach in Conflict preparedness and protection (CPP) developed by the INGO mine action 'Norwegian People's Aid' (NPA) in partnership with YMACC/YEMAC which has many similarities in improving public awareness/education (EORE) of explosive ordnance threats (formally known as MRE) and includes a component of preparedness on how to mitigate the risks associated with them is an important strategic approach.

Include multiple stakeholders, develop national standards, and raise collaboration in the implementation of project activities:

- The project was responsive to the emerging needs of targeted communities and contributed to the establishment of the decentralized Yemeni decision-making structure (YMACC). This together with regular technical working group (TWG) meetings improved the effective coordination and implementation of mine action in the south. By facilitating and supporting the introduction of mine action INGOs and commercial operators in the south has improved standards and operations. The desire to adhere to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) expressed by mine action authorities, has contributed to the development of National Mine Action Standards (NMAS)

- The Information management system for mine action (IMSMA) is well developed with the production of the regular data Mine action monthly report dashboard and thematic maps from IMSMA collecting data using reporting templates within implementing partners.

-The integration of Mine Action and Rule of Law (RoL) programmes counters the C-IED component which is under criminal justice and provides valuable assistance to mine action through a novel human rights-based approach driven by community consultations and threat analysis to report issues of concern within local networks, is a good example of effective collaboration.

Lessons learned:

Support and advocacy:

- UNDP was key for developing the national capacity in operations management, policy/standards, clearance, land release, EORE and information management and supporting the effectiveness of coordination and contributing to the success of mine action in Yemen. UNDP successfully recruited specialized staff and contracted partners (INGOs and commercial entities) for the mine action sector that were able to develop capacity and mentor as well as possessing the appropriate technical skills with a significant added value.
- Advocacy efforts to national ownership of the mine action project in term of national contributions, was difficult to articulate and able to address the challenges ahead. The use of incentives and expectations created a culture of reliance to UNDP support as the National authorities have no funding to support this important challenge. These efforts could have been better utilized to arrive at a consensual contingency plan that would allow for a lasting result.

Project management and communication:

- Given that ERW clearance, is a long-time process, the creation of a critical mass of informed and committed local communities is a pre-condition for success (e.g. importance of awareness raising and dissemination of information both internally not only within national authorities and development partners, but also at donor international level).
- Mine action implementation requires a specific communication strategy to enable the engagement of the various partners and to visualize stakeholders' buy-in and gains (as an example what are the key themes of the mine action agenda which need to be better identified and explained, and how these can help in selecting supportive stakeholders).
- Planning based on results must be visibly and constantly presented to donors. Such actions ensure continuous donor interest and reaffirm their belief in the joint vision with plans for further effective support (e.g. greater focus on visibility and communication as the project progresses and has more to show).

Management of operations:

- Field operations necessitate to meet both the emergency requirements and address the longer-term impact of the most recent contamination threats. It would do this through the improvement of productivity using more efficient methodologies for the disposal of explosive ordnance, benefiting of the experience and knowledge transfer of the INGO partners.

- YEMAC North has both responsibilities of implementation and co-ordination combined with quality management of field operations, which still represents a conflict of interest. This should be addressed by separating the functions of coordination, survey, clearance, and quality management and this can be achieved through the establishment of a Mine Action Coordination Centre or strengthen the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC).
- It is important in a challenging environment with overriding urgent needs like Yemen to focus on tangible and well-defined results, and to consider a joint follow-up project for the next phase, rather than putting all the elements in one project and to expect it to be carried out over a long-term period to be realistically established with national partners according to the current crisis.
- The Project should take advantage to maintain a minimum service/consultancy of international experts to pursue the upgrading skills of YEMAC staff in dealing with the new threats.
- The activities related to ERW survivors' surveillance and assistance requires special attention with regard to reporting and data collection with disaggregated data on ERW victims/casualties, between the health sector, social assistance and mine action.

Conclusions

Conclusion 1. The project has a sound objective and was clearly responding to specific identified needs, so its objective remains valid today. The project was assigned to five years duration but unfortunately due to the shortfall of financial resources the project is forced to terminate by the end of the year. Consultations are underway to determine the follow-up and define a new mine action cooperation and support framework.

Conclusion 2. The project has contributed to local social development in the targeted areas, to the strengthening of community security, the values of peace and cohesion and to the improvement of living conditions and access to basic services.

Conclusion 3. The project has extensively promoted capacity development as the core of its intervention by supporting national mine action institutions to effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities assisted by a number of international actors through technical training, administrative and operational support.

Conclusion 4. Mine action actors are obliged to invest time and resources in developing relationship and trust with communities, and it would see that these investments could be put to better use in improving impact measurement results and sustainability.

Recommendations

Category 1: Key programmatic issues (Time frame: immediate to short)

Recommendation 1. Due to the changing operating environment, i.e. increased needs on humanitarian activities and the recent significant decrease in mine action funding, UNDP should reaffirm its strategic commitment to supporting mine action, which requires significant changes in its approach and business model, by continuing to add value in Yemen. Some difficult decisions need to be made to ensure critical continuity within a contingency work plan agreed by mine action authorities and partners for a minimum transition period of six months, until a new joint programme strategy to support the MA is designed.

Category 2: Programme design (Time frame: short)

Recommendation 2. UNDP mine action response in term of programmatic support offer, should tackle the deepest humanitarian-emergency ERW contamination challenges. UNDP must pursue its technical assistance under an integrated and UN joint innovative programme, bringing the added value of UN partners, facilitating the participation of international mine action partners and training, while continuing to focus efforts on activities that bring about change. This requires an inclusive and 'bottom-up' approach enabling the strengthening of

local governance systems and coordination within the framework of an updated national mine action strategy, strengthening the relationships between local communities and vulnerable people affected by the conflict and duty bearers. UNDP's future interventions should be carefully developed, in accordance with available funding and the existence of an enabling and open environment allowing for the organization to bring its strengths and value to the sector.

Category 3: Communication, information management and impact measurement result. (Time frame: short to medium)

Recommendation 3. UNDP should strengthen the foundations created with the operationalization of the information management system (IMSMA Core) and increase the need for a better analysis of results to define specific information products that YMACC/YEMAC can design into its information system to produce on request by mine action actors and development organizations. High visibility needs to be given to project achievements which contribute to enhancing leadership and ownership.

Category 4: Capacity development, operations management and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) (Time frame: medium to long)

Recommendation 4. UNDP should continue fostering national capacity to manage mine action programmes and optimize the sustainability of the results obtained. It should strengthen planning, M&E mechanism and support national partners in result-based management.

1- Introduction, context, and background

1.1. Introduction

1. The current armed conflict in Yemen, entered in March 2023 in its ninth year and has dramatically increased both the scale and the complexity of the Explosive Ordnance (EO) contamination. Yemen remains severely contaminated by landmines, sea mines, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other explosive remnants of war (ERW)¹ which include severe cluster munitions in many parts of the country. During the protracted conflict, landmines, and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) along with their significant economic and social effects, constitutes one of the major daily threats to people's lives and livelihoods. They also have left physical, emotional and economics scars on Yemeni civilians. Survivors of these deadly dangers mostly lose limbs and suffer significant psychological trauma for the remainder of their lives.

The presence of explosive hazards all over the country remains a key issue for the humanitarian workers in reaching the people in need and for those affected by the crisis to the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance or utilizing available land for agricultural or other durable solutions. They impede recovery and development, freedom of movement, IDPs integration, and conflict-affected communities have difficulty in accessing livelihood opportunities as well as humanitarian actors providing lifesaving activities. Restrictions on humanitarian access and programming remained a critical constraint in Yemen. International humanitarian law requires all parties to the conflict to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including medicine, food and other survival items.

2. The role of Mine action (MA) as a transformational activity is not only to reduce violence and fear, but also to enable and accelerate broader sustainable development. Mine/ERW risk reduction is still a necessary foundation to promote economic activity through improved safe access, mitigating poverty and a significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. Mine Action interventions has often been demonstrated in Yemen as a prerequisite for other humanitarian or developmental activities. To promote national ownership, responsibility, leadership and effective coordination, the UNDP is mandated by the General Assembly to assist the national authorities in their efforts to review and strengthen existing national capacity, coordination mechanisms within a mine action response programme.

3. Mine Action² in Yemen³ is firmly grounded as a developmental initiative, a precursor to stabilization, reconciliation, reconstruction, and the establishment of effective governance. From the outset, it has sought to deliver services within the context of strengthening governance, whether it is through promoting a human rights-based approach to mine action or creating a space for communities to report issues of concern within local governance networks. It also works closely with the international community to support humanitarian, peace and developmental initiatives.

1.2. Context

4. Since the recent conflict emerged in late 2014, armed conflict and criminality continued to add explosive hazard contamination, with extensive use of anti-personnel mines, in particular mines of improvised nature, posing a constant threat to civilians and provoking displacement as well as significant challenges to humanitarian priorities and mine action operation. The conflict has also exacerbated poverty and inequality, within the country and a significant proportion of the population live in the areas controlled by the de-facto authorities.

¹ ERW: Explosive Remnants of war refers to Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) explosive ordnance that has been primed, fused, armed, or otherwise prepared for use or used. It may have been fired, dropped, launched or projected yet remains unexploded either through malfunction or design or for any other reason and Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AXO)/Explosive Ordnance (EO) that has not been used during an armed conflict, that has been left behind or dumped by a party to an armed conflict, and which is no longer under control of the party that left it behind or dumped it. Explosive Ordnance (EO) interpreted as encompassing mine action's response to the following munitions: Mines, Cluster Munitions, Unexploded Ordnance, Abandoned Ordnance, Booby traps, other devices (manually emplaced munitions) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) designed to kill, injure or damage and which are activated manually, by remote control or automatically after a lapse of time. (Ref IMAS 04.10 Second Edition, Amendment 11, Jan 2023, and CCW/ Convention on Conventional Weapons (1980) AP II (1996).

² A typical UNDP mine action programme is designed to support national mine action authorities and national mine action centres as coordinators and managers of a country's overall mine action response. UNDP does not create United Nations mine action structures parallel to the government but works within national structures even in the immediate post-conflict period. In some instances, this means supporting the development of new national entities; in other countries, offices or units have been established within existing ministries or other structures - UNDP Handbook for Capacity Development in Mine Action (2021) p.6.

³UNDP Handbook for Capacity Development in Mine Action (2021) p.7.

5. The ongoing armed conflict in Yemen has produced the one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. With 70% of the population in Yemen reliant on humanitarian aid to survive and more than 80% of Yemenis living below the poverty line, the humanitarian situation is worsening. Based on the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Yemen, 21.6 million people, as nearly three quarters of the country's population (including 11.3 million children⁴), in need of humanitarian assistance struggles to access food, safe drinking water, adequate health services and needs humanitarian and protection assistance. Moreover, 17.3 million people of whom are estimated to be in acute need. Women and girls are bearing the brunt of the crisis.

The successive waves of armed conflict that have erupted in the country since 1962 and more recently since late 2014, have produced massive Explosive Ordnance (EO) contamination. Combatants laid mines and explosive devices in fields and along the roads without marking locations. Much of the population now live in or near areas heavily contaminated by EO.

The scale of explosive ordnance contamination presents a daily and significant risk, threatening the lives and livelihoods of local communities, blocking access to infrastructure and basic services, hindering the safe delivery of humanitarian aid to millions of civilians struggling with food insecurity, and increasingly to people returning to their communities.

The conflict continues to devastate families, put civilians at grave risk and cause the death and injury of men, women, girls and boys as well as internal displacement⁵, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, and also government fragmentation and poor public service delivery. Human suffering and economic loss due to landmines and ERW are significant. The UN estimates that 60 percent of the estimated 377,000 deaths⁶ in Yemen since 2015 are the result of indirect causes like food insecurity and lack of accessible health services. Conflict has exacerbated the situation, reducing access to education and training with unemployment.

6. The Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contamination is complex and covered all types of explosive hazards including landmines, Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), improvised landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), cluster munitions, sea mines, Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AXO) and large air dropped weapons (missiles, rockets), in addition to the full complement of conventional explosive ordnance employed by ground forces. Improvised sea mines have become a perennial issue in the coastal areas and have the potential to disrupt maritime traffic and fishing industry, approaches to maritime ports and installations along Yemen's western and southern coastline and particularly in the Red Sea. Poor storage and security of munitions or recovered UXOs, have also worsened the resilience, and living conditions of a population already severely affected by the conflict and prone to famine.

7. The World Bank has estimated that around half the 233,000 deaths in Yemen since 2015 are attributable to the indirect impact of the war from lack of food, healthcare, and infrastructure. The huge amounts of remnants of war left on the ground as unexploded ordnance, cluster munitions landmines and improvised explosive device are putting agricultural areas out of use. Cities and towns are littered with explosive ordnance hazards, which result the ongoing conflict. Infrastructure and means of livelihood have been destroyed or debilitated; and access to justice and confidence in the rule of law have eroded.

8. The erosion in the rule of law has also facilitated supply networks for weapons, explosive ordnance, munitions, and IED⁷ components. Today, IEDs present a significant threat to Yemen. They contribute directly to civilian casualties and their lethality (per event) is twice that of conventional mines and three times that of air strikes. The trend is for the increasing use of IEDs by non-state armed groups, religious or idealist-based groups and

⁴ UNICEF Humanitarian action for children – 2022 overview

⁵ The UN Common Country Analysis (CCCA 2021) identifies the following population groups at the greatest risk of being left behind: Women and girls: 73 percent of those displaced in Yemen are women and girls, especially women of reproductive age and adolescent girls; Children: 60 percent of those killed directly by conflict are children under five; Youth and adolescents: an estimated 2 million school-age girls and boys are out of school as poverty, conflict, and lack of opportunities disrupt their education; Internally displaced persons: more than 4 million IDPs with 172,000 newly displaced in 2020 and almost 160,000 in 2021; Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants: Yemen hosts approximately 138,000 migrants and 140,000 refugees and asylum seekers; Persons with disabilities: 4.5 million Yemenis have at least one disability; Ethnic and religious minorities: It is estimated that Muhamasheen represent 10 percent of the population living in marginalised conditions. (Ref UNSDCF 2022-2024 p.5)

⁶ <https://undp.org/yemen>

⁷ Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs): a device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating explosive material, destructive, lethal, noxious, incendiary, pyrotechnic materials or chemicals designed to destroy, disfigure, distract, or harass. An IED may meet the definition booby trap, and/or other type of explosive ordnance depending on its construction. These devices may also be referred to as improvised, artisanal, or locally manufactured mines, booby traps, or other types of explosive ordnance, and fall under the scope of mine action, when their clearance is undertaken for humanitarian purposes and in areas where active hostilities have ceased. (Ref IMAS 04.10 Second Edition, Amendment 11, Jan 2023)

criminal organizations who exploit the weakness in the Rule of Law for financial benefit. Major roads, bridges and power lines across the country have been severely damaged, and oil and gas production have been totally disrupted. ERW and IED contamination continue to harm civilians and damage their homes and infrastructure. Women and children are significantly affected by the ongoing conflict and the threat of explosive remnants of war.

9. The conflict in Yemen affects every aspect of the lives of the population and communities and has seen large tracts of land being affected by several types of explosive items and abandoned ammunition in areas of direct and indirect land warfare. Recent conflicts have dramatically changed the extent and complexity of contamination. The aerial campaign added new threats of unexploded aircraft bombs, particularly cluster-type munitions in the central and northern regions of the mountains. Not only has the conflict destroyed critical infrastructure, but it has also caused major loss of life, internal displacement, government fragmentation and poor public service delivery. ERW risks increase in areas recently affected by conflict, and such risks prevent the safe return of internally displaced people to their areas of origin. Governorates where there has been significant fighting, such as Al Hodeidah, Al Bayda, Al Dhale', Hajjah, Ma'rib, Sa'ada, Shabwa and Taiz are the most impacted.

The high dispersion and remoteness of communities remain one of the key obstacles to persons with disabilities reaching the assistance they need. While around 60% of Yemeni civilians live in rural areas⁸, most services still functioning, especially specialized ones, are concentrated around urban centers, making it extremely difficult for vulnerable and persons with disabilities to reach the services they require. The use of explosive weapons in populated areas has destroyed the social infrastructure (health, education, livelihood, etc.) needed to allow the vulnerable population and persons with disabilities to involve in all aspects of the normal life. The shifting frontlines that force road closures and the destruction of transport networks have hampered the movement of communities to access services.

10. Active ground hostilities, coupled with shelling and air strikes, often in populated areas, in violation of international humanitarian law continue to harm civilians causing widespread damage to civilians and damage their homes and infrastructure while explosive remnants of war impede freedom of movement and kill and injure hundreds of thousands of people ruining the lives of millions. Since its start, the conflict has displaced over 4 million people, making Yemen the fourth biggest internal displacement crisis in the world. The challenges of reaching the most impacted population groups, particularly Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), are complex and multi-faceted. Following the expiration of the truce, which was renewed twice from 2 April to 2 October 2022, both sides have refrained from major escalatory, despite some recent clashes (March 2023) in Marib and Shabwah governorates. The recent rapprochement in April 2023⁹ between the two main players in the war ravaging Yemen has fueled hopes for peace.

11. Mine action in Yemen is proactive in operational emergencies by delivering humanitarian assistance in conflict affected areas and building the foundations for sustainable development in areas not consumed by the conflict. Humanitarian, and recovery activities such as waste and debris management, access to natural and other resources, access to aid and social services, and the recovery of economic activities; have become increasingly challenging. The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) approach is organized around three strategic objectives; focusing on life-saving activities, resilience contributing to durable solutions, and the centrality of protection including mine action.

12. Landmines and explosive remnants of war have become an issue of greater concern in the truce and post-truce period, impeding returns of displaced people and hindering economic recovery¹⁰. ERW, including landmines, UXO and IEDs, have resulted in thousands of civilian casualties in Yemen since the start of the conflict. ERW casualty numbers started to increase in late 2021 after the frontlines in Hodeidah shifted to the south, facilitating greater freedom of movement of civilians in areas where hostilities had de-escalated, but that had not been fully cleared of remnant ordnance. Humanitarian actors reported that during the two rainy seasons¹¹, the heavy rains and flooding has exacerbated the threat of explosive remnants of war and landmines, in several

⁸ Global Economy, Yemen country profile 2020

⁹ Meeting between Houthi leader and Saudi Ambassador and his delegation in Sanaa, Yemen, 8-13 April 2023, under the mediation that Oman facilitated since October 2023, when Yemen's truce agreement from April 2022 expired. The UN Security Council members may call on the parties to continue dialogue, capitalising on recent momentum in the political talks and last month's prisoner exchange s between the parties (Source: UN SC Report-Monthly forecast 30 April 2023 & Yemen: Briefings and consultations 17 May 2023)

¹⁰ Source: UN SC Report June 2023 – Monthly forecast 31 May 2023

¹¹ Yemen has two rainy seasons, the first of which occurs from April to May and the second from July to September each year.

ways which increased the number of casualties as the floods drift and shift explosive devices, bringing devices closer to the surface or into previously safe areas and increase the need for mine action¹². Warning signs being washed away, and forcing people to take alternative, unsafe routes, or areas. Moreover, lack of alternatives may see IDPs relocate to areas that are more prone to landslides, mudslides, and flash floods, which may place them at greater risk of ERW incidents, or of further relocation.

1.3. Mine Action Background

13. Yemen is a signatory state to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)¹³ since it came into force in March 1999 and enacted national legislation in April 2005 (annex 6). Yemen is neither party to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions nor the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons. Yemen is in the tragic position whereby it was making progress towards being anti-personnel mine (APM)¹⁴ free by the 2014 deadline. This was being made possible by a high level of government involvement and support through the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC) and the implementation of the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC). However, this all changed when in 2015 the conflict expanded, adding stress to an already complex environment.

14. Based on the current security situation, Yemen submitted on March 2022 its fourth mine clearance extension request (Article 5) for an additional five years until 2028 to continue the Yemen Baseline Survey (YBLS) plan and to determine as accurately as possible the extent and impact of the new anti-personnel mine (APM) contamination. This extension period will allow for the ongoing development of the mine action sector to work in a complex environment utilizing the support of international organizations to meet old and new technical challenges, including those related to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and other IEDs. The request was granted by the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (November 2022), and a new deadline set for 1 March 2028. Yemen knows that five years might not be sufficient for it to meet its mine clearance commitments under Article 5. However, Yemen is hopeful that by the end of the proposed extension period, the security situation will improve permitting Yemen to expand the YBLS activities with the aim of gathering the necessary and most needed information and of submitting a further if needed extension request based on facts¹⁵.

15. Mine action began in Yemen with the establishment of two state institutions the Sana'a based inter-ministerial National Mine Action Committee (NMAC) in 1998, and a major national mine action entities for mine action implementation, the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) - which worked in implementing mine action operations since 1999. YEMAC is a well-established and credible national institution that has delivered mine action activities in Yemen for almost three decades. NMAC which previously formulated national mine action policy, strategy, convention obligations, political facilitation, and priority setting, no longer plays a meaningful role. Since the beginning, YEMAC has fulfilled the double role of regulator responsible for the policy and planning, information management whilst also serving as the sole national mine action operator. In April 2020, YEMAC established within the UNDP mine action support project, a Yemen Mine Action Coordination Centre (YMACC) in Aden, in order to strengthen programme management in the southern areas and facilitate cooperation with international mine action organizations and issuing task orders.

Although the fragility of Yemen's current political and economic crisis leaves YEMAC and YMACC dependent on the support of international donors to succeed, they play a vital role in helping ensure a safer Yemen and addressing the impacts of landmines and ERW, including IEDs, for many years ahead.

16. The set of operational activities with International Mine Action (INGOs) is confined to areas mainly in the South. In the North, mine action is reportedly limited, mainly to spot tasks, EORE, little survey and constrained by reduced resources and access for international staff is restricted.

17. YEMAC, which played a key national role since 1999, with more than 1,200 staff (700 in the south and 500 in the north) is working in 20 of Yemen's 22 governorates across the country, and in various districts. YEMAC, which has split into two, centered round Sana'a and Aden, is supported by the Regional Executive Mine Action Branches (REMABs). YEMAC South has regional offices in Taiz (2019), plus Al-Mukalla (2004) and the main base

¹² Source: CIMP- Yemen situation update- Humanitarian impact of flooding (24 August 2022)

¹³ The 1997 Anti-personnel Mine Ban Treaty (APMT) is a legally binding international agreement that bans the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of antipersonnel mines and places obligations on countries to clear affected areas, assist victims, and destroy stockpiles.

¹⁴ Anti-Personnel Mine (APM) a mine designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person and that will incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons. APM include improvised explosive devices that fit the above definition (Ref IMAS 04.10 Second Edition, Amendment 11, Jan 2023)

¹⁵ Yemen request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti -personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the convention (20th Meeting of States Parties MSP/APMBC- Item 12 - November 2022)

in Aden (1999). YEMAC North has offices in Sana'a (main base) and regional offices in Sa'ada (2016) and Hodeidah to support mine action operations around these areas.

18. UNDP¹⁶ Yemen has a long-term engagement since 1999¹⁷, in supporting the country's humanitarian mine action¹⁸ and works tirelessly to address the threat of mines, UXO, and war remnants throughout the country and assist the National Authorities. It works with the country in its efforts to rid themselves of the fears posed by the presence of these explosive hazards. The overarching principles of the UNDP Mine action Yemen maintain the consistent priorities of (i) fostering national mine action management capacities to respond to the threats posed by the explosive hazards; (ii) clearing and land release in contaminated communities and providing access to aid delivery and critical infrastructure; (iii) assessing ERW impacts and prioritizing accurate mine action operations; (iv) preventing the worsening of the current situation and reducing injuries and fatalities. All these elements are a prerequisite for stabilization and peacebuilding efforts, with a view to normalizing social and economic activity and improving human and food security as well as community-safety initiatives in the areas of the country most affected by conflict.

19. The Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR)¹⁹ in Yemen, activated in February 2020 and chaired by UNDP, works under the coordination of OCHA within a multi-sector approach and particularly with the protection cluster to facilitate the free movement of populations then goods and to ensure access to humanitarian actors who provide life-saving activities. Due to the current conflict, two separate meetings²⁰ (for south and north areas) are held at present and set quarterly, bringing together UN actors and INGO partners implementing Mine action activities. The main role of the MA AoR is to provide a safe arena to share challenges, planning of activities, and therefore better coordinate to make sure there is no gap, nor duplication of efforts, in line with Yemen's national commitment to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBT-Ottawa Treaty).

¹⁶ UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with its broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, its help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet.

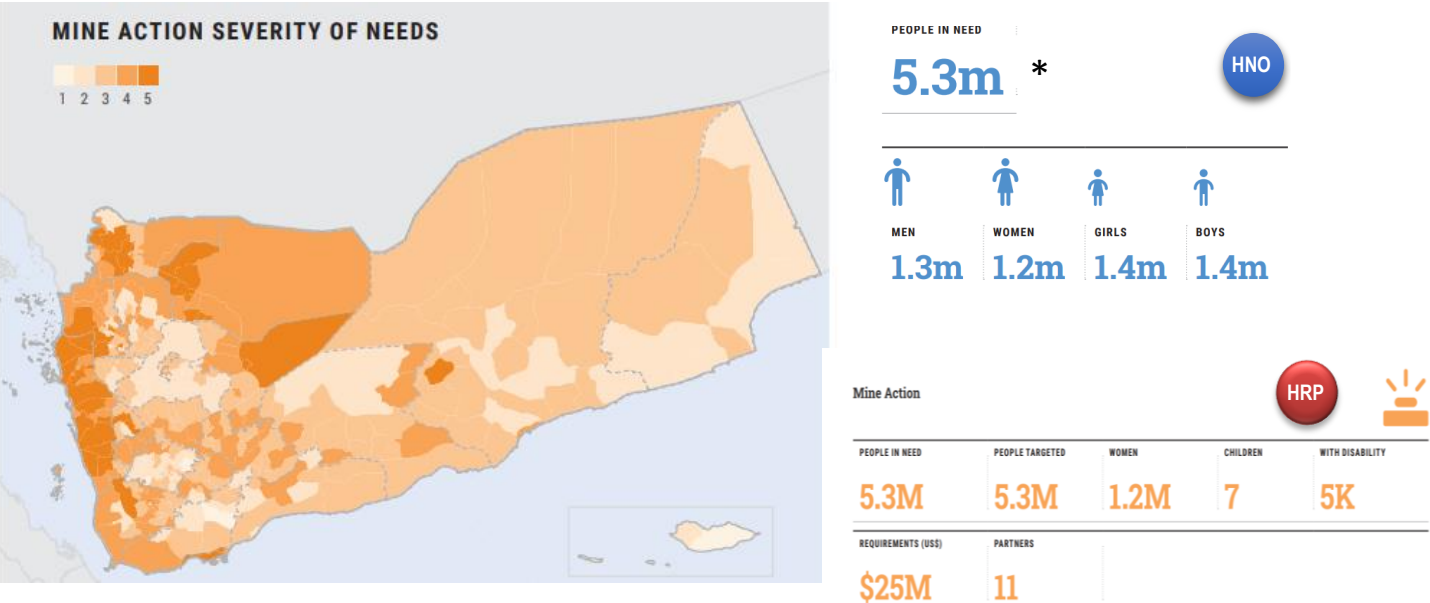
¹⁷ May 1999: UNDP Yemen started a *first phase* Mine Action (MA) project to support YEMAC programme (1999- September 2003) executed by UNOPS; In October 2003, UNDP Yemen Mine Action started a *second phase* (2003-2006 extended to 2007) followed by a *third phase* launched in late 2007 "Support to eliminate the impact of mines and ERW in Yemen -Phase three" (2008-2012); March 2013: UNDP Yemen embarked on a four-year (2013- June 2017) program of MA support: "Support to eliminate the impact from mines and ERW – Phase IV"; July 2017: UNDP Yemen started implementing a four-year MA support project *Phase V* (July 2017– 2020 extended to Sept 21) "Emergency Mine Action Project"; and October 2021: UNDP Yemen launched a "Emergency Mine Action Project- Phase II" (Oct.2021-Sept.2026) as a follow up phase of the UNDP Yemen's Emergency Mine Action Project.

¹⁸ - A typical UNDP mine action programme is designed to support national mine action authorities and national mine action centres as coordinators and managers of a country's overall mine action response. UNDP does not create United Nations mine action structures parallel to the government, but works within national structures (Source: Handbook for Capacity development in Mine Action - UNDP 2021)

- In 2016 UNDP's Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) evaluated Global UNDP contribution to Mine Action support programme and recommended UNDP "reaffirm its strategic commitment to mine action" and called attention to the need for mine action to be implemented within the context of UNDP's assistance to programme countries. This includes designing and implementing livelihoods and poverty reduction programmes that tackle the connected issues of poverty, inequality, and exclusion, while transforming productive capacities, avoiding the irreversible depletion of social and natural capital, and lowering risks arising from shocks. In other words, mine action should be seen as a critical factor in restoring livelihoods capacities and building resilience to shocks and stresses.

¹⁹ The service provided by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) coordinates the global emergency response to humanitarian needs with different AORs dedicated to the most critical needs (health, food security, education, protection...). As part of the protection cluster, the objective of the Mine Action AOR, is to ensure more predictable, accountable, and effective mine action (MA) responses in emergencies, including by supporting field-based MA activities and MA coordination mechanisms. The objective of Mine Action is to identify and reduce the impact and risk of landmines and explosive hazards to a level where people can live safely. Mine Action also includes humanitarian demining (involving survey, mapping, marking and fencing and clearance), helping victims become self-sufficient and providing opportunities for sustainable development and stability, providing at-risk populations with mine risk/explosive remnants of war (ERW) risk education, as well as stockpile destruction (Source Inter-Agency Standing Committee Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action- Oct.2016)

²⁰ Source: EMA II minute donors meeting p.5 – 26 October 2021.



1.4. Project Background

20. Following an independent external review of the ‘Emergency Mine Action Project Phase-I’ (July 2017- June 2021) a new Project ‘Emergency Mine Action Project - Phase II’ came into force on October 1st, 2021, to be implemented over a period of five years (30 September 2026) across all governorates of Yemen, subjected to access and the ability to implement activities on the ground. The project is a follow up phase of the previous phase-I project and lessons learnt as well as recommendations are taken into consideration and adjustments made in this new phase.

21. Mine action in Yemen has a critical role to play in enabling progress towards the goals defined in the 2030 agenda, from the project’s contributions to the main SDGs²¹ (annex 7), as SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions); SDG 2 (Zero Hunger); SDG 5 (Gender Equality); SDG 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth); SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities); SDG 15 (Life on Land); SDG 17 (Partnerships).

Consistent with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) strategy for assistance to the mine action sector in Yemen, one of the primary goals of the UN is to ensure the most efficient and effective response to the impact of landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other explosive remnants of war (ERW, including cluster-munitions and IEDs). According to the UN Policy on Mine Action and Effective Coordination, the primary responsibility for addressing the threats faced by the population from contamination remains with the affected State. To promote national ownership, responsibility, leadership and effective coordination, the UNDP is mandated by the General Assembly to assist the national authorities in their efforts to review and strengthen existing co-ordination mechanisms and further develop a national mine action programme²².

22. The Project is aligned with different key strategic documents (annex 8) and in particular with the **UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025** as part of the Organization’s efforts in building resilience: ‘strengthening countries and institutions to prevent, mitigate and respond to crisis, conflict, natural disasters, climate and social and economic shocks. **The Project is in support of UNDP’s signature solution 3 ‘Resilience Supporting countries and communities in building resilience to diverse shocks and crises, including conflict, climate change, disasters and epidemics.’**

23. The project refers to the United Nations Yemen Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (**UNSDCF**) 2022-2024: Outcome 3 involving UNDP: *‘By 2024, people in Yemen, especially women, adolescents, girls and those at risk of being left behind, become more resilient to economic shocks by increasing their income security and access to decent work.’*

24. The Project is in line with the Yemen Country Programme Document (**CPD 2023 - 2024**) Outcome 3 (a verbatim of the UNSDCF) - Output 3.3 *‘Capacities of national institutions improved to manage the mine action sector and improve community safety, protection from explosive ordnance.’* IED downstream capacity development will also contribute to Output 2.3 (Empowered Community: ‘Capacities of justice and rule of law institutions strengthened to expand human rights, access to justice, safety, and security with a focus on women, girls and other marginalized groups’, which has a strategic focus on local government, access to justice, community safety and security/social protection. UNDP’s Mine Action intervention adheres and contributes to the UNDP Yemen CPD with the goal to increase people’s self-reliance and revitalize the local economy. In support of NMAC/YEMAC/YMACC; UNDP assists institution building and capacity development; provides operational support; transfer technical knowledge and promotes resource mobilization.

25. The Project is also aligned with UNDP Yemen’s Country Strategy Note (**CSN** - July 2021 - December 2024), as part of the Programming Area #11: UNDP Yemen CSN - Programming area #11: Mine clearance: *Throughout much of the country, particularly in the west, where most of the population resides, the conflict has left widespread Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) contamination. Large tracts of land are contaminated in areas of direct and indirect violent conflict. The aerial campaign has added a new threat of unexploded aircraft bombs.*

26. Working within the wider UN, the EMA Phase-II Project is part of the Protection cluster and is contributing to its Strategic Objective 3 Yemen Human Response Plan (**HRP** 2021, 2022, 2023):

²¹ Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030 The 2030 Agenda is based on the premise that sustainable development is participatory, inclusive and non-discriminatory, so that ‘no one is left behind’, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalised in society. One of the biggest challenges in achieving this bold vision will be found in fragile states, which have been torn apart by conflict and often suffer the effects of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war (UNDP- GICHD: Mine action and SDGs 2017)

²² UN Resolution adopted by the General Assembly - 9 Dec.2021 – A/RES/76/74

HRP 2021 - Protection Cluster - Mine Action - Strategic Objective 3: 'Protecting and assisting civilians' and Specific Objective 3.2: *'Human rights, inclusiveness, safety and dignity are promoted, and protection risks identified and addressed through protection monitoring, community-based mechanisms and humanitarian response'*.

HRP 2022 - Protection Cluster - Mine Action - Strategic Objective 3: 'Prevent and mitigate protection risks and facilitate redress for women, girls, boys and men, especially the displaced and most vulnerable civilians, through building resilience, provision of humanitarian assistance, specialized protection services and advocacy' and Specific Objective 3.2: *The human rights, inclusion, safety and dignity of all vulnerable groups without discrimination, with due account to age, gender, disability and social status, are promoted and protection risks identified and addressed through protection monitoring, child protection case management, mental health and psychosocial support, mine risk education, community-based mechanisms and targeted humanitarian responses.*

HRP 2023 - Protection Cluster - Mine Action - Strategic Objective 3: 'Prevent, reduce and mitigate protection risks and respond to protection needs by building a more protective environment, promoting compliance with IHL and IHRL, and providing principled assistance' and Specific Objective 3.2²³: *'Quality, specialized and integrated protection services address lifesaving protection needs, such as access to civil documentation, HLP rights, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), child protection critical services and case management, while reducing the impact of ERWs, with the provision of specialized and targeted protection services for people at risk of and experiencing violence, exploitation and abuse, as well as capacity building and advocacy'*.

27. According to United Nations Mine Action policies and guidelines, it is also important to mention that the EMA phase-II project is linked to:

- (i) The United Nations Resolution 'Assistance in Mine Action' adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 2021 (A/RES/76/74): para 4 p; 4/7 'Urges all Member States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, as well as the United Nations system and other relevant organizations and institutions involved in mine action, to support mine-affected States, upon request and as appropriate'²⁴.
- (ii) The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy launched by the UN Secretary-General in June 2019, to bring about lasting change on disability inclusion, in particular by ensuring, through advocacy and technical assistance, equal access for all persons with disabilities, including victims of mines and explosive ordnance²⁵.
- (iii) The United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023 (December 2018):
 - Strategic Outcome 1: Protection of individuals and communities from the risks and socio-economic impacts of explosive ordnance strengthened.
Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 1: Momentum and profile of mine action efforts, including through humanitarian assistance, human rights, peacebuilding, stabilization and sustainable development, maintained and enhanced.
 - Strategic Outcome 2: Survivors, family members and communities affected by explosive ordnance have equal access to health and education and participate fully in social and economic life.
Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 2: Mine action programmes address the specific needs of women, girls, men, and boys from diverse groups, while facilitating their empowerment and inclusion.
 - Strategic Outcome 3: National institutions effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities.

²³ HRP 2023 p.22- Specific objective 3.2: Partners will also increase focus on humanitarian mine action, including through increased ERW awareness raising activities and assistance to victims to reduce the impact of explosive hazards on civilians and humanitarian access.

²⁴UN A/RES/76/74 – 9 Dec. 2021 -Para 4, p.4/7 & 5/7: ...by providing: (a) Assistance to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war for the establishment and development of national mine action capacities, including in the fulfilment of the relevant international obligations of those countries and the implementation of national mine action strategies and plans; (b) Support for national and, where and as appropriate, local programmes, in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and relevant regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations, to reduce the risks posed by mines and explosive remnants of war, taking into consideration the different needs of women, girls, boys and men; (c) Reliable, predictable, timely and, where possible, multi-annual contributions for mine action activities, including through national mine action efforts and mine action programmes of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, including those relating to rapid response in humanitarian emergencies, victim assistance and mine risk education, especially at the local level, as well as through relevant national, regional and global trust funds, including the voluntary trust fund for assistance in mine action; (d) Necessary information and technical, financial and material assistance to locate, remove, destroy and otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines and explosive remnants of war, in accordance with international law, as soon as possible; (e) Technological assistance (i) to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war, and (ii) to promote user-oriented scientific research on and development of mine action techniques and technologies that are effective, sustainable, appropriate and environmentally sound;

²⁵ Ref. UN Resolution 'Assistance in Mine Action' adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 2021 (A/RES/76/74) p.3/7

- (iv) The United Nations Development Programme UNDP Handbook for capacity development in mine action (2021): 'The UNDP Capacity Development Framework classifies capacities in three dimensions (the enabling environment, the organizational and institutional level and the individual level)'....'the capacity development framework is organized into four categories – drivers of change (the most impact on strengthening and sustaining capacities²⁶): institutional arrangements, Leadership, Knowledge, and Accountability'²⁷.
- and (v) UN Gender Guidelines²⁸ for Mine action programme (2019): These United Nations Guidelines contribute to an effective implementation of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023 and to its greater positive impact. One of the five strategic outcomes calls for the mainstreaming of the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys from diverse groups, while facilitating their empowerment and inclusion, in a cross-cutting manner in all aspects of mine action programmes (extract p.1).

28. The project²⁹ addresses the physical and socio-economic impacts of ERW and mines on people and communities by (i) preventing the situation from worsening; (ii) relieving communities from the impact of current contamination and (iii) addressing the longer-term issues of international convention obligations.

The EMA Project Phase-II is committed to realize the following main outputs and activities:

- *Output 1: National Mine Action Authorities have improved capacities to carry-out mine activities that are consistent with priorities.*
 - Activity 1.1. Support the establishment and training of coordination bodies (mine action coordination centre - YMACC) and systems (IMSMA or adequate system) in the north areas following the example YMACC in the south areas, whilst continuing the development of the coordination mechanism in the southern areas.
 - Activity 1.2. Introduce modern land release methodologies and processes.
 - Activity 1.3 Provide professional advice and guidance to YEMAC/YMACC so that their operations become NMAS/IMAS compliant and gender sensitive.
 - Activity 1.4 Provide professional advice and training to YEMAC/YMACC on dealing with C-IED threat.
- *Output 2: ERW clearance and land release interventions are delivered in contaminated communities.*
 - Activity 2.1. Equip YEMAC demining/NTS/TS teams with necessary assets.
 - Activity 2.2. Support YEMAC to deploy teams to conduct clearance and land release activities and encourage the participation of women in these teams.
 - Activity 2.3. Provide professional advice to YEMAC so that their work aligns with IMAS thus increasing effectiveness and reducing accidents.
 - Activity 2.4. Provide professional advice to YEMAC so that their management systems become IMAS compliant with a particular focus on gender equality.
 - Activity 2.5. Train YEMAC staff on the most common IEDs encountered in Yemen, including incident coordination and control.
 - Activity 2.6. Establish and communicate to different actors the Prioritization systems (Prioritization matrix and Explosive Hazard matrix) so that they are utilized for 100% operations.
 - Activity 2.7 Support National Mine Action Authorities (NMAA) with developing capacities and responses to maritime contamination.

²⁶ Simply put, if capacity is the means to plan and achieve, then capacity development describes the ways to these means. An essential ingredient in the UNDP capacity development approach is transformation - UNDP Handbook for capacity development in mine action (2021) p.9.

²⁷ UNDP Handbook for capacity development in mine action (2021) p.8 and 10.

²⁸ These guidelines aim to provide practical steps to mainstream gender and promote gender equality in mine action programmes, based on experience from the sector. They are intended for use by both UN mine action field personnel and all other stakeholders with an interest in the promotion of gender mainstreaming in the sector, including both NGO and private operators, advocacy organizations, national authorities, donors, and other relevant national, international and UN counterparts (extract p.3)

²⁹ Mine Action (MA) AoR considered the unit cost of two different types of interventions: land release and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE): the unit cost of land release, based on all related operational, thematic, non-thematic, direct, and indirect costs (salaries of deminers, equipment purchase, office rentals) is US\$3.5 per square meter of land. The unit cost of EORE, based on training of trainers, allowances of those delivering EORE, EORE material, office rentals, per person is evaluated as US\$5 per person for EORE. The unit cost for both activities has been developed in consultation with all MA AoR members (UN and INGOs organizations (ref OCHA Humanitarian Response Plan/HRP 2023 p.71)

- ***Output 3:** The Yemen Mine Action Authorities have capacity to effectively coordinate, regulate and plan the mapping of ERW contamination and assessing the impact using primary and secondary sources and fulfill international treaty obligations.*
 - Activity 3.1. Coordinate and further develop the efforts of mine action actors to establish a system of collecting contamination data.
 - Activity 3.2. Continue to support the deployment of teams to conduct technical and non-technical surveys encouraging the participation of women to reflect the needs of women and girls.
 - Activity 3.3 Train YEMAC staff in IEDD philosophy/principles, incident management, and the use of semi-remote means to achieve the appropriate render safe of command, victim operated, time and projected IEDs.
- ***Output 4:** The communities at risk have increased their knowledge in identifying, dealing and avoiding mines and unexploded ordnance.*
 - Activity 4.1. Coordinate Explosive Ordnance Risk Education events with the participation of women national organizations.
 - Activity 4.2. Record notified accidents related to explosive hazard by gender and age.
 - Activity 4.3. Support the coordination role of YMACC/YEMAC and their efforts to deliver effective messages on the ground highlighting risks specific to women and girls.
 - Activity 4.4. Support the inclusion of Community liaison activities in YEMAC and other actors in the Risk Education toolbox to conduct victims' surveillance activities.
 - Activity 4.5. Support national counterparts with coordinating efforts on surveying ERW survivors.

29. In achieving these outputs, the project expects to (i) contribute to a wider developmental change which will result in enabling, countrywide, Yemeni households and communities to effectively cope with the impact of the crisis and to rebuild their resilience; and (ii) strengthen confidence in and preserve and build the institutional capacities of NMAC, YEMAC, YMACC and third parties to deliver essential services to citizens.

30. The UNDP's Emergency Mine Action Project Phase-II, which started in October 2021, contributes considerably to a wide spectrum of mine action activities in Yemen through supporting the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC), the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) and the last established structure the Yemen Mine Action Co-ordination Centre (YMACC). UNDP acts in an advisory role covering technical implementation and methodologies, policy issues at the central level, planning processes through the full project cycle, and resource mobilization. In addition, UNDP supports the relevant national bodies with basic running cost, including incentives for the personnel involved in Mine Action operations due to the lack of national budget and payment of salaries since the start of the conflict. The total resources required for the overall period (October 2021 to September 2026) is USD 75,968.750³⁰ (of which USD 14.8M has been secured so far with Germany, Netherlands, UK, US DoS, UNOCHA and UNDP for the period October 2021 to March 2023).

2- Evaluation purpose, objectives, criteria, and approach

2.1. Purpose

31. As per the Terms of Reference (ToR), UNDP has commissioned between May and June 2023 an independent final evaluation to assess the project's progress towards restoration of services and access to key infrastructure, reducing injuries and fatalities, and normalization of recovery and economic activity in targeted areas, and may influence the continuation of the project or act as a final evaluation should no further funding be available. Due to funding shortfalls, UNDP is beginning the process of closing out and entering in a "recalibration phase" of its intervention in the mine action sector.

The final project evaluation serves as an important learning and accountability tool, providing the UNDP members, Authorities, key national stakeholders and donors in the targeted governorates and districts, with an impartial assessment of the results generated, including gender equality measures and women's empowerment. The evaluation assesses the project's relevance, effectiveness/outcome (impact), efficiency and sustainability, identify and document lessons learned, and provide recommendations to inform future project phases. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation will guide the key stakeholders, relevant Yemen institutions and authorities, project donors, UNDP, UN agencies, civil society organizations in the implementation of related future programme and support inclusion and leaving no one behind.

³⁰ EMAP II project ToR Final Evaluation March 2023 p.3.

In line with this requirement, an international consultant has been engaged remotely (due to security situation) to work with a national consultant on site to undertake the review.

2.2. Objectives and criteria.

32. In summary, the evaluation is to analyze the results and performance of the project to date, identify key constraints and challenges, record early signs of potential outcome (impact) of the project interventions, and identify and document lessons learned. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation will guide the key stakeholders, relevant Yemen institutions and authorities, project donors, UNDP, UN agencies, civil society organizations for continued achievement of results, should funding be available.

The specific final evaluation objectives are to:

- (1) Assess the relevance and strategic positioning of the Emergency Mine Action project phase-II and whether the initial assumptions are still relevant;
- (2) Assess (i) the progress made towards project results and whether there were any unintended results; (ii) what can be captured in terms of lessons learned, best practices and recommendations for future continuation of activities and consolidation of results;
- (3) Assess whether the project management arrangements, country office support, approaches, and strategies, including monitoring strategies and risk management approaches, were well-conceived and efficient in delivering the project;
- (4) Assess the overall contribution of the projects towards humanitarian-peace-development nexus and whether there are indications of sustaining the project's results after the end of the project;
- (5) Analyze the extent to which the project enhanced application of a rights-based approach, gender equality and women's empowerment, social and environmental standards, and participation of other socially vulnerable groups such as children and the disabled.

33. The final evaluation covered the four project outputs as follows:

- *Output 1:* National Mine Action Authorities have improved capacities to carry-out mine activities that are consistent with priorities;
- *Output 2:* ERW clearance and land release interventions are delivered in contaminated communities;
- *Output 3:* The Yemen Mine Action Authorities have capacity to effectively coordinate, regulate and plan the mapping of ERW contamination and assessing the impact using primary and secondary sources and fulfill international treaty obligations;
- *Output 4:* The communities at risk have increased their knowledge in identifying, dealing and avoiding mines and unexploded ordnance.

34. In particular aspects linked to humanitarian mine action support project, the evaluation sought to understand the extent to which the UNDP contribution to mine action has strengthened national institutional capacities (mainly YEMAC, YMACC) to deliver responsive mine action services for affected communities that reduce vulnerability, enable the restoration of services and equitable development in targeted cleared areas, enhance the role of women, advance the rights of persons with disabilities and support compliance with relevant international treaties.

35. In addition to assessing the above-mentioned objectives, the evaluation explored concrete development through three key evaluation questions (as per UNDP Evaluation Guidelines/IEO³¹ June 2021):

1- Relevance/Coherence: What did the project intend to achieve during the period under review (October 2021-March 2023)? Is it consistent with other interventions in mine action sectors?

2- Efficiency/ Sustainability: What factors contributed to or hindered project' performance and ultimately, the sustainability for continued realization of results?

3- Effectiveness/impacts (outputs): To what extent has the project achieved (or is likely to achieve) its intended objectives? (Towards restoration of services and access to key infrastructure, reducing injuries and fatalities, and normalization of economic activity in targeted areas; addressing issues of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), human rights and disability; and forging partnerships at different levels, including with government institutions, donors, UN agencies, international operators (INGOs), field worker's and communities).

³¹ UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)

This process enabled data to be assembled and analyzed to answer key evaluation questions and assess the performance of the EMA phase-II project against the evaluation criteria.

The evaluation identified some good practice, lessons learned and made conclusions followed by recommendations. The evaluation has been also approached with the view to evolving and prioritizing a new perspective on action, favored by a learning process (individual and collective) and appropriation of results and optimization of the ability to generate change. The evaluation used a collaborative and participatory approach to ensure close engagement with the UNDP team, government counterparts, mine action actors, donors, and other key stakeholders. The team of consultants developed an evaluation matrix as a map and reference in planning and conducting the final evaluation with refined questions (annex 4).

36. A different set of evaluation questions has been adapted to specific interlocutors (annex 3) in a way that ensures collection of data related to gender equality and empowerment of women as well as giving enough space for women to voice their view through considering a gender-balanced sample, as possible, for conducting KIIs with key stakeholders together with interviews and FGDs with beneficiaries. This makes the sample adequate to collect data disaggregated by gender while addressing the gender aspects and opportunities for women and men. However, the sampling strategy considers the nature of the project interventions and local traditions that, in some cases, limit the women participation in the physical implementation of the project interventions and field activities.

37. The final evaluation dealt with the global dimension in the emergency context of the UNDP Yemen mine action support project, articulated around five results chains within the theory of change (ToC) of the project: (i) Risk education and locating, clearing and removing ERW and releasing land that is not contaminated (Benefits to communities: strengthening resilience; mitigating risks and increasing access to resources, livelihoods); (ii) link to SDGs, Yemen UNSDCF & UNDP CPD 2023-2024 (EMA links to country development agenda); (iii) Effectiveness and efficiency of National Mine Action Authorities strengthened (Governance of Mine Action & National Ownership); (iv) Information Management and IPs Coordination fostered and donor reporting nurtured (Information Management & IPs Coordination & Donor reporting); and (v) Monitoring and evaluation systems in place to document lessons learned , good practices and risk management improving project implementation (Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Managing Risks). The below figure 2 outlines the relationship between the results chains and the key questions examined in this evaluation.

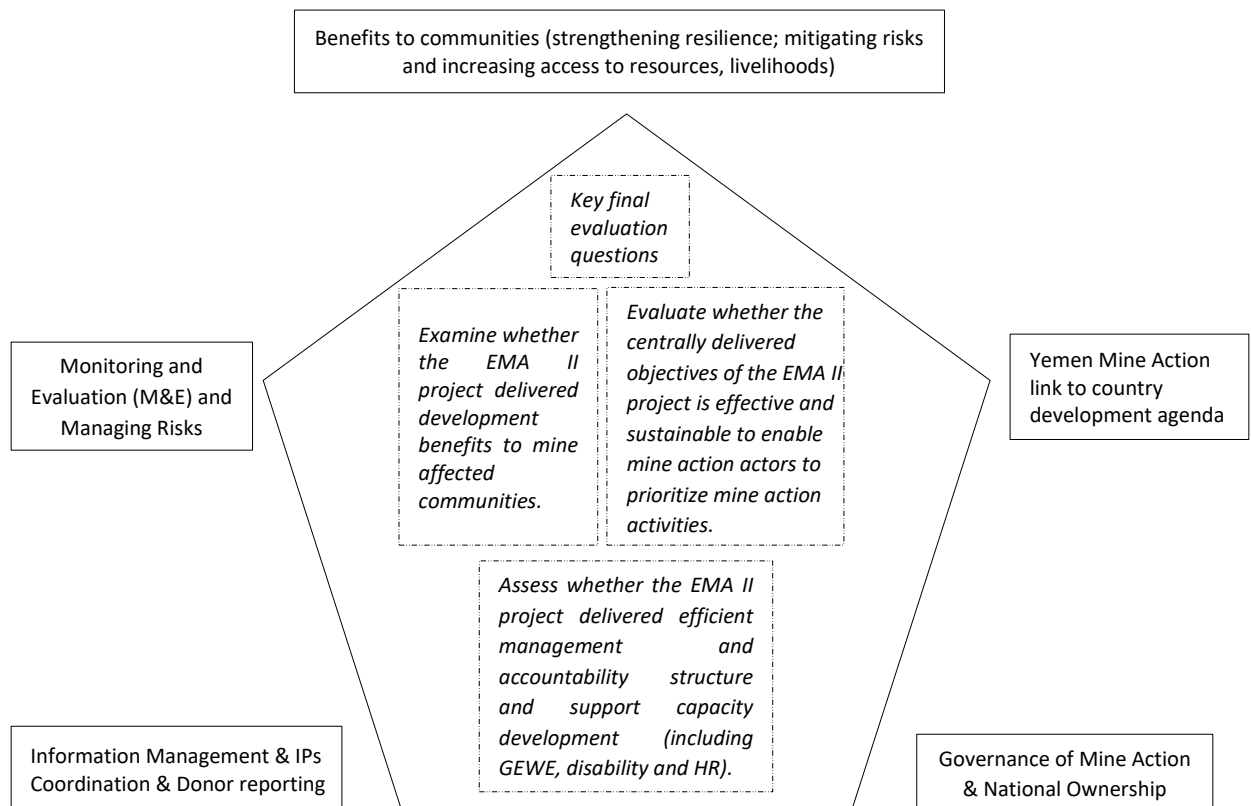


Figure 2: EMA II project results chains compared to key final evaluation questions.

2.3. Evaluation approach.

38. The evaluation has been also approached with the view of ‘evaluating to evolve’, prioritizing (i) a new perspective on action, promoted by a learning process (individual and collective) and appropriation of results and (ii) optimization of the ability to generate change. The evaluation used a collaborative and participatory approach to ensure close engagement with the UNDP team, national counterparts, mine action actors, donors, and other project stakeholders.

39. In view of the many challenges in the field related to mine action, the evaluation nurtures accountability, enables learning, undertakes adjustments if necessary and “challenges” the actors in a spirit of sharing, collaborative process, and dialogue without impediment. Evaluation from a learning perspective allows (i) the assessment of the scope of the action and the relevance of its objectives, (2) learning from experiences and differences, and (3) enlightenment and support for the actors in their decisions.

3- Evaluation scope, methodology, constraints, and limitations.

3.1. Managing the final evaluation.

40. The final evaluation workplan was broken down into four distinct steps: (i) inception, (ii) country research and data collection, (iii) data analysis/interpretation, and (iv) reporting/finalization, showed in the figure 3 below.

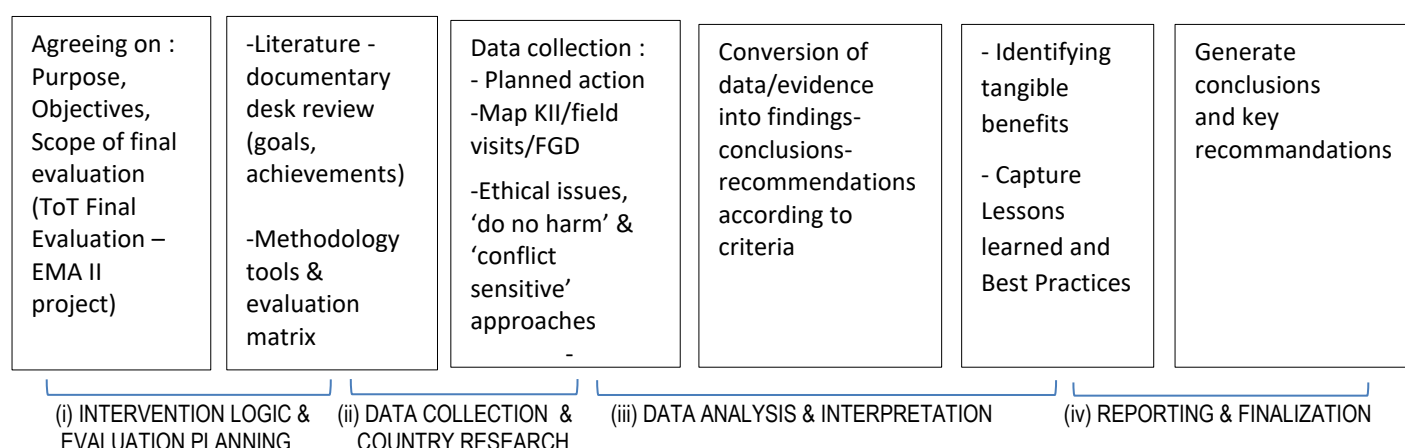


Figure 3: EMA II project final evaluation: workplan of the methodological approach.

3.2. Methodology

41. The final evaluation (FE) follows the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) evaluation norms and standards (2017 revision), and the UNDP “PME Handbook” established by the UNDP in 2009 and revised in 2011, the UNDP Outcome-level evaluation, a companion guide to the Handbook on Planning, Monitoring and evaluation for development results for programme units and evaluators, December 2011, the UNDG, Results-Based Management Handbook, Harmonizing RBM concepts and approaches for improved development results at country level, October 2011, as well as the updated UNDP evaluation guidelines of 2021. This final evaluation is carried out under the provisions of the revised UNDP Evaluation Policy of 2019 and followed also a “utilization-focused evaluation” approach that is described by M. Q. Patton (1998).

The evaluation also considered the following documentation: UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021; UNEG Guidance on Evaluating Institutional Gender Mainstreaming (2018); UNEG Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equity in Evaluation (2014) and UNDP Disability Inclusive Development (Guidance Note 2018) and the international mine action standard document -IMAS 14.10 ‘Guide for the evaluation of mine action activities’ (2007 rev. 2013). The evaluation explored aspects regarding human rights, gender equality, disability and women empowerment (GEWE) within the project.

42. With reference to the terms of reference, the criteria for undertaking the final evaluation are the standard criteria used for project evaluations: relevance/coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. Originally the definitions of each of the evaluation criteria had been given by the OECD/DAC in its glossary of

key terms in evaluation and results-based management in 2002. However, in 2019 the evaluation criteria were revised and updated as follows³²:

Relevance: ‘The extent to which the intervention objectives and design respond to female/male beneficiaries and partner/institution needs, policies and priorities and continue to do so circumstances change’ and whether the project addresses gender issues and helps women overcome challenges or limitations. It’s also considered how mine action project support fits in with the link of the SDGs related to mine action intervention (see annex 7) and with national development plans, UNSDCF, CPD, HRP (AoR) and other developmental assistance at national and community levels.

Coherence: ‘The compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in a country, sector or institution’. Coherence considers the consistency of the intervention with other actors’ interventions in the same context. This includes complementarity, harmonization and co-ordination with others, and the extent to which the intervention is adding value while avoiding duplication of effort.

Effectiveness: ‘The extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results, including any differential result across groups.’ It is important to note henceforth, that the beneficiary’s satisfaction is direct, and its primary effects are covered by effectiveness. The effectiveness of UNDP support is determined by assessing the development of government ownership, structures, and initiative to support mine-affected communities in surveys, clearance and mine survivors and their families. This includes a review of the expected and actual outputs of UNDP support, based on information from UNDP, national authority records and field visits. In other words, effectiveness implies ‘doing the right job’ while efficiency is ‘doing the job right’. The extent to which the project contributed to gender equality including improved access to services and skills, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights has been assessed.

Efficiency: ‘The extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way.’ Looking at the efficiency of inputs to outcome (impact) and the M&E systems as well as the theory of change (ToC) utilized by the project as effective and efficient project management tools. The assessment assessed whether the project has collected sex-disaggregated data and monitored, reported, and communicated gender-related results.

Sustainability: ‘The extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue or are likely to continue.’ The continuation of services provided and supported by UNDP depends essentially on whether (a) those capacities are firmly embedded in the respective national institutions, and (b) the national authorities have sufficient resources or can reasonably expect sufficient external support. The project assessed also if gender equality and/or women empowerment is likely to be of increased or sustained beyond the project end.

Impact/ Outcome achievement: ‘The extent to which the intervention has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended, or unintended higher-level effects.’ It seeks to assess ‘impact’ as outcome achievement in term of response to the needs which introduced changes that make the life of beneficiaries and local communities easier, with respect to the safety of inhabitants and the opportunities afforded by the release of previously hazardous areas.

43. The relevance of **human rights, gender and disability** issues within the EMA phase-II project are recognized. Societal inclusion of disadvantaged and disabled persons, marginalized groups as well as gender equality concerns in mine action activities will be considered by the evaluation team and the involvement of beneficiaries in the project. Aspects such as the collection and storage of data disaggregated by gender and age have been addressed, along with the gender aspects of priority setting and an assessment of the opportunities for women and men to be employed by the various mine action organizations involved with the project. The EMA Phase-II project is a GEN2³³ project which means that the project should contribute in a significant way to gender equality and women’s empowerment.

The assessment appreciated in general, the extent to which gender equality and the empowerment of women has been addressed in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project, and whether the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women including gender roles/access to services and skills.

44. The final evaluation covered the period of project implementation from 01 October 2021 to 31 March 2023 within nine project locations (annex 14) between the northern and southern part of the country. The evaluation

³² <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

³³ UNCT Gender Equality Marker (GEM) Guidance Note (June 2019): GEN 2: GEWE is a significant objective of the Key Activity’s overall intent: Key Activity and its accompanying indicators clearly capture that gender equality is significantly mainstreamed into the broader work planned.

assessed progress made on key indicators agreed with all project stakeholders. In addition to assessing the relevance, effectiveness/outcome (impact), efficiency of the project, the evaluation aimed to a) explore the key factors that have contributed to the achieving or not achieving of the intended results, and b) determine the extent to which the project contributed towards the restoration of services and access to key infrastructure, reducing injuries and fatalities, and the normalization of economic activity in targeted areas; addressing crosscutting issues of gender equality and women's empowerment and human rights; and whether any such changes have extended more broadly to persons with disability and forging partnerships at different levels, including with government institutions, donors, UN agencies, and communities; c) assess the potential sustainability of the project for a continued realization of results; and d) note lessons learned and best practices and make recommendations for future mine action projects.

The final evaluation encompassed as far as possible, programme conceptualization, design, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of results. The evaluation engaged a significant number of project stakeholders, benefitting communities/institutions, authorities in the governorates and districts covered by the project, funding partners, UNDP, UN agencies and partnering CSOs.

3.3. Data collection instruments and analysis

45. The evaluation used a combination of methods approach when made it possible but addressed outcome analysis from a qualitative perspective based on inclusive key stakeholder perceptions and contribution analysis. Evidence was collected by literature review, desk research, key informant interviews (remotely and in-person) and in-site observations, from a range of data and triangulate the findings. The final evaluation process included:

a) *Desk review:* A literature review and analysis of relevant background materials was used to inform the evaluation and situate findings against best practice materials. Project package documents shared by the evaluation manager and the project planning and monitoring specialist, supplemented with subsequent documentation requested by the evaluation team, including quantitative and descriptive project information, leading to the preparation of the inception report. Desk research was undertaken to find and analyze relevant background materials. The key data sources for the evaluation included EMA phase-II project staff, national partners, UN identities, national and international organizations, INGOs, project documents and meeting minutes records, annual progress reports, TPM reports, information management system data, field success stories as well as available documentation on various websites and other evidentiary evidence. Information project results and practices was in most cases readily available.

b) *Interviews and in-country data collection:*

- On the basis of the term of reference for this independent final evaluation, key evaluation questions of the analytical framework have formed the basis of the work. Interviews conducted and testimonies gathered were used to triangulate and support findings and conclusions of this report.

Following the initial desk analysis of strategic project documents, progress reports, and secondary sources, primary data was gathered through semi-structured, opened, individual and group interviews with a total of 81 stakeholders and actors between Sana'a and Aden areas, with the international and the national consultant remotely/on-line and in-person (field level/individual meetings and focus group discussions/FGD with 4 to 8 persons each) including 36% of women (annex 2), especially in the sectors devoted to capacity strengthening, operations management (Survey, clearance, monitoring, information management, risk education) coordination, and training including Gender, human rights and disability issues. Where possible direct beneficiaries (51%) interviewees have been interviewed in gender disaggregated groups including women and vulnerable persons. Worth mentioning in this regard is that each interviewee in the sites represented and/or supervised thousands of beneficiaries which makes the sample size adequate and representative.

- Respondents were not asked simply to respond to questions but encouraged to enter an open dialogue with the evaluators. In line with 'Do No Harm' principles, participation in any aspect of the evaluation was on a confidential, voluntary, informed consent basis. Participants were made aware of the purpose of the project, how findings may be used and who will have access to the findings. Participants were free to withdraw their participation at any time, without explanation. The evaluation only assessed components strictly relevant to the project and therefore did not expose participants to inquiry extending beyond the scope of the project.

- Having in mind the extensive list of possible interviewees, a purposive evaluation sample was considered based on (i) the role in the project (national institutions and international organization/institutions, donors, implementing agencies, contractors, INGOs, communities) and stakeholders who have first-hand knowledge about the initiative's operations and context as well as beneficiaries; (ii) territorial coverage and security access

and (iii) outputs coverage (1,2,3,4). The key informant selection process sought to incorporate a wide variety of voices and perspectives from amongst the available pool of potential interviewees and formed part of the gender and leave no one behind considerations underpinning the approach to this final evaluation. Key evaluation questions and related collection methods/sources and data analysis for each question are outlined in the evaluation matrix (annex 4).

c) *On-site observation* within the selected areas of intervention provided a snapshot of mine contamination conditions, including that was delivered by the project (on-going activities, social interactions, livelihoods, remoteness and observable results). As the access to northern places was limited for security reasons; the sample was concentrated to the southern part of the country.

d) The *distillation of findings, conclusions, and recommendations* from the large body of results/evidence collected involved as iterative process of analysis and interpretation. The use of multiple sources of information (KII, FGDs, documents, reports/outputs...) helped to triangulate findings to provide as accurate a view as possible of UNDP's contribution to the EMA phase-II project.

- Methods of triangulation involved checking the consistency of findings generated by different data collection methods and data sources. To improve the quality of data analysis, develop comprehensive understandings of available data, and validity of findings, data triangulation was performed by capturing then analyzing quantitative and qualitative data from a variety of sources (as outlined above). This included primary data/results of mine action operations provided by the project in MS excel tables and power BI Dashboards.

- Quantitative data has been analyzed using cross tabulations and Excel spreadsheets. For qualitative data, two types of qualitative analyses used such as content analysis and narrative analysis, together with two approaches including deductive and inductive approaches. Through content analysis, the patterns emerging from texts, answers and narratives were identified by grouping content into words, concepts, and themes. Flow charts and matrices utilized for both qualitative and quantitative analyses. All data were verified, triangulated, and used to corroborate the reliability of evidence and subjected to further analysis drawing on the theory of change to develop conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned about the project and its interaction with national levels.

- The availability of gender and disability data was mixed. The evaluation team sought to identify relevant data wherever possible, and eliciting views from key informants accordingly. Where possible, data has been presented in the report disaggregated by gender/disability (annex 11).

e) *Draft report and final report*: A draft report of the evaluation findings, lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations is submitted to the Country Office and the evaluation manager for comments. All comments addressed in the final evaluation report. Nonetheless, the views expressed in the report are those of the evaluators based on evidence collected by them.

3.4. Constraints and limitations

46. The travel restrictions posed by the security situation forced the international consultant to cancel the planned in-country data collection mission to Yemen and work remotely. Through recent experience, to conduct remote project evaluation, accessibility to stakeholders i.e government, national counterparts and other actors is an issue as they may be working from home and subject to uncertain availability.

47. To mitigate these challenges, including the limited capacity to conduct in-person interviews and interact with different stakeholder groups and communities benefiting from UNDP's support, the international consultant (IC) has been assisted by a national consultant (NC). The national consultant brought his knowledge of the country through his experience of working on field community issues related the response in crisis environments to support the international consultant working remotely. The national consultant contributed to the research, supporting in-person and remote interviews, interacting with different stakeholder/focus groups and communities as well as providing his inputs into the final evaluation report and the corresponding analysis. He did field visits and data collection on issues such as human rights and Gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE). This complementary team approach has been a significant advantage in overcoming delays by clearly structuring evaluation team roles and responsibilities, regular informal catch ups during the evaluation, synchronizing data capture tools and storing evaluation data in a shared/secure location to enable joint working throughout and providing support during field interviews.

The evaluation team took a structured, purposeful approach to the design and delivery of the evaluation, utilizing their expertise to identify approaches and data sources most likely to provide the data required to enable an efficient and useful evaluation product to be delivered.

48. Given (1) the security situation in the country, (2) long distances, travel delays and road constraints as well as difficulties in obtaining safety clearance access from relevant authorities for conducting field visits and (3) the time set aside for data collection over a period of at least three weeks, the evaluation team visited a limited number of interventions as described above and based on their learning value, and on the four components³⁴ of the project. The in-site visits were conducted to five governorates as follows, (1) Sana'a (North) and (2) Aden (3) Abyan (4) Lahij and (5) Hadramout (South). However, interviews with stakeholders in other governorates (e.g. Hudaydah and Western coast of Taiz) conducted remotely considering the safe access and security of the sites as well as the needed authorizations for conducting field visits. This provided an opportunity to obtain feedback from national/local institutions and direct beneficiaries as well as from direct on-site observation data to support and triangulate³⁵ data from other sources.

49. According to the sensitivity of the situation and to prevent connectivity problems, the evaluation team has shared in advance the list of questions with interviewees to speed up the process and facilitate interviewee preparation. This has included efforts to ensure the evaluation process, did not raise false expectations and their respondents were aware of their role in the evaluation process and of the independence of the evaluation team. Not all Key Informants were available for interview – of the 52 requested individual interviews with a kind email reminder, 39 were completed. To mitigate the unavailability of interviewees, the evaluation team broadened the scope and depth of its secondary data review by including external review, utilized various country progress reports, in particular the technical working group meeting minutes to cross-reference the data and validate findings. The evaluators worked closely with the UNDP project team regarding project reflections/analysis of stakeholders and donors involved. However, the evaluation team was content that the total number of 81 interviews (KII and FGD) provided extensive comments and combined with other data sources, represented a sufficient number in terms of overall data quality and considered in the finalization of the report.

3.5. Ethics

50. The evaluators have adhered to, respected, and followed the UNEG Ethical Guidelines (2008 revised 2020) when conducting this final evaluation in a sensitive and ethical manner, addressing language, gender and data-confidentiality issues, taking into consideration the four UNEG guiding ethical principles for evaluation as follows:

(1) *Integrity*: In accordance with the challenges of this final evaluation and its sensitive environment, the process was conducted on the basis of truthfulness through the communication and actions based on the extensive field experience of the evaluators. This involved cross cultural issues and trustworthy behavior within independence; impartiality and incorruptibility within a 'do no harm' approach; and treating people fairly. Individuals' rights were respected in a humble way.

(2) *Accountability*: The evaluation team was fully transparent and open minded regarding the evaluation purpose and actions taken. It established trust particularly in those communities affected by the evaluation. Questions have been adapted in respect of the audience and accurately reported to the mine action partners and beneficiaries in order to ensure advice and recognition as needed.

(3) *Respect*: The evaluators carefully focused their attention on facilitating access to the on-going evaluation in a fair treatment of all relevant stakeholders enrolled in the evaluation. This would be as an active participant rather than being solely an issue of data collection. Consideration for the fair representation of different voices and perspectives in reporting an evaluation product as well as any harm that may result from an evaluation has been taken into consideration with due attention to the nature of the crisis environment.

(4) *Beneficence*: Being aware of the potential risks and benefits of the evaluation, ensuring the evaluation contributes positively to the increased safety of the communities has been one of the main concerns of the evaluators.

3.6. Evaluation ratings table

51. The appraisal of the results (either positive or negative) is based on the perception of the different key informants' interviews (either through Key Informant Interviews or through Focus Group Discussions) to identify the changes that took place for the different stakeholders, and contribution analysis to establish if the project

³⁴ (i) Capacity development, (ii) clearance & land release, (iii) mapping ERW contamination mapping and (iv) EORE.

³⁵ Data validation: The triangulated findings (objective and factual) is used from three different sources if available to ensure credibility and substantiate the assessment.

results were factors that contributed to the outcome and the possible changes produced at institutional level. The final evaluation's interpretation of the data collected gives rise to the following ratings applied to each evaluation criteria in the report:

- ⑤ Highly satisfactory: the expected results were largely achieved and/or exceeded all expectations.
- ④ Satisfactory: the level of results is acceptable and encouraging, despite manageable shortcomings.
- ③ Moderately satisfactory: the results are promising but more efforts are needed to reach an acceptable level of objectives' achievement.
- ② Moderately unsatisfactory: the degree of results obtained remains low compared to expectations.
- ① Highly unsatisfactory: the project has failed to achieve objectives with no worthwhile benefits; numerous deficiencies with very few results.

4- Mine action progress and achievements

4.1. Overview

52. Civilians continue to face serious risks to their safety, well-being, and the realization of their basic rights with heightened risks reported by women, children, the elderly, the disabled and marginalized groups. Indiscriminate fighting and the use of explosive weapons near densely populated areas continue to be a major cause of civilian deaths and injuries, with ongoing threats in many districts near multiple active frontlines throughout the last eight years of conflict. Their impact is devastating as they continue to destroy lives, livelihoods, vital infrastructure, essential social services, and people's futures.

Children and women are greatly affected by the ongoing conflict and the present threat of explosive remnants of war is severely affecting local communities, internally displaced people and migrants. According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 (HNO), document from OCHA, the estimated number of people in need of assistance in the mine action sector is 7 million (24% of the total population), with 1.7 million (men); 1.7 million (women); 1.6 million (girls) and 1.7 (boys). Children represents 47% of the people in need of operations related to mine action activities (risk education, clearance, and survivors' assistance). 65% of the 7 million are in acute need³⁶.

53. The landmines and other ERW contamination of houses and land poses a danger to the return of displaced persons to their places of residence, limiting the availability of safe land and property³⁷, and hampering the protection of housing, land and property rights (HLP)³⁸. In the current context, the protection of HLP rights faces impediments that affect the efforts of IDPs to end their displacement and find durable solutions. The presence of ERW hinders access to health-care facilities, the delivery of lifesaving humanitarian assistance and with blocked escape routes they prevent the proper operation and maintenance of essential services, as well as significantly delay in reconstruction efforts and socio-economic development.

Explosive ordnance contamination through conflict has forced communities to abandon certain areas which used to be cultivatable agricultural land that provided livelihoods and cash crops for the domestic market. Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) - which are the result of the use of heavy explosive weapons in those areas - continue to present a lethal hazard for civilians, notably children, long after active hostilities have ended.

54. For the purpose of planning UNDP interventions ('make Yemen a safer and more resilient nation'), the project' outputs (annex 9) were understood to focus upon four areas:

- (i) completing the development of the National Mine Action Standards;
- (ii) expanding the national mine action capacity within INGO presence to increase an effective response in Yemen (Coordination/YMACC; Executive (Operations)/YEMAC);
- (iii) developing community policing with related activities to block the spread of new threats such as Improvised Explosive Devices;
- (iv) fostering a safe overall working and living environment and ultimately supporting social cohesion and peace building efforts.

³⁶ HNO 2023 - 3.6 Protection cluster: AOR Mine Action p.72.

³⁷ Source: Yemen: Challenges to housing, Land and Property rights, 14 April 2023- ACAPS Analysis Hub.

³⁸ Housing, land and property rights (HLP) are about having a home, free from the fear of forced eviction; a place that offers shelter, safety and the ability to secure livelihood opportunities. HLP includes the full spectrum of rights to housing, land and property held according to statutory or customary law or informally — both public and private housing, land and/or property assets. Land rights are rights held to both land and natural resources. Access to HLP rights is foundational to socio-economic inclusion and an essential steppingstone for displaced people to rebuild their lives (Source: <http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/AoR/HLP>).

55. During the period under review/evaluation (October 2021-March 2023), the second phase of the emergency mine action support project through ERW clearance operations activities of YEMAC North and South³⁹ (annex 11) reached;

- an average of 3.1 million indirect beneficiaries⁴⁰ and 611,050 direct beneficiaries of land release activities across the country (predominantly spot tasks, clearance of the small to high threat challenges, Mine /ERW high impact areas targeting infrastructure, population and livelihoods);

- and over 6.4 million (62% children and 18% women) received lifesaving mine/explosive ordnance risk education (MRE/EORE), through YEMAC activities and other partners including UNICEF, in the northern and the southern parts of the country, covering a yearly average of 17 governorates and up to 160 districts.

Table 1: Global result of direct beneficiaries (percentage) from explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and land release activities.

Beneficiaries	Children (17 or younger)	Men	Women
Beneficiaries of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)	62 %	20 %	18 %
		Adults: 38 %	
Beneficiaries of Land release activities	46 %	28 %	26 %
		Adults: 54%	

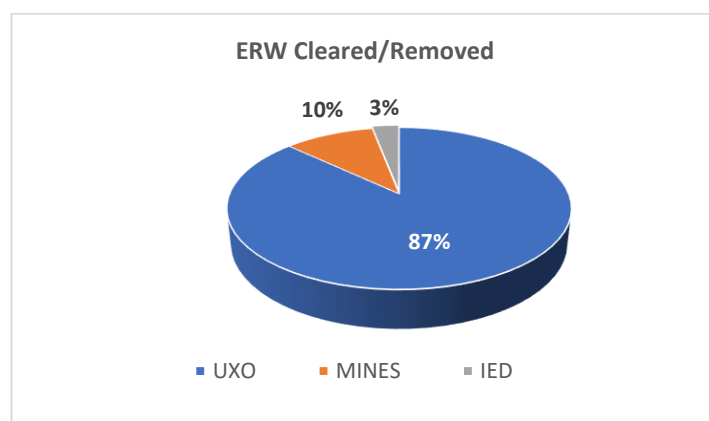
The YEMAC field teams (north and south) cleared over 118,000 different pieces of explosive remnants of war including (10%) of mines (Anti-personnel, Anti vehicle, and sea mines); (87%) of abandoned explosive ordnance-AXO /unexploded ordnance (mix UXO, cluster munitions, rockets, missiles, and fuses); and improvised explosive devices (3%) from over 8.9 million square meters of land cleared⁴¹.

Due to limited access into the north areas, the Mine action presence is limited to humanitarian demining, while in south areas, there is a development dimension to the support brought to the sector.

The figure 4 hereunder shows the mine action areas of operations from October 2021 to March 2023 (Source YMACC IMSMA Maps)

Table 2: ERW cleared/removed.
(October 2021 – March 2023)

UXOs	87%
Mines	10%
IEDs	3%



³⁹ YEMAC active demining personnel is about 1200 (500 in the North and 700 in the South areas).

⁴⁰ Beneficiaries is defined as, "the individuals, groups, or organisations, whether targeted or not, that benefit directly or indirectly, from the development intervention." Other terms, such as rights holders or affected people, may also be used (OCDE/DAC December 2019).

⁴¹ To improve mine clearance performance and to enhance safety of demining personnel, the Yemen mine action project uses mine detection and clearance techniques as manual clearance, mechanical clearance and mine detection dogs (MDD) within field survey & clearance tasks /demining operations (hazardous area clearance, battle area clearance (BAC), EOD spot task, explosive storage houses clearance, demolition of ammunition and ERW destruction)

Mine Action Operational Districts in Yemen

From January - November 2022

The map displays the administrative divisions of Yemen, with green shaded areas representing MA Operational Districts. These districts are distributed across various governorates, including Al Hudaydah, Amman, Hajjah, Al Jawf, Ma'rib, Shabwah, Al Hudaydah, Dhahran, Al Bayda, Ibb, Al Mahawil, Eilat, and others. A legend identifies the symbols for MA Operational Districts (green), Districts (white), and Governorates (black outline). A scale bar indicates distances up to 60 km, and a north arrow is present. An inset map shows the location of Yemen within the Arabian Peninsula.

Legend

- MA Operational Districts
- Districts
- Governorates

Disclaimer and Data Source

This product is confidential and exclusive property of the United Nations Development Program. It is designed for operational requirements and should neither be disseminated outside the United Nations nor sold.

The geographic data, names, administration and political boundaries used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by United Nations.

Base-map Background: OSIM
Data source: Mine Action Achievement Reports from Implementing Partners both in IIG & DFA areas.
Information date: Jan - Nov 2022

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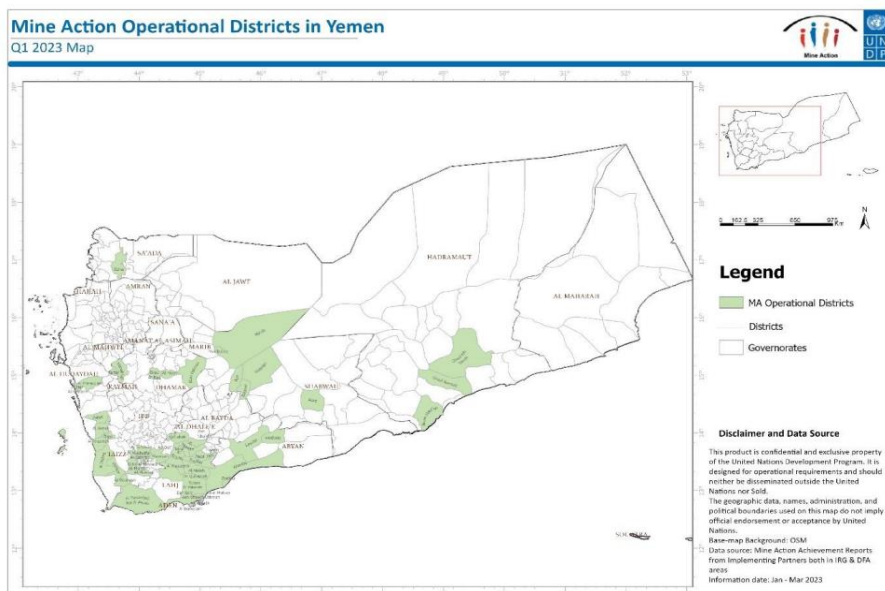


Figure 4: Yemen Mine Action Area of Operations October 2021 – March 2023 (Maps YMACC)

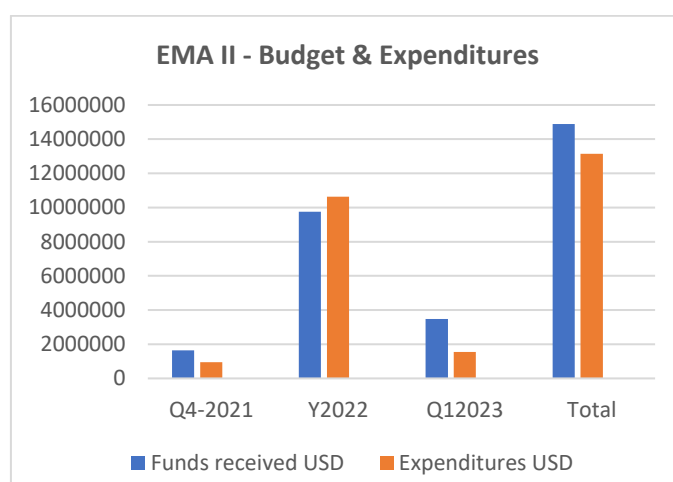
56. In 2022, the project supported mine clearance operations with the renewal of equipment, through funding from OCHA, 200 personal protective equipment (PPE) and 200 metal detectors were purchased for the YEMAC North operations. In addition, through direct funds from UNDP, 100 additional metal detectors will be also handed over to YEMAC North once administrative clearance is obtained from the authorities to move this shipment from Djibouti to YEMAC Sana'a.

57. The Project was successful in fund raising in the past: during the lifecycle of the previous phase one (2017-2021) the total funds mobilized came to \$47M through the generous contributions of US DoS, The Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Italy, UK (DFID than FCDO), EU and UNOCHA. Between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2023, the cumulative budget available was USD 14.8M of which 88% (USD 13.1M) was utilized until end of March 2023 (annex 12).

Table 3: Summary of Budget/Expenditures
(01 October 2021 – 31 March 2023: 18 months)

Year	Budget USD	Expenditures USD
Q4-2021	1 650 000.00	953 299.00 (58%)
Y 2022	9 756 473.64	10 630 737.00 (109%)
Q 1- 2023	3 485 933.81	1 556 466.00 (45%)
Total	14 892 407.45	13 140 502.00 (88%)

Contributors	October 2021 – March 2023	
Netherlands	5 432 405.00	36 %
USDOS	3 159 751.00	21 %
UNOCHA-YHF	2 700 591.45	18 %
Germany	1 484 527.00	10 %
UNDP (TRAC)	1 401 367.00	9 %
UN (CERF)	411 554.00	3 %
UK-FCDO	302 212.00	2 %
Total	14 892 407.45	100%



Since the implementation of the Phase-II activities from October 2021, several Donors declared the discontinuation of their support for mine action activities in Yemen, namely the EU, Canada, Italy, UK FCDO. The project has seen its needs dwindled over the last months with the recent withdrawal of former donors (UK in March 2022 and Germany in December 2022). The Government of Germany, a long-standing supporter of mine action activities in Yemen has so far not announced any potential continued funding. This leaves the Project at present with only the Netherlands, OCHA and US DoS funding for 2023. Today, lack of funding may prove to be a critical constraint for Yemen's mine action programme, as only a third of the required annual funds have been secured for 2023.

58. Due to a funding shortage, since the first quarter of 2023, the UNDP international Mine Action management team composed initially of six experts⁴², three of whom left the project between October 2021 and mid-2022, and two others on assignment outside the country, since the first quarter of 2023⁴³, has been reduced, except for the planning and monitoring specialist who is the current the officer in charge (OIC) of the project until October 2023, when his contract ends. Depending on the next mine action response of the UN and UNDP, the situation will be revisited in the second half of 2023 and appropriate strategic orientations ascertained. Additional technical specialists may be engaged as and when YEMAC requires support, according to the new framework to be defined by UNDP support in mine action, with a particular focus on the new threats (cluster munitions, aircraft bombs, IEDs, improvised sea mines and an increasing number of advanced weapons within UXO) and more advanced methodologies in survey and clearance as well as capacity development. In addition, there are seven UNDP national mine action staff supporting the UNDP project operations as a single national information management/ICT support assistant⁴⁴ at YMACC in Aden; three field officers⁴⁵ (project coordinators) with YEMAC in Sanaa, Aden and Al-Mukalla and three administrative⁴⁶ staff based within UNDP offices (two in Sanaa and one in Aden).

4.2. Institutional challenges

59. As there were conflicts of interest between operations and oversight in the sector, YEMAC opened within the UNDP support project in April 2020, a Yemen Mine Action Coordination Cell (YMACC) to help coordinate the southern field operations as a role of regulator, responsible for policy and planning and advocacy efforts by the growing number of demining assistance providers in the southern areas. This facilitates cooperation with international organizations, assuming responsibility for accrediting and coordinating mine action organizations (INGOS and commercial companies) and tasking YEMAC mine action operators to the field.

Operational mentorship of YMACC staff continues to take place in general coordination activities including the overseeing of the continuation of the Yemen Baseline Survey. It also took the lead on the national standards on mine action. The standards form a critical part of the national mine action effort, together with the operator accreditation process and the verification of cleared land.

UNDP works with YMACC on the development of departments for planning, information management, and quality assurance/control processes and longer-term plans for quality management, survey and clearance operations (annual work plans), staffing and procurement plans.

60. In the southern areas, UNDP Yemen and its partners the Yemen Mine Action Coordination Centre (YMACC) and the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) in Aden have been developing the national capacity to respond to the threats posed by explosive hazards, assist in the restoration of basic services, facilitate access to infrastructure, reduce injuries and fatalities, provide access for the delivery of humanitarian aid, and support government and national mine control institutions through the Emergency Mine Action (EMA) Phase-II Project.

⁴² The Chief Technical Advisor C-IED and Mine Action Operations Coordinator, have left the project (mid 2022) and due to funding shortage, they cannot be replaced (EMAP II project 2022 annual report p.8).)

⁴³ The Senior Mine Action Specialist left in October 2021. The CTA Mine Action and the Reporting and coordination officer are still nominally with the project but on assignments with UNDP MA programme to Iraq and Ukraine respectively and their contract will be ended from mid-2023 (Email from Planning and Monitoring Specialist 08 May 2023)

⁴⁴ Under the direct supervision of the project Operations Officer, the project's ICT Support Assistant assists the project team with project's operational, administrative, and financial activities to achieve set project targets. The incumbent has the responsibility for ensuring the highest efficiency in the delivery of advisory functions to the project and its national counterparts in the areas of ICT management (systems and strategies), effective functioning of hardware and software packages, support to networks administration and provision of administrative support. She also provides guidance and oversight role to ensure compliance with UNDP rules and regulations to junior IT colleagues if needed.

⁴⁵ Under the direct supervision of the UNDP CTA, the project coordinators are responsible for the timely and cost-effective implementation of the activities in their area of responsibility to achieve set project targets. They support the CTA and Project team in engaging with national counterparts and other national stakeholders, as appropriate. They are the responsible for ensuring the highest efficiency in the delivery of functions in the areas of mine action operations related functions in the field and provide guidance and support to the team of specialists and operations support personnel.

⁴⁶ These members of the Project work directly with UNDP operations/procurement/finance and administrative units. Two (operations officer and administrative analyst) in Sana'a and one (administrative assistance) in Aden. They are responsible for assisting and guidance on the overall operational management of the project including the release of funds, quality of financial delivery, audit process, financial reports to UNDP and donor etc.

UNDP Yemen supports humanitarian mine action⁴⁷ efforts with the emphasis on strengthening organization at institutional level, fostering technical capacity development and mentoring, operational support, and resource mobilization.

61. In the northern areas, YEMAC continues to be the central agency and executive institution for conducting and coordinating risk-education, victim assistance, survey and clearance operations, information management and quality control/assurance of all Sana'a centric mine action operations. UNDP continues to advocate for the delineation of these functions and the establishment of a Mine Action Coordination Centre, in north areas, following the model of YMACC South's structure and deployment of INGOs and commercial companies (with their individual value added). The creation of YMACC in the north areas⁴⁸, was formally agreed by the authorities (SCMCHA/Supreme Council for the Administration & Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance) in 2022.

Discussions were relaunched in the first quarter of 2023 and initial positive signals were received from the national authorities⁴⁹. In addition, the lack of funding and the lack of mine action INGOs in the northern areas do not currently advocate for the creation of a mine coordination center. The future deployment of international mine action actors in north areas will significantly increase the operational capacities, facilitate information sharing and underpin the response of YEMAC North to the threat posed by the ERW field presence.

62. The management of mine action in Yemen is in fact divided along the lines of the conflict that erupted in late 2014. The national mine action agency YEMAC has been operating since then through two sub-offices: in Sana'a (for Sana'a-centric governorates) and Aden (for Aden-centric governorates). Today, the two organizations act as two separate entities and there are no formal lines of communication between the two.⁵⁰

63. Despite the successes achieved in building a national mine action coordination structure and capacity, the challenges remain. Retention of staff with professional skills will be an ongoing challenge for YMACC South. The YMACC is continuously supported by the project to ensure that staff capacity keeps up with the latest developments. YMACC gradually becomes fully operational when recruited staff that undergo training and render technical cooperation with the strong mine action sector, and consequently partners fully support strategic planning and institutional capacity development when requested by YMACC.

4.3. Implementing partners achievements

64. UNDP EMA phase-II project entered into agreement with INGOs mostly in south areas, to assist YEMAC in expanding intervention capacities, including the HALO Trust, Danish Demining Group (DDG)/Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the commercial company 'The Development Initiative' (TDI), Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) to support YEMAC with coordination/monitoring and training for explosive clearance, Yemen Base Line Survey (YBLS), C-IED training, the building of a Mine Detection Dog Unit (MDD), Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and coordinating efforts on surveying, to reduce the impact of explosive hazards on civilians and humanitarian access. The TDI contract initiated with UNDP in September 2020 expired at the end of May 2022.

65. UNDP's partnerships with national and international institutions and humanitarian programmes which are perceived as fair and impartial in delivering services to communities were seen as a timely assistance in the current context marked by armed conflict and other forms of political, social, and economic grievances. UNDP worked with NMAC/YMACC/YEMAC to introduce and facilitate international and national mine action orientated

⁴⁷ The mine action sector benefits from a broad spectrum of actors willing and able to contribute including United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), regional centres, numerous international and national NGOs, as well as national institutions within the affected countries - UNDP Handbook for capacity development in mine action (2021) p.4.

⁴⁸ Annual report 2022 p.9- EMA II project

⁴⁹ Quarterly 1- 2023 report p.11 end note- EMA II project.

⁵⁰ Source: Minute donors meeting EMA II project – 26 October 2021, p.6

NGOs to assist Yemen and bringing their own relative advantages. In terms of coordination, NGOs actors are present and represented at UN coordination meetings (TWG, MA AoR, Donor meetings).

66. UNDP's approach ensures the continuity of NMAC/YMACC/YEMAC as institutions operating mine action and further develops the concept of national ownership in addressing the needs. While funding is a significant challenge to the on-going development of the project, specifically UNDP capacity development support to YMACC and YEMAC, UNDP encouraged a systematic targeted survey of explosive hazard contamination areas. Other explosive ordnance clearance techniques such as battle area clearance (BAC), mine detection dogs (MDD) and mechanical clearance (MC) ensure timely, cost effective and correct deployment of the existing assets in the most effective way. Furthermore, mine action INGOs are requested to support clearance and survey operations and EORE, when the conditions become conducive to doing so, and the relative strengths of mine action orientated INGOs are identified according to their identified priorities.

67. During the period under review, UNDP and its implementing partners (INGOs & Commercial Company) have supported and completed various technically oriented training and advisory services to YEMAC/YMACC Aden staff in the following fields: Mechanical mine clearance-Bobcat backhoe; ED good Practice Course; Quality Management training; Bomb disposal officers training; Non-technical survey (NTS) course; Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Course; IMAS EOD Level 3 Course; Promoting Community engagement (C-IED sector); Mine Dog Detection Handler Course; IMSMA Form / Data Collection Training; EOD ToT Course; ERW ToT Safety awareness; ERW Safety awareness; CEIA Detector Operation & Maintenance; Instructors EORE & Conflict Preparedness and Protection/PPP; Emergency Trauma Bag [ETB] Training; IED good practice training; MS Power BI training session (Creating a Dashboard for YMACC staff); IEDD good practice training for 620 participants of whom 152 women (24,5%).The details of training activities are presented in the effectiveness section.

68. UNDP has entered into several agreements with INGO and mine action organizations. The table below shows an overview on how the mine action implementing partners (MA IPs) work, mostly in the southern areas, to assist YEMAC in expanding intervention capacities and YMACC in managing information sharing. MA IPS cooperation with YMACC/YEMAC is constantly increasing.

Table 4: Distribution of Yemen Mine Action International/National Implementing Partners (IPs) (Situation March 2023)

International National Organizations	EORE/MRE Explosive Ordnance Risk Education	IMSMA Information Management system for Mine Action	NMAS National Mine Action Standards	YBLS Yemen Base Line Survey	TIA Threat Impact Assessment	NTS Non Technical Survey	TS Technical Survey	EOD Spot Task Explosive Ordnance Disposal	Manual Clearance	MDD Mine Detection Dogs	MC Mechanical Clearance	Monitoring Mine Action Activities YEMAC	C IED Counter Improvised Explosive Device	VA Victim Assistance
UNDP (Support & Technical Advisory Service)		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	
YEMAC	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
NPA	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Halo Trust	✓			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓			
TDI (Training)	✓				✓	✓		✓						
DRC/DDG	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓						
GICHD (Training)		✓	✓	✓		✓							✓	
MSB (Tech Advisor secondment)		✓											✓	
PRODIGY												✓		
ICRC	✓					✓			✓					✓
HI	✓													✓
UNICEF	✓													
UNODC													✓	
YRCS	✓												✓	✓
YALS														✓
MASAM (*) KSrelief project							✓	✓	✓					

Status of agreement/memorandum of understanding (MoU): (according to the information available)

- INGOs EOD clearance capacities from NPA, Halo Trust and DRC work under MoU signed by YEMAC South operations.

- ICRC signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in 2021 with YEMAC North
- o UNDP entered in Responsible Party Agreement with **PRODIGY** from December 2017 to 07 July 2023.
- o UNDP entered in Responsible Party Agreement with **NPA** from December 2018 through January 2023 (with different extensions).
- o UNDP entered in Responsible Party Agreement with **HALO Trust** from 04 March 2020 to 22 February 2022.
- o UNDP entered in Responsible Party Agreement with **TDI** from 15 September 2020 to 31 May 2022.
- o UNDP entered in Responsible Party Agreement with **GICHD** from 01 April 2021 to 31 December 2023.
- o UNDP entered in Responsible Party Agreement with **MSB** from 07 July 2021 to 31 December 2023.

(*) A separate commercial mine action organization 'SafeLane Global' is working in solidarity with the Saudi Project for Landmine Clearance **MASAM**, and the Yemeni Government to map, manage and respond to this developing humanitarian crisis in YEMAC/south areas. The "Masam" project funded by The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief since mid-2018), carried out by Saudi staff and international experts through Yemeni teams, focuses on dismantling all forms and manifestations of mines to clear Yemeni lands from the dangers they pose. It also includes training and capacity-building activities for Yemenis involved in mine clearance. To date, the project has cleared over 400 000 ERW (62% UXOs, 36% landmines, 2% IEDs) and various projectiles neutralized, over 47 M sqm with over 450 Yemenis Nationals (35 clearance teams). In June 2023, KSrelief has decided to extend the contract of the "Masam" project for another year, with an amount of \$33.292 million (source *Asharq Al-Awsat News June* - <https://english.aawsat.com> & www.projectmasam.com). Information sharing challenge remains as disclosing Masam project operational results are not properly recorded in the YMACC national information data base.

69. The commercial company 'The Development Initiative' (**TDI**), provided technical support and mentoring of Mine Action management staff for YMACC and YEMAC, improving their skills and knowledge of Humanitarian Mine Action. Various training and workshops have been implemented by TDI mine action experts as Non-Technical Survey, EOD level 2 and 3, IED good practices, quality management and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) train-of-trainers (ToT) courses for fifty- four (54) attendees (include 6% of women) and to deliver advice on Explosive Safety Awareness training for UN and humanitarian staff to the required standards, focusing on likely contamination threats in specific areas of operation.

TDI entered into an agreement with UNDP support in September 2020 until May 2022. TDI advisory team continued to provide technical advice and guidance to YMACC/YEMAC quality assurance/control and clearance officers increasing quality management⁵¹ operations and being compliant with NMAS/IMAS and gender sensitive. Late in 2021 and 2022, TDI mine action experts conducted six advisory field missions in three governorates (south areas: Abyan and Taizz covering four districts and north zone: Al Hudaydah with one district) on threat impact assessment (TIA) in support of UN agencies (OCHA, WFP, UNDSS and IOM) to assess the safety situation of newly established IDPs sites, safe passage for aid delivery, the locations that WFP and IOM operated in, and coordinate possible security arrangements with local authorities.

70. The Mine Action INGO Norwegian People Aid (**NPA**) performed an initial assessment visit to Yemen in 2017 and subsequently entered a joint project with UNDP support in late 2018 until January 2023, to establish a mine detection dogs (MDDs) capacity for the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC). NPA has established a permanent presence in Aden and was formally registered with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) as a humanitarian mine action operator in November 2021. By establishing a Mine Action and Disarmament programme, and maintaining MDD capacity development project, NPA is responding to both the urgent humanitarian and protection needs present in Yemen, as well as assisting the Yemeni government's work towards meeting their AP Mine Ban Treaty obligations.

Under the capacity development of YEMAC South, NPA works on three lines with the YMACC MDD unit to (a) strengthen the quality of the YEMAC MDD capacity through the selection of suitable Belgium Shepherds Malinois and the training of staff selected for MDD Handlers and MDD Team leaders; (b) improve the operational efficiency of the use of YEMAC MDD capacity through the transfer of expertise in the area of survey and land release and operational monitoring, (c) improve YEMAC capability for the planning and organizing of MDD training through the training of trainers. NPA has provided technical and managerial support on setting up kennels and a MDD training area at the YEMAC's center in Aden. The training⁵² which involved mine detection dogs (MDD) and 12 men dog handlers was completed in January 2022. Some basic kennel and veterinary supplies have been procured and delivered by UNDP Yemen. To date, the twelve (12) YEMAC MDD handlers are deployed

⁵¹ The purpose of QA in mine action is to confirm that management practices and operational procedures for mine action activities are appropriate, are being applied, and shall achieve the stated requirement in a safe, effective and efficient manner. Quality Control (QC) relates to the inspection of a finished product, in case of demining, the 'product' is safe cleared land (IMAS 04.10, Amend11, Jan 2023)

⁵² NPA developed MDD training course curriculum: Canine behavior, basic on scent detection and cynology, training on MDDs and occupational health and general dog care (source: EMA II project progress report October-December 2021)

with the MDDs alongside two YEMAC Technical Survey (TS) teams in Aden under the supervision and support from the NPA Technical Advisors and have released 50,000 m2 of suspected area in 2022⁵³.

NPA implemented an EORE (Explosive Ordnance Risk Education) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP⁵⁴) project contributing to save lives and livelihoods. Through its Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) approach in active conflict environments, NPA has empowered civilians in high-risk communities, with the tools and knowledge to improve measures to protect the population against the use of explosive weapons and how to mitigate the risks associated with ERW threats. NPA trained 8 women and 12 men YEMAC instructors on the EO Risk Education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) in August 2022. With technical, financial and oversight support from NPA, these teams have since been implementing EORE and CPP awareness campaigns in the four most conflict-affected governorates with high civilian casualties of Al Dale, Hudaydah, Marib and Taizz. In 2022, 18,500 girls, boys, women and men have been trained in conflict-affected communities. NPA is receiving funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA) and UNDP (Dec. 2018-Jan. 2021) and has established an office in Aden, with future plans to expand in the North.

71. UNDP works in cooperation with **MSB** (Swedish Civil Contingency Agency) which provides an in-kind contribution (under an agreement between both parties from July 2021 to December 2023) to the mine action project with two international staff members: one information management specialist (since July 2021) and one mine action advisor (since June 2022), in the implementation of capacity development activities including information management, operational monitoring and the development of norms. Unfortunately, both specialists resigned during the second quarter of this year.

72. UNDP is working with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian demining (**GICHD**) on upgrading the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) with the adoption of the new system IMSMA core by YMACC and an information assessment conducted to enhance capacity on monitoring-analyzing information sharing. The GICHD provided an IMSMA specialist who arrived in April 2021, but who unfortunately left the project in May 2023. Given the current recalibration situation of the project, the decision has been made not to replace this post until future decisions are made. The GICHD also has been committed to supporting the development of National Mine Action Standards (NMAS), according to international standards, with the minimum requirements against which mine action activities will be implemented and evaluated. Based on the principles of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), the Yemen NMAS have been updated to (i) improve safety, efficiency, and effectiveness in mine action, and (ii) to promote a common and consistent approach to the conduct of mine action operations. To effectively coordinated mine action operations, this national policy, now accredited by the YMACC, has been distributed to the implementing partners in May 2023 and is applicable in the south and is seeking endorsement by YEMAC North.

73. UNDP is supporting Danish Demining Group/DDG rebranded Danish Refugee Council (**DRC**), active in mine action Yemen since 2018, for assisting YEMAC Aden with capacity building of national mine action staff and enhancing the capacity to deal with the explosive threats in Yemen, including training and deployment of six explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and non-technical survey (NTS) teams. Around to 39,000 beneficiaries benefited from the awareness sessions in the communities most affected by the presence of landmines/UXO and other ERW, and 32 NTS were completed in the southern parts and west coast of the country also covering areas with IDPs camps. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) spot tasks operations were launched in September 2022 and 38 spot tasks were completed in December 2022 in western coast.

74. UNDP is working with the Mine Action INGO **HALO Trust** on training, deploying, mentoring YEMAC operational staff on orientating multi-tasks teams for risk education (EORE) and non-technical survey (NTS), capacity building and battle/land clearance operations (EOD teams). HALO Trust entered in an agreement with UNDP support from March 2020 through February 2022. HALO Trust established a presence in Yemen in 2019

⁵³ NPA Yemen 2022 Factsheet

⁵⁴ Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) is an NPA's approach to civilian self-protection during war and conflict and meeting their needs to know basic safety and survival skills. The programme has been developed by Norwegian People's Aid and is being implemented in partnership with local organisations and enterprises, including schools. The programme focuses on how to protect yourself against explosive weapons and how to prevent injuries and suffering in war situations. It includes a component of preparedness, safer behavior during an attack, and safer behavior in the aftermath of an attack. CPP has many similarities to Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (formally known as MRE), and actively incorporates safety messages related to unexploded ordnance, as well as to other conflict related threats. The programme is adapted for different age groups, languages, cultures and contexts, taking the existing risks and behavior patterns into consideration (Source <https://www.npaid.org/mine-action-and-disarmament/protection/conflict-preparedness-and-protection>)

formally registered with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) in May 2019 and subsequently opened an office in Aden.

As the explosive ordnance contamination is high in the Taizz governorate, HALO Trust opened a second office there, at the end of 2021, which serves as a base for the regional activities which began in 2022, including non-technical surveys, risk education, EOD and mine clearance of targeted closed roads and local communities. The NTS and EORE teams – three of which are led by women – have covered many accessible communities and the advantage of mixed teams has allowed HALO Trust to have greater access to communities. HALO Trust is currently working with fifteen teams covering different mine action activities under four Governorates in the southern part of Yemen (Aden, Abyan, Lahij and Taizz).

With UNDP support, HALO Trust started the development of the mechanical mine clearance capacity within YEMAC South late in 2021. HALO Trust was able to complete the protection of the locally purchased front loader machine using the ballistic glass and high-hardness steel that was imported from Turkey. The import process has moved forward following UK Embassy intervention with Saudi MoD authorities responsible for allowing imports through the blockade. The loader is used in the clearance of ant-personal (AP) and anti-vehicle (AV) mines alongside with the YEMAC Bobcat backhoe that has been previously armored. The 12-person YEMAC mechanical mine clearance team, including team leaders, have completed their training in the last quarter of 2021 on the use of the Bobcat backhoe, and they have been deployed using both machines within their first clearance task in Jebel Hadeed, central Aden, in November 2021. Another recently purchased machine, is to be armored locally prior to deployment in 2023. The INGO received metal detectors in July 2022 and the first manual clearance team commenced field operations in Aden and a second team has been deployed in Taizz at the beginning of this year.

75. Another key partner in the UN mine action support in Yemen, is the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA⁵⁵), which provides strategic and technical advice on a range of mine action issues to UN country team and local stakeholders pertaining to the Hudaydah governorate, related to its mandate through the UN Security Resolution 2643 (2022) “... to oversee the governorate-wide ceasefire, redeployment of forces, and mine action operations” as well as to the Middle East Division of the United Nations Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations.

Close cooperation has been established between UNMHA and UNDP Mine Action with the deployment, in April 2022 of a UNMHA Mine Action Adviser to Hudaydah. Significant steps have been taken to coordinate mine action initiatives across the Hudaydah Governorate, involving among mine action portfolio activities regular meetings with YEMAC Hudaydah, field visits and assessments of dangerous areas in ports and the city, as well as liaison with UN partners and support to landmine/ERW civilian sensitization. This includes media training and tools and tracking /daily monitoring with updates on explosive ordnance incidents. The UNMHA mine action adviser participates in regular Mine Action Technical Working Group meetings led by UNDP and OCHA AOR meetings. UNMHA liaises with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Yemen), which is the lead United Nations entity on mine action in Yemen, and other United Nations agencies in Hudaydah to support improved mine action interventions in the governorate. Through risk awareness sessions for all mission staff and risk analysis for planning purposes, the mine action section enables the UN mission in Hudaydah (UNMAH) to conduct patrols safe from landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) related incidents and delivers technical support to oversee the removal of minefields and ERW in the three vital Red Sea ports of Hudaydah, Salif, and Ras Issa, which import 80 per cent of the humanitarian goods entering the country.

⁵⁵ Following the Stockholm Agreement (*which the parties agreed an agreement (i) on the city of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ras Issa; (ii) an executive mechanism on activating the prisoner exchange agreement; and (iii) a statement of understanding on Taiz*), reached in Sweden in December 2018, between the both parties involved in the conflict, under the auspices of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, the Security Council adopted resolution 2452 (January 2019) authorizing the establishment of a Special United Nations Political Mission, the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA). The UN mission brings together civilian, military and police personnel, to support the Yemeni parties in delivering their obligations under the Stockholm Agreement, in particular the Agreement on the City of Hudaydah and the Ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra's Isa (Hudaydah Agreement). The Hudaydah Agreement continues to provide the framework for an overall reduction of violence, the protection of the Red Sea ports, and increased economic activity within Hudaydah City. The Security Council most recently extended the mandate of UNMHA until 14 July 2023 in its resolution 2643 (2022), having been first established on 16 January 2019 following intra-Yemeni political consultations held in Stockholm, Sweden: (i) lead, and support the functioning of, the Redeployment Coordination Committee (RCC), assisted by a secretariat staffed by UN personnel, **to oversee** the governorate-wide ceasefire, redeployment of forces, and **mine action operations** to; (ii) monitor compliance of the parties to the ceasefire in Hudaydah governorate and the mutual redeployment of forces from the city of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Saleef and Ras Isa; (iii) work with the parties so that security of the city of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Saleef and Ras Isa is assured by local security forces in accordance with the Yemeni law, and (iv) facilitate and coordinate UN support to assist the parties to fully implement the Hudaydah Agreement. (Source: <https://unmha.unmissions.org/>)

76. During the visit in December 2022 to Yemen, the Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) welcomed the efforts of UN partners in Yemen to support mine action, including UNMHA's work in Hudaydah as part of its mandate to oversee mine action in the governorate. The Director held discussions with the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator to support this office with the deployment of a senior mine action advisor. The deployment took place in Yemen in April 2023 and the advisor engaged in consultations with national and international stakeholders of the mine action project in Yemen to assess and advise on any future UN mine action support strategy in Yemen.

77. The International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC)⁵⁶ entered in agreement with the Yemen Executive Mine Action Center North (YEMAC Sana'a) in 2021 to assist in building national capacity by supporting northern authorities and local organizations managing activities to effectively respond to weapon contamination⁵⁷ (WeC) and address long term solutions. The work of the ICRC⁵⁸ in response to weapon contamination is directly related to the organization's mandate to protect civilians from the effects of conflict. The ICRC combines WeC activities with other ICRC assistance activities to further enable communities to bounce back from the aftermath of conflict. To respond to the needs of the civilian population, ICRC developed an integrated approach in its response to the needs of weapon contamination victims and their families. 175⁵⁹ people from Yemen Executive Mine Action Center North (YEMAC), YRCS, ICRC, and IOM were trained on different Weapon Contamination (WeC) related thematic including MRE, data collection and reporting, blast trauma, WeC safety, and risk awareness and safer behavior.

The ICRC, together with the Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS), promotes mine risk awareness and safe behavior among communities at risk. These efforts have included general information campaigns as well as focus group discussions to understand the lived experiences of communities, raise awareness and provide guidance on safe behavior. Thus, 36,234 people benefited from ICRC-supported Mine Risk Education (MRE) awareness-raising sessions conducted in the northern and southern part of the country, through the local networks, community links and local knowledge of the Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS). Information, education, and communication materials consisting of 12,000 booklets and 6,000 posters were donated to the YRCS to be utilized for Mine Risk Education (MRE); 2200 warning signs were donated to the national authorities to correctly mark identified contaminated areas, reduce accident rates and restore the trust to communities.

In late 2022, the ICRC deployed two explosive ordnance specialists (EOD) to conduct capacity building through an assessment by demining teams followed by a tailored training programme to the YEMAC Hudaydah. Three clearance teams (135 persons) and 40 team leaders have been trained and the technical procedures reviewed according to international mine action standards (IMAS). ICRC provided new equipment to YEMAC Hudaydah, with the importation of fifty metal detectors and fifty personal protective equipment (PPE) which were handed over to YEMACC Hudaydah in January 2023. In provision for the rehabilitation of Al Qutai Water Pipeline Project in Hudaydah city, littered with explosive remnants of war, ICRC worked with the national mine action authority to support the clearance work, allowing ICRC to subsequently rehabilitate the pipeline. ICRC also provide support to ERW victims through physical rehabilitation services, such as prosthetic limbs and wheelchairs.

Currently, the ICRC benefit from a unique relationship with the YEMAC North authorities and has played an introductory role in opening the humanitarian space for international mine action organizations to operate in northern Yemen.

As a result, bilateral MoU are ready for signature from YEMAC North with INGOs HALO Trust and NPA. However, the INGO DRC is following an agreement directly with YEMAC North office. The ICRC earlier this year mediated between the INGOs and the YEMAC north to allow for the first mine action conference held in Sanaa⁶⁰.

⁵⁶ The work of the ICRC in response to weapon contamination is directly related to the organization's mandate to protect civilians from the effects of conflict. The organization undertakes a wide range of effective interventions, including the provision of medical treatment, physical rehabilitation and economic assistance to victims, the promotion of international norms, and the implementation of activities to prevent injuries and reduce the socioeconomic impact of living in contaminated areas. (ICRC Weapons contamination brief -2010)

⁵⁷ The weapon contamination unit provides the ICRC with operational expertise on landmines, explosive remnants of war, stockpiles, and small arms. The unit is responsible for activities to reduce the impact of weapon contamination on people. These may include field assessments on weapon use, risk education, clearance, and information gathering. The unit directly implements activities in the field, advises and provides technical support to other units within the ICRC. (Source ICRC Weapons contamination in brief -2010)

⁵⁸ While the ICRC will not engage in long-term clearance projects, it may provide States with technical or other assistance in this regard. The ICRC will seek to mobilize others who are capable of doing so in line with the IMAS. (Source: What is the ICRC doing to reduce the effects of weapon contamination? 3 April 2017)

⁵⁹ Source ICRC Weapons contamination in brief -2010

⁶⁰ ICRC talking points on activities to Journalists-media interviews 2023.

78. Humanity & Inclusion (HI)⁶¹, also known as Handicap International, supported physical and functional rehabilitation services for explosive ordnance (EO) survivors and persons with disabilities in Yemen from the early 2000s. Since 2014, HI⁶² has been providing direct services to all individuals affected by the ongoing conflict. HI provides rehabilitation services as well as assistive devices and technologies, and psychosocial support, and works to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches the most vulnerable people in Yemen. HI became a YEMAC partner for the implementation of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in 2021 and conducts community awareness raising sessions and provides information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on risk education.

79. **Prodigy Systems** (Yemeni commercial company) was contracted by UNDP in late 2017 until July 2023, as the third-party monitoring (TPM) agent, to conduct regular small-scale monitoring on mine action activities implemented by the Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC). The monitoring is aimed to (i) verify the implementation of mine action activity in contaminated locations as requested; (ii) confirm the status of land clearance (progress) and (iii) validate whether the communities of these locations have benefited from YEMAC MA activities.

This regular monitoring exercise started on February 2018 within the previous project (2017-2021), but the Sana'a national authorities have recently closed their office, confiscating their equipment and imprisoning members of their staff⁶³. Thirty- five field monitoring visits were conducted in YEMAC areas of operations between the South and the West coast, covering thirty districts within six governorates in south areas and three governorates in north areas. Since the beginning of 2022, Prodigy monitoring teams have not obtained clearance from the northern authorities to visit YEMAC North demining sites.

TPM requests were sent monthly by UNDP to Prodigy and coordinated with YEMAC focal points. During TPM visits to mine action (MA) teams, Field Monitors interviewed beneficiaries and Community leaders (CL) from MA targeted areas to verify their knowledge and benefits from the mine clearance in their communities. The last reports showed over 90% of CL and beneficiaries are aware of the MA activities occurring in their areas and the interviewed beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the work of the YEMAC teams. According to 85% of CLs, different infrastructures have benefited from land clearance, mostly farms (70%) and roads (85%). The third-party monitoring field visits covered 1,1 million square meters of surveyed lands and 0,6 million square meters of cleared lands.

80. The YMACC **information management (IM)** unit plays a critical role in priority setting and planning and has continued preparing progress reports of the completed activities for entry in the Information System for Mine Action (IMSMA Core⁶⁴). UNDP is working with the valuable support of the GICHD to introduce an upgraded IMSMA at scale in operations and support effective data organization. IMSMA Core set in YMACC in 2021, serves and acts as a centralized data center to transfer information when required. YEMAC's northern office works with an older IMSMA version system. UNDP Information Management staff contracted through MSB and GICHD have been instrumental in driving forward the IM strategy and empowering the YMACC and YEMAC to take full ownership of the national database which can be used for planning/prioritization, tasking/decision making, effective resource mobilization advocacy, reporting, and monitoring purposes. This technical advisory service enabled an increase in capacity development of the information management team through dedicated training and elaboration, harmonization, and development of data collection forms to be used on national information management system for mine action.

⁶¹ HI Yemen- Case Study May 2022 Unshielded, Unseen 'The Implementation of UNSC Resolution 2475 on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities in Armed Conflict in Yemen'.

⁶² After a few years of absence, HI re-opened the mission in 2014 aiming at ensuring that Conventional Weapon victims and other Persons with Disabilities had access to urgent and qualitative rehabilitation services in Aden and Abyan governorates. In March 2016, HI launched rehabilitation and psychosocial support programs as well as inclusion activities (HI-Yemen Country Card, September 2021).

⁶³ Considering this situation, UNDP country office is exploring options to contract a different vendor (EMA phase II Q1 2023 report p.16).

⁶⁴ IMSMA was first developed in 1999 and has represented a cornerstone of GICHD's support to the mine action community ever since. IMSMA was designed specifically to fill a gap in available technical solutions for capturing mine action information and its requirements. Designed with flexibility and usability at heart, IMSMA is adaptable and can be continuously configured by individual programmes to suit their evolving IM needs. The latest generation of the system is IMSMA CORE launched by the GICHD in 2018. IMSMA Core is built from state-of-the-art Geographic Information Systems software (GIS) provided by Esri. IMSMA Core is a system of tools and processes that can be configured to fit national programmes' specific operational and reporting requirements, which provide access to information to a wide range of stakeholders, foster information sharing and provide real time maps and reports on the extent of contamination (Source: www.gichd.org).

Thus, the recent measures taken by the YMACC improving the use of geo-referenced information on mine action with the IM team, were clearly presented in various formats, including reports, tables, graphs and maps on the expected contamination related to (i) monthly mine action operations achievement, (ii) mine action area of operations, (iii) monthly Yemen Baseline Survey (YBLS) progress , (iv) Explosive Ordnance Hazard Education (EORE) results and (v) Explosive Hazards Incidents in Yemen. These information tools represent an important step in the development of the capabilities of the IM YMACC unit, which has been considered an effective resource for operational planning and decision-making.

The operationalization of the IMSMA database and the implementation of reporting procedures and templates as information tools have reflected the need to use mine action information not only by mine actors but also by humanitarian or developmental institutions/organizations. Thus, mine action in Yemen also seeks to provide a service to ‘humanitarian actors’ to reduce the obstacles they face and enable them to be more successful.

Thanks to the information management technical capacities, YEMEN through YMACC can share its updates internationally, commitments with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBT) and the Convention of Rights for Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) indicating all the progress and narrative details as well.

Overall, the cooperation of INGOs in providing their contributions to IMSMA is essential for the effectiveness of mine action efforts. By working together, INGOs assist to ensure that the information in IMSMA is comprehensive, accurate and up to date, which ultimately helps in saving lives and preventing injuries from landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

To cooperate smoothly and make their contributions to IMSMA, INGOs often engage in the following activities: (i) Information sharing: INGOs share information and data with each other to ensure that all relevant information is included in IMSMA; (ii) Coordination meetings: INGOs regularly participate in YMACC coordination meetings to discuss their activities and share information. These meetings may be held at the national or regional level and may involve representatives of other mine action organizations, government agencies and other stakeholders; (iii) Standardization: INGOs strive to standardize their data collection and report methods to ensure that their entries are compatible with the YMACC information management system and accurate and useful for decision-making; (iv) Familiarization YMACC IM workshop: to meet the needs expressed by implementing partners (IP) for a training on GIS or IMSMA , YMACC IM team is keen to provide orientation and guidance service through IM management exchange approach between the IM focal points of the INGOs especially new implementing actors on the field of mine action and (iv) Gender Sensitivity: INGOs collect sex-disaggregated data on the impact of landmines and ERW on different groups and ensure the participation of women in data collection, analysis and dissemination.

However, given the sensitive situation in Yemen, the IMSMA data that should be public is controlled by YMACC. As each INGO has access to its own data in the system, it is important for them to be able to know all the contamination and land clearance status to increase their knowledge of their complementary work with other implementing partners in the field.

81. Surveys are the primary means to categorize and map safe, hazardous, and contaminated areas. They enable authorities to secure areas and return land to communities, releasing productive land and reducing the unnecessary demand for follow up clearance actions. In the southern areas, Yemen’s National mine action program (YMACC/YEMAC) with support of GICHD and UNDP and in close cooperation with international mine action organizations (HALO Trust and DRC) have through their collective efforts, worked thoroughly together developing and implementing a **Yemen Baseline Survey** (YBLS) which started in mid-2021 (annex 16).

This operation is designed to systematically survey all governorates in Yemen on a community-by-community, district-by-district basis and show a clear understanding of the size of contamination as well as to roughly estimate how much further efforts would be required to fulfil Yemen’s goal to be free of the impact of mines and ERW. It also aimed at targeting all the south area’s and prioritizing the most affected districts of explosive hazards depending on several factors such as the number of accidents, size of population, local socio-economic impacts etc., with a generated priority matrix which contains all the 157 districts within the south area segregated into different levels of priority within Aden and six surrounding governorates⁶⁵.

The launch of the YBLS is an important step to promulgate and familiarize people with the project, as it will facilitate the process of coordinating the activities involving the concerned authorities, the civil society entities, and local communities.

⁶⁵ Taizz, Lahij, Abyan, Shabwah, Hadramaut, Al Mahrah

YMACC is coordinating the process through regular meetings of the technical working group (TWG) instigated in June 2021 and convenes on a periodic basis providing, updating and sharing progressive finding to mine action implementing partners (IPs) as well as all others interested parties, in south areas. The YBLS is taking place in close coordination and cooperation with Non-Technical Survey (NTS) activities across mainly in south and west coast areas to fulfil the requirements of the YBLS as the primary mechanism for Information data collection.

The ongoing Yemen Baseline Survey (YBLS) realized by YEMAC/YMACC Aden office, works well, and generates a steady flow of Non-Technical Survey (NTS) reports for uploading into IMSMA core, with tasks identified and issued by the coordination center YMACC to mine action partners. IM objectives become more reliant on IMSMA generated information which has been collected, verified, and analyzed by the MA sector. Great results of the baseline survey to present time (April 2021 - May 2023) identified ERW contamination in six governorates totaling 212,8 km². This included 182 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) totaling 111,8 Km² and 344 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) totaling 100,9 Km² (with fifty percent of the total located in Hudaydah governorate) and there is a total of 3,202,262 reported people affected in six governorates⁶⁶ being processed.

The below tables summarizes the result of the Yemen Baseline Survey (BLS) from April 2021 through March 2023 conducted by YEMAC, DRC and HALO Trust mainly in the southern areas and west coast.

Table 5: Cumulative (by HZ areas m2/superficies surveyed) results of Yemen Baseline Survey (YBLS) April 2021-May 2023

Governorate	No NTS activities	No SHA	No CHA	No total HZ areas (SHA + CHA)	SHA m2	CHA m2	Total HZ areas (SHA + CHA) m2	Affected people
1. Al-Hudaydah	103	51	52	103	81,340,731.07	24,352,512.21	105,693,243.28	713 447
2. Abyan	86	8	77	85	4,397,090.24	28,803,055.08	33,200,145.32	305 882
3. Lahij	103	60	50	110	17,114,493.14	11,404,168.00	28,518,661.14	1 185 705
4. Taiz	108	22	86	108	1,190,763.49	20,960,171.47	22,150,934.96	173 425
5. Al-Dhale	43	16	27	43	4,136,932.44	9,189,433.12	13,326,365.56	63 363
6. Aden	77	25	52	77	3,618,108.49	6,269,112.94	9,887,221.43	760 440
Total	520	182	344	526	111,798,118.87 m2 = 111,8 Km2	100,978,452.82 m2 = 100,98 Km2	212,776,571.69 m2 = 212,78 Km2	3 202 262

Table 6: Cumulative (by total number of HZ areas surveyed and affected people) results of Yemen Baseline Survey (YBLS) April 2021-May 2023

Governorate	No total HZ areas	HZ area Rank m2	Total HZ areas (SHA + CHA) m2 HZ areas
1. Lahij	110	3	28,518,661.14
2. Taiz	108	4	22,150,934.96
3. Al-Hudaydah	103	1	105,693,243.28
4. Aden	77	6	9,887,221.43
5. Abyan	85	2	33,200,145.32
6. Al-Dhale	43	5	13,326,365.56
Total	526		212,776,571.69 m2 = 212,78 Km2

Governorate	Total HZ areas (SHA + CHA) m2 HZ areas	Affected people
1. Lahij	28,518,661.14	1 185 705
2. Aden	9,887,221.43	760 440
3. Al-Hudaydah	105,693,243.28	713 447
4. Abyan	33,200,145.32	305 882
5. Taiz	22,150,934.96	173 425
6. Al-Dhale	13,326,365.56	63 363
Total	212,776,571.69 m2 = 212,78 Km2	3 202 262

4.4. C-IED activities

82. With UNDP support, the Yemen Mine Action Coordination Centre (YMACC) continues strengthening its Improvised Explosive Device (IED) upstream (IED prevention-before the event) and downstream (IED threat mitigation-after the event) capacity initiatives in conjunction with UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), GICHD and Yemen Red Crescent (YRCS). Community consultations, IED risk education (for women, children, vulnerable communities, justice actors) and IED disposal training (land and maritime) are in the focus, as well as work with female staff in the Family Protection Directorate.

⁶⁶ Al-Hudaydah city, Abyan, Lahij, Taiz, Al-Dhale and Aden

83. Since 2019, UNDP Yemen has been running a combined Mine Action (MA) and Rule of Law (RoL) programme in Yemen to counter the threat posed by IEDs by examining the C-IED approach through a novel human rights-based approach, driven by community consultation, and with a number of upstream (IED prevention – before the event) and downstream (IED threat mitigation – after the event) capacity development initiatives. These form part of the UNIDIR C-IED maturity model, a concept which UNDP piloted in Yemen between 2019 and 2020. Within this self-assessment tool, UNDP MA collaboration with national and international partners focused at upstream level on (i) security and control of explosives, (ii) IED risk education, (iii) control of IED precursors and (iv) cooperation and information sharing; and at downstream level on IED response (i) render safe, (ii) information management and (iii) judicial process.

84. Specific issues identified for immediate action were the requirement for IED disposal training within the national authority and IED risk education working closely with UNICEF and others EORE IPs, across communities relevant to the precise geographic threat. Under the guidance of UNDP and TDI, three IED Disposal Good Practice Course attended by 49 participants, were designed around these shortfalls. The training initiative has proved to be a significant force multiplier for YEMAC south.

85. In close coordination with the UNDP Rule of Law project, innovative initiatives were developed with communities to reduce the immediate threat posed by the unexploded ordnances (UXOs) and improvised explosive devices (IED) through promoting interaction and engagement between local authorities and community members as a key activity of the C-IED sector. Consultations with over 20,000 community members were held across the governorates of Hadramaut, Shabwah and Taizz (south areas), under the umbrella of an information tree, and promoted community policing, access to justice and explosive ordnance/IEDs risk education. In late 2021 four workshops were organized in Mukalla and Taizz cities and attended by 74 community representatives and 215 governors, security actors and community members including 45% women.

4.5. Explosive Ordnance Education (EORE) (formerly Mine Risk Education/MRE)

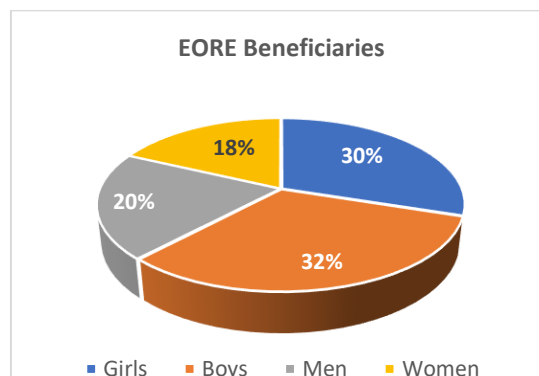
86. UNDP is supporting the co-ordination and implementation of explosive risk education (EORE) of YMACC and YEMAC South and North in conjunction with other UN agencies such as UNICEF and active EORE IPs⁶⁷. The objective of EORE/MRE is to reach affected and at-risk people and help them understand the risks linked to explosive contamination and how to mitigate the risks associated with them. The risk education activities of YEMAC reached over 6.4 M people between October 2021 and March 2023. Risk education, done also during both the survey and beginning of clearance phase, is designed to change people's behavior, and statistics of casualties during conflict, and when there is a rising threat, make any beneficial analysis of the activity difficult. However, evidence from similar conflict theatres draws the conclusions that behavior, particularly among high-risk groups, does initiate change and risk education does reduce the casualty rates significantly. The project team and its partners from the INGOs have developed the draft of the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) on EORE and are currently under review by YMACC and implemented in the field as interim NMAS.

87. EORE was delivered in schools and child-friendly places, and through community campaigns with INGOs and UNICEF supports as well as on IDPs camps in cooperation with IOM targeting vulnerable conflict affected persons. From October 2021 until March 2023, a total of 6.4 M people of whom 4 M children (girls 1.9 M; boys 2 M) and 2.4 M adults (women 1.1 M; men 1.2 M) within 13,734 dedicated sessions have received lifesaving mine risk education messages as well as information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on risk education (annex 11). Raising awareness particularly of the threat of IEDs among women, children and the elderly through community specific EORE projects/products remains a priority approach in terms of community safety. The activities took place in the governorates of south controlled areas (Abyan, Aden, Lahij, Shabwa, Hadramout) and north areas (Al Bayda, Al Dhale, Al Hudaydah, Al-Jawf, Al-Mahwit, Hajjah, Ibb, Marib, Raymah, Saada, and Taizz). The table 7 below disaggregates EORE/MRE beneficiaries from October 2021 through March 2023.

⁶⁷ DRC, HALO Trust, NPA, HI, YRC.

Table 7: Cumulative results of YEMAC EOR/MRE risk education activities October 2021 – March 2023 (Source annual EMA project reports and figures communicated by the MRE working Group)

Number events/sessions MRE/EORE	13 734
MRE/EOR beneficiaries (Adults,Children)⁶⁸	6 460 849
Men	1 269 781 (20%)
Women	1 187 878 (18%)
Total Adults	2 457 659 (38%)
Girls	1 961 850 (30%)
Boys	2 041 340 (32%)



4.6. Casualties and Assistance to ERW Survivors

88. As reported by the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project⁶⁹ (CIMP), the total number of civilian casualties⁷⁰ on the account of ERW (landmines, UXOs and IEDs) between the last quarter of 2021 and the first quarter of 2023 is 966 of which 324 were children (33.5%) who are particularly vulnerable (annex 13).

In 2022, ERW civilian casualties increased with 564 civilian casualties recorded, including 186 fatalities, which is higher by 67% than the 338 civilian ERW casualties reported countrywide in 2021, and higher than any other type of armed violence. At 226 almost half were children which marks an increase of 56% in contrast to 2021, when ERW resulted in 145 child casualties.

Almost half (256) of the ERW casualties due to landmine and ERW related incidents -almost 40% being women and children -were reported in Hudaydah, which has seen heightened ERW casualties since the frontlines shifted south in November 2021. The UN mission (UNMHA) recorded the majority of ERW and landmines incidents along the lower-laying coastal areas of Hudaydah Governorate. Since the withdrawal of the Saudi-led coalition forces from Hudaydah city in November 2021 to the southern districts of the governorate, the UN Mission has seen an increase in landmine and ERW incidents reported due to the return of previously displaced civilians to the city and surrounding farms. Many incidents recorded are related to farming activities, when farmers access their land for agricultural purposes or when herding sheep, goats and cattle to grazing⁷¹. After Hudaydah, other frontline governorates to see high ERW casualty numbers in 2022 included Sa'dah (54), Jawf (49), Ma'rib (45) and Bayda (36), all of which saw higher ERW casualty rates than in 2021.

89. Explosive remnants of warfare (ERW) continue to drive the highest numbers of child casualties, with landmines and UXO accounting for 56% of the first quarter 2023 child casualties. Over a third (33.5%) of all civilian ERW casualties on CIMP records have been children. The five districts to have seen the highest child ERW casualties are all in Hudaydah⁷². Over the past four years, three quarters (70%) of civilian UXO casualties have been adults, when 24% of civilian casualties on the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP) records have been

⁶⁸ Figures communicated by the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Working Group including UNICEF data, and Information Management Unit (IM/YMACC Aden).

⁶⁹ The Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP) is a service under the UN Protection Cluster Yemen, monitoring the civilian impact of armed violence in Yemen. CIMP is a mechanism for real-time collection, analysis, and dissemination of data on the civilian impact from armed violence countrywide, with the purpose of informing and complementing protection programming.

⁷⁰ Source: EMA II progress reports & Yemen Civilian Impact Monitoring Project/CIMP Home Web Site- (See Annex 14)

⁷¹ Source: UNMHA Mine Action Update – Hudaydah December 2022

⁷² Source: CIMP-Yemen situation update- Humanitarian impact of flooding (24 August 2022)

children. Countrywide, ERW had caused 121 civilian casualties in the first quarter of 2023, which is a thirteen percent quarter-on-quarter decrease. The majority (78) of the ERW casualties reported were again the result of landmines. About half of these casualties were reported in the Hudaydah governorate. Since the frontline in Hudaydah shifted to the south allowing greater freedom of movement for civilians in late 2021, Hudaydah has registered the highest ERW casualties in Yemen (Source OCHA 2023).

90. Regarding the IED casualties in 2022, the incidents to result in the highest total casualty counts were an IED blast in Aden in May 2022 and a weapons store explosion at an arms market in Lawdar city on July 2022 which culminated to 93 casualties. The IED threat, meanwhile, appears more prevalent in urban areas such as Aden, Ta'izz and Al-Mukha cities, as well as in flashpoints in several of the southern governorates.

Table 8: ERW Casualties per Categories (Adults & Children) (October 2021- March 2023)

Period	Adults	Children	Total
Q4 2021	107 Men + 12 Women = 119	47 (28,5%)	166
Y 2022	409 Men + 40 Women = 449	226 (33,5%)	675
Q1 2023	Figures Men & Women not available = 74	51 (41%)	125
Total	Men & Women = 642 (66,5%)	324 (33,5%)	966

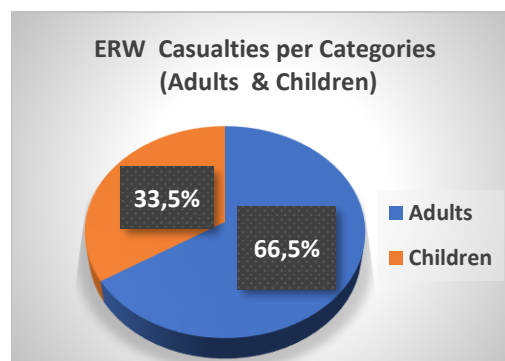


Table 9: Yemen Casualties (Adult & Children) by Type of ERW (October 2021- March 2023)

	Adult	Children
Landmine	76%	24%
UXO	30%	70%
IED	91%	9%

Data show that **UXO** – mortars, bombs, rockets, and artillery shells – have accounted for a significant proportion of all civilian casualties from mines and ERW and **are the leading cause of child casualties among casualties of ERW.**

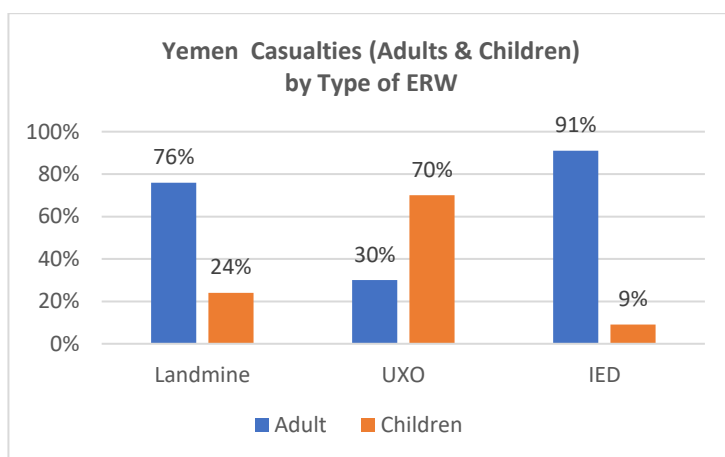


Table 10: Cumulative civilian casualties (Injuries-Fatalities) per type of ERW (October 2021-March 2023)

ERW	Total Casualties: Oct 2021 – March 2023 (18 months)			Total
	Injuries	Fatalities		
Landmine	319	216	535 (55,5%)	809
UXO	213	61	274 (28,5%)	
IED	134	23	157 (16%)	
Total: 966	666 (69%)	300 (31%)	966 (monthly average of 53)	

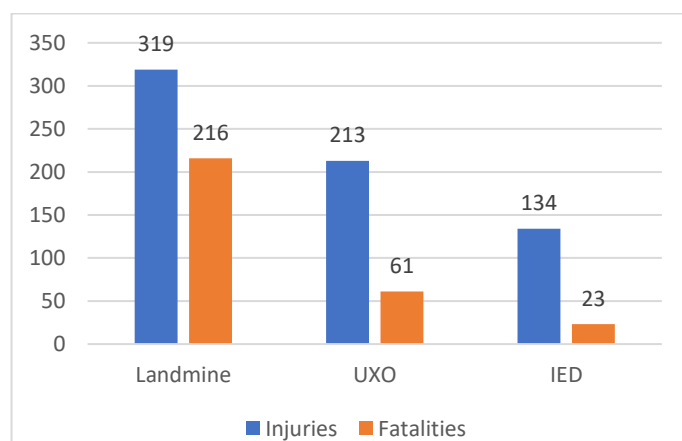


Table 11: Summary of ERW Fatalities and Injuries (October 2021 – March 2023)

No	Year/Month	ERW Casualties	
		Fatalities	Injuries
1	2021 October	22	54
2	November	5	14
3	December	27	44
4	2022 January	25	43
5	February	23	19
6	March	9	28
7	April	14	23
8	May	24	66
9	June	22	46
10	July	18	53
11	August	10	34
12	September	11	59
13	October	15	35
14	November	11	36
15	December	18	33
16	2023 January	16	37
17	February	18	26
18	March	12	16
Total		300 (31%)	666 (69%)

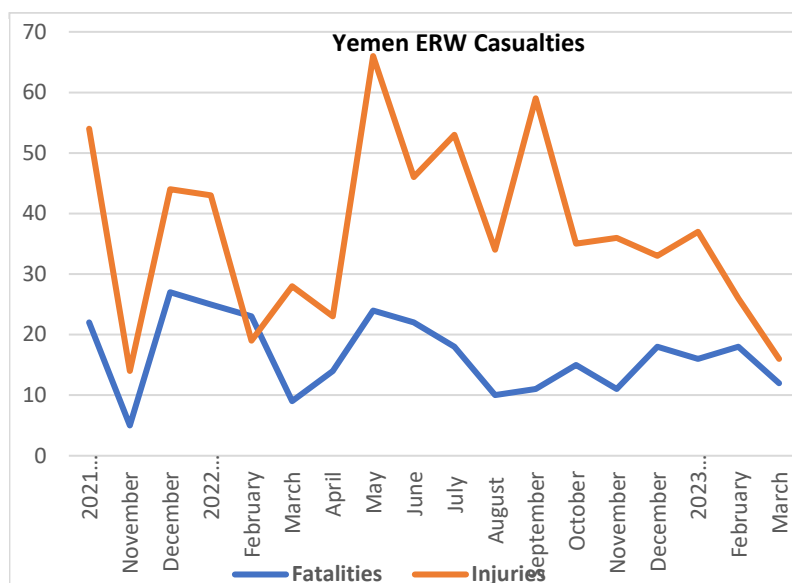
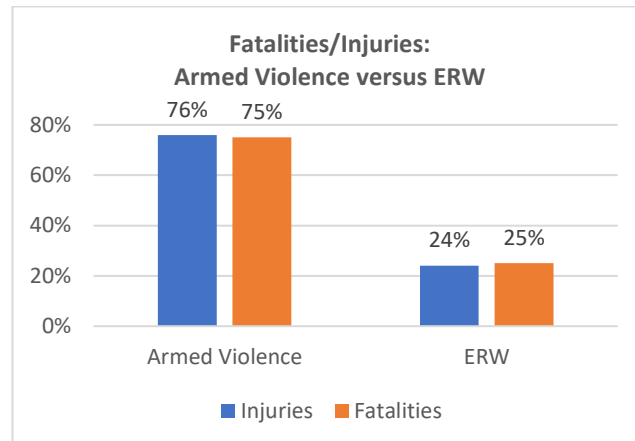


Table 12: Fatalities/Injuries:
Armed Violence versus ERW (October 2021- March 2023)

Casualties	Armed Violence (*)	ERW	Total
Injuries	2136 (76%)	666 (24%)	2802 (100%)
Fatalities	888 (75%)	300 (25%)	1188 (100%)



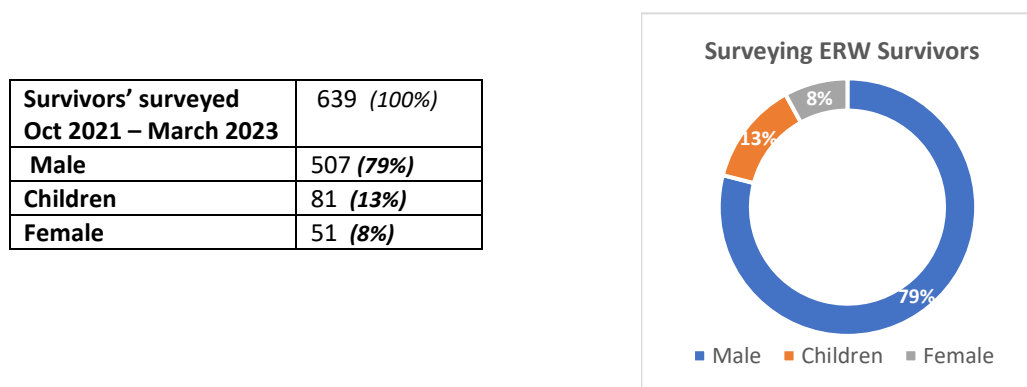
(*) As per the Yemen Civilian Impact Monitoring Project/CIMP, **Armed Violence data includes** Airstrikes; Shelling; SAF (Small Arms Fire); **Landmines**; Sniper; **IEDs** (Improvised Explosive Devices); SA/LW (Small Arms and Light Weapons); Naval shelling; Drone strike; **Sea mine**; Hand grenade; **UXO** (Unexploded Ordnance) and Weapons cache explosion.

91. Survivor's surveillance: UNDP has tried to engage with UN and INGOs actors to discuss the proposed development of a national mine action standards (NMAS) on survivor/victim assistance, and to develop referral pathways between the health sector and the mine action sector to improve the process of identifying survivors of explosive remnants of war and referring them to the right institutions for medical and psychosocial support. This initiative is still ongoing, and HI and DRC have recently expressed interest in discussing other options and mapping broader stakeholder analysis for potential funding opportunities.

The consequences of years of conflict have had a serious impact on the living standards and physical and mental well-being of the affected people. In addition to the activities completed by YEMAC, UNICEF expanded in 2018, the victim assistance services to children with disabilities and who lost their limbs and to children with disabilities by supporting the Prosthesis and Rehabilitation centers in Aden and Taizz governorates as well as supporting the access of children coming from other governorates to these centers.

UNDP has managed to engage national authorities and is working hard on including the civil society in promoting victims' assistance and in cooperating with other players in this field. The results presented below show that YEMAC is committed to victims' assistance.

Table 13: Surveying ERW Survivors (October 2021- March 2023)



92. Assistance to ERW Survivors: YEMAC North is receiving reports on ERW victims which are in turns communicated to the Yemeni Association to Landmine Survivors (YALS), who provide some supports to survivors and their families. However, this side of the programme is not supported by UNDP due to limited funding.

The US Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA) in the U.S. State Department's ongoing victim assistance programme in Yemen, through its implementing partner the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI)⁷³, who is working with the Yemeni Association for Landmine Survivors (YALS), has been working since mid-2017 at assisting Yemenis injured by landmines and other explosive remnants of war mainly in Aden, Taizz and Hudaydah in reintegrating into society, enhancing their quality of life and improving their financial livelihoods. Between 2021 and the beginning of 2023, 248 survivors have received medical assistance, including 30% of children and 213 survivors have received vocational training primarily in weaving, sewing and carpentry products including 11% who received competitive micro-grants to open and operate their own small businesses.

ICRC supports the victims with physical rehabilitation services with its national partner, the Yemeni Red Crescent in the provision of prosthetic limbs and wheelchairs. Where appropriate, ICRC also provide economic support to mine victims and their families.

The INGO HI works in coordination with YEMACC providing support on Victim assistance and harmonization of information, education, and communication (IEC) victim assistance materials. HI currently supports 4 Health Facilities and 1 Physiotherapy and Prosthesis Center in Sana'a (and Amanat Al Asimah) governorate, and 2 health facilities in Aden⁷⁴. HI also provides technical support to these facilities through the provision of assistive devices and equipment to establish rehabilitation units, coaching and training of the health staff on functional rehabilitation and psychosocial support services.

⁷³ The Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) was founded by General Gordon R. Sullivan in 1997 in effort to extend the vision & legacy of Nobel Peace Laureate George C. Marshall. MLI, a non-profit organization located in Arlington, VA, has provided critically needed assistance to more than a dozen of the world's most war-torn countries since 1997. MLI's mission is to locate, secure, and apply skills and resources to alleviate suffering, restore hope, and create conditions that nurture stability in countries affected by conflict. MLI programs are a collaborative effort between the people of the United States and the country involved (www.marshall-legacy.org)

⁷⁴ Source: HI-Yemen Country Card, September 2021.

5- Findings structured as per evaluation criteria

93. The performance of the project examined, according to the evaluation criteria used for this purpose, was evaluated based on a satisfaction/performance scale of five points⁷⁵ (1 being lowest to 5 the highest). A rating performance has been applied to each evaluation criteria. In view of the findings with a focus on outcome/outputs level change, the evaluation considers the results of the implementation of the EMA phase-II project as *satisfactory*: *'the level of results is encouraging, given the operating context, security situation and funding shortfall'*, with a score of 4.25/ 5. This score is obtained from the average of the scores attained from the perception of the key informant interviews and focus groups discussions for the various criteria evaluated as follows:

- *Relevance/Coherence 5/5*: The project is highly relevant as the activities generally followed three of the five mine action pillars according to the priorities and needs of all peoples at individual, group, community, and national level, while its intervention enables and ensures the return and access to areas of all implementing life-saving interventions. The activities funded were relevant in that they generally followed the mine action pillars⁷⁶. Positive attempts by all implementing partners have been noted to address in particular the IED threat. Issues of gender is addressed by all partners and resonates well in their activities, leading to more acceptance of women in the workforce. *The relevance/coherence is considered highly satisfactory.*
- *Effectiveness/Outcome (Impact) 4.5/5*: Mine action interventions in Yemen enables the building of bridges between immediate humanitarian aid and emergency response in many of the most impacted areas of the country. The project was able to better manage the issues in the south while it was not so easy to achieve them in the north due to the ongoing conflict, restricted access, and the volatile security situation. In short, MA operations are focused in the South on humanitarian/development relief while in the North, they are limited to humanitarian relief and emergency. The implementing partners were effective in terms of reaching their targets. They were also good in dealing with issues and agreeing new targets or other changes in their mine action support activities. However, there is room for improvement in the attribution of 'impact', particularly in assessing the number of beneficiaries reached by the different activities and more can be done in terms of identifying victims. *The effectiveness is valued satisfactory with very encouraging results.*
- *Efficiency 3/5*: The project was efficient in utilizing the existing project's resources using UNDP efficient rules and regulations. UNDP has established partnerships with different types of actors such as donors, UN agencies, International and national NGOs, and commercial companies to assist Yemen, having brought their own relative advantages by implementing training and capacity development interventions. Positive steps have been taken by HALO Trust (mechanical clearance) and NPA (Mine Detection Dogs) to improve output efficiency with the introduction of new technology. However, the absence of a strong resource mobilization strategy for mine action has hampered securing and diversifying sources of funding to reduce the vulnerabilities caused by such heavy reliance on a limited number of donors. *The efficiency is considered moderately satisfactory, and more efforts are needed in resource mobilization and communication.*
- *Sustainability 4/5*: By helping to activate a coordination structure (YMACC South) and strengthen field operations with YEMAC South, the project contributes to the preservation and the sustainability of the implementation capacity at the coordination level (policy) and executive (operations) levels. Through the UNDP support to equipment purchase, technical advice with from international experts and the involvement on INGOs, they each bring their own value added to the sector (Survey, mine dog detection, manual and mechanical clearance) and community policing initiatives as well as explosive ordnance risk education/clearance activities. The implementing partners put great emphasis on the technical training

⁷⁵ (5) Highly satisfactory: the expected results were largely achieved and/or exceeded all expectations; (4) Satisfactory: the level of results is acceptable and encouraging, despite manageable shortcomings; (3) Moderately satisfactory: the results are promising but more efforts are needed to reach an acceptable level of objectives' achievement; (2) Moderately unsatisfactory: the degree of results obtained remains low compared to expectations; (1) Highly unsatisfactory: the project has failed to achieve objectives with no worthwhile benefits; numerous deficiencies with very few results

⁷⁶ Clearance, Mine Risk Education EORE/MRE, Victim Assistance, Advocacy and Stockpile destruction.

of national staff and offer good quality technical assistance on a daily basis. The YEMAC North operations remain a concern over limited access and the pending issue of INGOs administrative clearance to support mine action field operations and foster capacity development. The establishment of a coordination body is temporarily 'on hold' until further notice from local authorities. The significantly reduced donor base compared to previous years raises questions about the sustainability of the project in terms of funding. *The sustainability is appreciated overall satisfactory.*

- *Human Rights 4.5/5:* Considering the number and diversity of the beneficiaries, including IDPs and people with special needs, among others, the human right contribution was 4.5. The project promotes a human rights-based approach to mine action whilst creating enough space for communities to report issues of concern within local governance networks, and it has contributed substantially to increased human safety, through the reduction of risk and to improvements in socio-economic recovery conditions. Mine action activities hugely support the restoration of local normality and life support services. *Human rights criteria results are seen as overall satisfactory.*
- *GEWE and Disability 4.5/5:* Not only has the project succeeded in making to women and girls and the most vulnerable aware of mines and safety measures, but the project has also paved the way for more women participation in trainings (increasing to 24.5% of women participating) resulting in a potentially transformative situation which might encourage YEMAC Aden to train and deploy women EORE and survey teams in the areas under south control whereby improving community policy initiatives. *Gender equality and women empowerment results are deemed overall satisfactory with promising results.*

As per the evaluation matrix (annex 4) the main findings are structured around the key evaluation questions (KEQ), found in the inception report and under the relevant evaluation criterion:

5.1. Relevance (is the intervention doing the right things?) - Coherence (How well does the intervention fits?)

KEQ 1- Was the project relevant in addressing the impacts of UXO and ERW in the targeted areas?
KEQ 2- To what extent was the project in line and contribute to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), CPD and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) strategy for assistance to the mine action, national priorities, priorities of the targeted governorates, and the SDGs?

Finding 1. The emergency mine action project was aligned with UN national strategic priorities and responded with an inclusive and sustainable approach in preventing and mitigating the threat of explosive remnants of war by fostering community resilience and creating local governance networks to report issues of threat issues.

94. The request for the development of a UNDP mine action support project dates back a long time with the first UNDP project launched in May 1999 from the mine action authorities of Yemen. The new emergency mine action project which started in October 2021 is therefore clearly relevant and meets the needs of the government, in light of recent developments from the previous phase (mid 2017- mid 2021) and lessons learnt. The project supports the following SDGs: 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions); SDG 2 (Zero Hunger); SDG 5 (Gender Equality); SDG 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth); SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities); SDG 15 (Life on Land); SDG 17 (Partnerships).

It also contributes to the Yemen Country Programme Document (CPD 2023 - 2024) Outcome 3 UNSDCF involving UNDP: 'By 2024, people in Yemen, especially women, adolescents, girls and those at risk of being left behind, become more resilient to economic shocks by increasing their income security and access to decent work', and UNDP CPD Output 3.3 'Capacities of national institutions improved to manage the mine action sector and improve community safety, protection from explosive ordnance.' IED downstream capacity development will also contribute to Output 2.3 (Empowered Community: 'Capacities of justice and rule of law institutions strengthened to expand human rights, access to justice, safety, and security with a focus on women, girls and other marginalized groups', which has a strategic focus on local government, access to justice, community safety and security/social protection.

The project further supports the UNDP's signature solution 3 (UNDP Global Strategic Plan 2022-2025) '*Resilience supporting countries and communities in building resilience to diverse shocks and crises, including conflict, climate change, disasters and epidemics*'.

95. More importantly as the project will reach its end late in 2023, the key informant interviews indicate that the overall objective of the project remains relevant today. All evaluation respondents agreed on this point, whether national counterparts and partners, UNDP staff, INGOS or donors. However, there are not yet any visible changes at the institutional level or at the political level which show the buy-in and ownership and thus reverse the culture of dependency, although great results were recorded in the development and application of interim national mine action standards based on the international mine action standards.

Therefore, there remains an existing need to further pursue the objectives defined by the project further, as only an initial groundwork has been done, but is insufficient to enable the application of the different recommendations and changes that are required at the institutional levels to ensure that humanitarian mine action valuation can be integrated into the national accounts and thus reach the desired objective.

96. The evaluation recognizes that the project has effectively addressed a genuine need and that its relevance and coherence remain applicable in the present context. The evaluation process revealed that the project was highly satisfactory, as emphasized by all the individuals interviewed. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) plays a central role in coordinating mine action support clearance programs in the country, owing to its long-term commitment and support. One of the primary objectives of the EMA-II project is to ensure a secure living environment, as survey and clearance activities serve as a foundation for stability, reconciliation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction, benefiting vulnerable individuals affected by conflict. Consequently, the ultimate goal is to remove the socio-economic consequences of explosive ordnances. The program has prioritized assisting national authorities in enhancing institutional capacities for management and coordination, exemplified by the recent establishment of YMACC. It also supports the operational activities of YEMAC in mine action implementation, encompassing initiatives to revive livelihoods, improve access to public and specialized services, and facilitate the return of IDPs and vulnerable individuals affected by conflict.

Gender considerations in mine action play a vital role. Due to the technical nature of the technical survey and mine clearance, gender considerations have become particularly important with respect to socio-economic emergency/development and related topics, and they were integrated into the delivery of outputs and activities under the gender-sensitive approach to mine action activities.

97. The elements of the project' outputs⁷⁷ (PO) are mutually reinforcing as illustrated here after:

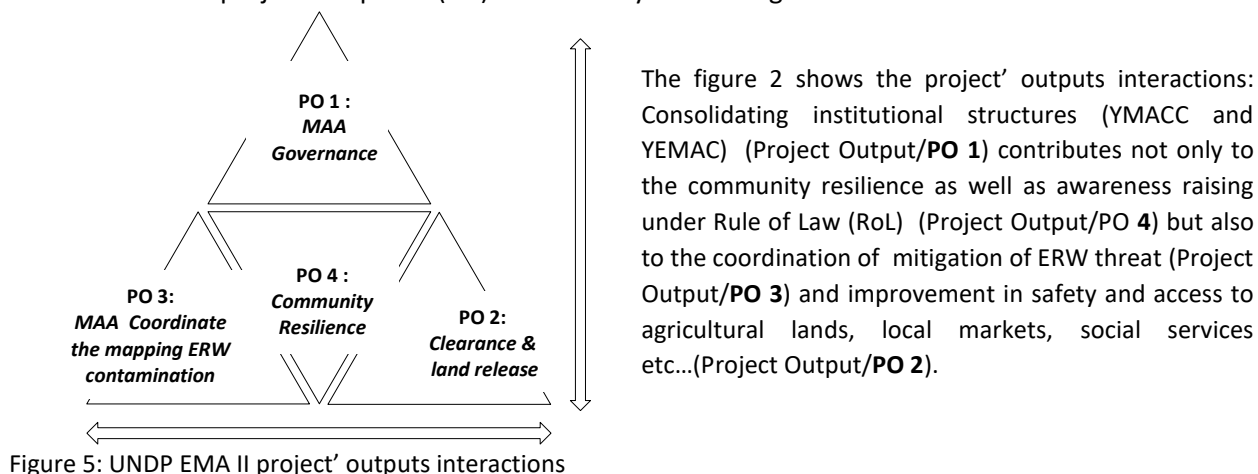


Figure 5: UNDP EMA II project' outputs interactions

⁷⁷ Outputs are changes in skills or abilities, or the availability of new products and services that are achieved with the resources provided within the time period specified. (UNDG RBM handbook October 2011)

98. As illustrated in figure 6 below, restoration of confidence promotes development, and development reinforces technical capacities to respond to emergency/development challenges and build social cohesion, through UNDP’s mine action support. The project also contributes to multiple objectives.

Figure 6: UNDP EMA II Project Outputs - CPD Outputs interlinkages

Yemen UNSDCF/UNDP CPD 2022-2024 Outcome 3: ‘By 2024, people in Yemen, especially women, adolescents, girls and those at risk of being left behind, become more resilient to economic shocks by increasing their income security and access to decent work.’

Inclusive recovery and social activities in the most conflict affected areas of the country.
(Normalization of social and economic activity/UNDP CPD aline 28 p.7)

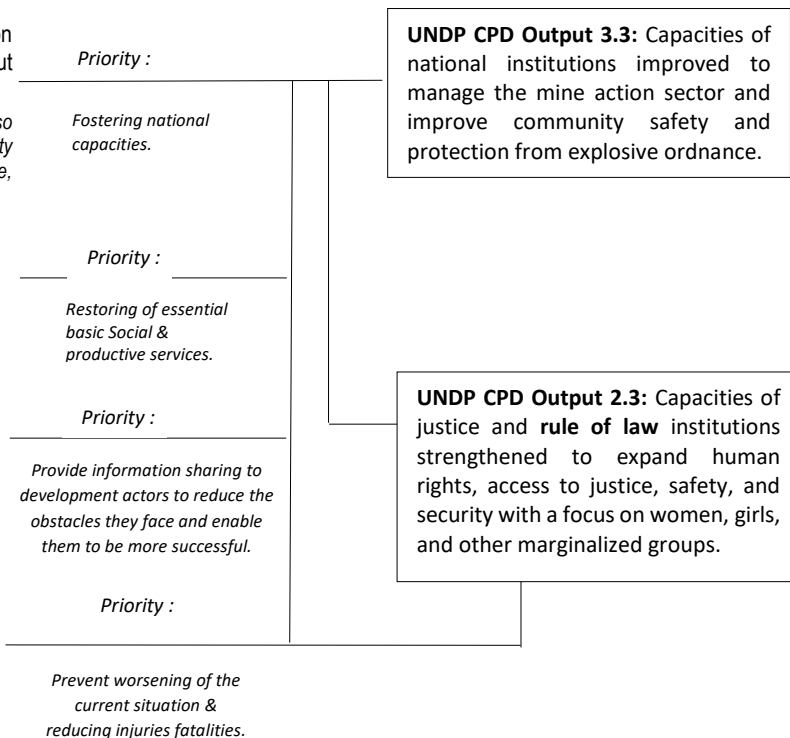
- Access to critical infrastructure and essential social and productive services
- Reduce injuries and fatalities from explosive remnants of war (ERW)

EMA II Project Output 1: National Mine Action Authorities have improved capacities to carry-out mine activities that are consistent with priorities.
► *IED downstream capacity development will also contribute to Output 2.3 Empowered Community (strategic focus on local government, access to justice, community safety and security/social protection)*

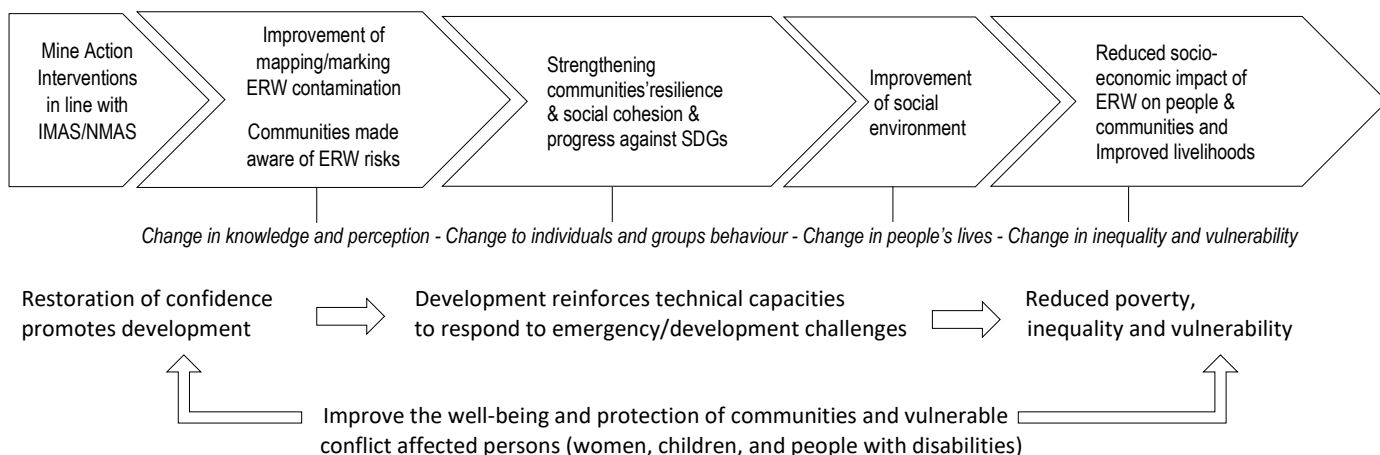
EMA II Project Output 2: ERW clearance and land release interventions are delivered in contaminated communities.

EMA II Project Output 3: The Yemen Mine Action Authorities have capacity to effectively coordinate, regulate and plan the mapping of ERW contamination and assessing the impact using primary and secondary sources and fulfill international treaty obligations.

EMA II Project Output 4: The communities at risk have increased their knowledge on identifying, dealing and avoiding mines and unexploded ordnance. ► *IED downstream capacity development will also contribute to Output 2.3 Empowered Community (strategic focus on local government, access to justice, community safety and security/social protection)*



99.The below chain illustrates the generic sequence of such intended changes of the EMA II project (developed by the evaluation team):



KEQ 3- Was the project relevant to the needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries including women and men? Were they consulted during the design and implementation of the project?

Finding 2. Conflict over recent periods has led to an increased demand and need for mine action activities and an enhanced role for UNDP in this area. These activities are expected to reduce the risk of disaster and prepare communities to cope with the presence and negative effects of explosives and enhance better cohesion through community dialogue.

100. The project is highly relevant to the priorities and needs of all peoples at individual, group, livestock, and national level, while its intervention enables and ensures the movement and access to areas of all activities implementing life-saving interventions. Interviews with the various stakeholders revealed a very positive assessment of the usefulness of the project, its objectives, and priorities, in appropriate harmony with the needs of beneficiaries. The initiative remains relevant to local priorities and fully consistent with the main UN strategies and humanitarian response plan. Current UNDP engagement includes support for YEMAC's improvised munitions disposal capabilities and for eliminating the impact of mines and ERW. These activities include elements of explosive ordnance risk education, technical and non-technical surveys, clearance/removal operations, dedicated training as well as survivor referrals activities. As a result, Yemeni families can go about their daily lives safe from threat of injury from explosive remnants of war in those areas where UNDP related mine action technical assistance support have and are being delivered.

101. The project's objectives align well with the needs of different communities regarding risk management associated with the presence of explosives. Through the conducted interviews, the overall situation was assessed for identifying the needs of local populations and gathering relevant and consensus-based information from major stakeholders and beneficiaries. The activities related to Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) removal work are contributing to several crucial aspects of humanitarian aid and recovery, ultimately ensuring that Yemeni people can maintain a dignified life. Specifically, these actions facilitate: (a) improved humanitarian access; (b) the safe movement of people and goods; and (c) the expansion of actors such as international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) to enhance the performance of YMACC/YEMACC and provide assistance.

The organizational culture of mine action in the field is necessary motivated on technical tasks that make up mine clearance and land release. However, the project developed a more nuanced awareness and understanding of the broader development impact of operations. For example, one pilot initiative has been to engage communities in reporting immediate threats posed by ERW and in particular by IED to local governance networks, while focusing on access to decision makers that can provide other services, such as access to justice or infrastructure development or food delivery. This has contributed to better understanding of socio development issues within the mine action teams and has the potential to enable them to better link with local development activities.

102. Engaging beneficiaries and target groups, particularly vulnerable individuals, women, and youth, proved challenging during the project's initial design phase. The consultation process primarily involved government officials, particularly in the northern region. However, throughout the project implementation, the needs of these groups were consistently given priority. Local priorities, such as improving local road access, establishing hospitals, and constructing schools, were always considered, and addressed. Out of some communities visited in Aden, Abyan and Lahij governorates for this evaluation, following clearance, men and women inhabitants of contaminated areas reported significant safety improvements and socioeconomic improvements. The main post-clearances changes reported by communities visited indicated in figure 7 related to safety, reduced fear, improved freedom of movement and improved safety of livestock, were the most frequently reported, followed by those associated with livelihoods access and growth.

Figure 7. Main post-clearances changes reported by communities visited.

<p><i>Group I (enhanced security):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced fear, improved sense of safety. - Improved freedom of movement & roads. - Improved access to agriculture land and in sowing seeds. - Improved access to income & livelihood options. - Improved access to water collection and natural resources. 	<p><i>Group II (improved local social/economic concerns):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved safety of livestock. - Improved access to transport and local markets. - Households in cleared areas able to guarantee food security and generate sufficient cash for basic school material requirements. - Improved access to schools, medical care and religious places. 	<p><i>Group III (expanded human rights):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced exposure to violence targeted women and girls. - New resettlement into community. - Improved local infrastructure. - Improved provision of public services. - Allowed disadvantaged communities to recover economically and socially. - Improved community voices and resilience.
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Finding 3. The project's objectives, backed by a thorough analysis of the impact of explosive ordnance (EO) on civilians, are coherent and aligned with the population's expectations of minimizing the risk of EO contamination in various regions of the country. This is achieved through facilitating humanitarian aid and implementing community development initiatives.

103. The project is dedicated to enhancing the capacity of individuals and organizations in Yemen in addressing the risks posed by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) through activities such as institutional development, technical capacity development, and logistical support. The project focuses on clearing the way for the future and safeguarding lives by strengthening local capabilities. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) collaborates with the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) to clear explosives and simultaneously enhance the skills and proficiency of national institutions. This includes the recently established coordination center, YMACC, which oversees the management, coordination, and execution of demining operations. Over time, the aim is to reduce reliance on external assistance and ensure sustainable progress.

104. Significant progress has been made across various fronts in the project, firstly yielding tangible and encouraging results in the areas related to strengthening and coordinating mine action clearance operations, assessment of threats related to the proliferation of mines, unexploded ordnance (UXOs), and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) through community policing initiatives.

Secondly, there has been a concerted push to expand the involvement of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in mine action activities, amplifying the project's reach. Thirdly, the project has provided crucial support to the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) and the recently established Yemen Mine Action Coordination Centre (YMACC). This support includes completing the national mine action standard, providing training in areas such as explosive ordnance disposal, non-technical surveying, mine/ERW disposal, counter-IED measures, and information management systems. Fourthly, the project has played a pivotal role in raising awareness and educating the population about the dangers posed by mines, UXO/ERW, and IEDs.

Lastly, it has actively assisted Yemeni organizations in fulfilling their mine action convention obligations, advocating for adherence to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM-2008) and the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW-1980). UNDP has been working with YEMAC on improving clearance capacity in conducting emergency and humanitarian operations, offering training, expertise with the INGOs, and essential supplies such as fuel and batteries for metal detectors. Overall, the project has made significant strides in combatting mine and explosive risks while promoting coordination, capacity building, and awareness for a safer Yemen.

KEQ 4- Did the project address gender issues and help women overcome challenges or limitations?

Finding 4. A general commitment has been perceived to the principles that mine action activities benefited to community -women and men, boys and girls in this difficult crisis context and environment at risk.

105. The project has taken significant measures to address gender perspectives and promote gender balance by ensuring that the capabilities, contributions, concerns, and needs of women, girls, boys, and men are recognized and addressed. Gender principles have been integrated into the project's activities, particularly in collaboration with YEMAC for demining operations. This includes collecting survey information from organizations and groups representing both genders, disaggregating data by sex and age (including boys and girls) and developing risk education materials that address gender-specific roles. The project also recognizes the importance of women's involvement in various mine action disciplines, ensuring their perspectives are considered in managing the impact of explosive remnants of war on their security and well-being. Notably, the project has made commendable efforts to address gender and diversity considerations during field activities by working with contracted parties as third-party monitoring agent, to mention the less. The evaluation team highlighted the positive initiatives taken during the period under evaluation, such as training (152) and operationalizing female intervention teams specializing in IED and survey activities. This performance is particularly noteworthy considering the cultural challenges that women often face. It is also worth noting the important results related to beneficiaries on EORE sessions and land released (table 1)⁷⁸.

⁷⁸ Table 1: Global result of direct beneficiaries (percentage) from explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and land release activities, page 30 of this report: Beneficiaries EORE: Children 62% - Adults 38%, Beneficiaries land release: Adults 54% -Children 46%.

5.2. Effectiveness *(is the intervention achieving its objectives)/Outcome (Impact)* *(What difference the intervention make?)*

106. The project has been able to lay the foundation and groundwork to achieve the desired outcome and outputs and contribute to the project objectives. It has however mainly been effective in producing a range of selected outputs that, if not properly disseminated, coordinated, and owned by the different stakeholders, does not lead enough to any transformational change at the outcome level (as defined by the undg and the undp). Political instability is a factor which affected project implementation mainly in term of institutional ownership. The seeds have been partly planted by the different products created under the project, thanks to the implementing field partners, but it is still too early to see how these will lead to institutional changes and towards the overall objective, without a full political backing and institutional ownership for the duration of the project. At present, it is hoped that the encouraging good results obtained will be used in the future to develop further the political engagement and institutional ownership needed to obtain the desired outcomes, according to the environment.

The summary hereunder shows the overall achievement against project outputs targets for the period under evaluation 01 October 2021 – 31 March 2023:

UNDP Yemen: EMA phase II project (1 Oct. 2021 – 30 Sept. 2026)-

Overall achievement against project outputs targets - 01 October 2021 – 31 March 2023 (Source EMA II project progress reports Q4/2021; Annual report 2022; Q1/2023 and key informant interviews/KII)

➤ **Status 3 Colors legend:** **Light Green:** Achieved/Completed/On-track (**69% Project Outputs**)

White: Partially achieved/partially on track

Light Red: Not achieved/off track/ delayed (**31% Project outputs**)

N/A: Not available

UNSDCF 2022-2024 /UNDP CPD Outcome 3: By 2024, people in Yemen, especially women, adolescents, girls and those at risk of being left behind, become more resilient to economic shocks by increasing their income security and access to decent work.

Summary achievement against 2022 Results Framework (RF) target

Indicator	Base Line (BL)	Indicator Target	Summary achievements	Status: On-track, Delayed, Completed
Proportion of population in humanitarian need		60% for 2024	N/A	N/A

CPD 2022-2024 - Output 3.3: Capacities of national institutions improved to manage the mine action sector and improve community safety, protection from explosive ordnance.

Summary achievement against 2022 Results Framework (RF) target

Indicator BL	Base Line (BL) 2021	Indicator Target 2024	Summary Achievements Q4 2021 – Y 2022 – Q1 2023	Status: On-track, Delayed, Completed
Indicator 3.3.1 Number of explosive remnants of war removed	27,000	167,000	118,303	On-track
Indicator 3.3.2 Area cleared and free from the threat of explosive ordnance	1,600,000 m2	8,600,000 m2	8,966,724 m2	Completed

EMA II Project Output 1: National Mine Action Authorities have improved capacities to carry-out mine activities that are consistent with priorities.

Base line: Output 1: National Mine Action Authorities lack sufficient capacities to carry-out mine activities that are consistent with changing priorities and types of contamination.

Summary achievement against 2022 Annual Work Plan (AWP) targets

Indicator	Base Line (BL) 2020	Output Targets		Summary achievement		Status: On-track, Delayed, Completed
		Q4 2021 & Y 2022	Y 2023	Q4 2021 & Y 2022	Q1 2023	
Indicator 1.1: Number of National Mine Action Authorities staff completing training on coordination.	90	100	100	14	12	On-track (<i>downsizing of the number of international specialists has inevitably delayed progress</i>)
Indicator 1.2: Percentage of trained staff that were rated as more effective in doing their job one year later, through a knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) survey	25%	50%	65%	0%	Not available (N/A)	Not achieved
Indicator 1.3: Progression of minimum of one+ step in 4 categories as outlined in the mine action and CIED Maturity Model.	CM Level 1- Initial	CM Level - Initial	CM Level 2- Developing	CM Level 2 target for September 2022	CM Level 2 target for Sept. 2023	Not achieved

EMA II Project Output 2: ERW clearance and land release interventions are delivered in contaminated communities.

Base line Output 2: ERW clearance and land release interventions are falling far short of the needed levels given the high degree of contamination which is also new and for which counterparts are not trained to deal with.

Summary achievement against 2022 Annual Work Plan (AWP) targets

Indicator	Base Line (BL) 2020	Output Targets		Summary achievement		Status: On-track, Delayed, Completed
		Q4 2021 & Y 2022	Y 2023	Q4 2021 & Y 2022	Q1 2023	
Indicator 2.1: Number of ERW cleared according to national standards	68,621	70,000	90,000	30,298 + 81,017 = 111,315	6 988	Completed & On-track (2023)
Indicator 2.2: Surface of land cleared through field clearance operations (km2)	6 Km2	6 km2	7 Km2	1,850,795 m2 + 6,490,460 m2 = 8,341,255 m2 (8,3 km2)	625 469 m2	Completed & On-track (2023)
Indicator 2.3: Percentage of task orders carried out to NMAC as verified by the YMACC and confirmed by UNDP	N/A	45%	55%	45%	45%	Completed & On-track (2023)
Indicator 2.4: Percentage of population in UXO-contaminated communities who perceive that UXO interventions have supported improvements in safety and better lives (data disaggregated by sex)	N/A	85%	85%	85%	85%	Completed

EMA II Project Output 3: The Yemen Mine Action Authorities have capacity to effectively coordinate, regulate and plan the mapping of ERW contamination and assessing the impact using primary and secondary sources and fulfil international treaty obligations.

Base line Output 3: The capacity of the Yemen Mine Action Authorities to effectively coordinate, regulate and plan the mapping of ERW contamination is basic at best and needs constant professional support.

Summary achievement against 2022 Annual Work Plan (AWP) targets

Indicator	Base Line (BL) 2020	Output Targets		Summary achievement		Status: On-track, Delayed, Completed
		Q4 2021 & Y 2022	Y 2023	Q4 2021 & Y 2022	Q1 2023	
Indicator 3.1: Percentage of Strategic plan completed along with associated policies	0	80%	100%	80%	80%	Completed & On-track (2023)
Indicator 3.2: A Results-Based Management system to track activities in place.	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	Completed
Indicator 3.3: Number of explosive threats to shipping recorded and potentially mapped to identify areas of safe passage	0	100	100	0	0	Not achieved
Indicator 3.4: Percentage of entries in the IMSMA.	50%	65%	75%	65%	65%	Completed & On-track (2023)

➤ **Q4 2021 - Y 2022 – Q1 2023: Training activities conducted:**

Training title	Organization	Location	Date	# of people trained	Of whom women
Mechanical mine clearance-Bobcat backhoe	Halo Trust	Aden	October 2021	12	0
IED good Practice Course	UNDP-TDI	Aden	October 2021	13	1
Quality Management training	UNDP-TDI	Aden	October 2021	14	0
Bomb disposal officers training	UNDP	Aden	November 2021	73	5
Non-technical survey course	UNDP	Aden	November 2021	22	22
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Course	UNDP	Aden	November 2021	43	43
IMAS EOD Level 3 Course	UNDP-TDI	Al-Mukalla	November 2021	10	0
Promoting Community engagement (C-IED sector)	UNDP	Aden	November 2021	74	35
NTS Refresher course	UNDP-TDI	Taiz	February 2022	12	0
Mine Dog Detection Handler Course	NPA	Aden	January 2022	12	0
IMSMA Form/Data Collection Training	UNDP-YMACC-YEMAC	Marib, Hadrahmout West Coast, Taiz, Abyan, Lahij, Al-Dhale	Feb- March 2022	75	0
EOD ToT Course	UNDP-TDI-YEMAC	Aden	March 2022	2	0
ERW ToT Safety awareness	UNDP-TDI	Aden	May 2022	3	2
ERW Safety awareness	UNDP	Hudaydah	May 2022	21	6
ERW Safety awareness	UNDP	Hudaydah	May 2022	21	7
ERW Safety awareness	UNDP	Hajjah	June 2022	24	9

Training title	Organization	Location	Date	# of people trained	Of whom women
ERW Safety awareness	UNDP	Hajjah	June 2022	36	6
ERW Safety awareness (IOM staff)	UNDP	Turbah	August 2022	14	0
ERW Safety awareness (IOM staff)	UNDP	Taiz	August 2022	10	0
CEIA Detector Operation & Maintenance	UNDP	Aden	August 2022	15	0
Instructors EORE & Conflict Preparedness and Protection/CPP	NPA	Aden	August 2022	12	8
Emergency Trauma Bag [ETB] Training	UNDP	Aden	September 2022	2	1
IED good practice training	UNDP- TDI	Aden	October 2022	24	0
ERW Safety awareness (UNICEF staff)	UNDP	Aden	October 2022	14	1
ERW Safety awareness (UNICEF staff)	UNDP	Al Hudaydah	October 2022	11	0
ERW Safety awareness (UNICEF staff)	UNDP	Al Hudaydah	October 2022	14	0
ERW Safety awareness (UNICEF staff)	UNDP	Al Hudaydah	October 2022	10	1
ERW Safety awareness (UNICEF staff)	UNDP	Al Hudaydah	November 2022	11	3
MS Power Business Intelligence (BI) training session (Dashboard for YMACC staff)	UNDP	Aden	November 2022	4	2
IEDD good practice training	UNDP	Aden	January 2023	12	0
TOTAL				620	152 (24,5%)

EMA II Project Output 4: The communities at risk have increased their knowledge on identifying, dealing and avoiding mines and unexploded ordnance.

Baseline Output 4: The communities at risk lack knowledge on identifying, dealing and avoiding mines and unexploded ordnance.

Summary achievement against 2022 Annual Work Plan (AWP) targets

Indicator	Baseline (2020)	Output Targets		Summary achievement		Status: On-track, Delayed, Completed
		Q4 2021 & Y 2022	Y 2023	Q4 2021 & Y 2022	Q1 2023	
Indicator 4.1: EORE strategy including Mines/UXO and IED risks drafted with all actors involved	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	Completed
Indicator 4.2: Percentage of population, in contaminated areas with improved knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) related to Mine/ERW/IED risk reduction	N/A	50%	70%	50%	50%	Completed & On-track (2023)
Indicator 4.3: Number of community risk education events conducted	1,200	1,200	1,300	2,770 + 7,671= 10,441	2 702	Completed
Indicator 4.4: Victim Assistance sector strategy drafted including consideration on gender and diversity and regularly updated	no	yes	yes	no	no	Delayed
Indicator 4.5: Number of victims' referrals made (data disaggregated by sex and age)	N/A	500	600	391	48	Delayed

KEQ 5- To what extent has the project achieved (or is likely to achieve) its intended specific objectives? What could be done to maximize project impact?

Finding 5. UNDP in Yemen has contributed substantially to the development of institutional capacity for mine action as a dynamic learning process, fostering a responsible response that meets the needs of stakeholders and adapting the interaction between the intervention of the mine action and context, which helped to achieve the results defined of the EMA-II project.

107. UNDP Yemen work in mine action is largely a capacity development effort, through specific advisory services including technical capacities to (i) mitigate the risk, (ii) manage information, (iii) coordinate and plan, (iv) mentor International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) compliance requirements with the elaboration on national standards (NMAS), (v) ensure quality management of operations, (vi) foster accountability, (vii) engage communities and vulnerable conflict affected persons and (viii) promote local governance networks. ‘UNDP Mine action support’ work also thoroughly with the international community to support humanitarian, peace and development initiatives. It is important to recognize the gap that needs to be bridged when attempting to link for example building capacity developmental work at institutional level to ‘impacts’ at community level. In the EMA phase-II project’s achievements, particularly at community level, capacity development/sharing is undertaken through partnerships with national institutions and international actors, rendering ‘attribution’ at community level difficult as mine action operations are long-term process.

108. To operationalize capacity development/building within the mine action project, ‘capacity’ could be broken down into the following five capabilities, according to what was observed during the evaluation: (i) the capability to commit and engage stakeholders and create space for coordination; (ii) the capability to define a vision, carry out tasks, and improve level of performance; (iii) the capability to create partnerships and formulate policies; (iv) the capability to manage, implement and develop resilience in changing complex security situation; (v) the capability to use a results-based management system to design and track MA activities (understanding change management) and mobilize resources; and (vi) the capability to cope with sustainability and evaluate multi-actors. The early stage of capacity development is encouraging in regard to the first good results obtained so far including specific arrangements with YMACC and YEMAC for information management (production of maps and monthly data dashboards), conducting survey and EORE, technical trainings, implementing coordination meetings and promoting community engagement as well as sharing of methodologies and technical guidelines. This addresses only part of the overall picture of the capacity development set out in the six capabilities previously described.

For further action, synergies between YEMAC and YMACC need to improve as highlighted by the maturity model review, as YEMAC (South) seeks to become IMAS compliant when working towards this objective during the current phase of the EMA-II project. The elaboration of a dedicated framework strategy will facilitate the empowerment of actors and allow better monitoring of actions in a benchmarking process. The recent departure of international advisers has delayed the process.

Finding 6. Mine action intervention in Yemen enables the building of bridges between immediate humanitarian aid/emergency response and development in many of the most impacted areas of the country. The project was able to manage the issues much better in the south than in the north.

109. Late in 2021, the frontlines in Hudaydah shifted south, facilitating greater freedom of movement of civilians in areas where hostilities had de-escalated, but that had not been fully cleared of remnant ordnance. Since then, Hudaydah has consistently seen the highest ERW casualty numbers in the country, also reported in Jawf, and in Marib. Both of which have seen several warnings of floodwaters from heavy rainfall dislodging remnant explosive devices in recent months. In 2022, landmines and explosive remnants of war have become an issue of greater concern in the truce and post-truce period, impeding the return of displaced people and hindering economic recovery. Legacy contamination from earlier conflicts was largely in the south of the country, the western coastline and Saada, and Marib in the north.

In Yemen, in order to render communities ‘free from fear’ and reduce social exclusion and insecurity due to the presence of explosive ordnances, the range of mine action activities contribute largely to social cohesion, the building of confidence in the institutions, the rule of law and the peace building efforts. The EMA-II project focused on empowering the Yemeni Mine Action Coordination Center (YMACC) based in Aden (South areas) - the responsible body for the execution and coordination of the Mine Action Programme on behalf of

the Mine Action Authority - and enabling it to sustainably manage and address the humanitarian and development impact posed by the large-scale contamination of ERW.

The support of an international body such as UNDP with experience in mine action and capacity building of Yemeni institutions was necessary since local organizations and institutions had little capacity to take on this responsibility. UNDP has provided assistance to YMACC and YEMAC, in coordination with implementing partners, communities, the entry and aggregation of data clearance, quality control and quality assurance of clearance operations (QA/QC), the development and update of national mine action standards, reporting in line with Yemen's international obligations, promoting Explosive Risk Education, (EORE), and assessing Mine Victims-Survivors needs (VA).

110. UNDP collaborates with YMACC to formulate comprehensive plans for survey and clearance operations, including annual work plans, staffing for longer periods, procurement plans, and capacity development support plans. The objective is to enhance technical and organizational capacities, which in turn contribute to restoring normal services, facilitating immediate humanitarian response, promoting freedom of movement, and reducing injuries and fatalities. YEMAC, as a well-established and reputable national institution, has been actively involved in mine action activities such as risk education, surveying, clearance, quality management, and victim surveillance in Yemen for over twenty years. UNDP provides support to the field operations branches of YEMAC, assisting in local operational planning. UNDP has supported non-technical survey, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), and improvised Explosive Device (IED) good practice training for over 600 deminers including 24.5% of women participation, helping to build the local capacity identifies, reports and responds to explosive hazards-including mines, unexploded ordnance and IEDs. This helps to ensure that the needs of women, girls, boys, and men are all reflected when dealing with the impact of explosive ordnance on their security and freedoms.

The seeds have been shown by the different products created under the project, but it is still too early to see how these will lead to institutional changes and towards the overall objective, without a full political backing and institutional ownership for the duration of the project.

111. Worth mentioning in this purview are the many requirements and prolonged administrative procedures necessary for ensuring clearances and approvals, from these authorities, for importing, conducting field visits and activities. Mine Action activities integrate security considerations with longer term national capacity development whilst also focusing on demining in support of preserving or increasing humanitarian space. As such, the project is a strong example of how the humanitarian development nexus can be activated in post-conflict environments.

YEMAC faced security and access constraints which limited mine action operations in the north, and as a result, most assets and trained YEMAC personnel are now in the south. Access restriction has placed the Mine Action intervention in the north in a humanitarian dimension and the developmental aspects are therefore delayed. Difficulties remain in the fragmented south, but better access allows both humanitarian and developmental work in the sector.

The project was able to manage the issues much better in the south than the north given the accessibility to the target areas in the north including the delay or even lack of the required permissions, as well as the denied access of visas for UNDP international mine action experts, which are among key reasons for lower achievement in the north compared to the good results achieved in the south. To meet this challenge, UNDP is urged to continue its good offices consultations, both with the national mine action authorities in the North and with YEMAC in order to overcome these difficulties and better strengthen field operations for the benefit of affected communities.

112. As the front lines move, particularly in Al-Jawf, Marib (northern governorates) and in Western coastal areas, land is found to be heavily contaminated, and more resources are required to intervene in these areas, if security allows. Late in 2022, between the funding from OCHA and UNDP, the project purchased the renewal of mine clearance equipment of 200 personal protective equipment (PPE) and 300 metal detectors to the YEMAC North operations, pending administrative clearance from the authorities to move this shipment from Djibouti to YEMAC Sana'a. This will allow YEMAC teams to improve their security and daily demining efforts in the field within the challenging country-wide environment. In addition, the ICRC provided new equipment from its own funds to YEMAC Hudaydah, with 50 metal detectors and 50 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) in January 2023. Currently, the project is working with the Northern authorities to get access to the mine action INGOs that would increase clarity and improve the standards considerably to the sector. Each INGOs can bring in relative advantages, enabling dealing with the ERW threat more effectively and efficiently.

113. The primary focus remains on surveys and clearance operations, which are of utmost importance. In addition, it is crucial to support institutional capacities such as YMACC and YEMAC to ensure successful operations. While YEMAC possesses the basic elements necessary for the task, additional equipment and training are required to enhance its capabilities. The immediate priority falls on the land release of explosive ordnance through survey and clearance

activities, the provision of explosive ordnance risk education to communities and support for women, men, girls, and boys. With more land released, families will start using this for agricultural production and other development activities.

The Project advisory team has collaborated with counterparts to address staffing requirements for YMACC and YEMAC. Notably, the coordination staff of YMACC has been appointed, teams have undergone training, and technical working groups have been established. These technical working groups include the National Technical Survey, Mine Risk Education, and regular clearance operation meetings, among others. The level of outcome in developing the institutional capacity of the Yemeni mine action bodies is reflected by the improved quality of work by YMACC through training and providing equipment and other support. This resulted in more effective national mine actions implementation and Yemeni coordination bodies to coordinate all the relevant affairs. Effectiveness and output by YMACC increased with the provision and control of the Task Order process to the mine clearance actors.

Finding 7. The project intervention logic ties the three different types of intervention-humanitarian/emergency-development-peace nexus. Humanitarian and developmental interventions take place in longer-term setting and less than two years is too short a time to appraise the results which must be monitored over a longer period to determine its likely outcome.

114. Given the changing security and political environment and operational context during the project implementation, the project has enregistered good results to reach a performance threshold of 69% of project outputs indicators achieved which are promising and encouraging result results. The project results framework has identified specific indicators, baselines, and targets for both outputs and outcome. The strategy that UNDP has developed through the project to support national participation and ownership is well designed to support NMAC, YMACC, YEMAC within field operations, self-regulations, and quality management. A good example is UNDP EMA Phase-II project assistance to introduce and facilitate international organizations and mine action international NGOs (INGOs) to assist Yemen and bring their own relative advantages to YEMAC. The project is designed to respond to the corresponding priorities/needs and the results framework allows for a clear vision of the products and expected results/outcomes and is well-suited to support communities.

115. The project outcome indicator is consistent in its assessment of progress against specific security situations. Out of all outputs indicators, 25% of them are result indicators and the majority are process indicators. The definition of certain indicators could have better outlined the desired changes in institutional and behavioral capacities, so that the conditions for change which occur between the completion of the outputs and the achievement of the objectives, are optimized (for example: 'percentage of entries in the information management system in mine action (IMSMA)' is a process indicator; while 'level of information shared through IMSMA to effectively handle mine action related information to stakeholders and donors' is a result indicator). Indicators need to be nurtured enough to see some incipient change happening.

Thus, from an evaluative perspective, in the absence of specific indicators to measure resilience, it is difficult to identify which approach regarding mine action priorities (humanitarian or developmental) is best suited to the stated objective. For example, in the case of using an inclusive approach of mixed beneficiaries of communities targeting the promotion of social cohesion.

The specific tools and innovations as well as the design of new procedures and the testing of new methodologies (mechanical and mine detection dogs) for land release have not been given full visibility in the logical framework of the EMA-II project. The introduction of the concept of land release in EMA-II would allow better consideration for a cost-effective approach.

Finding 8. The project through UNDP has played a critical role in supporting the implementation of a coordinated mechanism and development of plans and tools necessary for the effective management and reduction of explosives hazard risks within the Yemen Mine action Coordinating Centre (YMACC) in Aden for south areas. This resulted in more effective national mine action implementation and coordination of all the relevant activities which are already showing signs of improved efficiency, effectiveness, and impact.

116. Until 2020, YEMAC in the southern region of the country played a dual role as both the regulatory body responsible for policy and planning and the sole national operator. The project has assisted YEMAC in confirming and adapting their structure to new challenges, and in improving their reporting and organizational capabilities. Since 2020, mine action increased efforts in coordinating with the new established mine action coordinating center (YMACC).

The goal is to create the necessary conditions and facilitate safe disposal of explosive ordnance, while ensuring effective operations management in harmonization with operators and international actors. The center established in Aden has significantly increased mine action programme management and enabled collaboration with international organizations in their fields of competence, mainly in the south. On the operational level, YMACC manages operations through assigning tasks, overseeing, and monitoring through quality control all operations from non-technical survey to clearance and releases of lands to civilian owners. YMACC is also responsible for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Awareness and Survivors Assistance.

YEMAC North continues to be the central agency, acting as a coordinating and executive institution for conducting all of Sana'a centric mine action activities (risk education, survey and clearance operations, quality control/assurance, information management and victim assistance). UNDP continues to advocate for the delineation of these functions with the installation of a Mine Action Coordination Centre/MACC North, following the model of YMACC South structure and the deployment of INGOs and commercial mine action partners (with their individual value added).

117. Significant progress has been made under the EMA-II project in enhancing the governance and adaptive capabilities of the mine action sector. This has been achieved through the setting up of the YMACC and of the various training programs, resulting in improved safety measures and performance in disposal operations. Institutional operational support and capacity development are important aspects of UNDP mine action technical assistance to national stakeholders in Yemen and its INGO partners. Effective coordination is key to the success and impact of mine action project in the field. Coordination should aim at facilitating and maximizing the impact of operations on the ground by making sure that they are conducted safely, effectively, in support of appropriately prioritized objectives, and that they are mutually complementary. Strong coordination between key mine action and development actors at national and local levels is vital. Inter-institutional coordination at the national level is also critical and should be facilitated through the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC) with the support of the Mine Action Coordination Centre (YMACC).

Operative YMACC coordination is based on four key principles as (i) achievable and agreed objectives/goals; (ii) accurate and reliable information; (iii) the availability of adequate resources, and (iv) effective communication and harmonization/synchronization between the stakeholders and partners which facilitate capacity enhancement of decision makers on coordinated response and monitoring and evaluation.

Finding 9. The project benefited from the field evidence of YEMAC, data analysis from YMACC and operational humanitarian actors such as OCHA with its humanitarian cluster protection which helped to appreciate the evolving situation of explosive threats, volatile security situation and led to appropriate emergency response planning.

118. YMACC's coordination and data analysis, along with the operational activities of YEMAC, are actively monitoring the extent of contamination and its impact through the ongoing Yemen Baseline Survey (YBLS). This survey combines population density data with contamination density data to assess the situation. As comprehensive assessments covering the entire country are currently unavailable, mine action's Area of Responsibilities (AoR) relies on various primary sources for information. These sources include civilian Impact Monitoring Protection (CIMP), data on armed conflict and events, the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), TPM field monitoring, community consultations, YMACC data, and mine action working groups (MAWG) under YMACC's coordination.

Since 2020, the AoR has proven to be a successful instrument in bringing together UN and INGOs-organizations partners implementing mine action activities and acting as a bridge with the UN protection cluster. In the field, the humanitarian worker prioritization matrix and rapid assessment process, if applicable, are also valuable tools for evaluation purposes. Amongst other sources of information, the UNDP Mine Action Experts (MAE) carried out some high-profile mission in support of OCHA through ‘threat impact assessment (TIA)’ generated for dissemination to the wider UN Community. It summarizes explosive hazard contamination in identified areas of operation and asks for follow-up by the National Mine Action Authority with regards to tasking for priority mine action activities and support the aid delivery.

The importance of enhancing the use of mine action information by development actors is no longer to be demonstrated. Furthermore, the ability of mine action to have a greater positive impact on development depends on its success at facilitating the actions or anticipating the needs of development actors. Across the communities visited, there was minimal evidence that land clearance and release had spurred non-mine action development assistance from UNDP or other agencies. A good example is the promotion of access to justice and confidence in the rule of law (RoL) within UNDP governance strengthening activities. UNDP has facilitated coordination with YMACC in Aden and YEMAC in Sana’a with UN agencies as UNICEF and IOM project managers providing ERW safety awareness training which allows UN humanitarian workers to deal safely with the delivery of effective assistance to communities. Over the past eighteen months, the project has registered around a hundred people trained, of whom 20% are women.

119. YEMAC remains committed to addressing environmental concerns during the prioritization and disposal procedures, as they have the necessary equipment capacity, thus avoiding harm while assisting communities in mitigating the impacts associated with environmental issues such as soil loss, drought, and floods as well as promoting initiatives for environmental recovery.

KEQ 7- To what extent have different stakeholders been involved in the project implementation?
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Finding 10. Through the advocacy by UNDP, mine action INGOs and organizations have been working in south areas which has made amazing achievements under tough circumstances, due to their determination. UNDP also managed striking partnerships with the GICHD and MSB to better serve the Yemeni people through the development of YMACC information management and the strengthening of YEMAC field operations.

120. External support to YEMAC/YMACC is gradually increasing via many partners i.e. UNDP, GICHD, INGOs which will increase the impact made by setting up the programme and management, coordination, and implementation of mine action activities. During the period under consideration, YEMAC teams in different Governorates continued their regular duties. YMACC, YEMAC and UNDP continued working on improving the administration activities of YEMAC’s departments with review of internal procedures, operational planning and organizational charts. To fully enable ‘behavior change’ and realization of ‘best practice’ specifically with adherence to International/National Mine Action standards, YMACC and YEMAC have benefited from the ongoing mentorship and support from UNDP technical advisory team and INGOs to allow them to increase their productivity and maintain operational safety and standards. UNDP mine action experts continued with mentoring field visits of external YMACC and internal YEMAC quality management officers at operational clearance worksites to improve technical competence and adherence to safety measures.

121. YMACC is in contact with the GICHD on developing national standards for operators clearing mines/ERW/IEDs and have started reviewing a draft of interim national standards whose aim is to guide the implementation of mine action activities in a safe, coordinated, and efficient manner. UNDP is working with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian demining (GICHD) on upgrading the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) with the adoption of the new system IMSMA core by YMACC and an information assessment conducted to enhance capacity on monitoring-analyzing information sharing.

UNDP information management staff contracted through MSB and GICHD have been instrumental in driving forward the information strategy and empowering the YMACC and YEMAC to take full ownership of the national data base which is used for planning, decision making, tasking, reporting and a guidance/advocacy tool for donors as well as for reporting and monitoring purposes. UNDP organized the first Power BI dashboards that the YMACC team created as part of their first Power Business Intelligence (BI) training session offered to them. This is a good start, and this tool will help them find some insights into their mine action data and make data-driven decisions.

YMACC has developed maps of achievements of good quality and efforts are still encouraging all mine action implementing partners to provide their inputs directly into the information management system for mine action

(IMSMA) forms. The information is all geo-referenced and can be readily presented in various formats, including maps, table, graphs and reports. This information is useful to developmental organizational planning in number of ways. For example, for community, identify high and medium impact communities for possible development project targeting; for sector development program (water, health etc..), identify whether facility in a specific community has ERW blockage. The development organizations can detect early ERW contamination in certain communities with follow-up advice both with the mine action authority and locally for more precise and up-to-date information. In turn, this allows the mine action authority to consider the possible needs of the development organization in its own planning for EORE, survey and clearance, in order to remove obstacles before they become bottlenecks.

122. YEMAC recognized and praised the various key trainings where its technical staff benefited from the specialized advisory team of UNDP and INGO operators, particularly in dealing with improvised explosives and equipment. Late in 2021, re-dynamizing the mine detector dog units and the installation of a new mechanical mine clearance using the front loader alongside with the bobcat backhoe, allowed communities and vulnerable people to resume their activities with more serenity and less fear, once land is released. The initial adaptation of dogs to their new environment and settling in period with the new handlers have been successfully established and the use of mechanical means is well managed.

123. YEMAC has conducted a needs assessment of mine action teams to enhance the operational performance and effectively impact communities. However, there is a need to improve the monitoring mechanism to ensure timely response to the team's requirements and to ensure that their needs are met, to ensure the delivery of the needs if the availability of these tools allows it. The project is currently addressing these requirements with guidance from UNDP. Demining operators are closely collaborating with YMACC to prioritize the swift removal of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in densely populated and much-frequented areas, in order to ensure safe access and minimize casualties.

124. The project continues to provide operational, information, operational management and procurement support to YEMAC/YMACC. The project is supporting the YEMAC North and South deminers and YMACC staff with incentives paid since 2017 due to lack of national resources, including logistic/fuel support and maintenance of their vehicles and technical equipment. Seven hundred people are working and reporting in the South and five hundred people in the North. Unfortunately, due to the shortfall of funds and despite the considerable efforts from UNDP to fundraise for national mine action operations, this support ended in the second semester of this year and become a severe issue.

As expressed in the interviews, donors are concerned about the clarity of results reporting as they demand better accuracy of results and analysis of changes on the field as a result of their considerable financial support provided. This situation as well as the pending clearance for INGOs to be able to deploy field operations in the north areas, has hindered donors' confidence. Nonetheless, it was also recognized that greater mine action communication would be favorable to re-establish a solid partnership within MA authorities and more efforts could be deployed to that end. However, it is noted that more intensive communication efforts could have dispelled misunderstandings and contributed to greater synergies between implementing partners. Thus, there is a room for improvement in strengthening mine action communication and maybe it would be useful to develop a model communication structure for mine action operations.

125. UNDP's approach was to support mine action INGOs in implementing mine action activities into Yemen and providing them with initial funding. Once the INGOs are implemented and running, INGOS can secure their own funding. All the mine action INGOs present in Yemen are implementing activities in the southern areas. Cooperation with YEMAC/YMACC and project implementing partners is steadily increasing and they have established a strong relationship within YMACC and YEMAC in the south which could serve as a platform on which other partnerships can boost. The same model approach in the north areas is expected in the near future.

INGO's continue to train, deploy and mentor NTS teams under their own donor funding streams and are subsequently tasked through the YMACC to systematically conduct NTS and approve land release through an evidence-based approach. Regular guidance has been provided to YEMAC/YMACC on quality assurance and quality management. Clearance operations are focused on high-threat, high impact, spot tasks in order to mitigate the impact on the wider community.

Up to present day, the international clearance capacity from the HALO Trust (HT), the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) works under memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with YEMAC South. Mine action partners trained individuals, equipped, and organized into multitask teams to be deployed to high-

priority minefields in southern Yemen in order to release contaminated land through Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), Non-Technical Survey (NTS), Technical Survey (TS) and Clearance operations team's.

UNDP Yemen continue to cooperate with the mine action INGOs and international organizations present in the south areas (NPA, HT, DRC, HI, GICHD) and support their registration in the north. YEMAC/North should sign a MoU with the international partners HT, NPA and DRC shortly as the documents are in the final stage.

126. YEMAC has demonstrated excellent commitment in managing field operations despite difficult circumstances hampered by the volatile security conditions and the nature of the threat. Abandoned explosive ordnances (AXO) continued to be destroyed to prevent explosive harvesting. In reducing the post-conflict impact of the war, abandoned ammunition poses a considerable risk when harvesting takes place. As a proactive measure, AXO are specifically targeted and is commonly a relatively simple exercise with a high long-term impact preventing the opportunity for explosive harvesting. To prevent misuse only 6% of removed explosive items were destroyed due to lack of destruction materials. The destruction and safe storage of a large amount of recovered AXO is a challenge and measures must be considered for future clearance activities when operational conditions on the ground permit.

127. The presence of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) present a major threat to local communities and has a significant impact on mobility and community access to essential services. With the support of the YMACC, UNDP Yemen has been running a combined MA and Rule of Law project to counter the threat posed by IEDs since 2019. Rather than examine C-IED through the traditional pillars, the project chose a **novel** human rights-based approach, promoting and establishing empowered communities to report issues of concern within local governance networks. This has fostered commitments between local authorities and community members, to marginalize use, restore confidence and establish effective response protocols with representation from community leaders, governance institutions and the emergency services, across affected communities.

Extensive consultations were conducted by the project, primarily in accessible governorates, particularly in south areas. Input was gathered from implementing partners to identify the prevailing human rights issues. These consultations incorporated feedback from numerous previous explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sessions and involved community members.

Through these consultations, problems related to mines and land release in rural areas, as well as improvised explosive devices (IEDs)/unexploded ordnance (UXO) in urban and rural settings, were identified. With the support of the authorities, the project piloted the UNIDIR C-IED model in Yemen, which informed the identification of capacity development initiatives. These initiatives include IED risk education aimed at reducing community risks within the most affected governorates, thereby enhancing human security. Collaboration with UNICEF, HI, GICHD, and UNMAS resulted in the development of EORE products which improved the safety of children and teenagers, who are the primary victims of such incidents. During the last eighteen months, UNDP conducted a training needs analysis to design an IED Disposal Good Practice Course around these shortfalls, mainly in the southern areas for about 50 participants. Due to the vacant position of the international adviser on C-IED since mid-2022, progression of related activity to one+ step in 4 categories as outlined in the mine action and C-IED model maturity model is delayed.

128. Yemen faces challenges in implementing comprehensive surveillance systems to collect and manage data on mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) victims, primarily due to resource constraints and restricted access and movement. While significant results were not achieved during the review period, YEMAC North and South demonstrated commendable efforts by screening 639 victims, with 13% being children and 8% women. The screening reports were then shared with the Yemen Association to Landmine Survivors (YALS), which provided limited support to survivors and their families. Although Victim Assistance is not an active component of the project due to funding and capacity limitations, UNDP has actively engaged national authorities and civil society in promoting victims' assistance and collaborating with other stakeholders in this field.

The YMACC as a new coordinating body for mine action activities should assist YEMAC in defining a victim assistance policy for the disabled. UNDP advocated for engaging UN and INGOs and others international and national actors involved in the sector to discuss the proposed development on NMAS for victim assistance and installing a referral pathway between the health sector and the mine action sector.

Finding 11. Mine action activities conducted by YEMAC in targeted areas, facilitate the transportation and freedom of movement of communities and internally displaced groups, promote equality and inclusion, and provide a safe overall working and living environment. Results of project's activities have also supported social cohesion including equality and inclusion and peace building efforts locally.

129. UNDP mine action recognized early on the need to support survey of ERW issues, and it promoted local community in prioritization. The project operates in a dynamic environment where conditions vary across different districts and governorates due to evolving conflicts in new areas. Accordingly, new objectives and needs are prioritized based on regular contextual analysis to ensure that interventions do not cause or aggravate conflict in targeted areas and mitigate associated risks. However, the lack of a clear understanding of the extent of contamination makes it challenging for YMACC and YEMAC to develop a strategic plan. Conducting a nationwide survey and establishing a new baseline estimate of contamination are high-priority tasks for the upcoming years. The recent conflicts in Yemen have significantly altered the scope and complexity of contamination. In light of the ongoing conflict, YMACC prioritizes delivering an emergency response in mitigating the threat to civilians posed by various forms of explosive hazards.

130. Substantial evidence was found, confirming the presence of effectiveness in terms of clearing ERW, providing education about ERW dangers and creating space for local economic and recovery. Development benefits includes enabling the resettlement of internal displaced persons and refugees, the commencement of new economic activities, and clearance as essential preparation for existing national infrastructure assets and future projects. Additional evidence exists of the EMA-II project being coordinated with the work of other UN agencies to obtain leverage and thereby further enhance effectiveness. As an example, the project has improved partnership securing funds from humanitarian assistance programmes (UN OCHA) to ensure access to targeted areas and thus facilitate aid delivery for humanitarian actors.

131. Clearance tasks were typically identified through local authorities, based on the emergency and development needs and a process involving requests by district level and individual/community households. For example, the initial purpose has often been the quick removal of ERW in heavily populated and travelled areas to ensure safe access and reduce casualties. Once emergency tasks were resolved, there were many competing issues, and efforts were then made to prioritize. However, effectiveness in the prioritization of sites, the maximization of benefits to poor and vulnerable groups, the detailed specification of criteria for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) criteria, the need for greater precision in reporting (analysis of incipient change occurred) and regular progress communication sharing and targeted capacity development are all identified by many actors interviewed as the main aspects of quality management to be improved.

The project continues to support the INGOs and organizations to achieve its targets and improve productivity. As part of the prioritization process for survey and clearance, UNDP has started to incorporate environmental challenges (floods, drought, soil loss, soil erosion, natural disaster...) to assist Yemen's development and preparedness in support of environmental projects. In addition, YEMAC advised the consideration and adoption of techniques to reduce or avoid environmental impacts when following methodologies adopted in the field, particularly during clearance activities.

132. The capacity of rural communities to improve standards of living depends on many other factors, such as access to farming and local markets. In some communities visited, the lives and livelihoods of affected communities have been significantly improved through ERW clearance operations and land release, even where usable land is quite limited.

The development of survey and land release methodologies has enhanced the efficiency of YEMAC's operations. In areas where land release activities have been completed, there has been a notable positive impact on the well-being and livelihoods of the population. This is particularly significant considering that only 3% of Yemen's land is arable land, and approximately 70% of the rural population depends on agriculture for sustenance and income generation. Consequently, agriculture plays a crucial role in supporting the livelihoods of two-thirds of the population. Given the high dependence on agriculture, the contamination or suspected contamination of land poses significant challenges to the survival of rural communities. Their food production, shelter, and mental well-being are all adversely affected by these issues, making their situation extremely vulnerable.

With respect to land release, rural populations reported that the contamination caused fear, restricted freedom of movement and prevented access to natural resources, with significant impact on their daily lives and ability to engage in livelihoods activities.

In communities visited, respondents said they were very happy that mine/ERW have been cleared from their land, and they held YEMAC and INGOs clearance teams in respect. The most important benefits for both men and women were a sense of safety preventing casualties and violence, and peace of mind. The ability to live and work without the constant underlying concern about safety for themselves and their children due to explosive ordnance injury was widely emphasized by those interviewed. The land release also eases access to previously blocked resources, aiding local resurgent socio-economic development. Despite similar land use before and after clearance, in all focus group discussions respondents reported that livelihoods had improved after clearance.

Many daily activities such as agriculture, wood and water collection, mobility within between villages, and access to markets, which are usually carried out by women and girls, can be hindered, or rendered more strenuous by contamination. Clearly, women and girls are an integral part of the process related to land release and Explosive Ordnance Risk education (EORE).

Finding 12. UNDP has supported mine action with the aim of reducing poverty reduction. In most places visited, there is evidence of improvements in standards of living over the course of mine action activities, although the extent of the clearance efforts is difficult to quantify.

133. According to feedback received during the interviews, mine action is recognized as a full and justified component of development work, closely aligned with other sectors of development. Its contributions are significant in terms of enhancing human and community security, including the protection of people, the restoration of livelihoods, and support for peacebuilding, recovery, and overall development. UNDP has successfully established connections between these goals and environmental sustainability, governance, the rule of law, gender considerations, and resilience.

Mine action activities led by YEMAC are appropriate given the need of the population in the targeted area for land cleared of explosive items. According to the community, roads, farms, schools, health centers have benefited from this operation and their activities and safety have been restored. Those communities which include Internally Displaced Population (IDP), who benefited from decontaminated fields, feel safer for knowing that mine action teams are working to eliminate the threat of mines/ERW. According to them they are highly satisfied with resuming daily routines and transportation in a safer environment.

134. Furthermore, assessing the impact is challenging due to the limited knowledge regarding the extent of mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination in Yemen. It is crucial to comprehensively understand various aspects: (i) the economic and social consequences, including the impact on the affected community's social systems; (ii) how people have adapted to the presence of explosive ordnance; and (iii) the potential contribution of the removal of explosive ordnance to peace consolidation. This directly relates to the issues of capacity and vulnerability. The magnitude of the impact depends on whether landmines and explosive ordnances render the communities vulnerable and is influenced by the absence of suitable alternatives.

5.3. Efficiency

KEQ 9- Were the programme's resources efficiently utilized? Are there more efficient ways of delivering the same or better results with the available inputs?

Finding 13. UNDP Yemen is considered by stakeholders as especially well positioned to advocate for national ownership and is perceived as a neutral, credible, and valuable partner, valued for its expertise and proven efforts in fostering mine action operations.

135. With considerable knowledge of Yemen and with proven experience, UNDP appears as a central UN mine action agency to the national authorities, as a significant contributor in particular for support to national mine action programme and capacity development initiatives, leveraging its comparative advantage in addressing the country's needs for appropriate institutional and legal frameworks. UNDP is highly valued by its mine action stakeholders, as it is recognized for its credibility, recognized by its comparative advantages, and expertise in governance, rule of Law and mine action. Additionally, UNDP's support extends to the protection of the population, promoting gender equality, facilitating capacity development, and fostering the involvement of international mine action partners. Its

efforts also contribute to restoring confidence in governance and rule of law institutions, creating opportunities for diverse partnerships.

136. To bring about noticeable change, it is crucial to highlight the importance of developing a communication policy tailored to address the specific needs and to enhance understanding of UNDP's mandate and the connections between mine action, particularly in response to improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and the rule of law. The commendable actions and endeavors undertaken by Yemen, which exemplify a security-development approach model, deserve emphasis among partners and donors. This recognition is essential due to their significant contribution to restoring confidence in governance and the rule of law as integral steps towards peacebuilding. Yemen faced with a ERW clearance process of more than 20 years recognizes that the long-term experience of UNDP in conducting quality management support in a new inclusive mine action assistance framework which is yet to be defined.

137. Stakeholders recognize UNDP's capacity to advocate for national ownership and collaborate with authorities and legislative bodies in supporting the development of legal and institutional frameworks for mine action. This includes assisting in the formulation of strategies to fulfill legal obligations outlined in the Ottawa Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Finding 14. The project was efficient in utilizing the programme's resources using UNDP efficient rules and regulations. UNDP has established partnerships with different types of actors such as donors, UN agencies, International and national NGOs, as well as a private company to assist Yemen and by bringing their own relative advantages of improving performance through training and capacity development interventions. Due to the lack of funds available, UNDP is currently questioning its concept of operational support for mine action.

138. Recognizing the significant role of mine action in promoting development, mine action organizations and their donors have increasingly recognized the importance of the "security-development nexus." In addition, there has been a growing emphasis on integrating mine action into emergency response. These aim to facilitate free movement of people and goods, ensure access for humanitarian actors, and enable the proper disposal of explosive ordnance. The current emergency phase primarily focuses on alleviating the severe impact on affected communities, preventing the situation from worsening, providing relief from the impact of existing contamination, and addressing long-term obligations under international conventions.

139. However, the prevailing security situation and ongoing conflict significantly undermine donor confidence, leading many to prefer reducing their support to the sector until tangible progress is made towards resolving and ending the current conflict. Moreover, the irregularity of funding poses challenges for effective planning of mine action activities. Conversely, constant funding, even at a smaller scale, enables the project to engage in regular operational planning, albeit on a limited scope.

140. During the period under review the diversity of the donor pool provided the project with the needed flexibility in using the resources. Under the direct execution modality (DEX), UNDP Yemen allotted financial resources based on international best practices and procedures of traceability and transparency. In agreement with YEMAC/YMACC available resources are allocated throughout Yemen based on priorities, needs assessment and permissible security and working environment.

Unfortunately, due to some donors' fatigue after two decades of mine action in Yemen and the slow progress of the peace process, and the reluctance of donors to take political risks in this sector, the current budget has decreased by 45% annually compared to the previous budget amounts (2019-2020). With the recent withdrawal of former donors (UK in March 2022 and Germany in December 2022), the Project at present has limited support from donors with countries, such as the Netherlands, OCHA and US DoS providing funding for 2023. Today, funding may prove to be a critical constraint for Yemen's mine action program, as only a third of the required annual funds have been secured for 2023. The requirements (as per the project document) stand at USD 15M per year, the utilization of funds in 2022 was USD 10.6 M (sufficient to sustain existing operations but no growth) while there are only USD 5M secured for 2023. Today, funding may prove a critical constraint on Yemen's Mine Action programme, as less than 45% of funding is secured for 2023.

141. As per the current Agreements; (i) the funding from the Yemen Humanitarian Emergency Fund (YHF), disbursed through OCHA expires at the end of June 2023; (ii) the funding from the US DoS expires at the end of November 2023; and (iii) the funding from the Netherlands expires at the end of 2024. In addition, the project benefited funds from humanitarian assistance programmes (UNOCHA) to address the emergency humanitarian needs through ensuring access to targeted areas.

Following the shortage of funding and the announcement of the joint UN/UNDP initiative to re-consider and re-calibrate the UN support operations in the field of mine action, the Donors had announced that they will also revise their support to the existing EMA-II project. Discussions are ongoing in regard to the potential re-organization of their financial assistance depending on the outcome of the new UN strategy and its alignment with the Donor's priorities. The imminent shortage of funding will result in UNDP not being able to continue to support the existing YEMAC (North and South) operations. This will also be in line with the latest consideration of the overall UN thinking. The consequences of this to the national organizations remain to be seen as to date, there have been no encouraging signs to increase national ownership and reverse the culture of dependency in either the South or the North, and it may as well be that the operations are put on hold until the new way forward is ascertained. The volatile environment, added to sudden changes in context, resulted in a constant necessity of adapting operations, resulting in additional cost for ongoing activities.

The project should develop a dedicated mine action resource mobilization strategy in close coordination with the YMACC to consolidate and expand operational capacity to meet immediate ERW threat mitigation needs. Effective coordination was carried out on a regular basis (twice a year) and represented a key requirement and a review and possible redefinition of the design of UNDP Yemen's support to the mine action sector.

142. Emergency and humanitarian mine action interventions, specifically surveys and clearance operations to address the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) to vulnerable communities, necessitate significant financial and technical resources. These resources are vital to ensure a sustained capacity to mitigate the risks posed by mines and ERW and facilitate the safe delivery of humanitarian aid. The cost of the response has also increased in order to maintain multiple interventions in emergency response capacity to address the protection needs of affected communities. Additionally, the procurement of specialized clearance and mobile equipment incurs considerable expenses.

For example, HALO trust locally purchased a front loader as mechanical clearance in order to save the cost of new equipment from abroad and of transport, while the ballistic protection was imported from Turkey. Mine Action AoR considered in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023, the unit cost of land release, based on all related operational, costs (salaries of deminers, equipment purchase, administrative costs) as US\$3.5 per square meter of land. The unit cost of EORE, (based on training of trainers, allowances of those delivering EORE, EORE material, administrative costs), is evaluated as US\$5 per person. The unit cost for both activities has been developed in consultation with all MA AoR members (UN and INGOs organizations).

KEQ 10- How efficient were the management and accountability structures of the project? (Programme cycle, staffing, M&E processes, ToC, selection of implementing partners...)? To what extent have the M&E systems utilized by UNDP enabled effective and efficient project management?

Finding 15. Prioritization of criteria for the mine action project consistently emerges as an issue across a number of domains as community development, development linkages, donor coordination, gender-related results and project's monitoring and field operations evaluation (M&E) system. These efforts need to be reinforced from more detailed data of the beneficiaries and the impact on their domestic life. It used more success stories and analysis of change regarding the situation of post clearance as a relevant tool for resource mobilization. The M&E system does not sufficiently capitalize on project experiences for effective learning.

143. With the recent mine action field operations partners engaged in mine action with the same objectives, and under the YMACC coordination, the compilation and mapping of results across activities is important to ensure their complementarity in terms of results, and to make necessary adjustments and optimize performance and activities. Detailed data of the beneficiaries and the impact on their domestic life (Gender-disaggregated data of beneficiaries) and an analysis of the first impact on their domestic life need to be improved. The lessons learned would enrich knowledge management, good practice, capitalization of results and guide future strategies.

UNDP's long-term emergency mine action interventions have accumulated valuable experiences that should be gathered and analyzed to be shared within the project and with other interested stakeholders and users. These experiences can also contribute to informing policy dialogues in the field. Examples of these experiences include dealing with counter-improvised explosive devices (C-IEDs), disposing of explosives, providing explosive ordnance risk education, conducting community consultations, implementing policing initiatives, and implementing effective and good practices to support resilience and recovery in both northern and southern regions.

144. Hazardous area's location, ERW removal and destruction rates, and areas cleared are highly variable and unpredictable due to ground conditions as the degree of gradient of the terrain and the nature of the soil, patterns of mine emplacement etc...No general conclusions can be drawn for such figures, and they apply only to the very specific conditions at the sites in question. One efficiency measure endorsed by the project is to monitor the scheduling of activity through workplans and to monitor the timely delivery of outputs, comparing actual with planned milestones. This is a useful approach for optimizing the value of outputs and is already being done on quarterly basis reporting system and annual review. Field visits offered observable evidence that the mine action operators were working in an efficient manner. Mine action operators and field managers showed no hesitation in providing detailed and convincing answers on all aspects of their operations.

145. The project results framework identifies results indicators mainly as process indicators which are not enough gender specific particularly in terms of quantities to be achieved. However, identifying indicators that can be used to assess progress towards intended results or changes, whether positive or negative, resulting from the project's activities is challenging. While these indicators are relevant for monitoring the implementation of project activities and achieving key outputs, they may not be suitable for measuring changes at the outcome level.

146. The logic of the project's intervention through the theory of change (ToC) needs to be reinforced. According to the EMA phase-II project document: 'The theory of change is based on the assumptions that the impact of the conflict on people can effectively be mitigated, the capacity for increased resilience at the community level can be strengthened, proper access to affected areas can be allowed and the contamination does not increase beyond manageable levels.' The ToC of the EMA-II project appears to be concerned with ensuring that the planned interventions will lead to output, rather than by identifying the necessary conditions required to achieve the intended objective/outcome, given the specific context of each output of this mine action support.

The TOC for UNDP's support in mine action helps in understanding the causal pathways for UNDP mine action support across the various environments in Yemen. The ToC should be considered a 'living' document and be monitored and updated throughout the life of the project. The evaluation team revisited the ToC of EMA-II project in annex 10.

KEQ 11- To what extent gender equality results are achieved at reasonable cost? Has the project collected sex-disaggregated data and monitored, reported, and communicated gender-related results?
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147. The project has pursued the gender and diversity dimension, continuing to advocate for and facilitate women's and People with disabilities (PwDs) participation in mine action. It seeks to increase the percentage of women in all activities and to ensure that all data reports are sex-and age-disaggregated data (SADD). The UNDP information management team with support from GICHD ensures gender and diversity are mainstreamed in IMSMA forms as a good practice criterion for gender and diversity analysis during all stages of project activities. In 2022, the mine action project has supported land release activities, where about to 53 % of all beneficiaries are women and girls and disabled people. The EOR sessions/campaigns have also created opportunities of giving voice to vulnerable and disabled people in order to create links among mine action actors and communities, able better target needs and EOR sessions/campaigns have also generated opportunities to give voice to vulnerable and disabled people in order to create links between mine action actors and communities, and to be able to assess needs better and refer to specialized services.

Disaggregated data provides a clearer picture of the field intervention implemented by YEMAC and the different needs of beneficiaries. However, the same approach needs to be further reinforced for staff, which can be used to develop more effective gender and disability-sensitive policies.

5.4. Sustainability

KEQ 12- What are project outputs that contributed to sustainable change?
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Finding 16. Through the development of survey and land release methodologies and the provision of specialized training, productivity has been enhanced. The facilitation of long-term engagement with mine action INGOs and short-term collaboration with commercial entities in the southern region has demonstrated notable success in elevating standards and operational effectiveness.

148. The project not only focused on strengthening the capacities of relevant institutions but also played a role in supporting national authorities in launching them. For instance, the project provided support to the authorities in setting up the Yemen Mine Action Coordination Centre (YMACC) in the southern region. YEMAC South currently has

an adequate number of demining personnel, and several INGOs have collaborated with them, such as NPA, DRC, Halo Trust, and commercial firms like TDI. These partnerships have involved technical training, management support and guidance amongst others. UNDP actively encouraged and facilitated the involvement of INGOs in the country, particularly in the southern region, where each organization brings unique contributions to the sector. This progress is relevant in advancing the sector and lays the foundation for future operations, emphasizing efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and overall impact.

Through the risk education, the capacities and knowledge of the target communities have increased in terms of identifying, dealing and avoiding mines and unexploded ordnance risks. This is reflected by the improved knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) related to Mine/ERW/IED.

KEQ 13- To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the project team on a continual basis and shared with appropriate parties who could learn from the project?

Finding 17. Consultation, buy-in, and project outcome/outputs are closely interlinked. By supporting the installation of YMACC, the project contributes to the preservation and the sustainability of the implementation capacity management and coordination of much needed ERW risk education/clearance activities.

149. The project demonstrated a flexible approach to address the evolving threats and changing situations, adapting operations to immediate needs and new priorities, while also fulfilling short and long-term obligations. The project placed significant emphasis on understanding and addressing the impact of explosive ordnance and focusing on linking mine/ERW/IED clearance with livelihoods and economic recovery by targeting impacted and vulnerable communities. Various policies, technical frameworks, and quality management (assurance and control) guidelines have been developed which provide institutional frameworks for YMACC and YEMAC institutional/operational management respectively, which have received adequate attention. Through UNDP's procurement of equipment and essential mine and ERW awareness and clearance activities, the project contributed to the preservation and sustainability of implementation capacity, with significant equipment purchases.

In the preparation of a mine action support project, consulting widely with stakeholders including direct and indirect beneficiaries, communities, service providers and local organizations, is critical. Broad and meaningful input from such a wide group, with divergent interests, perceptions, knowledge and expertise, enhances a project team's ability to understand the problem to be addressed and therefore design a project most likely to address it. Such an approach also fosters 'buy-in' amongst stakeholder groups – giving them a voice in articulating both the problem, and the mitigation in the emergency situation, increases ownership, understanding and support for future interventions, which allows the project leading with change.

Raising awareness about clearance activities is crucial in mitigating threats and encouraging further action through the participation of INGOs, each contributing their comparative advantages and their unique value to the mine action sector. The mine action activities support community-based peacebuilding and security and promote sustainability by providing information on security and risk knowledge at all levels of local society.

KEQ 14- To what extent the interventions have well-designed and well-planned exit strategies?

KEQ 15- To what extent will financial and economic resources be available to sustain the benefits achieved by the project?

Finding 18. Without a strong mobilization and communication strategy, and effective national ownership, Mine Action in Yemen cannot sustain the acquired potential of the intervention to ensure the sustainability of impacts despite the great progress made in capacity strengthening.

150. As the UNDP mine action initiative is an integral part of the humanitarian response, there is currently no specific exit strategy in place. Important support to deminers' incentives, equipment and maintenance have been delivered (vehicles, mine detectors, protective vests, helmets...) and the high-quality level of specialized training including daily basic advice on working procedures has been provided by the project. These efforts have not only strengthened the capabilities of targeted groups, institutions, and stakeholders but have also empowered them. UNDP mine action has effectively supported the development of capacities necessary for effective national ownership and management, facilitated by the dedicated commitment of the national staff of YMACC and YEMAC in both northern and southern regions. Under the current political instability and fragmentation, the many actors (at national and project level) have different cultures, loyalties, institutional features and interests, together with lack of local fund, the sense of ownership of the project was minimal. Nonetheless, despite challenging conditions, they have demonstrated

excellent performance, operating with enhanced knowledge, skills, and institutional and human resource capacities. The project has also collaborated with national and specialized international organizations with a proven track record in mine action programmes and projects.

151. The continuation of services provided or supported by external parties such as UNDP is dependent on national mine action capacities being sufficiently embedded in respective national institutions and national authorities can expect substantial donor funding will continue at least until the country enters a new status of a peaceful nation on the path to development, which should hopefully happen soon.

Ensuring the financial and national ownership sustainability of local institutions with limited advisory services is at stake in making the transition/exit a success. Regrettably, the slow progress of the peace process in the country has compounded the reluctance of donors to take political risks in this sector added to the fatigue of some donors long involved in supporting mine action, this did not contribute to favoring a clear mobilization.

Under current war conditions and political instability and fragmentation, further development of relevant national authorities is a key and right option, considering the amount of workload needed in demining, clearing and releasing of areas. Considering the weak state capacities and lack of resources, UNDP should continue to encourage donors to support mine action interventions under the current conditions.

KEQ 16- Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize the sustainability of project's outputs and the donor's project's contributions to the country programme outputs and outcomes?
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KEQ 17: To what extent have relevant government ministries or institutions integrated project outcomes into ongoing policies and practices?

Finding 19. The project encountered various social and political risks in the volatile conflict context that had the potential to compromise the sustainability of its outputs and outcomes. Moreover, there were challenges related to the procurement and supply of technical equipment, including detectors and other necessary materials for demolition and demining activities.

152. The procurement process for essential materials did not proceed as quickly as anticipated, causing disruptions to the work of the project's counterparts. Given the challenging environment in the country, the project worked with its national counterparts to locally procure certain materials. The project also supported the maintenance of existing items, such as vehicles, small generators and detectors, or even explore local production options. Delays in the import process can be attributed to extensive national administrative procedures and the overall political situation in the country. International mine action actors reported that a challenge was the length of time needed to obtain importation clearances as well as security clearance (visas) for new local staff.

153. Under the current political instability and volatile conflict context associated with lack of funds, respondents reported that no clear policies and practices are approved by local institutions. However, the trained staff, the knowledge they acquired through project support and other capacities built, including the provided devices, instruments and equipment, among others, have contributed to improving local capacities to carry out priority mine action activities. In this connection however, although the Yemen Mine Action Authorities have capacity to effectively coordinate, regulate and plan the mapping of ERW contamination, they still lack the needed financial/donors' support.

5.5- Human Rights

KEQ 18- To what extent have poor, indigenous and physically challenged, women and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups been included in helping design and prioritize the work of the project in the spirit of broad societal inclusion? To what extent have they benefited from the work of the project?
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KEQ 19- Was conflict sensitivity mainstreamed and included as an approach throughout project implementation?
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Finding 20. The project advocates for a mine action approach based on human rights principles and encourages communities to freely communicate and report their concerns within local governance networks.

154. Throughout the project implementation, the prioritization of beneficiary and targeted groups' needs, including vulnerable individuals, women, and youth, remained a key focus. These needs encompassed areas such as agricultural land, road access, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions.

However, there is a need for community-based and community-sensitive indicators to better assess the impact of the presence of mines/ERW and mine action activities. This assessment is crucial for informing prioritization and planning. While mine action activities are beneficial to affected communities, there is a need to optimize their impact or even understand how to optimize the impact at the community or micro level. Considering the nature of the project interventions which is generally less encouraging for women engagement, as well the different level of community acceptance in south and north, gender was rated high. In addition, women are among the key beneficiaries of the project interventions as they are able to collect water, reach to their lands and catch livelihood opportunities.

Therefore, it is important to enhance engagement before and during mine action and explore new approaches for assessing its impact. One promising initiative undertaken by the project involves the introduction of a mechanism for community dialogue within a rule of law framework, ensuring that the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups are represented. This rights-based approach, driven by community consultations during prevention stages and focused on examining counter-improvised explosive devices (C-IED), has provided insights into the intervention contexts. The commitment of the RoL programme in Yemen to mine action and countering the threats posed by IEDs since 2019 has significantly contributed to the sector by introducing a more politically and conflict-sensitive analysis.

155. The project has adopted a conflict sensitivity approach throughout project implementation which understand the interaction between the mine action intervention and the current volatile security context, in order to avoid negative impacts and maximize positive impacts. This can be seen through the listed risk framework inventoried by the project and on regular risk management and field environment analysis on how mine action activities be implemented in a way that supports local communities and increases their security rather than worsening the situation (do no harm approach). In a special context of volatility, the particularity and complexity of the conflict and challenges encountered by the project did not facilitate any projection for the future. Nevertheless, the project has been able to guarantee delivery of humanitarian and emergency assistance through save passages across most districts of the country. UNDP has benefited from close collaboration of the UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) and training on conflict-sensitivity communication and risk management, in the challenging general insecurity and protracted conflict.

KEQ 20-To what extent are the planned project interventions relevant to the overall strategy of inclusivity and empowerment?

Finding 21. UNDP's support to mine action in Yemen has made a significant contribution to enhancing human safety by effectively reducing the threat.

156. Yemen's mine action approach is grounded in human rights principles, as the presence of mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) directly impacts various political, economic, social, civil, and cultural rights. A human rights framework helps to secure freedoms, promote human development, and empower individuals to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Under international human rights law (IHRL), authorities have a primary obligation to ensure the essential rights of the civilian population under their effective control. Given the impact that abandoned explosive ordnance have on the realization of human rights, including the rights to life, health, water, adequate housing, education and the rights of the child, this obligation under IHRL to meet the essential needs of the civilian population include an obligation to facilitate humanitarian demining. Thus, it falls within "humanitarian activities" essential to the survival of the civilian population under international human rights (IHL).

The project is complying with the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence as humanitarian mine action and clearance prioritizing its services on the basis of humanitarian need.

157. The C-IED case approach developed is a good example of illustrating community engagement in creating space for communities to report issues of concern within local governance networks. The project has made substantial contributions to restoring access to essential resources, facilitating freedom of movement, and enabling the exercise of internationally recognized rights. At the community level, particularly in terms of humanitarian access, aid delivery, and data collection, there have been some improvements in socio-economic recovery conditions on land that has been released. The partners also recognized the need to ensure that the voices of women and girls were heard in the context of community liaison activities. Explosive risk education (EORE) sessions, which help people to understand and avoid the risks they face in suspected hazardous areas, have created opportunities to social cohesion and solidarity and underlined the right of conflict- and displacement-affected communities to safety and security.

The national commitment to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities since 2009 has further bolstered attention to victims, clarifying the state's obligation to ensure equal enjoyment of human rights for people with disabilities. In this regard, Yemen's mine action efforts align with the application and promotion of human rights instruments, although challenges persist, particularly in the realm of victim assistance.

5.6. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)

KEQ 21- To what extent have gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project?

Finding 22. UNDP has contributed to the gender equality not only in making women, girls and the most vulnerable aware of mines and safety measures, it has paved the way for more trainings which has produced some positive results.

158. Integrating gender issues within the mine action sector continues to pose a challenge. However, there is still a long way to go to increase gender balance in line with the women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda's participation call and sustainable development goal (SDG) 5. For mine action in Yemen, gender balance is described as 'significantly better' in YMACC/YEMAC in administrative roles as opposed to clearance roles which are the most male-dominated pillar of mine action. Furthermore, evidence indicates increasing global recognition that employing women can be beneficial to land release and risk education activities that facilitate and improve relationships with communities by offering the necessary knowledge and attention to local culture.

The project is strongly encouraging both YEMAC in northern and southern areas to train and deploy women teams mainly in explosive ordnance risk education (EORE)⁷⁹ and survey which represents an important add-value in term of community liaison and follow-on. It also raises the awareness of the targeted communities on gender to enhance their local acceptance of women working in mine action field and to ensure the equity and equality as well. With UNDP support, YMACC conducted a training in data collection and the mechanism on how to gender and diversity are mainstreamed in IMSMA forms in data collecting and reflecting of mine action activities. The project highlighted the role of women in all its components and always focus on equality while dividing tasks between men and women. As an example, regarding the collaboration with YEMAC's server room, the supervision and management of this room was assigned to a woman, who was very successful.

The project despite of limited funding has introduced advocacy raising to some partners to develop a referral system to better locally identity survivors to the physical rehabilitation services. The sector is facing several barriers, including the lack of national plans or strategies to meet their needs; non-existent or inadequate services; the insufficient trained professionals; and restricted funds for various expenses, such as treatment and transportation fees. The situation is exacerbated during armed conflicts and other situations of violence. Some persons with disabilities have difficulty fleeing to safety, and some of those who are able to do so struggle with the change in environment. Nonetheless, the project has worked hard to flag this issue and initially develop a broader regional stakeholder analysis for potential funding opportunities.

159. The gender balance approach has been addressed through incipient initiatives with encouraging results despite cultural resistance. UNDP placed emphasis on mainstreaming gender principles into plans, aiming for the equal participation of beneficiaries, employees, and decision-makers in Mine Action. As an encouraging result, close to 40 active women are working today within YMACC/YEMAC structures with only 13% working in administrative support and the others in operational support (EORE, NTS, bomb disposal and victim assistance).

UNDP continues to increase its efforts in strengthening the gender dimension of interventions and should continue to support structuring and the capacity to empower women, not only by ensuring women's participation in demining activities, but also by ensuring that interventions are relevant to the equivalent needs and livelihoods equivalent of women in areas previously hit by explosive devices.

160. The project made a concerted effort to ensure the inclusion of gender perspectives and promote gender balance by recognizing and addressing the capabilities, contributions, concerns, and needs of women, girls, boys, and men within its activities. Gender principles in UN mine action programmes were integrated in the project in its demining activities, notably with YEMAC. This involved collecting survey information from organizations and groups that

⁷⁹ 15 female members in EORE teams have been deployed and 31 were trained in 2023 for different field responsibilities (Source EMA II project)

represented both genders, disaggregating data by sex and age (including boys and girls) for community relevant reports and victim statistics. The project also emphasized the inclusion of gender-related issues in risk education materials, acknowledging the diverse roles of all genders. By working with contracted parties as third-party monitoring agent, the project demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing gender and diversity considerations during field activities. The evaluation team observed highly promising initiatives, such as the training and deployment of female intervention teams specializing in explosive ordnance risk education, improvised explosive devices, and survey activities. It is worth emphasizing the significance of these achievements, particularly considering the cultural barriers faced by women.

KEQ 22- To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women including gender roles/access to services and skills? What are the barriers to the employment of women in certain roles?

Finding 23. The project contributed to addressing structural inequalities which assume women can't participate in the mine action awareness and the removal of explosive items and has conducted many training sessions for women, raising awareness of the importance of engaging women in this sector by highlighting success stories.

161. Interviews and observations during the field data collection indicated that the issue of gender was considered in the project implementation and most operational statistics are gender disaggregated. There is a greater inclusion of women in risk education interventions that target the entire community, including men, women, boys, and girls. To ensure optimal benefits, both women and men are involved in conducting risk education, which helps foster community acceptance and encourages the participation of women and girls. Many partners have demonstrated a general commitment to gender equality. However, it was observed that the majority of mine action awareness teams were comprised of males, which posed challenges in raising awareness among women, particularly in conservative communities and girls' schools. Nonetheless, the project has made significant contributions in addressing structural inequalities where women can't participate in the mine action awareness and the removal of explosive items. Various trainings have been conducted to empower women and raise awareness about the importance of their involvement in this sector, with success stories of women in the field serving as inspiration.

162. The project demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing gender considerations in its intervention, both in the planning and implementation stages. It has directly and indirectly contributed to promoting gender equality and empowering women. The evaluation team recognized the project's overall dedication to ensuring that mine action activities benefit all members of the community, including women, men, boys, and girls. This was achieved by incorporating focus groups of women in community surveys, involving female actors in operations, and collecting gender-disaggregated data for reports on communities, casualties, and victim assistance. The project's efforts in dealing with the complexities of the operating environment to address gender-related issues are commendable and should be acknowledged and encouraged for future endeavors. Most of the project's results are explicitly targeted towards gender considerations, while others have the potential to be mindful of gender dynamics. The EMA-II project was gender sensitive with regards to the specific protection aspects and from the needs based approach to beneficiary assistance, although it could do more to be gender transformative.

Finding 24. The project has produced some potentially promising results by encouraging YEMAC south to train and deploy women teams. It also succeeded in making youth, women, girls and the most vulnerable aware of ERW concern and safety measures.

163. Engaging women in the removal of ordnance is challenging, mainly in a context where gender inequalities remain significant and where many remains to be done. However, the Project is encouraging the integration of women into teams as well as both men's and women's active participation in the planning and prioritization process, in coordination with other capacity building efforts conducted by international mine action implementing partners. Whilst limited, these initiatives were a good start to be continued. The project is also strongly encouraging YEMAC Aden to pursue its objective to train and deploy an all-women survey team in the areas under south control. The first female bomb disposal operator was trained in Hadramaut in 2020 and three more were trained in 2021 to generate one complete bomb disposal squad, accompanied by ten in a Non-technical Survey team of whom half were women trained in 2021. Their role will be to accompany the police into female dwellings and thus facilitating contact and rendering safe any IEDs or unexploded ordnance found there.

5.7. Disability

KEQ 23-Were persons with disabilities consulted and meaningfully involved in programme planning and implementation?

KEQ 24- What proportion of the beneficiaries of a programme were persons with disabilities?

Finding 25. Inclusivity has been addressed in the planning phase, based on local surveys, using female surveyors where possible, and gender and age sensitized processes and forms. Gender and disability equality-sensitive hiring and management practices need sound gender and equal opportunity policies.

164. The target for survey, risk education, clearance and the decision -making processes reached all segments of the local community. In addressing gender consideration and gender balance, the project ensured that the capabilities, concerns, local initiatives, and needs of women, girls, boys, men and vulnerable persons are either acknowledged or addressed within the scope of mine action activities.

A sound gender and equal disability opportunity policies need to be fostered in respect to the reality of social environment and cultural issues. With mine action policies and coordination, a solid administrative department that can implement them, and strong management support needs to be strategically developed. Once aware of these issues—the policies in place and the rights they hold—management staff may employ them fully. More pragmatic considerations such as accessible buildings, segregated facilities and child-care facilities will also ensure that youth's, men's and women's different needs are met. By providing employment opportunities in this manner, the impact of mine action programs could play a strong normative role in enabling affected communities to access their rights and empowering underrepresented groups.

Women and persons with disabilities endure multiple challenges in mine action work. Due to some inaccessible information from local communities with these social groups often seen as marginalized, it was difficult to assess the number of people with disabilities who benefited from mine action operations within the community as a whole. However, field workers need to foster the importance of these issues within community awareness sessions and better respond to their inclusion in mine action.

6- Major difficulties and challenges

165. The project faced some challenges and difficulties listed herein:

- In terms of Security:

Active and legacy ERW and IED contamination continues. The volatile and unstable security situation and difficult environment for accessing contaminated sites, performing external validation, monitoring field visits, which hamper the confirmation of field activities, remain challenging issues. This situation exposed a considerable number of mines, explosive ordnances and IEDs in the most conflict-affected governorates of Hudaydah, Shabwah, Marib, Abyan, Al Dale, Taizz and Hadramaut governorates. YEMAC still provides the most relevant response to IED due to capacity shortfalls in the local security forces and the need to protect the civilian population.

- With reference to Operations:

The maritime counter mine (MCM) project is still planned, with the completion of concept note and term of reference for the various phases of activity. The current capacity of the project unfortunately doesn't provide continued professional expertise in the field following the departure of its international staff. Any new future action remains to be considered. The inability to conduct a general assessment in the North areas prevents more specific resource planning and continues to be a source of concern for the effectiveness of mine action in the north.

The employment of more gender balanced staff and in particular more women in the field of mine action, must be more compliant with the UN resolution on women, peace and security (2000) and thus contribute to the SDG 5, promoting gender equality and empowering women to support themselves and their families.

- Regarding the process of Importation of equipment: The remaining challenges regarding importation of equipment are still relevant. Alternative ways need to be investigated in response to the extensive national administrative obligations which delay the delivery of materials and equipment, mainly in the north, and thus affect the field results.

- In the matter of Safe Environment: The large amounts of explosive ordnance removed, and lack of secure storage added to the lack of destruction equipment must be addressed as soon as possible, according to the field security situation as the stockage of explosive items present a high risk for the population. Addressing the threat posed by improvised sea mines remains a critical priority. Organizing the mapping and clearing activities in Yemen's coastal areas are essential to reducing this recent threat.
- Regarding Access: The denied access visas for UNDP international mine action experts CTA, C-IED and MA Specialists has limited the scope of advisory services and missed the opportunity to raise the capacity management results and hindered the evidence of field activities (verification and monitoring clearance sites). Pending formal authorization, it might be expected that international mine action partners will be able to work in the North areas as soon as possible bringing their added value and improving the effectiveness of mine action activities.
- In connection with Resources: The funding is declining as only three active donors in the beginning of 2023 (UNOCHA, The Netherlands and The United States DoS) have provided funding to the project, which has only secured one third of the necessary budget for the year 2023. The resource mobilization is challenging, and the National Authorities have difficulties in funding mine action without external support. The lack of clarity in terms of results in regard to impact measurement of mine action activities, and the subsequent use of released land from the perspective of men, women, boys and girls, have hampered building trust with donors.
- With regard to Cooperation: The lack of information sharing from MASAM Project, a Saudi project to clear landmines in Yemen, hinders the opportunity to combine efforts in the sector. Encouraging Project MASAM to collaborate with YMACC and share contamination data in areas where they operate is crucial.

7. Project experience: best practices and lessons learned

166. The valuable lessons learned (LL) and experiences listed below were gained through stakeholder engagement in the Yemen Mine Action Emergency Project and from observations made during the evaluation process.

The following best practices (BP) have emerged over the course of evaluation and are examples of processes or activities that result in success, while lessons learned highlight knowledge or understanding gained through experience within the project.

A number of **best practices** (BP) examples from the EMA-II project, relevant to conflict sensitivity, were observed.

➤ Take special attention to the beneficiaries of field operations:

- The project willingness to invest time in community consultations at all levels (men, women, boys and girls) to build trust, keep lines of communication open and understand priority needs and concerns is a significant step. By applying 'do no harm' approaches, for example, making efforts to ensure that local communities feel that they benefit from interventions, actively addressed key issues and concerns.

- The local communities are kept fully informed during clearance operations and risk education activities through liaisons and local communities' channels. The Post-clearance impact assessments conducted with TPM agent ensured that the cleared land is effectively used, how those issues affected rights-holders, and that the local population has confidence in clearance operations.

- The project's implementation was continuously adapted to address changing situations and security constraints, resulting in long-term positive changes, in order to maximize efforts. Women are actively involved in risk education, survey, and bomb disposal teams. Considering the traditional and social culture, the encouragement of women to become actively involved in mine action operations, i.e. in risk education, survey and clearance teams, has increased society's confidence in the local constraints due to contamination by explosive ordnances.

-The important attendance and participation in explosive ordnances risk education are regarded locally as opportunity to socialize and foster community resilience and better self-confidence. The innovative approach in Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) developed by the INGO mine action 'Norwegian People's Aid' (NPA) in partnership with YMACC/YEMAC which has many similarities in improving public awareness/education (EORE) of explosive ordnance threats (formally known as MRE) and includes a component of preparedness on how to mitigate the risks associated with them is an important strategic approach.

➤ Include multiple stakeholders, develop national standards, and raise collaboration in the implementation of project activities:

- The project was responsive to the emerging needs of the targeted communities and contributed to the establishment of the decentralized Yemeni decision-making structure (YMACC). This together with regular technical working group (TWG) meetings improved the effective coordination and implementation of mine action in the south. By facilitating and supporting the introduction of mine action INGOs and commercial operators in the south, it has improved standards and operations. The desire to adhere to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) expressed by mine action authorities, has contributed to the development of National Mine Action Standards (NMAS).
- The Information management system for mine action (IMSMA) is well developed with the production of the regular data mine action monthly report dashboard and thematic maps from IMSMA collecting data using reporting templates within implementing partners. The use of the humanitarian prioritization matrix as an operational tool for sharing information within the framework of integrated and coordinated humanitarian interventions was useful.
- UNDP fostering capacity development in some of southern governorates has helped to reduce civilian casualties from explosive ordnance, increased the capacity of the national authority to respond and allowed communities to report effectively issues of concern to local governance networks.
- In the holistic approach of the Rule of Law (RoL), the mine action has supported the justice sector with the establishment of community policing initiatives and rendering safe pathways to improve access to justice.
- The integration of Mine Action and Rule of Law (RoL) programmes counters the C-IED component which is under criminal justice and provides valuable assistance to mine action through a novel human rights-based approach driven by community consultations and threat analysis to report issues of concern within local networks, is a good example of effective collaboration.

167. **Lessons learned** (LL) include the following:

➤ **Support and advocacy**

- UNDP was key for developing the national capacity in operations management, policy/standards, clearance, land release, EORE and information management and supporting the effectiveness of coordination and contributing to the success of mine action in Yemen. UNDP successfully recruited specialized staff and contracted partners (INGOs and commercial entities) for the mine action sector that were able to develop capacity and mentor as well as possessing the appropriate technical skills with a significant added value.
- Advocacy efforts to national ownership of the mine action project in term of national contributions, was difficult to articulate and able to address the challenges ahead. The use of incentives and expectations created a culture of reliance to UNDP support as the National authorities have no funding to support this important challenge. These efforts could have been better utilized to arrive at a consensual contingency plan that would allow for a lasting result.

➤ **Project management and communication**

- Given that ERW clearance, is a long-time process, the creation of a critical mass of informed and committed local communities is a pre-condition for success (e.g. importance of awareness raising and dissemination of information) both internally not only within national authorities and development partners, but also at donor international level.
- Mine action implementation requires a specific communication strategy to enable the engagement of the various partners and to visualize stakeholders' buy-in and gains (as an example what are the key themes of the mine action agenda which needs to be better identified and explained, and how these can help in selecting supportive stakeholders).
- It is challenging to report on achievements given the intangible nature of some mine action aspects and the need to include results indicators. The process to develop a robust results-based management (RBM) in project design to inform proper monitoring and evaluation and an appropriate results framework mindful of the hierarchy of results. It sets out the underlying assumptions, underpinned by a theory of change that links the different components of the project, provides the rationale for the links that are regularly and jointly reviewed with mine action actors. This fortifies debate and coordination with stakeholders around realism/ambition according to the environment.
- Planning based on results must be visibly and constantly presented to donors. Such actions ensure continuous donor interest and reaffirm their belief in the joint vision with plans for further effective support (e.g. greater focus on visibility and communication as the project progresses and has more to show).
- The participation on national mine action authorities in international mine action events initiatives is useful not only for raising general awareness which in time will lead to a change of mind-set, but also for reinforcing national leadership and ownership as well as the interest manifested by the international community.

➤ Management of operations

- Field operations necessitate to meet both the emergency requirements and address the longer-term impact of the most recent contamination threats. It would do this through the improvement of productivity using more efficient methodologies for the disposal of explosive ordnance, benefiting of the experience and knowledge transfer of the INGO partners.
- YEMAC North has both responsibilities of implementation and co-ordination combined with quality management of field operations, which still represents a conflict of interest. This should be addressed by separating the functions of coordination, survey, clearance, and quality management and this can be achieved through the establishment of a Mine Action Coordination Centre or strengthen the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC).
- It is important in a challenging environment with overriding urgent needs like Yemen to focus on tangible and well-defined results, and to consider a joint follow-up project for the next phase, rather than putting all the elements in one project and to expect it to be carried out over a long-term period to be realistically established with national partners according to the current crisis.
- The massive diversification of pollution has required increased efficiency and more specialized training/refreshment of field staff to be able to identify and deal with this ever-changing pollution. The Project should take advantage to maintain a minimum service/consultancy of international experts to pursue the upgrading skills of YEMAC staff in dealing with the new threats.
- The activities related to ERW survivors' surveillance and assistance requires special attention with regard to reporting and data collection with disaggregated data on ERW victims/casualties, based on national disability legislation, with resource allocation efforts and the promotion of a specific strategy and referral pathways between the health sector, social assistance and mine action.
- The women are nevertheless impacted if male heads of households or children are injured and they have responsibilities in terms of guiding children to minimize risk and to express appreciation for the EORE education that has been provided by YEMAC and mine action actors, since this has helped make them more effective and resilient in this role.

8. Conclusions

Conclusion 1. The project has a sound objective and was clearly responding to specific identified needs, so its objective remains valid today. The project was assigned to five years duration but unfortunately due to the shortfall of financial resources the project is forced to terminate by the end of the year. Consultations are underway to determine the follow-up and define a new mine action cooperation and support framework.

168. Contamination has a devastating impact not solely from a humanitarian perspective but also from a socio-economic perspective. This impact is translated in the inability of communities to use their lands for livelihood purposes including agriculture, grazing and farming, firewood, drinking water and irrigation. Thus, supporting this sector leads to clearing the lands of deadly threats in addition to enabling the Yemeni communities to improve their socio-economic conditions.

Mine action in Yemen with the aim for a country free from the threat of explosive ordnance, provides a basis for income and job opportunities, facilitates transportation and freedom of movement, promotes equality and inclusion, in brief, provides a safe overall working and living environment. UNDP Yemen support was important for developing the national capacity in land release (including survey and clearance), information management and Explosive ordnance education. The mine action governance structures are appropriate and strengthened towards collaborative issues with regular coordination meetings with mine action implementing partners.

169. The greatest contribution of UNDP's support to mine action at the community level has been the reduction of fear and anxiety. The benefits of this sense of increased safety are shared by all community members, even though the economic benefits may be uneven and difficult to quantify. Ultimately, the results of the project's activities also support social cohesion and peace building efforts. YMACC put the Explosive Ordinance (EO) affected people at the center of their concern, working in partnership and, where possible, in an integrated manner with other sectors to ensure that released land is taken into productive use.

Initially designed for five years implementation, the project still had three years to complete its objectives. Important milestones have been achieved so far (mine detection dogs, mechanical clearance, EORE and survey teams, mine action standards, land release revised approach, capacity assessment-management and coordination, information management, community engagement and gender-PwD consideration). Projects outputs are nonetheless an

essential contribution to the outcomes, but yet the outcomes and potential acquired changes are yet to be appraised in mid/long term.

Unfortunately, should no further funding be made available at present, then UNDP will no longer be able to provide the mine action support in its current form, beyond the next coming months, forcing this critical life-saving humanitarian project to close this year. Continued donor support remains essential to ensure a quality and inclusive response through innovative new joint initiatives that emerge from an integrated UNDP approach and where no one is left behind.

UNDP should strengthen its role of effective donor coordination as an essential requirement in the future design joint support design project to the mine action sector by maintaining and improving effectiveness while striving to achieve a shared common goal or target, because an effective approach and constant commitments are still challenging.

Conclusion 2. The project has contributed to local social development in the targeted areas, to the strengthening of community security, the values of peace and cohesion and to the improvement of living conditions and access to basic services.

170. There is a noticeable sense of relief among community members, as they and their children could now go about their daily lives without the constant fear of stepping on dangerous landmines or explosive remnants. The main challenges caused by landmine and ERW contamination were identified as heightened fear levels, restricted movement, and limited access to natural resources, particularly among community members and local officials. With cleared farms, wells, and rangelands, farmers and livestock herders are able to resume their activities, resulting in positive economic, social, and peace-building effects while also facilitating access to humanitarian aid. The communities highlighted reduced fear and improved access to agriculture, natural resources, water, food, income, and livelihood opportunities.

171. Community members reported significant changes in terms of safety, including reduced fear, improved freedom of movement, and better safety for livestock. This was followed by improvements in livelihood access. Surveys and clearance operations sought feedback from the people to gauge their satisfaction levels and identify areas where mine action services could be enhanced. Unfortunately, results do not appear to be widely communicated. There was no evidence to suggest that results were being systematically synthesized and used for advocacy, learning and/or improving interventions. The project promotes human security as a necessary pre-condition for sustainable development and mine action in Yemen makes a very substantial contribution to that security.

Conclusion 3. The project has extensively promoted capacity development as the core of its intervention by supporting national mine action institutions to effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities assisted by a number of international actors through technical training, administrative and operational support.

172. UNDP's support to peace building focused on strengthening the capacities of different actors, ensuring the consolidation of results in terms of significant contribution to local peace and community cohesion. Mine action activities have led to the significant reduction of the risk of threat and have prepared communities to cope with the presence and negative effects of explosives. Wherever and whenever the peace comes, YEMAC has the capacity to deal with the future threats.

Promising improvements were noted in the national staff's management capacities. These included improvements in quality management, monitoring and evaluation, gender-sensitive prioritization, stakeholder communication, data management, and the use of adaptive management approaches.

173. UNDP's success in influencing national accountability and effective operation management was achieved through specific approach to a C-IED training/approach framework, the introduction of female NTS survey/bomb disposal/MRE teams, collaboration with INGOs for complementary clearance efforts, and capacity development provided by international experts. UNDP continues its efforts to strengthen the gender dimension of interventions and to support structuring and capacity to empower women, not only by ensuring women's participation in demining activities, but also by ensuring that interventions are relevant to the needs and livelihoods of women in areas previously hit by explosive devices. Following success in engaging women in MRE and removal activities, the project needs to engage more women with more trainings and high-level tasks.

174. Despite concerns about financial and human resources, UNDP has made a significant contribution to developing mine action capacity in Yemen - a country characterized by significant levels of cooperation and goodwill among key

stakeholders, which has facilitated progress. The presence of various international organizations with complementary expertise and mandates has fostered collaboration rather than competition.

The UNDP technical assistance to YMACC/YEMAC even on a limited scale must be maintained to consolidate the first achievements obtained so far under a new planned approach. This will also benefit improving YEMAC internal structure through its staff and experts and with the help, when required of some contracted international partners contracted when required to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency. It will also rise to the new technical and geographic challenges in the country.

Activities in the South areas could be revised accordingly while in the North areas access is still hampering progress. However, opportunity for synergies and linkages exist within the mine action agenda and capacity development should be harmonized with a joint programme for National authorities under the leadership of a development partner as UNDP and inclusive of all development partners to work across sectors.

More attention is needed to show and report results with its result-based management (RBM) value (mine action, development, rule of law, gender and partnerships)- specific RBM training to YMACC/YEMAC could be useful over the next UNDP mine action support.

175. As a result of the project's implementation and field experience supported by lessons learned during the implementation phase-II of the project, YMACC developed National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) following the best international practice according to international mine action standards (IMAS). However, specific procedures and criteria for land release must be actualized when new assets are in place such as the mine detection dogs and mechanical clearance. Introducing the new concept of land release to YEMAC would require that it actively manage a cost-effective approach.

Conclusion 4. Mine action actors are obliged to invest time and resources in developing relationship and trust with communities, and it would see that these investments could be put to better use in improving impact measurement results and sustainability.

176. The project demonstrated an equitable approach to mine action, addressing the most affected governorates in the north, center, and south of the country. With the situation evolving, YMACC and YEMAC provided technical assistance and capacity support for survey, clearance, risk education, information management, and victim assistance in the southern governorates. In collaboration with national authorities and YMACC/YEMAC, UNDP facilitated the involvement of international organizations to support mine action implementation, leveraging their technical expertise. Mine/explosive risk education and victim assistance activities were carried out by various actors (YEMAC, UNICEF, national NGOs, and associations) with some positive impact, though it was not evenly distributed.

177. At the moment, mine action impact measurement results are not sufficiently analyzed or shared, even internally with YMACC/YEMAC staff in the form of lessons learned. YMACC/YEMAC are well positioned to utilize impact measurement approaches in order to support a more proactive and targeted approach and to facilitate the engagement of development actors and their donors. With better links to development, task selection could potentially be more strategic and not only add value through improving the impact and sustainability of mine action interventions, but also help YEMAC be more cost efficient. Facilitating a longer-term engagement with communities would make YEMAC's gender equality programming objectives for beneficiary communities achievable. YEMAC also needs to extend its impact measurement of its training to be in a position to better understand how learning is being applied and to adjust accordingly to maximize the value-added of training being provided.

178. By maintaining YEMAC operational capacity, according to the volatile security situation in parts of the country, mine action operations were able to be expanded, through UNDP's support, which helped to develop capacity, policies, services, and a legal framework for explosive ordnance/mine action in Yemen. This reduces the socio-economic impact of explosive remnants of war on people and communities. YEMAC continually strives to increase the number of personnel active in mine action as well as the skills and knowledge base. The activities completed include the training of personnel, releasing land through survey and explosive ordnance removal, all of which have a long-lasting impact on the life of the Yemeni people. The sector has yet to capitalize on its successes such as the land release/clearance that has been achieved, despite a difficult operating environment and concerns related to the donors' commitment. Conducting surveys helps to determine and prioritize clearance efforts in areas where there is clear evidence of contamination. The clearance tasks were typically decided at the local level, considering developmental needs and requests from governorates, district authorities, and individual households, allowing for a more focused and efficient use of clearance assets.

179. Publicizing mine action activities and fostering resources for mobilization needs through advocacy and information sharing, joint donor visits to the field if security allows, informal remote meetings, help the donor community to undertake constant financial engagement within the project.

180. Gender considerations have become particularly important with respect to socio-economic development and related topics. Accordingly, they were integrated into the delivery of outputs and activities under the gender-sensitive approach on mine action, and YMACC/YEMAC aims to integrate its project components with a significant presence of women. Gender balanced, mainly EORE and survey teams and relevant data collection systems, help in better understanding female perspectives, but influence of females in decision-making is marginal due to socio-cultural barriers and the nature of YEMAC interventions. Yet some efforts are necessary to (i), increase the gender dimension knowledge through a gender training tailored to the domestic and local context and (ii) promote women and youth participation to address better efficiency in community consultations.

9- Recommendations

181. The protracted conflict that the country is going through makes mine action programming complex and requires the country office to be able to rely on programmatic flexibility and contingency scenarios adapted to this environment. It is no longer necessary to recall the importance of maintaining the UNDP mine action intervention and ensuring its continuity in supporting national mine action institutions to effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities until the implementation of a new joint support programme agreed under the leadership of UNDP along with the UN Resident Coordination Office.

182. A top priority for UNDP will be to adapt to (and anticipate) the changing operating context in Yemen, implement cost efficiencies and identify a clear niche where UNDP can add value.

The main recommendations are intended to reinforce the initial benefits of the UNDP Emergency Mine Action Project – Phase-II (EMA-II) following Phase-I, with a view to develop an innovative and integrated holistic support mine action management approach with the elaboration of one UN joint ‘Humanitarian Mine Action Programme in Yemen’ (by humanitarian, recovery, development, and peace building goals) as more than one UN organization working for common sustainable strategic development results in Yemen. This would cover capacity development, programme management, explosive risk education (EORE), survey (NTS & TS), quality management (QA & QC), ammunition management/PPSM (Physical Security and Stockpile Management), and advocacy.

The main proposed recommendations are listed below:

EMA-II Project - Final Evaluation Recommendations	
Category 1: Key programmatic issues	(Time frame: <i>immediate to short</i>)
<p>Recommendation 1. Due to the changing operating environment, i.e. increased needs on humanitarian activities and the recent significant decrease in mine action funding, UNDP should reaffirm its strategic commitment to supporting mine action, which requires significant changes in its approach and business model, by continuing to add value in Yemen. Some difficult decisions need to be made to ensure critical continuity within a contingency work plan agreed by mine action authorities and partners for a minimum transition period of six months, until a new joint programme strategy to support the MA is designed.</p> <p>Therefore, it is suggested that UNDP do this by:</p> <p>1.1- UNDP should secure short-term funding for the second part of 2023 to maintain core YMACC and YEMAC Aden and YEMAC Sana’a mine action coordination functions as agreed with YMACC and both YEMAC North and South, under an approved quarterly contingency work plan.</p> <p>1.2- The absence of incentive compensation from mid-2023 for deminers operating from YEMAC North and South and YMACC Aden is an important issue. UNDP is urged to undertake consultations with both YEMACs and YMACC Aden, engaging all mine action stakeholders.</p> <p>1.3- UNDP should maintain at least for the short-term period to end of 2023, the minimum requirements to logistic support in term of vehicles maintenance, fuel support, demining equipment maintenance (batteries etc..) to assure reliability and standards, based on agreed figures and specific targets within a contingency support work plan elaborated jointly with MA authorities and UNDP. This interim situation will make it possible to respond to emergency situations while waiting for new positions to be taken by the mine action partners to ensure the long term.</p> <p>1.4- UNDP should promote the humanitarian emergency mine action response and facilitate the active clearance INGOS work (NPA, HALO Trust, DRC) during the immediate transition period. Each INGO partner could enter into an agreement with YEMAC where individuals will be working under the auspices of the INGOs who over the time could bear the</p>	

incentive and logistical costs depending on their work plan and availability of funds from their own donor networks. The strengths of these actors lie in mentoring and training YEMAC operational staff while UNDP could continue fostering effective management on YMACC/YEMAC and focus on critical functions e.g national ownership, capacity development, programme management, coordination, information management, and resource mobilization in the broader view of linking demining to recovery and long-term development imperatives.

1.5- As all international EMA project staffing has been discontinued with the planning and monitoring specialist's position expected to end soon, UNDP could have an international advisor to follow the current transition phase and formulate a new UNDP strategic paper for the mine action sector and prepare consultations for a potential concept of a future joint mine action support programme with national authorities, stakeholders and donors.

1.6- Mine action experts, as required, could be contracted for future limited assignments depending on available resources, with knowledge on specific objectives (for example, training on C-IED, capacity development (operation management, coordination, change management and quality management), project management and RBM, information management and communication raising, gender and diversity dimension and marginalized groups').

As UNDP remains the organization in place to support the national counterparts in their efforts in addressing the issue of landmines and explosive ordnances, it is essential to retain the seven national mine action project operations support staff under UNDP contract, composed of one national information management/ICT support assistant at YMACC in Aden; three field officers (project coordinators) with YEMAC in Sanaa, Aden and Al-Mukalla and three administrative staff based within UNDP offices (two in Sanaa and one in Aden).

1.7- To capitalize on its long and rich experience and results achieved with Mine action in Yemen, UNDP should prepare an analysis document based on the performance, results, lessons learned, success stories and good achievements obtained so far since the EMA project phase-I that started in July 2017 to the end of phase-II mid-2023. This paper will provide an overview of the last six years support of UNDP's mine action project in Yemen and improve effectiveness for the development of a new joint and integrated UN programme to assist mine action operations management challenges faced with new threats. This initiative will also advocate for effective ownership from national authorities with the view of facilitating better clarity and understanding among donors' community and of UNDP engagement supporting national efforts for the improvement of mine action services. Finally, it is essential to consolidate the results and lessons learned from the UNDP mine action project to optimize experiences and progress and continue the UNDP role of providing strategic advice on programmatic aspects.

Category 2: Programme design

(Time frame: *short*)

Recommendation 2. UNDP mine action response in term of programmatic support offer, should tackle the deepest humanitarian-emergency ERW contamination challenges. UNDP must pursue its technical assistance under an integrated and UN joint innovative programme, bringing the added value of UN partners, facilitating the participation of international mine action partners and training, while continuing to focus efforts on activities that bring about change. This requires an inclusive and 'bottom-up' approach enabling the strengthening of local governance systems and coordination within the framework of an updated national mine action strategy, strengthening the relationships between local communities and vulnerable people affected by the conflict and duty bearers. UNDP's future interventions should be carefully developed, in accordance with available funding and the existence of an enabling and open environment allowing for the organization to bring its strengths and value to the sector.

2.1- In the light of the long experience of UNDP Yemen in supporting Mine Action, the elaboration of one UN joint programme appears today relevant following the current review of the EMA-II project and on-going consultations with national and international stakeholders of the Yemen Mine Action programme. A joint UN mine action programme is appropriate as it identifies and builds on complementarities; brings together the added value of its UN partners⁸⁰ in Yemen, in addressing emergency and developmental mine action challenges; and will reinforce 'the delivery as one' (DaO) under the Resident Coordinator and UN country team driven by the country situation and UNSDCF (2022-2024) outcome. Such, partnerships are key to improving and achieving greater impact from the UN's overall assistance to Yemen. As per UNDG Guidance Note on joint programmes (2014), its design should ensure components that are built on each other, clarify the role and responsibilities of each partner, and establish mutual accountability on the delivery of mine action results (annex 18: UN IACG -United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action).

For example; associate efforts in linking explosive risk education/mine risk education and victim assistance/survivors need to involve youth, women and persons with disabilities within an operative and cost-effective partnership with UNDP, UNICEF, OCHA, WHO, UN Women, FAO, WFP, OHCHR, UNHCR, are essential for (i) promoting active coordination of EORE and VA activities, (ii) training educators and technicians on VA/ surveyors needs for the benefits of population and communities and (iii) getting data, analysis and better oriented decision making, as innovative and integrated approach. This must be within the capacity of a holistic mine action programme to leverage comparative and

⁸⁰ UN agencies Yemen potential partnering with Mine Action (MA): UNDP, UNICEF, OCHA, UN Women, FAO, WFP, WHO, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNODC, UNOPS.

complementary advantages, as opposed to setting up parallel systems which created difficulties in appraising the performance and results of ongoing incipient changes.

UNDP must also ensure that the design and execution of the future joint programme should be carefully developed, in accordance with available funding and the existence of an enabling and open environment, taking into account the opportunities of strengthening the partner institutions and tackling the recurring conjunctural problems. In this regard, the duration of the future joint programme should be planned to allocate enough time for the most complex interventions, allowing for the organization to bring its strengths and value to the sector.

2.2- UNDP should assist the national mine action authorities NMAA/YMACC/YEMAC in reviewing the national mine action strategy⁸¹, in particular its vision, mission, goals, and objectives in accordance with the new requirements related to humanitarian-emergency-development mine action and addressing APMBC and SDGs challenges. A more challenging and pro-active approach on improving the mine action-development link is to build mine action into national development plans - if realistic regarding the present situation– for instance, with clear developmental objectives alongside the traditional objective of casualty reduction. Should the conditions not become conducive to such action, different strategies for North and South areas may be considered. Subsequently, a planned operational strategic plan will also give better view to donors as a resource mobilization tool, in addition to the future mobilization strategy to be defined. Without a clear strategy the roadmap for success is blurred and the vision is not shared by the different stakeholders.

2.3- In addition to UN agencies, close cooperation should be strengthened within the executive of YMACC coordination among mine action actors such as YEMAC and INGOs (NPA, HALO Trust, DRC, HI) and international organizations (ICRC, GICHD), on operational aspects. With the elaboration of an integrated comprehensive EORE/MRE and survivor assistance strategic framework including all actors involved in the sector and an integrated annual work plan should be prepared and endorsed by all actors involved. This will reinforce the coordination and learning of YMACC and effectiveness of YEMAC using the best practices, as for example the Conflict preparedness and protection (CPP) developed by the INGO mine action 'Norwegian People's Aid' (NPA) and lessons learned in the sector from UNICEF. Greater visibility, effectiveness and induced change would guide Yemen's achievements in risk education and survivor support.

The establishment of a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey will help define the baseline to be used in future evaluations and help measure the effectiveness of the capacity of risk education activities to change risk education behaviors.

2.4- The mine action programme must be addressed as a 'bottom-up' approach within (i) awareness/education for communities under community-safety initiatives (EORE) and Rule of Law (RoL), (ii) survey and clearance operations linked to food security (explosive ordnance on agricultural land and sea mines affecting fisheries) and to peace processes (frontlines aligned with local peace/truce agreements) and (iii) capacity development as the core of mine action governance and programme management (driven by results-based management (RBM) and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) performance). The good practice of promoting community engagement wherever possible should be continued to nurture the capacity of local governance structures for the prevention and management of risk and identify community-based initiatives that can be undertaken to address issues of concern and to contribute to longer-term resilience and recovery.

2.5- UNDP should further emphasize the gender dimension, actively promoting and facilitating women's participation in mine action and peace-building efforts, for example seeking to increase the percentage of women in EORE activities beyond the current 18 percent. A gender perspective in mine action means not only involving women in activities but also addressing the specific concerns and needs of women, girls, boys, and men, as well as their livelihoods in areas previously affected by explosive ordnances. The project must ensure that these concerns are recognized and addressed within the scope of its activities to enhance the socio-economic conditions in vulnerable conflict-affected communities.

Category 3: Communication, information management and impact measurement result. (Time frame: short to medium)

Recommendation 3. UNDP should strengthen the foundations created with the operationalization of the information management system (IMSMA Core) and increase the need for a better analysis of results to define specific information products that YMACC/YEMAC can design into its information system to produce on request by mine action actors and development organizations. High visibility needs to be given to project achievements which contribute to enhancing leadership and ownership.

3.1- UNDP should assist the mine action authorities in elaborating a mine action communication strategy and working plan for the sector in order to ensure appropriate visibility of the project's objectives, progress towards its achievement and the impact of the project's activities providing donor visibility amongst direct and indirect beneficiaries, based on a shared understanding of the mine action-emergency needs agenda at field and districts levels.

⁸¹Using a conflict sensitivity framework, the mine action strategy of Yemen will be based on broad priorities as (i) national coordination, (ii) humanitarian -emergency imperative, (iii) development sustainability and (iv) compliance with international requirements (SDGs, APMBC)

3.2- UNDP should strengthen its strategic positioning by elaborating a sound theory of change (ToC) of the future mine action joint programme to allow better visibility of interventions and to facilitate communication and shared understanding with its partners. The ToC as well as M&E systems should be designed in such a way to encourage active learning and aimed at achieving sustainable change. The knowledge thus gathered could be shared with national partners, donors, project beneficiaries, the public through a user-friendly communication mechanism, with a greater emphasis on positive changes resulting from UNDP mine action assistance. The theory of change⁸² should incorporate intermediate outcomes and indicators, so information on results at lower levels can be collected through fast feedback loops and used to make course corrections in programme implementation and service delivery.

3.3- The operationalization of the IMSMA database and the implementation of reporting procedures and templates as information tools (maps, statistics, graphs...) have reflected the need to use mine action information not only by mine action actors but also by humanitarian or developmental institutions/organizations. UNDP could assist YMACC information management in providing a service to 'humanitarian actors' with effective and continuing outreach to potential 'clients' to help them identify planned activities which may require mine action support. With regard to the mine /ERW data on survivors surveillance, the immediate actions should consider the improvement of a centralized casualty data collection, and coordination with other open sources within the local (CIMP, YALS, YRCS) and international entities (OCHA/Protection cluster, UNICEF, ICRC, HI, MLI) in order to better enhance visibility in this huge problem and to take appropriate planned action in a more coordinated and effective manner.

3.4- YMACC has recently developed with UNDP technical assistance a Power Business Intelligence (BI) dashboard allowing the YMACC teams to find some insight into their MA data and to make data-driven decisions. This may need to be reinforced with the establishment of a complementary tool based on the principles of the Balanced Score Card (BSC) which centralizes the results of the monitoring and evaluation of their implementing partners with the aim of not only improving the efficiency and effectiveness of YMACC's coordination function but also guiding donor funding allocations, while at the same time providing implementing partners with guidance on where they need to focus their institutional development. The BSC measures each YMACC implementing mine action partner against a specific set of criteria to be defined in close consultation with them, including operational planning, quality management, incidents, and reporting.

3.5- There is scope to increase involvement in ensuring that mine action interventions are relevant and of good quality by measuring impact through tracking community perceptions. YMACC and mine action operators must pay attention to looking particularly at change in land use; the impact on socio-economic conditions and poverty status of men and women; and improve impact measurement result, analysis, reporting and communication of results by:

- Increasing the capacities of EORE and NTS teams to capture perspectives from men, women, youth and also to meet PwD within prior and post monitoring clearance operations in order to better analyze and communicate results. They can include specific gender analysis with disaggregated data in reports along with actionable recommendations targeted at the specific stakeholders. Reports should be more analytical rather than descriptive.
- Promoting engagement by development actors in areas where YEMAC and other clearance actors are working through, for example the undertaking of joint baseline and impact measurement activities.
- Extending the impact measurement using the results of training and other capacity development initiatives, for example the results-based management and communication-fundraising.

Category 4: Capacity development, operations management and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

(Time frame: medium to long)

Recommendation 4. UNDP should continue fostering national capacity to manage mine action programmes and optimize the sustainability of the results obtained. It should strengthen planning, M&E mechanism and support national partners in result -based management.

4.1- UNDP could strengthen the capacity development framework to determine what capacity-building/change means and to have a common understanding with the mine action authorities based on existing capacity assets to address the components to be reinforced. This framework should include an updated assessment allowing to identify, within the targeted institutional authorities, the key units and mechanisms involved in the planning, budgeting and execution of the mine action-emergency-development programme linked to the national strategic plan and UNDP plan. UNDP should closely assist the national counterparts in the development of operational capacity-fostering training on project development with project management as well as results-based management and effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

Within the framework of the mine action project, UNDP worked mainly with central authorities. In addition to the authorities working upstream, it is recommended to work with local officials and development partners of districts, communities (national NGOs, grassroots community initiatives/committees ...), and build their capacity for project management as well. In the medium- term, training must be followed by adequate post-training support for continuous

⁸² UNDP Discussion paper – Innovation in monitoring & evaluation results p.22 (5 November 2013)

learning to ensure that the theoretical knowledge acquired be transformed into practical actions, in particular during the implementation of local mine action-land release and recovery plans.

This support must be organized taking into account the specifications of each partner and the level of their skills in project management. This ensures partners have a better understanding of the issues and can contribute further to strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of their interventions. The already introduced the Mine Action Capability Maturity Self-Assessment Tool according to the UNDP's Handbook for Capacity Development in Mine Action (2021) to monitor the status of the sector and to measure its development should be used and periodically updated as a monitoring and evaluation tool (M&E).

4.2- UNDP should encourage a participatory process of in-depth diagnosis, with the help of participatory community planning, to identify priority problems at the level of each intervention site and better orient the programming and the relevance of activities for the benefit of the people. The main purpose would be to better connect the mine action sector with development programmes and planning processes at governorates, districts, and local levels.

4.3- Mine clearance operations should be prioritized not only in terms of which land can be cleared more efficiently or which land has the highest expected production value, but also which land will deliver benefits to the poorest and most vulnerable, taking into account the needs (essential resources) of the poorest and most vulnerable. Accurate data must be collected and analyzed for information sharing and measuring its effectiveness. The elaboration of the National Mine Action Standards as well the updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in particular for land release must be continued in accordance with the regular update of the international mine action standards (IMAS) which form the basis of all mine action support undertaken by the United Nations (UN) in Yemen.

The set of NMAC developed by YMACC (pending formal approval) could also serve as a starting point for NMAC North to also update a version adapted to the field conditions depending on their applicability in their respective areas.

4.4- UNDP could advocate to the Supreme Council for the Management and Coordination of the Humanitarian Affairs (SCMCHA) and YEMAC North to (i) facilitate access and conduct assessments of international mine action operators and partners, as they still facing to administrative restrictions and security measures, (ii) authorize the creation of a mine action coordination office.

4.5- UNDP could increase the mine action monitoring and evaluation mechanism amongst its mine action partners which should include not only tracking indicators, but also regular monitoring of possible scenarios in the context of the evolution of programmatic assumptions of risks. Progress towards results and ensuring that key issues including GEWE dimension and community resilience should be leading to action and emerging evidence of changes measured (intended or unintended).

UNDP should continue to engage a TPM agent for regular monitoring of mine action activities and for conducting field evaluations while periodically revising the evaluation plan as needed. It is crucial to identify various scenarios to anticipate potential challenges that may disrupt the expected output and outcomes.

4.6- YMACC information management should develop a dashboard to better understand the different perspectives and impacts on men, women, boys and girls assisted by the mine action data-based system (IMSMA core system) which collects disaggregated data results, so that managers can carry out gender sensitive analysis and introduce a gender perspective to ensure results.

4.7- Gender should feature in future potential tender requirements for mine action operations. Tenderers should propose a thorough vision of how to increase gender equality through mine action, and all monitoring and evaluation data they gather should present a disaggregated gender analysis.

4.8- National Mine Action Authorities (NMAA) assisted by the UNDP Gender Unit should ensure that an enabling environment is set up to encourage more women to (i) participate in and advocate for female leadership and decision making in mine action, and (ii) document the impact and highlight the stories of more women engaging in this sector in close collaboration with women led organizations. An NMAA gender focal point should be appointed to produce educational materials on mine action gender dimension and advocate/manage this important issue.

4.9- UNDP could encourage NMAA and YMACC to engage in advocacy for the rights of survivors and persons with disabilities (PwD) and their families, with UN partners (UNICEF, WHO) and organizations (ICRC, YRCS, YALS). This would assist in the development of a long-term national strategy assisting surveyors of incidents of explosive hazards with the engagement of different cross sectors involved in health; human rights and social welfare; labour and economic development; to support Yemen's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Annex 1: Terms of Reference: Emergency Mine Action Project – Yemen Phase II Final Evaluation

Service: International Consultant for Project Final Evaluation

Project Title: Emergency Mine Action Project – Yemen Phase II

Duty Station: Home-based

Contract Type: Individual Contract (IC)

Expected Duration: Approximately 35 working days starting March 2023

1. Background and Context

Yemen is widely considered to be the worst humanitarian and development crisis in the world. The conflict, which started in September 2014 was further escalated in March 2015 to a comprehensive civil war, which has caused major loss of life, internal displacement, and destroyed critical infrastructure, government fragmentation, poor public service delivery, weakened population and institutional resilience and food insecurity verging on famine. Major roads and bridges across the country have been partially or/and fully destroyed, power transmittal lines have been severely damaged, and oil and gas production are totally disrupted. An estimated 23.4 million people - equivalent to more than 80 % of the population need humanitarian or protection assistance, including 13.4 million in acute need. More than 19 million people are food insecure.

The escalation of conflict in Yemen 2015 has resulted in large tracts of land being contaminated with unexploded ordnance (UXO) in areas of direct and indirect land warfare which has spilled over into littoral waters. The aerial campaign added new threats of unexploded aircraft bombs, particularly cluster-type munitions in the middle and northern regions of the country. Existence of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and mines have worsened the living conditions of the already conflict-affected and famine prone populations by challenging humanitarian, and recovery activities such as waste and debris management, access to natural or other resources, access to rescue and social services, and the recovery of business activities. The protracted conflict has no immediate or obvious likely end in sight.

Consistent with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) strategy for assistance to the mine action sector in Yemen, one of the primary goals of the UN is to ensure the most efficient and effective response to the impact of landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other explosive remnants of war (ERW, including cluster- munitions and IEDs). According to the UN Policy on Mine Action and Effective Coordination, the primary responsibility for addressing the threats faced by the population from contamination remains with the affected State. To promote national ownership, responsibility, leadership and effective coordination, the UNDP is mandated by the General Assembly to assist the national authorities in their efforts to review and strengthen existing co-ordination mechanisms and further develop a national mine action programme.

The Project is aligned with the UNDP global Strategic Plan 2022-2025 as part of the Organization's efforts in building resilience: 'strengthening countries and institutions to prevent, mitigate and respond to crisis, conflict, natural disasters, climate and social and economic shocks'. The Project is in support of UNDP's signature solution 'Resilience Supporting countries and communities in building resilience to diverse shocks and crises, including conflict, climate change, disasters and epidemics.'

The Project is in line with the Yemen Country Programme Document (CPD 2022 – 2024) Output 3.3 “:

Capacities of national institutions improved to manage the mine action sector and improve community safety, protection from explosive ordnance”.

The Project is also aligned with UNDP Yemen's Country Strategy Note (CSN - July 2021 – December 2024), as part of the Programming Area #11: *UNDP Yemen CSN - Programming area #11: Mine clearance*

Throughout much of the country, particularly in the west, where most of the population resides, the conflict has left widespread Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) contamination. Large tracts of land are contaminated in areas of direct and indirect violent conflict. The aerial campaign has added a new threat of unexploded aircraft bombs.

Working within the wider UN the Project is part of the Protection cluster and is contributing to its Strategic Objective 3 *Yemen HRP 2021 – Protection Cluster – Mine Action*

Strategic Objective 3 - Protecting and assisting civilians

Specific Objective 3.2 - Human rights, inclusiveness, safety and dignity are promoted and protection risks identified and addressed through protection monitoring, community-based mechanisms and humanitarian response.

The UNDP's Emergency Mine Action Project has contributed considerably to a wide spectrum of mine action activities in Yemen through supporting the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC) and the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC). UNDP acts in an advisory role covering technical implementation and methodologies, policy issues at the central level, planning processes through the full project cycle and resource mobilisation.

In addition, UNDP supports the relevant national bodies with basic running cost, including incentives for personnel to affect Mine Action operations costs due to lack of national budget and payment of salaries since the start of conflict.

The project addresses the physical and socio-economic impacts of explosive remnants of war and mines on people and communities by a) preventing the situation from worsening; b) relieving communities from the impact of current contamination and c) addressing the longer-term issues of convention obligations. Project outputs are:

- 1-National Mine Action Authorities have improved capacities to carry-out mine activities that are consistent with priorities.
- 2-ERW clearance and land release interventions are delivered in contaminated communities.
- 3-The Yemen Mine Action Authorities have capacity to effectively coordinate, regulate and plan the mapping of ERW contamination and assessing the impact using primary and secondary sources and fulfil international treaty obligations.
- 4-The communities at risk have increased their knowledge on identifying, dealing and avoiding mines and unexploded ordnance.

Project beneficiaries total 1,412,414 (of which women 572,105 men 613,293 female child 118,735, male child 108,361). UNDP strives to contribute to the gender equality not only in making women, girls and the most vulnerable aware of mines and safety measures, it has paved the way for more trainings which has produced some potentially transformative results by:

- Encouraging both YEMAC South and North areas to train and deploy women teams.
- Raise the awareness of the targeted communities on gender to enhance their local acceptance of women to work in mine action field.
- Ensure the equity and equality as well. With UNDP support YMACC conducted a training in data collecting and the mechanism on how to gender and diversity are mainstreamed in IMSMA forms in data collecting and reflecting of mine action activities.
- Highlight the role of women in all its projects and always focus on equality while dividing tasks between men and women. As an example, regarding the collaboration with YEMAC's Server room, the supervision and management of this room was assigned to a woman, which was successfully completed.

The project has pursued the gender and diversity dimension, continuing to advocate for and facilitate women's and PwD participation in Mine action and seek to increase the percentage of women in all activities and ensure that all data reports are sex- and age-disaggregated data (SADD) which UNDP information management team with support from GICHD ensure gender and diversity are mainstreamed in IMSMA forms as a good practice criterion for gender and diversity analysis during all stages of project activities.

The gender balance approach has been addressed through incipient initiatives with encouraging results despite of the cultural resistance. UNDP placed emphasis on mainstreaming gender principles into plans, aiming for the equal participation of beneficiaries, employees, and decision-makers in Mine Action.

UNDP aims to maintain and increase its efforts to strengthen the gender dimension of interventions and will continue to support structuring and capacity to empower women, not only by ensuring women's participation in demining activities, but also by ensuring that interventions are relevant to needs and livelihoods equivalent of women in areas previously hit by explosive devices.

The project mainstreams conflict sensitivity through the transparent allocation of resources using statistics from national surveys and UN figures for district and governorate levels, in the selection and inclusion of the direct beneficiaries based on a transparent eligibility criteria and consultations with communities and leaders. The project activities are based on regular contextual analysis to ensure that the interventions do not cause or escalate conflicts in the target areas with close monitoring and planning to identify and mitigate possible conflicts and associated risks throughout project implementation. The activities are designed to contribute to the rebuilding and strengthening of the social fabric in the communities.

In achieving these outputs, the project expects to contribute to a wider development change which results in enabling, countrywide, Yemeni households and communities to effectively cope with the impact of the crisis and to (re)build their resilience. At the same time, the project tries to strengthen confidence in and preserve and build the institutional capacities of NMAC, YEMAC and third parties to deliver essential services to citizens.

Since its inception in October 2021, the activities supported or coordinated by the project reached over five million demining and Mine Risk Education (MRE) beneficiaries across the country in the 22 governorates and 297 districts. The field teams cleared over twelve million square meters of land from which they removed over 140,000 different pieces of explosive ordnance, mines, other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AXO) focus in nine governorates Abyan, Aden, Hajjah, Sa'ada, Amran, Sana'a, Taizz, Hadramaut and Al Jawf. The project has been funded by the following donors: Germany, The Netherlands, UK FCDO, US DoS PMWRA, UNOCHA and UNDP.

PROJECT/OUTCOME INFORMATION		
Project/outcome title	Emergency Mine Action Project Phase II	
Atlas ID	00138840	
Corporate outcome and output	<p>All people in Yemen benefit from inclusive peace processes.</p> <p>Project Outputs</p> <p>1-National Mine Action Authorities have improved capacities to carry-out mine activities that are consistent with priorities.</p> <p>2-ERW clearance and land release interventions are delivered in contaminated communities.</p> <p>3-The Yemen Mine Action Authorities have capacity to effectively coordinate, regulate and plan the mapping of ERW contamination and assessing the impact using primary and secondary sources and fulfil international treaty obligations.</p> <p>4-The communities at risk have increased their knowledge on identifying, dealing and avoiding mines and unexploded ordnance.</p>	
Country	Republic of Yemen	
Region	RBAS	
Date project document signed	21 September 2021	
Project dates	Start	Planned end
	October 2021	December 2023
Project budget	\$75,968,750 (of which 17million has been secured)	
Project expenditure at the time of evaluation	USD 11,540,618 till December 2022	
Funding source	GERMANY; NETHERLANDS; UK – FCDO; UNOCHA (YHF) UNOCHA (CERF); USDOS	
Implementing party	UNDP – Direct Implementation (DIM)	

2- Evaluation purpose, scope and objectives

Purpose

This final evaluation is commissioned to assess the project's progress towards restoration of services and access to key infrastructure, reducing injuries and fatalities, and normalisation of recovery and economic activity in targeted areas and may influence the continuation of the project or act as a terminal evaluation should no further funding be available.

The final project evaluation serves as an important learning and accountability tool, providing the donors, UNDP, key national stakeholders, and authorities in the targeted governorates and districts with an impartial assessment of the results generated, including gender equality measures and women's empowerment. The evaluation will assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability, identify and document lessons learned, and provide recommendations to inform future project phases should funding be made available.

The findings and recommendations of the evaluation will guide the key stakeholders, relevant Yemen institutions and authorities, project donors, UNDP, UN agencies, civil society organisations in implementation of related projects.

Scope

The Project Evaluation will cover all project outputs during the period from 1st October 2021 to the date the evaluator is appointed and cover the project locations – Abyan, Aden, Hajjah, Sa'ada, Amran, Sana'a, Taizz, Hadramaut and Al Jawf. The evaluation will cover programme conceptualisation, design, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the results. The evaluation will engage all project stakeholders - benefitting communities/institutions, authorities in the governorates and districts covered by the project, funding partners, UNDP, UN agencies and partnering CSOs.

The evaluation will assess progress made on key indicators agreed with all project stakeholders. In addition to assessing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency of the project, the evaluation will:

- explore the key factors that have contributed to the achieving or not achieving of the intended results.
- determine the extent to which the project contributed towards restoration of services and access to key infrastructure (including community infrastructure), reducing injuries and fatalities, and normalisation of economic activity in targeted areas; addressing crosscutting issues of gender equality and women's empowerment and human rights; and forging partnership at different levels, including with government institutions, donors, UN agencies, and communities; and
- assess potential sustainability of the project for continued realisation of results; and
- draw lessons learned and best practices and make recommendations for future mine action projects.

Objectives

Specific final evaluation objectives are to:

1. Assess the relevance and strategic positioning of the Emergency Mine Action (V) project and whether the initial assumptions are still relevant.
2. Assess a) the progress made towards project results and whether there were any unintended results; b) what can be captured in terms of lessons learned for future Emergency Mine Action projects.
3. Assess whether the project management arrangements, approaches and strategies, including monitoring strategies and risk management approaches, were well-conceived and efficient in delivering the project intended results.
4. Assess the overall contribution of the projects towards humanitarian-peace-development nexus and whether there are indications of sustaining the project's results after the end of the project.
5. Analyse the extent to which the project enhanced application of a rights-based approaches, gender equality and women's empowerment, social and environmental standards, and participation of other socially vulnerable groups such as children and the disabled.

3- Evaluation criteria and key guiding questions

Referencing and adopting from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) evaluation criteria, the evaluation will answer the following questions:

Relevance / Coherence:

1. Was the project relevant in addressing the impacts of UXO and ERW in the targeted areas?
2. To what extent was the project in line with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) strategy for assistance to the mine action, national priorities, priorities of the targeted governorates, the country programme's outputs and outcomes and the SDGs?
3. Was the project relevant to the needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries including women and men? Were they consulted during design and implementation of the project?
4. Did the project address gender issues and help women overcome challenges or limitations?

Effectiveness:

5. To what extent has the project contributed to the country programme outcomes and outputs, the SDGs, the UNDP Strategic Plan and mine action priorities?
6. To what extent did the project achieve its intended outputs?
7. To what extent has the project contributed toward towards its intended outcome?
8. What was the impact of the project on developing the institutional capacity of the Yemeni mine action bodies?
9. What factors have contributed to achieving or not achieving intended project outputs and outcomes? What could be done to maximise project impact?
10. To what extent has the project contributed to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights?
11. To what extent have different stakeholders been involved in the project implementation?

Efficiency:

12. Were the programme's resources efficiently utilised? Are there more efficient ways of delivering the same or better results with the available inputs?
13. How efficient were the management and accountability structures of the project? (programme cycle, staffing, M&E processes, selection of implementing partners...)
14. To what extent have the M&E systems utilized by UNDP enabled effective and efficient project management?
15. To what extent gender equality results are achieved at reasonable cost?

Sustainability:

16. To what extent will financial and economic resources be available to sustain the benefits achieved by the project?
17. Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outputs and the project's contributions to country programme outputs and outcomes?
18. To what extent have relevant government ministries or institutions integrated project outcomes into ongoing policies and practices?
19. To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the project team on a continual basis and shared with appropriate parties who could learn from the project?
20. To what extent the interventions have well-designed and well-planned exit strategies.

Human rights

21. To what extent have poor, indigenous and physically challenged, women and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups included in helping design and prioritize the work of the project in the spirit of broad societal inclusion. To what extent have they benefited from the work of the project?
22. To what extent are the planned project interventions relevant to the overall strategy of inclusivity and empowerment?
23. Was conflict sensitivity mainstreamed and included as an approach throughout project implementation?

Gender equality and empowerment

24. To what extent have gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project?
25. Is the gender marker assigned to this project representative of reality?
26. To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects?

Disability

27. Were persons with disabilities consulted and meaningfully involved in programme planning and implementation?
28. What proportion of the beneficiaries of a programme were persons with disabilities?

Guiding evaluation questions will be further refined by the evaluation team and agreed with UNDP evaluation stakeholders.

4- Final Evaluation Methodology

This final evaluation will adhere to the United Nations Evaluation Group's Norms and Ethical Standards, OECD/DAC evaluation principles and guidelines and DAC Evaluation Quality Standards, UNDP Evaluation Guidelines and UNDP Evaluation Policy.

Due to the security situation, travel to and in the country is constrained by the ongoing conflict. If it is not possible to travel to or within the country for the evaluation then the evaluation team should develop a methodology that takes this into account the conduct of evaluation virtually and remotely, including the use of remote interview methods and extended desk reviews, data analysis, survey and evaluation questionnaires. This should be detailed in the inception report and agreed with the Evaluation Manager.

In case if evaluation will be carried out virtually, consideration should be taken for stakeholder availability, ability, or willingness to be interviewed remotely. In addition, their accessibility to the internet/computer may be an issue as many government and national counterparts may be working from home. These limitations must be reflected in the evaluation report.

It is expected that the evaluation will employ a combination of both qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods. The evaluation team should propose their own methodology, which may include:

1. **Document review of all relevant documentation.** This would include a review of inter alia; project documents; theory of change and results framework; programme and project quality assurance reports; annual workplans; consolidated progress reports; results-oriented monitoring report; highlights of project board meetings; and technical/financial monitoring reports.
2. **Semi-structured interviews with key female and male stakeholders.** This would include national authorities, YMACC, YEMAC, project implementing agencies, representatives of key civil society organizations, UNCT members.
 - Evaluation questions will be tailored to the different needs and participation of various stakeholders.
 - All interviews will be undertaken in full confidence and anonymity. Prior to engaging in interviews or focus group discussions, the evaluation team must obtain informed consent from all stakeholders, but especially those from vulnerable categories. The evaluation report should not assign specific comments to individuals but indicate patterns according to categories of respondents.
3. **Validation of results.** The evaluation team is expected to follow a participatory and inclusive consultative approach that ensures close engagement with the evaluation managers, implementing agencies and direct male and female beneficiaries.
4. Other methods such as outcome mapping, observational visits, group discussions, etc.
5. Data review and analysis of monitoring, financial and other data sources and methods.

All analysis must be based on observed facts, evidence, and data. Findings should be specific, concise and supported by quantitative and/or qualitative information that is reliable, valid and generalizable. The broad range of data provides strong opportunities for triangulation. This process is essential to ensure a comprehensive and coherent understanding of the data sets, which will be generated by the evaluation.

The evaluation methodology needs to employ a gender sensitive approach and inclusion principle and this needs to be elaborated in the evaluation report including how data-collection and analysis methods integrated gender considerations, use of disaggregated data and outreach to diverse stakeholders' groups.

The findings of the evaluation should lead to the elaboration of specific, practical, achievable recommendations that should be directed to the intended users.

The final methodological approach including interview schedule, field visits and data to be used in the evaluation should be clearly outlined in the inception report and be fully discussed and agreed between UNDP, stakeholders, and the evaluators.

5- Evaluation Deliverables

The consultants will be expected to deliver the following:

- a) **Evaluation inception report (10-15 pages).** The inception report should be carried out following and based on preliminary discussions with UNDP after the desk review. It should be produced and approved before the evaluation starts (before any formal evaluation interviews, survey distribution or field visits) and prior to the country visit in the case of the international consultant.
- b) **Evaluation debriefings.** Immediately following an evaluation, UNDP will ask for a preliminary debriefing of findings.
- c) **Draft evaluation report (max 40 pages).** UNDP and stakeholders will review the draft evaluation report and provide an amalgamated set of comments to the evaluator within 10 days, addressing the content required (as agreed in the inception report) and quality criteria as outlined in the UNDP evaluation guidelines.
- d) **Evaluation report audit trail.** Comments and changes by the evaluator in response to the draft report should be retained by the evaluator to show how they have addressed comments.
- e) **Evaluation report.** The final report should address comments, questions and clarification. The final report should also contain a stand-alone executive summary of no more than five pages.
- f) Presentations to stakeholders and the evaluation reference group (ERG).
- g) Evaluation brief and other knowledge products/impact case studies (potentially, focusing on project components/sub-components/intervention sectors (Capacity building, Assets, livelihood impact of beneficiaries and communities, gender/women empowerment) agreed in the inception report.

Standard templates that need to be followed are provided in the Annexes section. It is expected that the evaluator will follow the UNDP evaluation guidelines and UNEG quality check list and ensure all the quality criteria are met in the evaluation report.

6- Evaluation team composition and required competencies

The project evaluation will be conducted by independent consultants (one international and one national). The consultants must have extensive experience in strategic programming of development assistance in active conflict setting countries within the broader areas of mine action. The consultants must also have substantial knowledge and experience of gender and monitoring and evaluation of similar initiatives in volatile environments.

- The **International Consultant** will be the Team Leader and take a lead role during all phases of the evaluation and coordinate the work of the national consultant. He/she will ensure the quality of the evaluation process, outputs, methodology and timely delivery of all products. The Team Leader, in close collaboration with the other evaluation team member, leads the conceptualization and design the evaluation and plays a lead role in shaping the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the report.
- The **National Consultant** will be recruited to work under the leadership of the international lead consultant, be responsible for the overall assistance to the Team Leader to implement the evaluation inception guideline including application of all agreed evaluation methodologies to collect, analysis, and draft report (plus drafting case studies/knowledge products) in line with field findings covering all agreed approaches such as consultations and meetings with selected different stakeholders, FGDs, etc. The national consultant will contribute substantively to the work of the Team Leader, providing substantive inputs and context in the drafting and finalizing the inception and final evaluation reports. Both the international and national consultant should have M&E technical knowledge and experience in key critical cross-cutting areas such as gender equality, empowerment, disability issues, rights-based approach and capacity development.

Education:

Advanced university degree (i.e. master's degree or equivalent) in the field of social science or other relevant fields of study with a minimum of eight years of relevant experience. Or First Level University Degree (bachelor's degree or equivalent) with a minimum of 15 years of relevant experience. Or Military Experience (or relevant Police Experience) at the Officer level with a minimum of 15 years of relevant experience.

Experience:

- At least eight years of practical experience in a similar professional role (i.e. implementation, consultancy support and/or Evaluation for the projects (inter alia in local economic development, rural development, community led development and other related areas)
- At least 10 years of programme/project management and policy formulation experience in mine action and/or related field.
- Proven record of leading complex programmatic evaluations, including Mine Action/UXO programmes or related field.
- Proven experience in conducting evaluations and in using a mix of evaluations tools and in applying a variety of mixed-methods evaluation approaches.

- Proven experience in conducting remote evaluations and using related technology.
- Demonstrated experience in designing and leading participatory and gender-sensitive evaluations of relevant development, projects/ programmes, which engage with different stakeholders.
- Experience/ knowledge of the UNDP Evaluation Policy, UNDP Results-Based Evaluation Policies and Procedures
- Demonstrable in-depth understanding of results-based management, gender equality, capacity building and strategic planning.
- Demonstrated experience with UNDP and/or other multilateral/bilateral development assistance agencies in similar assignments is an advantage.
- Fluency in English is a requirement. Knowledge of Arabic would be an asset.
- Ability to write comprehensive evaluation reports.

7- Evaluation Ethics

Evaluations in the UN are conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation.' The consultants must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees, and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The consultants must also ensure security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses with the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

The consultants are required to read the guidelines and ensure a strict adherence, including establishing protocols to safeguard confidentiality of information obtained during the evaluation. Upon signing the contract, the consultant will also sign this guideline which may be made available as an attachment to the evaluation report.

8- Implementation arrangements

The UNDP Yemen Country Office will select the consultants through a transparent process. UNDP will be responsible for the management of the consultants and will in this regard designate an evaluation manager and focal point. The Emergency Mine Action Project staff will assist in facilitating the process (e.g., providing relevant documentation, arranging visits/interviews with key informants, reviewing evaluations deliverables and logistic support, if required).

The evaluation manager will convene an Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) comprising of technical experts from UNDP, donors and implementing partners. This reference group will review the inception report and the draft review report to provide detailed comments related to the quality of methodology, evidence collected, analysis and reporting. The reference group will also advise on the conformity of processes to the UNDP and UNEG standards. The feedback provided by UNDP and stakeholders in the audit trail should be addressed by the evaluator and retained to show how they were addressed. Additional review and adjustments might be needed depending on the quality of the submitted evaluation report.

The consultants will take responsibility, with assistance from the project team, for setting up meetings and conducting the review, subject to advanced approval of the methodology submitted in the inception report. Project staff will not participate in meetings between consultants and evaluations participants.

The consultants will report directly to the designated evaluation manager and focal point and work closely with the project team. The consultants will work full time and the national consultant may be required to travel to the targeted areas for the purpose the evaluation. This should be detailed in the Inception Report and agreed with the Evaluation Reference Group and the Evaluation Manager.

Support during the implementation of remote/ virtual meetings will be provided by evaluation manager and focal point. An updated stakeholder list with contact details (phone and email) will need to be provided by the country office to the consultants. UNDP with support of relevant stakeholders will develop a management response to the evaluation within two weeks of report finalisation. The final report will be approved by the evaluation commissioner.

9- Timeframe for the evaluation process

The selected consultant will be expected to deliver the following outputs according to the following tentative schedule (starting from the time of contract signing):

Deliverable	Time Allocation	Documents to be submitted	% of payment	Approving Officer
Deliverable 1: Evaluation inception report (10-15 pages) describing initial findings based on the comprehensive documentation review - work plan and evaluation matrix prepared. Presentation of inception report to UNDP	8 days	A comprehensive inception report	25%	Evaluation manager and commissioner

Deliverable 2: Draft evaluation report (max 40 pages) should be prepared based on collected data and information following the UNDP templates	16 days	Draft evaluation report	40%	Evaluation manager
Deliverable 3: Final evaluation Report integrating feedback on draft evaluation report provided by the ERG, UNDP and other stakeholders, Audit trail	12 days	Final evaluation report, audit trail	35%	Evaluation manager
Deliverable 4: Presentation(s) delivered to key stakeholders	1 day	PowerPoint Presentation		
Estimated total days for the evaluation	35 days			

The consultancy is expected to take a period of 35 working days starting in March 2023. The 35 working days will be spread over a period of two months to provide for delays and the need for additional time that may be required for implementing evaluations virtually recognising possible delays in accessing stakeholder groups. The consultants will inform the evaluation manager if additional time is needed to complete the evaluation.

10- Application submission process and criteria for selection

Technical proposals (total score: 70 points)

Criteria	Max score	Weight
General adherence to the Term of Reference (ToR)	5	7%
Proposed methodology, approach, and workplan (relevance, logic, rigor, practicality, creativity, realism of work plan etc). Clarity and relevance of the proposed methodology, to the local context and to achieve the deliverables of the ToR. Realistic and complete work plan which reflects clear and comprehensive understanding of the scope of work in the ToR. Clarity about how gender considerations will be factored into the evaluation. Clarity on the quality assurance process that will be in place for this assignment	35	50%
Quality of plan to ensure ethics of conducting evaluation with human subjects (methodological component that will be accorded special attention given the project engagement of women, juvenile children, and other targeted groups).	10	14%
Technical capacity of the applicant: qualifications, competencies, experience and skills as per the ToR (also assessed against sample of evaluation work done)	20	29%
Total	70	100%

A) Financial Proposal (total score: 30 points)

The financial proposal will specify a total lump sum amount and payment terms shall be in line with those that are mentioned in the deliverable table. Financial proposal will be assessed based on the completeness, clarity and appropriateness. The maximum number of points shall be allotted to the lowest Financial Proposal that is opened /evaluated and compared among those technical qualified candidates who have obtained a minimum 70 points in the technical evaluation. Other Financial Proposals will receive points in inverse proportion to the lowest price applying the formula:

Marks Obtained = Lowest Priced Offer (Amount) / Offer being considered (Amount) X 30 (Full Marks)

11- Payments

Fee payments will be made upon acceptance and approval by UNDP planned deliverables, based on the following payment schedule:

Milestone for payment	Percentage
Inception report	25%
Draft Evaluation Report & presentation of findings	40%
Final Evaluation Report, audit trail and presentation of findings to stakeholders	35%

12- TOR annexes

Annexes can be used to provide additional detail about evaluation background and requirements to facilitate the work of evaluators. Some examples include:

- Intervention results framework and theory of change as stated in the Project Document
- Key stakeholders and partners.

- **Documents to be consulted.** A list of important documents and web pages that the evaluators should read at the outset of the evaluation and before finalizing the evaluation design and inception report. This should be limited to the critical information that the evaluation team needs. Data sources and documents may include:
 - Relevant national strategy documents.
 - Strategic and other planning documents (e.g., programme and project documents).
 - Monitoring plans and indicators.
 - Partnership arrangements (e.g., agreements of cooperation with governments or partners).
 - Previous evaluations and assessments.
 - UNDP evaluation policy, UNEG norms and standards and other policy documents.
 - Evaluation Methodology Center- ERC
- **Evaluation matrix** (suggested as a deliverable to be included in the inception report). The evaluation matrix is a tool that evaluators create as a map and reference in planning and conducting an evaluation. It also serves as a useful tool for summarizing and visually presenting the evaluation design and methodology for discussions with stakeholders. It details evaluation questions that the evaluation will answer, data sources, data collection and analysis tools or methods appropriate for each data source, and the standard or measure by which each question will be evaluated. Table 5 provides a sample evaluation matrix template.

TABLE 1. SAMPLE EVALUATION MATRIX

Relevant evaluation criteria	Key questions	Specific sub-questions	Data sources	Data collection methods/ tools	Indicators/ success standards	Methods for data analysis
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- **Required format for the evaluation report.** The final report must include, but not necessarily be limited to, the elements outlined in the template for evaluation reports
- **Dispute and wrongdoing resolution process and contact details** (annex 3)
- **Pledge of ethical conduct in evaluation.** UNDP programme units should request each member of the evaluation team to read carefully, understand and sign the ‘Pledge of Ethical Conduct in Evaluation of the United Nations system’.
- Inception report
- Audit trail
- UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN system
- Integrating Gender Equality and Human Rights in Evaluation - UN-SWAP Guidance, Analysis and Good Practices
- UNDP Evaluation Guidelines
- Evaluation Quality Assessment
- UNEG Quality Checklist for Evaluation Reports

Annex 2: List of persons interviewed by the international consultant remotely and the national consultant remotely and on site, and calendar of final evaluation EMA phase II project.

A- List of persons interviewed. (F: Female, M: Male)

No	Date	Name	Sex	Function	Organization
1	29/05/2023	Bryant Stephen	M	Ex. CTA/EMA II Project Manger – UNDP Mine Action Yemen	UNDP Irak
2	29/5/2023	Sana Khan	F	Prodigy	Prodigy
3	31/05/2023	Mihajlov Aleksandar	M	Planning and Monitoring Specialist - UNDP Mine Action Yemen	UNDP Yemen
4	31/05/2023	Dahan Marie	F	Ex. Partnership & Coordination Specialist -UNDP Mine Action Yemen	UNDP Ukraine
5	1/6/2023	Mario Quiñones Noriega	M	Humanitarian Disarmament & Peacebuilding Manager	DRC-Yemen
6	02/06/2023	Luckett Jes	M	Ex. MA Operation Specialist- - UNDP Mine Action Yemen	UNMAS Sudan
7	02/06/2023	Robinson Stephen	M	Ex. Senior Technical Adviser (Aden) - UNDP Mine Action Yemen	GICHD Geneva
8	4/6/2023	Abdo Seif	M	MSU – Management Support Unit	UNDP -
9	4/6/2023	Lucy Mathieson	F	Team Leader – Governance & Rule of Law (RoL)	UNDP
10	4/6/2023	Rehab Al-Sanabani	F	Gender Analyst (OST)	UNDP
11	4/6/2023	Alin Hamzeh	F	Governance team	UNDP
12	06/06/2023	Leon Visagie Louw	M	Mine Action Advisor – UNMHA Hudaydah	UNMHA Hudaydah
13	6/6/2023	Heema Devi Khadka	F	UNDP Sub-Office Hudaydah	UNDP
14	7/6/2023	Tewodros Woldegiorgis	M	Field Program coordinator – West coast and South Taiz	IOM
15	7/6/2023	Im Won-Hyuk	M	Project Manager	RoL Project – UNDP
16	08/06/2023	Collett Gareth	M	Ex. Chief Technical Advisor C-IED - UNDP Mine Action Yemen	Brimstone Consultancy Ltd. (UK)
17	8/6/2023	Nadai Alawamleh	F	DRR/P	UNDP
18	8/6/2023	Ali Safreh	M	Director of YEMAC North	YEMAC Sana’a
19	12/6/2023	Ghazi Ghazi	M	UNDP Mine Action Officer Sana’a	YEMAC Sana’a
20	12/6/2023	Matthew Smith	M	Programme Manager	INGO Halo Trust
21	13/6/2023	Turki M. Gamil	M	Director General of international and Foreign Organizations	SCMCHA
22	13/06/2023	Marieke Wierda	F	Deputy Ambassador/ Head of Development Cooperation	Netherlands Embassy Amman (Donor)
23	13/06/2023	Noeke Ruiter	F	First Secretary Security, Peace and Justice	Netherlands Embassy Amman(Donor)

No	Date	Name	Sex	Function	Organization
24	13/6/2023	Dania Dalati	F	Office of Randa Merghani (Head, Humanitarian Financing Unit Manager, Yemen Humanitarian Fund (CERF: Central Emergency Fund)	OCHA
25	14/06/2023	Patrick Fruchet	M	Senior Mine Action Advisor	UN RCO Yemen
26	14/6/2023	Abdullah AlKhamesi	M	Child protection officer - EORE	UNICEF
27	14/6/2023	Yehia Saber	M	Director of YEMAC Hudaydah REMAB (Regional Mine Action Branch)	YEMAC - Hudaydah
28	14/6/2023	Mohamed Ali.	M	Head of MA Awareness - Hudaydah REMAB (Regional Mine Action Branch)	YEMAC - Hudaydah
29	14/6/2023	Iqbal Al-Haj	F	ICRC – WeC Delegate	ICRC
30	14/6/2023	Safa Alqahoum	F	Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP)	CIMP - Protection Cluster
31	14/6/2023	Shelvin Mairura	F	Humanitarian Affairs Officer - Humanitarian Financing Unit - Yemen Humanitarian Fund	OCHA
32	15/06/2023	Pakitan Faiz	M	Country Director Yemen	INGO NPA (Norwegian People's Aid)
33	15/06/2023	Macy Johnson	F	Program Manager Lebanon, Yemen, and Emergency Response	US DoS (Donor)
34	15/6/2023	Qaid Halboup	M	Director of YEMAC Aden REMAB (Regional Mine Action Branch)	YEMAC - REMAP
35	15/6/2023	Saleh Haihem	M	Director of YEMAC Hadramout REMAB (Regional Mine Action Branch)	YEMAC REMAB Hadramout (Al Mukalla)
36	15/06/2023	Sahar Abdulkarim Mashhoor	F	Information Management Unit YMACC	YMACC
37	15/06/2023	Jamila Walid Yehay	F	Trainee - YMACC and Ops	YMACC
38	15/06/2023	Rawan Husein Awad	F	Trainee - YMACC and Ops	YMACC
39	15/06/2023	Intisar Abduljalil Naji	F	Trainee - YMACC and Ops	YMACC
40	16/06/2023	Mohamed Dubali	M	Trainee/Operations - YEMAC	Field operations Lahij
41	16/06/2023	Nabil Muqbel	M	Trainee/Internal Quality - YEMAC	Field operations Lahij
42	16/06/2023	Naser Obad	M	Trainee/Survey management - YMACC	Field operations Lahij
43	16/06/2023	Saleh Ali Almuntasir	M	Trainee/Planning – YEMAC	Field operations Lahij
44-47	16/06/2023	FGDs in Lahij with 4 participants	3 M 1 F	Project beneficiaries	Community members
48	17/06/2023	Ahmed Abdullah	M	Trainee/Supplies - YEMAC	Field operations Abyan
49	17/06/2023	Al-Khader M. Ali	M	Leader of mines' survey teams - YEMAC	Field operations Abyan
50	17/06/2023	Masood Alsaeedi	M	Trainee/Quality Control - YMACC	Field operations Abyan
51	17/06/2023	Mohamed Shulail	M	Operation Manager - YMACC	Field operations Abyan
52-55	17/06:2023	FGDs in Abyan with 4 participants	2 M 2 F	Project beneficiaries	Community members
56-59	17/06/2023	FGDs in Aden with 4 participants	3 M 1 F	Project beneficiaries	Community members
60	17/06/2023	Farooq A. Hakim Shaief	M	Trainee/Management - YMACC	Aden

No	Date	Name	Sex	Function	Organization
61	17/06/2023	Salah A. Omar	M	Trainee/Training - YEMAC	Aden - YEMAC
62	17/06/2023	Abdulqawi Mohamed	M	Trainee/Compliance officer - YMACC	Aden - YMACC
63	17/06/2023	Median M. Obeid	M	Deputy of YEMAC Aden	Aden - YEMAC
64	18/6/2023	Al-Ogaili Abdullah	M	UNDP Mine Action Officer Al Mukalla	YEMAC – Al Mukalla (Hadramout)
65-78	18/06/2023	FGDs in Hadramout with 14 participants	8 M 6 F	Project beneficiaries	Community members
79	19/6/2023	Naser Alheead	M	UNDP Mine Action Officer Aden and Taiz	YEMAC Aden, Lahij, Abyan, Al-Dhale'e & Western Coast of Taiz
80	19/6/2023	Fadhil Gharama	M	Director of YMACC Aden	YEMAC Aden
81	26/06/2023	Maya Ordaz	F	Weapon Contamination (WeC) Delegate Yemen	ICRC Sana'a

➤ **Total of persons interviewed: 81** including 52 Male (64%) and 29 Female (36%).

Nota (extract para 42): For conducting interviews, a purposive evaluation sample was considered with a total of 81 Individuals interviewed between the international and the national consultant remotely/on-line and in-person (field level meetings and focus group discussions/FGD) including 36% of women. Worth mentioning in this regard is that each interviewee in the sites represented and/or supervised thousands of beneficiaries which makes the sample size adequate and representative.

B- Calendar of final evaluation EMA phase II project

- 23 April 2023: Evaluation contract start and documentation review/evaluation tools.
- 04 May 2023: Submission of draft Inception report.
- 29 May-28 June 2023: On-line and in-persons interviews and field visits.
- 20 July 2023: Submission of draft evaluation report.
- 20 August 2023: Submission of final terminal review report integrating comments and clarification by the consultants in response to the draft report (audit trail).

Annex 3: Suggested Data Collection Guides for Conducting Individual Interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

A: Donors, B: National Authorities, C: Partners, D: UNDP Staff, E; Beneficiaries and F: Proposed Draft cover letter to informants.

A- Donors (US DoS, Netherlands, UNOCHA, Germany, UK FCDO)

Name: _____ Organization _____

Contact Details: _____

Location _____ Male _____ Female _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ End _____

Confidentiality and Informed Consent Statements: Thank you for taking the time to meet with us. We are conducting an independent final evaluation of the current **Emergency Mine Action Project – Phase Two - Yemen** which ends in 2023. This evaluation is commissioned to assess the project's progress towards restoration of services and access to key infrastructure, reducing injuries and fatalities, and normalization of economic activity in targeted areas. We have been hired by the UNDP for this assignment but are not employees of the UNDP.

It is expected the project final evaluation serves as an important learning and accountability tool, providing authorities, actors and partners with an impartial assessment of the results generated, including gender equality measures and women empowerment.

This evaluation will make it possible to draw lessons on (i) the implementation of the project, (ii) the results obtained, and thus (iii) propose recommendations for the development of the next UNDP Mine Action Support Project.

All information shared will be kept anonymous. We will aggregate and present our findings from interviews in a way that cannot be tied back to any individual or organization. Therefore, please feel free to speak openly and candidly with us.

Your participation is voluntary. Please feel free to ask to skip any question that you do not feel comfortable answering or ending the interview at any point.

The evaluation through specific questionnaire will address the following three key evaluation questions which also guide the findings in the report:

- (1) What did the project intend to achieve during the period under review? Is it consistent with other intervention in mine action sector (2021-2023)?
- (2) To what extent has the project achieved (or is likely to achieve) its intended objectives?
- (3) What factors contributed to or hindered project's performance and eventually, the sustainability of results?

In terms of use, we will produce a draft evaluation report following our fieldwork which will be shared with Donors and other stakeholders for their comments. We'll then revise and finalize the draft based on comments received. UNDP Yemen will then be responsible for the circulation of the report.

Thank you again for your willingness to participate in this interview.

Do you have any questions before starting?

GENERAL

1. Are you familiar with the UNDP Emergency Mine action project? If yes, what has been your involvement?
2. Do you think that the emergency mine action project contributes to UNDP's role in Yemen in supporting a peace building process and restoring essential basic social services?
3. Looking at the bigger picture, do you believe that this project contributes to the overall Yemen Peace efforts and responds to the needs of the population living in the projects' intervention areas? If yes, can you provide examples of how it does?
4. What do you think about the range of activities undertaken with UNDP technical assistance on survey and clearance, mine/UXO risk education and victim assistance?

RELEVANCE

5. Do you think that the emergency mine action project contributes to UNDP'S role in Yemen in supporting a peace building process and restoring essential basic social services?
6. Was the project relevant to the needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries including women and men? Were they consulted during design and implementation of the project?
7. Was the project relevant in addressing the impacts of UXO and ERW in the targeted areas?
8. Did the project address gender issues and help women overcome challenges or limitations.

EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT

9. To what extent has the project contributed to the country programme outcomes and outputs, the SDGs, the UNDP Mine Action for Sustainable development, and mine action priorities?
10. To what extent has the project contributed to gender equality, including improved access to services and skills, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights?

SUSTAINABILITY

11. Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outputs and the project's contributions to country programme outputs and outcomes?
12. Has the project results in term of gender equality and/or women empowerment being likely to be of increased or sustained beyond project end? Did the project gained the stakeholders commitment to advance gender equality and/or to resolve/overcome gender equality institutional challenges and gaps?
13. Did the project acts as a catalyst for attracting additional support from interested donors?

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND DISABILITY

14. To what extent have poor, indigenous and physically challenged, women and other disadvantaged/disabilities and marginalized groups been benefited from the work of the project?
15. To what extent are the planned project interventions relevant to the overall strategy of inclusivity and empowerment?

LESSONS/GOOD PRACTICES and RECOMMENDATIONS

16. What are the main good practices and lessons learned so far? To what extent has the project generated lessons learned and good practices to inform future interventions?
17. Do you have any recommendation or inputs regarding the better implementation of the project activities?

B- National Authorities and Organizations

- National Authorities (North and South areas) e.g.: Ministries, NMACC (National Mine Action Committee) if operational, Supreme Council for Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (SCMCHA)
- National organizations: YMACC Aden (Yemen Mine Action Coordination Cell); YEMAC Aden (Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre; REMAB (Regional Executive Mine Action Branch) Aden, Al-Mukalla (Hadramout Govern.) and Sa'ada; Government/local relevant authorities e.g. ministries, committees, etc.)

Name: _____ Organization _____

Contact Details: _____

Location _____ Male _____ Female _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ End _____

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- (a) What did the project intend to achieve during the period under review? Is it consistent with other intervention in mine action sector (2021-2023)?
- (b) To what extent has the project achieved (or is likely to achieve) its intended objectives?
- (c) What factors contributed to or hindered project's performance and eventually, the sustainability of results?

In terms of use, we will produce a draft evaluation report following our fieldwork which will be shared with Donors and other stakeholders for their comments. We'll then revise and finalize the draft based on comments received. UNDP Yemen will then be responsible for the circulation of the report.

Thank you again for your willingness to participate in this interview.

Do you have any questions before starting?

GENERAL

1. To begin, please tell us about your familiarity with the UNDP Emergency Mine action project. What was your organization's role in the project? What was your role in the project? What activities did you involve in?

RELEVANCE

2. Do you think that the emergency mine action project contributes to UNDP's role in Yemen in supporting a peace building process and restoring essential basic social services?
3. Looking at the bigger picture, do you believe that this project contributes to the overall Yemen Peace efforts and responds to the needs of the population living in the projects' intervention areas? If yes, can you provide examples of how it does?
4. Was the project relevant in addressing the impacts of UXO and ERW in the targeted areas?
5. What do you think about the range of activities undertaken with UNDP technical assistance on survey and clearance, mine/UXO risk education and victim assistance?
6. Did the project address gender issues and help women overcome challenges or limitations?

EFFECTIVENESS & IMPACT

7. To what extent has the project contributed to the country programme outcomes and outputs, the SDGs, the UNDP Mine Action for Sustainable development, and mine action priorities?
8. What was the impact of the project on developing the institutional capacity of the Yemeni mine action bodies?
9. What factors have contributed to achieving or not achieving intended project outputs and outcomes? What could be done to maximize project impact?
10. To what extent has the project contributed to gender equality, including improved access to services and skills, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights?
11. To what extent have different stakeholders been involved in the project implementation?

SUSTAINABILITY

12. Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outputs and the project's contributions to country programme outputs and outcomes?
13. What are project outputs that contributed to sustainable change?
14. To what extent the interventions have well-designed and well-planned exit strategies?
15. To what extent have relevant government ministries or institutions integrated project outcomes into ongoing policies and practices?
16. Have the project results in term of gender equality and/or women empowerment being likely to be of increased or sustained beyond project end? Did the project gain the stakeholders commitment to advance gender equality and/or to resolve/overcome gender equality institutional challenges and gaps?

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

17. To what extent have poor, indigenous and physically challenged, women and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups been included in helping design and prioritize the work of the project in the spirit of broad societal inclusion? To what extent have they benefited from the work of the project?
18. To what extent are the planned project interventions relevant to the overall strategy of inclusivity and empowerment?
19. To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women including gender roles/access to services and skills? How it can be improved?
20. What proportion of the beneficiaries of the project were persons with disabilities?

LESSONS/GOOD PRACTICES and RECOMMENDATIONS

21. What are the main good practices and lessons learned so far? To what extent has the project generated lessons learned and good practices to inform future interventions?
22. Do you have any recommendation or inputs regarding the better implementation of the project activities?

C- Implementing Partners (in South and North) e.g. NNGOs/National organizations (Prodigy System, Yemeni Association of Landmine Survivors/YALS; Yemen Red Crescent Society/YRCS) and INGOs the HALO Trust; Danish Demining Group (DDG)/Danish Refugee Council (DRC); Norwegian People's Aid (NPA); the commercial company 'The Development Initiative' (TDI); Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and Humanity inclusion (HI), if present in country.

Name: _____ Organization _____

Contact Details: _____

Location _____ Male _____ Female _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ End _____

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It is expected the project final evaluation serves as an important learning and accountability tool, providing authorities, actors and partners with an impartial assessment of the results generated, including gender equality measures and women empowerment.

This evaluation will make it possible to draw lessons on (i) the implementation of the project, (ii) the results obtained, and thus (iii) propose recommendations for the development of the next UNDP Emergency Mine Action Support Project.

All information shared will be kept anonymous. We will aggregate and present our findings from interviews in a way that cannot be tied back to any individual or organization. Therefore, please feel free to speak openly and candidly with us.

Your participation is voluntary. Please feel free to ask to skip any question that you do not feel comfortable answering or ending the interview at any point.

The evaluation through specific questionnaire will address the following three key evaluation questions which also guide the findings in the report:

- 1) What did the project intend to achieve during the period under review? Is it consistent with other intervention in mine action sector (2021-2023)?
- 2) To what extent has the project achieved (or is likely to achieve) its intended objectives?
- 3) What factors contributed to or hindered project's performance and eventually, the sustainability of results?

In terms of use, we will produce a draft evaluation report following our fieldwork which will be shared with Donors and other stakeholders for their comments. We'll then revise and finalize the draft based on comments received. UNDP Yemen will then be responsible for the circulation of the report.

Thank you again for your willingness to participate in this interview.

Do you have any questions before starting?

GENERAL

1. Are you familiar with the UNDP Emergency Mine action project? If yes, what has been your involvement? What was your organization's role in the project? What was your role in the project? What activities did you involve in?
2. Do you think that the emergency mine action project contributes to UNDP's role in Yemen in supporting a peace building process and restoring essential basic social services?

RELEVANCE

3. Was the project relevant in addressing the impacts of UXO and ERW in the targeted areas?
4. To what extent was the project in line with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) strategy for assistance to the mine action, national priorities, priorities of the targeted governorates, the country programme's outputs and outcomes and the SDGs?
5. Was the project relevant to the needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries including women and men? Were they consulted during design and implementation of the project?
6. Did the project address gender issues and help women overcome challenges or limitations? How do you assess the national capacity at management and operational level and can you identify critical areas for improvement?

EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT

7. To what extent has the project contributed to gender equality, including improved access to services and skills, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights?
8. How successful do you believe training activities have been?
9. To what extent has the project contributed to the country programme outcomes and outputs, the SDGs, the UNDP Strategic Plan and mine action priorities?
10. To what extent did the project achieve its intended outputs?
11. To what extent has the project contributed towards its intended outcome?
12. What was the impact of the project on developing the institutional capacity of the Yemeni mine action bodies?
13. What factors have contributed to achieving or not achieving intended project outputs and outcomes? What could be done to maximise project impact?
14. To what extent have different stakeholders been involved in the project implementation?

SUSTAINABILITY

15. Do you think the project interventions (project activities) are sustainable beyond the project period? Why/why not? What are the main challenges for sustaining a national mine action data base?
16. To what extent have relevant government ministries or institutions integrated project outcomes into ongoing policies and practices?
17. To what extent the interventions have well-designed and well-planned exit strategies?
18. What are project outputs that contributed to sustainable change? What could have been done differently so the project becomes more sustainable?

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND DISABILITY

19. Was conflict sensitivity mainstreamed and included as an approach throughout project implementation?
20. To what extent have gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project?
21. To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women including gender roles/access to services and skills? How it can be improved?
22. What proportion of the beneficiaries of your intervention were persons with disabilities?

LESSONS/GOOD PRACTICES and RECOMMENDATIONS

23. What are the main good practices and lessons learned so far? To what extent has the project generated lessons learned and good practices to inform future interventions?
24. Do you have any recommendation or inputs regarding the better implementation of the project activities?

D- UNDP Staff and UNDP Mine Action Project Team, UN agencies and Organizations (RCO, OCHA, UNODC, WFP, UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR); UN Mission in Hudaydah (UNMHA):

Name: _____ Organization _____

Contact Details: _____

Location _____ Male _____ Female _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ End _____

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Your participation is voluntary. Please feel free to ask to skip any question that you do not feel comfortable answering or ending the interview at any point.

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1. What did the project intend to achieve during the period under review? Is it consistent with other intervention in mine action sector (2021-2023)?
2. To what extent has the project achieved (or is likely to achieve) its intended objectives?
3. What factors contributed to or hindered project's performance and eventually, the sustainability of results?

In terms of use, we will produce a draft evaluation report following our fieldwork which will be shared with Donors and other stakeholders for their comments. We'll then revise and finalize the draft based on comments received. UNDP Yemen will then be responsible for the circulation of the report.

Thank you again for your willingness to participate in this interview.

Do you have any questions before starting?

GENERAL

1. To start, please tell us about your familiarity with the UNDP Emergency Mine Action Project? What were the projects' objectives, outcomes and outputs? What was your role in the project? What activities did you involve in?
2. One of the major constraints with mine action seems to be the lack of accurate and detailed information about the scope and scale of the problem of mines, explosive remnants of war and cluster munitions remnants problem in Yemen. What steps are being taken to address this, and what else needs to be done?
3. Looking at the bigger picture, do you believe that this project contributes to the overall Yemen Peace efforts and responds to the needs of the population living in the projects' intervention areas? If yes, can you provide examples of how it does?
4. Do you think that the emergency mine action project contributes to UNDPs role in Yemen in supporting a peace building process and restoring essential basic social services?

RELEVANCE

5. Was the project relevant in addressing the impacts of UXO and ERW in the targeted areas?
6. To what extent was the project in line with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) strategy for assistance to the mine action, national priorities, priorities of the targeted governorates, the country programme's outputs and outcomes and the SDGs?
7. Was the project relevant to the needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries including women and men? Were they consulted during design and implementation of the project?
8. Did the project address gender issues and help women overcome challenges or limitations?

EFFECTIVENESS

9. To what extent has the project contributed to the country programme outcomes and outputs, the SDGs, the UNDP Strategic Plan and mine action priorities?
10. To what extent did the project achieve its intended outputs?
11. To what extent has the project contributed towards its intended outcome?
12. What was the impact of the project on developing the institutional capacity of the Yemeni mine action bodies?
13. What factors have contributed to achieving or not achieving intended project outputs and outcomes? What could be done to maximise project impact?
14. To what extent has the project contributed to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights?
15. To what extent have different stakeholders been involved in the project implementation?

EFFICIENCY

16. Were the programme's resources efficiently utilised? Are there more efficient ways of delivering the same or better results with the available inputs?
17. To what extent gender equality and women empowerment results are achieved at reasonable cost? Has the project collected sex- disaggregated data and monitor, report and communicate gender-related results?
18. How efficient were the management and accountability structures of the project? (programme cycle, staffing, M&E processes, selection of implementing partners...) How strong is the project logic and ToC ?
To what extent have the M&E systems utilized by UNDP enabled effective and efficient project management?

SUSTAINABILITY

19. Did the project acts as a catalyst for attracting additional support from interested donors?
20. To what extent will financial and economic resources be available to sustain the benefits achieved by the project?
21. Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outputs and the project's contributions to country programme outputs and outcomes?
22. To what extent have relevant government ministries or institutions integrated project outcomes into ongoing policies and practices?
23. To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the project team on a continual basis and shared with appropriate parties who could learn from the project?
24. To what extent the interventions have well-designed and well-planned exit strategies?

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

25. To what extent have poor, indigenous and physically challenged, women and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups included in helping design and prioritize the work of the project in the spirit of broad societal inclusion. To what extent have they benefited from the work of the project?
26. To what extent are the planned project interventions relevant to the overall strategy of inclusivity and empowerment?
27. Was conflict sensitivity mainstreamed and included as an approach throughout project implementation?
28. To what extent have gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project?
29. Is the gender marker assigned to this project representative of reality?
30. To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects?

DISABILITY

31. Were persons with disabilities consulted and meaningfully involved in programme planning and implementation?
32. What proportion of the beneficiaries of a programme were persons with disabilities?

LESSONS/GOOD PRACTICES and RECOMMENDATIONS

33. What are the main good practices and lessons learned so far? To what extent has the project generated lessons learned and good practices to inform future interventions?
34. Do you have any, comments, recommendation, or inputs regarding the better implementation of the project activities?

E- FGDs Guide for beneficiaries of different project interventions e.g.,:

- a. People received mine action (survey, clearance, capacity development) training
- b. People received awareness training (awareness of threat posed by mines and ERW) or Mine/EORE Risk Education
- c. Survivors of ERW (Explosive Remnants of War) who were supported and rehabilitated socio-economically

Date: _____ Time: _____ End _____

Location _____

No. of participants _____ No. of Males _____ No. of Females _____

Name of Mediator: _____

Name of Assistant (note taker): _____

List of participants and contact data - To be developed during FGDs (excluding those who prefer to be kept anonymous).

Confidentiality and Informed Consent Statements: Thank you for taking the time to meet with us. We are conducting an independent final evaluation of the current **Emergency Mine Action Project – Phase Two - Yemen** which ends in 2023. This evaluation is commissioned to assess the project's progress towards restoration of services and access to key infrastructure, reducing injuries and fatalities, and normalization of economic activity in targeted areas. We have been hired by the UNDP for this assignment but are not employees of the UNDP.

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All information shared will be kept anonymous. We will aggregate and present our findings from interviews in a way that cannot be tied back to any individual or organization. Therefore, please feel free to speak openly and candidly with us.

Your participation is voluntary. Please feel free to ask to skip any question that you do not feel comfortable answering or ending the interview at any point.

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- What did the project intend to achieve during the period under review? Is it consistent with other intervention in mine action sector (2021-2023)?
- To what extent has the project achieved (or is likely to achieve) its intended objectives?
- What factors contributed to or hindered project's performance and eventually, the sustainability of results?

In terms of use, we will produce a draft evaluation report following our fieldwork which will be shared with Donors and other stakeholders for their comments. We'll then revise and finalize the draft based on comments received. UNDP Yemen will then be responsible for the circulation of the report.

Thank you again for your willingness to participate in this interview.

Do you have any questions before starting?

GENERAL

1. To begin, please tell me a little about your participation in the project? What activities did you involve in?
2. How were you selected to participate in the project activities?

RELEVANCE

3. Was the project relevant to the needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries including women and men? Were they consulted during design and implementation of the project?
4. Was the project relevant in addressing the impacts of UXO and ERW in the targeted areas?
5. Did the project address gender issues and help women overcome challenges or limitations. Did the project try to address any specific issue/need in your community?

EFFECTIVENESS/IMPACT

6. To what extent has the project achieved (or is likely to achieve) its intended objectives?
 - a. To what extent did the project achieve its intended outputs?
 - b. To what extent has the project contributed towards its intended outcome?
7. What factors have contributed to achieving or not achieving intended project outputs and outcomes? What could be done to maximise project impact?
8. To what extent has the project contributed to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights?
9. To what extent have different stakeholders been involved in the project implementation?

SUSTAINABILITY

10. Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outputs and the project's contributions to country programme outputs and outcomes?
11. To what extent have relevant government ministries or institutions integrated project outcomes into ongoing policies and practices?
12. What are project outputs that contributed to sustainable change? What could have been done differently so the project becomes more sustainable?

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND DISABILITY

13. To what extent have gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project?
14. To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women including gender roles/access to services and skills? How it can be improved?
15. Were persons with disabilities consulted and meaningfully involved in programme planning and implementation?

LESSONS/GOOD PRACTICES and RECOMMENDATIONS

16. Do you have any comments, recommendation, or inputs regarding the better implementation of the project activities?



Yemen

Date.....

Dear

I am writing to you in the context of the ongoing efforts to reduce the threat from landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) in Yemen. In October 2021, UNDP launched a five-year partnership project called 'Emergency Mine Action project-phase II' to assist the national authorities and the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) in conducting the efficient and effective physical operations to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the presence of explosive remnants of war and mines on people and communities.

I am pleased to advise you that UNDP Yemen will now conduct a terminal evaluation of the project. In this regard, we have hired an international consultant, Mr Gerard Chagniot and an National Consultant Mr. Sadeq Al-Nabhani, to undertake the review. The consultants will help us analyse the performance of the project to date and make recommendations for future mine action projects. The terminal project evaluation serves as an important learning and accountability tool, providing the donors, UNDP, key national stakeholders, and authorities in the targeted governorates and districts with an impartial assessment of the results generated, including gender equality measures and women's empowerment.

We would like to invite you to share your comments and experience on the UNDP Emergency Mine Action Project. We will appreciate your opinion, whether positive or negative, and your responses will of course remain anonymous and confidential.

The evaluation through specific questionnaire will address the following three key evaluation questions which also guide the findings in the report:

- (1) What did the project intend to achieve during the period under review? Is it consistent with other intervention in mine action sector (2021-2023)?
- (2) To what extent has the project achieved (or is likely to achieve) its intended objectives?
- (3) What factors contributed to or hindered project's performance and eventually, the sustainability of results?

Due to travel restrictions, the international consultant will use remote consultation through phone and internet-based communication tools, but he will be assisted by the national consultant in conducting in-person interviews and interact with different stakeholder groups and communities benefiting from UNDP's support. It is expected that the consultants will undertake a series of consultations and interviews during May and early June.

We would be grateful for your cooperation and input to the review when you are contacted.

Kind regards,

(Name).....

(Title).....

UNDP Yemen

Annex 4: Evaluation Matrix

1 - Relevance/is the intervention doing the right things? - Coherence/ How well does the intervention fits?

Key evaluation questions	Issue	Data sources	Data Collection methods/tools	Indicators/success standards	Methods for data analysis
1- Was the project relevant in addressing the impacts of UXO and ERW in the targeted areas?	Relevance	Documentary analysis, key informants' interviews (KII), UNDP/project staff, CSOs, NMACC, YEMAC, and beneficiaries focus groups	Project documents and interviews with key informants interviews (KIIs), local authorities, CSOs, donors. Work plans, priorities, progress/annual reports, ROAR	Relationship established, level of coherence between project design and implementation approach, specific activities conducted, quality of risk mitigation strategies...	Project document Interview notes
2- To what extent was the project in line and contribute to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), CPD and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) strategy for assistance to the mine action, national priorities, priorities of the targeted governorates, and the SDGs?	Coherence	Documentary analysis, key informants' interviews (KIIs), UNDP/project staff, CSOs, NMACC, YEMAC, and beneficiaries focus groups	Project documents and interviews with key informants (KIIs), local authorities, CSOs, donors. Work plans, priorities, progress/annual reports, ROAR	# of responses	Document review, triangulation, qualitative and quantitative data analyses
3- Was the project relevant to the needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries including women and men? Were they consulted during the design and implementation of the project?	Responsiveness	Documentary analysis, key informant interviews (KIIs), UNDP/project staff, CSOs, NMACC, YEMAC, and beneficiaries focus groups	Project documents and interviews with key informants (KIs), local authorities, CSOs, donors. Work plans, priorities, progress/annual reports, ROAR and FGDs as appropriate.	# of responses	Document review, triangulation, qualitative and quantitative data analyses
4- Did the project address gender issues and help women overcome challenges or limitations?	Gender	Documentary analysis, key informants (KIs), UNDP/project staff, CSOs, NMACC, YEMAC, and beneficiaries focus groups	Project documents and interviews with key informants (KI), local authorities, CSOs, donors. Work plans, priorities, progress/ annual reports, ROAR	Relevant gender related interventions	Document review, triangulation, qualitative and quantitative data analyses

Key evaluation questions	Issue	Data sources	Data Collection methods/tools	Indicators/success standards	Methods for data analysis
5- To what extent has the project achieved(or is likely to achieve) its intended specific objectives? What could be done to maximize project impact ?	Key results Effective management	Documentary analysis and KII including field level beneficiaries focus groups	Project documents, KIIs, beneficiaries focus groups, on site visit by national consultant, with local authorities' interviews, information triangulated.	# of National Mine Action Authorities staff completing training on coordination.	Project document, KII, FGD, triangulated and quantitative data analyses
6- To what extent has the project contributed regarding institutional capacity development of the Yemeni mine action structures?	Achievement of objectives	Documentary analysis and KII including field level beneficiaries focus groups	Project documents, KII, focus group, on site visit by national consultant, with local authorities' interviews, information triangulated	# of National Mine Action Authorities staff completing training on coordination.	Project document, KII, FGD, triangulated and quantitative and qualitative data analyses
7- To what extent have different stakeholders been involved in the project implementation?	Partnership	Documentary analysis and KII including field level beneficiaries focus groups	Documentary review, KIIs and FGDs	Consultations held, partnership mechanism, number of respondents confirmed involvement	Document review, triangulation, qualitative and quantitative data analyses
8- To what extent has the project contributed to gender equality, including improved access to services and skills, the empowerment of women (opportunities, benefits) and the realization of human rights ?	Gender/Human Rights	Documentary analysis and KII including field level beneficiaries focus groups	Project documents, KII, focus group, on site visit by national consultant, with local authorities' interviews, information triangulated	# of National Mine Action Authorities staff completing training on coordination.	Document review, triangulation, qualitative and quantitative data analyses

⁸³ As per the OECD/DAC document "Better Criteria for better evaluation-December 2019" box 6 P.11: ".....direct and primary effects are covered by effectiveness"

⁸⁴ Note of evaluation team: Considering the above-mentioned OECD/DAC definitions, it would be technically not easy to evaluate 'impact' since maximizing results needs enough time to obtain expected results. In mine action, the overall impact relates to improved livelihoods (towards poverty eradication) and reduced marginalization (towards reduction of inequalities and exclusion) which are long term process. **Therefore, the evaluation team will focus on the outcome results (positive and negative) in term of response to the needs which introduced change that make the life of beneficiaries and local communities easier**, according to the UNDP definition (*ref. UNDP Handbook on planning, monitoring and evaluating for development results - 2009, p.56:* "Outcomes describe the intended changes in development conditions that results from the interventions of governments and other stakeholders, including international development agencies such as UNDP. They are medium-term development results created through the delivery of outputs and the contribution of various partners and non-partners. Outcomes provide a clear vision of what has changed or will change globally or in a particular region, country, or community within a period of time. They normally relate to changes in institutional performance or behaviour among individuals or groups).

- Efficiency/How well are resources being used?

Key evaluation questions	Issue	Data sources	Data Collection methods/tools	Indicators/success standards	Methods for data analysis
9- Were the programme's resources efficiently utilized? Are there more efficient ways of delivering the same or better results with the available inputs?	Management efficiency	Documentary analysis, AWP, ROAR, KIIs, project staff and counterparts	Desk review and secondary data, KIIs, ROAR	Project design and cycle, staffing, M&E processes	Context and narrative analyses, analysis of relevant project documents, and reports
10- How efficient were the management and accountability structures of the project? (programme cycle, staffing, M&E processes, ToC, selection of implementing partners...)? To what extent have the M&E systems utilized by UNDP enabled effective and efficient project management?	Effective RBM/mechanism for monitoring	Documentary analysis, AWP, ROAR, KII, project staff and counterparts	Project document, M&E system, KII, workplans, ToC, progress/annual reports, ROAR	Partnership arrangement/agreements in place. Coordination activities with relevant stakeholders M&E plan and reports	Review of project document, reports, notes and M&E system
11- To what extent are gender equality results achieved at reasonable cost? Has the project collected sex-disaggregated data and monitored, reported, and communicated gender-related results?	Achievement of GEWE objective	Documentary analysis, AWP, ROAR, KII, project staff, counterparts	Project document, M&E system, KII, workplans, progress/annual reports, ROAR	Gender elements during the project planning, implementation, and monitoring phases are addressed	Review of project document, reports, notes and M&E system

- Sustainability/Will the benefits last?

Key evaluation questions	Issue	Data sources	Data Collection methods/tools	Indicators/success standards	Methods for data analysis
12- What are project outputs that contributed to sustainable change?	Ownership	Documentary analysis, KII, stakeholders, focus groups, progress report, project staff	Desk review of secondary data, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries focus group	deliver social and economic benefits to all people affected by mine and UXO; no adverse impact on the environment; the capacities built,	Qualitative and quantitative analyses including, among other, narrative and context analyses, as well as review of project document, reports, interview notes
13- To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the project team on a continual basis and shared with appropriate parties who could learn from the project?	Knowledge management	Documentary analysis, KII, stakeholders, focus groups, progress report, project staff	Desk review of secondary data, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries focus group	Lessons Learnt, including a gender perspective, are regularly documented and captured in the project reports and presented to all stakeholders	Project document, reports, interview notes, and narrative analysis
14 To what extent the interventions have well-designed and well-planned exit strategies.	Ownership and management issue	Documentary analysis, KII, stakeholders, focus groups, progress report, project staff	Desk review of secondary data, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries focus group	Exit strategy developed, updated regularly and communicated with relevant stakeholders	Project document, reports, interview notes
15. To what extent will financial and economic resources be available to sustain the benefits achieved by the project?	Financial sustainability of the project.	Documentary analysis, KIIs, project staff, counterparts	Documentary review, KIIs	Planned budget and funding	Narrative and context analyses
16. Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize the sustainability of project's outputs and the donor's project's contributions to the country programme outputs and outcomes?	Knowledge management	Documentary analysis, KII, stakeholders, focus groups, progress report, project staff	Desk review of secondary data, KII, stakeholders,	Social and political scenarios with potential to impact the project sustainability	Project document reports, interview notes, narrative and context analysis
17. To what extent have relevant government ministries or institutions integrated project outcomes into ongoing policies and practices?	Partnerships and involvement of local agencies	Documentary analysis, KIIs, stakeholders, FGs, progress report, project staff	Documentary analysis, KIIs and FGDs	Project outcomes integrated into ongoing policies and practices.	Narrative and context analyses,

5 - Human rights

Key evaluation questions	Issue	Data sources	Data Collection methods/tools	Indicators/success standards	Methods for data analysis
18- To what extent have poor, indigenous and physically challenged, women and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups been included in helping design and prioritize the work of the project in the spirit of broad societal inclusion? To what extent have they benefited from the work of the project?	Human rights	Documentary analysis, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries, progress report, project staff	Desk review of secondary data, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries focus group, on site visit by national consultant	Poor, indigenous and physically challenged, women and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups benefited from the project interventions and their issues are advocated for	Project document, reports, interview notes
19- Was conflict sensitivity mainstreamed and included as an approach throughout project implementation?	Conflict sensitivity	Documentary analysis, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries, progress report, project staff	Desk review of secondary data, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries focus group, on site visit by national consultant	Conflict sensitive approach implemented, and the project didn't exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals	Project document, reports, interview notes narrative and quantitative analyses including tabulation, flow charts and matrices will be used for both qualitative and quantitative analyses
20- To what extent are the planned project interventions relevant to the overall strategy of inclusivity and empowerment?	Inclusiveness approach	Documentary analysis, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries, progress report, project staff	Desk review of secondary data, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries focus group, on site visit by national consultant	Inclusivity is addressed during the planning phase	Project documents, reports, interview notes

6 - Gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE) and Disability

Key evaluation questions	Issue	Data sources	Data Collection methods/tools	Indicators/success standards	Methods for data analysis
21- To what extent have gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project?	gender equality	Documentary analysis, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries, progress report, project staff	Desk review of secondary data, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries focus group, on site visit by national consultant	Different project interventions focus on gender equality and disaggregated by sex	Project document, reports, interview notes
22- To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women including gender roles/access to services and skills? What are the barriers to the employment of women in certain roles?	Women empowerment	Documentary analysis, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries, progress report, project staff	Desk review of secondary data, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries focus group, on site visit by national consultant	The capabilities, contributions, concerns and needs of women, girls, boys and men are either acknowledged or addressed within the scope of the project activities. Gender awareness sessions are integrated in all training events delivered by the project to national counterparts.	Project document, reports, interview notes
23- Were persons with disabilities consulted and meaningfully involved in programme planning and implementation?	Disability	Documentary analysis, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries, progress report, project staff	Desk review of secondary data, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries focus group, on site visit by national consultant	Number/percentage of persons with disabilities involved in programme planning and implementation	Project document, reports, interview notes, quantitative and qualitative analysis
24- What proportion of the beneficiaries of a programme were persons with disabilities?	Disability	Documentary analysis, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries, progress report, project staff	Desk review of secondary data, KII, stakeholders, beneficiaries focus group, on site visit by national consultant	Percentage of persons with disabilities compared to other beneficiaries	Project document, reports, interview notes, quantitative and qualitative analysis

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⁸⁵ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is a forum to discuss issues surrounding aid, development, and poverty reduction in developing countries, created in 1960.

Annex 6: Yemen Mine Action - Key milestones 1997-2022 (25 years)

Date	Events
4 December 1997	Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) signed (Law No 7/8 Jun 1998)
17 June 1998	Prime Minister Resolution No 46: Establishment and formulation of the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC/Inter-ministerial body) and specifying its tasks
1998	Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs decree 'Organizational by law for National Mine Committee (NMAC)': a detailed by law regulating the work structures and tasks of subordinate (1) organizational structures, (2) technical executive unit, (3) supportive organizations and (4) committee secretariat
1 September 1998	Ratification of APMBC (first nation in the region to ratify the treaty)
January 1999	Establishment in Sana'a of the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) (Implementing body of the NMAC with responsibility of coordinating all mine action activities in Yemen)
1999	Establishment of YEMAC support regional branch: Regional Executive Mine Action Branch (REMAB) and National Training Centre (NTC) in Aden (South Yemen)
1 March 1999	Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) entered into force
May 1999	UNDP Yemen started a first phase Mine Action (MA) project to support YEMAC programme (1999- Sept. 2003)
2000	Completion of the first UN Certified Landmines Impact Survey (LIS)
2001	National Strategy Paper, drafted based on the LIS, covered the period 2001-2009
2002	Draft National legislation: Implementation of APMBC
March 2002	Prime Minister revised resolution No 46 of 1998, passed to Resolution No 282 of 2002 'Reestablishment and formulation of Mine Action Committee & Specification of its tasks'
27 April 2002	Yemen reported a stockpile destruction of 78,000 mines including 4,000 to be retained for training (Ref Art 7 and Art 3 report/2002)
October 2003	UNDP Yemen Mine Action second phase (2003-2006 extended 2007) support project started in October 2003.
16 Dec. 2004	National implementation legislation endorsed by Yemeni Parliament
March 2004	Establishment of YEMAC support regional branch: Regional Executive Mine Action Branch (REMAB) in Al-Mukalla (Governorate of Hadramout/South-East Yemen)
January 2005	National Landmine legislation, effective
20 April 2005	Presidential Law No 25: to bring national legislation into force
March 2006	A socioeconomic and livelihood study was started to assess the socioeconomic returns from mine clearance.
Late 2007	UNDP Yemen launched the project "Support to eliminate the impact of mines and ERW in Yemen -Phase three." (2008-2012)
16 December 2007	Yemen destroyed an additional 30,000 mines and declared that there are no stockpile anti-personnel mines (Ref Article 7 report/2008)
March 2008	YEMAC updated its strategic mine action plan to cover April 2009 to September 2014
26 March 2009	Yemen ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
April 2009	APMBC: Article 5 (Destruction on AP mines in mined areas): <i>First extension April 2009- March 2015</i>
2013	APMBC: Article 5 (Destruction on AP mines in mined areas); Request for a <i>second extension to 01 March 2020</i>
March 2013	UNDP Yemen embarked on a four-year (2013- June 2017) program of MA support: "Support to eliminate the impact from mines and ERW - Phase IV"
2014	Political transition and fighting following by escalated on-going conflict from Sept. 2014
April 2016	Establishment of YEMAC support regional branch: Regional Executive Mine Action Branch (REMAB) in Sa'dah (Governorate of Sa'dah/North Yemen)
July 2017	UNDP Yemen started implementing a four-year MA support project Phase V (July 2017- 2020 extended to Sept 21) "Emergency Mine Action Project" which includes support for YEMAC in preparing the request for an extension to its Mine Ban Treaty Article 5 deadline (2023).
2019	Establishment of YEMAC support regional branch: Regional Executive Mine Action Branch (REMAB) in Taiz (Governorate of Taiz/North Yemen)
June 2019	Approval of the General Secretary of the Prime Ministry of the establishment of YMACC Aden.
April 2020	Establishment of the YMACC (Yemen Mine Action Coordination Cell) in Aden in April 2020 under partnership and guidance of the YEMACC for programme management and coordination in southern areas.
August 2020	APMBC: Article 5 (destruction on AP mines in mined areas) Request for a <i>third extension, deadline: 1 March 2023</i> : additional three years to understand the new situation, adjust its response to meet this situation, and will submit a fourth extension request that will be based on reality supported by reliable data, analysis, and planning.
October 2021	UNDP Yemen launched a "Emergency Mine Action Project- Phase II" (Oct.2021-Sept.2026) as a follow up phase of the UNDP Yemen's Emergency Mine Action Project.
March 2022	Yemen submitted its <i>fourth mine clearance extension</i> request (Article 5) for additional five years until 2028 to continue the Yemen baseline survey (YBLS) plan and to determine as accurately as possible the extent and impact of the new anti-personnel mine (APM) contamination. This extension period will allow for the ongoing development of the mine action sector to work in a complex environment utilizing the support of international organizations to meet old and new technical challenges, including those related to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and other improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Yemen is hopeful that at the end of the proposed extension period, the security situation will improve permitting to expand the YBLS activities to gather the most needed information and to submit a further if needed extension request based on facts. The request was granted by the 20th Meeting of the States Parties (November 2022), and a new deadline set for 1 March 2028 .

Note: Yemen is neither party to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) nor the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW).

Annex 7: Mine Action and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030

A) Emergency Mine Action Project phase II: Main contributions to the nexus SDGs ↔ Humanitarian Mine Action Yemen

<p>SDGoal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. (Targets 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3) Prioritizing and linking mine action efforts to sustainable agricultural development, enabling previously contaminated land to be used for cultivation. Mine action can also open trading (and relief) routes and marketplaces, enabling better distribution and access to food.</p> <p>-Target 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round.</p> <p>-Target 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.</p> <p>-Target 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists, and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.</p>	<p>SDGoal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Championing mainstreaming of gender considerations in mine action assessment, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.</p>	<p>SDGoal 10: Reduced Inequalities</p> <p>-Target 10.1 Reduce income inequalities</p> <p>-Target 10.2 Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion</p> <p>-Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination</p>	<p>SDGoal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. Encouraging the return of displaced people, opening freedom of movement in a post-conflict society, decreasing fear and the threat of the ‘frozen violence’ of landmines and other ERW. Mine action often plays the role of a confidence-building measure in post-conflict societies.</p> <p>-Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.</p> <p>-Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.</p> <p>-Target 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.</p> <p>-Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.</p> <p>-Target 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.</p> <p>- Target 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.</p>	<p>SDGoal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. To add value and maximize cost efficiency, mine action coordinate and facilitate the establishment of global partnerships with national mine action authorities and other relevant mine action actors. Effectively mitigating the threats posed by explosive ordnance requires close collaboration with States, regional organizations, affected communities, civil society, and the private sector</p>
	<p>SDGoal 8: Decent work and Economic Growth.</p> <p>Full and productive employment and decent work for all.</p> <p>-Target 8.1 Sustainable Economic Growth</p> <p>-Target 8.5 Full Employment and Decent Work with Equal Pay</p> <p>-Target 8.6 Promote Youth Employment, Education and Training</p>	<p>SDGoal 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.</p> <p>-Target 15.C Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.</p>		



Contributions to Mine Action Intervention to SDGs:

SDG 2: Zero Hunger:

- Released agricultural land enables communities to grow crops, improving food security and nutrition.
- Safe routes (re-)open access to markets and opportunities for value addition.



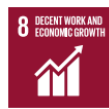
Contributions to Mine Action Intervention to SDGs:

SDG 5: Gender Equality:

- Removing explosive hazards and providing education on safe behaviour reduce violence against women and girls.
- Employing women in mine action and their participation in setting priorities and plans empowers women as agents of change in political, economic, and social life.

SDG 8: Decent work and Economic Growth:

- Land release enables safe access to natural resources, promoting economic growth.
- Mine action provide: decent work and transferable skills to affected communities including youth and persons with disabilities.



Contributions to Mine Action Intervention to SDGs:

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- Handing over released land to beneficiaries, particularly the poor, generates income growth, reducing inequalities and promoting inclusion of all, including people with disabilities.
- Through international cooperation, mine action donors support countries where need is greatest, addressing inequalities between countries.

SDG 15: Life on Land:

- Environmentally-sensitive mine clearance contributes to conserve, restore and sustainably manage biodiverse terrestrial ecosystems.



Contributions to Mine Action Intervention to SDGs:

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions:

- Removing explosive hazards and providing education on safe behaviour reduce violence and casualties.
- Mine action develops effective capacities, accountable institutions, and promotes national ownership, including through international cooperation.



Contributions to Mine Action Intervention to SDGs:

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals:

- National, regional and international partnerships in mine action (e.g. governments, private sector, academia and civil society) enhance the exchange of resources, expertise, innovation and technology.
- Mine action information enhances the availability of timely and disaggregated data for SDG measurement, monitoring, and progress reporting.



B) Prospective Contributions of mine Action to relevant SDGs ⁸⁶

(Ref: GICHD -UNDP: *Leaving no one behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goal- 2017 p.12&13*)

SDG 1: No poverty:

- Productive use of previously contaminated land provides livelihood opportunities and generates income, unlocking beneficiaries from poverty.
- Safe access to economic and natural resources builds resilience in previously affected communities.
- Victim assistance contributes to social protection systems and measures for survivors.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger:

- Released agricultural land enables communities to grow crops, improving food security and nutrition.
- Safe routes (re-)open access to markets and opportunities for value addition.

SDG 3: Good health and well-being:

- Safe access to healthcare facilities and services in previously affected communities improves health and well-being.

SDG 4: Quality Education:

- Safe access to education for women, girls, boys and men in previously affected communities promotes literacy and numeracy.
- Through victim assistance, survivors enjoy equal access to education, including through disability-sensitive education facilities.

SDG 5: Gender Equality:

- Removing explosive hazards and providing education on safe behaviour reduce violence against women and girls.
- Employing women in mine action and their participation in setting priorities and plans empowers women as agents of change in political, economic, and social life.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation:

- Land release promotes safe and equitable access to drinking water and sanitation previously denied to communities.

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy:

- Land release permits development of power infrastructure, making energy services accessible to previously affected communities.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth:

- Land release enables safe access to natural resources, promoting economic growth and sustainable tourism.
- Mine action provides decent work and transferable skills for affected communities, including youth and persons with disabilities.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:

- The removal of explosive hazards fosters industrialization and the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure.
- Mine-free roads provide access to transportation systems, integrating enterprises into value chains and markets.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities:

- Handing over released land to beneficiaries, particularly the poor, generates income growth, reducing inequalities and promoting inclusion of all, including people with disabilities.
- Through international cooperation, mine action donors support countries where need is greatest, addressing inequalities between countries.

⁸⁶ In September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations committed to working together to fulfill seventeen (17) global goals; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in support of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. In many contexts, mine action has a critical role to play in enabling progress towards the goals.

For example, when affected communities have the explosive hazard contamination removed, they are able to cultivate the land, thereby reducing poverty and food insecurity and accelerating SDGs 1 and 2. Mine action supports SDG 4 when explosive hazards are removed from educational facilities, allowing children to return to school safely. Mine action also enables the safe rehabilitation of water treatment plants, electrical substations, and transmission lines to provide clean drinking water and power in support of SDG 6.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities:

- Re-establishing safe access to housing, public spaces and basic services for all, mine action contributes to the reconstruction of safe and inclusive cities and human settlements.
- Environmentally-sensitive mine clearance contributes to the protection and safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production:

- Safe access to previously denied natural resources enables their sustainable and efficient management and use.

SDG 13: Climate Action**SDG 14: Life Below Water:**

- Environmentally sensitive underwater clearance restores degraded aquatic ecosystems and supports their healthy and sustainable use.

SDG 15: Life on Land:

- Environmentally sensitive mine clearance contributes to conserve, restore and sustainably manage biodiverse terrestrial ecosystems.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions:

- Removing explosive hazards and providing education on safe behaviour reduce violence and casualties.
- Mine action develops effective capacities, accountable institutions, and promotes national ownership, including through international cooperation.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals:

- National, regional and international partnerships in mine action (e.g. governments, private sector, academia and civil society) enhance the exchange of resources, expertise, innovation and technology.
- Mine action information enhances the availability of timely and disaggregated data for SDG measurement, monitoring and progress reporting.

Annex 8: Links between UNDP Yemen Emergency Mine Action (EMA) Project-Phase II and United Nations (UN) Key Strategic Documents.

SDG 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
SDG 2 Zero Hunger **SDG 5** Gender Equality
SDG 8 Decent Work & Economic Growth
SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities
SDG 15 Life on Land **SDG 17** Partnerships

UN Resolution 09 Dec. 2021- (A/RES/76/74) Assistance in Mine Action 'Urges all Member States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, as well as the UN system and other relevant organizations and institutions involved in mine action, to support mine-affected States, upon request and as appropriate.'

UN Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023

-**Strategic Outcome 1:** Protection of individuals and communities from the risks and socio-economic impacts of explosive ordnance strengthened.

Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 1: Momentum and profile of mine action efforts, including through humanitarian assistance, human rights, peacebuilding, stabilization and sustainable development, maintained and enhanced.

-**Strategic Outcome 2:** Survivors, family members and communities affected by explosive ordnance have equal access to health and education and participate fully in social and economic life.

Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 2: Mine action programmes address the specific needs of women, girls, men, and boys from diverse groups, while facilitating their empowerment and inclusion.

-**Strategic Outcome 3:** National institutions effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities.

UNSDCF Yemen 2022-2024

Outcome 3 involving UNDP-CPD: 'By 2024, people in Yemen, especially women, adolescents, girls and those at risk of being left behind, become more resilient to economic shocks by increasing their income security and access to decent work.'

UNDP Global Strategic Plan

2022-2025 - Signature Solution 3: Resilience: supporting countries and communities in building resilience to diverse shocks and crises, including conflict, climate change, disasters and epidemics.

UNDP Yemen CSN July 2021- Dec. 2024

Programming Area #11: UNDP Yemen CSN - Programming area #11: Mine clearance: Throughout much of the country, particularly in the west, where most of the population resides, the conflict has left widespread Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) contamination. Large tracts of land are contaminated in areas of direct and indirect violent conflict. The aerial campaign has added a new threat of unexploded aircraft bombs.

UNDP Handbook for Capacity Development in Mine Action (2021)

'The UNDP Capacity Development Framework classifies capacities in three dimensions (the enabling environment, the organizational and institutional level and the individual level)'....'the capacity development framework is organized into four categories – drivers of change (the most impact on strengthening and sustaining capacities): institutional arrangements, Leadership, Knowledge, and Accountability.'

UNDP Yemen CPD 2022-2024

Outcome 3 CPD like Outcome 3 UNSDCF

Output 3.3 'Capacities of national institutions improved to manage the mine action sector and improve community safety, protection from explosive ordnance.'

IED downstream capacity development will also contribute to **Output 2.3** (Empowered Community: 'Capacities of justice and rule of law institutions strengthened to expand human rights, access to justice, safety, and security with a focus on women, girls and other marginalized groups', which has a strategic focus on local government, access to justice, community safety and security/social protection.

UNDP's Mine Action intervention adheres and contributes to the UNDP Yemen CPD with the goal to increase people's self-reliance and revitalize the local economy. In support of NMAC/YEMAC/YMACC; UNDP assists institution building and capacity development; provides operational support; transfer technical knowledge and promote resource mobilization.

Yemen HRP -Protection Cluster/Mine Action 2021

3 key strategic objectives: preventing famine and restoring livelihoods; treating infectious disease; and providing protection. *Strategic Objective 3:* 'Protecting and assisting civilians' *Specific Objective 3.2:* 'Human rights, inclusiveness, safety and dignity are promoted, and protection risks identified and addressed through protection monitoring, community-based mechanisms and humanitarian response'.

Yemen HRP-Protection Cluster/Mine Action 2022

3 key strategic objectives: (i) reducing morbidity and mortality; (ii) improving resilience and living standards; and (iii) **preventing and mitigating protection risks.**

Strategic Objective 3: 'Prevent and mitigate protection risks and facilitate redress for women, girls, boys and men, especially the displaced and most vulnerable civilians, through building resilience, provision of humanitarian assistance, specialized protection services and advocacy'

Specific Objective 3.2: The human rights, inclusion, safety and dignity of all vulnerable groups without discrimination, with due account to age, gender, disability and social status, are promoted and protection risks identified and addressed through protection monitoring, child protection case management, mental health and psychosocial support, mine risk education, community-based mechanisms and targeted humanitarian responses.

Yemen HRP-Protection Cluster/Mine Action 2023

3 strategic objectives focusing on life-saving activities, resilience contributing to durable solutions, and the centrality of protection.

Strategic Objective 3: 'Prevent, reduce and mitigate protection risks and respond to protection needs by building a more protective environment, promoting compliance with IHL and IHRL, and providing principled assistance.'

Specific Objective 3.2: 'Quality, specialized and integrated protection services address lifesaving protection needs, such as access to civil documentation, HLP rights, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), child protection critical services and case management, while reducing the impact of ERWs, with the provision of specialized and targeted protection services for people at risk of and experiencing violence, exploitation and abuse, as well as capacity building and advocacy'.

UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action programme (2019)

These United Nations Guidelines contribute to an effective implementation of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023 and to its greater positive impact. One of the five strategic outcomes calls for the mainstreaming of the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys from diverse groups, while facilitating their empowerment and inclusion, in a cross-cutting manner in all aspects of mine action programmes.

UN Disability Inclusion Strategy 2019-2024: Strategic planning and management (b) Coherence, coordination and knowledge and information management.

The coherence and coordination of efforts to implement a strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their human rights are essential if there are to be meaningful results towards the achievement of the agreed goals reflected in the accountability framework. Humanitarian coordination mechanisms at the global and country levels are of significant relevance to persons with disabilities in crisis and emergency contexts. **Inclusiveness (d) Participation.** The United Nations, in the development and implementation of normative frameworks and policies, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, will closely consult and actively involve all persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities and those most marginalized, through their representative organizations. Staff members with disabilities and those who have dependants with disabilities will, themselves and through staff unions and federations, also be consulted and involved, in particular on matters involving their career development, well-being, social benefits and health coverage; **(e) Data.** The lack of disability-related data, including qualitative and disaggregated data, is one of the major barriers to the accurate assessment of disability inclusion in the development and humanitarian contexts. The policy and accompanying accountability framework will address that gap. Entities commit to abiding by the personal data protection and privacy principles of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination or by other instruments that meet equal or higher standards and will ensure the confidentiality of personal data. **Organizational culture (g) Capacity development.** Developing and/or strengthening staff capacity and competence with regard to disability inclusion is essential for the successful mainstreaming of a disability perspective into policies and programmes. Staff members who are responsible for programme design and implementation, as well as those responsible for technical advisory services, require capacity development to ensure that a human rights-based approach to disability is reflected in their work at all times. Capacity gaps will be addressed comprehensively and systematically, including through awareness-raising campaigns and training, at the individual, entity and system-wide levels; **(h) Awareness-raising and trust building.** The United Nations system will ensure that internal and external communication are inclusive and respectful of persons with disabilities and their rights, with the purpose, inter alia, of reducing and ultimately eliminating stigma and discrimination. Furthermore, the system will ensure an organizational culture that recognizes and values persons with disabilities.

Annex 9: Emergency Mine Action phase II project – Result framework 1 Oct 2021 – 30 Sept 2026 (Ref. p.23-26 EMA Phase II- UNDP Yemen Project document 21 Sept 2021)

Project	UNDP CPD/CPF July 2019 - June 2021 Extended to Dec 2021	UNDP CPD 2022 - 2024	Expected UNDP Yemen EMA Phase II Project Outputs Oct 2021- Sept 2026	UNDP Yemen - EMA Phase II Project Outputs Indicators 2021 - 2026	Baseline 2020	Target Year 1 2022	Target Year 2 2023
Emergency Mine Action Project Phase II 1 October 2021- 30 September 2026 Proj ID 00138840 USD 75,968,750 (of which 17 million has been secured)	Outcome 3: All people in Yemen benefit from inclusive peace processes. Outcome indicator: 3.1. Number of operationalized local peace agreements Baseline: 0 Target: 2 (Hudaydah and Taiz) Output 3.1: Relevant mine action organizations capacitated to provide Yemen with a safe environment Output indicator: 3.1.1 National and sub-national governments have improved capacities to plan, budget, manage and monitor basic services. Baseline: 2 Target: 4	UNSDCF 2022-2024/UNDP CPD Outcome 3: ‘By 2024, people in Yemen, especially women, adolescents, girls and those at risk of being left behind, become more resilient to economic shocks by increasing their income security and access to decent work.’ CPD Outcome Indicator 3.1: Proportion of population in humanitarian need. Base line (2021) : 67% Target (2024) : 60% CPD Output 3.3: Capacities of national institutions improved to manage the mine action sector and improve community safety and protection from explosive ordnance. CPD Output Indicator 3.3.1: Nber of ERW removed. Baseline (2021): 27,000 Target (2024): 167,000 CPD Output Indicator 3.3.2: Area cleared and free from the threat of explosive ordnance: Base line (2021): 1.600.000 m2 Target (2024): 8,600,000 m2 <i>IED downstream</i> capacity development will also contribute to CPD Output 2.3 Empowered Community: Capacities of justice and rule of law institutions strengthened to expand human rights, access to justice, safety, and security with a focus on women, girls, and other marginalized groups.	Output 1: National Mine Action Authorities have improved capacities to carry-out mine activities that are consistent with priorities. GEN 2 (*)	1.1 Number of National Mine Action Authorities staff completing training on coordination.	90	100	100
				1.2 Percentage of trained staff that were rated as more effective in doing their job one year later, through a KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practice) survey	25%	50%	65%
				1.3 Progression of minimum of one+ step in 4 categories as outlined in the mine action and CIED Maturity Model	CM Level 1 Initial	CM Level 1 Initial	CM Level 2 Developing
			Output 2: ERW clearance and land release interventions are delivered in contaminated communities. GEN 2 (*)	2.1 Number of ERW cleared according to national standards	68,621	70,000	90,000
				2.2 Surface of land cleared through field clearance operations (km2)	6 km2	6 Km2	7 km2
				2.3 Percentage of task orders carried out to NMAS as verified by the YMACC and confirmed by UNDP	N/A	45%	55%
				2.4 Percentage of population in UXO-contaminated communities who perceive that UXO interventions have supported improvements in safety and better lives (data disaggregated by sex)	N/A	85%	85%
			Output 3: The Yemen Mine Action Authorities have capacity to effectively coordinate, regulate and plan the mapping of ERW contamination and assessing the impact using primary and secondary sources and fulfill international treaty obligations. GEN 2 (*)	3.1 Percentage of Strategic plan completed along with associated policies	0	80%	100%
				3.2 A Results-Based Management system to track activities in place	no	yes	yes
				3.3 Number of explosive threats to shipping recorded and mapped to identify areas of safe passage	0	100	100
				3.4 Percentage of entries in the IMSMA	50%	65%	75%
			Output 4: The communities at risk have increased their knowledge on identifying, dealing and avoiding mines and unexploded ordnance. GEN 2 (*)	4.1 EORE strategy including Mines/UXO and IED risks drafted with all actors involved	No	yes	Yes
				4.2 Percentage of population, in contaminated areas with improved knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) related to Mine/ERW/IED risk reduction	N/A	50%	70%
				4.3 Number of community risk education events conducted	1,200	1,200	1,300
				4.4 Victim Assistance sector strategy drafted including consideration on gender and diversity and regularly updated	No	yes	Yes
				4.5 Number of victims’ referrals made (data disaggregated by sex and age)	N/A	500	600

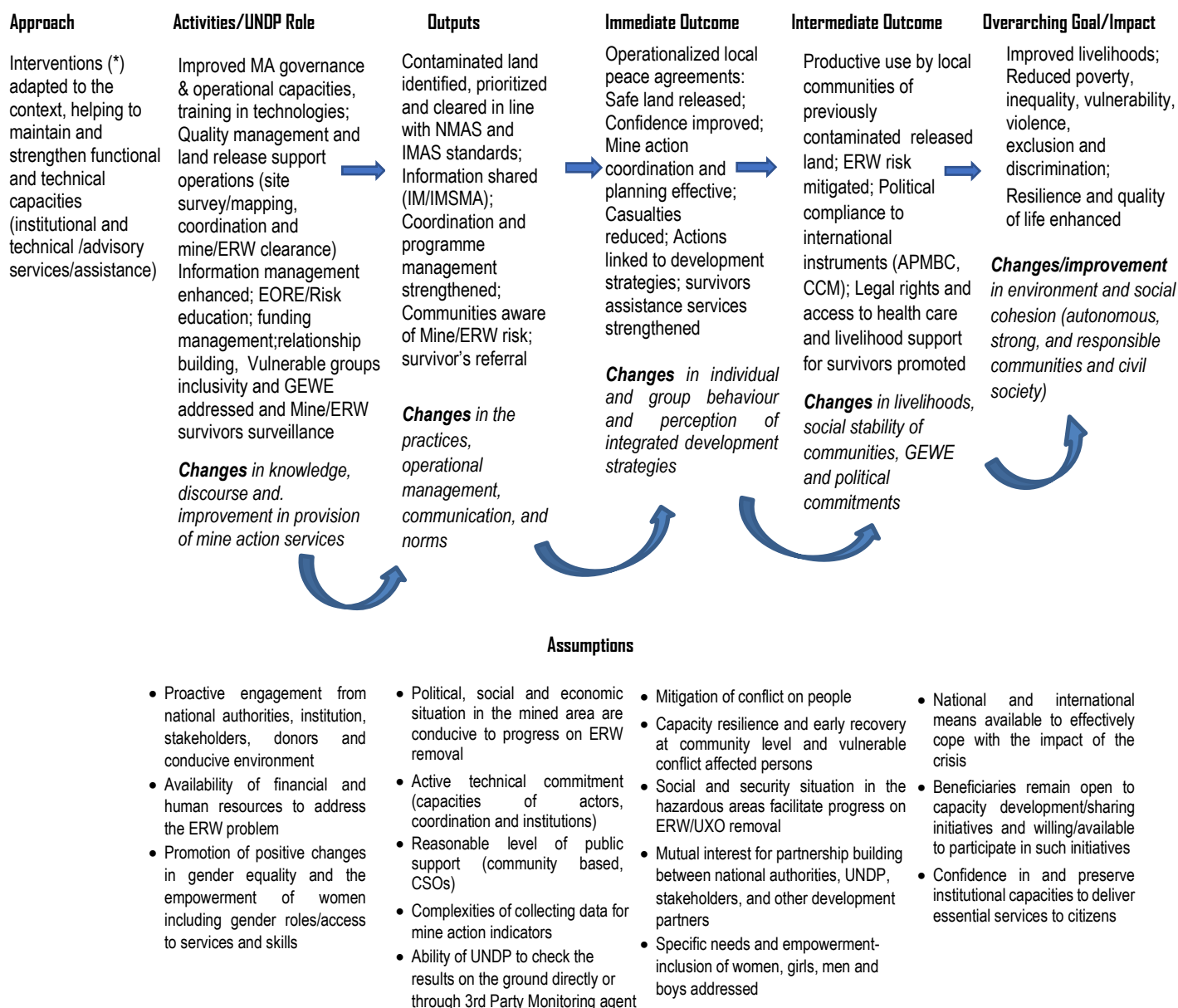
(*) **UNCT Gender Equality Marker (GEM) Guidance Note (June 2019):** A GEM is defined as a tool used by organizations to track planned or actual financial investments in gender equality within programmes or projects. A GEM has codes (i.e. 0, 1, 2, 3) which denote the type and/or degree to which a unit of analysis –usually an Output or Project –addresses GEWE (Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment).
 - Gender Marker **GEN 0:** The Key Activity is not expected to contribute to GEWE: The Key Activity is “Gender Blind”. In other words, there is **no consideration** of gender equality issues in the Key Activity, its indicator or its activities ;
 - Gender Marker **GEN 1:** The Key Activity contributes to GEWE in a **limited** way : GEM1 indicates that there are planned actions targeting the disadvantaged sex as a specified beneficiary, and this is also reflected in the Outcome and Key Activity Indicators and/or Targets ;
 - Gender Marker **GEN 2:** GEWE is a **significant** objective of the Key Activity’s overall intent: Key Activity and its accompanying indicators clearly capture that gender equality is **significantly mainstreamed into the broader work planned.**
 - Gender Marker **GEN 3:** GEWE is the **principal** objective of the Key Activity : For GEM3 to be applied, narrowing gender inequalities, transforming prejudicial gender norms, or the empowering of women and girls is the main reason the Key Activity is being undertaken.

Annex 10: Emergency Mine Action (EMA) Phase II project – Theory of Change (ToC) revisited by the evaluation team.

A ToC should illustrate the sequence of changes that are expected to lead the intended outcome or impacts (through a gender lens), and identify the causal mechanism involved (the reason why certain activities lead to specific results), while recognizing that reality is not linear. A ToC addresses not only how, but why ‘we’ expect the intervention to succeed-in short it sets out why ‘we’ think that ‘our’ action will lead people to change their behaviour (outcomes), and how to achieve this change? Most important is the link from outputs (which ‘we’ control) to outcomes (which ‘we’ can only influence).

The evaluation team elaborated for example the figure below to illustrate a generic sequence of such intended change (based on the ToC initially defined in the project document and on the results in field evidence) that could be applied and adapted to the EMA phase II project and depending to the volatile security environment in the country.

Figure 8: Example of a schematic theory of change for the EMA Phase II project



(*) The need for an integrated programmatic approach in the field of capacity development/sharing for a security environment conducive to sustainable development, based on a long-term vision, appears an essential factor of success..

This requires the support of the donors and of the UN system to national initiatives, within the framework of the restauration of normal services to the population. It is necessary to foster the **functional capacities** for the officials and actors to fulfill the main functions related to the mine action field but also of the **technical capacities** to carry out interventions aimed at promoting prevention and response measures including explosive ordnance survey and clearance operations; risk education ; assistance to victims and to help ensure a safer Yemen for all and reduce inequalities while respecting human rights and gender equality.

(Acronyms of figure 1: NMAS: National Mine Action Standards; IMAS: International Mine Action Standards, IM/IMSMA: Information Management/Information Management System for Mine Action, APMBC: Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention; CCM: Convention on Cluster Munitions; ERW: Explosive Remnants of War; UXO: Unexploded Ordnance)

Annex 11: Yemen Emergency Mine Action Phase II project -

Summary of cumulative results (North & South) 01 October 2021- 31 March 2023.

(Source EMA II project progress reports Q4 2021-Year 2022- Q1 2023 and key informant interviews/KII)

Item	October – December 2021	January – December 2022	January – March 2023	Total	
AP Mine	322	861	64	1 247	MINES : 12 066 (10%)
AT Mine	1 424	9 054	335	10 813	
Sea Mines	6	0	0	6	
Mix UXO	26 322	61 978	6 405	94 705	UXOs : 102 355 (87%)
Cluster Munitions	747	281	0	1 028	
Rockets	14	156	44	214	
Missiles	5	14	0	19	
Fuses	814	5 524	51	6 389	
IED	644	3 149	89	IED : 3 882 (3%)	
Total ERW Cleared/Removed	30 298	81 017	6 988	118 303 (100%)	
Destroyed ERW	798	5 673	510	6 981 ⁸⁷ (6%)	
# Governorates	12	17	14		
# Districts	85	169	65		
Cleared Area (m2) (Clearance Operations: Manual and Mechanical and Mine Detection Dogs Teams)	1 850 795	6 490 460	625 469	8 966 724	
# Direct Beneficiaries EOD/Technical Survey /Clearance activities (Land release)	117 550	453 000	40 500 ⁸⁸	611 050 ⁸⁹	
Deminers active in field operations	1202 (500 in North & 702 in South)				
Persons trained ⁹⁰	261 <i>Included 106 Women (41%)</i>	347 <i>Included 38 women (12%)</i>	12 <i>no women</i>	620 <i>Included 152 women (24,5%)</i>	
Number events/sessions MRE/EORE	2 950	7 777	3 007	13 734	
MRE/EOR beneficiaries (Adults + Children) ⁹¹	5 005 083	1 070 382	385 384	6 460 849	
Men	1 086 614	144 772	38 395	1 269 781 (20%)	
Women	1 052 398	104 220	31 260	1 187 878 (18%)	
Total Adults	2 139 012	248 992	69 655	2 457 659 (38%)	
Girls	1 455 803	365 124	140 923	1 961 850 (30%)	
Boys	1 410 268	456 266	174 806	2 041 340 (32%)	
Total Children	2 866 071	821 390	315 729	4 003 190 (62%)	
Survivors surveillance	121	461	57	639	
Male	115	349	43	507 (79%)	
Female	6	40	5	51 (8%)	
Children	0	72	9	81 (13%)	
Civilian Casualties (Landmines, UXO & IED)	166 Included 47 Children (28,5%)	675 Included 226 Children (33,5%)	125 Included 51 Children (41%)	966 Included 324 Children (33,5%)	
Victim Assistance/ Survivors support ⁹²	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Male	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Female	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Children	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

N/A: Not Available

NTS: Non-Technical Survey

EORE: Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

⁸⁷ Not achieved due to the inability to obtain destruction materials.

⁸⁸ 29% Men, 25% Women & 46% Children – (Source: EMA Phase II 2023 Q1 progress reports and field visits)

⁸⁹ With support of the EMA phase II project (Oct 2021 – March 2023), clearance activities from YEMAC reached an average of 3.1 million indirect beneficiaries and 611 050 direct beneficiaries across the country, covering an annual average of 17 Governorates and 130 districts.

⁹⁰ EMA Phase II reports Oct-Dec 2021; annual 2022; Q1 2023 and field data collection.

⁹¹ Figures communicated by the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Working Group including UNICEF data, and Information Management Unit (IM/YMACC Aden).

⁹² Support to survivors is not supported by the project the UNDP EMA project due to limited funding (Source EMA 2022 annual report p.18)

Annex 12: Emergency Mine Action Phase II - Budget⁹³ (USD) October 2021 – March 2023

Budget	2021 Q4 October – December/Budget (USD)	Funds utilized	% utilized
Netherlands	1 032 102	953 299	92%
USDOS ⁹⁴	-	-	-
UNOCHA ⁹⁵ -YHF	-	-	-
Germany	-	-	-
UNDP (TRAC) ⁹⁶	-	-	-
UN (CERF) ⁹⁷	-	-	-
UK-FCDO ⁹⁸	-	-	-
Total	1 032 102	953 299	92%

Budget	Y 2022 January – December/Budget (USD)	Funds utilized	% utilized
Netherlands	4 479 106	3 695 282	82,5%
USDOS	2 106 501	1 836 067	87,2%
UNOCHA-YHF	1 499 728	1 499 728	100%
Germany (<i>End of funding support December 2022</i>)	1 484 527	1 484 527	100%
UNDP (TRAC)	1 401 367	1 401 367	100%
UN (CERF)	411 554	411 554	100%
UK-FCDO (<i>End of funding support March 2022</i>)	302 294	302 212	100%
Total	11 685 077	10 630 737	91%

Budget	Y 2023 Budget (USD)	Funds utilized	% utilized
Netherlands	2 483 945	700 035	28%
USDOS	2 106 501	423 576	20%
UNOCHA-YHF	600 431	432 855	72%
UNDP (TRAC)	-	-	-
UN (CERF)	-	-	-
Total	5 190 877	1 556 466	30%

➤ Summary 1: Funds received vs Expenditures:

Year	Budget USD	Expenditures USD	% utilized
Q4-2021	1 650 000.00	953 299.00	58 %
Y 2022	9 756 473.64	10 630 737.00	109 %
Q1-2023	3 485 933.81	1 556 466.00	45 %
Total	14 892 407,45	13 140 502.00	88 %

➤ Summary 2: Funds received for the execution of the EMA II project/01 October 2021 – 31 March 2023 (18 months):

Donors	01 October 2021 – 31 March 2023 (18 months)
Netherlands	USD 5 432 405,00 (36%)
USDOS	USD 3 159 751,00 (21%)
UNOCHA-YHF	USD 2 700 591,45 (18%)
Germany	USD 1 484 527,00 (10%)
UNDP (TRAC)	USD 1 401 367,00 (9%)
UN (CERF)	USD 411 554,00 (3%)
UK-FCDO	USD 302 212,00 (2%)
Total	USD 14 892 407,45 (100%)

⁹³ Source EMA II project progress reports Q4 2021-Year 2022- Q1 2023 and key informant interviews/KII.

⁹⁴ USDOS: United States of America - Department of State.

⁹⁵ UNOCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) is an OCHA-managed Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF) operating under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator. The YHF makes funding directly available to humanitarian partners operating in Yemen, enabling them to deliver timely and effective life-saving assistance to people who need it most. The Fund operates within the parameters of the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) with the objective of expanding the delivery of humanitarian assistance by focusing on critical priorities and needs (Source: <https://www.unocha.org/yemen/about-yhf>)

⁹⁶ UNDP -TRAC: United Nations Development Programme- Target for Resource Assignment from the Core.

⁹⁷ UN (CERF): United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund. The CERF provides rapid initial funding for lifesaving actions at the onset of an emergency and for underfunded, essential humanitarian operations in protracted crises. The OCHA managed CERF receives contributions from various donors – mainly governments, but also private companies, foundations, charities and individuals – which are combined into a single fund. This is used for crisis anywhere in the world (Source HRP 2023 p.96)

⁹⁸ UK-FCDO: United Kingdom - Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

Annex 13: Yemen Civilian Casualties by type of Armed Violence ERW accidents (Landmines, UXOs, IEDs & Sea mines) October 2022 – March 2023 (eighteen months)

(Source: YEMAC Information Management /Data base & The Civilian Impact Monitoring Project/CIMP- UN Cluster protection)

No	Year/Month	Armed Violence ⁹⁹ (included ERW)			Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)														
		Fatalities	Injuries	Total	Landmines			UXOs			IEDs			Sea Mines			Grand Total		
					Fatalities	Injuries	Total	Fatalities	Injuries	Total	Fatalities	Injuries	Total	Fatalities	Injuries	Total	Fatalities	Injuries	Total
1	2021 October	114	244	358	10	15	25	6	10	16	6	29	35	0	0	0	22	54	76
2	November	59	181	240	3	11	14	0	0	0	2	3	5	0	0	0	5	14	19
3	December	105	253	358	22	32	54	4	11	15	1	1	2	0	0	0	27	44	71
4	2022 January	234	432	666	24	22	46	0	4	4	1	17	18	0	0	0	25	43	68
5	February	61	159	220	18	3	21	5	15	20	0	1	1	0	0	0	23	19	42
6	March	57	152	209	7	19	26	2	5	7	0	4	4	0	0	0	9	28	37
7	April	45	64	109	12	15	27	2	8	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	23	37
8	May	51	125	176	19	13	32	0	8	8	5	45	50	0	0	0	24	66	90
9	June	63	109	172	16	18	34	3	22	25	3	6	9	0	0	0	22	46	68
10	July	57	173	230	14	22	36	4	29	33	0	2	2	0	0	0	18	53	71
11	August	35	79	114	9	23	32	0	10	10	1	1	2	0	0	0	10	34	44
12	September	37	98	135	7	17	24	3	26	29	1	16	17	0	0	0	11	59	70
13	October	36	94	130	10	16	26	3	13	16	2	6	8	0	0	0	15	35	50
14	November	40	117	157	6	25	31	5	11	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	36	47
15	December	54	81	135	9	18	27	9	15	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	33	51
16	2023 January	44	193	237	15	29	44	0	5	5	1	3	4	0	0	0	16	37	53
17	February	47	114	161	9	12	21	9	14	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	26	44
18	March	49	134	183	6	9	15	6	7	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	16	28
	Total	1188	2802	3990	216	319	535	61	213	274	23	134	157	0	0	0	300 (25%)	666 (24%)	966 (24%)

➤ Important numbers highlighted in red. ERW: Explosive Remnants of War IEDs: Improvised Explosive Devices UXOs: Unexploded Ordnances

⁹⁹ As per the Yemen Civilian Impact Monitoring Project/CIMP, **Armed Violence data includes** Airstrikes; Shelling; SAF (Small Arms Fire); **Landmines**; Sniper; **IEDs** (Improvised Explosive Devices); SA/LW (Small Arms and Light Weapons); Naval shelling; Drone strike; **Sea mine**; Hand grenade; **UXO** (Unexploded Ordnance) and Weapons cache explosion.

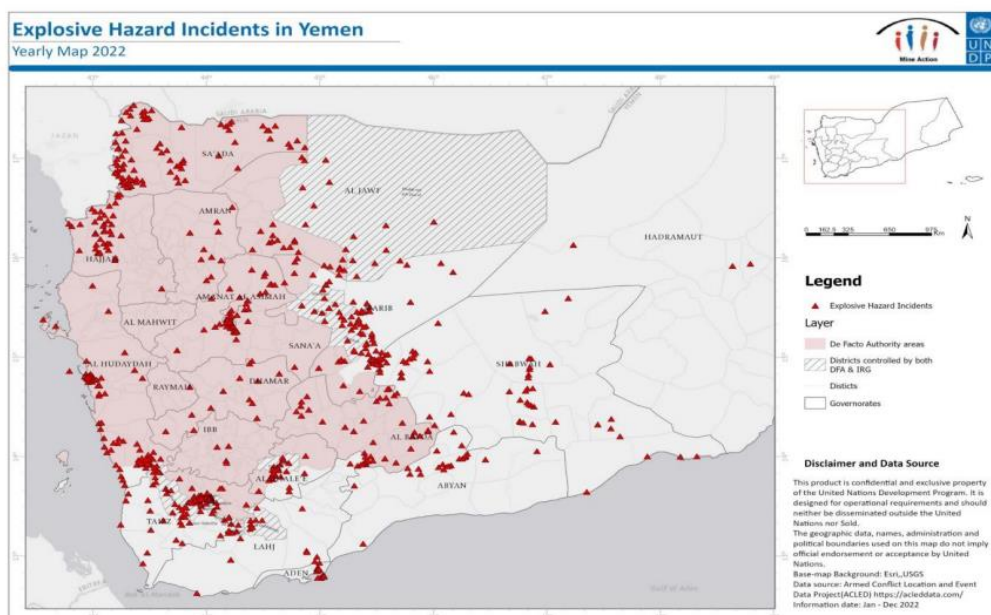
Summary of ERW Casualties – Q4 2021 & Y 2022 & Q1 2023 (Source: EMA II progress reports & Yemen Civilian Impact Monitoring Project/CIMP Home Web Site)

Period	Adults	Children	Total
Q4 2021	107 Men + 12 Women = 119	47 (28,5%)	166
Y 2022	409 Men + 40 Women = 449	226 (33,5%)	675
Q1 2023	Figures Men & Women not available = 74	51 (41%)	125
Total	Men & Women = 642 (66,5%)	324 (33,5%)	966

Summary of Explosive hazards Casualties 1 October 2021 - 31 March 2023 (18 months)	
Landmine	535 (55,5%)
UXO	274 (28,5%)
IED	157 (16%)
Total	966 (monthly average of 53)

Explosive hazards	Casualties - Q4 2021				Casualties - Y 2022				Casualties - Q1 2023				Total Casualties Oct 2021 – March 2023		
	Injuries	Fatalities	Total		Injuries	Fatalities	Total		Injuries	Fatalities	Total		Injuries	Fatalities	Total
Landmine	58	35	93	124	211	151	362	564	50	30	80	121	319	216	535
UXO	21	10	31		166	36	202		26	15	41		213	61	274
IED	33	9	42		98	13	111		3	1	4		134	23	157
Total: 966	112	54	166		475	200	675		79	46	125		666 (69%)	300 (31%)	966 (100%)

Map of Explosive Hazard Incidents 2022 (Source EMA project annual report 2022)



Proportion of Adult & Children among ERW Casualties (2018 - 2022)

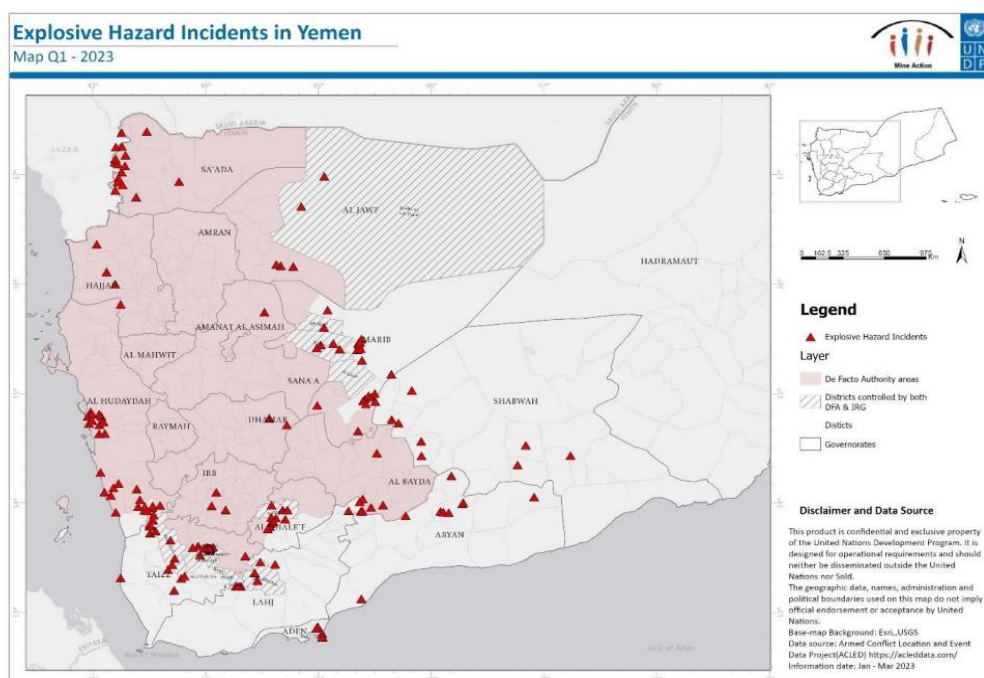
(Source CIMP Thematic 08: Flooding and ERW threat – August 2022)

All Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)	Adult 66%	Children 34%
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	Adult	Children
Landmine	76%	24%
UXO	30%	70%
IED	91%	9%

Data show that **UXO** – mortars, bombs, rockets and artillery shells – have accounted for a significant proportion of all civilian casualties from mines and ERW and **are the leading cause of child casualties among casualties of ERW.**

Map of Explosive Hazard Incidents Q1- 2023 (Source EMA project progress report Q1 -2023)



Hudaydah, Ta'izz, Jawf and Bayda have seen the highest numbers of civilian casualties reported **landmine** incidents.

The highest **UXO** casualty numbers have been recorded in Hudaydah, Sa'dah, Sana'a and Ma'rib.

The **IED** threat, meanwhile, appears more prevalent in urban areas such as Aden, Ta'izz and Al-Mukha cities, as well as in flashpoints in several of the southern governorates.

(Source CIMP Thematic 08: Flooding and ERW threat - August 2022)

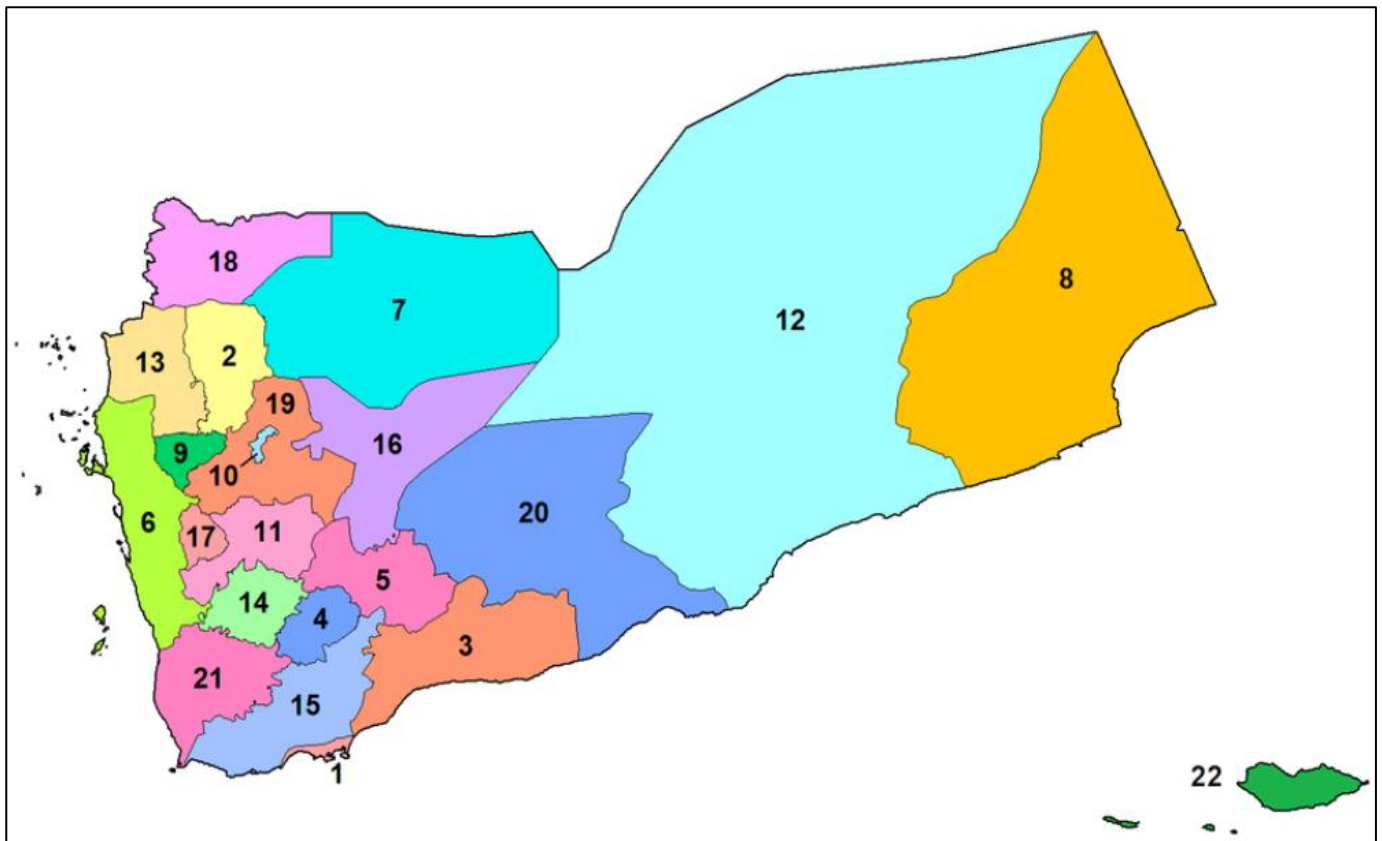
Annex 14: EMA II Project locations according to the ToR EMA project Yemen Phase II Final evaluation (p.4)



No	Locations/Governorate	Geographic part
3	Hajjah	Northern Area
4	Sa'ada REMAB (Regional Executive Mine Action Branch)	
5	Amran	
6	Sana'a YEMAC (main office) + REMAB (Regional Executive Mine Action Branch)	
9	Al Jawf	
10	Hudaydah REMAB (Regional Executive Mine Action Branch)	

No	Locations/Governorate	Geographic part
1	Abyan	Southern Area
2	Aden YMACC (Coordination Centre) + YEMAC main office + REMAB (Regional Executive Mine Action Branch)	
8	Hadramout (Al Mukalla) REMAB (Regional Executive Mine Action Branch)	
7	Taiz REMAB (Regional Executive Mine Action Branch)	

Annex 15: List of Governorates of Yemen



No	Governorates
1	Aden
2	'Amran
3	Abyan
4	Dhale
5	Al Bayda
6	Al Hudaydah
7	Al Jawf
8	Al Mahrah
9	Al Mahwit
10	Amanat Al Asimah (Sanaa City)
11	Dhamar
12	Hadramaut
13	Hajjah
14	Ibb
15	Lahij
16	Ma'rib
17	Raymah
18	Sa'dah
19	Sana'a
20	Shabwah
21	Taizz
22	Socotra

Source Wikipedia:

The 22 Governorates of Yemen are divided into 333 districts.

The districts are subdivided into 2,210 sub-districts, and then into 38,284 villages.

Socotra Governorate (22) created in December 2013 from parts of Hadramout Governorate

Annex 16: Results of Yemen Baseline Survey (YBLS) April 2021- May 2023

The on-going Yemen Baseline Survey (YBLS) realized by YEMAC/YMACC Aden office, works well, and generates a steady flow of Non-Technical Survey (NTS) reports for upload into IMSMA core, with taskings identified and issued by the coordination centre YMACC to mine action partners. IM objectives become more reliant on IMSMA generated information which has been collected, verified, and analyzed by the MA sector. Great results of the baseline survey to present (April 2021 - May 2023) identified ERW contamination in six governorates totaling 212,8 km². This included 182 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) totaling 111,8 Km² and 344 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) totaling 100,9 Km² (with fifty percent of the total located in Hudaydah governorate) and there is a total of 3,202,262 reported people affected in six governorates¹⁰⁰ being processed.

The below table summarizes the cumulative result of the Yemen baseline survey from April 2021 through May 2023 conducted by YEMAC, DRC and HALO Trust mainly in the southern controlled areas.

A) Cumulative table

Governorate	No NTS activities	No SHA	No CHA	No total HZ areas (SHA+ CHA)	SHA m2	CHA m2	Total HZ areas (SHA + CHA) m2	Affected people
Al-Hudaydah	103	51	52	103	81,340,731.07	24,352,512.21	105,693,243.28	713 447
Abyan	86	8	77	85	4,397,090.24	28,803,055.08	33,200,145.32	305 882
Lahij	103	60	50	110	17,114,493.14	11,404,168.00	28,518,661.14	1 185 705
Taiz	108	22	86	108	1,190,763.49	20,960,171.47	22,150,934.96	173 425
Al-Dhale	43	16	27	43	4,136,932.44	9,189,433.12	13,326,365.56	63 363
Aden	77	25	52	77	3,618,108.49	6,269,112.94	9,887,221.43	760 440
Total	520	182	344	526	111,798,118.87 = 111,8 Km2	100,978,452.82 m2 = 100,98 Km2	212,776,571.69 m2 = 212,78 Km2	3 202 262

B) Detailed table

Year	Governorate	No NTS activities	No SHA	No CHA	No total HZ areas	SHA m2	CHA m2	Total HZ areas (SHA + CHA) m2	Affected people
From April to Dec. 2021	Abyan	36	0	35	35	0	11,694,095.00	11,694,095.00	213 851
	Aden	33	8	25	33	1,359,208.90	3,656,949.70	5,016,158.60	396 062
	Al-Hudaydah	22	7	15	22	6,647,249.90	19,906,088.40	26,553,338.30	56 901
	Al-Dhale	15	4	11	15	649,941.70	3,055,853.00	3,705,794.70	19 363
	Lahij	44	20	31	51	9,220,679.70	7,855,656.10	17,076,335.80	1 068 920
	Taiz	33	6	27	33	638,491.10	15,858,393.80	16,496,884.90	40 404
Total	6	183	45	144	189	18,515,571.30	62,027,036.00	80,542,607.30	1 795 501
From Jan. to Dec. 2022	Abyan	36	7	29	36	4,397,090.24	15,635,142.07	20,032,232.31	82 484
	Aden	39	16	23	39	2,227,652.22	2,554,359.30	4,782,011.25	315 578
	Al-Hudaydah	60	35	25	60	73,440,000.00	2,864,382.16	76,304,382.16	447 656
	Al-Dhale	18	10	8	18	3,463,743.43	4,779,359.92	8,243,103.35	34 100
	Lahij	52	35	17	52	7,647,761.24	3,495,632.72	11,143,393.96	93 885
	Taiz	44	11	33	44	543,122.43	3,941,996.97	4,485,119.40	80 492
Total	6	249	114	135	249	91,719,369.56	33,270,873.14	124,990,242.70	1 054 195
From Jan to May 2023	Abyan	14	1	13	14	N/A	1,473,818.01	1,473,818.01	9 547
	Aden	5	1	4	5	31,247.37	57,803.94	89,051.31	48 800
	Al-Hudaydah	21	9	12	21	1,253,481.17	1,582,041.65	2,835,522.82	208 890
	Al-Dhale	10	2	8	10	23,247.31	1,354,220.20	1,377,467.51	9 900
	Lahij	7	5	2	7	246,052.20	52,879.18	298,931.38	22 900
	Taiz	31	5	26	31	9,149.96	1,159,780.70	1,168,930.66	52 529
Total	6	88	23	65	88	1,563,178.01	5,680,543.68	7,243,721.69	352 566
Gd Total	6	520	182	344	526	111,798,118.87 m2 = 111,8 Km2	100,978,452.82m2 = 100,98 Km2	212,776,571.69 m2 = 212,78 Km2	3 202 262

¹⁰⁰ Al-Hudaydah city, Abyan, Lahij, Taiz, Al-Dhale and Aden

Annex 17: Source www.mineaction.org : UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group¹⁰¹ on Mine Action (IACG-MA)

A policy developed jointly by these institutions (Mine Action and Effective Coordination: the United Nations Inter-Agency Policy¹⁰²) guides the division of labor within the United Nations. Much of the actual work, such as demining and mine-risk education, is carried out by nongovernmental organizations. But commercial contractors and, in some situations, militaries, also provide humanitarian mine-action services. In addition, a variety of intergovernmental, international and regional organizations, as well as international financial institutions, also support mine action by funding operations or providing services to individuals and communities affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war.

The vision of the United Nations is a world free of the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development and where the needs of victims are met. The inter-agency partners working towards the achievement of this vision are:

United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) - Chair : UNMAS, as the entity specialized in all mine action related matters, provides States, the UN system and its leadership, as well as the mine sector at-large, with authoritative impartial expertise and experience acquired through its humanitarian, peace operations, peacebuilding assistance, and development, to affected countries, as well as through its participation in, and contributions to, treaty-related and diplomatic processes. UNMAS is mandated to coordinate the UN system through the UN IACG-MA and subsidiary groups, and the Global Protection sub-cluster Mine Action Area of Responsibility. UNMAS also chairs the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Review Board and its Steering Committee and is the United Nations depositary of these Standards. In representing the UN system in international legislative and other fora, UNMAS ensures the recognition of mine action as a critical enabler of the humanitarian, peace and security, and development nexus, and as an accelerator of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

✓ MEMBERS:

UN Agencies	Mine Action Support
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works with local, national and international partners on linking mine action to development and achievement of the SDGs and helping mine-affected communities achieve resilience and sustainable development.	UNDP's Mine Action programmes have three major areas of focus: 1) Translating mine action into sustainable development dividends, including human, food or community security and livelihoods; 2) Strengthening national institutions that accelerate development benefits, including food, human security, jobs and livelihoods; and 3) Supporting international normative frameworks on mine action.
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) coordinates the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crisis, and advocates for effective and principled humanitarian action.	In collaboration with mine action partners, OCHA: 1) ensures that humanitarian planning and response meets the assistance and protection needs of those impacted by explosive ordnance and supports the mitigation of threats posed by them; 2) highlights the humanitarian impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas; and 3) advocates for adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law as well as practical measures to reduce harm and suffering.
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has central to its mandate the protection and promotion of the rights of children, including through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on Children and Armed Conflict.	In collaboration with its partners, UNICEF supports: 1) the development and implementation of mine risk education (MRE), including national and international MRE policy, guidelines and standards; 2) advocacy for the implementation and universalization of international humanitarian law and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; 3) victim assistance. In emergencies where national mine action authorities do not exist or are unable to respond, UNICEF acts directly to identify and prioritize at-risk populations, carry out emergency MRE, and support other risk reduction and victim assistance activities. Wherever possible UNICEF works to build the capacity of its partners, seeking to ensure that initial mine action responses and life-saving assistance move rapidly toward medium- and long-term solutions. This is done with an emphasis on community participation.

¹⁰¹ The United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action consists of twelve United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.

¹⁰² Mine Action and Effective Coordination: the United Nations Inter-Agency Policy (1998, Rev 2005) The objectives of the policy are: (i) To ensure that all United Nations mine action team members are operating with the same purpose, in accordance with clearly articulated policies; (ii) To clarify the way in which decisions are made and coordination is achieved among United Nations mine action team members and with other stakeholders; and (iii) To describe the United Nations' role in, and contribution to, mine action, including the roles and responsibilities of individual team members.

UN Agencies	Mine Action Support
<p>World Health Organisation (Injuries and Violence Prevention Department) (WHO) works with its Member States as well as local, national and international partners to promote access to emergency trauma care, treatment and rehabilitation, including mental health services and assistive products for those injured by explosive ordnance.</p>	<p>In line with its mandate, WHO provides direct technical support to affected countries, supports the integration of survivor needs in relevant health strategies and action plans, and promotes preventative practices. In accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, WHO works closely with both governments and civil society to ensure the full and active participation of survivors with disability in education, labor, and social life on an equal basis with others.</p>
<p>UN Women (UN Women) is committed to ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as partners and beneficiaries throughout all stages of the humanitarian development and peace nexus (HDPN).</p>	<p>UN Women's mandate supports and enables the UN and the wider HDPN system in the integration of gender equality and women and girl's empowerment throughout all aspects of humanitarian, recovery and sustainable development planning and programming, including mine action. Through its inter-agency leadership and coordination role, UN Women supports other UN entities to promote gender equality and women and girls' empowerment. This includes sharing evidence-based best practice, minimum standards and guidance tools. UN Women also assists States develop policies and commitments to gender equality and women and girls' empowerment. Furthermore, it also promotes the voices, agency and capacity of women's civil society organizations and national women's machineries in HDPN efforts.</p>
<p>Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) is the specialized agency of the UN that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Its goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. FAO's resilience building agenda focuses on developing, protecting and restoring sustainable livelihoods so that the integrity of societies that depend on farming, livestock, fish, forests and other natural resources is not threatened by crises.</p>	<p>Where relevant FAO recognizes and promotes the importance of working with relevant entities to clear valuable farmlands of undetonated ordnances, so farmers can plant crops and graze their livestock safely. Restoring people's ability to farm and engage in productive livelihoods is important for food security and key for building prosperity and lasting peace in conflict/post conflict settings.</p>
<p>As well as providing food assistance as its core mandate, World Food Programme (WFP) provides leadership to humanitarian inter-agency coordination mechanisms in food security and logistics</p>	<p>WFP's operations and effective mine action are mutually reinforcing. For example, delivery and distribution of food assistance is critically reliant on safe routes and safe access to distribution sites. At the same time, the nature of WFP's operations, in particular its deep field presence, provides key capacity support to the reach of risk education programmes. WFP actively seeks to include mine action considerations in the planning and conduct of its operations and, through its food security and logistics leadership roles, to that of the wider humanitarian community.</p>
<p>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In line with its mandate for the protection and promotion of the rights of refugees and others of concern to the High Commissioner, lead role for protection policy advice and guidance in the IASC, and in collaboration with its partners,</p>	<p>UNHCR: 1) is directly engaged in support of risk education, clearance programmes and associated humanitarian activities linked to displacement; 2) seeks to build the capacity of its local and international partners to undertake effective mine action projects in support of refugee programmes; 3) supports UNMAS and UNICEF in the development of national and international MRE policy, tools and techniques, guidelines and standards and 4) is an active advocate for the promotion of the total ban on anti- personnel landmines, the elimination of weapons that have indiscriminate effects, the development of legal instruments in relation to ERW and protection of the rights of women and children affected by armed conflict.</p>
<p>UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is mandated to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in the UN Charter and international human rights law, including through prevention of human rights violations, securing respect for all human rights, promoting international cooperation to protect human rights, coordinating related activities throughout the UN, and strengthening and streamlining human rights throughout the UN system.</p>	<p>OHCHR is engaged in a number of areas directly relevant to mine action, such as protecting the rights of and combating discrimination against persons with disabilities and undertaking advocacy on and assistance with the implementation of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including in relation to survivors of mines and other explosive ordnance.</p>

UN Agencies	Mine Action Support
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) enables the UN and its partners to operationalize their mandates and objectives through the design and implementation of solutions across peace and security, humanitarian, and development contexts.	As the operational arm of the UN in mine action and broader explosive hazard threat mitigation, UNOPS works closely with its partners on project, programme, and portfolio design, implementation, oversight and management controls. It does so across a number of key areas such as, human resources and talent management, supply chain and contract management of works, goods and services. With a focus on highly effective project management and associated delivery of results, UNOPS supports partners to expand capacities, improve agility, manage risks, boost cost-effectiveness and increase quality.

✓ **OBSERVERS**

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (**UNIDIR**) is an autonomous institute within the UN dedicated to generating ideas and actions on disarmament and security. UNIDIR conducts research on key areas of the UN Mine Action Strategy, which includes supporting identification of good practices, sharing of lessons learned, and developing new and innovative policies, practices and approaches in the field of weapon and ammunition management as well as improvised explosive devices. UNIDIR contributes to the IACG-MA by consolidating knowledge, generating ideas, facilitating dialogue and providing policy and research advisory in these substantive areas.

Mine Action Yemen: The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) C-IED Maturity Self-Assessment Tool for C-IED is used to monitor progress within IED threat mitigation. This tool will be revisited annually to assess where UNDP's work has been successful or not in the development of the sector, while meeting the immediate humanitarian needs. (source EMA II project document September 2021 p.17)

World Bank (WB): The World Bank helps address the long-term consequences of landmines and unexploded ordnance on economic and social development. It also plays a significant role in mobilizing resources.

✓ **OTHER UN PARTNERS IN YEMEN**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (**UNODC**) –

Mine Action Yemen: UNDP is working with the UN's Global IED Task Force to implement cross programme integration and coordination with partner agencies. Such integration provides the mechanism by which the most appropriate organization can be identified to pursue a task that is out of UNDP MA's responsibility, but which has an indirect but complementary impact on training of YEMAC staff in Improvised Explosive Devices Disposal (IEDD). philosophy/principles and incident management.

For example, UNODC is taking the lead for aspects of IED precursor chemical recognition with the border force and coast guard, based on trends analysis provided by UNDP Yemen's MA programme and **UNDP's RoL programme** is progressing the establishment of robust community networks to address priorities for ERW clearance impacting on programmes such as 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene' (WASH) and 'Supporting Resilient Livelihoods, Food Security, and Climate Adaptation' (ERRY). (Source EMA II Project document September 2021 p.7)

UNMHA

Another key partner in the UN mine action support in Yemen, is the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (**UNMHA**), which provides strategic and technical advice on a range of mine action issues to UN country team and local stakeholders pertaining to the Hudaydah governorate, related to its mandate through the UN Security Resolution 2643 (2022) "... to oversee the governorate-wide ceasefire, redeployment of forces, and mine action operations" as well as to the Middle East Division of the United Nations Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operat


Annex 18 - Code of Conduct

United Nations Evaluation Group Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System Evaluation Consultants Agreement

Form to be signed by all consultants as individuals (not by or on behalf of a consultancy company) before a contract can be issued.

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System Name of Consultant: _Sadeq Noman Mohammed Al-Nabhani_

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the [United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation](#).

Signed at (place) on (date) Signature: _Sana'a_19/11/2023_ 

United Nations Evaluation Group Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System Evaluation Consultants Agreement

Form to be signed by all consultants as individuals (not by or on behalf of a consultancy company) before a contract can be issued.

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System Name of Consultant: ____Gerard CHAGNIOT_____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the [United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation](#).

Signed at (place) on (date) Signature: Rocbaron, 19 November 2023