

Development and Mine Action Policy and Programming

CONTEXT

Landmines, cluster munitions and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) pose a threat to people's lives and livelihoods and impede post-conflict recovery and development. The vast majority of victims of landmines and other ERW are civilians. More than half of the affected states are least developed countries. Mine action programmes aim to limit, mitigate and ultimately abolish the human impact of landmines and other ERW through humanitarian demining, risk reduction education, victim/survivor assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy.

UNDP's APPROACH

UNDP works with local, national and international partners to help affected communities achieve resilience and sustainable development. UNDP plays an important role in bridging early actions with long-term sustainable development and peacebuilding. UNDP's approach to mine action follows three tracks:

- **Context analysis and needs assessment** to collect information on the impact of landmines/ERWs and the required policy and institutional capacities to enhance socioeconomic benefits through mine action programming;
- Support national and local authorities to undertake a careful **selection of geographical areas of focus**;
- **Sharp focus on development results** to ensure measurable contributions to people's lives and livelihoods.

Focus Areas of Work on Development and Mine Action

Strengthening livelihoods through Development and Mine Action programmes: This involves releasing land for productive uses towards peacebuilding, recovery and sustainable development. It means enabling the construction of resilient infrastructure such as schools, dams, roads and marketplaces, along with safe access to land for cultivation and water sources, and gathering natural resources. Employment in mine action projects often helps crisis-affected communities earn a temporary income and contributes to rebuilding their livelihoods and self-esteem. UNDP's programmes help improve human capital through mine risk education and vocational training for victims and survivors.



Supported by UNDP, the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action is working to clear the country of landmines and other Explosive Remnants of War. (Photo: UNDP Azerbaijan)

Capacity-building of national institutions and civil society: Capacity-building helps develop and implement national development and mine action strategies. UNDP provides technical advice, institutional support and mobilization of resources for affected states and supports the development of mine action data collection systems to inform policy and programmes. UNDP promotes dialogue on development and mine action, as well as the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized people in decision-making to accelerate the expansion of livelihoods and employment for the poor. In doing so, UNDP advocates for the democratic governance of development and mine action programmes that deliver sustainable development outcomes.

Developing international norms: UNDP advocates for the development of and adherence to international treaties and other normative frameworks that prohibit or regulate the use of weapons. In particular, UNDP promotes the universalization and implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (APMBC); the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM); the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). UNDP helps countries comply with relevant treaties through monitoring implementation, supporting reporting obligations, developing national legislative frameworks and including development and mine action in national budgets.



Farmer Prak Chhin and her family work through former minefields cleared with the assistance of UNDP. (Photo: UNDP Cambodia)

UNDP IN ACTION

Strengthening livelihood

Globally, in 2013, UNDP provided 170,000 victims in affected areas with sustainable employment opportunities. This included vocational training and access to small grants and livestock, and social rehabilitation in countries such as **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon**.

- In **Egypt**, nearly 336 square kilometers of land were cleared for development purposes between 2007 and 2014. Assistance for mine-victims provided 241 amputees with artificial limbs; 72 received micro-credit loans.
- In **Cambodia** over 391,000 people (50 percent female) benefited from the clearance of 101 square kilometers between May 2011 and February 2016. The number of casualties from landmines and other ERW dropped from 4,320 in 1996 to 111 in 2015.
- In **Lebanon**, more than 68 square kilometers have been cleared, impacting positively on livelihoods in 298 villages. Around 97 percent of cleared land has been put to immediate socio-economic use.
- **Lao PDR** released 30 square kilometers of land in 2014, destroyed 14,051 unexploded ordnance (UXO), including 6,463 cluster munitions, and reached 62,694 beneficiaries in nine provinces.
- In **Yemen**, 162,000 displaced people returned to their homes in 2013. More than 1.6 million people benefited from Mine Risk Education activities in 2013.
- In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNDP supported the clearance of areas following the 2014 flooding which washed away mine awareness signs. Since 2008, over 10,000 tons of unsafe ammunition was destroyed.
- In **Angola**, more than 1,000 demining specialists trained with UNDP support have cleared over 160 square kilometers, and helped rid the country of over 297,000 anti-personnel mines, 9,508 anti-tank mines and 491,767 other pieces of ERW.

- In **Albania**, 86 survivors received prosthetic devices at a newly equipped and refurbished repair workshop. A total of 185 community organizations implemented small-scale development projects.

Building capacity

- In **Colombia**, UNDP focused on knowledge generation and information management. The new interface integrated landmine accidents within the national health surveillance system.
- In **Lao PDR**, the efficiency of clearance actions was enhanced, and included a new survey methodology for the national UXO clearance body which aligned it with international standards and increased NGO participation in these activities.
- **Azerbaijan** set up a fully functioning mine action agency with the support of UNDP, which integrated sustainable development considerations and now shares experiences with other countries, including **Afghanistan, Georgia and Turkey**.
- In **Tajikistan**, UNDP has been helping to develop the capacity of the National Mine Action Centre, through a Transition to National Ownership strategy.

Developing international norms

- **Albania, Guinea Bissau, Jordan, Mozambique and Uganda** recently declared themselves free of known mine fields, meeting demining obligations under the APMBC with assistance from UNDP.
- **The Government of Mozambique** organized the 3rd Review Conference of the APMBC in the capital city of Maputo in June 2014 with UNDP support. The Maputo Declaration will guide the implementation of the APMBC until 2019.
- UNDP served as the implementation support office of the **CCM** from its adoption in 2010 until 2015.
- UNDP has assisted the governments of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Mozambique** to complete the destruction of all reported quantities of cluster munitions, allowing both countries to declare compliance with Article 3 of the CCM.

For more information, visit: www.undp.org

United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

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