

IN COUNTRY

Mine Action in the Field

The principle responsibility for taking action against the presence of landmines ultimately rests with the government of the affected state. Yet the response on the part of a government can be determined by any number of political, economic or social factors. In most countries where contamination is severe, the sustainment of national mine action programmes is generally given high priority. By the end of 1998, some 30 countries were receiving some degree of UN technical assistance, ranging from awareness programmes to assessment missions.

Fully operational mine action programmes are capable of initiating all phases of awareness, clearance, victims assistance and advocacy. The size and scope of programmes vary, taking into account critical factors like the degree of contamination, basic needs, resources and the political situation of the recipient countries.

Assessment missions examine the requirements associated with each component of a comprehensive and integrated mine action plan. An evaluation is made taking into account the following: the willingness of all parties to support a mine action programme; the impact of mines on the population from humanitarian, health, socio-economic and developmental perspectives; the security situation; and local capacities for mine action. Assessment missions are conducted in cooperation with the UN coordinator in country and in consultation with local civilian and military authorities; UN agencies; the International Committee of the Red Cross; national and international NGOs; and diplomatic missions and representatives as required.

A Level One or General Survey is an information gathering process designed not only to identify the general location of mined or suspected mined areas, but also to measure the impact of landmine contamination on the civil society. Such surveys focus not only on collecting information for clearance activities but must also provide sufficient information to implement mine awareness and victim's assistance programmes as part of a complete national response. The determination of priorities as a result of this process will allow activities and resources to be focused on areas of greatest need.

The data collected during a survey can also be used to assist with ongoing resource mobilisation requirements, and to provide valuable information to donors as to the overall indicative cost to solve the mine-related problems. Additionally, the results of the survey can be used to review the previously determined requirements and limitations in order to assist with the planning, development and/or refinement of a

National Mine Action Programme.

Level Two Surveys are Technical Surveys. They determine and delineate the perimeter of mined locations initially identified in Level One Surveys. Level Two surveys require trained and properly equipped mine clearance personnel with the necessary skills to undertake and accurately record the survey work. The Level Three or Completion Survey is conducted in conjunction with the mine clearance teams and accurately records the area cleared.

All information gathered during the process comes from the perspective that landmines are first and foremost a humanitarian concern as well as being an impediment to sustainable social and economic development and rehabilitation. Therefore it is essential that the scope and nature of a country's landmine problem be defined in terms of its humanitarian and public health implications and that any programmatic activity address the impact of the problem on lives, livelihoods and the provision of humanitarian assistance.

Potential Countries for Level 1 Surveys

Azerbaijan	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Cambodia	Chad
Ecuador	Eritrea
Ethiopia	Iran
Mozambique	Iraq
Peru	Somalia
Sri Lanka	Thailand
Western Sahara	Yemen
Zimbabwe	

RESULTS OF RECENT ASSESSMENT MISSIONS

COUNTRY	azerbaijan	burundi	ethiopia	jordan	lebanon	somalia	sudan	yemen
IMPACT OF MINES / UXO ON: (low / medium / high)								
Repatriation of refugees	medium	medium	low	low	low	medium	high	low
Resettlement of IDPs	medium	low	medium	low	medium	medium	high	low
Delivery of humanitarian aid	low	medium	low	low	low	low	high	low
Settled Populations (casualties)	low	low	low	low	low	low	high	medium
Socio-economic Development	medium	low	low	low	medium	high	high	medium
Health	low	low	low	low	low	low	high	low
REQUIREMENT FOR ASSISTANCE (low / moderate / high)								
Victim assistance	low	low	low	moderate	moderate	moderate	high	moderate
Mine awareness	high	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	high	moderate
Survey and marking	high	low	high	low	high	high	high	high
Mine clearance	moderate	low	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	high
OTTAWA CONVENTION (ratified / signed / unsigned)	unsigned	signed	signed	ratified	unsigned	unsigned	signed	ratified

Countries where assessment missions are planned for 1999

Ecuador	Egypt
Eritrea	Honduras
Iran	Namibia
Nicaragua	Peru
Vietnam	Zimbabwe



PORTFOLIO OF MINE-RELATED PROJECTS

The first mine action programme was begun in 1988 in Afghanistan. Today, there are 14 integrated mine action programmes under UN auspices, or with the support of the UN. The number of partners involved in these programmes, both within the UN system and among international humanitarian organizations has also grown. With the establishment of new programmes, the involvement of new partners, and the development of increasingly diverse institutional arrangements, the need to clarify roles, responsibilities and resource requirements became apparent.

UNMAS has prepared a "Portfolio of Mine Action Projects." This document, developed in conjunction with the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, provides a comprehensive overview of mine-related projects. It is the first attempt at presenting a global picture of UN mine-related projects, their objectives, their implementing partners, their financial needs, and their financing mechanisms. Some of these projects are already included in country-specific consolidated appeals and some have no specific resource mobilization mechanisms. The Portfolio will be revised annually with quarterly updates and will be used as a means of ensuring complementarity between resource requirements for mine action programmes and the donors' priority areas for funding humanitarian assistance and development cooperation.



**Landmines exact a terrible toll and
bring hardships on individuals,
families and societies.**