



**Landmines
are indiscriminate
about their victims,
with a high percentage
being women
and children.**

INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR MINE AWARENESS EDUCATION

The International Guidelines for Mine and UXO Awareness Education are the result of an intensive consultation process involving donor countries, UN agencies, the ICRC and NGOs. The aim of this process was to develop practical and consensual recommendations for mine awareness education. UNICEF as the United Nations focal point for mine awareness education has been responsible for the development of the Guidelines which will be presented to the Mine Action community at the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention in Maputo, Mozambique.

The Guidelines represent an agreed set of steps and procedures required for effective programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. They should improve quality control, accountability and transparency. The title of the Guidelines acknowledges the fact that besides landmines, it is mostly unexploded ordnance (UXO) which cause harm, injuries and death to populations living in mine/UXO contaminated environments. The Guidelines have been developed to introduce programme planners and managers to issues, which are central to mine awareness. In four separate chapters, they address the programme cycle by referring to feasibility study, needs assessment, programme planning, monitoring and evaluation.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The humanitarian objectives and activities associated with mine action, including mine clearance and disposal, mine awareness, risk reduction education, mine victim assistance, and advocacy to promote a ban on anti-personnel landmines require the commitment of resources by Member States and other partners in the international community. Beginning with just one mine action programme in Afghanistan ten years ago, there are now 14 UN mine action operations with more planned in a number of other countries. Beyond country-specific mine action programmes, the UN needs to mobilize resources for regional and global efforts, especially in the areas of risk reduction education, information, advocacy, and policy development.

UNMAS, in its capacity as focal point, facilitates and monitors the overall mobilization of resources for mine action within the UN system. At a time when competing needs are pressing on limited resources, contributions by the donor community are key to sustaining the increased needs of mine action efforts worldwide. Funds and material resources by national governments and multilateral partners are the foundation of support for financing and implementing activities that fall under the mine action umbrella. UN headquarters coordination of mine action is sustained almost entirely from donor contributions, and most other mine-related programmes receive the major portion of their resources from funds specifically earmarked for mine action from contributing national governments and multilateral organizations.

However, as needs exceed projected available resources, the UN will need to develop strategies to expand the base of contributors and introduce non-traditional donors to mine action. Alliances with the private sector, public-private partnerships, and academia have significant potential for raising consciousness and resources. Media events to explain the issues, reveal the tragedies, highlight the work of the UN, and broadcast messages of hope to a broad audience also have exceptional educational value and fundraising potential. More needs to be done in this area, and UNMAS will consult with other UN partners to maximize the collaborative strength that will be required to achieve results.

There exist several funding mechanisms for receiving and disbursing funds provided by donors to support and implement mine action programmes. These include the Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action (VTF), the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund, and the UNDP country-specific trust funds, some specifically for demining operations, for Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia, Laos, and Mozambique. The trust fund for Afghanistan overseen by UNOCHA as well as the UNDP trust funds support mature mine action programmes which will need to be sustained on a long-term basis. These mine action programmes focus on building indigenous capacity as part of an overall and integrated socio-economic development programme.

The Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action, for which UNMAS is responsible, primarily finances the overall coordination of UN Mine Action, all emergency humanitarian programmes, assessment missions to monitor the scope of the landmine threat, the initiation of new mine action activities, and the bridging of funding delays. Funds through the VTF have been provided for mine action activities in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Laos, Latin America, Mozambique, Somalia, Tajikistan, and Yemen.

The VTF has received over US \$48.5 million since its inception. And though the majority of these funds have been earmarked for specific activities, unearmarked resources are extremely important in that they can be, if required, focused on emergency, high-priority, or underfunded needs prior to the development of a consolidated appeal.

UN agencies, programmes and funds with mine action programmes will continue to conduct their own fundraising activities, and UNMAS will coordinate to ensure that financing is channeled to these programmes in the most direct manner possible.

Since 1994, much has been accomplished under the VTF through the generous support of concerned donors. However, the enormous tasks that still lie before the international community require a renewed spirit of commitment and a realistic assessment of the achievable over a two, five, and ten-year period. For its part, UNMAS intends to further strengthen its partnerships with donors in the years ahead. More emphasis will be given to long-term programming requirements and the development of a strategic vision. Such long-term programming will require clearly developed objectives from UNMAS, a sustained level of commitment from the donors, the understanding that this partnership will be a major force in delivering hope to the mine-afflicted countries of the world.

Annual contributions to the VTF (In US \$)

1994 \$300,000

1995 \$16.3 million

1996 \$11.6 million

1997 \$8.1 million

1998 \$11.1 million

1999 \$1.5 million