

# Mid-Year Review

## Of the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2007

### I. INTRODUCTION

The aims of this Review are to:

- Inform donors and relevant stakeholders of funding trends and solicit continued donor support.
- Present mine action funding needs for the second half of 2007.
- Summarize progress made in achieving mine action goals and objectives.
- Outline major changes in the overall humanitarian/development/political context and the consequences for the implementation of mine action priorities in specific countries or territories.

Funding and substantive updates for the period of 1 January to 19 June 2007 were provided by 26 (out of 30) Country Portfolio Coordinators and by Headquarters Portfolio Team members. Funding analysis for the remaining four countries<sup>1</sup> was based on their last reported funding updates. Information about donors' contributions as reported by the Country Portfolio Coordinators will be made available in the "Funding Summary" document posted on [www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org).

### II. FINDINGS

#### A. Comparison of total reported funds received at mid-year points: 2005-2007

	2005 (as of June)	2006 (as of June)	2007 (as of June)
<b>Total Portfolio appeal</b>	\$387 million	\$443 million	\$440 million
<b>Total funds received</b>	\$213 million	\$133 million	\$236 million
<b>Share covered</b>	55 percent	30 percent	54 percent
<b>Shortfall</b>	\$174 million	\$310 million	\$204 million

The original total appeal amount for the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2007 was \$429 million at the time of its publication in November 2006. Since then, Chad has joined the Portfolio which added to the budget an additional \$7.7 million, and updates which included budget revisions and the addition of new projects have increased the total appeal amount by almost \$11 million.

While there were three fewer countries participating in the 2007 edition of the Portfolio as compared to the previous years, the total appeal remained more or less the same. This can be largely attributed to the \$33 million increases in the appeal amount for Lebanon and \$16 million for Afghanistan.

The Uganda Portfolio also expanded substantially in terms of the budget (an increase of \$5 million) and the number of projects: from four in 2006 to 19 in 2007.

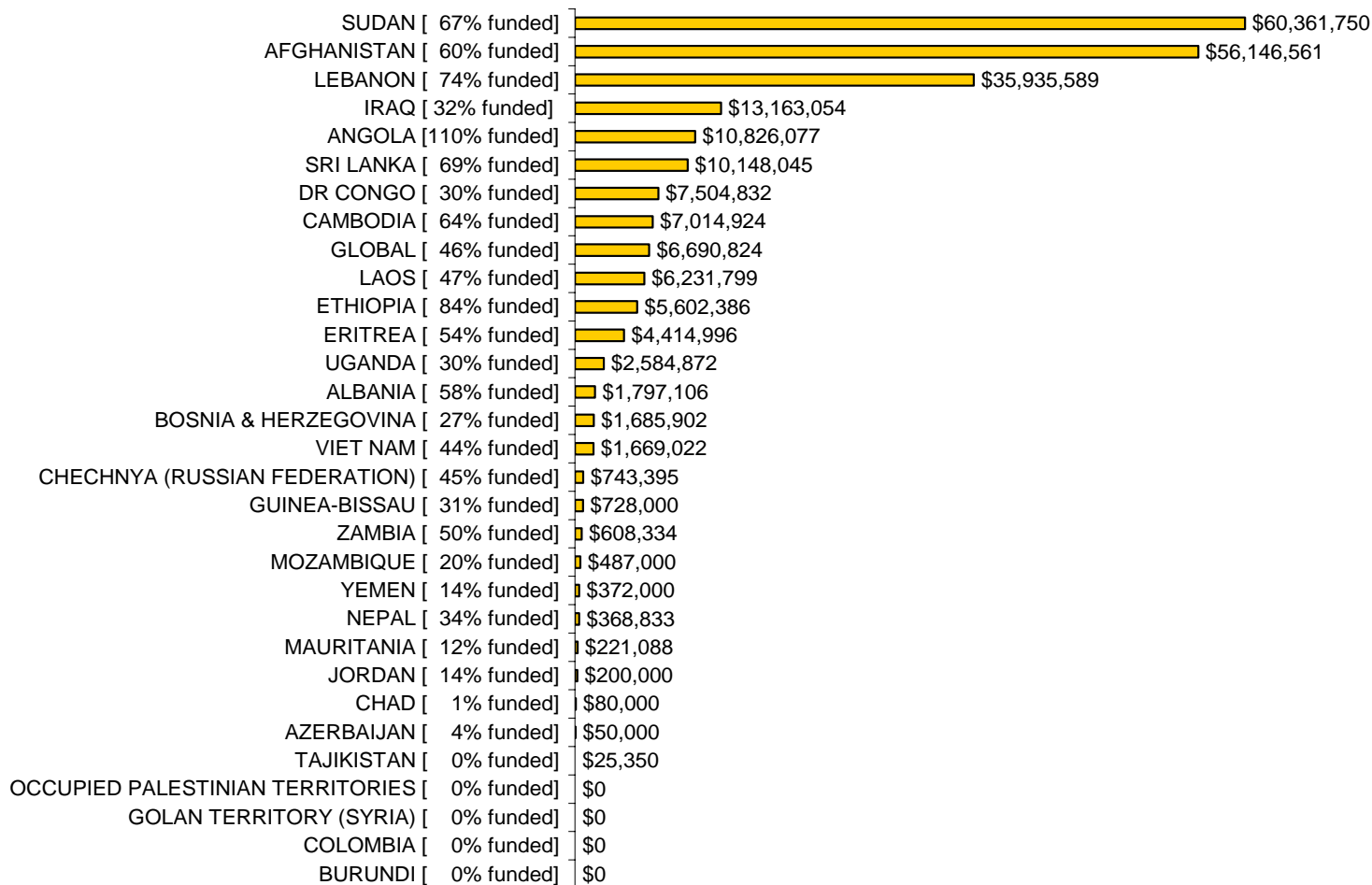
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<sup>1</sup> Burundi, Cambodia, Laos and Syria (Golan Territory)

Four countries (Albania, Cambodia, Angola and Iraq) submitted lower funding appeals in 2007, as compared to 2006.

The three countries that received the most funds between January and June 2007 are Sudan (\$60 million), Afghanistan (\$56 million), and Lebanon (\$35 million). These amounts combined represent about 64 percent of the total reported amount received for the entire 2007 Portfolio over the same period (\$236 million).

## B. Funds received by Countries/Territories or global projects



The above bar chart summarizes the funding situation for each country/territory and for global projects (not including pledges from donors).

Similar to 2005 and 2006, the majority of the countries in the Portfolio had received less than 50 percent of their funding by the year's mid-point.

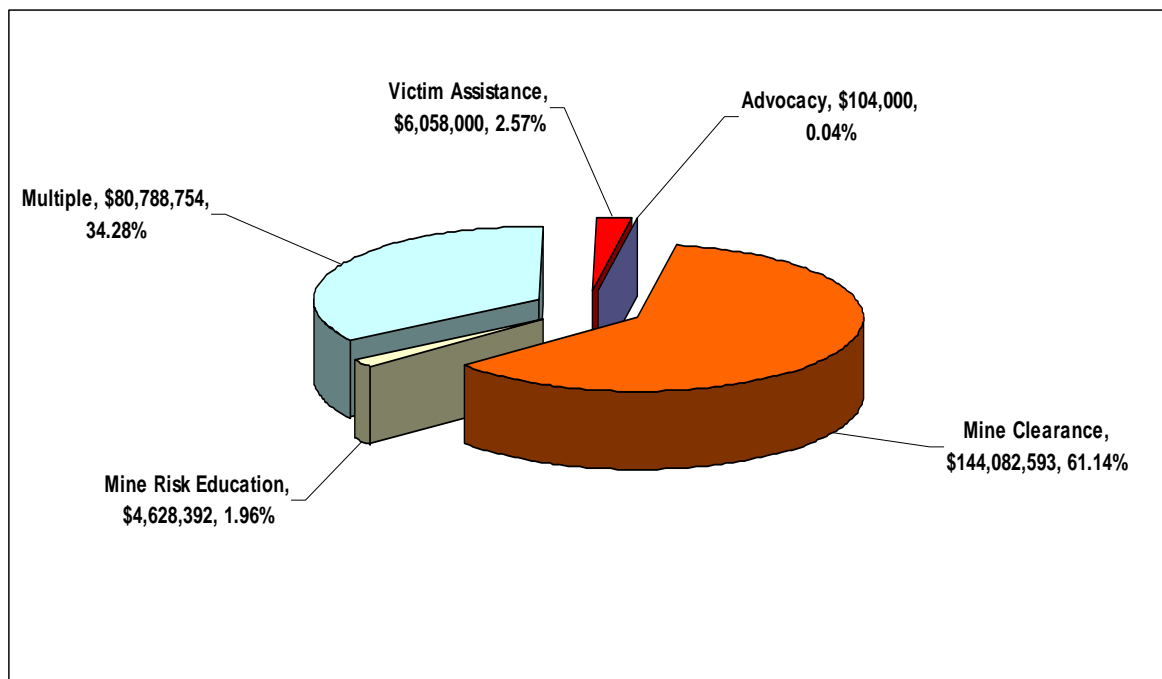
**Colombia** and **Occupied Palestinian Territories** are consistently under-funded.

**Tajikistan** received funding for the first time.

**Angola**, which was 57 percent funded in 2005 and only 31 percent in 2006, is now receiving funds totaling more than what was in the country's Portfolio 2007 appeal.<sup>2</sup>

The UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget accounted for more than 50 percent of the funds so far received by **Sudan** for 2007. In addition, approximately 9 percent of the funds received for Sudan were from the in-country pooled fund mechanism for humanitarian assistance called the Common Humanitarian Fund.

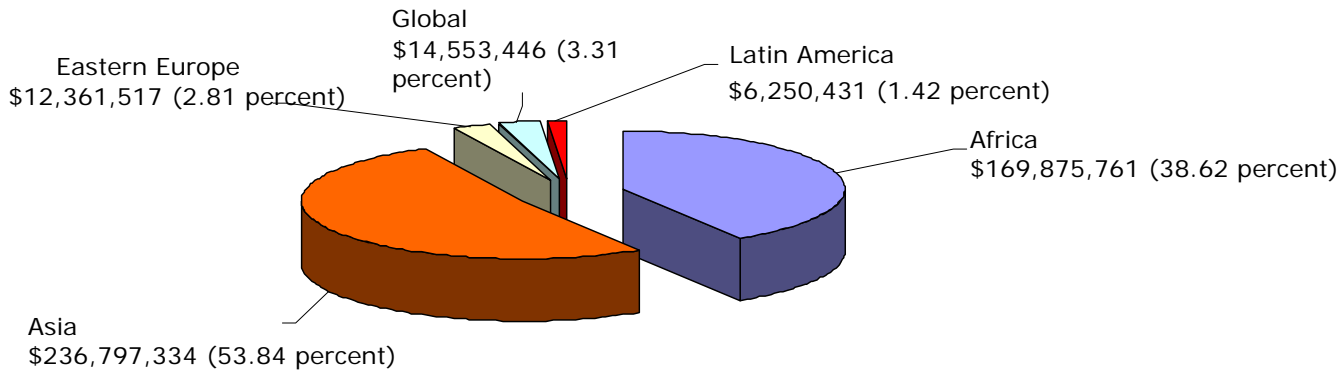
### C. Funds received by mine action pillar



Funding received for **mine clearance projects** accounted for 61 percent of the \$236 million received so far for the entire 2007 Portfolio. This share is high compared to the 48 percent mark reached mid-year in 2005 and 2006. Compared to previous years' mid-points, support for mine risk education has fallen (4 percent of total amount received at mid-year 2005, 3 percent at mid-year 2006, and less than 2 percent for the current review).

### D. Funds received by region and for global projects:

<sup>2</sup> The calculation of the percentage is based on total funds received divided by total budget.




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The regional breakdown of the funds received remains similar to the 2005 and 2006 statistics, Lebanon and Afghanistan. Sudan has received over 1/3 of the funds provided to the Africa region.

**E. News on the Portfolio process**

The Somalia Portfolio submission is scheduled to be available online on [www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org) by early September 2007.

Country Portfolio Teams in over 30 countries are working on the 2008 edition of the Portfolio, which will be launched on 20 November 2007.

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For more information, please contact the Headquarters Portfolio Team in New York at [dpko-mines-portfolio@un.org](mailto:dpko-mines-portfolio@un.org)

## **III. Country Updates**

### **AFGHANISTAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)**

#### **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA) reduced the number of communities that had been contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) from a total of 2,278 at the end of 2006 to 2,180 by April 2007, according to the latest available data for the year. The number of victims so far in 2007 has averaged 44 per month, a decrease from the average of 63 per month in 2006.

The MAPA has released a total of 31,541,446 square metres of land to Afghans during the period from January through April 2007. During that clearance, the MAPA destroyed 131 anti-tank mines, 5,725 anti-personnel mines and 400,474 pieces of UXO.

In addition to its humanitarian efforts, the MAPA has cleared mines and UXO to release land for crucial reconstruction projects. The MAPA has completed demining almost all of Kabul International Airport, the country's biggest and most vital transportation hub. The MAPA has also cleared a corridor of land extending through northern Afghanistan for a powerline that will bring much needed electricity from Uzbekistan to Kabul and neighboring provinces.

#### **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

Attacks on demining teams have been increasing throughout the country. Direct attacks on mine action personnel have injured 16 deminers and killed six so far in 2007, compared to direct attack incidents that injured six deminers and killed four deminers in all of 2006. Seventeen deminers were kidnapped in June 2007 in the province of Ghazni and were released almost one week later. These attacks against deminers have also resulted in the theft or destruction of mine action vehicles and ambulances, personal protective equipment and mine detection dogs. The MAPA is currently restricted from working in the provinces of Helmand, Zabul, Nimroz, Nuristan, Kunar, most parts of Kandahar and in some parts of Wardak due to deteriorating security in those regions.

#### **3. Implications of funding gaps**

Due to changes in international funding modalities and delays in contributions of some funds, MAPA humanitarian demining assets were reduced by close to 40 percent in 2007. Some of these released personnel joined commercial activities where possible, while others were made redundant. However, thanks to the mobilization of the international community, the MAPA received much needed contributions by early 2007.

Despite those generous contributions, the MAPA is short of the total requirement of \$92,940,593 needed to meet obligations under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and the country's two national strategic plans, the Afghanistan Compact and

Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). The MAPA requires adequate, multi-year funding in 2007 and coming years to sustain its humanitarian operations.

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# **ALBANIA**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

The Government has confirmed its interest in the Albanian Mine Action Programme (AMAP) and renewed its willingness to contribute to the Programme.

Again in 2007 the contribution of the Government is mainly through provision of explosives and helicopter service in support of possible MEDEVAC during clearance operations and also funding some victim assistance projects which in turn induced a positive reaction from the donor community fostering their interest in continuing funding the AMAP.

With international assistance through the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a draft mine action law has been prepared and is waiting to be passed by parliament.

A GICHD evaluation team visited Albania from 14 to 26 May 2007 and had meetings with all major stakeholders in Tirana and Kukës, including representatives from the Government, UN organizations, donors, local authorities, mine-affected communities and final beneficiaries. A draft report has been produced by the Team and is being commented on by the United Nations Development Programme's Country Office, the Deputy Minister of Defence/Albanian Mine Action Centre Chairman and the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE).

### **Mine and UXO clearance**

The Portfolio includes one clearance project by DanChurchAid/National Clearance Capacity, the only demining organization working in Albania. A total area of 48,829 square metres has been cleared by this project as of the end of June 2007. On the whole, the release of land progressed according to the Mine Clearance Plan. However, this project is facing a shortfall of \$523,000 to continue operating through the demining season. The demining assets include six manual demining teams.

### **Mine risk education**

For the UNICEF project (P04-AL04), the total funding has been pledged from the US State Department through the International Trust Fund, while for the other UNICEF project (P06-AL01), \$27,000 has been pledged out of a total of \$94,000 required from UNICEF which will be used for teacher training and monitoring activities. The two Albanian Red Cross (ARC) projects are partially funded by the ICRC.

Both ARC and the local NGO Victims of Mine and Arms-Kukësi Association (VMA) are conducting mine risk education activities for the reporting period, targeting the most affected groups. As of the end of June 2007 no mine accidents or incidents have been recorded with the population in northeast Albania, where there is full coverage with mine risk education services.

### **Victim assistance**

The Portfolio includes six victim assistance projects aimed at addressing the needs of over 230 injured people.

The UN Development Programme received funding from the US Department of State through the International Trust Fund for its project (P04-AL05), which will be used

for the treatment of 30 mine/UXO survivors. A project by the Ministry of Health (P06-AL03) has been partially funded by the Albanian Government, which will be used for the reconstruction of the National Ortho-Prosthetic Centre in Tirana. The remaining four projects have not yet secured funding.

In general, victim assistance has made good progress during the reporting period, and this is contributing to the overall goal to build a sustainable national capacity able to provide assistance and promote reintegration of mine survivors.

### **Coordination and monitoring**

The Portfolio includes one project by the UN Development Programme in support of the AMAP. This project received \$258,000 from European Commission through the UN Development Programme's Albania Country Office and \$200,000 from the UN Development Programme's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery BCPR in 2007.

This includes provision of technical assistance and support to regular running of the AMAE Offices in Tirana and Kukës. These funding allowed AMAE in 2007 to regularly continue its function in coordinating and monitoring all mine action activities in the country. The Quality Management Team established in the Kukës Regional Office monitored the demining operations and quality controlled the area cleared by DanChurchAid.

The Information Management System for Mine Action in the Kukës Regional Office continuously supports demining operations.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on funding needs**

N/A

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

### **Mine and UXO clearance**

Even though demining operations have not yet been fully funded, the overall objective of releasing some 700,000 square metres of land in 2007 is achievable with the capacity currently deployed if total funding is obtained. This outcome will provide a good basis for the achievement of the main goal of the AMAP to declare Albania free from mines by 2010.

### **Mine risk education**

All mine affected areas in northern Albania could be covered with mine risk education activities carried out by the local NGOs VMA and ARC. Please note that from June 2007, VMA has worked on a voluntary basis performing very basic activities in mine risk education due to lack of funding, while waiting for the pledged funds from donors.

There is also a crucial need for the funds to the project P06-AL01 submitted by UNICEF, as it aims to integrate mine risk education into the school curricula through the application of two manuals for teachers and students in Kukës Prefecture. It should be noted that this project has been posted for two years in the Portfolio, but limited funding has been provided so far.

**victim assistance**

There is a critical need for funding in this sector with particular reference to the projects that can contribute to income generating activities for mine survivors and their families and in the health sector as well. This is much needed in order to have a sustainable Victim Assistance capacity in the country.

**Coordination and Monitoring**

Coordination and Monitoring has been fully funded for 2007, allowing AMAE to prioritize, task, coordinate and monitor all mine action activities in the country.

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# **ANGOLA**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

Strategic planning guidance is being prepared to assist provinces in developing task oriented, achievable annual work plans from 2008 to 2011. It has been recorded by the national mine action data base that 379,698 square metres of minefield were cleared from 1 January to 30 June 2007, and 1,053 Anti personnel mines, 5 anti-tank mines, 1,352 unknown devices and 3,428 UXO were destroyed.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

There have not been any significant changes in the context.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

There is sufficient funding; however, failure to equitably distribute funds and lack of funds for P07-AN02 and P07-AN03 makes it difficult to plan and implement mine action activities for 2007.

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# **AZERBAIJAN**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

In 2007 mine action activities covered all mine affected territories of Azerbaijan. Demining operations were conducted in seven districts: Aghdam, Aghstafa, Fizuli, Ganja, Goranboy, Terter and Khojavend. About 10 million square metres of land have been released from mines and UXO during from January through June 2007. Mine risk education and victim assistance have been also implemented for internally displaced persons from occupied districts.

Targets have been defined according to the National Mine Action Strategic Plan for 2004-2008, based on the results of the Landmine Impact Survey, emergency requests and priorities set by the Government.

The main task was the area reduction in Zobjug area of 19 million square metres in Fizuli district to ensure that construction of settlements for 2,104 internally displaced persons would be safe from the threat of mines/UXO. About 12 million square metres of land have already been cleared, mainly through mechanical demining. More than 4,500 locals in Terter and Aghdam benefited from clearance of about 50 houses and five schools.

Mine risk education sessions in 25 communities in Aghdam, Aghjabedi and Khanlar districts involved more than 4,000 local residents. Twelve billboards were installed in the mine-affected areas. Additional mine risk education materials (books, posters, stickers) among schools of six districts have been distributed.

Victim assistance, including medical care, advocacy, income-generation opportunities and community empowerment, has been provided.

All of the above, besides victim assistance, have been implemented through projects that are not in the Portfolio.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a dynamically developing country and implements a series of state programs covering war-torn territories that include mine risk education and mine clearance activities. Resettlement of internally displaced persons who are temporarily situated in camps and freight cars and their social and economic development are also affected by mine action activities. Mine and UXO clearance also ensures the safe living conditions for the people living close to contaminated areas, opens economic access to the land and creates income generation and employment opportunities.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

At present there are no funds available for implementation of the project for suspected area reduction and mechanical clearance. It impedes further development of mechanical capacity and massive reduction of suspected hazardous areas, as included in the National Mine Action Strategic Plan which was developed based on Landmine Impact Survey data.

Mine risk education activities envisaged by the projects in the Portfolio were postponed affecting especially development of community based mine risk education and the dissemination of safe behavior rules to at-risk populations.

Lack of funds also affects timely and full-scale implementation of VA projects developed based on the requirements identified as the result of the Countrywide Needs Assessment Survey in 2004 and requests from mine survivors mainly in vocational rehabilitation, self-employment and business opportunities.

These all have an impact on planning not only for ANAMA, but also for development of sustainable cooperation with those NGOs that took part in preparing project proposals. Therefore, objectives and expected outcomes for 2007 have been set back.

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## **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

### **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

Mine action activities positively influenced local populations and communities, eliminating risk in impacted communities and facilitating their development.

### **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

The elections had a negative influence on the implementation of strategic plans due to the long delay in the forming of the newly-elected Government. This did not influence agreed mine action priorities.

### **3. Implications of funding gaps**

Insufficient funding reduced expected outcomes of the proposed projects. That is also the main reason that mine action initiatives planned for the first six months of 2007 were not conducted. The delay of tender invitations also affected the realization of planned mine action activities.

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## **CHAD**

### **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

In Chad, the number of mine/UXO victims increased from 35 in 2005 to 141 in 2006 and to 150 for the first six months of 2007.

The only funds available for 2007 are \$321,840 for battle area clearance provided by the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in mid-2006, \$40,000 allocated by UNDP Chad to maintain technical assistance support and \$40,000 allocated by Canada for battle area clearance as a supplement to BCPR's above contribution.

MineTech was selected through a UN Office for Project Services tender for a battle area clearance project, and a three-month contract was signed. It was then extended until 23 July 2007 thanks to the Canadian contribution.

Clearance of two of the 11 areas identified for clearance has been completed. The remaining area will be cleared within the on-going contract.

### **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

Attacks by the rebels in 2006 and early 2007 have resulted in a huge UXO contamination in the capital city and in the eastern region of Chad. Due to this new contamination, the number of accidents increased dramatically in 2006 and 2007 especially among children. Therefore, responding to the threat posed by this contamination has become a national priority.

### **3. Implications of funding gaps**

Due to insufficient funding in 2006, the 2006 programme and objectives were delayed into 2007. If there are no new contributions in 2007, the programme and objectives will be delayed to 2008.

The first consequence is the increasing number of victims. The second is that Chad will not be able to meet its obligations within the Ottawa Treaty by 2009. Before the end of the year, Chad will need to ask for an extension of its deadline. Due to lack of funding so far this year, the planned technical survey has not been implemented, making it very difficult to estimate how much extension will be required.

Local associations for the handicapped proposed various projects through the Portfolio for the last four years; they are discouraged by the lack of financial support.

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# **COLOMBIA**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

Mine action activities in Colombia are being strengthened all the time. However, there are still some significant gaps in the accessibility to service provision in the victims' assistance processes. This year has seen an overall improvement in attention to survivors through the construction of new rehabilitation centers and accordingly there has been an increase in the number of survivors who have accessed their rights and claimed benefits.

In addition, the local population has benefited from the increase of field-based Mine Risk Education projects and a further push by local authorities, UN agencies and NGOs in the promotion of mine action awareness (advocacy). For the most part, these improvements cover only the communities near the main cities and leave behind rural communities which, to date, have not been reached by such programs.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

The election process and the birth of new non-state armed groups have affected security conditions in which the Mine Action programs are developed. It is mandatory to improve the security conditions for mine action implementers and affected communities.

In some locations, the presence of armed groups is a threat to the participation of the local population in fora where issues such as landmines are discussed and as such this threatens the development of mine action programming, particularly the delivery of life-saving prevention messages and information on how to access basic services, in some of the most rural and isolated areas.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

The Portfolio Country team feels that the portfolio mechanism has not been effective in Colombia, since funds have failed to be generated despite efforts made to coordinate a common strategy. The lack of funding has affected the possibility to develop many activities proposed in the 2007 Portfolio. Since 2005 Colombia has registered more than 1,100 victims per year, the highest number of new victims in any country, equating to approximately three new victims each day. The increased use of these devices by the illegal armed groups has meant that the number of victims has risen year on year, reaching 1,112 in 2005 and 1,107 in 2006. Presently, 31 of Colombia's 32 departments are reported to be affected by landmines and UXO; or 62% of all the country's municipalities. While the accident figures increase daily and the number of affected municipalities only increases, the necessity to provide a response to mitigate the threat to communities living in 31 affected departments is overdue.

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# **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

Activities in all five humanitarian mine action pillars consolidated across the country during the period under review. Three international NGOs were operational across the country: Mines Advisory Group (MAG) with activities in South Katanga and Equateur also launched a Small Arms and Light Weapons project to assist with the destruction of stockpiles and arms associated with the ongoing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration process. In collaboration with UNICEF, MAG also launched an "Ambassador for Mines Programme" appointing the famous Congolese singer Papa Wemba, "the King of Rumba Rock", as an Ambassador in the fight against landmines. A very successful inauguration concert was held on 4 April and an ensuing country-wide media awareness campaign, with the assistance from the Press Information Section of the MONUC peacekeeping mission, was launched. Danish Church Aid (DCA) expanded operations from North Katanga toward South Kivu and Maniema, deploying Rapid Response Teams with clearance, explosive ordnance disposal, survey and mine risk education capacity in all three provinces. Handicap International (HI) concentrated operations around the city of Kisangani, which is still contaminated by mines from previous wars.

In the early months of the year there were frequent new reports of mines found in the Ituri area, mainly attributed to the increased movement of Foreign Armed Elements. MONUC's commercial demining contractor, MECHEM, was involved in the survey and clearance of suspected and contaminated areas. MECHEM also engaged in humanitarian clearance along the pipeline feeding water to the city of Bunia.

Thanks to a quick impact grant from MONUC, one major Kinshasa based orthopedic center was refurbished with new tools and a generator. The refurbishment of the center means its capacity for receiving mine victims has increased considerably. Nevertheless, there remains a great gap in medical treatment capacity, especially in terms of experts, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Local NGOs continued their vital work of delivering mine risk education to people in hard-to-reach areas, ensuring that those most vulnerable to explosive remnants of war (ERW) are able to protect themselves from the risks.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

A new post-transition Government was officially formed at the beginning of the year, and the mine action community has subsequently worked to ensure that mine action concerns were placed firmly on the agenda. With the assistance of local NGOs, especially Ministry of Refugees and Emergencies of the Church of Christ in the Congo, the Mine Action Coordination Centre met with parliamentarians and Government representatives to advocate for the adoption of a National Law on Mine Action. In collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross and several other national and international mine action partners, a draft national law on mine action was successfully finalized and is due to be adopted by the new Government in the near future.

The period under review saw a new wave of instability and insecurity across the country. In January, an army mutiny resulted in violence breaking out in the town of

Bunia in Ituri, followed later in the month by politically related violence in Bas-Congo which resulted in significant civilian casualties. Three days of heavy fighting in Kinshasa which happened in March meant that MECHEM had to be deployed from Bunia to help clean up ERW throughout the capital. Since April, there has been significant concern with regard to a return to open conflict in the Kivus, particularly in the North, where renewed ethnic tensions and the tenuous return of the 81<sup>st</sup> and 83<sup>rd</sup> brigades to the Army have contributed to general insecurity. Currently, operations in the area are being down scaled to a minimum.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is still facing serious threats of renewed violence, particularly in the east, which is of constant concern, not only with regard to the safety of mine action operators, but also in that it could disrupt current activities. A return to open war will require an expansion of operations to provide assistance to new or already cleared areas.

In January, neighboring Tanzania started a programme of expelling all Congolese refugees living within its territory, thus a large scale mine risk education for returnees was launched in Katanga. Refugees also began to return, in increasingly large numbers, from Congo Brazzaville, with as many as 4,000 arriving in Equateur by the end of March. National and international NGOs in the area collaborated with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Office for Project Services to reach all those concerned with awareness campaigns and mine risk education.

Because of increased humanitarian and development activity as a result of the post-transition phase, mine action partners worked increasingly with other UN Agencies. For instance, DCA cooperated with MONUC, who provided logistical support to destroy stockpiles in Kindu, Maniema. HI worked alongside MONUC with the same goals in mind in the Kisangani area and as already mentioned both MAG and DCA worked with UNCHR to deliver mine risk education to returnees. This kind of collaboration strengthens the work of mine action organizations, and will continue to be sought in the future.

### **3. Implications of funding gaps**

Funding remains a concern with regard to the problem of mines and ERW in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Activities conducted have to be strictly prioritized. A major concern is the lack of resources for movement of clearance personnel and material, meaning that areas of concern are often not reached. The provision of mine risk education is being used to mitigate the risks that this poses.

Lack of funding is also a worry in the victim assistance pillar, where the shortage of expert medical staff is a serious concern. This means that in the best of cases victims have to wait an extremely long time to be fitted with prosthetics, and in the worst case that they are either not fitted or fitted without proper medical follow up.

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# **ERITREA**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

### **Portfolio project: P04-ER01**

Continuous assessment of the mine and UXO situation and the respective impact in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) and Area of Operations (AA) remains the focus of the Mine Action Coordination Centre of the UNMEE peacekeeping mission in Eritrea. The programme maintains its operational focus on the areas of the TSZ to support mobility of the UNMEE Peacekeeping Force (PKF) and Military Observers as well as continuous and comprehensive mine risk education and humanitarian assistance. Areas of focus and achieved outcomes include:

- a) Continuation of a Quality Assurance system in the TSZ with regular assessments to the mine risk education, EOD and contractor operations. This Programme continues to be developed and enhanced to accommodate current and changing operational and geographical factors.
- b) Over 400,000 local civilians (close to 10 percent of the total population) have received mine risk education since commencement of the UNMEE Mine Action Coordination Centre's mine risk education programme in Eritrea and over 40,000 from January to July 2007. This increase in the number of beneficiaries has clearly reflected on the number of fatalities in mine accidents, which was lower than previous records.
- c) The Route Verification project commenced this year and covered over 2,300 kilometres since 1 March 2007 to the present. Road clearance continues, with a total area of over 1,400 kilometres cleared for the same reporting period. These activities have enabled a greater and more reliable mobility of UNMEE civilian and military personnel and, an overall enhancement in the delivery of the mandated tasks, as well as reliable mobility of the returning internally displaced persons.
- d) A decrease in area clearance in comparison to the final half of the year is predicted. Restrictions imposed on the movement of personnel and assets, as well as operations restrictions, have affected mobility and access to certain areas requiring strategic operations.

### **Portfolio projects: P06-ER01, P06-ER02 and P06-ER03 inclusive**

In accordance with feedback received from the relevant stakeholders, there were no resources mobilized under the 2007 Portfolio and respective funding appeal.

P06-ER01 & P06-ER02: The support granted by UNDP to the Eritrean Demining Authority (EDA) for Mine Clearance has been based on the existing capacity building funding (from the UN Development Programme's core budget) for Emergency and Recovery Assistance. UNDP has also received modest fund from Central Emergency Response Fund for 2007. The allocated funding has support areas with internally displaced persons, as well as EDA support to activities, but to a limited extent due to a limitation of resources.

P06-ER03: No victim assistance activities are taking place in Eritrea.

### **Portfolio project: P06-ER05**

No funding was received in 2007, however, some results were achieved using previous years funding.

- a) In 2007, 16,000 emergency mine risk education brochures were produced and will be distributed to approximately 8,000 resettled households of internally

displaced persons and to an estimated 7,400 households in low to highly mine/ERW-impacted areas.

- b) EDA mine risk education field teams and mine risk education community volunteers will ensure that every household receives a mine risk education emergency brochure and this will be followed by a briefing. A 20-minute videotape entitled 'Reducing Risky Behavior' has been developed by UNICEF and EDA in two local languages (Tigre and Tigrinya) for use in child focused activities.
- c) Mine risk education radio programmes are continually aired through the national radio of Eritrea in the most spoken languages of the country to reach the areas hardest to reach. The programmes address the dangers and fatalities of landmines and ERW in order to bring about behavioral change among the landmine/ERW impacted population.
- d) A mine risk education training manual was finalized and a four-day training of trainers session was organized in May 2007. Mine risk education facilitators of the EDA and schoolteachers from the six regions participated. The standardized mine risk education training manual will be used by all mine risk education instructors throughout the country as well as mine risk education field teams. The training manual will help learners to understand the dangers of landmines/ERW, develop careful and responsible behaviors in an area contaminated by landmines/UXO and improving landmines/UXO safety at the community level.
- e) A total of 62,394 local civilians (31,178 male and 29,057 females including 42,966 children) in 5 zobas/regions and 152 villages/communities were reached by mine risk education information which was disseminated by 10 mine risk education field teams of the EDA for the period of March to May 2007.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

No major political and/or humanitarian developments have occurred during the first half of the year in Eritrea.

Despite the commitment of the programme and stakeholders to target high impacted areas and to ensure continuous humanitarian assistance to the local civilians, the restrictions imposed by the Government on movement of assets and personnel, shortage of fuel as well as continuous impediment to air/surface movement in the country have negatively affected the programme's ability to perform at full capacity.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

### **Portfolio: P04-ER01**

The funding granted for the mine action operations in Eritrea covers the programme associated costs. No implications and/or delays on the activities have been observed as a direct result of any funding issues.

### **Portfolio: P06-ER01 to P06-ER05 inclusive**

The mine action counterparts have reported on the impact of the projects due to the inexistence of funds from the Portfolio appeal and aspire to obtain some of the funding to cover the costs as budgeted for each project and presented in the Portfolio 2007.

### **Portfolio: P06-ER03**

The allocation of funding and the establishment of a Victim Assistance Programme are perceived as critical and an essential mine action activity, in particular given that there are approximately 70,000 mine victims in the country (according to information received from UNDP).

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# **GUINEA BISSAU**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

Surface clearance in Bissau (Paiol de Bra) is almost finished. Sub-surface clearance in three places in the same location totaling approximately 400,000 square metres has begun.

Intense clearance has started at Ilonde site, 15 kilometres from Bissau. Clearance has been completed at Prabis site which is 25 kilometres from Bissau.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

After the landmine impact survey study is completed and contamination lands are known, a comprehensive plan for the stakeholders will be prepared.

The programme tried to respond to the armed forces' request related to destruction of stockpiled ammunition which was in bad condition.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

To achieve those goals referred above (landmine impact survey and stockpile destruction), some financial support and logistical support, such as heavy mechanical equipment, kits for deminers, explosive ordnance disposal, and explosives, are needed.

Currently, it is very difficult to maintain the two national NGOs (Humaid and Lutcam) until the end of the year. Some support is also sought to maintain mine risk education and victim assistance activities.

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# **IRAQ**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

UNICEF, the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Danish Demining Group (DDG), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and the Iraqi Health and Social Care Organization (IHSCO) continued to work on reducing the impact of mines and UXO through strengthening national capacity to plan and manage mine risk education activities and promoting safe behaviours among populations, which in turn contributed to reducing injuries and casualties. Mine risk education focused on community awareness raising, training of trainers at schools, high risk populations and assisting the Regional Mine Action Centre in data collection and victim surveillance. Different types of materials from 11 NGOs and Government entities working for mine action in Iraq have been reviewed. The review contributed to the improvement of mine risk education materials.

NGOs are playing a leading role in providing victim assistance at the field level. For instance, the Kurdistan Organization for Rehabilitation for Disabled (KORD) is targeting the most vulnerable victims with physical rehabilitation, vocational training services and self-employment opportunities.

Building on such an NGO, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have initiated a new joint programme on victim assistance in northern Iraq. Through local NGOs, the programme supports a full cycle of victim assistance, consisting of physical and psychological rehabilitation, vocational training and access to micro credits. This two-year programme also facilitates joint Government-NGO planning of victim assistance with a view to increasing the national capacity. Once the security situation improves in the rest of the country, the programme intends to expand further to the center and south of the country if additional funding is provided.

Meanwhile, another UN Joint Programme (UNDP, UNICEF and WHO) on injury surveillance supports a mechanism for systematic surveillance that leads toward comprehensive assistance to victims: advocating for and promoting their rights to adequate standards of living, health, non discrimination and access to basic services.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

The deteriorating security situation and humanitarian exigencies directly impact on Governmental consultations, as well as implementation of mine action projects in Iraq. The political upheaval, kidnapping of counterpart staff, including the Director-General of the National Mine Action Authority, and threats on their lives have adversely affected the effectiveness of their daily work.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

The UN took extra caution in planning activities for 2007 due to limited available funding. It is becoming a trend to link mine action with other developmental projects to maximize the effectiveness of available funding. For instance, mine risk education activities have been linked with area-based interventions and other activities under child protection, while mine clearance is linked with agricultural development in southern Iraq.

In the first half of 2007, the Government of Japan and AusAID have provided support for victim assistance, mine risk education and needs-based mine clearance through UNDP and UNICEF with nongovernmental implementing partners. NGOs need increased funding as they remain to be key players for direct service delivery to communities.

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# **LEBANON**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

The national priority and main mine action activities in 2007 remain in areas contaminated during the 2006 conflict in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese Government has placed the majority of their clearance assets in southern Lebanon, and all internationally funded clearance organizations are working in this area.

To date, the estimated cluster munition-contaminated area in southern Lebanon totaled 37,134,895 million square metres. The Mine Action Coordination Centre in south Lebanon (MACC-SL), established in 2002 by the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (formally known as the National Demining Office, or NDO), is a tripartite structure consisting of the United Nations (United Nations Mine Action Service), the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) representing the NDO and UAE representatives. MACC-SL provides operational coordination, planning and quality assurance functions and is responsible for the management of clearance operations in southern Lebanon, and continues to find additional strike areas. This trend is likely to continue until Israel provides exact strike data on the type, location and quantity of cluster munitions dropped during the 2006 conflict.

As of 30 June, Lebanon Mine Action Centre through MACC-SL coordinated the return of 7% of the estimated contaminated area of 37,134,895 million square metres in south Lebanon to the communities as a result of actions other than clearance. About 17% has been fully cleared down to a depth of 20 centimetres, and a further 31% has been cleared of all surface threat and is subject to further evaluation as to whether it will also require to be cleared down to 20 centimetres. About 45% remain uncleared.

In May, the Lebanon Mine Action Centre Director requested the UN component of MACC-SL (UNMACC) to maintain its liaison function between UNIFIL and the LAF via the Lebanon Mine Action Centre, maintain its current structure and tasks in southern Lebanon and be available to provide technical, operational and strategic advice to the LAF Engineering Regiment and Lebanon Mine Action Centre for all planning, implementation, monitoring and completion of clearance operations including those areas in central and north Lebanon throughout 2008.

In accordance with the stated 2007 objective, the current aim is to continue clearance through to the end of 2007 "so that by the end of 2007 civilian casualties are significantly reduced and the explosive remnants of war impact from the summer 2006 conflict no longer impedes basic and daily community and agricultural activities and is effectively neutralized. Additionally, through the United Arab Emirates supported 'Operations Emirates Solidarity II' project, the remaining landmines in South Lebanon (excluding those laid along/adjacent to the Blue Line) will be removed."

Mine risk education activities in Lebanon have reduced the number of new mine victims due to cluster munitions but many Lebanese continue to exhibit risky behaviour possibly due to the economic value of contaminated land. Victim assistance activities in Lebanon continue to be under-funded.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

### **Humanitarian-development context**

Tragically, the continued threat from ERW, specifically unexploded sub-munitions, continues to pose danger to the lives of locals and hinders development and reconstruction activities. In southern Lebanon, the contamination of agricultural areas poses a great economic obstacle to local communities.

Between 14 August 2006 and 30 June 2007, 198 civilians were injured and 23 civilians were killed as a result of cluster munitions. Males 19 years of age and older are most affected. For detailed gender and age-disaggregated data, please visit the Lebanon Mine Action Centre or MACC-SL websites at [www.lebamac.org](http://www.lebamac.org) or [www.maccsl.org](http://www.maccsl.org).

Clearance and mine risk education helped reduce ERW casualty rates from 108 civilian casualties and 18 fatalities between July-September 2006 to 66 civilian casualties and 1 fatality from Oct – Dec 06, down to 30 civilian casualties and 1 fatality between Jan – June 07.

### **Political Context**

The current political and security crisis in Lebanon has affected some aspects of mine action. Increased security and political tensions during the early part of 2007 followed by the crisis in the Nahr El Bared Palestinian Refugee Camp in northern Lebanon has decreased the number of national assets available for mine clearance activities. However, international assets have been less affected by the security situation and continue to work unabated. At present, it is estimated that the crisis in northern Lebanon will have minimal impact on the overall mine action programme. Additional mine risk education activities are being conducted for camp residents and the Lebanese Armed forces will conduct clearance of UXO and improvised explosive devices in and around Nahr El Bared Camp. If required, the Lebanon Mine Action Centre will seek the support of accredited clearance NGOs in Lebanon to aid in clearance activities.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

Lack of funding for victim assistance activities remains a problem in Lebanon; the 2006 crisis has caused 248 additional survivors, who require immediate and longer-term assistance. Some funding may arrive but more is needed for multi-year programming in order to ensure that victims and their families can regain their dignity and economic independence.

Although funding for clearance in southern Lebanon is adequate for 2007, dedicated funding will be required in 2008 to fully alleviate cluster munitions contamination in southern Lebanon. In addition there remain areas in central and northern Lebanon that have been allocated minimal national clearance assets to solve the immediate problems of the 2006 conflict. It is planned to resolve this disparity by increasing clearance resources in central and northern Lebanon in early 2008.

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# **MAURITANIA**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

Lack of donor support in Mauritania during the reporting period resulted in no field activities. Efforts focused on the transfer of the national humanitarian demining office from the military to a civilian ministry, the drafting of the final landmine impact survey report by the Survey Action Centre and revisions to the national strategic mine action plan.

The lack of resources prevented the continuation of mine risk education activities in Nouadhibou and Zourate to nomads, Saharawi children and within school academic programmes. April 4, the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, was marked with an official opening ceremony in Zourate attended by representatives from the Ministry of National Defence, the national mine action authority, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development, UNICEF, UNDP, local civil authorities, local mine risk education and survivor assistance NGOs. A smaller ceremony was conducted simultaneously in Nouadhibou. Additional exposure of the ceremonies was achieved through print and television media.

Capacity development activities during this period focused on obtaining support from the newly elected democratic government for humanitarian demining activities. This included the transfer of the national demining office from the military to the Ministry of Economy and Finance; the creation of a national demining budget to support the new civilian demining organization (PNDHD), staff and operations; the proposal to increase membership to the National Commission by senior level representation from Government ministries, and lastly, inclusion of mine action activities into national strategies of poverty reduction plans and investment project initiatives. Within the national demining office, two personnel were trained on the Information Management System for Mine Action in Benin. Mauritania also provided representation to the Cluster Munitions Conference in Lima, Peru.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

Despite the lack of field operations during this reporting period, significant accomplishments during the past six months have been made at the political level to promote mine action as a national commitment by the newly elected Government.

The newly elected Government of Mauritania was inaugurated on 18 April, resulting in significant changes at the political level. In the framework of mine action, the former Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development was merged with the Ministry of Finance to become a new Ministry of Economy and Finance. The national programme for humanitarian demining (PNDHD) resides in this new ministry. The PNDHD will have its separate operating budget, to include staff salaries, office costs and an operational component. This budget remains to be finalized.

The completed landmine impact survey has been an important contribution to understanding the mine threat in Mauritania. This report is being used as input to revising the national mine action strategy. No re-prioritization of tasks has occurred so far in 2007.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

Only 12 percent of the Portfolio appeal has been funded in 2007.

The anticipated national operating budget and the resources from France will soon enable the execution of field activities.

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# **MOZAMBIQUE**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

The IND (National Demining Institute) is in the process of conducting the final quality assurance of the the HALO Trust's MIFD (Mine Impact Free Districts) programme. The MIFD has been conducted over the last three years and has included visiting every community and subsequent clearance of all known mined areas in the four northern provinces, representing 51 percent of the country's total land mass.

An extensive joint survey effort (Baseline Assessment) is being undertaken by the IND, the HALO Trust and Handicap International (HI) in the remaining six provinces in the centre and south of the country. This effort is programmed to be complete by October 2007 and will include the technical survey of all remaining mined areas, and the total reconciliation of the national database in order to accurately calculate the effort required, in both time and resources, for Mozambique to meet its obligations under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. Preliminary results from these survey efforts reflect significant area reduction from the approximately 160 square kilometres reported in 2006 as the remaining contamination level. At approximately the halfway point in the survey/ reconciliation process, the national database reflects less than 40 square kilometres of contaminated land, a figure that is expected to further reduce as the survey initiative is completed.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

The IND prepared a multi-year strategic plan for mine action during the latter part of 2006 to replace the previous plan that expired in December 2006. The plan has been widely consulted with all parties in Mozambique and is essentially in a final draft form. However, it has been agreed between the IND/ Government of Mozambique, and the donor community that the release of the final version of the plan will be suspended until the results of the aforementioned joint survey effort can be incorporated into the plan.

Three main issues drove the need for the Baseline Assessment: (1) the strategic planning process initiated in mid-2006 identified that the then available data only enabled a very approximate estimate of the residual mine problem; (2) the donor community demanded a final bill for the support required for Mozambique to achieve anti-personnel mine-ban treaty compliance; and (3) the Government needed to accurately determine progress against their anti-personnel mine-ban treaty 10-year deadline in 2009, in order to accurately process an extension request if/as required.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

During the period under review, only three humanitarian mine action agencies (HT, HI and APOPO) were working in Mozambique and they had sufficient funds to undertake their respective work. HT, however, besides their mine clearance work in the four northern provinces of Mozambique, needed approximately \$440,000 to undertake the above mentioned Baseline Assessment in the six remaining provinces of Mozambique. They collected all but approximately \$50,000. They approached the Government for the money which the Government is considering. IND received a substantial amount of funds (some earlier than 2007 and some during 2007) from Belgium and Austria to run their two regional offices and the quality assurance team

in the south. They however, have a shortfall of approximately \$100,000 to cover mainly the staff cost.

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# **NEPAL**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

The NGO INSEC has been running the national Surveillance System on Mines, Improvised Explosive Devices and other ERW to provide reliable data on victim-activated explosions involving civilian casualties since last year. This data has been constantly used for advocacy purposes and prioritization of mine action activities in the most affected areas.

UNICEF and the Mine Action Working Group of Nepal launched a nationwide campaign entitled "Don't Touch Explosives – Save Limbs, Save Lives" on 2 February 2007. The campaign, which incorporates advertisements and public service announcements in posters, print, radio and television, sought to raise awareness about the dangers from explosive devices. Radio spots were produced in Nepali and six local languages and aired through 36 national and local FM radio stations. Messages were also published in 51 regional and district level newspapers and nine national newspapers.

Ninety mine risk education focal points from more than 40 districts have been trained by the Red Cross Society/International Committee of the Red Cross and UNICEF in emergency mine risk education and received the "Emergency Mine Risk Education Kit." This network includes Army and Police staff, the Red Cross volunteers, UNICEF local offices and NGOs. The kit has been designed to conduct quick response mine risk education in the most at-risk areas. In relation to emergency mine risk education, 72,000 Aide Memoires have been also disseminated.

UNICEF provided 3,000 hazard signs to the Nepal Army and to the CPN Army (Maoists). Fifty-eight Nepal Army minefields and seven Maoist Army storage areas have been marked.

Seven tons of explosives have been collected by the CPN-Ms and delivered to storage areas in the vicinity of the main cantonment sites. Storage and subsequent demolition will be overseen by the Mine Action Unit within the UNMIN mission. A British commercial company, ArmorGroup, has been contracted for this purpose.

UNMIN is also working closely with the Nepalese Army in support of demining training to enhance the Army's capacity to commence clearance of their conventional minefields, as well as other locations containing improvised explosive devices.

Victim Assistance is still in its infancy in Nepal. Assistance to victims of mines, improvised explosive devices and ERW victims has been infused into other victim assistance projects supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross, Handicap International, Save the Children Norway, and national NGOs such 'Himrights' and others.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

On 21 November 2006 the parties signed a Comprehensive Peace Accord declaring their commitment to converting the ceasefire signed 26 April 2006 into permanent peace.

Mine action became a key element of the Peace Accord and the 'Agreement on the Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies' (AMMAA).

As part of the AMMAA of 8 December 2006 the parties agreed upon the safe storage of all Maoist army weapons and ammunition, in the seven main cantonment areas under UN monitoring. Both sides agreed to assist each other to mark landmines and booby-traps used during the time of armed conflict by providing necessary information within 30 days and to defuse and remove/lift and destroy them within 60 days. All improvised explosive devices will be collected at designated sites a safe distance from the main cantonment areas. Unsuitable devices will be destroyed immediately. Stable devices will be stored safely and under 24-hour armed guard. The parties, in consultation with the UN, will determine a timeline and process for the later destruction of all improvised explosive devices. To ensure the safety of both monitors and Maoist army personnel, no improvised explosive devices or crude bombs will be brought inside the cantonment sites. The parties will provide maps and sketches showing current dispositions, including minefields, landmines, unexploded ordnance, standard explosives, improvised explosive devices and the exact location of such items.

In late April 2007, the Cabinet decided to establish a mine action authority, consisting of an inter-ministerial Steering Committee with policy responsibilities and an implementing Technical Committee – both under the stewardship of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction. This is an important step toward achieving a national solution to the problem of mines/ERW in Nepal. The UN will continue to support the establishment of the national authority.

In June 2007, the Nepalese Army, the Armed Police Force, the Civil Police, the People's Liberation Army, and the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction were invited to join the Mine Action Joint Working Group, which so far has consisted of the UN, Red Cross and international NGOs. This group has been providing surveillance, information, and advocacy with regard to mine action and victim assistance, and has also come up with a coordinated response plan on emergency mine risk education in the country.

### **3. Implications of funding gaps**

The Nepal Government has requested international assistance in several areas to address the unique demands of this transitional context. The Common Appeal for Transition Support outlines a framework for short-term response activities sensitive to the unique needs of Nepal's current transition. In July 2007, the appeal reached \$86.5 million. Mine action is one of the most under-funded sectors in the Appeal (only 4 % funded out of the appealed amount of \$1,190,076).

Three new projects have been added in the Portfolio mid-year review, one in mine risk education from the Save the Children Alliance (\$150,000), one in Mine and ERW Risk Reduction from Handicap International (\$415,000), and one from the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for the provision of demining training to the Nepal Army (\$234,832). The UNOPS project is fully funded through the UN Peace Fund in Nepal. Both in the Appeal and in the Portfolio UNICEF's project is partially funded, while the Nepali Red Cross Society project has not been funded through the Portfolio process.

In terms of primary prevention, UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Cross Society, along with the Mine Action Working Group, are favoring emergency mine risk education activities in the most at-risk areas.

In Nepal, advocacy for compliance with legal instruments in relation to the protection of civilians from explosive devices that have indiscriminate effects remains also a priority in 2007-2008.

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# **OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action strategy and goals**

Between January and March 2007, the UNICEF-supported mine risk education project carried out by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has reached 61,658 children and 195,019 adults in 11 high-risk areas of the West Bank and Gaza. Activities included awareness sessions, open days, story telling activities, songs, games, football matches and marathons, airing of messages through a van circulating in target areas, TV and radio spots and live interviews. Around 100,000 copies of printed mine risk education materials were distributed during these activities. These activities were from funds from The Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2006 2006.

In response to the collapse of a wall of a wastewater treatment plant in North Gaza in March 2007, and the resulting increased risk of flood swept landmines, the PRCS conducted mine risk education sessions for around 2,000 affected families who were relocated to a temporary camp.

As a result, more than 258,000 Palestinians were made aware of the danger of mines and equipped with the skills necessary to protect themselves and their families.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

Since the beginning of 2007, inter-factional violence has been continuously intensifying, culminating with the Gaza crisis in June 2007 when Hamas took over the Gaza strip through military operations of extreme violence. Thirty-five children have been killed in the conflict between January and May 2007, including 21 in the inter-factional fighting. The West Bank and Gaza are currently controlled by two different political entities, leaving the situation extremely volatile. There is currently no rule of law in Gaza. In parallel, the Israeli military has continued to carry out incursions into the West Bank.

This violent context and prevailing chaos inevitably raises the risk of exposure to small arms and light weapons, as well as to UXO and improvised explosive devices. In this context, the use and possession of firearms seems indeed to be particularly widespread. In the city of Ramallah in the West Bank, 60 percent of young people surveyed in the context of the "UN Global study on violence against children", believed that there are many guns in their communities. Priorities remain the same, but the current context requires a widening of the focus, which tackles both UXO and IEDs on one hand, and small arms and light weapons on the other. In this respect, the occupied Palestinian territories has been selected as one of eight countries participating in the global research on the impact of small arms and light weapons proliferation and misuse on children. The results of the research will inform further programming in this respect.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

None of the occupied Palestinian territories projects included in the 2007 Portfolio have received funding. This includes capacity building of the Police Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams, targeted rehabilitation services for victims, mine action

awareness campaign and the institutionalization of the Palestinian National Mine Action Committee. As a result, none of these projects have been implemented. The recurrent funding gap since 2006 is hindering efforts to build a comprehensive national move toward mine action away from the piecemeal approach. With the current growing proliferation of small arms and light weapons, funding becomes even more crucial if children's lives are to be protected.

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## **RUSSIAN FEDERATION (CHECHNYA)**

### **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

During the first half of 2007 the mine action stakeholders working in Chechnya have further contributed to decreasing the impact of landmines and UXO through the following activities:

Conditions for physical and psychological rehabilitation of mine/UXO survivors have been further improved at the Grozny Prosthetic Workshop through the provision of some 20 items of essential medical equipment and furniture for a new Rehabilitation Ward, as well as through prosthetic-orthopedic trainings for the workshop's seven technicians. Psychosocial support has been provided to some 87 child mine survivors. A TV documentary about child mine/UXO survivors has been produced and broadcast by the local TV channels, which contributed to drawing the Government's attention to the problem and promoting the rights of mine/UXO survivors. Activities to help mine/UXO victims recover have intensified and included greater availability of prosthetic devices and psychosocial support. Mine/UXO awareness activities increased through movies, presentations and other media.

Meetings with high level officials in Chechnya have been organized to advocate for the initiation of humanitarian demining activities. The process resulted in the creation of the special Parliamentary Commission, which is dealing with mine/UXO-related issues. In addition, EMERCOM of Chechnya has expressed its readiness to create a Demining /Clearance Unit within the Ministry of Emergencies and asked for UN agencies' technical and financial support in doing so.

With respect to new mine/UXO casualties, a total of ten mine/UXO civilian casualties were reported so far this year, which is lower than during the same period last year (i.e., 17 casualties in January-May 2006).

### **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

The political situation has remained stable in Chechnya during the reporting period and there were no external factors (apart from funding constraints) that would affect the programme implementation or strategic plans. There have been some adjustments however, in programme priorities due to the increased Government interest to start comprehensive demining activities in Chechnya. The Chechen Government has officially recognized the need for clearing fields and forests contaminated with mines, but local capacity remains low. A group of EMERCOM deminers has been engaged in demining operations since March of this year. They have cleared 60 hectares in Groznensko-Selskiy district, where 422 mines/UXO were neutralized, and plan to clear a further 26 hectares in Achkhoy-Martanovskiy district. In addition, EMERCOM recently decided to establish a special demining unit in Chechnya. Some money has already been received by UNICEF to support capacity building initiatives for local deminers, and the programme will start in September 2007.

### **3. Implications of funding gaps**

There have been some delays in implementation of some programme components due to the receipt of some programme funds in the beginning of June 2007, and for

some programme components, like support to the creation of the Mine Action Centre by UNDP, funds were not pledged or received at all.

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# **SRI LANKA**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

The continuation of armed conflict between Government forces and the LTTE into 2007 signals a radically transformed political and security context for mine action, which has redefined both the priorities and feasibility of operations. A major project to conduct the first systematic, countrywide surveys for the purpose of confirming/discrediting suspected dangerous areas has been cancelled due to the security situation. Furthermore, in the wake of intense fighting in the East of the island, i.e., the Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts, and the resulting massive dislocation of the civilian population, the first six months of this year have been dominated by the emergency mine action response undertaken by the sector.

The National Steering Committee for Mine Action (NSCMA), the apex policy making and coordinating body concerning mine action in Sri Lanka, has concentrated all efforts to ensure that battle area and mine clearance in conflict-affected areas of Batticaloa and Trincomalee support the Government resettlement schedule for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Under the overall direction of the NSCMA, the local government agents (the senior government administrative officer in each district) have directed clearance operations in close liaison with the Sri Lanka Army, Government authorities responsible for resettlement, clearance agencies, international relief agencies, UNDP and UNICEF. Army deminers were often first on the scene and engaged in Explosive ordnance disposal as soon as an area was secured, with the Government agent proceeding to deploy other agencies and resources, as the situation stabilized, in an intensified campaign of clearance. Several agencies with a presence in Batticaloa, Trincomalee or surrounding districts were able to relocate or expand existing assets to the Government's priority locations to clear residential areas and access to livelihood and infrastructure facilities.

Furthermore in line with the Sri Lanka National Mine Action Standards, technical teams, supported by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), conducted quality assurance and quality control of all clearance work on behalf of the Government agent, leading to his issuance of Land Release Certificates ensuring a reduced mine/UXO threat for the resettlement areas.

The situation has posed huge challenges to mine risk education programmes as well. Priorities in terms of target populations have constantly kept changing due to changing schedules for IDP resettlement. Regular mine risk education programmes that were planned for 2007 had to be modified to include emergency mine risk education and field staff moved from one district to another depending on priorities, causing a degree of disruption. However, field workers succeeded in reaching nearly 200,000 IDPs in temporary camps in Batticaloa and Trincomalee and mine risk education continued to be implemented in all nine targeted districts in Sri Lanka. Even with the escalation of the conflict, heavy movement of population and the presence of a large number of UXOs, the casualty rate has so far been contained to 14, as at 18 June 2007 (UNICEF). This is significant when compared to 64 casualties in 2006 and 38 in 2005 (UNICEF). Furthermore it is important to note that, as a result of the combined mine risk education and clearance efforts, there have been no

landmine casualties in areas where resettlement has occurred after clearance.

Similarly in the LTTE-controlled Wannai region, the conflict has led to the adoption of an integrated emergency humanitarian mine action strategy in direct support of the Integrated IDP Programme (IIDPP) drawn up by the humanitarian aid agencies working in the Wannai. The mine action component includes a focus on emergency mine clearance in areas of recent IDP arrivals to reduce their exposure to mines; increasing awareness of mines/UXO through implementation of targeted mine risk education at IDP populations; improved marking of contaminated land; prioritization of clearance sites which benefit IDPs and the development of a plan for clearance of the A9 road to expedite the opening of a humanitarian corridor to Jaffna should circumstances allow.

Where the Jaffna district is concerned, the mine action programme was back in early 2007 to pre-August 2006 levels, when work was interrupted by the outbreak of conflict, and has since continued in accordance with the Government agent's Mine Action Plan for Jaffna endorsed by the NSCMA. Resettlement and development projects have therefore been able to proceed without the hindrance of mines/UXO.

Therefore, although during some months of 2007, mine action has been affected by insecurity in certain areas, the overall impact is positive and increasing. In particular, emergency tasking in the post-conflict areas of Batticaloa and Trincomalee has allowed for the on-going resettlement of villages previously inaccessible to civilians due to mines/UXO.

### **3. Implications of funding gaps**

Certain agencies reported that insufficient (overall) funding impacted on work and plans for 2007 – necessitating a change in strategic approach.

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# **SUDAN**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

The mine action programme in Sudan has made considerable achievements in 2007 toward decreasing the impact of mines/ERW in the country. The programme is supporting peacekeeping operations and humanitarian requirements for local populations and returning internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. Demining operations have cleared 5,921,238 square metres of land, assessed 7,050 kilometres of road, and cleared 1,068 kilometres of road. This has led to a significant increase in freedom of movement in the north and the south. The opening of roads through assessment, survey and clearance is also opening return routes for refugees and IDPs, stimulating the economy and contributing to the peace process in Sudan. Critical roads that have been opened include the Juba-Bor-Pibor, Tori-Magwi-Pageri, and Wau-Abyei routes. The President of the Republic of Sudan, on 10 June, 2007, awarded certificates of achievement/recognition to UN Mine Action Office in Sudan for their achievements in the field of mine action.

Mine risk education has been provided to 351,284 Sudanese people. In addition, the training of teachers programme is increasing mine risk education capabilities in the country and promoting safe behavior to reduce the number of landmine and ERW casualties. In March, the first Sudan National Victim Assistance Workshop was held to finalize the National Strategic Framework on Victim Assistance. The workshop is the result of a project implemented jointly by UN Mine Action Service, the UN Development Programme and UNICEF with support from the Human Security Trust Fund. The endorsement and approval of the Victim Assistance Strategic Framework by the Government of National Unity will facilitate the establishment of the VA projects and surveillance, enhance the gathering of data on mine/ERW victims, and provide a coordinated strategic framework for national and international NGOs implementing victim assistance projects. As the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance, the Government of Sudan has taken an active role in promoting victim assistance.

Within the unified structure of the UN Mine Action Office, UNDP Sudan has been providing technical assistance and support to enable the national authorities to coordinate and implement mine action operations and meet their obligations under the Mine Ban convention. On April 30, the Government of Sudan destroyed 4,488 stockpiled antipersonnel mines. A transition officer will be hired by the UN Mine Action Office to support the capacity development of the national authorities as they prepare to assume the coordinating role for mine action projects in Sudan in 2011.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

Instability in the security situation in parts of Sudan has impacted the implementation of strategic plans. Adjustments to mine action operations and plans have been made due to the deterioration of the security situation in Upper Nile (Malakal) as well as limited access in Kassala and Darfur. As a result of the security situation in Malakal, demining assets in the area were re-deployed to other states in southern Sudan.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

A funding gap generally existed in all areas of activities during the review period. Given current priorities, areas identified by the programme in most need of support are coordination, emergency mine risk education, victim assistance, and capacity building of Government authorities and national NGOs, and these activities are not actively supported by the Peacekeeping budget. There is also a need to increase funding for mine action projects in eastern Sudan where the Peacekeeping mission no longer has the mandate. The slow implementation of mine action activities due to limited capacity may result in slow implementation of other humanitarian and development activities such as delivery of emergency aid or rehabilitation of important roads in support of Sudan's post-conflict recovery. The capacity building of Government authorities and national NGOs is also critical to increase their ability to solve the remaining mine/ERW problem after the termination of the UN Mission in Sudan planned for 2011.

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# **TAJIKISTAN**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

Clearance of mines, submunitions and varied UXO has continued in central and southern regions. Mine clearance at one site in the south allowed a drainage canal to be maintained, which led to drain a lake that was reported to be the cause of a malaria outbreak. Cluster munition clearance in the central Rasht Valley has allowed children to resume safe play at the foot of Schull mountain, where some of the munitions gathered over time. The destruction of various improvised devices, rockets and bombs has removed the devices from the arsenal of potential insurgents, and this has improved general security.

Mine risk education activities in north, south and central areas have continued, with volunteers supported by regional workshops. Current indications are that casualty figures for this year will remain low – although the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre (TMAC) has discovered a significant number of casualties that were not recorded in previous years.

Victim assistance activities including the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summer Rehabilitation camp and individual assistance with accessing medical and social rights have continued and expanded. In May, TMAC held a round-table to debate the integration of national legislation with the requirements of International Humanitarian Law with regard to disabled people.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

There have been no major social or political changes inside Tajikistan so far this year. The international campaign against cluster munitions has prompted TMAC to start the process of persuading members of the Commission for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (CIIHL) to support the signing of the Oslo Declaration.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

Insufficient funding has meant that TMAC has been on the brink of closure several times this year. Most projects proposed for this year have not been funded at all and TMAC has had to seek new strategies to achieve the National Mine Action objectives.

Demining and survey are continuing, but more slowly than anticipated. There are still large parts of the Afghan border that have not been surveyed following the departure of Russian border guards. Technical survey in the central areas is happening more slowly than planned. Cluster munition clearance in the Rasht Valley is reduced to a token force while waiting for funding support.

Mine risk education is the best-funded (conducted under TMAC by UNICEF and Tajikistan Red Crescent Society) but some planned expansion has been curtailed. There are still large areas (eight districts) in the south where no mine risk education activity at all has taken place to date. Access difficulties and restricted funds mean that nothing will happen in the south this year. Victim assistance activities continue under the TMAC victim assistance, with UNICEF, the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society

and NGOs, but have been constantly frustrated for want of any dedicated TMAC budget.

Food security via rural agriculture and the gathering of wild foodstuffs is the single area most affected by the failure to attract sufficient funds to conduct mine action as planned. Border security may also be adversely affected, with at least one Border Guard having stepped on a mine this year. Delayed clearance may also lead to civilian casualties that would not have otherwise occurred, with long-term impacts for state health care and prosthetic provision. Plans to raise victim self-esteem and confidence with schemes to support their adoption of new social roles (income-generating or otherwise) have been postponed.

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# **UGANDA**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

Further progress has been made during the first half of 2007 in Uganda to raise awareness of the landmine problem in country. Mine action with other development projects continues to be integrated. Mine Action has been integrated into the Peace Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda (PRDP). Building capacity and enhancing both national demining and victim assistance capacity continues with the relevant ministries being actively engaged. Needs assessments have been completed in the district of Kitgum and partially completed in the district of Pader and Amuru. Two additional multipurpose demining teams were established and deployed in January. The 13 identified suspected hazardous area (SHA) in Lira district were demined. Seconded army engineers and paramedics completed a humanitarian demining training at the International Mine Action Training Centre (IMATC) Nairobi. Uganda Mine Action Centre (UMAC) staff completed a quality assurance/quality control training at IMATC. Danish Demining Group and Norwegian People's Aid are in the start-up phase of supporting the Mine Action Programme Uganda and International Committee of the Red Cross assessment orthopedic workshops under way. Indicators were developed for victim assistance and are in the second stage of field testing. Funding has been identified for landmine survivor groups. The Government of Uganda has allocated a start up fund of 50 million Ugandan Shillings for fiscal 2007/08.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

Vast numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs), approximately 1.8 million people according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, have been living in IDP camps in war-affected areas in northern Uganda for over a decade. Peace appears to be possible with the signing on 26 August 2006 of an *Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and Lord's Resistance Army/Movement*. Actions that have taken place since this time have created the best opportunity for peace in the last twenty years.

Return or partial return is occurring in northern Uganda. In Lira, 80 percent of the population has now returned and in Gulu and Pader Districts return is in process. This is placing great demands on the mine action programme to ensure a safe return. The UNDP Country Office, as the lead agency for early recovery activities in areas of IDP return, held the first early recovery cluster coordination meeting. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has been monitoring the right to return for landmine survivors and expressed concern that there is a risk of society segregating in northern Uganda.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

Inadequate funding prevents mine action from being fully implemented in support of the IDPs return process.

Victim assistance is still highly affected by inadequate funds, which puts landmine survivors at greater risk of losing land and their rights in the return process. A comprehensive planning process is scheduled for August with the Co-Chair of the

Standing Committee and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining to bring to the next level of development.

Land release, technical survey and quality control require two mine detection dog teams, one additional quality control team and two additional demining teams to increase productivity for return of IDPs. The land release output can not yet meet the requirements.

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# **VIET NAM**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

International NGOs, in consultation with engineer departments of the Ministry of Defense and local authorities have been working in mine and UXO clearance and are still focused on the three central provinces of Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue. However, the coverage of clearance activities is still modest compared to the area of contaminated land. Populations in the areas that are heavily affected with UXO/mines in Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An and Ha Tinh have been informed of UXO/mine risks and preventive measures through community and school-based mine risk education activities undertaken by the Ministry of Education and Training, mass media organizations and international NGOs. Victim assistance has been undertaken by the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs and other international organizations. These efforts have contributed to some extent to making the UXO/mine affected locations in the above six provinces more peaceful places for local populations and communities.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

All of the mine action partners have established a good relationship with the central/local Government and partners to implement their programs/projects, and because of the good relationship, all programs/projects have achieved positive results. As the country has not experienced an outbreak of violence, political upheaval, establishment of post-conflict Governments, mine action does not undergo any changes.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

The considerable funding gap has reduced the overall impact of almost all team members. Fundraising efforts are still being made to fully implement every Portfolio member's 2007 plan.

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# **YEMEN**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

### Technical Survey output

34,349,850 square metres of contaminated land released.  
1,108,000 square metres marked.

### Clearance output

1,414,000 square metre (cleared area).  
7,834 mines and UXO located and destroyed.

### Mine risk education

21,670 people received mine risk education (11,220 women, 10,450 men in 22 communities).

Victim assistance (medical survey, medical exam, and medical support): no victims surveyed, 70 victims examined, 44 victims supported.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

No conflict was experienced during the period reviewed.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

During the first half of 2007, two projects were funded sufficiently, two have not received any funding and two were dropped from the 2007 Portfolio.

The following two projects were funded sufficiently:

- Support to Eliminate Landmines/ERW Impacts in Yemen - Phase III (National Execution) (P04-YE02).
- Mine Detection Dog project (P04-YE04).

The following projects did not receive any funding:

- Mine Risk Education in Ibb, Al Dale' and Hadrmaut (YMAA) (P04-YE01).
- Post-Clearance Community Development (P07-YE01).

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# **ZAMBIA**

## **1. Progress toward achieving mine action goals and objectives**

A level-1 survey was carried out in western Zambia in January 2007 with funds made available from the Government in its effort to address the cattle cordon line. However, there is more responsive analysis made from the local communities to volunteer information on the whereabouts of possible hazard locations as a result of mine risk education.

While the survey did confirm the presence of mines and ERW, there has been no demining done in the area due to lack of resources.

## **2. Impact of changes in the humanitarian/development/political context and consequences on mine action project implementation**

There have been no significant changes to mine action plans as a result of elections that were held in 2006. The only limitation is lack of resources.

## **3. Implications of funding gaps**

Insufficient funding has affected the operations of the centre and the impact is negative in that certain development projects can not be executed due to uncertainty over the safety of certain areas.

Lack of funds also reduces the likelihood of meeting anti-personnel mine-ban treaty obligations on time.

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