

The
United
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MINE ACTION SERVICE



ANNUAL REPORT
2002

United Nations Mine Action Service

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) was formed in October 1997 to serve as the UN focal point for mine action and to support the United Nations’ vision of “a world free of the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development, and where mine survivors are fully integrated into their societies.” At the global level, UNMAS is responsible for coordinating all aspects of mine action within the UN system. At the field level, it is responsible for providing mine-action assistance in the context of humanitarian emergencies and peacekeeping operations. More specifically, UNMAS has six areas of responsibility: policy development and coordination; assessment and monitoring of the landmine (and unexploded ordnance) threat; programme initiation and support; information management, quality management and mine-action technology development; advocacy and treaty implementation; and resource mobilization. UNMAS is located within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the UN Secretariat.

United Nations organizations, agencies, offices and funds working in mine action

- UN Children’s Fund
- UN Department for Disarmament Affairs
- UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- UN Development Programme
- UN Food and Agriculture Organization
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees

- UN Mine Action Service
 - UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
 - UN Office for Project Services
 - World Bank
 - World Food Programme
 - World Health Organization
-

UNMAS Annual Report 2002

In the first full year of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy (2001-2005), the UN mine-action family of organizations faced many challenges, including the need for rapid responses to problems in several mine-affected countries. But the year also presented important opportunities to make progress in the global mine-action effort. The year's highlights included:

- The transfer of responsibility for the mine-action programme in Afghanistan from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to UNMAS.
- The development of a UN policy on victim assistance (endorsed in early 2003).
- The launch of mine-action programmes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan.
- The approval of guidelines for the inclusion of mine action in peace treaties and cease-fire agreements.
- The completion of an Operational Framework for Rapid Response, which was immediately tested in early 2003 in Iraq.
- Publication of an interactive CD-ROM, *Landmines: The World Takes Action*.

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Operations

Afghanistan

On 1 June 2002, through an agreement between the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNMAS formally took responsibility for coordinating the Mine Action Programme in Afghanistan (MAPA). The Programme brings together 15 national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and is coordinated by the UN Mine Action Centre in Afghanistan (UNMACA) based in Kabul, with eight sub-offices around the country.

UNMAS entered into partnership with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and deployed a transition team to Kabul to develop a complete financial, administrative and logistics capacity within UNMACA to enable self-sufficient operations.

During the second half of 2002, the number of personnel in the MAPA grew from 4,500 to more than 7,000, and operations expanded in response to needs for humanitarian, development and reconstruction assistance. The UNMACA expanded relations with national counterpart institutions and many line ministries in the new Government of Afghanistan. UNMAS channelled funding from 10 donors totalling more than \$20 million for humanitarian operations throughout the country.



Together the organizations participating in the MAPA cleared more than 15 square kilometres of high-priority mine-affected areas and more than 55 square kilometres of former battle zones. During this process, the programme's members also destroyed more than 30,000 anti-personnel landmines, 2,000 anti-tank mines and more than 675,000 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO). They surveyed and marked more than 30 square kilometres of land, including all known cluster bomb unit strike sites, more than 50 percent of which have been cleared.

The MAPA deployed 80 newly trained personnel to integrate mine-risk education into 2,100 schools. About 1.7 million refugees and 100,000 internally displaced people received direct mine-awareness training.

During the year the UNMACA adopted the internationally recognised system for collating and reporting mine-action data—the Information Management System for Mine Action—and began using the system in its sub-offices.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Following a fact-finding mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2001, a Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC) was established in Kinshasa in January 2002. The MACC serves as the focal point for mine action in the country.

During the year, the MACC compiled a combination of data from humanitarian sources and through the UN peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). The MACC used the Information Management System for Mine Action to complete this task and can now generate reports that inform the work of mine-action organizations. The MACC also developed an emergency clearance project and a mine-risk education project, to be implemented as soon as funding is available.

The MACC was instrumental in the integration of mine-action concerns into the plans and operations of MONUC, particularly into the Disarmament, Demobilisation, Repatriation, Resettlement and Reintegration programme and humanitarian assistance projects. In November 2002, the MACC programme manager moved temporarily to Kisangani, to provide more effective support to MONUC.

To facilitate its further deployment, MONUC contracted a commercial South African mine-clearance company, Mechem, to carry out a technical survey at the Kisangani and Kindu airports. Similar operations have been planned for Kisangani-La Forestière and Manono, through UNOPS. The MACC was responsible for quality assurance on Mechem's work.

The DRC became a state party to the international anti-personnel mine-ban treaty ("Ottawa Convention") on 2 November 2002. The MACC assisted the government in complying with the obligations of the Convention, particularly in providing Article 7 reports (mandatory updates on the status of landmine stockpiles and their destruction). A non-state actor, the RCD-Goma (Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie) contributed to the government's efforts to fulfil its Ottawa Convention obligations by destroying RCD stockpiles of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines in Kisangani.

Eritrea

The 2000 Security Council resolution that established the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) also resulted in the establishment of a UN Mine Action Co-ordination Centre (MACC), responsible for coordinating, recording and processing information about landmines and UXO and for humanitarian mine action in and around the temporary security zone (TSZ) between the two countries.



Since its inception, the MACC had balanced the development of a national mine-action capacity and the coordination of mine-action services required by UNMEE. The MACC had also been providing technical assistance.

In July 2002 a presidential decree heralded a significant change in the Eritrean government's approach to mine action and led to the departure of most international mine-action NGOs by the end of August. Only HALO Trust and the commercial company RONCO remained. The reduction in NGO presence diminished the country's humanitarian mine-action capacity, particularly in the TSZ. In response, the MACC refocused its work toward mine-action activities for the peacekeeping mission.

Before the end of August, the national NGO, EDA, had three 60-men teams working in the central and western parts of the TSZ, and had manually demined 705,733 square metres of land. International supervisors provided on-site training and monitoring. Funds provided through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund had supported the development of a national training centre, designed to develop Eritrea's own mine-action capacity.

The mine-information section in the MACC provided a single source for data and information about clearance, surveying, accidents and victim assistance. The outputs of the section, which served the peacekeeping operation, UN agencies and NGOs,

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included the production of 2,500 mine-information maps. The section also provided technical support to a UNDP-initiated landmine impact survey.

Mine-risk education reached 264 villages in 2002, benefiting nearly 150,000 people. Landmine safety training was routinely provided to staff of UN agencies and NGOs. A reduction in mine-related injuries and fatalities is attributable in part to these activities.

Available data indicate more than 1,000 mine-contaminated sites in the country. More than 660 million square metres of these suspected areas are in the TSZ. As at end of 2002, 32 million square metres of land had been cleared.

Former Yugoslav Republic Of Macedonia

The brief but violent internal conflict of spring 2001 left UXO as a significant threat to people in some parts of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). Landmines were also laid during the conflict, but the problem is less extensive. UXO affects an estimated 84 villages, hindering the safe return of about 100,000 internally displaced people and refugees.

At the request of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, UNMAS established the UN Mine Action Office (MAO) in Skopje in partnership with UNOPS in September 2001. In cooperation with the Macedonian Mine Action Centre, the MAO in 2002 coordinated the delivery of bilateral contributions. These provided national authorities with the capacity to deal with the mine and UXO problem. The MAO also established a database, using the Information Management System for Mine Action. This database aided the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in their assessments of UXO clearance requirements to pave the way for the return of refugees. As of mid-July 2002, UXO



still affected about 55 villages, preventing the return of an estimated 8,000 internally displaced people.

The MAO facilitated and coordinated training and equipment for five teams of the Macedonian Civil Protection Unit. Using resources from the International Trust Fund and the European Agency for Reconstruction in August 2002, the MAO facilitated and coordinated deployment of two NGOs, Handicap International and CARE, to accelerate UXO clearance operations before the onset of winter. As of 31 December, the three organizations together had cleared 416,000 square metres of land, resulting in the return of 54 villages to their former inhabitants.

The MAO is expected to close by mid-2003, when the Macedonian Mine Action Centre will have a fully developed capacity to deal with the residual mine and UXO problem.

Southern Lebanon

The role of the Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC) expanded in 2002 when a new Operation Emirates Solidarity (OES) project began mine-clearance operations in southern Lebanon. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) funds the project. The MACC reallocated staff and financial resources from the United Nations, the Lebanese National Demining Office and the UAE to create the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Southern Lebanon (MACC-SL).

Through the OES, the MACC-SL deployed two commercial companies, BACTEC and Minetech for a two-year period. Both companies, working on tasks prioritised by the National Demining Office, are clearing mines, mainly using manual methods. They also use mechanical flails and mine-detection dogs to conduct surveys and confirm the presence or absence of mines in some areas (the process of "area reduction"). The United Nations has contracted a company, the Armour Group, to carry out quality assurance under the guidance of the MACC-SL.

A technical survey, initiated in March 2002 by the NGO Mines Advisory Group (MAG), has been providing the MACC-SL with information that enables the OES to set its priorities. In June, MAG also initiated a nationwide landmine impact survey, funded by the European Union. As of the end of 2002, the OES project was expected to finish by mid-2003, but the completion date may be extended to include an additional area of operations. Starting in July 2002, a 75-man mine-action task force of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) carried out minefield surveys, marking and fencing along the Blue Line. The goal of this operation was to increase UNIFIL's operational mobility. But the effort also benefited communities by declaring some areas safe for agricultural use.



As of 31 December 2002, more than 2.5 million square metres of land had been cleared and returned to communities, and more than 25,000 anti-personnel mines had been destroyed. However, 1,084 minefields remain along the Blue Line, which is outside of the area covered by the OES project. This area will likely have to be cleared by the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Planning has been under way in order to transfer full responsibility for mine action in southern Lebanon to the National Demining Office by the end of 2003.

Sudan

UNMAS launched a programme, Information Management and Coordination for Emergency Mine Action in Sudan, in early 2002 in response to a request by the Government of Sudan and the UN office in that country. UNMAS contracted UNOPS to execute the programme.

In March, UNMAS led an assessment mission to determine how mine-action activities could be carried out, given the country's political situation and its on-going conflict. The mission concluded that a conventional mine-action programme would not be suitable. Instead, the best approach would be the establishment of a number of structures that could address immediate needs and eventually be adapted into a long-term effort.

The Government of Sudan, the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the UN country team jointly developed and agreed upon a plan for an Emergency Mine Action Programme in Sudan (EMAPS) on 19 April. EMAPS' main objectives were to work within the confines of the existing political environment, to support the development of realistic and documented national standards/guidelines for mine action, to establish and document the professional and operational capacity of national mine-action NGOs, and to promote the development

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of a fully integrated national mine-action body that would be able to plan and coordinate mine-action activity following any peace agreement.

Through EMAPS, UNMAS began implementing assessments and clearance operations in the Nuba Mountains, with the goal of systematically reducing the threats that landmines and UXO present to the population and humanitarian aid staff. In addition, EMAPS began providing technical advice and support to the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN country team.

In order to achieve all of these objectives, UNMAS oversaw the establishment and staffing of an office in Khartoum. In addition, UNMAS established two mine-action coordination offices (MACOs), one in Kadugli in the Nuba Mountains and the other in Rumbek in the south.

Also in 2002, UNMAS began assisting the government with the conceptualisation of a mine-action strategy based on the principles of neutrality, impartiality and humanity, giving priority to vulnerable groups. The strategy focuses on the establishment of a national mine-action office, management capability and the provision of training, direct emergency and humanitarian interventions and the development of an appropriate national NGO mine-clearance capacity.



In the course of nine months, the following was also achieved:

- An initial assessment survey in the Nuba Mountains and mapping of confirmed mined areas.
- The deployment of a U.S.-funded Quick Reaction Demining Force as an emergency mine-clearance asset in May 2002 for the Nuba Mountains Ceasefire Agreement area.
- The redeployment of Danish Church Aid's operations from Eritrea to Sudan.
- The contracting of Ronco Consulting Corporation to integrate the use of explosive demining devices and manual deminers with the aim of defining mined areas, opening roads and releasing suspected dangerous areas back to the population.
- The signing of an unprecedented "Tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding" between the government, the SPLM and the United Nations on 19 September. Under this agreement, the United Nations is working with all parties to develop a more comprehensive national mine-action plan.
- The creation of a National Mine Action Office, to bring together all mine-action stakeholders under one roof.
- The further development of a mine-risk education programme.
- The collection and analysis of data on victims and survivors of accidents involving landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Policy development and coordination

Coordination mechanisms

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) is the mechanism for coordination of mine-action activities within the UN system. At the working level, it meets monthly and is chaired by the Director of UNMAS. At the “principals” level, the group meets as needed and is chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. At the meeting of principals in December 2002, the IACG-MA endorsed the new Operational Framework for Rapid Response as a working document and held a wide-ranging debate on the relationships between UN agencies and NGOs in the field of mine action. The group also welcomed the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as a new member of the IACG-MA. At its regular meetings at working level, the group reviewed the United Nations’ work in mine-affected countries, heard reports on assessment missions, monitored progress in the implementation of the UN Mine Action Strategy, and consulted on a range of policy issues, including a new Victim Assistance Policy and guidelines for the inclusion of mine action in peace treaties and cease-fire agreements.

The Steering Committee on Mine Action (SCMA) comprises the IACG-MA members, representatives of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and a number of invited NGOs. The group met in Geneva in February, May and September of 2002 and discussed mine-related issues in specific countries, including Afghanistan, Angola, Russian Federation (Chechnya),

Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. Their discussions also covered the mine-related aspects of issues such as the UN’s rapid response plan, HIV/AIDS, sexual exploitation, and the advocacy work with non-state actors undertaken by the NGO, Geneva Call. The SCMA formed an ad hoc task force to address challenges to the relationship between the United Nations and mine-action NGOs.

The annual meeting of mine-action programme directors and UN advisors

The Fifth International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors took place in Geneva 25-28 February 2002. The GICHD sponsored and hosted the event, which was organized by UNMAS in collaboration with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and UNOPS. The first three days were devoted to discussions among national directors, programme managers and chief technical advisers of UN-supported mine-action country programmes, UN headquarters mine-action staff and NGOs. Issues discussed included implementation at the field level of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy (2001-2005); the victim-assistance policy; field-level advocacy in support of the international instruments addressing the issue of mines and UXO; and, the development of and outreach for International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Information management, including the Information Management System for Mine Action and the findings of a study conducted by Price Waterhouse Coopers in 2001 on information needs in mine action, was also a major topic. Information was shared about recent innovations in technology, research and development. The final day was dedicated to discussions with representatives of donor countries on issues of resource mobilization.

Mine-risk education

UNICEF led work on the development of IMAS for mine-risk education (MRE), with support from UNMAS, which secured and administered \$740,000 to support MRE projects implemented by UNICEF in Angola, Bosnia, Ethiopia, Guatemala and at the organization's headquarters in New York.

UNMAS and UNICEF worked together to encourage the integration of MRE into comprehensive mine-action programmes, particularly those for which UNMAS has operational responsibility. The UNMAS MRE officer spent three weeks in the Sudan preparing and conducting an inter-agency workshop on MRE prior to the deployment of a UNICEF MRE officer.



In Eritrea, MRE activities were fully integrated into the national mine-action plan and, until August 2002, the UNICEF MRE coordinator was located in the Mine Action Coordination Center. For the remainder of the year, MRE activities were suspended by order of the government.

The second phase of the landmine and UXO-safety training project, for UN staff, aid workers and peacekeepers, began in September 2002. The first phase had covered 15 mine-affected countries, and the second phase extends the initiative to an additional ten. UNMAS' partner on this project is Handicap International-France, which conducts "train-the-trainer" workshops.

Victim assistance

In early 2003, the IACG-MA approved the UN policy on the scope of action of mine-action centres and organizations in victim assistance. The approval was the culmination of extensive consultations and outreach on this complex question. UN agencies, NGOs, the Working Group on Victim Assistance of the ICBL, field programme managers, individual experts and representatives of donor governments were all among those involved in the consultations. The approval of the policy also fulfilled an important requirement of the UN Mine Action Strategy (2001-2005). The policy is a component of the overall UN policy on mine action and effective coordination and is intended to help mine-action centres play a significant role in the provision of services to victims of landmines and UXO. Specifically, it recommends that victims be included in the design and implementation of programmes that benefit them, particularly in the areas of advocacy, hiring practices, programme development and priority setting.

Also in 2002, UNMAS supported the efforts of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration to set itself clear



objectives for its work in the run-up to the Review Conference of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty in 2004.

UNMAS also mobilized resources for two victim-assistance projects in Cambodia, both implemented by the World Rehabilitation Fund.

Advocacy and treaty implementation

Advocacy strategy

An objective of the UN Mine Action Strategy (2001-2005) was to develop a UN public-advocacy strategy by the end of 2002. Consultations took place with all parts of the UN system, the ICBL and the Implementation Support Unit of the GICHD. However, the work was not completed on schedule because of competing work pressures during an

extremely busy year. The strategy is now expected to be completed in 2003.

Advocacy with UN partners

UNICEF developed advocacy kits for its regional and country offices. UNMAS participated in a workshop to produce the conceptual framework for the kits and commented on the product. In addition, UNMAS, UNICEF, the Canadian government and the Quaker United Nations Office organized a workshop for youth and mine action during the UN General Assembly's Special Session on Children in May 2002.

Advocacy and the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty

UNMAS participated in meetings to improve understanding of the provisions of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty in Tunis in January, Bangkok and

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Kinshasa in May, Kabul in July, Yerevan in October and Moscow and Brussels in November.

For the event in Kabul, UNMAS provided logistical and substantive support. Staff also met with representatives of the government to stress the importance of their participation in the conference. During the meeting, the government announced it would accede to the treaty. Later, UNMAS staff visited regional authorities in the province of Herat to provide information on their role in the implementation of the treaty.

UNMAS provided regular progress reports to the standing committees of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. These standing committees address four major issues: victim assistance and social reintegration; mine clearance, awareness and technology; stockpile destruction; and the overall status of the treaty. In 2002, the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration requested that UNMAS provide specific advice to states seeking to fulfil their obligations under Article 6.3 of the treaty. UNMAS reviewed research and literature, carried out surveys, led discussion groups and interviewed stakeholders. As a result, in September 2002, at the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the mine-ban treaty, the UN presentation identified issues deserving priority attention: emergency medical care,

legislation and national planning, rehabilitation, prosthetics and assistive devices and employment and economic integration. UNMAS also recommended that the Standing Committee advocate for the implementation of elements of Article 6.3 and monitor progress. The Standing Committee has integrated these priorities into its work plan for the future.

UNMAS promoted the involvement of field representatives in the work of the standing committees and meetings of States Parties by encouraging the GICHD to include representatives of UN-supported programmes in its Sponsorship Programme, which provides funding to ensure field participation in the standing committee meetings.

UNMAS worked with the Universalization Contact Group, which the Canadian government leads and which meets at the same time as the standing committees and the States Parties, with the objective of achieving a complete global commitment to ban anti-personnel mines. UNMAS also contributed to the work of the Article 7 & 9 Contact Group, led by the Government of Belgium and the ICRC. This group coordinates international actions related to countries' obligations under the treaty to report on the status of their stockpiles of landmines and to take legal measures to prevent violations of the treaty.



Advocacy and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

In response to a request made during the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in Geneva in December 2001, an open-ended Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) was established to examine the issues of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and mines other than anti-personnel mines. Amended Protocol 2 to the Convention regulates the use of landmines, including anti-vehicle mines, and has



been accepted by a number of the states that are not yet parties to the mine-ban treaty. UNMAS polled UN mine-action programme managers and presented the findings to that same body during its July 2002 meeting. One set of findings dealt with the field perspective on ERW and the other underscored the humanitarian impact of anti-vehicle mines. UNMAS ensured field representation at the CCW-GGE meetings, where expertise on the impact of ERW and mines (other than anti-personnel mines) is in high demand.

Information management and communications

The UNMAS Information Unit concentrated on stabilizing and strengthening the Electronic Mine Information Network, or E-MINE. Accessed through the Internet at www.mineaction.org, E-MINE added more than 500 items in 2002. These included UN resolutions and policies regarding mine action and the roles of various UN bodies, reports from mine-action programmes, updates on the destruction of stockpiles of mines, news releases, statistical reports, legislation about the use and clearance of mines and UXO in many countries and standards for humanitarian demining.

At the end of 2002, the site offered nearly 600 documents, information on more than 600 projects, and background or contact information for about 150 organizations.

E-MINE is becoming increasingly important to the mine-action community as a source of information for practitioners developing programmes and as a means for alerting NGOs, donor countries and UN partners to progress, setbacks, challenges and financial requirements. E-MINE also strives to promote openness and transparency in resource mobilization and use. The number of distinct visitors to the site rose to 200,000 in 2002, with the average visitor viewing nearly 20 documents before leaving.

Managers of mine-action programmes have expressed an interest in gaining access to “best practices,” or lessons learned in mine action, to guide them in their work. In response, UNMAS has entered into partnership with James Madison University in the United States to expand and update a database containing examples contributed by practitioners, which will be made available through E-MINE in December 2003.



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The stockpile-destruction database developed by the Government of Canada was successfully integrated into E-MINE. The database enables users to determine whether a country that is a “state party” to (or full participant in) the international anti-personnel mine-ban treaty holds stockpiles of landmines, when it is scheduled to have destroyed these stockpiles, and whether it has met its treaty obligation in this regard.

In addition to making more information available to practitioners, UNMAS also took steps to raise awareness among the general public about landmines and UXO. The Information Unit developed and published an interactive CD-ROM, *Landmines: The World Takes Action*, which is distributed free to schools, NGOs, journalists and others to explain the scope and nature of the problem and to describe what can be done—or is already being done—about it. The CD-ROM was released at the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the mine-ban treaty and nearly 7,000 copies had been distributed by the end of 2002.

The unit released a new press and information kit with flyers on a range of topics and mine-action organizations. Other public outreach materials

included a special edition of *Landmines Magazine* on Afghanistan and two large displays for conferences and other purposes.

Threat monitoring

Two inter-agency and multi-sectoral assessment missions visited Mauritania and Tunisia to define the scope and nature of the landmine and UXO problems in these countries, to identify constraints to—or opportunities for—mine-action initiatives, and to make recommendations for a comprehensive response.

In Mauritania, the mission found that contamination by landmines and UXO is affecting the traditional way of life among nomadic peoples, hampering the development of infrastructure, and interfering with economic activities such as mineral extraction and tourism. The Tunisia mission identified the presence of nine minefields and offered options to the government for clearing them and meeting their obligations under the mine-ban treaty. The mission will enable the government to estimate clearance costs through 2010.

A technical mission visited Cyprus at the invitation of the UN Peacekeeping Force (UNFICYP) to identify the threat of mines laid in the buffer zone, now administered by the United Nations, and to recommend a response. Planning is under way to develop a clearance programme.

Throughout 2002, UNMAS provided regular threat-monitoring reports to the IACG, with information about plans and requests for upcoming missions. Reports from newswire services and UN information sources were sent to mine-action agencies to assist them in identifying areas where a threat might exist.





Technology

UNMAS continued to work with partner organizations to advance research and technology for detection, removal and destruction of mines and UXO. Activities included:

- Extending support for a three-year study, managed by the GICHD, on the use of mine-detection dogs in marking and clearance operations. The study will generate valuable information on dogs' capabilities and limitations. Drawing on the findings to date, the GICHD refined the international mine-action standards for operations with mine-detection dogs. The IACG endorsed these standards.
- Initiating a study, also managed by the GICHD, on the application of mechanical mine- and UXO-clearance technology. The study will examine how such equipment can best support reliable, safe and cost-effective operations. Results from the study will inform the development of international standards and guidelines for use of this equipment.
- Assisting in the development of a concept for a web-based information clearinghouse on mine-action equipment and technologies. This stems from discussions at the Demining Technology Information Forum. Participants in the forum expressed a need for easier and quicker exchange of information on traditional and cutting-edge tools and methods.
- Providing support to the International Test and Evaluation Programme (ITEP) through attendance at the Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. UNMAS distributed the ITEP Work Plan to all programme directors for information and comment. UNMAS also responded to many queries from industry, governments and civilians.

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Administration

During the year, the General Assembly approved the upgrading of the UN Mine Action Service to “division” status, with its head appointed at the Director level. The Director reports to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Toward the end of the year, a restructuring of UNMAS was approved. Two new chief-of-section posts were established, one for policy, information management and resource mobilization and the other for programme support. Recruitment for these posts was initiated.

In recognition of its increased role in providing mine-action support to peacekeeping operations, UNMAS received one new P-4 planning officer post and another post, at the P-3 level, for a programme officer, under the “Brahimi 2” package for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Resource mobilisation

The great majority of mine-action activities continue to be funded by voluntary contributions. The Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF) received approximately US\$26 million in 2002. The total includes \$18.8 million for Afghanistan. This is \$14 million above the amount for 2001. Total contributions to the VTF since 1994 amounted to \$108 million, as of the end of 2002. Sixteen donor countries and the European Commission made contributions in 2002, compared to 19 donor countries the year before. The VTF funded activities in 15 mine-affected countries in 2002, compared to 16 in 2001.

The Mine Action Support Group (MASG), which consists of representatives of donor countries, remains one of the most important instruments for mobilizing resources for mine action. Under the chairmanship of Belgium in 2002, MASG members — from New York and country capitals — took field



trips to Afghanistan, Eritrea and Ethiopia. UNMAS staff worked with the local mine-action centres to organize these trips, which raised donors’ interest in, and awareness of, the nature, scope and financial implications of mine action in the field.

UNMAS manages a mine-action investments database, which tracks donor contributions to projects worldwide. Donors update their own information on the database. In 2003, the database is expected to be transferred from the Government of Canada to UNMAS. By the end of 2002, 19 donors had submitted data to the system. Total donor contributions decreased slightly between 2000 and 2001 (complete data for 2002 are not yet available). Despite the overall reduction, some major donors, such as the European Commission, have either maintained or increased funding. The dip in contributions is a critical concern because it has occurred at a time when the number and scope of operations has increased.

UNMAS keeps the donor community abreast of resource mobilization efforts through a web-based interactive database, the Portfolio of Mine-related Projects. This database mainly features UN mine-action projects, but also includes some victim-assistance projects of NGOs, such as the ICBL and the Landmine Survivors Network. The projects in the Portfolio are also integrated into the UN's consolidated appeal process (CAP), when appropriate. In November 2002, for the first time, the Portfolio was published simultaneously with the launch of the CAP. UNMAS has encouraged donors to use the Portfolio as a reference when making funding decisions. At the end of 2002, about 65 percent of the financial requirements listed in the Portfolio had been met. The 35 percent shortfall, equivalent to \$63 million, has negatively affected the sustainability of mine-action programmes in several countries.

Support

Contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action in 2002

DONOR COUNTRY	Amount in US\$
Andorra	12,925.00
Australia	969,600.00
Belgium	222,633.83
Canada	2,775,209.54
Estonia	2,000.00
Finland	506,552.26
Germany	2,714,368.70
Ireland	187,300.00
Italy	2,270,860.98
Liechtenstein	18,045.11
Monaco	15,000.00
New Zealand	147,000.00
Norway	626,082.99
Sweden	336,495.00
United Arab Emirates	1,746,431.00
United Kingdom	5,037,619.50
European Community	8,379,072.00
Individuals	414.00
TOTAL	25,967,609.91

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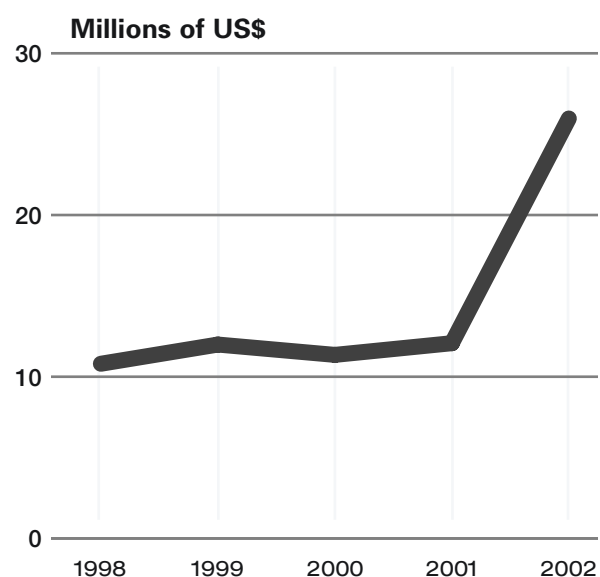
Use of funds

Use of the Voluntary Trust Fund to support mine-action programmes in 2002

PROGRAMME COUNTRY	Amount in US\$
Afghanistan	10,057,832.87
Bosnia and Herzegovina	199,999.80
Cambodia	255,953.60
Democratic Republic of the Congo	113,000.00
Ecuador	599,999.59
Ethiopia	199,999.80
Temporary Security Zone (Eritrea and Ethiopia)	2,186,589.55
Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)	205,454.34
Lao People's Democratic Republic	49,999.14
Lebanon	2,607,290.81
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	164,730.27
Somalia	99,999.35
Sri Lanka	60,075.46
Sudan	1,145,065.16
Yemen	249,998.94
HQ Projects and Coordination	5,117,061.74
TOTAL	23,313,050.42

Contributions

Annual contributions to Voluntary Trust Fund, 1998-2002



Mine action programmes

Countries with mine-action programmes that were funded or managed by UN organizations in 2002

Afghanistan	Iraq
Albania	Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)
Angola	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Azerbaijan	Lebanon
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mauritania
Burundi	Mozambique
Cambodia	Nicaragua
Chad	Panama
Colombia	Russian Federation (North Caucasus)
Croatia	Somalia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sri Lanka
Eritrea	Sudan
Ethiopia/Eritrea (Temporary Security Zone)	Syria (Golan Heights)
Ethiopia	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Georgia	Ukraine
Guatemala	Viet Nam
Guinea Bissau	Yemen
Iran	



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