



## **Mid-Year Review of United Nations Portfolio of Mine Action Projects Reveals Severe Underfunding for Life-Saving Programmes Globally**

**19 August 2016, New York.** While violent conflicts rage in many parts of the world, the United Nations has revealed a severe underfunding of mine action projects that protect civilians from landmines and other explosive hazards, including cluster munitions, rockets and improvised explosive devices. Such projects are essential to enabling emergency humanitarian response and long-term development. The United Nations mid-year review of the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects showed that out of more than \$367m requested by 24 humanitarian mine action programmes across the globe, only \$96m – or 26% - of the requested funds has been received to date, resulting in a shortfall of \$271m.

For example, the emergency response programme for Syria has received just over a third (37%) of the funding requested for 2016. \$39.8m was requested and \$14.7m has been received to date; funding is urgently required to avoid the closure of life-saving projects. In Myanmar, a country which still has widespread landmine contamination, none of the requested \$6m has been raised to date. More positively, in Cambodia, the fundraising target was exceeded, enabling an expansion of activities in one project, although the project is not yet funded for the next two years.

Agnès Marcaillou, Director of United Nations Mine Action Service, Chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, said: “In many countries today, humanitarian mine action can mean the difference between life and death for civilians living among unexploded bombs and other explosive hazards. On recent visits to Syria and Iraq, I met with the girls, women, boys and men who fear returning home, even after the fighting stops, knowing that their lives will still be in danger from the unexploded bombs left behind in their damaged homes, schools and places of worship.”

A total of 24 mine action programmes in Africa, Asia, Europe the Middle East and South America and submitted portfolios, comprising 155 projects ranging from the clearance of improvised explosive devices to risk awareness for children, capacity development of national institutions and socio-economic rehabilitation for survivors. The Portfolio is available at <http://www.mineaction.org/resources/portfolios> and includes interactive options, such as graphs and charts summarising the needs according to country, region and area of work.

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