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| Project Title | Protection of the civilian population and humanitarian actors through explosive threat awareness and avoidance in the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Chad and Niger) |
| Funds Requested | US \$850,000 |
| Project Duration | 12 months |
| UNMAS HQ Contact | Kurt Chesko, Donor Relations Officer, chesko@un.org |

1. Context

The armed conflict between Boko Haram and the countries of the Lake Chad Basin has seen the emergence of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) as a threat in all four countries over the past three years. While conflict is still ongoing in an increasingly restricted part of northeastern Nigeria, and around Lake Chad, access and security have allowed increasing humanitarian activity in the affected regions of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. Cameroon's Far-North, Chad's Lac, and Niger's Diffa regions are impacted by the IED threat, which is manifested largely through the use of IEDs on roads targeting military vehicles but sometimes causing civilian collateral damage, or suicide bombers.

While suicide attacks have caused the vast majority of civilian deaths and injuries, the fear and insecurity caused by IEDs planted along roads targeting military personnel has also directly impacted the safety of the population while impeding the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Despite the asymmetrical nature of the conflict, accidents involving explosive remnant of war (ERW) have occurred and could increase in frequency with the return of refugees and displaced persons to recently stabilized areas.

In light of the emergence of these explosive threats, the following gaps have been identified, which impacts the protection of civilians, and hinders the delivery of essential humanitarian assistance:

In Cameroon, which has no historical landmine contamination, and as such lacks the civilian structures to address this type of threat:

- The mechanisms for coordinating a military response to dispose of explosive hazards identified by civilians or the humanitarian community have not been established.
- The fear of explosive contamination in villages abandoned due to clashes, prevents displaced communities from returning home.
- Civilians living in affected areas have no knowledge or understanding of explosive threats, including IEDs.

In all three countries (Chad, Niger and Cameroon):

- There is a lack of knowledge of explosive threats among humanitarian actors, restricting freedom of movement.
- Technical guidance for humanitarian actors seeking access to areas potentially impacted by IEDs, or threatened by suicide attacks is not available.
- The technical expertise required to develop or adjust sensitization materials and approaches in an IED threat environment is insufficient.

In Chad and Niger, which both have existing national capacity to manage explosive hazards, technical assistance will focus on the integration of IED mitigation measures into existing training packages and materials, and the provision of technical advice to the UN and humanitarian actors.

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), deployed to Cameroon at the request of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in January 2017, is in a position to support the UN system with the technical response necessary to fill these gaps, and assist humanitarian workers and civilians to live and work more safely in an environment impacted by the threat of IEDs through the project described below. An emergency response team composed of two international and two national staff, would be based in Cameroon's Far-North region, and provide technical assistance and support to the population affected by the explosive threat, the UN, the humanitarian actors and the national authorities in Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

Beneficiaries

- 30,000 women, men, girls and boys planning to return to their homes in the districts of Cameroon's Far-North region bordering Nigeria¹
- 600 humanitarian workers in Cameroon, Chad and Niger
- United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) personnel in Cameroon, Chad and Niger
- Indirectly, 100% of women, men, girls and boys, trained by partners in Cameroon, Chad and Niger using the materials developed with UNMAS technical assistance

2. Project Outcomes, Outputs and Activities

2.1. Outcomes

- Civilians most at-risk of encountering IED threats in the Far-North region of Cameroon can identify basic warning signs, avoid possible IED situations, and report threats to the relevant authorities
- Explosive threat awareness messaging and materials delivered by all actors in Cameroon, Chad and Niger include information on IEDs and means to avoid them
- Humanitarian assistance is delivered in the Boko-Haram affected regions of Cameroon, Chad and Niger with appropriate measures taken to minimize the impact of possible IED threats for humanitarian workers and aid beneficiaries

2.2. Outputs

Cameroon:

- 30,000 women, men, girls and boys are reached with awareness messaging
- An information management system is established in Cameroon in collaboration with UNDSS and UNICEF including mechanisms to capture information on threats, casualties, and trends. Information includes gender and age specific data. Information collected is shared regularly with all relevant stakeholders

¹ Calculated based on the 6th Displacement Tracking matrix (DTM) report which indicated that 31% of the 191,908 IDPs recorded planned to return home. We have assumed that half will do so in the coming 12 months. Source: IOM, <http://www.globaldtm.info/cameroon/>

- A framework for explosive ordnance disposal has been established in coordination with the defence and security forces, and a system has been established for a government response to threats encountered by civilians or humanitarian workers

Cameroon, Chad and Niger:

- 600 humanitarian workers are trained
- UNDSS personnel are trained to deliver basic explosive threat awareness training
- Through support for the national authorities, UNICEF and UNHCR, training materials for the civilian population and humanitarian workers are relevant to the Lake Chad Basin context, including IED threats
- Inter-agency humanitarian assessments include technical support for the review of IED and other explosive threats, where needed

2.3. Activities

Cameroon:

- Delivery of risk education to civilians returning home, and those living in high-risk areas
- Development of casualty and incident surveillance mechanisms with UNDSS and UNICEF
- Development, with the humanitarian country team, UNDSS, humanitarian actors, and the military, of the mechanisms for reporting and responding to explosive threats

Cameroon, Chad and Niger:

- Planning and coordinating training for humanitarian actors with OCHA
- Delivery of training sessions to humanitarian workers
- Delivery of training sessions for UNDSS personnel
- Technical support for the national authorities, UNICEF and UNHCR in the development, testing and production of tailored risk education training packages and materials for the IED threat situation in the Lake Chad Basin
- Participation in inter-agency humanitarian assessments as required

3. Resources required

The funding required to deliver this support over a 12-month period is US \$850,000.

| Category | Cost (US\$) |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Personnel | 362,448 |
| Travel | 101,448 |
| Grants/Contract | 180,000 |
| Equipment | 27,000 |
| Operating costs | 116,141 |
| Activities subtotal | 787,037 |
| UN PSC | 62,963 |
| Project total | 850,000 |