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| Project Title | Protection of the civilian population and humanitarian actors through explosive threat awareness and avoidance in north-east Nigeria |
| Funds Requested | USD 1,400,000 |
| Project Duration | 12 months |
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1. Context

The eight-years of violent conflict across north-east Nigeria has resulted in a deepening humanitarian crisis. According to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2017 for Nigeria, a total of 8.5 million people are directly affected by the conflict in the three States of north-east Nigeria (Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States), with 1.7 million people internally displaced¹. In addition, one of the Nigerian Government's political priorities is to commence the return of approximately one million IDPs, and refugees to 27 local government areas (LGAs) in Borno State as soon as May 2017. This will create massive humanitarian needs for food, water, and shelter.

In areas impacted by the conflict, as much as 20 per cent of munitions fired have not exploded on impact, resulting in high volumes of explosive remnants of war (ERW) contaminating areas largely vacated by the civilian population. According to the HRP 2017 for Nigeria, people engaged in agricultural livelihoods need some measure of security to allow them return to their land.

Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are a weapon of choice of Boko Haram, including the extensive use of person borne IEDs (PBIED, or suicide bombers) to target mosques and other public spaces, and vehicle borne IED (VBIED), pressure-plate activated IEDs and command-wire and radio-controlled IEDs targeting the defence and security forces. There have also been reports of the use of landmines, although these have not yet been confirmed.

Returnees and humanitarian support staff will be increasingly exposed to these explosive threats as people go back to their home and humanitarian operations ramp up in the three regions. The Nigerian Army already reports serious challenges to provide armed escorts and route clearance so the forecast increased demand for road convoys for returnees, humanitarian supplies, UN and NGO workers, is likely not to be met. This in turn will directly expose convoys to IEDs, ambushes, and criminal activities. In addition, UNHAS is providing the only safe transport (by helicopter) between Maiduguri and the outlying LGAs and humanitarian hubs, which will likely need to be supplemented by increased use of road convoys given the looming sharp increase in humanitarian demand. With the onset of the rainy season, road access will also be hampered, and there may be migration of some ERW, landmines as the ground softens.

While the reported number of explosive related accidents is relatively low, this is likely due to the fact that the majority of the IDPs, and refugees remain outside the former conflict areas, or confined to the relatively safety of the newly controlled LGAs.

The UN, and international agencies currently have limited exposure to explosive threats as the majority of roads are either designated by UNDSS as 'black' (closed), or 'red/orange' (requiring a military escort). Despite this, there have been a number of ambush and IED incidents involving humanitarian convoys.

¹ Humanitarian Response Plan 2017 for Nigeria - https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/ocha_nga_hrp_2017_19122016.pdf



By far the biggest impact to date has been on the Nigerian security forces, who have reported more losses (over 300) due to IEDs than by conventional combat over the past six months.

Although the Nigerian Army and Police have fully engaged their explosive threat mitigation capacities in the three States of north-east Nigeria, with ongoing military operations taking immediate priority, they will likely be unable to meet the emergency humanitarian requirements, including the assessment and clearance of 27 LGAs, 15 humanitarian hubs, and numerous main supply routes in Borno State alone.

In April 2017, at the request of the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) conducted a scoping mission to ascertain the nature and extent of explosive threats with a view to identify possible mitigation measures in support of the humanitarian sector. UNMAS is in a position to support the UN system with the appropriate technical response, and to 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.

Beneficiaries

- UN personnel and humanitarian workers deployed in north-east Nigeria
- Indirectly, 100% of women, men, girls and boys living in conflict affected areas trained by partners using the materials developed with UNMAS technical assistance.

2. Project Outcomes, Outputs and Activities

This project would deploy an emergency response team to north-east Nigeria (Maiduguri, Borno State), to provide technical assistance and support to the population affected by the explosive threat, the UN Agencies/personnel, the humanitarian actors and the national authorities in country.

Outcome: Appropriate measures to mitigate explosive threats are integrated into the humanitarian response in north-east Nigeria, with a focus on facilitating and prioritising safe humanitarian access and return of the population displaced by the conflict.

Objectives:

- Planning of humanitarian operations within the UN system takes into consideration the threat posed by explosive hazards
- Explosive threat information is consolidated, analysed and disseminated, to enable an appropriate humanitarian response
- Mechanisms for emergency survey and clearance of explosive threats are initiated in line with the political agreements on returns established between the UN leadership and the Nigerian Government

Activities:

Planning of humanitarian operations within the UN system considers the threat posed by explosive hazards

- Provide technical advice on the nature and threat of explosive hazards to the UN system and humanitarian actors to inform strategic and operational planning.



- Coordinate Humanitarian Mine Action and explosive threat mitigation activities.
- Participate in the evaluation of newly accessible areas and humanitarian hubs to confirm possible explosive threats and advise on mitigation measures.
- Coordinate the development of context specific tools for awareness training.
- Coordinate and deliver awareness training to UN staff, agencies and humanitarian actors.

Explosive threat information is consolidated, analysed and disseminated to enable an appropriate humanitarian response

- Develop a common data management mechanism for explosive threats and systematic mapping.
- Share information on explosive threats with relevant stakeholders to inform humanitarian assistance.

Mechanisms for emergency survey and clearance of explosive threats are initiated in line with the political agreements on returns established between the UN leadership and the Nigerian Government

- Once agreements are made at the political level, liaise with technical Government, international and national actors, military, and security forces regarding requirements, priorities, focal points, and timeframes for emergency survey and clearance operations.
- Provide guidance on standards and operating procedures for the conduct of emergency survey, battle area clearance and EOD spot tasks in the absence of national guidelines or standards as requested.
- Advocate for, and coordinate, emergency survey and clearance activities according to humanitarian needs.

3. Resources required

The funding required to deliver this support over a 12-month period is USD 1,400,000.

If the capital expenses (administrative, logistics and accommodation/office support) are provided by the UNCT/OHCT in Nigeria, the budget below would be reduced by approximately USD 200,000.

| Category | Cost (USD) |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Personnel | 865,000 |
| Travel | 92,000 |
| Equipment | 172,000 |
| Operating costs | 167,296 |
| Activities subtotal | 1,296,296 |
| UN PSC (8%) | 103,704 |
| Project total | 1,400,000 |