



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Mine Action Support Group Meeting

Mine Action: Enabling Peacekeeping, Development & Humanitarian Assistance

Wednesday, 2 April 2014

Background on Mine Action (UNICEF)

In more than twenty countries UNICEF supports the development of national mine action capacities primarily of governments, national NGOs and also of UNICEF's own national staff. Mine/ERW Risk Education (MRE), victim assistance, and advocacy are the three pillars for which UNICEF is primarily known. However UNICEF also supports injury surveillance, prioritization, survey, tasking and assessment in affected countries with a focus on sustainable and long term action.

UNICEF's Armed Violence & Weapons (AVW) Team **is** based in New York. It manages emergency response and ensures quality, relevance, and value for money in its field and global mine action work. At the same time as the UNICEF staff in affected countries strengthen capacities, the global team works across countries and with implementing partners to ensure that knowledge is managed, quality maintained, international best practice made available to all affected countries, and that techniques are constantly improved. The AVW staff convenes and chairs the International MRE Advisory Group, develops and implements training, supports countries in evaluations and assessments, develops and disseminates practical tools for mine action, including IMAS, among other functions. The team provides the technical support both to UNICEF and to the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict on issues pertaining to the Security Council's work on preventing killing and maiming of children in conflict. In addition to the mine action work, it is responsible for all weapons-related programming, response, and advocacy at UNICEF.

- In **Syria**, a recent assessment of child protection trends and patterns by the Global Child Protection Working Group chaired by UNICEF, 42% of respondents identified explosive remnants of war as the main violent threat to children's safety in their area of departure. UNICEF has been working throughout Syria for the duration of the conflict, and the implementation of MRE activities is just as challenging as other sectors in terms of access and security. Nevertheless UNICEF has integrated MRE into the school curriculum and works through other media and networks. UNICEF Jordan is engaged with the National Centre for Demining and Rehabilitation to support risk education for Syrian refugees. In 2014, UNICEF forecasts a requirement of **\$ 3,500,000** to coordinate and expand mine risk education in the sub region.
- **Myanmar** has one of the highest civilian mine accident rates in the world with seven highly affected states. The Myanmar Mine Action Center is in its nascent stage of development and its work largely depends on the process of peace negotiations. Despite the success of recent cease-fire negotiations, landmines and ERW are not cleared. A National Mine Risk Education working group was established in early 2012 in response to the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The working group is facilitating access to mine affected states and regions and providing coordination among the increasing number of mine action actors in the country. UNICEF supported the development of National MRE and other standards based on IMAS, which are in the process of endorsement from the Cabinet. UNICEF has been facilitating the implementation of a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice survey, as well as risk education and victim assistance activities in South Myanmar under the leadership of the Department of Social Welfare. In 2014 February, the Kachin State

Emergency MRE working group was formed as part of decentralized coordination mechanism for mine action at states/regional level in order to address emergency need of Mine Risk Education for IDPs and get a faster approval process from State level authorities rather than central Government. UNICEF requests **\$1.5 million in 2014** for capacity strengthening and implementation of MRE, surveys, injury surveillance, and victim assistance.

- In **Mali**, the majority of casualties of victim-activated explosions are children. IDPs as well as 'host' communities are particularly at-risk, hence the importance of expanding a comprehensive Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance strategy and strengthening the injury surveillance system. UNICEF established its mine action activities in March 2012 and, **in 2014, will need \$ 1,200,000** to target directly 350,000, and indirectly two million beneficiaries with the MRE and victim assistance package in the Northern and central regions of Mali.
- The renewed population movement in **South Sudan** has dramatically increased the risks of ERW casualties. Moreover, as the fighting subsides in different pockets of the country, many people have started to return to their places of origin to assess what is left in their settlements without information on the possible risks. MRE activities during 2014 will target mainly displaced people in IDP camps. UNICEF has trained eight local organizations and will support the national mine action authority to coordinate and expand MRE activities. Its forecasted requirement for 2014 is **\$ 800,000** to implement this emergency MRE.
- In **Somalia** community and school based MRE focus on teaching safe behaviours and reducing risks in the most affected communities. In 2013 710,736 children and adults (47% female) received MRE with activities including training of teachers, community volunteers and community leaders. In order to ensure the achievements are sustained, UNICEF developed the capacity of counterparts, particularly local NGOs in planning, monitoring and assuring the quality of MRE programme. The project also focused on building the capacity of key child protection actors within the community. Since 2012 to date UNICEF in partnership with its implementing partners supported training of 870 teachers (250 koranic teachers and 620 primary school teachers), 35 child protection advocates (CPAs) and 350 Child Friendly. In 2014 MRE activities will target areas affected by current Government and AMISOM military offensive in South Central Somalia and areas hosting displaced communities/IDPs. UNICEF forecasts the requirement for 2014 to be **\$1,049,680**.

Funding Priorities in 2014

With the exception of Chad, all of the countries and global work supported by UNICEF face funding gaps for 2014. As the mine/ERW contamination is critical to the citizens of each country, we refer you to the country briefs that have been distributed by UNICEF. These contain budgets and contact details for further follow-up. ***Note that all budgets contain figures for direct implementation of activities that also can be funded through bilateral arrangements with NGOs or any organization that has access and approved implementation modalities in the respective countries. These short documents are intended to give a snapshot of overall requirements that include UNICEF's work but do not exclude the valuable work of other agencies.***