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UNMAS SYRIA: READY TO RESPOND

STATE OF SYRIA: ONGOING VIOLENT CONFLICT, HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

Syria's violent conflict rages on with devastating humanitarian consequences.

In 2013 alone, over **27,000** recorded incidents of heavy weapons fire in Syria, impacting **987** communities which had an original total population of over **14** million.



LOOKING AHEAD: UNMAS RAPID RESPONSE

UNMAS Rapid Response ready to lead the development of a coordination cell for an immediate and effective mine action response.

Immediate priorities include:

- Clearance of schools and hospitals
- Safe return of refugees and IDPs
- Coordination of multiple actors on the ground
- Risk awareness in vulnerable communities
- Support to rubble removal in a contaminated environment





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ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES

- No history of humanitarian mine action or coordinating authority.
- No mine action NGOs currently accredited to work in the country.
- Ongoing volatile security situation.
- Range of actors with various funding mechanisms and goals.
- Explosives and weapons dispersed among population.





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EXPERIENCE: UNMAS ON THE GROUND IN SYRIA

UNMAS was part of the UNSMIS observer mission in Syria from July-August 2012.

Provided:

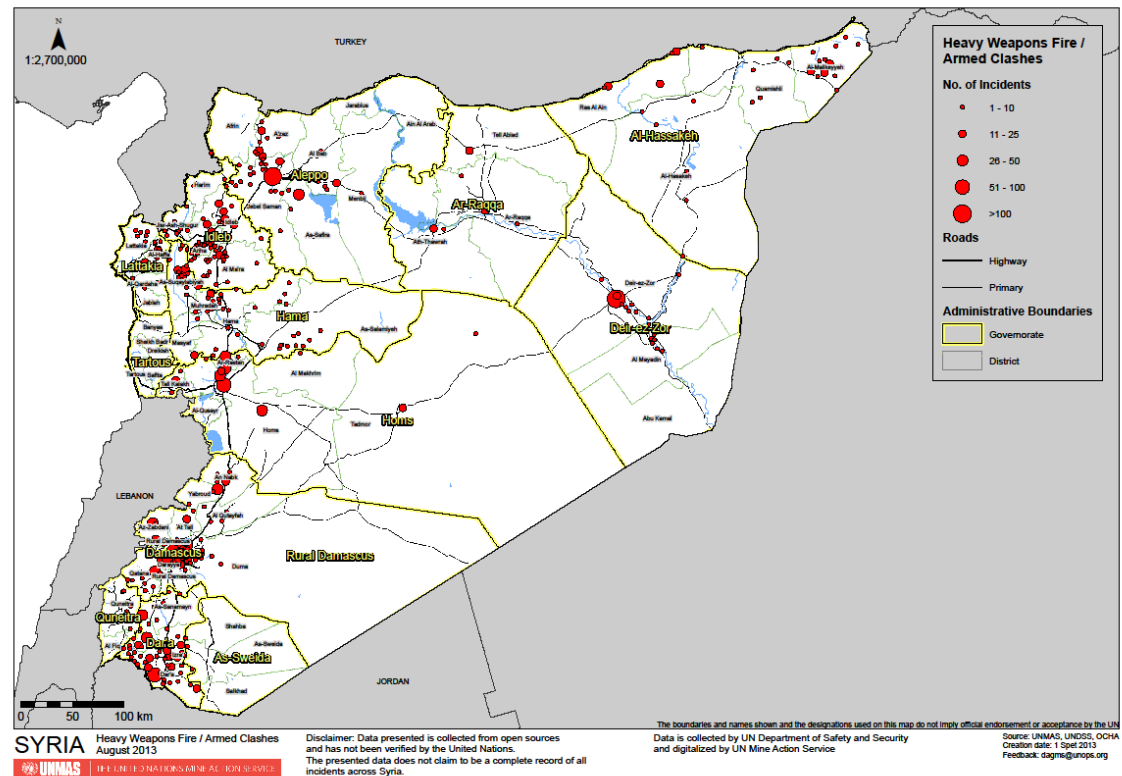
- **Technical support** on explosive hazards as part of investigations.
- **Risk awareness training** to over 400 UN military observers & civilian staff.





UNMAS PREPAREDNESS: INFORMATION AND PLANNING

- **UNMAS has created a database to monitor and map reports of heavy weapons – now contains one year of data.**
- **Based on database, developed 30 and 90 day plans according to various potential scenarios.**





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UNMAS PREPAREDNESS: REGIONAL COORDINATION

- Already established **regional coordination forum** for mine action sector in the region
- Coordinated development of **'toolbox' of risk education materials** available to all NGOs via online portal.
- Established **forward logistics bases** in Jordan & Lebanon



DONOR SUPPORT REQUIRED

- Support required to continue the information and planning cell for Syria to ensure preparedness: **\$500,000 per annum.**
- Plans developed based on data indicate rapid and effective response requires **\$20m for the first six months.**
- Crucial that **funds and equipment** are available quickly once a response is possible.
- Donors requested to be prepared to fund mine action rapidly once opportunity emerges.