



## **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 (IACG-MA – UNDP)**

UNDP provides both technical and financial assistance (\$50 Million budget) to build the capacity of 25 National Demining Authorities to facilitate implementation of the National Mine Action Strategy. UNDP has supported national institutions in charge of the coordination, monitoring and regulation of all mine action in-country to formulate strategies and plans to achieve the priorities identified by the respective Governments. UNDP continues to assist Governments in contracting national operators and to develop guidelines to regulate commercial operators where they exist, like in the case of Iraq.

#### **Operational/Programmatic Updates (in past 6 months)**

- **Sudan**: As of January 2014, the strategic leadership for all mine action activities has been transferred from UNMAS to UNDP. The Mine Action operations are jointly administered with UNOPS, as an implementing agency, with whom UNMAS has a long standing arrangement for provision of services in Mines and ERW contamination and has a solid experience in implementation of mine action projects. UNDP will continue to build the capacity of the National Demining Authority in Sudan with project activities undertaken through 10 different stakeholders and operators, who employ 500 in 10 states with total of 2 million mine affected population. Already, progress has been made in building national capacity to conduct land release operation. For the first time in Sudan two national NGOs were trained and deployed to conduct land release operations in the field. National organizations have produced impressive outputs and significant achievements in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) with notable cost reduction.
- **Lebanon**: Undertook a mid-term review to assess the sustainability measures in place that would ensure that the benefits of the Mine Action project interventions are going to be continued in the long term, and what kind of corrective measures are needed to take place in 2014. UNDP continued its support LMAC in mine action activities with 17 different stakeholders and operators, who employ 510 in 6 Governorate with total of 3 million mine affected population (inclusive of Syrian refugees). The assessment also looked at the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency and the prospective impact and sustainability of each output against the national strategy's milestone 2013.
- **Libya**: There has been notable progress on UNDP technical support delivered to assist the Government of Libya. Recent highlights include:
  1. National Strategy / legal reform. The strategy is now adopted and the legal review is underway that aims at adopting a new law for the sector incorporating international best practices in line with the national context on mine action in Libya.
  2. Institutional building /capacity development. UNDP has despite the existing challenges, advanced work to shape formal adoption of mandated National Mine Action Authority and Executive bodies.

3. Accession to the Conventions. This subject has been included within the national strategy and UNDP continues to support national engagement with the conventions.
4. Standard operating procedures have been finalized on how the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) as the Arms and Ammunition Advisory Section relates to UNDP Mine action team.

Approximately 15 stakeholders and operators, employing close to 1000 personnel and with different teams capacities are working in Libya. The accreditation process for operators has just been formally started and UNDP will continue to provide progress reports in future meetings. Population directly affected by mines ERW is mainly rural population but indirectly the whole population (6.5M) is affected due to development issues (particularly infrastructure and upstream oil).

- Yemen: Efforts for mine clearance continued in Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan province that will soon be declared mine-free. In many parts of the country, progress on mine clearance activities was hampered by the insecurity in the country. Where operations were going on priority was given to removing mines in residential neighbourhoods and areas near population centres to minimise casualties. UNDP provides support to YEMAC which works with 11 different stakeholders and operators, who employ 900 in 19 provinces with total of 3.6 million mine affected population.

#### Funding Priorities in 2014

- Sudan: \$3.4 Million
- Lebanon: \$5.0 Million (It is imperative to note that Syrian Refugees have crossed over to the Northern part of Lebanon)
- Libya: \$ 3.0 Million
- Yemen: \$5.0 Million