



## 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 (UNMAS)**

*UNMAS is the UN system-wide mine action focal point responsible to coordinate, implement and lead in the management of explosive hazards, and in the reduction of the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war. Increasingly, UNMAS is requested to also respond with activities to address the threat posed to the UN by the use of IEDs and to address the challenges posed by unsecured weapons and ammunition. UNMAS currently directly supports 18 mine action operations and coordinates UN system-wide mine action policy and advocacy initiatives, including the mine action monitoring and evaluation of progress of implementation of the Strategy of the United Nations in Mine Action 2013-2018.*

- ***Afghanistan:*** UNMAS coordinated the delivery of the 1<sup>st</sup> year work plan of the Ottawa Treaty Extension, achieving the clearance targets outlined in the plan. Resource mobilization efforts continue to deliver the 2<sup>nd</sup> year's work plan targets. UNMAS continues to support the transition process to national ownership by building capacity of the national authority, necessary mine action legislation, and technical support to three Ministries responsible for victim assistance and mine risk education. UNMAS continues to engage with ISAF/NATO on explosive remnants of war in and around firing ranges as well as battlefields.
- ***Central African Republic:*** Coordinating all mine action related activities, including risk education implemented by partners in IDP camps. Providing ammunition and weapon management technical support to MISCA including clearance of all ex-FACA/ex-Séléka explosive storage facilities in barracks and camps in Bangui, an important prerequisite for all humanitarian actors on the ground to operate safely. Actively fights risk caused by unsafe stored ammunition in populated areas by moving these dangerous items outside of the capital. Obtaining sufficient support
- ***Mali:*** UNMAS and UNICEF, partnering with Danish Church Aid, Handicap International, Mines Advisory Group, the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, and other local and international NGOs, provided risk education to over 100,000 people, and destroyed over 1,000 items of UXO. To date, surveys have been completed in over 650 communities throughout northern Mali. With increasing threats from IEDs, UNMAS has initiated mine, ERW and IED risk education for humanitarian, development and early recovery community returning to northern Mali to ensure their safety.

- **South Sudan:** Through route assessment and verification a total of 22,903 km of roads were opened from 2013 until now, which allows the free and safe movement of key development, trade and humanitarian actors. Deployed eight multi-tasking teams to conduct clearance operations and surveys, to provide quick response and to liaise with local communities. Awarded a grant to support Handicap International to enhance quality life for survivors and persons with disabilities.
- **Syria:** Manages the 'clash database', collating and mapping data on heavy weapons use across Syria. This information supports DSS and OCHA in planning humanitarian assistance and information products. In discussion with the World Bank about collaborating on a Syria data project. ERW risk education and victim assistance project included in the Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) 2014, but no visas issued to enable the deployment of international staff to establish a programme.

### **Funding Priorities in 2014**

- **Afghanistan:** *US\$4.8 million for mine action coordination; US\$ 3million for victim assistance projects; US\$51.6 million for demining projects; US\$0.4 million for MRE. (Total needs: US\$59.8 million from US\$76.9million)*
- **Central African Republic:** *\$1 million required in 2014. An urgent requirement of US\$200,000 is needed to support building of temporary storage to be able to safely store weapons and ammunition currently scattered in Bangui as well as provide storage for what is being collected by MISCA and Sangaris and to help prevent further proliferation.*
- **Mali:** *\$2 million required in 2014.*
- **South Sudan:** *\$2 million for route survey and verification; \$1 million for PSSM activities.*
- **Syria:** *Only earmarked funding received for Syria has been from the Italian Government, aside from the previous in-kind donations from the Swedish Government.*