

Mine Action Support Group

18 February 2016, Geneva

UNDP Information Update

1. Evaluation of UNDP Contribution to Mine Action.

In 2015, the Independent Evaluation of UNDP's contribution to Mine Action was undertaken. The Evaluation Report as well as UNDP Management Response to the Evaluation were presented to the UNDP Executive Board on 25 January 2016. This evaluation has been undertaken at an opportune time when UNDP is re-engaging in the Development and Mine Action area where appropriate, i.e., based on demand from programme countries, and ensuring linkage to the outcomes of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2014-2017.

The Evaluation captured period of 2004-2014 and has 18 Findings in total. In particular, the evaluation noted that UNDP is a major player in mine action and a significant contributor to mine action within the UN Secretary-General's Mine Action Strategy (2013-2018). It also noted that there is a room for improvement, e.g., in providing a global strategy and guidance from UNDP HQ; or ensuring transition to national ownership of Mine Action, etc. The Evaluation presented 3 main recommendations, with which UNDP Management agreed.

Recommendation 1: Reaffirm UNDP's strategic commitment to Mine Action support globally and ensure that countries with ongoing Mine Action programmes are supported at the headquarters and regional level.

Recommendation 2: UNDP should enhance its institutional capacity support services to governments on Mine Action, building on lessons from successful transitions to sustainable national ownership, and utilizing South-South Cooperation and closer engagement with UN and other international partners.

Recommendation 3: In the near term, most of the requests for UNDP support on Mine Action will focus on mature national programmes in non-conflict zones, where residual mine problems are based in poor rural areas. This suggests a critical development need that UNDP is well suited to help with, which is to provide job creation and market development strategies and techniques, and to channel targeted donor support, towards improving the socio-economic conditions in mine-affected communities.

Moving forward, UNDP will follow-up by pursuing the ‘Development and Mine Action’ approach which focuses on three priorities:

- (a) translating MA into sustainable development dividends in the form of jobs/livelihoods, including food security;
- (b) strengthening national institutions that accelerate development benefits, including livelihoods and human security;
- (c) Advocacy and support for normative policies and frameworks on Mine Action, Anti Personnel Mine Ban Treaty and others.

UNDP will ensure that we support national governments on the above issues and based on demand. The main objectives will be the attainment of socioeconomic benefits from the work on Mine Action.