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UNDP Mine Action Programming: Bosnia and Herzegovina

February 2016

I. UNDP Approach to ‘Development and Mine Action’

UNDP’s 2014-17 Strategic Plan focuses on helping countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of extreme poverty and reduction of inequalities and exclusion. In many of the most fragile post-conflict contexts that count on UNDP support, however, landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are a significant hindrance to this vision. To be an effective development partner in settings rife with landmines and ERW, UNDP has revamped its ‘Development and Mine Action’ Agenda through programmes that tackle the connected issues of poverty, inequality and exclusion while lowering the risks arising from shocks and stressors.

With this in mind, UNDP’s approach to what is now a Development and Mine Action service line focuses on restoring livelihoods capacities and building resilience by: (1) translating mine action into sustainable development dividends in the form of jobs/livelihoods and (2) strengthening national institutions that accelerate development benefits. This approach frames overall UNDP support to Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

II. Mine Action Context in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Twenty years since the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina ended, the country remains one of the most mine contaminated countries in the world, with 1,176.5 km² of land (2.3% of its territory) still suspected or confirmed to contain landmines and ERW. The current mine action strategy aims to achieve a mine-free status by 2019, although with the current capacities it is unlikely to meet this target. A general assessment of mine situation identified 1.417 affected communities under the impact of mines/UXO. Mine and UXO contaminated locations directly affect approximately 538.500 citizens, which is approximately 15% out of total number of citizens. In May 2014, the country was severely affected by floods that affected some 800km², out of which approximately 320km² were within suspected mined areas of Dobojski, Maglaj, Olovo, Una-Sana Canton, Brčko, and Posavina area.

III. Key Activities

- Support and advise to BH Mine Action Management (Minister of Civil Affairs, Demining Commission and BHMACH) on mine action issues
 - As Co-chair the Board of Donors UNDP will facilitate on going liaison with Commission, BHMACH and donors;
 - Provision of technical advisory support to the Minister of Civil Affairs/Demining Commission on mine action.
- Support for monitoring of the implementation of the mine action strategy, strategy revision development, action plan development and support monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy
- Support for the implementation of some of the operational objectives in the revised strategy (and specific activities in the strategy action plan), for example:
 - Support to the BH Management for the implementation of land release;
 - Building capacities of BHMACH for adopting good governance principles in mine action management; .

IV. Challenges

Given the current level of demining capacities, rates of survey and clearance operations and funding shortfalls, the country is unlikely to meet its target in its mine action strategy of clearing all known minefields by 2019. The situation was further complicated by the flooding of suspected hazard areas in 2014, requiring re-survey of these areas to account for soil movement and landmine migration. The mine action authorities are taking steps, such as adopting a new national mine action standard on land release, to accelerate demining operations and need to revise the national mine action strategy to account for new timeframe and mobilize the necessary resources and capacities to meet the new targets.

V. Budget

Budget allocated in 2015 (USD)	Budget projected for 2016 (USD)	Funding shortfall for 2016 (USD)	Budget projected for 2017 (USD)	Budget projected for 2018 (USD)
275,000	222,000	150,000	150,000	150,000