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UNDP Mine Action Programming: Egypt

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 Egypt.

II. Egypt Mine Action Context

Landmines and ERW have a significant negative impact on Egypt, particularly as a constriction to socio-economic development, especially in the North West Coast (NWC). Mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) along the Mediterranean coast in Matrouh Governorate, have denied access to an area close to 22% of the national territory that has many natural resources, including estimated reserves of 1.8 billion barrels of oil and 8.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas as well as about 3.5 million acres good for grazing and agriculture. The scarcity of inhabitants in this region, which has a pleasant and moderate climate all year around, is largely due to the negative impact of ERWs of WWII. According to the Executive Secretariat for the Demining and Development of the NWC at the Ministry of International Cooperation, the ratio of landmine survivors to the total population of the region is 1:500, one of the highest in the world.

III. UNDP Mine Action Programme:

From 2007 to 2014, UNDP Egypt provided technical assistance to the Executive Secretariat for Mine Clearance and the Development of the NWC at the Ministry of International Cooperation under the first phase of the project. In addition to the funding of the Egyptian Government and UNDP, the project was supported by the financial contributions from the Governments of New Zealand, Australia, Germany and the United Kingdom. The project successfully cleared more than 382 square kilometers out of the estimated 2,395 square kilometers of contaminated land in the NWC, amounting to 16% of the contaminated areas. The cleared land was subsequently handed over to the Ministries of Agriculture and Housing for productive use through new residential settlements and economic development projects. The project, also, implemented other developmental activities that significantly contributed to the improvement of the livelihoods of mine victims and their families.

In October 2014, the second phase of the project was launched with funding from the European Union of EUR 4.7 million (almost USD 6.7 million). UNDP also contributed to the new phase with USD 290,000. The second phase of the project will work to clear 706 square kilometers of land in the NWC with new mine clearance equipment. This new phase of the project will ensure that all 761 of mine incidents survivors are engaged in income generation activities to improve their livelihoods. Mine Risk Education and advocacy will continue aiming to prevent accidents, particularly involving children.

IV. Key Activities

- Strengthen national capacities of relevant stakeholders to manage Mine Action in Egypt, for mine clearance operations in the NWC region and for accelerated mine clearance operations
- Reintegrate mine victims, with special emphasis on women, into society and enabling them to contribute to the development of the NWC region.
- Develop and expand Mine Risk Education Programme, and advocacy activities.



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V. Challenges

Currently, the Executive Secretariat for Mine Clearance and the Development of the NWC is transforming into the Egyptian National Mine Action Centre (ENMAC), which will serve as the national coordinator of Mine Action activities not only in the NWC area, but also in other contaminated areas all over Egypt. Hence, to be able to expand operations, additional resources are indispensable. Moreover, the ongoing phase of the project lacks resources necessary to support the continuation of demining activities in the NWC after 2017, especially that vast areas along the NWC continue to be jeopardized by the risks of landmine contamination, depriving the national economy from the utilization of a resource-rich location.

VI. Budget

UNDP Mine Action Activities in 2015	Used Budget 2015	Planned Mine Action Activities for 2016	Funding 2016	Funding shortfall 2017
Clearance, risk education and victims' rehabilitation.	US\$ 2.69 M	Clearance, risk education and victims' rehabilitation, income generation activities for victims capacity development	US\$ 2.87M	US\$ 5M