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UNDP Mine Action Programming: Lebanon

February 2016

I. UNDP Approach to 'Development and Mine Action'

Mine action remains an essential component of the work of the United Nations as outlined in the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018 and as specified in output 1.1.8 of the UNDAF for Lebanon. Mine Action is identified as a critical factor in the UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017 in restoring livelihood capacities and building resilience to shocks and stresses.

The UNDP's support to HMA in Lebanon dates back to 2001 when UNDP started supporting the Lebanon Mine Action Programme (LMAP). Currently, the UNDP is providing dual support to the LMAC; institutional support through staff and advisory services, and capacity building support through supporting trainings, surveys, technical assistance, strategy and policy planning, communication, and overall coordination. Over the years, the UNDP has gained the trust of local communities as well as the local authorities and its work in this project has been positively evaluated.

II. Lebanon Mine Action Context

The problem of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in Lebanon has accumulated over four decades of internal and external conflict, resulting in the contamination of vast swathes of land. It is estimated that the contaminated land yet remaining to be cleared at the end of 2015 amounted to around 60 million square meters, of which an estimated 75% can be used for agricultural purposes. Of the total 711 contaminated villages, 292 villages have been cleared, leaving 419 villages for clearance.

UNDP continues to support the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC) through capacity building efforts to ensure the development of a sustainable and adequate structure to manage mine action. UNDP has prepared a new project document for Phase IV (2016-2019) in the amount of 2,010,000 EUR.

III. Key Activities and Achievements

- Ensuring a humanitarian perspective to mine action in Lebanon;
- Supporting Lebanon to structure its work surrounding four of the five¹ pillars of mine action and supporting the capacity building of the LMAC to enable it to operate in compliance with international standards and best-practices;
- Supporting Lebanon to assume a leading role in the Arab region, notably among Arabic-Speaking countries²;
- Supporting Lebanon to meet its international obligations as a signatory of the CCM;
- Supporting the drafting of a national strategy for mine action in Lebanon and ensuring that mine action interventions continue to be aligned to this strategy through continuous monitoring and reviews;
- Reactivating the International Support Group (ISG) to ensure that the international community present in Lebanon remains aware of the mine action problem, challenges, and progress made;
- Promoting the adoption of wider-scale MRE activities based on needs and expanded to target Syrian refugee as well;
- Supporting the update of the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) to ensure continuous compliance to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS);
- Supporting the formalization of the work of the Regional School for Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon (RSHDL) through developing its five-year strategy.

¹ The fifth pillar being destroying stockpiles does not apply to Lebanon as it does not have any stocks of cluster munitions

² Especially that LMAC is playing a leading role in the Arabic Language Outreach Programme



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IV. Challenges

A main challenge facing Lebanon is meeting its international obligation in relation to the CCM whereby additional teams are needed to complete cluster munitions by 2020. This requires an additional 24 teams to be operational during 2016. A second challenge is mobilizing teams to clear the blue line. Another challenge is securing additional funding to support other pillars of mine action, such as Mine Victim Assistance (MVA) and Mine Risk Education (MRE)

V. Budget

Planned mine action activities for 2016	Budget projected for 2016 (USD)	Funding shortfall (USD)
Institutional capacity building and management support to the LMAC	2,300,000	0
Cluster Munitions teams	17,280,000	8,640,000
Blue Line Clearance teams	3,600,000	3,600,000
Completing the MVA survey	250,000	250,000
Securing victims' needs (prosthetics, mobility devices...)	150,000	150,000
MRE activities	150,000	150,000
Total:	23,730,000	12,790,000