

MASG Meeting – Open Session - 4 December 2025 – ITF Brief

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to speak on behalf of ITF Enhancing Human Security and to share a brief update on our work in the wider humanitarian mine action sector. ITF has continued its activities in 19 countries and regions, supporting partners and national authorities as they address contamination, improve community safety, and strengthen the long-term resilience of affected populations.

No matter the context, one principle remains clear: mine action is most effective when it is holistic, coordinated, and centred on people. Clearance, risk education, victim assistance, advocacy, and stockpile destruction are all interconnected, and aligning them remains at the core of ITF's work.

One area where this integrated approach is especially visible is in our support to mine victims. In November, ITF organized an online training for Ukrainian mine victims and beekeepers, led by Slovenian experts and supported by NGO from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bringing together people who understand both the technical and emotional dimensions of recovery fostered meaningful exchange and showed how psychosocial support, practical skills, and community networks reinforce each other.

We also continue to observe how mine action intersects with broader humanitarian challenges. Many communities dealing with explosive hazards are also facing displacement, insecurity, or unmet basic needs. In Gaza, ITF's work has focused on essential assistance—water, food, and basic supplies—delivered under extremely difficult conditions. For Palestinian refugees in Egypt, our support focus on psychosocial services that help families and communities to cope with displacement and regain stability. These activities differ, but together they demonstrate that mine action actors often address multiple layers of risks at once.

Strengthening national institutions and regional cooperation remains equally important. Effective mine action depends not only on immediate services but also on the systems that will sustain this work in the long term. In South East Europe and Central Asia, ITF supported a knowledge

exchange, enabling authorities to share practical experience. Preparations are also underway to facilitate similar cooperation between the Libyan and Lebanese mine action centres. These initiatives reflect our belief that strong national ownership and regional collaboration are essential for long-term capacity and stability.

None of this would be possible without the support of our donors. Funding is becoming increasingly challenging, and ITF is working continuously to maintain and broaden support. We are grateful for the recent contribution from the Qatar Fund for Development, which will provide crucial equipment to Bethlehem hospital—the only facility in the area offering prosthetic and orthotic services. This support strengthens key elements of victim assistance and highlights the importance of shared responsibility within the donor community.

ITF remains committed to delivering support that is people-focused, responsive to local contexts, and sustainable. We value the important role of the MASG and look forward to continuing our joint efforts to enhance safety, resilience, and human security worldwide.

Thank you.