The United Nations Mine Action Strategy

2020 Progress Report

M&E Mechanism
July 2021
Findings on the progress made towards the Strategic Outcomes of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy

1- Key Findings – Annual Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries/Territories</th>
<th>Casualties</th>
<th>UN EORE Beneficiaries</th>
<th>UN Mine Action Funds ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020 30</td>
<td>10,102</td>
<td>3,568,338</td>
<td>202,328,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 29</td>
<td>15,764</td>
<td>3,758,347</td>
<td>245,526,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 30</td>
<td>13,574</td>
<td>4,620,708</td>
<td>252,391,684</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data are primarily captured through the M&E country-level survey. In 2020, **30 out of 33 countries** with UN mine action presence – including UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS – completed the survey. Completion rate is 91%.

2- Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Mine Action Operations in 2020

Risk education, survey and clearance, and capacity development were the most COVID-19 affected programme areas. Innovative adaptation avoided a significant drop in outputs.
Strategic Outcome 1: Protection of individuals and communities from the risks and socio-economic impacts of explosive ordnance strengthened

1- Assessment of Casualties and Risks

Mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and improvised explosive device (IED) casualties dropped from 15,764 in 2019 to 10,102 in 2020. The number of total casualties in 2020 is the lowest recorded since 2015 and since the launch of the Strategy.

Mobility restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had an impact on data collection, are likely to have played a role in this positive trend.

81% of casualties were concentrated in five countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen.

It should however be noted that Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Syria all reported less casualties in 2020 compared to 2019.
The data show that mines and ERW caused 44% of all casualties, followed by 43% resulting from IEDs.

Victim operated IEDs/AP mines of an improvised nature caused 13% of all casualties.

96% of IEDs remain of an unknown type.

The high rate of casualties attributed to unknown IEDs types remain a major contributor to aggregate casualty data.

Traditional Mines/ERW caused 66% of civilian casualties compared to 63% in 2019.

Civilians continue to be the most affected by explosive ordnance.
Strategic Outcome 1: Protection of individuals and communities from the risks and socio-economic impacts of explosive ordnance strengthened

2- Contamination and Clearance

- The UN cleared and returned to the communities 164 km² of land (109 km² of former battlefields and 55 km² of minefields. Also, 2648 km² of battlefields and minefields were designated as suspected hazardous areas (SHA), and 2591 km² were designated as confirmed hazardous areas (CHA).
- During EOD/IEDD spot tasks, 53,798 mines and 1,261,717 ERW were destroyed and that almost all 4,627 IED devices encountered were either neutralized or detonated.

3- Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM)

The UN assessed, rehabilitated, and constructed 175 weapons storage areas, and 38 ammunition storage areas, compared to 126 and 187 respectively in 2019. The total number of countries with WAM programmes increased from 8 to 10 between 2019 and 2020, and in 80% of the countries, the UN coordinated with the NA on WAM compared to 63% in 2019.
Strategic Outcome 1: Protection of individuals and communities from the risks and socio-economic impacts of explosive ordnance strengthened

4- Risk Education

Findings show that the UN was able to sustain EORE activities despite the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the delivery of risk education activities. While the number of beneficiaries reached in 2020 was slightly less than 2019 (5% decrease only), a more acute drop in beneficiaries was avoided through adaptation to non-direct means of risk education.
Strategic Outcome 2: Survivors, family members and communities affected by explosive ordnance have equal access to health and education and participate fully in social and economic life.

60% of countries/territories have a national disability policy compared to 59% in 2019, 94% of which are compliant with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), showing signs of increased commitment to VA and progress towards integrated and multisectoral assistance to survivors, affected family members, and communities. Also in 2020, the survey started collecting data on the existence of a national VA framework and found that 43% of countries has a VA strategy, framework, or plan.

Institutionalization of coordination on VA has improved in 2020 with more countries/territories reporting to having a national coordination mechanism on victim assistance in place (36% in 2020, 31% in 2019).

Also in 53% of countries/territories (compared to 45% in 2019), the UN coordinated with national authorities on victim assistance regardless of the existence of an official national coordination mechanism.
Strategic Outcome 2: Survivors, family members and communities affected by explosive ordnance have equal access to health and education and participate fully in social and economic life

UN mine action programmes reported a significant increase in efforts to document and support referral pathways, with an increase from 28% in 2019 to 47% in 2020.

Commitment to victim assistance was reflected in the increased percentage of national institutions that mapped victim-related services rising from 17% in 2019 to 30% in 2020.

Advocate for and/or support of:

- Inclusion of survivors in education, 2020
- Equal access for all survivors to education and learning opportunities, 2020
- Equal inclusion of all survivors and affected family members within employment and livelihoods, 2020
- Improved accessibility to public services for persons with disabilities such as transportation, 2020

Figures show increased UN support to victims’ participation in social and economic life with higher percentages of countries/territories reporting advocating for victims’ inclusion in education, employment and accessibility to public services. Further work needs to take place to facilitate access of persons with disability to services intrinsic to their health and wellbeing.
Strategic Outcome 3: National institutions effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities
1- National Capacity Development

The M&E survey continues to show possible negative association between National Capacity Development Index (NCDI) and casualties, which means that between 2015 and 2020 countries/territories with higher NCDI scores had a lower number of casualties. This association could be linked to the potential positive impact of strengthened national mine action capacity on the number of casualties in a given country/territory.
Strategic Outcome 3: National institutions effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities

1- National Capacity Development

The survey employs longer-term trends to demonstrate a more accurate representation of national capacity development, in this case measuring capacity development over five years.

Longer-term trends show that almost all programme areas (except advocacy) show major progress in terms of national capacity between 2015 and 2020, as has been the trend for the past five years.
Strategic Outcome 3: National institutions effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities
1- National Capacity Development

The survey examined the relationship between NCDI, casualties, funding, and ongoing conflict and found that countries in conflict generally have lower NCDI, more casualties and, overall, more allocated funds to mine action, which demonstrates continued UN commitment to allocating funds in countries/territories most in need.
Strategic Outcome 3: National institutions effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities

2- Key National Capacity Indicators

The UN supported the development of 95% of the existing national strategies on mine action, all of which incorporate gender & diversity aspects in their text. 50% of countries/territories reported having a national mine action law (compared to 34% in 2019), of which 53% received UN support for their development.

Also 93% of countries/territories reported having a coordination mechanism for mine action, supported by the UN through administrative, substantive, capacity development, technical, and operational assistance.

57% of countries/territories reported having developed and/or used a formal/explicit priority-setting mechanism for survey/clearance/land release (compared to 52% in 2019).
Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 1: Momentum and profile of mine action efforts, including through mainstreaming in multilateral frameworks for humanitarian assistance, human rights, peacebuilding, stabilization, and sustainable development, maintained and enhanced

1- Key Figures on MA momentum maintenance and enhancement

**Ratification/accession/signature of international treaties and conventions in countries with mine action presence.**

- APMBC: 41%
- CCM: 30%
- CWW: 30% (75% Protocol II, and 38% Protocol V)
- CRPD: 48% of countries

**Inclusion of MA in 18 Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) including those of:**

- Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen.

HRPs responded to **23 million people who were deemed in need** of mine action assistance.

**53% of UN mine action programmes provided technical support to national authorities/partners with reporting for relevant treaties on mine action (i.e., APMBC, CCW, CCM and CRPD).**

**Inclusion of MA in 15 national UN-supported development framework (e.g., UNSDCF), including those of:**

- Colombia, Darfur, DRC, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen.
Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 2: Mine action programmes address the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys from diverse groups, while facilitating their empowerment and inclusion

1- Sex and Age Data Disaggregation (SADD)

Sex and age data disaggregation (SADD) rates of casualties’ data increased from 57% in 2019 to 63% in 2020. However, this rate continues to be affected by the high percentage of unknown IED casualties. Excluding unknown IED casualties improves that rate from 63% to 97%

Almost all UN-funded EORE beneficiaries’ data (99%) were reported in a disaggregate manner, an improvement from 97% in 2019.
Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 2: Mine action programmes address the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys from diverse groups, while facilitating their empowerment and inclusion

2- Key Gender Mainstreaming Indicators

Only 27% of UN programmes have a quality assurance mechanism in place to ensure gender-responsive programming and programme cycles. Also, more support is needed also in the area of technical assistance and training to national authorities on the mainstreaming of gender & diversity aspects in mine action.

95% of countries/territories that have a national mine action strategy reported having incorporated gender & diversity in its text. In 2020, 53% reported having a gender for mine action activities in the country/territory, a significant increase from 28% in 2019. 57% of those strategies were reported to have an implementation workplan and a system to monitor implementation.
Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 2: Mine action programmes address the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys from diverse groups, while facilitating their empowerment and inclusion

2- Key Gender Mainstreaming Indicators

Gender parity across all organizational levels saw improvement in 2020, which was reflected in an increased parity rate from 19% in 2019 to 21% in 2020, which shows commitment of the UN to gradually achieve the needed balance among UN mine action personnel. More gender balance across mine actions’ functions is needed.