

The
United
Nations
and
**MINE
ACTION**



**United Nations Regional Seminar: Promoting the Universality
of the CCW and its annexed Protocols in South and Southeast
Asia and the Pacific Islands**

(Kathmandu, Nepal, 17-18 December 2008)

United Nations and Mine Action

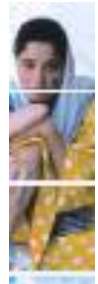
Gustavo Laurie, Liaison Officer in Geneva (glaurie@unog.ch)

UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

What is Mine Action?

Activities which aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW)

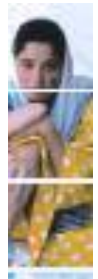
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Five Pillars of Mine Action

- **Landmine and ERW clearance**
- **Mine risk education**
- **Victim assistance**
- **Stockpile destruction**
- **Advocacy**

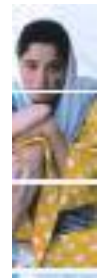
**Mine Action and Effective
Coordination: the UN Inter-
Agency Policy (2005)**



Landmine and ERW Clearance (Humanitarian demining)

Activities which lead to the removal of mine and ERW hazards, including technical survey, mapping, clearance, marking, post-clearance documentation, community mine action liaison and the handover of cleared land.

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Mine Risk Education

MRE = activities which seek to reduce the risk of injury from mines/ERW by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change, including public information dissemination, education and training, and community mine action liaison

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Victim Assistance

Refers to all aid, relief, comfort and support provided to victims (including survivors) with the purpose of reducing the immediate and long-term medical and psychological implications of their trauma.

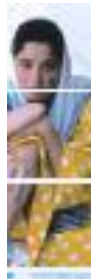
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Stockpile Destruction

The physical destructive procedure towards a continual reduction of the national stockpile (a large accumulated stock of explosive ordnance).

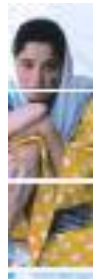
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Advocacy

***Public support ,
recommendation or positive
publicity with the aim of
removing, or at least reducing
the risk from, and the impact
of, mines and ERW.***

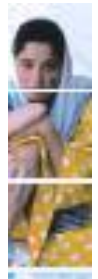
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History of Mine Action

I. Before 1980s: mainly military demining.

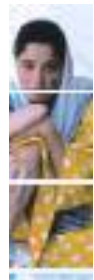
II. 1980s: humanitarian mine action



History of Mine Action

III.1988-1994:

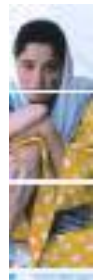
- **First mine action programme (Afghanistan)**
- **Emergence of international mine action NGOs**
- **Mine Action Centers (Cambodia, Mozambique, Angola)**



History of Mine Action

IV. 1995-1998: standardisation

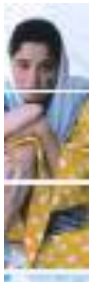
- **UN Voluntary Trust Fund (1994)**
- **IMAS (1997)**
- **UNMAS (1997)**
- **UN Inter-Agency Policy (1998)**
- **New IHL (APII, 1996) (APMBC, 1997)**



The Continuing Evolution of Mine Action

V. 1999 to 2008: professionalization of the sector

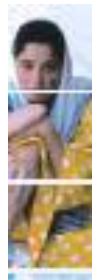
- **New IMAS**
- **Mine action and development**
- **Implementation of APII and APMBC**
- **Protocol V (2003) entered into force 2006**
- **Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008)**
- **Revised UN Inter-Agency Policy (2005) and Strategy (2006-2010)**
- **Gender and Mine Action**



UN Vision for mine action

The vision of the United Nations is a world free of the threat of landmines and ERW, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development and where the needs of mine and ERW victims are met and they are fully integrated into their societies.

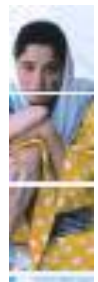
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UN Strategic Goal – 2006-2010

The UN will work with national authorities and in partnership with NGOs, the private sector, international and regional organizations and others to reduce the humanitarian and socio-economic threats posed by landmines and ERW, at which point UN mine action assistance will no longer be necessary.

UN Inter-Agency Strategy 2006-2010



Legal framework for UN mine action

- **General Assembly resolutions**
- **Security Council resolutions**
- **APMBC**
- **Amended Protocol II**
- **Protocol V on ERW**
- **IHL**
- **Convention on cluster munitions**
- **Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities)**



The UN Mine Action Team

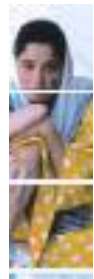
COORDINATION

- **14 UN entities comprise the UN Mine Action Team**
- **Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG)**
- **Chair: USG for Peacekeeping Operations (Principals) and UNMAS Director (working level)**



UN Mine Action Team members

- **DPKO**
- **UNODA**
- **UNICEF**
- **FAO**
- **OSAGI**
- **UNHCR**
- **WHO**
- **UNMAS**
- **UNDP**
- **UNOPS**
- **OCHA**
- **OHCHR**
- **WFP**
- **World Bank**



Requests for UN assistance in mine action can come from:

- **Governments -> through:**
 - (a) Senior UN Representative**
 - (b) Permanent Missions to UN**
- **Security Council-> peacekeeping or peace support operation**
- **Senior UN Representative-> humanitarian emergency**



Once UN assistance in mine action is requested, next steps are:

- **Consultation within IACG-MA**
- **Inter-agency assessment mission**
- **Recommendations reviewed**
- **Decision by IACG-MA**
- **Consultation with government or others**





Two broad categories of UN mine action programme activities

I. National programmes supported by the UN

II. Programmes managed by the UN



I. NATIONAL PROGRAMMES SUPPORTED BY THE UN

Include those programmes:

- **Established by states that require support to build or strengthen national mine action capacity**
- **Transferred from UN management to government control**



UN assistance in mine action

I. PROGRAMMES SUPPORTED BY THE UN (2008)

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Erithre, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, occupied Palestinian territories, Russian Federation(Chechenya), Serbia (Kosovo), Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Tajikistan, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Main UN support provided by UNDP and/or UNICEF



II. PROGRAMMES MANAGED BY THE UN (UNMAS)

Include those:

- **Established by SC resolution**
- **Established upon request of a national authority**
- **Operating in emergency situations at request of ERC**
- **short, focused interventions upon government request**



UN assistance in mine action

II. PROGRAMMES MANAGED BY THE UNITED NATIONS

Kosovo (UNMIK 1999-2001)

Ethiopia/Eritrea (UNMEE TSZ 2001+)

Southern Lebanon (UNIFIL 2001+)

FY Republic of Macedonia (2001+)

Afghanistan (UNAMA 2002 +)

Sudan (UNMAO 2002 +)

Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC 2002 +)

Iraq (2003-2004)

Burundi (UNOB 2004-2006)

Western Sahara (MINURSO 2007 +)

Nepal (UNMIN 2007 +)



UN assistance in mine action

KEY ACTIVITIES

- **The 5 pillars (clearance, MRE, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy)**
- +
- **Capacity development**
- **Information management and outreach**
- **Resource Mobilisation**





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For more information visit E-MINE

www.mineaction.org

Or contact us at
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