

Report on Quality at Entry and Next Steps to Complete Design for Mine Action in Iraq

A: AidWorks details <i>completed by Activity Manager</i>			
Initiative Name:	Improving basic service delivery		
AidWorks ID:		Total Amount:	\$6 million
Start Date:	April 2010	End Date:	March 2012

B: Appraisal Peer Review meeting details <i>completed by Activity Manager</i>	
Initial ratings prepared by:	Joel Thorpe
Meeting date:	On 22 December 2009, Alistair Sherwin, ADG Middle East and West Asia, agreed to receive comments in writing, because no contentious issues were raised that required a face to face meeting. This view was supported by AusAID's Disability and Inclusive Development unit and United Nations team.
Chair:	Alistair Sherwin, ADG Middle East and West Asia
Peer reviewers providing formal comment & ratings:	– Joel Thorpe, Iraq Program Officer
Independent Appraiser:	– Caroline Mulas, Mine Action Coordinator
Other peer review participants:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dominique Vigie, Mine Action officer – Cilla Ballard, Director IMEA – Barbara O'Dwyer, Gender Adviser – Kristen Pratt and Christina Parasyn from the Disability and Inclusive Development unit – Kylie Swan, Afghanistan Country Program – Rosemary McKay, UNICEF point of contact, UN and Human Rights Section – Amanda Richmond, UNDP point of contact, UN and Human Rights Section

C: Quality Rating Assessment against indicators*completed by Activity Manager / Peer Reviewers / Independent Appraiser*

Quality	Rating (1-6) *	Comments to support rating	Required Action (if needed)
1. Clear objectives	5	<p>The objectives of the UNDP and UNICEF proposals are consistent with key directions of the Mine Action Strategy for the aid program 2010-14. The project links to the first three outcomes. The objectives also support the achievement of Iraq's obligations under the Mine Ban Convention.</p> <p>UNDP's mine clearance and victim assistance proposal includes targets of women, men, people with disabilities and mine victims being involved in prioritising interventions. This includes a target of review and monitoring teams being made up of 70 per cent victims and people with disabilities. AusAID will negotiate similar targets with UNICEF for its mine risk education project during contract negotiations.</p> <p>Once UNDP have completed their needs assessment in early 2010, they should clearly outline how clearance activities will be prioritised and how land will be used once cleared. This should be done in consultation with relevant communities and with regard to development needs.</p>	<p>Following the needs assessment, UNDP should provide information on what specific activities will be undertaken and how they will ensure communities are involved in prioritising land for clearance and planning development and poverty reduction activities after clearance.</p> <p>AusAID will negotiate with UNICEF, as feasible, targets on encouraging men and women, people with disabilities and mine victim involvement in prioritising mine risk education interventions and monitoring and reviewing progress.</p>
2. Monitoring and Evaluation	4	<p>The monitoring and evaluation system proposed by both UNDP and UNICEF is based on a proven model and is acceptable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP's monitoring and evaluation framework will not be fully completed until after it has conducted a needs assessment in early 2010. AusAID will ask UNDP to provide a final monitoring and evaluation framework for approval in mid 2010. UNDP have agreed to provide six monthly progress reports as well as results of lessons learnt exercises and independent evaluation of its implementing partners. We will request similar reporting from UNICEF during contract negotiations. This will be particularly important to inform future AusAID programming, given that mine risk education has not been widely funded in the agency over recent years. It would be preferable for the monitoring and evaluation frameworks for both projects to incorporate reporting requirements in the Mine Action Strategy to assist in global reporting of mine action for the agency – see Appendix 1 of the strategy (particularly outcomes 1-3 and the guiding principles). This will be particularly important to contribute to the mid-term review of the new strategy, likely to be in 2012. Both projects will contribute to strengthening local monitoring and evaluation capacity – the UNDP proposal through providing advice and assistance to implementing partners as part of the monitoring and evaluation policy; and UNICEF through supporting a functioning mechanism for victim surveillance and victim data collection. 	<p>AusAID will require UNDP to provide a final monitoring and evaluation framework for AusAID's approval in mid-2010 as a contract milestone.</p> <p>AusAID will ask UNICEF to provide six monthly reporting and share independent appraisals and lessons learnt exercises.</p> <p>Discuss with UNDP and UNICEF the extent to which they can report against indicators from AusAID's Mine Action Strategy.</p> <p>Additional AusAID funds may be sought to cover added reporting requirements.</p>

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3. Sustainability	5	<p>UNDP and UNICEF both have a strong focus on building the capacity of the Government of Iraq to establish a national mine action program run by the Government with its own budget, clear vision and work plans. This supports the achievement of a key component of the new Mine Action Strategy - outcome 3 building national capacity. This approach is appropriate in the Iraq context, which is a heavily mine affected country. It will take time for Iraq to achieve its mine action obligations and building national ownership and capacity is warranted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both agencies propose a number of realistic steps to promote this including: technical assistance to develop a national mine action strategy and national mine risk education strategy and to mainstream mine action into the new National Development Plan; assistance to promote better management and interagency coordination; training for government, NGOs, teachers, children and civil society; and the development of mine risk education resources and campaigns. UNDP has set targets for its implementing partners to raise their own support and operate independently and is training management to pursue these goals. We will seek comparative targets from UNICEF. 	Ask UNICEF, as feasible, to provide targets and report on progress in building its partners' capacity to be sustainable and self-sufficient over the long term.
4. Implementation & Risk Management	4	<p>Implementation arrangements are sound. UNDP will establish a project board to oversee progress in the mine clearance and victim assistance project, including the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Iraqi Disabled People's Organization, UNDP senior management and Directors of the NGO implementing partners. UNICEF's mine risk education project will be overseen by the Chief of Child Protection based in Baghdad. UNICEF will work through and coordinate with the Ministry of Environment, DMA, RMAA and international and national NGOs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not clear whether the activities supported in each project will adhere to the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in implementation, and how the projects will ensure that implementing partners adhere to the IMAS. AusAID should clarify this with UNDP and UNICEF. 	Clarify with UNDP and UNICEF how the projects will adhere to the International Mine Action Standards and how they will ensure implementing partners comply with the standards.

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5. Analysis and lessons	4	<p>The Mine Action Strategy for the Australian aid program 2010-14 sets out best practice guiding principles for mine action projects: including gender equality; disability and inclusive development; do no harm; and mainstreaming mine action into national development plans and systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The projects provide some good targets and indicators to measure progress in these areas. Links with disability will be important in the victim assistance component of the UNDP proposal. The new Mine Action Strategy places priority on incorporating victim assistance into national disability, healthcare and social services frameworks. It will be important to monitor whether victim assistance will be integrated into broader support for people with disability. Given Australia's status as a relatively modest donor (we are providing \$5 million to UNDP towards a US\$50 million program and \$1 million to UNICEF towards a US\$4.7 million program), we have a limited ability to influence our partners' designs. In keeping with the principles of donor harmonisation, we also need to ensure we build on existing reporting and not place undue burden on implementing partners. However, we will monitor results in these areas seek to address any weaknesses during implementation. 	AusAID to monitor progress on: promoting gender equality; disability and inclusive development; the extent to which victim assistance will be integrated into broader disability support services; do no harm; and mainstreaming mine action into national development plans and systems.
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*** Definitions of the Rating Scale:**

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)		Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)	
6	Very high quality; needs ongoing management & monitoring only	3	Less than adequate quality; needs to be improved in core areas
5	Good quality; needs minor work to improve in some areas	2	Poor quality; needs major work to improve
4	Adequate quality; needs some work to improve	1	Very poor quality; needs major overhaul

D: Next Steps *completed by Activity Manager after agreement at the Appraisal Peer Review meeting*

Provide information on all steps required to finalise the design based on <i>Required Actions</i> in "C" above, and additional actions identified in the peer review meeting	Who is responsible	Date to be done
<p>1. During contract negotiations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. discuss with UNDP and UNICEF the extent to which they can report against indicators from AusAID's Mine Action Strategy; b. seek from UNICEF six monthly progress reports and reporting on lessons learnt; c. include as a contract milestone the requirement for UNDP to provide a copy of their final monitoring and evaluation framework in mid 2010; d. negotiate targets with UNICEF on: encouraging men and women, people with disabilities, and mine victim involvement in prioritising and monitoring interventions; and on progress in building sustainability among implementing partners; and e. clarify how UNDP, UNICEF and implementing partners will adhere to the International Mine Action Standards. 	Iraq Desk	1 February 2009

D: Next Steps <i>completed by Activity Manager after agreement at the Appraisal Peer Review meeting</i>		
2. Monitor progress carefully on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. promoting gender equality; b. disability and inclusive development; c. the extent to which victim assistance will be integrated into broader disability support services; d. do no harm; and e. mainstreaming mine action into national development plans and systems. <p>Results are to be discussed with AusAID's Disability and Inclusive Development and Mine Action units to identify opportunities to strengthen the projects during implementation.</p>	Iraq Desk	August 2009

E: Other comments or issues <i>completed by Activity Manager after agreement at the APR meeting</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given Australia's status as a relatively modest donor (we are providing \$5 million to UNDP towards a US\$50 million program and \$1 million to UNICEF towards a US\$4.7 million program), we have a limited ability to influence our partners' designs. In keeping with the principles of donor harmonisation, we also need to ensure we build on existing reporting and not place undue burden on implementing partners, AusAID's Mine Action Coordinator, Ms Caroline Mulas, noted that the multi-year approach to funding the UNDP and UNICEF projects is to be strongly encouraged. This will align well with the new Mine Action Strategy, which contains a five-year \$100 million pledge. The Government is keen to adopt a long-term approach to the provision of mine action assistance under the strategy in an effort to improve sustainability and outcomes. Ms Mulas also noted that Iraq has signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions and once ratified, this will also bring into effect a range of clearance, victim assistance and mine risk education obligations.

F: Approval <i>completed by ADG or Minister-Counsellor who chaired the peer review meeting</i>		
<p>On the basis of the final agreed Quality Rating assessment (C) and Next Steps (D) above:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QAE REPORT IS APPROVED, and authorization given to proceed to:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> FINALISE the design incorporating actions above, and proceed to implementation or: <input type="radio"/> REDESIGN and resubmit for appraisal peer review </p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED for the following reason(s):</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>		
Cilla Ballard A/g ADG MEWA	signed: <i>CBallard</i>	5 th Jan 2010

When complete:

- Copy and paste the approved ratings, explanation and actions (table C) into AidWorks
- The original signed report must be placed on a registered file