

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2011**

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## Foreword

As the new Chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action, I am pleased to present the 2011 Annual Report of the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). Mine action, in all its aspects, is important for humanitarian action, sustainable development and peace and security.

In 2011, in Afghanistan, where we have the largest UNMAS programme, over 880,000 explosive items were destroyed, thus facilitating security and development initiatives. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, more than 6,000 kilometres of roads were verified safe, contributing to freedom of movement and development. In Western Sahara, 6.8 square kilometres of land were released, marking a 242 per cent increase from 2010. In Sudan, the mine action programme was transitioned to national ownership. Newly-independent South Sudan acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. UNMAS is also engaging in ammunitions and weapons management, as endorsed by the General Assembly (A/RES/66/42). In Libya, joint efforts cleared over 125,000 pieces of ordinance and mine risk education was provided to over 46,000 Libyans living in affected areas, ensuring their security. In Côte d'Ivoire, UNMAS, together with national authorities, acted swiftly to counter the threat of abandoned or unsafely stored ammunition.

Following the Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/292), in its most recent resolution on Assistance in Mine Action (A/RES/66/69), the General Assembly highlighted UNMAS dedication to cooperation.

Our achievements are the product of the generous political, in-kind and financial support provided by UN Member States both through assessed funds for mine action components in peacekeeping operations and through considerable contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF). They are also the result of the tireless efforts of our national counterparts and implementing partners, who take ownership of these programmes.

Despite the challenges presented by the global financial crisis in 2011, the VTF saw a 19 per cent increase in contributions from 2010, for a total of US\$ 75.5 million, compared to US\$ 63.5 million in 2010. There was also a significant expansion in the donor base from 19 contributors in 2010 to 28 in 2011, which included 24 donor Governments, as well as the European Union, the Common Humanitarian Trust Fund for Sudan, the International Road Transport Union and the Ballard Community High School in Iowa.

The top three donors contributed 56.6 per cent of all voluntary funds in the following order: Australia provided US\$ 18.16 million; Japan US\$ 15.15 million; and Canada

US\$ 9.39 million. In line with the practices of “Good Humanitarian Donorship”, US\$ 1.5 million of unearmarked funds were provided by the Governments of Andorra, Denmark, and Lichtenstein. Australia, Finland, the United Kingdom and the Common Humanitarian Trust Fund for Sudan generously remained committed to multi-year, therefore predictable, funding.

I thank our supporters for their generosity and salute our partners for their courage and dedication. I look forward to our continued cooperation and count on your support.



Hervé Ladsous  
Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations



## Acronyms

AMISOM: African Union Mission in Somalia  
CAAMI: National Mine Action Coordination Centre  
CAP: Consolidated Appeals Process  
CASA: Coordinating Action on Small Arms  
CHF: Common Humanitarian Trust Fund for Sudan  
CND: National Demining Centre  
CPN (M): Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)  
DCA: DanChurchAid  
DDG: Danish Demining Group  
DFID: Department for International Development  
DFS: UN Department of Field Support  
DPA: UN Department of Political Affairs  
DPKO: UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations  
DSS: UN Department of Safety and Security  
EMSA: Explosive Management Support to AMISOM  
EOD: Explosive ordnance disposal  
ERW: Explosive remnant of war  
EU: European Union  
FRCI: Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire  
FSD: Swiss Foundation for Mine Action  
GenCap: Gender Stand-by Capacity Project  
GICHD: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining  
GIS: Geographic information system  
GMAP: Gender in Mine Action Programmes  
HAP: Humanitarian Action Plan  
HI: Handicap International  
IACG-MA: Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action  
IASC: Inter-Agency Standing Committee  
IASG-CPRD: Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
IATG: International Ammunition Technical Guidelines  
ICBL: International Campaign to Ban Landmines  
ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross  
IDF: Israeli Defense Forces  
IDPs: Internally displaced persons  
IED: Improvised explosive device  
ILO: International Labour Organization  
IMAS: International Mine Action Standards  
IMSMA: Information Management System for Mine Action  
INSEC: Informal Sector Service Center  
IOM: International Organization for Migration  
IPDET: International Programme for Development Evaluation Training  
IRU: International Road Transport Union  
JMACT: Joint Mine Action Coordination Team  
LMA: Landmine Action UK  
LMAC: Lebanese Mine Action Centre  
LUTCAM: Lutamos Todos Contra Minas  
MACC: Mine Action Coordination Centre

MACCA: Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan  
 MAG: Mines Advisory Group  
 MAPA: Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan  
 MASG: Mine Action Support Group  
 MDGs: Millennium Development Goals  
 MINURCAT: UN Mission in the Central African Republic of Chad  
 MINURSO: UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara  
 MONUC: UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
 MONUSCO: UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
 MSB: Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency  
 NAMACC: Nepal Army Mine Action Coordination Centre  
 NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
 NGO: Non-governmental organization  
 NMAC: National Mine Action Centre  
 NPA: Norwegian People's Aid  
 OAS: Organization of American States  
 OCHA: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
 ODO: Office of Ordnance Disposal  
 OHCHR: UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
 OMAR: Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation  
 OROLSI: UN Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions  
 PAICMA: Presidential Programme for Integrated Mine Action in Colombia  
 Polisario: Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro  
 RMA: Royal Moroccan Army  
 RMAC: Regional Mine Action Center  
 SDC: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
 SIDA: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency  
 SMAC: Somaliland Mine Action Centre  
 SSMAA: South Sudan Mine Action Authority  
 SYLAM: Mine Action Synergy  
 TMAC: Tajikistan Mine Action Centre  
 UNAMA: UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan  
 UNAMI: UN Assistance Mission for Iraq  
 UNAMID: African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur  
 UN-DESA: UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs  
 UNDOF: UN Disengagement Observer Force (Golan Heights)  
 UNDP: UN Development Programme  
 UNFICYP: UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus  
 UNHCR: UN High Commissioner for Refugees  
 UNICEF: UN Children's Fund  
 UNIFIL: UN Interim Force in Lebanon  
 UNIOGBIS: UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau  
 UNISFA: UN Interim Security Force for Abyei  
 UNMACC: UN Mine Action Coordination Centre  
 UNMAO: UN Mine Action Office  
 UNMAS: UN Mine Action Service  
 UNMAST: UN Mine Action Support Team  
 UNMAT: UN Mine Action Team  
 UNMIS: UN Mission in the Sudan  
 UNMISS: UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan  
 UNOCI: UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

UNODA: UN Office for Disarmament Affairs  
UNODC: UN Office on Drugs and Crime  
UNPFN: UN Peace Fund for Nepal  
UNRWA: UN Relief and Works Agency  
UNSMIL: UN Support Mission in Libya  
UNSOA: UN Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia  
UNSOMA: UN Somalia Mine Action  
UOS: Ukroboronservice  
UXO: Unexploded ordnance  
VTF: Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action  
WHO: World Health Organization

## **I. Normative Frameworks: Enhancing Global Peace, Security and Development**

### ***Highlights***

- Adoption by consensus of General Assembly resolution 66/69 on assistance in mine action, recognizing the cooperation and coordination of the United Nations with all stakeholders.
- Adoption by consensus of General Assembly resolution 66/42 on problems arising from the accumulation of surplus conventional ammunition stockpiles, with recognition of UNMAS' technical expertise.

### ***Mine Action at the UN Security Council***

For deliberations of the UN Security Council on various situations that pose a threat to international peace and security, the Secretary-General included references to landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in his reports on peacekeeping and special political missions where these devices pose a serious issue. These included reports on the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights, the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the UN Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA), the UN Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) and the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

These references fed into the Security Council debate on each mission, and in some cases, such as UNSOA, resulted in mandate changes related to mine action. The Council also received the Secretary-General's report on children in armed conflict, as well as specific reports on that issue in Afghanistan, Chad, Iraq, Sri Lanka and Sudan that highlighted the impacts of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), with inputs provided by UNICEF. The report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in Chad also contained information on threats posed by landmines and UXO.

### ***Mine Action at the UN Human Rights Council***

The impact of landmines and ERW on human rights, in addition to peace and security, humanitarian affairs and development, has become increasingly prominent. The issue has been reflected in the reports of the Secretary-General and his representatives to the UN Human Rights Council, including on Afghanistan, Colombia, Cyprus, Libya, Myanmar,

Sudan and Syria. The report of the Secretary-General's Representative on Internally Displaced Persons highlighted the impacts mines have on vulnerable groups.

### ***Mine Action at the UN General Assembly***

UNMAS coordinated input from the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA) to draft the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on assistance in mine action (66/292). The report, issued in August 2011, highlighted the ongoing implementation of the UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010, and general developments since the item was last considered in the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. In the 66<sup>th</sup> session, item 48 on assistance in mine action was taken up by the Committee on Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth Committee) in October 2011.

UNMAS provided support to Poland in its role as coordinator of the informal consultations among UN Member States for a resolution on assistance in mine action, including a briefing to the Fourth Committee on the contents of the report of the Secretary-General. UNMAS followed the deliberations of the committee on the resolution and provided technical clarifications as required. The resolution was eventually adopted by the General Assembly without a vote (66/69); Member States took note of the improved collaboration and cooperation between the UN system and its non-governmental partners.

Under agenda item 98(f), the General Assembly's First Committee on Disarmament considered the problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus. UNMAS supported the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) by providing technical assistance to the First Committee in its deliberations. The subsequent resolution adopted by the General Assembly (66/42) recognizes UNMAS' technical expertise in the area of physical stockpile security and management.

As in previous years, UNMAS followed the negotiation and adoption of General Assembly resolutions referring to mine action and related treaties. These included resolutions on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (66/229); the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (66/29); and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (66/62). It also followed the resolution on the situation in Afghanistan (66/13).

The impacts of landmines and ERW were featured in reports to the General Assembly on the situation in Afghanistan, children in armed conflict, and the safety and security of UN personnel.

## **II. Coordination and Consultation Mechanisms to Increase Value for Money**

Mine action coordination aims to improve the effectiveness of mine action at the country and global levels by ensuring greater predictability in responses to mine action emergencies, enhancing accountability among mine action stakeholders, and fostering partnerships

among and beyond members of the mine action community. At the global level, a number of inter-agency mechanisms contribute to this goal. UNMAS continued to engage all partners in its role as the UN focal point for mine action.

### ***Highlights***

- Review of implementation of the UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010 indicates an overall reduction of casualties, and increase in national capacity and national ownership.
- A fully activated Mine Action Area of Responsibility helped to ensure a coordinated emergency response in Libya.
- The Ammunition Technical Guidelines, developed through technical support by UNMAS to UNODA, were finalized and issued.
- Cooperation with NGO partners and support to donor coordination fora were strengthened.

### ***The Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action***

UN organizations involved in mine action continued to coordinate their activities through the IACG-MA, in accordance with the inter-agency policy on mine action and effective coordination. The UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations chairs the group at the principals' level, and the director of UNMAS does so at the working level.

UNMAS chaired 12 working-level meetings of the IACG-MA that discussed current policy and operational issues. They included planning and consultation on major institutional activities, and regular monitoring of potential threats and areas of concern at country level. At various international meetings, the IACG-MA also served as the forum for developing agreed language for UN speeches and interventions in support of treaties relevant to mine action.

The IACG-MA principals met in December 2011 to consider the first draft of the evaluation report by the UN Joint Inspection Unit on the scope, organization, effectiveness and approach of the United Nations system to mine action. The draft report had been circulated for external comments before final review by the unit. The principals agreed on a coordinated response to the report, highlighting areas of common agreement on a way forward. Working-level colleagues then followed up, building on the constructive tone set by the principals.

UNMAS, on behalf of the IACG-MA, briefed Member States on the report of the Secretary-General on assistance in mine action during informal consultations of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly. UNMAS was on hand to provide technical clarifications as needed in support of Poland, which coordinated the work of the Fourth Committee on mine action.

UNMAS and IACG-MA partners also supported the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and its intersessional programme; the 2nd Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions; and a range of meetings related to the Amended Protocol II and Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, including those with groups of governmental experts.

The 14th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors was successfully organized, as were advocacy events connected to the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April. UNMAS worked together with key UN partners to coherently and clearly represent the UN system.

Within the IACG-MA, UNMAS coordinated a range of task forces and subordinate working groups bringing together UN and other partners to address key issues identified during the year. These included the Reporting Working Group, which continued evaluating the implementation of the UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010, and a separate group to collect inputs for the report of the Secretary-General on assistance in mine action. UNMAS led the drafting and finalization.

## ***Mine Action Agenda***

### **Evaluation of UN Assistance in Mine Action**

In General Assembly resolution 64/84 on assistance in mine action, Member States identified "the need for a comprehensive and independent evaluation of the scope, organization, effectiveness and approach of the work of the United Nations in mine action." Based on feedback from Member States on using existing resources to undertake the evaluation, the UN Joint Inspection Unit, a subsidiary body of the General Assembly based in Geneva, was selected to conduct it.

The bulk of the unit's work, including interviews with key informants and travel to selected affected states, was accomplished in the first two quarters of 2011. Due to extra-budgetary support requested by the unit, UNMAS provided an additional US \$30,000, in addition to funds committed in 2010, to support the Inspection team in completing the evaluation in a timely and professional manner. The first draft of the report was received in November for external comments, in line with the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit.

The draft report contained eight recommendations that considered areas such as victim assistance, monitoring and evaluation, coordination, training and the effectiveness of the VTF. UNMAS coordinated inputs from IACG-MA members to a common response to the report, in addition to individual comments provided by UN stakeholders. UNMAS also organized a meeting of IACG-MA principals at the Under-Secretary-General level on 12 December. They discussed the report in detail and endorsed the coordinated IACG-MA response.

With the final report expected in early 2012, UNMAS moved to address a number of issues contained in it. UNMAS appreciates the work of the Joint Inspection Unit, and is dedicated to ensuring the issues raised are addressed and acted upon to the satisfaction of all partners.

### **Review of the Implementation of the UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010**

UNMAS coordinated the finalization of a consultant's report on the UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010 through the IACG-MA, based on inputs from national partners, along with UNICEF and UNDP. The overall findings were very encouraging. The target of a 50 percent reduction in casualties was exceeded, and just over 82 percent of highly impacted areas were cleared, going beyond the 80 percent target. More than 15 countries

had integrated mine action into national development plans and budgets, and significant national capacity has been built. More importantly, there was a direct relation between the engagement of national authorities, as evidenced by the incorporation of mine action in plans and budgets, and the overall drop in casualties. As part of the final analysis, lessons learned on indicator selection and monitoring were compiled. They will serve as a basis for the monitoring and evaluation of the future strategy, including around the reduction of casualties. The findings were presented as part of interventions by the IACG-MA at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty in Cambodia in December.

## **Preparation of the New UN Inter-Agency Strategy**

Informal consultations among stakeholders began in late 2010 and carried into 2011 on the scope and perimeters of a new UN mine action strategy. Working closely with UNMAS and partners within the IACG-MA, a consultant prepared an outline as well as an initial draft. At the 14<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors, the draft strategy was presented to the plenary. Feedback from stakeholders and other partners suggested that the new strategy not be finalized until the Joint Inspection Unit issued its final evaluation on the role of the United Nations system in mine action. Accordingly, progress on the new strategy was suspended until the evaluation, which used the 2006-2010 strategy as a lens to assess achievements, could be considered. In the interim, the second of two surveys was conducted on progress towards meeting the previous strategic objectives in order to establish a baseline of data for future monitoring and evaluation.

## **Implementation of Policy Committee Decisions on Mine Action Immediately After Conflict**

In his report to the General Assembly and Security Council on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (63/881-2009/304), the Secretary-General cited key, recurring areas of support in response to immediate post-conflict situations, including mine action. The report also noted the singular role of UNMAS within the UN system as “a go-to source of knowledge, expertise and capacity,” including some rapidly deployable capacity. A promised review of mine action coordination took place in July 2010, covering three areas: coordination as contained in the existing UN inter-agency policy adopted in 2005 prior to the humanitarian reforms within the UN system; development of a comprehensive policy on IEDs; and increased efficiencies and governance for the VTF.

The review of coordination led to a collective decision by the IACG-MA to fully activate the Mine Action Area of Responsibility within the Global Protection Cluster coordinated by UNHCR. The immediate benefit it provided to the response in Libya in 2011 is detailed later in this report.

On IEDs and the threat they pose to UN staff and facilities, the UN Department of Safety and Security (DSS), as requested by the Secretary-General’s Policy Committee, facilitated the development of a policy on civilian staff safety and security. UNMAS, along with other members of the IACG-MA, supported the work of a task force led by DSS, including through the provision of two technical IED experts. The final version of the policy was set for approval in early 2012.



Efforts were made to enhance the use of the VTF and its limited unearmarked resources to assist the mine action sector as a whole, in accordance with the fund's terms of reference. Attention remained on the formulation of financial templates with partner UN agencies and on a governance mechanism; these will be further prioritized in 2012.

### ***Collaboration with Ammunition Management Initiatives***

UNMAS continued to assist UNODA in developing the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG). As a member of the technical review board, UNMAS supported the finalization of the guidelines and the first steps to implement them in field projects. The first official edition of the IATG was published by UNODA on its website in October 2011. The General Assembly welcomed their completion and UNMAS' technical expertise in their preparation in resolution 66/42.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya and Somalia, UNMAS started to use the IATG as a new standard for projects aiming to improve the secure and safe storage of ammunition, and reduce direct threats to populations from insecure ammunition stockpiles.

UNMAS continued to participate in the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism, chaired by UNODA, to build on commonalities between mine action and small arms, and to play its role in the emerging area of ammunition management.

### ***The Committee on Mine Action***

The meeting of the Committee on Mine Action took place during the 14th International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisors in Geneva. Unlike in the past, when it occurred on the margins of the main meeting, the committee meeting was integrated into the main agenda to ensure the highest level of participation. It was divided into two one-hour sessions, the first with NGO partners, and the second with NGO and commercial partners. This structure allowed open dialogue with NGOs on issues related to coordination, and the partnership between the UN system, namely UNMAS, and NGOs. Significant progress was made in improving relationships with NGO partners over the year, which can in part be traced back to the committee discussion.

### ***The Mine Action Support Group and Other Forums***

On behalf of the IACG-MA, UNMAS continued providing secretariat support to the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), a forum of donors committed to providing political and financial support to eliminate landmines and ERW.

The MASG met twice under the chairmanship of the US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement. In May, an ad hoc meeting was called in Geneva to bring together donor states, and UN and implementing partners as the humanitarian crisis in Libya emerged. It reviewed and identified resources for immediate mine action requirements. The annual MASG meeting was held in November in Geneva, with representatives from 16 donor governments sharing information on current funding and future plans. UNMAS, on behalf of UN partners, provided an update on major activities and priorities in 2011 and for

2012. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) described recent changes to the Implementation Support Unit for the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. The meeting included a segment on Libya, with a presentation by the UNMAS programme manager and updates from all participating donors on current and future plans for funding or other support to Libya. With the end of the United States' tenure as MASG chair, Australia announced its intention to take up the chair for 2012-2013 from its Permanent Mission in New York.

To further dialogue between UN and NGO partners on issues of common interest—such as universalization of the mine-ban treaty and implementation of relevant treaties, along with broader advocacy efforts, such as the “Lend Your Leg Campaign”—the NGO Forum was established. It convenes on the margins of treaty meetings and intersessional work, and has proved a useful mechanism for enhancing cooperation and collaboration on strategic issues, and improving the relationship between UN and NGO partners.

### ***The 14th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors***

The 14th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors took place in March in Geneva. Organized by the IACG-MA, in partnership with GICHD, the meeting provided an opportunity for nearly 300 mine action stakeholders to assess progress achieved and future challenges.

The meeting agenda comprised plenary sessions on emerging concerns, and thematic working groups on policies and programmes. As has been the trend, national directors took an increasing role in chairing and facilitating the sessions. Plenary sessions featured a presentation of the latest draft of the 2011-2015 UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy, a discussion of operational implications and challenges for mine action programmes linked to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and a panel discussion on resource mobilization. Thematic working group sessions led by national directors gave focused attention to requirements for completion of clearance in various contexts, and touched on issues of operational effectiveness connected to technology, integrated mine action, victim assistance, land rights and land release.

A number of side events included an update on satellite imagery technology by the GICHD Information Management Team and the European Space Agency, an update on the ERW/mine action senior manager's course offered by James Madison University, and a photo exhibit on gender and diversity in mine action.

### ***Portfolio of Mine Action Projects***

An annual publication, the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects draws on the coordinated inputs of UN agencies, national authorities, NGOs and donors, with guidance from the headquarters portfolio team. The team is led by UNMAS, and includes UNICEF and UNDP.

The portfolio provides an overview of how affected countries plan to address the problems of landmines and ERW in partnership with international organizations, NGOs and other actors at local, national and international levels. It offers a collection of mine action project proposals for responding to landmines and ERW that complements the Landmine Monitor Report by reflecting projects endorsed at the national level and carried out by government

authorities, NGOs and UN entities. Participation in the portfolio is open to all mine action actors.

The portfolio, compiled on-line to reduce costs, is a resource mobilization tool with a wider coordination function. Focused mainly on activities in affected countries, it provides visibility for smaller programmes by communicating achievements and requirements to a wider global audience. It builds local capacities in the areas of proposal writing, budget development and strategic planning.

On behalf of the IACG-MA, UNMAS organized a comprehensive review of the portfolio process. The outcomes were encouraging and demonstrated the continued utility of the portfolio, and at the same time the need to strengthen some elements. Key outcomes of the review included relocating the online portfolio to the front page of [www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org) to raise visibility and foster wider use. To encourage current and potential mine action donors to use the portfolio, the UN headquarters portfolio team will increase coordination with OCHA in Geneva. This will help ensure consistency of information on mine action in both the portfolio and the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) Financial Tracking Service. The deadlines of the portfolio process will be synchronized with annual CAP deadlines.

### ***Integrating Mine Action into Humanitarian Appeals***

Mine action portfolio country team members continued to participate in humanitarian appeal working groups to advocate for the inclusion of mine action projects in humanitarian plans as well as consolidated appeals. Among humanitarian appeals, mine action requirements were included in those for Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza, Somalia and Sudan. Bilateral contributions and multilateral support to the VTF covered half of the total appeal of US \$330 million.

In Afghanistan, UNMAS received US \$101,499,861, US \$41,255,696 of which came through the VTF as part of its US \$258,356,564 appeal. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNMAS coordinated partners who received US \$1,701,200 under the Protection Cluster as part of the US \$837,616,628 Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP). In Gaza, UNMAS received US \$1,604,349 as part of its US \$3,395,038 request. Following the Somalia appeal of US \$3,307,914, UNMAS received US \$2,474,777. In Sudan, a total of US \$6,798,712 was provided under the US \$78,556,100 appeal.

## **III. Operational Effectiveness: Enabling Wider Humanitarian, Peace and Development Dividends**

### ***International Mine Action Standards***

The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) continue to provide guidance to mine-affected countries in developing national standards and legislation. UNMAS chairs the IMAS steering committee and review board.

In 2011, several significant international meetings confirmed the importance of the IMAS. Participants at the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty noted with appreciation the IMAS on land release, non-technical and technical surveys, and clearance, and encouraged affected states to implement them to accelerate compliance with Article 5 of the convention. Action 15 of the Vientiane Action Plan, endorsed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Beirut, also strongly reflected the IMAS.

## ***Integrating Mine Action into Humanitarian and Development Programming***

As a result of the Secretary-General's Policy Committee decision of July 2010, UNMAS, in coordination with IACG-MA partners, moved to fully activate the Mine Action Area of Responsibility under the Global Protection Cluster coordinated by UNHCR. The fully activated area, coordinated by UNMAS, made progress in ensuring more predictable, accountable and effective mine action responses to complex emergencies. The main example was in Libya, which will serve as a blueprint for future emergency response scenarios. UNMAS worked closely with UNHCR to ensure that the Mine Action Area of Responsibility aligned with broader efforts, including through the participation of UNMAS staff in the cluster's visioning process.

With the ultimate goal of contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), UNMAS programmes continued to be integrated into humanitarian and development assistance planning and national frameworks. Mine action programmes enabled development activities by facilitating road reconstruction, which revitalized local economies, trade and agricultural activities. Where appropriate, UNMAS ensured mine action was included in UN development assistance frameworks and incorporated in the planning of development actors. While the World Bank's *World Development Report 2011* did not single out mine action as a specific area of consideration, its role in contributing to security and ultimately development is pertinent throughout the report. A side session with World Bank staff was held at the 2011 International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisors to review the report and its relevance for mine action actors.

## ***Rapid Response in Libya and Côte d'Ivoire***

Within the coordination structure of the Global Protection Cluster, UNMAS personnel deployed to coordinate mine action activities in the initial stages of the conflict in Libya. As part of the Humanitarian Country Team, UNMAS staff went to Cairo in March and shortly thereafter to Benghazi in Libya to establish coordination and information-gathering mechanisms, and to conduct risk assessments in support of UN and NGO relief efforts. The aim was to enable mine action partners to deliver necessary support while maintaining as small a footprint as possible. Within the local Protection Cluster, UNMAS personnel established a joint coordination team, including NGO and national partners, to marshal mine action efforts in support of the overall humanitarian response. Activities included all five traditional pillars of mine action, as well as measures to secure ammunition storage areas. Early advocacy efforts, conducted in coordination with Human Rights Watch, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other partners, led to the renunciation of mine usage by the Transitional National Council, which prevented more extensive

contamination throughout the remainder of the conflict. This new coordination concept, named the Joint Mine Action Coordination Team, gained the support of UN, ICRC and NGO implementing partners as well as national counterparts.

In Côte d'Ivoire, post-election instability led to armed conflicts and heavy fighting in Abidjan and other locations. This resulted in extensive contamination by ERW as well as unsecured ammunition storage areas. At the request of UNOCI, UNMAS deployed personnel to Abidjan on 23 April 2011 to conduct an emergency assessment and necessary liaison activities. It established a mine action liaison and coordination mechanism in cooperation with UNOCI, UN agencies, the ICRC and other stakeholders.

### ***Threat Monitoring***

As part of its support to the IACG-MA, UNMAS continued to monitor emerging and evolving landmine and ERW threats by gathering and analysing information. This helped ensure that all partners were kept abreast of the latest developments, and the response activities of individual actors were coordinated with the group as a whole. The Mine Action Area of Responsibility assumed the monitoring of countries and territories under the Global Protection Cluster. UNMAS continued to monitor evolving and emerging landmine and ERW threats in other instances, and monitored non-emergency requests for assistance from Member States for discussion by the IACG-MA.

### ***Mine Action Planning***

The Mine Action Area of Responsibility subsumed planning activities conducted under the inter-agency Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response for emergency situations. To improve programme planning, UNMAS piloted a planning toolkit developed by the UN Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) in DPKO. The results of the pilot, which focused on the UNMAS programmes in South Sudan and Western Sahara, will inform the final version of the toolkit for use by all of the office's field components in 2012. The toolkit covers the full range of planning activities, and includes enhanced sections on monitoring and evaluation informed by the UNMAS experience with the International Programme for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET) in partnership with GICHD.

### ***Programme Evaluations***

UNMAS continued to improve and enhance its internal evaluation capacity through a partnership with GICHD and IPDET. The objective was to foster an organizational culture supporting monitoring and evaluation across programmes and headquarters, and establish a common lexicon and approach to monitoring and evaluation. In Afghanistan, a weeklong "mini-IPDET" training for staff from the Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan (MACCA), UNMAS headquarters and field programmes, and implementing partners was geared towards strengthening internal evaluation capabilities, and day-to-day monitoring and management activities.

UNMAS, in cooperation with UNOPS, conducted and commissioned several programme evaluations to identify areas of improvement for better programme performance, and to gather lessons learned for sharing across programmes.

At the request of UNDOF, UNMAS conducted an evaluation of its capabilities to respond to landmine and ERW threats, and conduct mine action in compliance with the IMAS. The evaluation recommended further enhancement of UNDOF mine action coordination and response capacities, including through the possible establishment of a mine action coordination cell, better information management, and improvement and standardization of work procedures.

## ***Landmine Safety***

UNMAS continued to review landmine and ERW safety training to make improvements, and established training on the Internet so all UN staff and humanitarian aid workers can access it. UNMAS plans to launch a training website in 2012, and initiated a review of a possible additional module on IED threats.

UNMAS continued to encourage all UN agencies and organizations to integrate landmine and ERW safety training in their general safety briefings through mine action coordination centres in the field. At headquarters, UNMAS regularly liaised with the DSS to ensure that landmine and ERW safety training tools were part of and complement general safety training, especially in countries without dedicated mine action coordination structures.

## ***Gender and Mine Action***

In advocating for the mainstreaming of gender responsiveness in mine action programming, UNMAS with inter-agency partners promoted implementation of the revised Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes at the national and global levels.

Enhanced collaboration with the NGO Gender in Mine Action Programmes (GMAP) involved promoting gender responsiveness, and to that end, GMAP became a member of the Global Protection Cluster Mine Action Area of Responsibility. Side events were co-organized with GMAP at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and at the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. The presentation at the former was entitled “Gender and Mine Action in Practice.” It highlighted the practical aspects of the revised gender guidelines from actual field experience. The side event at the second meeting was entitled “Gendering on: updates on gender in mine action.” It assessed gender and its role in strengthening mine action programming. Both events were sponsored by the IACG-MA and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL).

UNMAS promoted the inclusion of gender in mine action projects submitted to the CAPs and similar mechanisms addressing complex humanitarian emergencies. UNMAS is associated with the Gender Stand-by Capacity Project (GenCap) of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to facilitate gender-specific actions and objectives. These are ranked by a gender marker on a scale of 0 to 2, ranging from a lack of gender, to addressing gender in the execution of the project, to projects aimed at furthering specific gender goals. Launched in 2009 by the IASC sub-working group on gender, of which UNMAS is a member, the marker was applied to consolidated appeals in a number of countries in 2011. In 2012, the

gender marker will be mandatory in all consolidated appeals; increased donor interest in it is expected.

UNMAS worked with programme staff on project development in line with the gender marker, and organized presentations on it for UNMAS field managers, including during the side event at the Convention on Cluster Munitions meeting. Gender marker mine action tip sheets were prepared under GenCap with UNMAS support.

## ***Victim Assistance***

UNMAS continued to support the integration of victim assistance into wider national disability structures, while maintaining mine victim assistance as a catalyst to such broader frameworks. Globally, UNMAS advocated for a twin-track approach to victim assistance, in line with the ICBL and ICRC. It broadly consists of mainstreaming victim assistance into national disability and other relevant frameworks, while at the same time supporting specific victim assistance projects or programmes linked to mine action and mine action-related treaties.

To facilitate inter-agency dialogue around common understanding of links between mine action, victim assistance and disabilities rights, an informal inter-agency task force was established. It comprises UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), with UNHCR also expressing interest. A first meeting was held in June on the margins of intersessional work on the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty.

UNMAS continued participating in international and regional fora relevant to victim assistance, such as the International Symposium on Cooperation, oriented around the victim assistance goals of the mine-ban treaty. UNMAS provided tangible examples from its programme in Sudan.

UNMAS and the IACG-MA continued supporting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a vehicle to address many of the rights and needs of mine and ERW survivors. UNMAS welcomed the first ever *World Report on Disability*, produced by WHO and the World Bank. It provided the best available evidence of practical steps being implemented in various countries to overcome barriers to health care, rehabilitation, education, employment and support services for people with disabilities, and could make a significant contribution to the implementation of the convention.

In individual countries, notably Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Sudan, UNMAS continued to identify opportunities to address the rights and needs of mine and ERW victims, while assisting the integration of victim assistance into broader public health and support frameworks.

In Afghanistan, UNMAS backed the development of the Afghanistan Disability Support Programme. It was originally intended to be a stand-alone programme, but remains part of the broader work of the MACCA, though on a more limited scale than originally envisioned. Activities continued to be implemented in collaboration with relevant Afghan ministries and likeminded partners. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Victim Assistance Working Group, chaired by the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC), the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Affairs, in February convened an ad hoc

meeting to discuss accession to and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. In South Sudan, as a component of an UNMAS-supported project, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare introduced the convention to all relevant stakeholders to inform the country's legislative process. In Sudan, UNMAS supported the national technical committee for the convention in drafting a national disability law. Other programmes helped advance victim assistance activities in Chad, Colombia, Gaza, Lebanon, Libya, Nepal, Somalia and Western Sahara.

### ***Mine Risk Education***

Within the UN system, UNICEF is the lead organization for mine risk education. UNMAS continued to support activities in specific programmes, namely in Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire and Libya, in association with UNICEF, local authorities and implementing partners. The aim was to assist communities and individuals to live with the threat of mines and ERW until clearance assets can be dispatched. Education materials were field tested for suitability in terms of language, messages and gender. Activities took place in emergency settings, and targeted displaced and refugee populations who must deal with threats as they resettle, as well as communities living in proximity to known or suspected areas of contamination.

## **IV. Advocating for International Humanitarian, Human Rights and Disarmament Norms**

UNMAS continued its advocacy efforts with UN and other partners for a world free of landmines and ERW, including cluster munitions, and for the full enjoyment of human rights by victims of these weapons. Along with UN and civil society partners, as well as concerned Member States, UNMAS has called for the universal adoption and implementation of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Both at headquarters and in individual countries, UNMAS encourages Member States to join these treaties and comply with their relevant obligations.

UNMAS also assists other entities, notably NGOs, engaged in advocacy campaigns with states and non-state actors. With funding from the Government of Italy, for example, UNMAS has supported the lobbying and public awareness activities of the Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines and Geneva Call.

### ***The Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty***

UNMAS coordinated inter-agency contributions to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty standing committee meetings in Geneva and the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the treaty in Phnom Penh, including through the drafting and delivery of statements on behalf of the UN Mine Action Team (UNMAT).

In addition, UNMAS made a presentation on the VTF during the first meeting of the Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance.

Together with UNMAT colleagues, UNMAS supported the Article 5 workshop organized by the Implementation Support Unit for the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty on the margins of



the International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisors, as a means to promote understanding on the clearance and destruction obligations of the treaty among national participants.

Among other decisions, the 11<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of States Parties granted Article 5 clearance extensions to Algeria, Chile, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Eritrea.

In South Sudan, UNMAS efforts contributed to early accession to the mine-ban treaty.

## ***The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons***

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons aims to protect combatants from inhumane injuries and prevent civilian casualties from certain types of conventional weapons. Two protocols to the convention are of particular relevance to mine action: Amended Protocol II on mines, booby-traps and other devices, and Protocol V on ERW. Both protocols have their respective implementation regimes, including annual conferences of High Contracting Parties to review the status and operation of the protocols, and to consider matters pertaining to their national implementation.

Informal meetings on Amended Protocol II and on Protocol V deliberated on a number of matters relevant to mine action. With the convention's context, negotiations for a protocol on cluster munitions continued in 2001, but a new protocol failed to be adopted by the High Contracting Parties.

The parties met at the 4th Review Conference of the convention in Geneva in November. While the focus was on finalizing the negotiation of an eventual protocol on cluster munitions, the conference also discussed other issues, particularly mines other than anti-personnel mines.

UNMAS participated actively in all convention events in 2011, and coordinated inputs and interventions by the UNMAT.

### **Amended Protocol II**

Informal consultations among the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II were held in Geneva. The focus was on IEDs and national transparency reports, in particular Form A on "Dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed forces and to the civilian population." The consultations revealed an increased interest in dealing with the problems posed by IEDs within the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. No other international forum is currently dealing with this issue. Although IEDs are not exclusively addressed from a mine action perspective, participants drew linkages between them and the way mines and booby-traps are covered in Amended Protocol II.

The 13th Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II in November took stock of work done during the consultations and recommended the continuation of informal talks on IEDs and national reporting in 2012. UNMAS coordinated and delivered an UNMAT statement to the conference. Among other matters, it reiterated the need to enhance the existing rules of international humanitarian law applicable to mines

other than anti-personal mines, and expressed the need for legal standards on anti-vehicle mines, as contained in Amended Protocol II, to be revisited and, if appropriate, revised.

The annual conference decided to follow the process of the IATG and to exchange views with the IATG Technical Review Panel towards the review and implementation of guidelines to enhance IED prevention. UNMAS is ready to assist in this process, as it has contributed to the development of the IATG and is a member of the panel.

## **Protocol V**

Informal consultations were held in Geneva in 2011 on implementation of Protocol V. The consultations comprised matters such as clearance, removal or destruction of ERW, victim assistance, cooperation and assistance, national reporting, and generic preventive measures referred to in Article 9 of Protocol V and in Part 3 of its Technical Annex.

The 6th Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V met in November 2011 and decided to undertake further informal consultations on these matters in 2012. On behalf of the UNMAT, the UNMAS acting director delivered a presentation entitled “Assistance in Mine Action: The role of the UNMAT.” UNMAS coordinated and delivered a statement on behalf of the UNMAT under the general exchange of views. The statement encouraged High Contracting Parties to make full use of Article 4 of the Protocol, which refers to the obligation to record, retain and transmit information on the use or abandonment of explosive ordnance to facilitate mine action activities (e.g., marking, clearance, removal, destruction, risk education, etc.) and protect civilians from ERW.

High Contracting Parties highlighted the relevance of the IATG in assisting generic preventive measures.

## ***Negotiations on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Cluster Munitions***

The Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in 2010 decided that the existing Group of Governmental Experts “will continue its negotiations informed by the Chair’s Text on a draft protocol on cluster munitions, and taking into account other past, present and future proposals by delegations, with a view to making a recommendation for consideration by the Fourth Review Conference, to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations.” This decision was taken despite the fact that the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force earlier in the year.

The Group of Governmental Experts met three times in 2011, but was not able to produce an agreed text on recommendations to the Fourth Review Conference, so the negotiations continued within the work of the Fourth Review Conference, first in the Main Committee II and finally in the plenary. Despite repeated attempts by the presidents of the Main Committee and the Review Conference to bridge differences, substantive divergences remained. Delegations had to accept that there was no chance for a protocol on cluster munitions to be adopted. The conference did not adopt any decision regarding future work on cluster munitions in the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

UNMAS did not attempt to coordinate an UNMAT intervention during the Group of Governmental Experts meetings in 2011, though it joined, together with UNICEF, a statement prepared by UNDP and delivered to the meeting in August 2011. This statement expressed concerns about the chair's text for a draft protocol, which failed to meet the goal of urgently addressing the humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions, and appeared to contradict the standard already set by the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

For the Fourth Review Conference, UNMAS tried to coordinate an UNMAT statement on the negotiations, but some inter-agency partners expressed their preference for coordinating a message through a different framework, the one provided by the IASC. Though UNMAS is not a member of the IASC, it joined a statement delivered by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on behalf of a number of UN entities and humanitarian NGOs during the general exchange of views. The statement repeated concerns regarding the draft text for a protocol on cluster munitions. Following that statement, UNMAS explained the humanitarian reasons behind its association with the statement.

### ***Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines***

Little discussion took place in 2011 regarding the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines, a term referring mainly but not uniquely to anti-vehicle mines. Amended Protocol II contains provisions regarding the use of these, but UNMAS and the IACG-MA view the provisions as inadequate for fully addressing humanitarian impacts. High Contracting Parties made an attempt to negotiate a new protocol on mines other than anti-personnel mines between the second and third review conferences for the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, with no success. While the latter agreed on discussions of these weapons, the High Contracting Parties focused on cluster munitions between the third and fourth review conferences.

As contained in UNMAT statements in the context of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, but also in the Secretary-General's message to the Fourth Review Conference, the existing rules of international humanitarian law applicable to anti-vehicle mines should be reviewed and revised. Similar perspectives were heard in 2011 from other actors. Reflecting these calls, the Fourth Review Conference decided to convene an open-ended meeting of experts to discuss the implementation of international humanitarian law with regard to mines other than anti-personnel mines in 2012, and to submit a report to the 2012 meeting of the High Contracting Parties.

In 2011, some delegations approached UNMAS to assist in these discussions.

### **White Phosphorous**

The Fourth Review Conference noted concerns raised by civil society, the ICRC and some countries, during discussions on Protocol III on incendiary weapons, about the offensive use of white phosphorous against civilians. Despite suggestions for further discussion, no agreement for additional work on this subject was reached by the conference. Weapons with white phosphorous were removed and destroyed by UNMAS after the recent conflict in Gaza. Concerns on the use of these weapons were expressed in the report of the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. The Human Rights Council in resolution 16/32 called on the General Assembly to promote an urgent discussion

on the future legality of certain munitions, including white phosphorous, referred to in the report.

## **The Convention on Cluster Munitions**

The first intersessional meeting on the Convention on Cluster Munitions was held in Geneva in June. It served as a preparatory forum for the 2nd Meeting of States Parties to the convention. UNMAS coordinated and delivered a number of interventions on behalf of the UNMAT both at the intersessional meeting and at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of States Parties in Beirut in September. States Parties agreed to establish working groups to address a number of matters, such as the general status and operation of the convention, universalization, victim assistance, clearance and risk education, stockpile destruction, cooperation and assistance, reporting and national implementation measures. They adopted the Beirut Declaration and welcomed the Beirut Progress Report submitted by the Presidency.

A number of countries and territories continue to be affected by cluster munitions, such as Afghanistan, Libya, southern Lebanon, Sudan and Western Sahara. UNMAS not only continued its support for addressing the problems caused by cluster munitions in those places, but also undertook advocacy efforts among national authorities to promote the universalization of the convention.

## ***The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities***

UNMAS has taken every opportunity to encourage UN Member States, particularly those with mine and ERW victims, to accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including through statements delivered by the IACG-MA at meetings under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The statements highlight the use of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to address the needs and rights of mine and ERW victims, as well as the importance of integrating victim assistance into broader public health and welfare systems.

## ***Focal Point for the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities***

In 2011, UNMAS and the IACG-MA continued to promote and advocate for the universalization and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to address the concerns and rights of landmine and ERW accident survivors, including through the provision of victim assistance. By the end of 2011, there were 108 States Parties to the convention, including a number of mine- and ERW-affected countries, such as Colombia, Cyprus, Myanmar and Pakistan.

UNMAS is a member of the Inter-Agency Support Group for the convention (IASG-CRPD), where it represents DPKO. The IASG-CRPD, a UN inter-agency mechanism, is co-chaired by OHCHR and the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA). In 2011, the ILO hosted the 6th Meeting of the IASG-CRPD in Geneva, followed by a videoconference several months later. UNMAS participated actively in both meetings, providing updates, including on the endorsement of the IASG-CRPD Joint Strategy and Plan of Action by the Under-Secretary-General for DPKO; on advocacy activities for the convention on the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action and

in terms of mine action-related treaties; and on UNMAS support for national disability frameworks consistent with the convention in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Sudan.

UNMAS also provided inputs to the Secretary-General's reports to the General Assembly on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto (66/121) and on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities (66/128), both prepared by UN-DESA.

UNMAS is currently considering the signature of a memorandum of understanding with the recently launched Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Disability.

## ***Engaging Non-state Actors***

Anti-personnel mines and other victim-activated weapons, including IEDs, continued to be used, often with devastating humanitarian effects, by non-state armed groups in a number of countries. As reported by the Landmine Monitor, in 2011, non-state armed groups used anti-personnel mines in four countries: Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar and Pakistan. Use of anti-personnel mines was also reported in Libya during the recent crisis, and there are allegations on that these weapons have been used in Sudan.

On 9 November 2011, in his remarks to the Security Council during the opening debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, the Secretary-General noted "(...) we need to more consistently and effectively engage non-State armed groups in order to improve their compliance with the law. Member States need to recognize and accept the fundamental necessity of this engagement." This statement is consistent with the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (2010/575). The next report on the subject will be issued in 2012. UNMAS, in alignment with the Secretary-General's views, continues to support engagement with non-state actors aimed at forbidding the use of anti-personnel mines, and assists related mine action commitments, including on clearance and stockpile destruction.

According to Geneva Call, an international NGO specializing in work with these groups, 42 non-state actors have signed the "Deed of Commitment" to refrain from using anti-personnel mines, cooperate in mine action in areas under their control and destroy stockpiles. The latest signatory is the Justice and Equality Movement in Sudan.

Another commitment came from the Libyan National Transitional Council, which on 28 April pledged to destroy all landmines in its possession, and cooperate in mine clearance, risk education and victim assistance. This move was the result of engagement by members of the Joint Mine Action Team in Libya, including Human Rights Watch, Handicap International (HI), the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and the UNMAS field programme.

UNMAS and Geneva Call maintain close institutional links. Geneva Call is an active member of the Global Protection Cluster Mine Action Area of Responsibility led by UNMAS. It and the ICBL co-lead the area's Advocacy Working Group.

## **V. Communicating to the Public and Other Constituencies**

### ***Highlights***

- Extensive global press coverage of mine action generated by the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action; a related social media campaign reached more than 1 million unique followers and garnered over 2.5 million impressions in 48 hours.
- UNMAS success stories were highlighted in a film on the American actor Jeremy Renner's awareness-raising trip to Afghanistan.
- UNMAS advocacy efforts were strengthened through the expansion of UNMAS Facebook, Twitter and Flickr pages, and the introduction of a Google+ page.
- *Time* magazine photographer Marco Grob partnered with UNMAS for photo missions documenting mine action in Afghanistan and Cambodia.

### ***Communications Support to the Field and Headquarters***

UNMAS provides strategic guidance on immediate communication priorities and preparation of key global messages on mine action. Meetings of the IACG-MA Communications Working Group, which UNMAS chairs, resulted in inter-agency plans to raise public and media awareness of mine action. Meetings brought together communications focal points from UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNODA and occasionally other members of the IACG-MA. Coordination of communications in 2011 led to extensive global press coverage, particularly around the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

UNMAS coordinated its communications efforts with the UN Department of Public Information in New York and its global network of information centres, which played important roles in disseminating key messages from UNMAS and the IACG-MA to local and international media.

UNMAS field offices relied on information materials provided by headquarters to support their own communications priorities linked to global events, such as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action and the launch of the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects. The UNMAS Information Unit is in daily contact with colleagues in the field, and ensures that public information material such as field newsletters, videos and press releases are widely circulated at headquarters and to the wider mine action community.

### ***Keeping Mine Action in the Public Eye***

UNMAS media relations and other forms of outreach helped raise the profile of mine action among media, NGOs, donors and the general public in 2011. UNMAS organized press briefings timed to coincide with key advocacy events. These briefings marked, for example, the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, and the Heads of

Mine Action Components Meeting in New York. Numerous stories were filed by media outlets such as Reuters, *The Telegraph*, IRIN, Al Jazeera, *The New York Times*, CNN and EFE; they focused mainly on the challenges faced by landmine survivors and the funding required for mine action operations in 2011. Particular attention was given to the important work of the UNMAS Joint Mine Action Coordination Team in Libya and the mission of the Secretary-General to Somalia, which included a visit with the mine action programme.

Throughout the year, UNMAS provided journalists with background information and arranged interviews to enable them to develop news and feature stories, helping to boost reporting on mine action in the media. For example, *The New York Times* published a photo album of the work of UNMAS in Afghanistan, and CNN interviewed the director of UNMAS about mine action in Viet Nam.

The sixth International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action took place on 4 April 2011. UNMAS organized events in New York, Geneva and Rome. The Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Public Information, Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Mr. Dmitry Titov, inaugurated an exhibit in New York featuring photos from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Lebanon. Participants included the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Denmark, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Arab Emirates, and delegates from Afghanistan, the European Union, Luxembourg, the occupied Palestinian territory, Russia and the United States. Over 150 people attended.

The Secretary-General issued a strong statement, and special events to mark the occasion were held around the world, hosted jointly by governments of mine-affected countries and the UN organizations that support their mine action efforts. Activities ranged from official events with statements by top governmental and UN officials, to mine risk education theatre performances, concerts, fundraisers and photo exhibitions. A strategic digital media campaign yielded impressive results. With support from UNDP, UNICEF and UN Secretariat partners, more than 1 million unique followers and over 2.5 million impressions were confirmed in just 48 hours.

UNMAS finalized a nine-minute advocacy film on American actor Jeremy Renner's visit to Afghanistan. It provides a snapshot of the work of MACCA. During his visit, the Hollywood star donned a Kevlar suit and ventured onto a minefield with Afghan deminers near the United States airbase in Bagram. He joined high school students during a mine risk education session, and then took time to kick a football around with them behind their school. He spoke with landmine survivors and farmers about their experiences. The film was narrated by Renner, who starred in the Oscar-winning film "The Hurt Locker," and appears opposite Tom Cruise in the new "Mission Impossible IV." The film was circulated to the UN press corps and highlighted on the UN YouTube site, as well as on [www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org) and UNMAS digital media channels.

In a continued effort to reach new audiences, photo exhibitions featuring the work of *Time* photographer Marco Grob were held in Kabul at the Babur Gardens and the US Mission to Afghanistan, timed to coincide with the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The photos featured a wide range of Afghans who work in the mine action sector or were impacted by landmines in their daily lives. Photos taken in Cambodia were exhibited during the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the mine-ban treaty. Both exhibitions were part of a joint effort with the UNMAT. A third photo exhibit, by Italian photographer Giovanni Diffidenti, was displayed during the 2nd Meeting of States Parties to

the Convention on Cluster Munitions, giving viewers a first-hand look at UN mine action efforts in Libya since the fall of the former regime.

An event held at UN headquarters in New York in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia screened the documentary “A Perfect Soldier.” The film explores the life of Aki Ra, a former child soldier who now works to demine Cambodia. In 2010, CNN recognized Aki Ra as a “Top Ten Hero.”

The magazine *Modern Dog* published a feature story on the work of demining dogs, including interviews and photos from UNMAS programmes in Afghanistan and Sudan.

An essential element of UNMAS communications continues to be the circulation of electronic “Today in Mine Action News” updates with highlights from worldwide media sources on topical mine action stories. The circulation list includes UN field and headquarters colleagues as well as members of the wider mine action community.

## ***Website Management***

UNMAS manages the E-MINE website at [www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org). This is the public face of the mine action work that the UN system implements worldwide. It is a user-friendly resource containing relevant introductory information as well as a fully searchable version of the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects.

Country by country, the portfolio details projects carried out by states, NGOs and UN entities. The development, editing, design, layout and production of the 2012 edition will be carried out entirely through a content-management system in E-MINE. This reduces the time and expense involved in the previous manual arrangements to compile and produce the publication.

E-MINE also contains links to relevant international legal documents and UN documents containing references to mine action, along with links to the recently created UNMAS Facebook, Google+ and Twitter accounts. With over 6,500 followers between these accounts, UNMAS continues to boost the visibility of global mine action efforts by reaching out to new audiences through these digital media channels.

The website is updated weekly with mine action reports, public information materials, operational data from UNMAS mine action programmes and employment opportunities. There are strong spikes in web traffic during special events, such as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

UNMAS is planning on overhauling the website in 2012 to increase the flexibility of the site, strengthen its interactive content, and improve integration with its ProFi system, a programme and financial management tool.

## ***Building Awareness Across the UN System***

UNMAS works closely with key United Nations public information departments to raise the profile of mine action in the UN system. During 2011, UNMAS had particularly close working relationships with the UN News Centre, the Public Affairs Section of DPKO, UN TV, UN



Radio, the UN Exhibitions and Publishing Section, and communications colleagues at UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF and OCHA. UNMAS field programmes are in weekly contact with public information sections in all of the UN missions where they operate.

UNMAS informed other parts of the United Nations about its mission and achievements by posting numerous stories to the news section of the UN “iSeek” intranet site. It drew attention to UNMAS’ integration into OROLSI.

## **VI. Country Programmes: Saving Lives, Fostering Stability, Building Sustainable Livelihoods**

### ***Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of***

#### **Highlights**

- Reduction of casualties by 40 percent from 2006 rates.
- Moved forward the process of transition to full Afghan ownership of mine action coordination, diminishing the UN system's role.
- Worked extensively on defining parameters to reach the end state for mine action in Afghanistan.
- Engagement of new donors in mine action support, notably the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America.

#### **Impact**

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), in existence since 1989, has matured to become an effective, efficient and innovative programme with a proven ability to deliver results in the country's most volatile regions, despite harsh conditions. The programme in 2011 continued to prove itself, combining 21 years of experience and knowledge with the ongoing development of systems to monitor and track results, and the use of enhanced techniques to minimize waste and unnecessary clearance. With 218 communities no longer at risk following the clearance or cancellation of 1,312 hazards, and 12,000 Afghans employed by MAPA in 2011, the programme is saving lives, and achieving development and economic impacts across the country.

Effective coordination continued to add significant value to mine action through enhanced planning tools, mechanisms for maximizing contracted output, and improved monitoring and evaluation crucially important for maintaining momentum and focus as Afghanistan moves closer to an end state. The importance of an Afghan solution and programme was reinforced as national staffs were further empowered in positions of senior management. The UN international presence shrunk from 15 to 10 staff members over the course of the year, with the UNMAS-managed MACCA now largely led by Afghans.

A community-level approach was cemented in 2011 with strong acceptance of the notion that project security and general feasibility can be enhanced by community ownership. At the same time, mechanisms must be put in place to prevent false reporting of hazards in areas that have benefitted from a community-based approach, and are attempting to

prolong projects and cash inputs. MACCA has enhanced survey and assessment tools to minimize this risk.

Clearance has enabled broader development in many areas, and the mine action community is now directly linked into the Government of Afghanistan's development and infrastructure entities via a MACCA staff member who ensures that all projects take consideration of potential landmine and ERW contamination. UNMAS worked with the Government of Afghanistan to secure a significant contribution from the United Arab Emirates that will enable Kandahar province to be brought to completion within two years.

## **Context and Challenges**

Afghanistan remains one of the most heavily mine- and ERW-contaminated countries in the world, with 6,206 known hazardous areas covering 639.5 square kilometres in 1,917 communities. Mines and ERW have killed and injured thousands of Afghans over the last 30 years. They rob farmers of their livelihoods, and impede housing, resettlement and the grazing of livestock. Since mines and ERW are used as raw materials for IEDs, their clearance has strong implications for security and stabilization.

In 2011, an average of 33 people per month were killed or injured by landmines and ERW, the same average as in 2010. Of the 391 victims, 16 percent were female, and 71 percent were children. The largest group of victims involved boys aged 7 to 14, who accounted for 59 percent of all victims under age 18. Travelling was the most high-risk activity, followed by playing and recreation, tending animals, and collecting water, food and wood. UXO caused 87 percent of all casualties, an increasing trend that has caused MACCA to alter clearance and mine risk education work to address it.

MAPA is guided by the Government's obligations under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty—which requires clearing all known anti-personnel mines by March 2013 and assisting those who have been injured by them. With completion of treaty obligations having reached 54 percent, these goals will not be met by their expiration date. The key impediment is the lack of financial resources. UNMAS is working with the Government of Afghanistan on the development of its request to extend its mine-ban obligations in time for submission by March 2012.

Gender issues carry particular sensitivity in Afghanistan, and influence the potential of all development and humanitarian projects. Due to cultural and security concerns, MAPA has been heavily staffed by male workers. Demining teams are composed of men, but some female employees work as mine risk education trainers and support staff. Currently, MAPA has over 15,000 employees, out of which 100 are female. At MACCA, efforts to address the gender imbalances among national and international staff have yielded positive results, with women making up 4 out of 10 international staff, and accounting for 3 percent of national staff, up from 0.04 percent in 2005.

Mine action has been strongly integrated into national development planning. It is a benchmark in formal government development strategies and part of the national MDGs. MACCA has formed solid relationships with a range of ministries to ensure the spread of mine action concerns into wider development plans. It has also worked to align operations with government objectives outlined in the Afghan National Development Strategy.

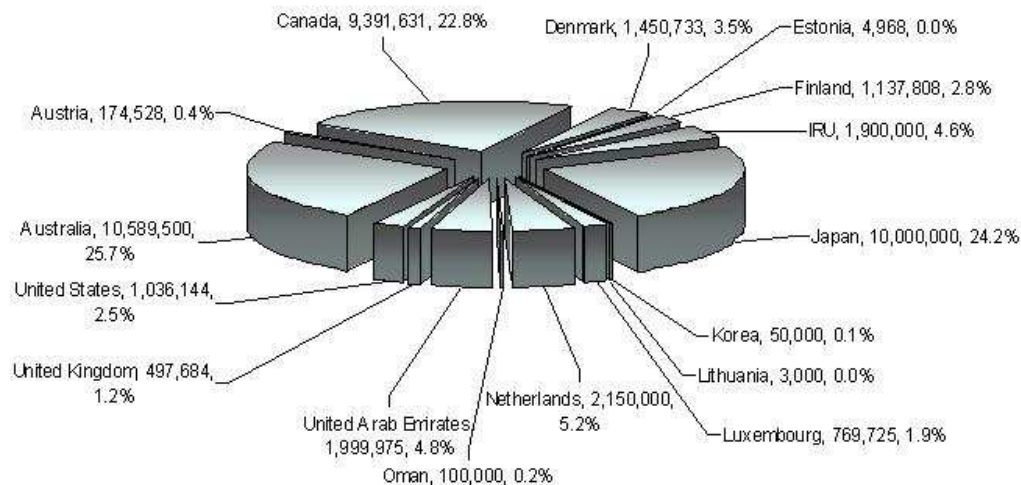
MAPA has shown great resilience and flexibility in an extremely challenging and ever-changing security environment. Security incidents in Afghanistan recorded by DSS rose by 20 percent in 2011. In comparison, security incidents affecting MAPA have decreased by 26 percent compared to 2010; casualties among those working for the programme (killed and wounded in non-demining or EOD-related activities) decreased by more than 120 percent. There was a decrease of 10 percent in "serious" incidents compared to 2010, when 19 percent of all incidents were termed "serious" and involved IEDs and/or attacks. Abductions, however, have increased by 15 percent, accounting for 30 percent of all security incidents affecting MAPA in 2011, and representing an increase of over 200 percent in the number of deminers abducted in the past year. Of the 223 deminers abducted, 218 were released and 5 were killed. Intimidation of deminers combined with theft of demining equipment resulted in significant financial losses and accounted for 28 percent of security incidents.

## **Support from UNMAS Headquarters**

UNMAS has worked diligently to oversee planning and implementation of programme activities. The UNMAS Programme Officer conducted technical missions lasting a combined three months, met with key donors and implementing partners, and provided input on long-term strategic issues with a particular emphasis on funding trends and transition. UNMAS engaged with DPKO's Office of Operations to ensure mine action was fully integrated into the Secretary-General's reports on Afghanistan and talking points, and other briefing materials for senior UN management and Member States. Coordination with DSS was key given the volatile security environment. Eminent photographer Marco Grob visited the programme and presented an emotive series of portraits depicting the human face of the landmine and ERW issue.

UNMAS assisted Afghanistan in international resource mobilization through a range of donor briefings in capitals, and at Permanent Missions in New York and Geneva. Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$41.3 million from the governments of Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as the IRU. The contributions enabled the programme of work of over 700 teams.

**Voluntary Contributions to the Mine Action Programme in Afghanistan  
in 2011 (in US\$)**



## Coordination and Training Activities

In 2002, the Government of Afghanistan entrusted interim responsibility for the mine action programme to the UN system. UNMAS created MACCA and area mine action centres in Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar, Herat, Jalalabad, Gardez and Kunduz. These facilities support the Government in developing an appropriately trained and equipped national institution capable of achieving national mine action goals. Funded through the VTF, MACCA works in partnership with the Government's Department of Mine Clearance (DMC), an office of the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority. This relationship was formalized in an agreement in February 2008, with the DMC relocating to the MACCA office site in April 2008.

The DMC is now directly involved in the planning and coordination of mine clearance operations as the transition to national authority progresses. MACCA made significant moves towards realizing its plan of making the coordination of mine action an entirely Afghan process. Extensive consultation and planning sessions with stakeholders, specifically the Government, MACCA national staff and donors, has fed the conceptualization of an approach to transition. It emphasizes remaining fluid enough to adapt to the ever-changing political situation in Afghanistan, but removing non-Afghan staff from the management of mine action coordination within the coming few years.

MACCA's coordination role in 2011 continued to focus on strategic and operational planning for the programme, including the execution and oversight of the 1389 and 1390 operational work plans,<sup>1</sup> and development of the 1391 work plan (each plan runs from 1 April through 31

<sup>1</sup> See: [www.macca.org.af/index.php?page=en\\_Reports+and+Plans](http://www.macca.org.af/index.php?page=en_Reports+and+Plans).

March, in line with the Afghan governmental year). These plans guide the effective deployment and monitoring of 738 operational teams and related quality assurance tasks, as well as ongoing information management for all mine action assets, whether funded through the VTF, bilaterally or commercially.

Data from a recently developed GIS (geographic information system) tool has enhanced MACCA's ability to prioritize clearance tasks, based on land use, altitude and terrain. This is vital at a time when contributions for landmine and ERW clearance in Afghanistan may diminish, and will ensure that funds are applied where they are most needed. Mine action was carried out in accordance with a set of established planning criteria that prioritize mine clearance in areas associated with recent victims, identified by local authorities through the area mine action centres, or slated for resettlement or development. Ranking of hazards was based on resource blockages and communities with a higher risk of producing victims based on regression and terrain analysis using an effective project-monitoring tool.

MACCA developed its engagement with donors by advising on projects regardless of whether or not they are funded via the UN system, and by working with implementers to develop projects in accordance with donor preferences. This helped garner US \$133.9 million for the programme through ad hoc or long-term pledges to the VTF and bilaterally. MACCA represented the mine action community at meetings of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme and Afghan Reintegration Programme, both of which continued to deploy mine clearance to reintegrate demobilized anti-government combatants.

In addition to quality assurance at the field level, MACCA monitors the quality of implementing partners across a broad set of indicators, using a monitoring tool based on the principles of a balanced scorecard. The tool enables MACCA to track the output, quality and effectiveness of each partner on a quarterly basis. It allows comparisons of implementers, which inform funding decisions, and provides implementing partners with a baseline for their own improvement and development.

MACCA is represented on the UN Country Team in Kabul, and participated in the OCHA-run HAP, with a submission totaling US \$258.3 million. MACCA continued to play an integral role in the UN's Afghanistan Protection Cluster, in line with UNMAS' role as the lead for mine action within the Global Protection Cluster. It coordinated information with other humanitarian actors to support safe operations and enhance the selection of MACCA priorities.

MACCA reached out to donors through media and direct advocacy to encourage both multilateral and bilateral funding for MAPA. It continued to improve its website to make information on MAPA more easily accessible for media, donors, government representatives and other interested parties.<sup>2</sup> On behalf of multilateral and bilateral donors, MACCA advised on priorities for and the suitability of projects submitted by mine action implementers.

MACCA has insisted that all projects supported by the VTF take a serious approach to gender responsiveness; implementing partners have been encouraged to develop male/female teams and required to report on beneficiaries by gender. In 2011, MACCA appointed two gender focal points, who are actively involved in the National UN Gender Working Group, and have now been trained as trainers on gender awareness and

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<sup>2</sup> See: [www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af).

mainstreaming. The trainers worked with key staff in implementing partners on the mainstreaming of gender into the workplace.

## **Operational Coordination**

MAPA continued to achieve significant progress in operations with more than 20 international and national actors working throughout the country to implement all five pillars of mine action. Over 15,000 Afghan staff were employed in 2011, and 738 mobile demining teams were deployed, including manual, dog, and mechanical detection and clearance assets.

Operational achievements included the destruction of 26,759 anti-personnel mines, 1,088 anti-tank mines, 396,701 pieces of UXO, 464,745 items of small arms and ammunition, and 193 abandoned IEDs. A total of 182.75 square kilometres of known and suspected minefields were released through clearance and other means; battle area clearance covered 113.87 square kilometres. The NGO Afghan Technical Consultants continued clearance of the minefields that contaminate Kabul City, which remains the world's most mined capital city, while emergency response teams tasked by area mine action centres responded to ad hoc tasks in support of refugee returns, development projects and other emergency requirements.

Mine risk education has continued to be geared towards reaching the most vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) in encashment centres, as well as men, women, boys and girls in impacted areas. Nearly 1,121,729 people were trained in safe behaviour around landmines and ERW. The NGO Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR) employed 10 men and 10 women, mostly husbands and wives, in teams to carry out village-by-village mine risk education in the central and eastern regions of Afghanistan. The female members collected information about ERW through talking to women in households.

Progress has been made in supporting the Government in its consideration of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Nine MACCA staff members are now embedded in the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled; the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Education, helping to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are fully factored into planning and advocacy.

## **Human Interest Story: Mine Action Opens Access to Education**

Clearance of landmines and ERW can have transformative effects on communities now and into the future, especially when it involves schools and access to education. The village of Gul Ghundi in Parwan Province suffered from heavy landmine and ERW contamination near the local school. The presence of minefields meant that children were forced to travel long distances to study, with many parents preferring not to have their children walk so far and therefore keeping them at home.

“My brothers and I had to walk long distances to school,” remembered Masood, aged 12. “I was in second grade at the time. I remember that once my father said, ‘Don’t go to school anymore, because you are a child and I don’t want you to walk this long distance’.”

After MAPA implementing partner HALO Trust cleared Gul Ghundi, Estiqlal High School was built. For three years, children have enjoyed safe and close access to education. Anisa Ahadi, the high school principal, said, “This area was a huge desert full of mines. No one could use it. It was due to the hard work of deminers that the Government was able to build this school.”

Today, the school has 1,014 students, both male and female. Qari Abdul Samad, head of the Maidan Wardak Teacher Training Faculty, recalled, “When we were trying to start the building here, we noticed there were some mines and explosives in the area. We were sure that would create a big problem for us, therefore, we asked for mine action.” One and a half months later, the area was cleared and handed over for construction.

### **Human Interest Story: Mine Action Paves the Road to Development in Rural Afghanistan**

Sholukto, Dara Zendan, Qalamajar and Aque Mazar are villages in Samangan Province. They line a highway that serves as the arterial supply route connecting Kabul to the northern part of the country. All the villages have serious contamination from landmines and other ERW, dating as far back as the days of Soviet occupation. “We were not able to use agricultural or grazing land, attend to our livestock, collect firewood or use the road for transportation,” said Azizullah, one of the residents of Dara Zendan.

Azizullah has been the witness of many mine accidents: “I remember accidents affecting both people and animals in my village. They were tragic and unforgettable.” According to Azizullah, the clearance operation has already improved their daily lives. “I used to walk my flock of sheep miles away so that they could drink water because the areas close by were contaminated with mines. Now I don’t have this problem.”

An obstacle for grazing, agriculture and transportation, the landmines and other explosives caused villagers to spend much of their income buying firewood. Since the start of mine action operations, villagers have again been able to collect wood from nearby locations, saving time and money. Soon they will be able to use their tractors again—not being able to drive them along the highway meant many tasks had to be done by hand, requiring hours of extra work.

The clearance of the villages is part of a project to clear all hazards located within a 100-metre corridor on either side of the 700-kilometre ring road connecting Kabul to the provinces of Parwan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Samangan, Balkh and Jawzjan. The project is a public-private partnership, funded by the IRU and the Netherlands through the VTF, and implemented by Afghan Technical Consultants and HALO Trust.

## ***Chad***

### **Highlights**

- A survey has been partially completed by MAG.
- MAG has manually cleared 30,771 square meters of mined land.
- 1,828 items of ERW have been destroyed



- 2,549 mines (both anti-tank and anti-personnel) have been destroyed.
- Objectives and necessary resources to operate in Chad following the withdrawal of the UN Mission in the Central African Republic of Chad (MINURCAT) have been identified.
- Coordination and cooperation with mine action stakeholders is being improved and division of responsibilities clarified.

## **Impact**

Following nearly 30 years of internal conflict, large areas of Chad remain contaminated by mines and ERW. An estimated 50 percent of Chadians are living in affected regions. More than 200,000 people live in the immediate vicinity of dangerous areas. Of 221,856,072 square metres of land classified as contaminated in eight regions of the country, only 35,045,804 square metres have been cleared. The presence of mines and ERW represents a permanent danger for the population and obstructs freedom of movement, and access to pasture land, water points, road networks and economic hubs. The risks are worsening given Chad's soil and climate conditions, comprising desert, sand and wind. In some cases, extremely dangerous clearance initiatives and/or demining have been undertaken by inhabitants themselves, responding to the pressing necessity to recuperate the use of the land.

The objective of UNMAS in Chad is to provide operational support to facilitate mechanical and manual clearance operations in priority areas, and offer risk education to affected communities, thereby reducing the number of casualties, and enabling socioeconomic recovery and development efforts.

## **Context and Challenges**

Further to the departure of MINURCAT in late 2010, and following a series of meetings with the Centre national de déminage (CND) and UNMAS, the Government of Chad formally requested that UNMAS continue providing mine action support.

While there are several areas of serious contamination in Chad, UNMAS and the Government agreed that the clearance of the Fada area, in northern Chad, should be prioritized.

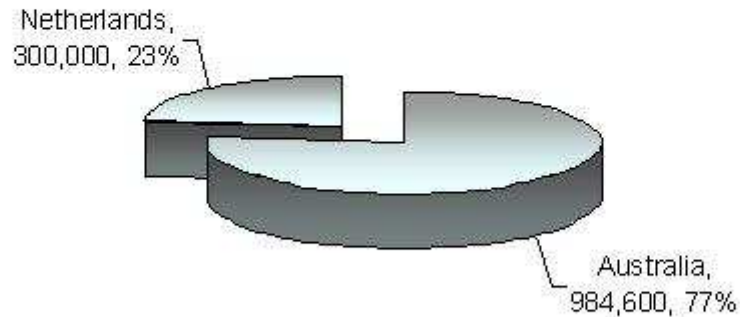
## **Support from UNMAS headquarters**

UNMAS headquarters support in 2011 included programme oversight, liaisons with relevant stakeholders and coordination on resource mobilization under the VTF.

Close collaboration between field staff and headquarters ensured good information sharing with regard to the objectives and resources needed to implement the programme in a post-MINURCAT environment.

Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$1,284,600 from the governments of Australia and the Netherlands.

### Voluntary Contributions to the Mine Action Programme in Chad in 2011



### **Operational Coordination**

Five organizations currently undertake mine action in Chad: UNDP, UNMAS, UNICEF, MAG (on behalf of the International Organization for Migration or IOM) and the CND. Coordination and cooperation during 2011 have been limited by factors including a lack of clearly defined responsibilities, poor communication among stakeholders and a high turnover of key staff members.

There has, however, been significant recent improvement. An ambitious, forward-looking memorandum of understanding is currently being developed between UNDP and UNMAS in order to jointly address the significant need for holistic mine action. Specific objectives and necessary resources have been identified for a successful mine action programme.

### ***Colombia***

#### **Highlights**

- The decree authorizing civilian demining was enacted; key National Standards for Humanitarian Demining were developed and submitted for approval.
- The process for restructuring the Colombian Presidential Programme for Mine Action (PAICMA) was agreed and progressed with UNMAS support.
- The Colombian Government provided resources to support UNMAS technical assistance to PAICMA, the first time an affected state has funded UNMAS to support its own programme.
- Continued technical advisory support was extended to PAICMA headquarters, the UN system, NGOs preparing their deployment and the Organization of American States (OAS).
- The UNMAT coordination mechanism started to function in July 2011, giving the UN system an opportunity to engage in open discussion and analysis.

## **Impact**

Colombia's commitment to address its landmine problem has advanced significantly. The legal framework to allow civilian humanitarian demining was put in place with the signing of a decree for a national enactment law that authorized operations by civilian demining organizations. Civilian operations did not commence in 2011 due to the delay of the formal approval of national standards.

To ensure efficient national coordination and the sustainability of PAICMA, the UNMAS team proposed and supported implementation of a restructuring process, with a review of roles and responsibilities, and the production of an updated organizational chart. This was the first step towards implementing a quality management system to ensure better sustainability and efficiency of national coordination.

With UNMAS assistance, PAICMA's planning team prepared a humanitarian mine action geographical prioritization table for 2012 to identify priority interventions for mine clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance, based on impact criteria and security concerns. UNMAS gave PAICMA technical support to complete national standards, and helped assess the standard operating procedures of the humanitarian battalion. Other inputs supported PAICMA to identify areas of improvement for reaching required humanitarian standards. Both PAICMA and the OAS used technical advice on accreditation, and quality assurance and control procedures.

The value of UNMAS technical assistance was widely recognized by national partners and the Government of Colombia. UNMAS support continued promoting improved responses to affected communities, and will contribute to broader development goals.

## **Context and Challenges**

The Colombian landmine and ERW problem may be one of the most politically complex in the world. There are major security constraints.

According to PAICMA's casualty figures, there have been 9,584 victims of anti-personnel mines to date. In 2011, there were 466 victims of mines, with 74 people dying (16 percent) and 392 injured (84 percent). There were 301 military victims (65 percent) and 165 civilian victims (35 percent).

Only military humanitarian demining platoons have undertaken mine and ERW clearance with support provided by the OAS and the Inter-American Defense Board.

In December 2010, Article 9 of Law 1421 was passed, allowing humanitarian demining organizations to operate in Colombia. The regulation of this law was made through Decree 3750 promulgated on October 2011. As of December 2011, core National Technical Standards Guidelines remained pending formal approval by the Inter-institutional National Demining Instance, composed of the Ministry of Defense, the Military Forces Inspector General and PAICMA.

In June 2011, the Law on Victims and Land Restitution was signed. It will have direct implications for prioritizing humanitarian demining.

The main challenges remain Colombia's poor security situation and the contentious nature of civilian demining. Some organizations resist deploying humanitarian NGOs because they maintain that demining is not possible or appropriate in Colombia's conflict.

## **Coordination, Training and Capacity Development**

Based on previous work on operational coordination systems, the UNMAS programme conducted a range of activities to provide both technical assistance and broader capacity development. Support from the UNMAS senior technical advisor facilitated an in-depth functional analysis and a full review of job descriptions at PAICMA, leading to an updated organizational chart. These are first steps towards quality management of the programme.

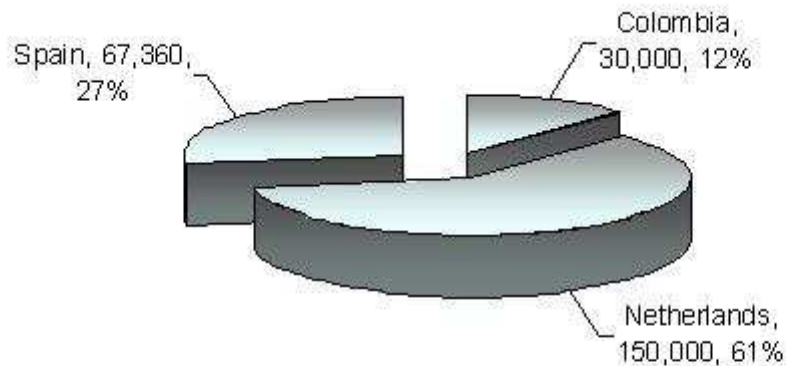
The partnership with PAICMA was supported by two full-time international interns—the first one worked with the demining unit and the second one with the planning unit.

Advisory support was provided to PAICMA, the UN system, NGOs preparing their deployment, and the OAS quality control unit. UNMAS continued to provide an important coordination link between mine action NGOs and PAICMA.

By the middle of 2011, UNMAS had successfully advocated the formation of the UNMAT in Colombia, comprising UNOCHA, UNMAS, UNICEF and UNDP. The team worked on a joint technical document to address the problem of mine accidents among manual eradicators of illicit crops under the Government's forced eradication strategy. This very sensitive and urgent issue challenged the UN system in adopting a common approach.

Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$247,360 from the governments of Colombia, the Netherlands and Spain.

### Voluntary Contributions to the Mine Action Programme in Colombia in 2011



## ***Côte d'Ivoire***

### **Highlights**

- The immediate threat posed by UXO in Abidjan has been significantly reduced, with 178 spot task interventions carried out by EOD teams.
- 5,978 items of unsafe/expired ammunition have been destroyed.
- Battle area clearance has cleared an area of 860,000 square metres in Abidjan.
- Forty in-depth assessments of ammunition storage facilities have been carried out across the country; some 20 tons of unsafely stored ammunition have been properly segregated and secured.
- Two armouries have been refurbished.
- 85 members of the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI) and 15 members of the Gendarmerie have received on-the-job training on battle area clearance.
- Reports about the alleged presence of landmines have been investigated and dismissed as cases of misidentification.

## **Impact**

The current threat from ERW in Côte d'Ivoire mainly consists of the residual presence of UXO and numerous unsafe ammunition storage facilities throughout the country. UNMAS contributes to reducing the humanitarian, socioeconomic and physical risks by coordinating explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) activities, and implementing a physical security and stockpile management project to prevent unplanned explosions and illicit or unregulated access to weaponry. These measures support wider protection and stabilization efforts in Côte d'Ivoire.

## **Context and Challenges**

The violent post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire has had serious consequences on human security in the country and the overall peace process initially mandated under Security Council resolution 1528 (2004). In Security Council resolution 2000 (2011), reference is made, *inter alia*, to the importance of UNOCI in “continu(ing) to assist the national authorities [...] in collecting, registering, securing and disposing of weapons and in clearing explosive remnants of war, as appropriate.”

At the request of DPKO, UNMAS first deployed mine action staff to Côte d'Ivoire on 22 April 2011 in order to conduct an emergency assessment of ERW. The UNMAS advisor reported a problem with UXO and poorly stored weapons in Abidjan, and that further investigation was required in relation to possible landmine and ERW contamination in the rest of the country. The advisor called for increased resources for coordination; EOD and risk education; weapons and ammunition disposal in support of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; ammunition management in support of security sector reform; and national capacity development.

## **Support from UNMAS Headquarters**

UNMAS headquarters support included programme oversight, technical assistance, liaison work with relevant stakeholders and coordination on resource mobilization matters from the UNOCI assessed budget. Close collaboration between field and headquarters staff ensured the smooth and early deployment of French-speaking personnel, as well as good information sharing on objectives and resources needed to implement the new programme and operate within the mission context.

UNMAS headquarters deployed its counter-IED officer as acting programme manager in Abidjan in June 2011. The chief of the programme and planning section also visited Côte d'Ivoire in September 2011 to address high-level strategic considerations.

## **Coordination and Training**

Upon deployment of the programme in April 2011, UNMAS immediately established coordination mechanisms with national focal points from the Ivorian Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defense, as well as with UNOCI and the French Armed Forces (Opération Licorne). As such, considerable momentum was rapidly built with national authorities (the

FRCI and Gendarmerie), and positive synergy was quickly achieved with UNOCI and other stakeholders. UNMAS chaired a physical security and stockpile management working group that served as an open platform for information sharing among interested partners.

At the request of national authorities, some 85 combat engineers from the FRCI and 15 gendarmes successfully received on-the-job training in battle area clearance, under the supervision of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). Both the FRCI and the Gendarmerie now have the capacity to take over responsibility for any future battle area clearance activities.

## **Operational Coordination**

In view of the requirements in Côte d'Ivoire, UNMAS managed the mobilization of UNOCI engineers to conduct EOD operations mainly in Abidjan, and the timely deployment of additional operational capacity from MSB and the HALO Trust. Risk education efforts were coordinated in partnership with UNICEF, the ICRC and UNOCI.

## **Human Interest Story: Preventing Large-Scale Explosions and Deadly Disasters**

The presence of numerous unsafe and poorly secured ammunition storage facilities in Côte d'Ivoire poses a grave threat, in terms of unregulated access to weaponry and the potential for large-scale explosions. As a case in point: On a seemingly calm night in August in the town of Daloa, an ammunition store exploded, killing two people and injuring five.

While the exact causes of the incident remain unknown, the sensitive propellant from a rocket motor may have started to burn due to heat or an electrostatic charge. The subsequent fire resulted in numerous rockets firing through the walls of the store into the surrounding areas. The rockets contaminated an immediate area of at least 120,000 square meters, about the size of 20 football pitches. A smaller quantity of rockets may have landed several kilometres away.

The incident stirred great anxiety among communities already suffering from conflict and its fallout. The contamination is now an additional threat. While a range of basic actions would have prevented the explosion, a large area must now be cleared, which will be both costly and time consuming.

## ***Democratic Republic of the Congo***

### **Highlights**

- Over 90 percent of 14,491,300 square metres of contaminated area around Kisangani have been cleared.
- The first victim assistance projects took place, involving data collection and socioeconomic reinsertion.

- The National Mine Action Strategy for 2012-2016 was developed.
- Mine risk education was introduced in the school curriculum.
- A 26-month extension request was approved under Article 5 of the mine-ban treaty.

## **Context and Challenges**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has been affected by conflict since 1996, causing the death of millions and significant population displacement. Landmine and ERW contamination exists in all 11 provinces of the country, out of which 8 provinces show more significant problems. Road contamination is reported in Equateur, Katanga and South Kivu provinces, and sub-munitions have been identified in Katanga, Maniema and Orientale provinces.

Landmines and ERW pose obstacles to agricultural livelihoods, the free movement of persons and goods, access to basic services and markets, and the rehabilitation of infrastructure. A total of 2,727 hazardous areas have been registered, of which 1,127 have been cleared. Of the remaining 1,600 areas, 89 are minefields and 1,611 require battle area clearance. Since 2002, the total area cleared or verified as safe totals more than 7.9 million square metres and 27,052 kilometers of roads.

UNMACC was established in 2002 to support the deployment of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and subsequently MONUSCO. It was mandated to coordinate mine action activities and “assist the Government...in enhancing its demining capacity.”

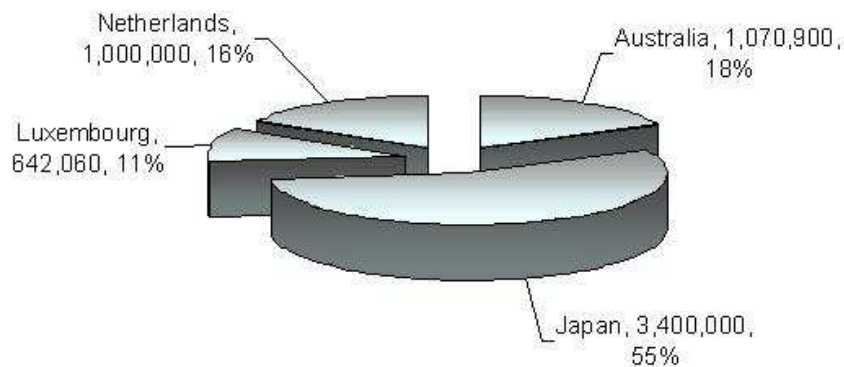
The strategic goal of the mine action programme is to reduce the security, humanitarian and socioeconomic impacts of landmines and ERW. This is accomplished through operational support to MONUSCO, the UN system at large and humanitarian organizations, which helps mitigate risks in communities and assists national authorities in building capacities for coordinating mine action. The programme contributes to various strategies of stabilization, reconstruction and development, such as the HAP.

## **Support from UNMAS Headquarters**

UNMAS assisted UNMACC with donor liaison work that secured voluntary contributions from the governments of Australia, Japan and the Netherlands. UNMAS also supported UNMACC in its contributions to the Secretary-General's report on MONUSCO.



Voluntary Contributions to the Mine Action Programme in the Democratic  
Republic of Congo in 2011 (in US\$)



## Coordination and Training

In accordance with its mandate, and as requested by the Government, UNMACC continued coordinating all mine action activities countrywide in the absence of a formally established national mine action authority. To facilitate coordination, two new regional offices were opened in 2011. The country is now divided into five operational areas, with a regional office in each of them: Mbandaka for the west, Kisangani for the north, Goma for the east, Kalemie for the south and Kananga for the centre.

In Kinshasa, coordination was ensured through quarterly meetings organized with all mine action stakeholders, including national and international implementing partners; the national focal point for mine action chaired the meetings. At the operational level, the UNMACC regional offices ensured coordination of activities, including tasking, monitoring and quality assurance. Regional coordination meetings took place every two months.

The UNMACC victim assistance section organized monthly coordination meetings chaired by the Ministry of Social Affairs. The UNMACC mine risk education officer continued supporting national and international partners, and attended working groups organized by the ministry in charge of elementary and primary schools to introduce a mine risk education programme. This project is continuing.

UNMACC has helped develop national standards for mine action, and started the accreditation process for survey, clearance and mine risk education actors. Victim assistance accreditation will start in 2012. With the technical support of GICHD and funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), UNMACC and national authorities organized two national workshops to develop the National Strategy for Mine Action for 2012-2016. Officials from the Ministry of Interior and Security, provincial ministries of interior, mine action actors, civil society groups and donors attended.

UNMACC took part in all meetings around the United Nations development assistance framework, the HAP, the Stabilization and Reconstruction Plan for the East, and the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy.

UNMACC's advocacy efforts, with the support of the Parliamentarian Coalition for Mine Action, helped lead to national mine action legislation endorsed by President Joseph Kabila on 9 July 2011. The National Mine Action Centre is now being set up. Within UNMACC, an office has been made available for the national mine action focal point to facilitate coordination.

UNMACC assisted national authorities in drafting an Article 7 report in accordance with the mine-ban treaty. As the Democratic Republic of the Congo was not able to meet its 2012 deadline under Article 5, UNMACC helped the Government write and present a request for extending the deadline. The request was accepted in November 2011, and a 26-month extension was given. UNMACC aided the national focal point to participate in international meetings on mine action, thus raising the profile of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the international community.

In February 2011, an agreement was signed with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Works. UNMACC now leads a GIS working group with the ministry that provides support for the production of maps.

UNMACC has coordinated a range of meetings through its victim assistance unit, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, to advocate for implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

## **Operational Coordination**

In 2011, there was an emphasis on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure, and securing access to vulnerable populations. At the request of MONUSCO, UNMACC assisted in assessing and clearing various sites used by the mission, including a new MONUSCO terminal near Mbandaka Airport and fuel storage sites across the country. Areas designated for settling displaced persons were cleared, as was over 90 percent of the suspected area around Kisangani Airport (14,491,300 square metres).

Through the mine risk education programme, 5,829 sessions were provided to 353,844 people, including those living in affected areas, and staff members of the UN system. In the run-up to the November 2011 general elections, UNMACC conducted mine risk education for European Union electoral observers deployed in the provinces.

UNMACC coordinated 15 victim assistance projects involving needs assessments, information management, economic reintegration and advocacy. These were conducted by national and international partners.

UNMACC is assisting the armed forces to improve management of stockpiles of ammunition in Kisangani and Goma. In Kisangani, ammunition is being relocated from Bangboka Airport to a safer location inside the military base, while in Goma, a new storage site near Lake Kivu will move ammunition away from the general population. On 28 November 2011, on the day of presidential and legislative elections, an attack occurred in a military camp in Lubumbashi

resulting in the explosion of an ammunition depot. UNMACC quickly deployed an emergency team that worked with the European Union military mission. All exploded pieces of ammunition were removed from the site and stored in a safe place until their destruction.

Throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNMACC is coordinating mine action activities conducted by international NGOs and commercial operators such as MAG, MECHEM, MSB, DanChurchAid (DCA) and HI, and national operators such as ECC-MERU, Mine Action Synergy (SYLAM), Humanita-Ubangi, Adic, Badu, CCIM and Afrilam.

## Progress Statistics

		2010	2011
<b>Survey and clearance</b>	Square metres	<b>1,102,188</b>	<b>519,414</b>
	Kilometres of road	<b>8,931</b>	<b>6,255</b>
<b>Devices destroyed</b>	Mines	<b>88</b>	<b>94</b>
	UXO	<b>37,215</b>	<b>17,057</b>
	Miscellaneous	<b>1,069,674</b>	<b>384,127</b>
<b>Mine risk education</b>	Participants	<b>568,584</b>	<b>353,844</b>
	Sessions	<b>5,983</b>	<b>5,829</b>

## Impact

In 2011, victim assistance projects took place for the first time. Survivors of mines and ERW and their needs have been registered in an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database; some benefited from socioeconomic reinsertion.

Most of the cleared land, especially near Kisangani Airport, is being used for agriculture or more general access.

## Human Interest Story: New Plans for Financial Independence

In 2003, Mr. Banzai Kanyabugoyi, a father of two girls and two boys, was a victim of a UXO explosion on the road to Muja, in the territory of Nyirangongo in North Kivu. He lost his right leg and had several other injuries. For the next 11 months, he was cared for at the General Hospital and the Dox Clinic in Goma.

After recovering, Mr. Banzai was deeply depressed due to the loss of his leg. The lack of a job to help him support his family left him feeling worthless.

Then he participated in a victim assistance project conducted by SYLAM, a national NGO funded by the Government of Japan. He received six goats, five males and one female. As of today, he has three additional goats.

With this help, Mr. Banzai plans to be financially independent. He hopes to increase his herd and sell a few animals. The money will pay for his children to go to school and be invested

in his wife's farming activities. Even though Mr. Banzai is still not financially stable, he is emotionally feeling better, and looks forward to a better future for himself and his family.

## ***Gaza/Occupied Palestinian Territory***

### **Highlights**

- 37 post-clearance assessments.
- 3 UXO risk assessments.
- 31 UXO awareness trainings benefiting 453 people.
- 9 EOD tasks completed.
- 18 UXOs located.
- Launch of the mine action project in the West Bank.

### **Impact**

The West Bank has been contaminated by landmines for over 50 years, with an estimated half million mines. ERW come from extensive military operations and continued training by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Most minefields and hazardous areas are located in fertile agricultural and grazing land, and, in some cases, inside or in the vicinity of villages. The marking and fencing of minefields is often poor, with some operational minefields not marked at all. This poses a constant risk to the lives of the people, particularly children, farmers and herders.

In Gaza in 2011, UXO hidden in the rubble of destroyed homes and buildings and in agricultural areas was assessed as a primary threat to the population. UNMAT activities transitioned to a more sustained mine action response through the coordination and implementation of mine action inputs, and support to a variety of planning processes, most notably those aimed at the removal of rubble and rehabilitation of contaminated agricultural areas.

Population groups at higher risk of UXO hazards in Gaza include children (particularly young boys who display risk-taking behaviours, such as tampering with UXO found while playing outside or collecting scrap), rubble removal workers and supervisors, scrap collectors and construction workers, returnees to destroyed or damaged homes, farmers and NGO outreach workers.

### **Context and Challenges**

After Operation Cast Lead in late 2008, an UNMAT was established in Gaza to mitigate UXO threats and facilitate humanitarian operations in accordance with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009). The UNMAT achieved tremendous results in 2009 and 2010 through its interventions, with a sharp decrease in the number of UXO-related civilian casualties. Unfortunately, the number has risen again in 2011.

Despite the remarkable progress to date, the presence of UXO continues to threaten people living and working in Gaza, with 82 civilian victims since the end of Operation Cast Lead,

including 42 children. Following requests by UN agencies and NGOs, the UN resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator requested UNMAS to continue its support in 2011 and beyond to provide a residual capacity for the civilian population, UN organizations and NGOs.

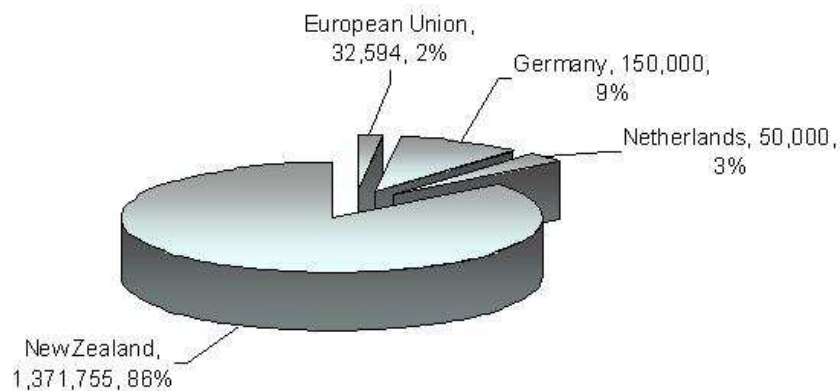
The Palestinian Authority has also shown great interest in implementing mine action interventions in the West Bank. In August 2010, Prime Minister Salam Fayyad endorsed the need for a comprehensive, UN-backed programme implemented in accordance with the IMAS. This was followed by a written request to UNMAS from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to assist in establishing a Palestinian humanitarian demining capacities. UNMAS has begun developing the Authority's mine action coordination capacities in Ramallah.

## Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS headquarters support included programme oversight, administrative assistance, liaison measures with relevant stakeholders and coordination on resource mobilization matters under the VTF.

Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$1,604,349 from the governments of Germany, Netherlands and New Zealand, and the European Union.

Voluntary Contributions to the Mine Action Programme in Gaza/oPt in 2011  
(in US\$)



## Coordination, Training and Capacity Development

The lack of capacity-building activities with local EOD actors in Gaza has been due to the nature of the conflict, the limited contact policy of the United Nations, the strict anti-terrorist laws of the vast majority of donors and specific restrictions imposed by the IDF. The mine action programme has provided an extensive range of UXO safety awareness briefings and trainings to at-risk civilians, and staff members and contractors from over 60 organizations, benefiting 6,057 people.

Between January and March 2011, UNMAS held several initial working sessions with Palestinian Authority counterparts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior. All stakeholders confirmed their interest in gaining capacities and experience to clear minefields per the humanitarian IMAS, and to ensure that cleared lands are guaranteed free of mines when handed back to the civilian population. Appropriate steps have been taken towards establishing a large training programme that could build the Palestinian Authority's mine action capacities.

## **Operational Coordination**

From the inception of the programme in Gaza, UNMAS has led the Mine Action Sub-cluster, under the Protection Cluster. All decisions have been taken in close coordination and consultation with the UNMAT, the UN Humanitarian Country Team, the Protection Cluster and UNMAS headquarters.

Due to the specificities of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, and Gaza more particularly, UNMAS was in charge of all liaison and coordination mechanisms with all relevant Israeli and local authorities to enable UNMAT staff and equipment to travel in and out of Israel and Gaza; deployment in the field; access to restricted areas; and demolition of white phosphorus UXO items in Gaza. In the West Bank, UNMAS again took the lead as interlocutor between various stakeholders, within established security liaison frameworks between the Palestinian and Israeli security forces.

While UNMAS leads the Mine Action Sub-cluster, no implementing partner is currently deployed in the area. UNMAS actively represents mine action in meetings of the UN Country Team, the Humanitarian Country Team, the Senior Management Team, the Protection Cluster, the security sector, the Area C working group, the child protection working group on Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), the working group on access to restricted areas, etc..

## **Human Interest Story: A Long Search for Safety**

Naser Saeed, 38, and his family have lived in Johr El-Dik village, east of the Al-Bureij refugee camp at the eastern border of Gaza, since 1969. His family includes his five children, aged between 4 and 10, his parents and his sister. With his house and family's farmland located only 300 metres from the border with Israel, referred to as the Buffer Zone, Naser and his family have been caught repeatedly in crossfire between the IDF and Palestinian militant groups.

His house was first partially destroyed by IDF tanks in August 2008, and then again during Operation Cast Lead. On 13 July 2010, the IDF targeted the area with projectiles, one of which exploded near Naser's house, killing his wife, Nimeh. She died while running out of the house to rescue her children. Naser's father, sister and sister-in-law were injured. Following a shelter damage assessment, the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) asked the UNMAT to provide assistance, as ERW items had been found in and around the house. Ever since the death of their mother, the children have been unable to sleep in the house, and instead use a tent donated by the ICRC.

The UNMAT provided safety training to Naser and his children, emphasizing to the latter that whenever they saw anything suspicious, they should let their father know. Despite the

recent trauma, “the children really, really enjoyed the session,” Naser said. “I am very thankful that you have helped us.” He added, “I cannot leave my home. This is everything I’ve ever owned. I built it myself.” Following the training, the UNMAT and Naser were confident that the children were at least better able to recognize the dangers of UXO and ERW.

A few days later, the UNMAT conducted a risk assessment of all suspected items that Naser had collected on his property and put aside to protect his children. After removing ERW metal scrap, the team was able to verify that no hazard remained.

In April, 2011, the UNMAT received another request from OCHA to have a look at a homemade rocket that fell short and landed on Naser’s land. It organized the safe marking of the rocket for the local EOD teams to pick up. The following month, Naser called the UNMAT and told them that his house had been targeted again by tank shells and completely destroyed, and that he really needed the UNMAT to do an assessment, because he wanted to recuperate whatever was left under the rubble.

The UNMAT conducted a detailed EOD search, found one item of UXO and safely removed it. Extracts from the UNMAT report noted: “On arrival at the property, it was obvious that the house had been badly damaged, mainly on the upper floors. Windows had been blow out, the roof has totally disappeared and there is extensive damage to the upper wall and internal rooms on this upper floor. There were two bedrooms, a small kitchen and bathroom and landing. This part of the house is no longer useable or functional.”

In all meetings that the UNMAT attended in Gaza during 2011, it flagged Naser’s case. While partner UN organizations and NGOs were concerned about the safety of the area, the UNMAT ensured them that it was safe to go and assist the family. As a result of the cooperation between all humanitarian actors, UNRWA decided to give Naser US \$12,000 to rebuild his house.

## ***Lebanon***

### **Highlights**

- In September 2011, the UNIFIL deputy force commander and UNMACC programme manager signed a formal technical arrangement detailing UNIFIL’s and UNMACC’s roles and responsibilities. The agreement was ratified by the UNIFIL head of mission and force commander and director of mission support on 27 September 2011. This marked a change from the UNMACC to the UN Mine Action Support Team (UNMAST), parallel to the change from the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC)/Regional Mine Action Center (RMAC) accreditation process to the UNMAST validation process for UNIFIL demining activities on the Blue Line.
- UNMAST continued to support UNIFIL demining to demarcate the Blue Line in coordination with the combat engineering section through refresher trainings, validation, quality assurance monitoring of demining troop-contributing countries, and mine risk awareness briefings for Observer Group Lebanon staff affiliated with UNIFIL.

- UNMAST continues to support the LMAC, which took over national authority for mine action in January 2009. UNMAST's assistance mainly revolves around resource mobilization on behalf of the LMAC through various donor meetings, grants for victim assistance and in-kind support. A highlight was UNMAST's contribution to hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which was hosted in Beirut.

## **Context**

Due to conflict in 2006, southern Lebanon remains contaminated with thousands of ERW in addition to mines from previous conflicts. These not only threaten the physical integrity and economic opportunities of local populations, but also hamper the peace process between Lebanon and Israel.

In light of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), with the extension of UNIFIL's mandate according to resolution 2004 (2011), and in accordance with the 2010 General Assembly Resolution on assistance in mine action (64/84), UNMAST provides UNIFIL's demining troops with training and quality assurance monitoring support to help ensure compliance with the IMAS.

Recently, concern over UN staff safety has increased after several IED attacks against mission personnel.

## **Impact**

The visible marking of the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon, which is the focus of UNIFIL's demining activities, is a crucial step in minimizing inadvertent violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), escalation of tension and potential violence across the Blue Line. UNMAST's role is to support and enable UNIFIL in achieving its demining targets, thus contributing to decreasing the number of violations of the Blue Line, and ultimately to enhancing the region's stability.

UNMAST's support to the LMAC reflects its commitment to raising the profile of the national authority, including by supporting resource mobilization. The national programme on mine action has various pillars; victim assistance is among them, and still requires funding support. UNMAST has been actively engaging in various coordination efforts with UNMAS and the LMAC to secure funding through the VTF.

## **Support from UNMAS Headquarters**

UNMAST has been supported by headquarters in finalizing the technical arrangement with UNIFIL and mobilizing VTF resources for the LMAC.

With UNMAS assistance, UNMAST successfully contributed to the hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions organized in Beirut from 12 to 16 September 2011. Through the VTF, UNMAST ensured direct assistance to the LMAC/RMAC by assigning a conference assistant before and during the conference.

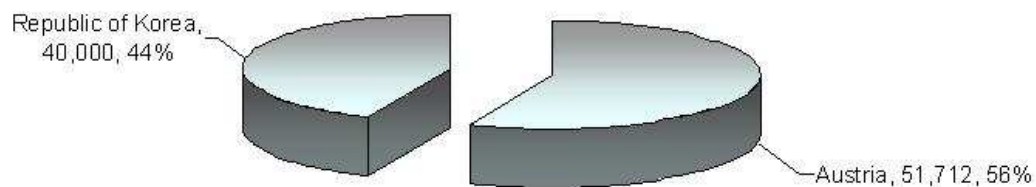


It sponsored a survivors workshop with Balamand University<sup>3</sup> prior to the meeting, and a MAG-coordinated gender side event and UNMAS photo exhibit during it.

In 2011, an internal audit of UNIFIL demining activities was conducted, involving UNMAST. The audit highlighted the improved relationship between the peacekeeping mission and its mine action component, as well as effective coordination resulting from the revision of responsibilities of UNIFIL and UNMAST as defined by the technical arrangement.

Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$91,712 from the governments of Austria and the Republic of Korea.

**Voluntary Contributions to the Mine Action Programme in Lebanon in 2011**  
**(in US\$)**



UNMAST remains appreciative of all countries that have contributed through the VTF in the past years. More opportunities are expected during Lebanon's presidency of the States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. UNMAST is looking forward to further humanitarian support.

While UNMAST focuses its training and quality assurance monitoring activities towards UNIFIL demining for the completion of the Blue Line project, it continues to coordinate with the LMAC to ensure support to humanitarian activities, including victim assistance and in-kind assistance to the RMAC and affiliated NGOs.

In 2011, UNMAST support to UNIFIL demining included:

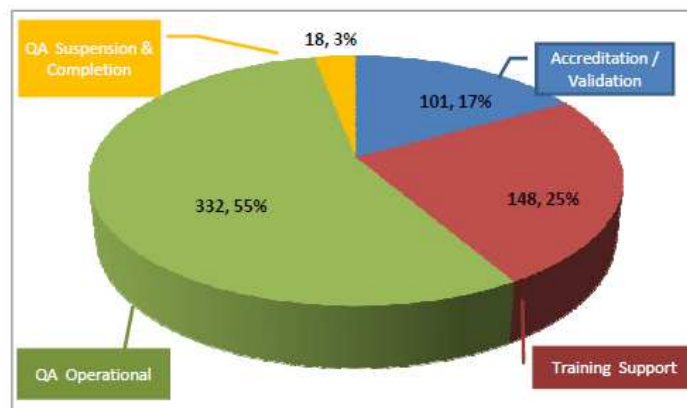
- 101 validation events;
- 148 refresher training sessions;
- 12 mine risk education and safety briefing for Observer Group Lebanon military personnel as part of their induction;

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<sup>3</sup> Balamand University is a member of the National Committee on Victims Assistance, which is affiliated with the LMAC.

- 332 quality assurance visits to operational sites;
- 18 quality assurance visits to suspensions/completions; and
- 207 other meetings, visits and demonstrations.

TOTAL UNMAST ACCREDITATION/VALIDATION & QA VISITS JAN - DEC 2011



Thus far, the Lebanese Armed Forces and IDF have agreed to mark 253 (approximately 54 percent) of the approximately 470 points to be marked along the Blue Line. The marking process requires the clearance of minefields and the disposal of UXO to create safe access for measuring coordinates and constructing markers. UNIFIL deminers have so far cleared access to 208 points; 149 have been measured. Some 141 Blue Line markers have been constructed, and 112 of those have been verified by both parties.

## Operational Coordination

To support UNIFIL's demining operations related to the Blue Line, UNMAST conducts the following activities:

- Refresher training support to UNIFIL demining units;
- Validation of UNIFIL demining units in accordance with the IMAS;
- Quality assurance monitoring of operational sites;
- Quality assurance of suspended and completed sites on the Blue Line; and
- Mine risk education and awareness briefings.

These activities are funded by UNIFIL's assessed budget and are coordinated with the UNIFIL Combat Engineering Section under the UNIFIL deputy force commander.

## Human Interest Story: Reaching Out to Survivors

One of the major highlights of UNMAST's activities in 2011 was its support to the survivors workshop organized by Balamand University in partnership with the LMAC. The workshop occurred before the meeting on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and had two objectives.

The first entailed the compilation of recommendations later presented to Parliament and other international stakeholders. These aimed to improve the rights and benefits of victims of mines and UXO in Lebanon.

The second aim was to provide survivors with training on proposal writing to enable them to secure funds to implement and sustain income-generating projects. UNMAST participated in the training as well as a panel that selected a winning survivor, Majid Al-Ali, who received a US \$3,000 grant to implement his apple-planting project. This project will be monitored to ensure key indicators are met.

## ***Libya***

### **Highlights**

- Launched a rapid response to deal with ERW threatening the Libyan population and international community following the conflict that broke in February 2011.
- Coordinated the operations of 6 implementing partners across 10 highly contaminated areas.
- Liaised with the National Transitional Council to determine national priorities and lay a foundation for a new Libyan Centre for Mine Action and Remnants of War.

### **Context and Challenges**

Armed conflict began in Libya in February 2011, and over the course of the year stretched from the coastal region into the Nafusa Mountains in the west of the country. Fighting occurred in towns and cities, along roads and on farmland, leaving behind a trail of ERW that poses serious risks to civilian populations living in these regions, along with IDPs and refugees returning in large numbers following the cessation of hostilities.

Widespread reports were received of minefields laid to protect positions on the rapidly shifting frontlines, particularly in the areas surrounding Brega, Misrata, Ras Lanuf and areas in the Nafusa Mountains, as well as in Bani Walid and Sirte, the last areas to fall from Gaddafi control. As pro-Gaddafi forces retreated, they laid “nuisance minefields” to prevent the National Transitional Council forces from following. This sporadic laying of mines has evoked terror in local populations who know that they exist, but do not know where. The newly laid mines compounded an existing problem in Libya as large numbers of legacy minefields from decades of conflict still cover much of the border areas.

The conflict was a civilian uprising, with weapons and ammunition in the hands of non-experts, thus implying improvised use, unsafe storage, misfires and large amounts of abandoned ordnance. Makeshift trenches, military camps and resting areas in civilian homes, schools and public buildings left behind a large quantity of ERW.

The threats associated with ammunition storage in Libya are immediate and have the potential to affect the future stability and security of Libya and the international community. With over 400 ammunition storage areas damaged or destroyed by air strikes, and a great many more abandoned by security forces, there has been easy access to munitions by both civilians and military personnel. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and pro-Gaddafi forces targeted the storage areas throughout the conflict, causing widespread contamination of the surrounding areas as munitions were scattered by explosions. There are already reports of Libyan ammunition crossing borders and being found in a number of neighbouring countries, posing a very real threat to regional stability in the Sahel.

There has been a vast increase in the quantity of and access to small arms and light weapons by civilians for use in conflict and self-defense. This dangerous development has the potential to fuel instability and crime.

The international mine action community mobilized rapidly in March 2011 and operated on the ground in Libya throughout the conflict. As access opened in new areas, it was possible to carry out an increasingly detailed analysis; however, evidence of the extent of the threat and a comprehensive picture of the situation on the ground are still incomplete, as a shortage of funding for sufficient numbers of survey teams limited a full assessment and determination of mine action priorities. Although the collection of data is in its infancy, it was immediately clear that landmines and ERW posed a widespread threat to the population.

Mine action work has proceeded in spite of a highly volatile security situation and ongoing conflict. By adopting a mobile and flexible approach, and focusing on operations in areas where fighting had subsided, UNMAS and implementing partners were able to make significant progress even as hostilities continued.

## **Support from UNMAS Headquarters**

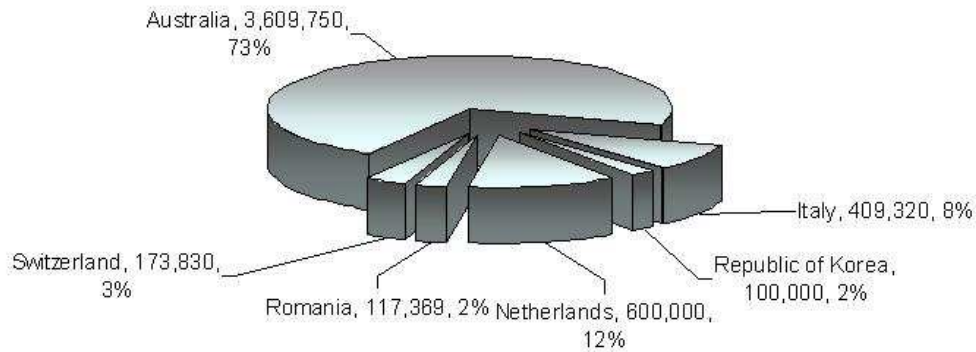
With the re-activation of the global level Mine Action Area of Responsibility within the Global Protection Cluster, UNMAS as the global lead on mine action in the humanitarian cluster system was able to provide extensive support to field operations in Libya from the onset of conflict and during the subsequent humanitarian crisis. Support from UNMAS entailed quick and proper resourcing of the Libya Protection Cluster's Joint Mine Action Coordination Team (JMACT). Consequently, the JMACT was able to provide effective, targeted coordination to enhance operations on the ground, with efforts praised by partners, UNHCR in its capacity as Global Protection Cluster lead and national structures.

UNMAS headquarters played an active role in UN pre-assessment planning for Libya, including by liaising and sharing information across the UN system and with Member States. It provided specific support to the emergency response operation by: mobilizing resources; facilitating a rapid response under the auspices of the Standing Mine Action Capacity; ensuring mine action appeared high on the UN system's and international community's response agendas; liaising with the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), DPKO and other UN entities in Libya; providing input into Security Council resolutions and reports of the Secretary-General; and coordinating the development of an appropriate in-country structure with UNMAT and NGO partners.

Donor mobilization was a key focus of UNMAS' efforts. It successfully reached out to traditional and new mine action donors to secure much-needed resources that enabled operations to commence. It also accessed funding through UNSMIL. Supported heavily by UNMAS, the Mine Action Funding Appeal for Libya was launched in Tripoli on December 15<sup>th</sup>. A joint endeavour with NGO partners, it seeks to raise awareness among donors of the pressing need for funding mine action and ammunition management in Libya.

Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$5,010,269 from the governments of Australia, Italy, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Romania and Switzerland.

Voluntary Contributions to the Mine Action Programme in Libya in 2011 (in US\$)



## Operational Coordination

To present a coordinated mine action response, the UN system and international NGOs formed the JMACT. Through its headquarters in Tripoli, and operational offices in Benghazi and Misrata, the JMACT worked with mine action actors on the ground, providing coordination, prioritizing clearance tasks, mobilizing resources, and liaising with the appropriate authorities and members of the international community active in Libya. UNMAS has played a leading role in the JMACT, providing the programme manager, support services, security, quality assurance, and operations, communications and programme staff.

UNMAS worked closely with the UN Country Team and the newly established mission, taking part in numerous multi-agency assessments across Libya. As an integral part of UNSMIL, mandated by a number of Security Council resolutions in 2011, it worked to:

- Assist and support the Libyan effort to take the immediate steps required to initiate economic recovery (2009, operative paragraph 12(e));
- Assist and support the Libyan effort to coordinate support that may be requested from other multilateral and bilateral actors as appropriate (2009, operative paragraph 12 (f)); and
- Provide the necessary assistance to the Libyan authorities to take all necessary steps to prevent the proliferation of all small arms and related material of all types, in particular man-portable surface-to-air missiles, to ensure the proper custody, as well as to meet Libya's arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation obligations under international law, through the full implementation of their plan in this regard (2017, preambular paragraph 3/4).

The JMACT successfully coordinated the operations of 6 different implementing partners in 10 highly contaminated areas across the country. From Tobruk in the east to the Nafusa

Mountains in the west, the JMACT immediately established a presence as soon as access opened. It worked with implementing partners to determine risks, prioritize tasks and assign available resources in the most efficient way possible. The JMACT opened operational offices in Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi, enabling it to hold regular coordination meetings with partners, which included DCA, the Danish Demining Group (DDG), HI, the ICRC, MAG and the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD).

The JMACT also worked closely with the National Transitional Council and the newly formed Government, providing advice and support. During the conflict, the council's Ministry of Defence provided critical assistance to the international mine action community, including logistical support enabling technical equipment to arrive and enable humanitarian clearance work. A commitment to ongoing support to mine action has been indicated through the Ministry of Defence's recent announcement declaring the establishment of a steering committee and national mine action authority—the Libyan Centre for Mine Action and Remnants of War.

The UN system welcomed the news of the formation of the centre. The fact that this was the first decree of the new Minister of Defence indicated high priority for this issue.

## Impact

The mine action programme in Libya demonstrated the benefits of a strongly integrated approach to operations between the UN system and its partners. Despite the challenges of operating in a context of ongoing conflict with insufficient resources, significant achievements have been made. Through close collaboration with NGOs, local and international organizations, the National Transitional Council and Member States, the JMACT has provided an exemplary model for future emergency response operations.

Mine action has played a major role in ameliorating the humanitarian impacts of the conflict. It continues to be important in assisting the Libyan people in rebuilding and recovering following the country's seven-month war. Given the nature of the conflict, with pro-Gaddafi forces laying "nuisance minefields" as they retreated, mines and other ERW can be found in schools, homes, farmland, roads and many other areas used by Libyan civilians. Clearance of ERW and risk education commenced rapidly to reduce threats to communities and minimize risk-taking behaviours by raising awareness of the threats of these indiscriminate weapons. As the coordinating body of these activities, the JMACT oversaw operations in 10 different highly contaminated areas and continued to examine the risks in new areas.

### Impact on the Ground: Key Achievements

Number of clearance teams	26
Number of education teams	28
Number of ERW cleared since April 2011	126,136
Number of direct beneficiaries of risk education since April 2011	26,036
Number of ERW-affected schools cleared since April 2011	59
Number of houses cleared since April 2011	2,624
Number of internationals working in Libya with JMACT partners	81
Number of national staff	408

## **Human Interest Story: Helping a War-Torn City Rebuild**

Zakaria Abushaala was standing outside his home with his family in Misrata when a Grad missile came crashing down in front of him. His mother, older sister and niece died immediately. Zakaria lost his left arm and his right leg below the knee, and suffered serious damage to his right arm. On top of the physical wounds, the Abbad Clinic in Misrata diagnosed Zakaria with depression.

Misrata is Libya's third largest city, and was the scene of the biggest and bloodiest battle in the country's seven-month war against its former leader, Muammar Gaddafi. Its forces, among the most powerful of the dozens of militias across Libya, carried out a systematic sweep of weapons from stores in other cities and brought them back to Misrata. The city's pride today has come at a cost. It is littered with mines and other ERW, and contains a vast arsenal of weapons, and small arms and ammunition.

Through the JMACT, UNMAS is coordinating the response to these threats. Implementing partners HI and MAG are both currently active in Misratah, providing mine risk education to people like Zakaria, and helping clear the contamination so his story is not repeated.

HI works with the local Scouts Association to ensure mine risk education is delivered in mosques, schools and other public places. It also broadcasts messages on local radio and television, informing people of the dangers that surround them and how to act. MAG compliments this work by offering additional mine risk education sessions, and by working to physically clear mines and other ERW. UNMAS, with a clear overall picture of the threats in Misrata and the capacities of its implementing partners, coordinates this response to maximize results.

Today, Zakaria hopes to walk again with a prosthetic limb, but may not be able to support himself on crutches due to the damage his right arm suffered. He still won't eat in front of strangers because of the embarrassment of not being able to feed himself. His brother is never very far away from him to help.

In Misrata, and across the country, UNMAS is working with its partners to ensure no one else is forced to suffer like Zakaria and his family.

## **Somalia**

### **Highlights**

- 260,000 men, women, boys and girls were reached with mine and ERW awareness messages in South-Central Somalia, including in the newly liberated space between the current frontline and Via Shire Warsame, which encompasses previously inaccessible parts of Hodan, HawlWadaag, Wardhiigleey and Boondheere districts.
- Over 993,000 square metres of roads have been reopened, and over 12,000 pieces of UXO safely destroyed.
- Clearance activities of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) reached all 16 districts of Mogadishu for the first time in 2011, destroying over 6,000 explosive

items, and improving access to the city for thousands of aid workers responding to the famine and drought throughout South-Central Somalia.

## **Impact**

The UNMAS programme in Somalia has several facets, including capacity development of local authorities, emergency humanitarian activities and support to AMISOM. Each contributes in different ways to improving the lives of local populations confronting an environment of insecurity and violence.

In Somaliland and Puntland, UNMAS has been committed to enhancing coordination and clearance capacities to enable development activities and to reduce the number of civilian casualties, contributing to the stability of the two portions of Somalia where relative calm prevails.

UN Somalia Mine Action (UNSOMA) implements emergency humanitarian mine action activities in Somaliland, Puntland and South-Central Somalia. In South-Central Somalia, UNMAS provides much needed risk education to populations faced with daily threats to their physical security from mines and ERW. The work of UNMAS, along with a small number of other UN and NGO humanitarian service providers, signals to average Somalis that the international community remains engaged in addressing their challenges.

As part of UNSOA, UNMAS in 2011 continued to offer explosives management support to assist an increased number of AMISOM engineering units in Mogadishu. The project made significant gains in building capacities to ensure the safe and efficient deployment of peacekeepers. The reduction in AMISOM casualties from explosive devices has been a key enabler for the force's expansion throughout Mogadishu in 2011. This support has brought calm to large portions of the city and extended the authority of the internationally recognized Transitional Federal Government.

## **Context and Challenges**

The landmine and ERW contamination problem in Somalia is only partially understood, depending on the relative security situation in Somaliland, Puntland and South-Central Somalia, including Mogadishu. The Landmine Impact Survey previously conducted in Somaliland and Puntland provided a general understanding of contamination and impact, and has served as a starting point for clearance activities. Towards conducting more effective operations, however, the HALO Trust completed a more detailed technical survey in Somaliland in 2008 and 2009. This has reduced the number and area of clearance tasks to 326 and 13.3 square kilometres, respectively. MAG began a similar exercise in Puntland in late 2010, in an effort to confirm previously reported areas of contamination.

In South-Central Somalia, the landmine and ERW problem is far less defined, with gaps in information, particularly in the southernmost regions, and in central Somalia, where security has been the most difficult. A baseline survey completed in 2008 for 718 communities in Bay, Bakol and Hiraan regions revealed 67 impacted communities, 59 suspected minefields and contamination in approximately 10 percent of all communities visited. High levels of contamination have also been reported in the Gedo region. Survey activities in the Afgoye Corridor and multiple districts of Mogadishu have identified a high volume of ERW, along



with anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. The border area with Ethiopia is known to be mined. Over 400,000 IDPs are located in the Afgoye Corridor, where abandoned military sites house stockpiles of abandoned ordnance. IDP camps are often impacted by ERW.

A comprehensive casualty monitoring mechanism for Somalia is one of the biggest challenges to reducing death and injury, as a lack of baseline data renders monitoring of trends impossible. Over a third of reported mine and ERW casualties in South-Central Somalia occurred in Mogadishu. Although this represents only a fraction of likely victims, increased monitoring of mine and ERW accidents has enabled vast improvements in prioritization and targeting for mine action. Based on the casualty statistics, of 162 known victims, 84 percent survived the accident, and will require support and assistance in the immediate, medium and long term.

Somalia has not signed the anti-personnel mine-ban convention, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, or any related treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Somaliland has adopted legislation mirroring the requirements of the mine-ban convention and intends to implement the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Somalia has not had a fully functioning Government in nearly 20 years; however, in 2011, the Transitional Federal Government's control of the capital increased with the assistance of African Union peacekeepers. Travel to and accommodation for international staff in Mogadishu has expanded over previous years, allowing more programmatic activities. The remainder of the southern and central parts of the country fall under the control of various groups and clan affiliations, with varying degrees of stability. UNMAS relies on dedicated national staff members who work within these complicated security environments. Portions of three regions in South-Central Somalia (Mudug, Galgaduud and Lower Shabelle) were accessible for humanitarian mine action activities in 2011, as well as a larger number districts of Mogadishu controlled by the Transitional Federal Government, which is indicative of the limited operational space for humanitarian actors.

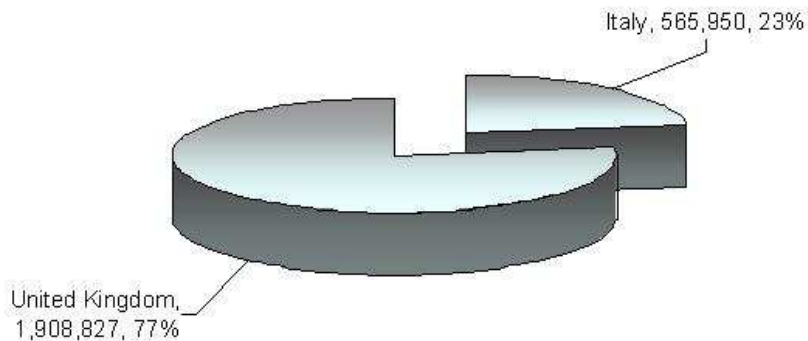
A requirement for gender-sensitive programming at all levels has fostered gender-balanced mine risk education teams, so that activities to raise awareness reach men, women, boys and girls. Survey, EOD and emergency medical teams also consist of men and women.

## **Support from UNMAS Headquarters**

The UNMAS chief of programme planning and management visited the programme twice in 2011 to strategize on programme growth and transition in Somaliland. The UNMAS programme officer conducted visits to Nairobi as well as Mogadishu and Somaliland to provide strategic guidance and consolidate support requirements from headquarters. UNMAS has participated consistently at both the field and headquarters levels in drafting and developing the Secretary-General's reports, and in headquarters planning during the humanitarian crisis. UNMAS also worked extensively with DSS on the design of the UNMAS compound in Mogadishu, which continues to serve as the principle UN-approved accommodation for UN system staff members, while additional accommodations are being built.

Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$2,474,777 from the governments of Italy and the United Kingdom.

Voluntary Contributions to the Mine Action Programme in Somalia in 2011  
(in US\$)



### **Coordination, Training and Capacity Development**

UNMAS coordinated stakeholder discussions, project development, vetting and submission for the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects and the CAP for Somalia. Working with local and international NGOs, as well as UN agencies, UNMAS developed a holistic mine action response strategy to support humanitarian, development and peacekeeping objectives. In the absence of extensive state control in South-Central Somalia and Mogadishu, UNMAS coordinated activities of implementing partners, both those contracted by the UN system and those funded bilaterally. This has involved a thorough risk management approach to respond to the ever-changing security situation in ways that ensure the safety of all staff while maximizing the number of beneficiaries that can be reached.

An end state for mine action in Somaliland is now in sight. A resurvey of suspected hazardous areas conducted by the HALO Trust has revealed 346 remaining sites; a large portion are roads with suspected mine contamination. The survey also significantly reduced the confirmed contamination area for many suspected hazardous areas. Of those identified by HALO as incorrectly labelled, the Somaliland Mine Action Centre (SMAC) has agreed with the majority. Approximately 20 percent of cases with a discrepancy were kept in the IMSMA database by the SMAC team with the assistance of an international IMSMA administration advisor. With its current assets, funding and a stable environment, HALO believes that all areas can be cleared in five to six years.

A focus on strengthening the capacity of relevant institutions—the SMAC and the Somaliland police EOD teams, as well as the rule of law and security apparatus in the short term—will enable the full implementation of locally led mine and explosive ordnance removal initiatives by 2013. As a first step, UNMAS worked with the SMAC and the Somaliland authorities to develop a 14-month transition plan, including priorities and progress

benchmarks. By the end of 2011, three of the four Phase 1 benchmarks had been met: a written commitment by Somaliland authorities to continue supporting mine action, the disbursement of US \$30,000 by the authorities to the SMAC for vehicle replacement, and the resumption of mine action inter-ministerial committee meetings. These measures were made possible by contributions from Denmark, the Netherlands and Switzerland. The final 2011 benchmark—the completion of mine contamination verification—was not met due to funding limitations.

A parallel sustainability plan has been developed for Somaliland's police EOD capacity, with technical input from the Government of Switzerland, and financial support from the Netherlands Government and the people of Japan. In August and September, EOD training was held in Hargeisa for half of the EOD team members, followed by an operational accreditation exercise to the EOD Level II standard. This training course marks the first step in a long-term sustainability initiative to ensure that sufficient technical capacity exists within the teams to conduct internal quality control and maintain safety standards in the absence of international technical oversight. The initiative will continue through 2012.

Under the Explosive Management Support to AMISOM (EMSA) project, UNMAS worked closely with UNSOA, AMISOM management, troop-contributing countries and other international partners to enhance the capacity of the peacekeeping operation to fulfil its mandate. It helped increase the capacity and capability of AMISOM peacekeepers to undertake EOD operations in a safe and efficient manner. This included training for 71 students, 58 of whom passed the EOD Level II course. UNMAS support to AMISOM in managing the mine, ERW and IED threat has continued to keep casualties within the contingents to a minimum.

Building on the foundations laid during the previous year, a close partnership developed in 2011 with the Transitional Federal Government towards reducing explosive threats in newly accessible areas of Mogadishu. During the latter half of 2011, following training on situational awareness, cordoning and evidence gathering, three teams were deployed on explosive survey and cordoning operations. From September, they conducted over 50 callouts, and removed or destroyed 265 explosive items. EOD training continued concurrently, with the completion of EOD Level II training for the first of several groups of five individuals. This enables in-situ demolition of items unsafe to move. Throughout the year, one explosive detection dog team also worked to provide security at strategic locations throughout the capital, including Villa Somalia, the Mogadishu International Airport and meeting venues.

## **Operational Coordination**

Five police EOD teams, covering all six regions of Somaliland, removed and destroyed 4,191 items of ERW in response to community requests. Support for clearance conducted by the police EOD teams was provided by Japan during the first quarter of 2011, followed by the Netherlands for the remaining nine months of operations. These activities were supplemented by community security initiatives undertaken by DDG, which collected and destroyed 1,625 items from community and household stockpiles. The HALO Trust, which has implemented demining activities in Somaliland for over a decade, cleared 2,378,506 square metres using manual and mechanical means, and removed and destroyed 1,740 items.

<b>Somaliland</b>	<b>SMAC</b>	<b>SLEOD</b>	<b>DDG</b>	<b>HALO</b>
<b>Mine risk education beneficiaries</b>	38,295	31,563	9,306	25,699
<b>UXO destroyed</b>	341	4,191	1,625	1,740
<b>Suspected hazardous areas reduced (square metres)</b>	-	-	-	25,953,365
<b>Manual/mechanical clearance (square metres)</b>	-	-	-	2,378,506
<b>Battle area clearance (square metres)</b>	-	-	-	853,262
<b>Total</b>	341	4,191	1,625	1,740

In Somaliland, mine risk education is incorporated into the broader operations of HALO, DDG, the SMAC and the police EOD teams. As a component of their EOD activities, the police teams provided awareness messages to 31,563 men, women, boys and girls. If a community requests assistance for an area in close proximity to a school, the EOD teams conduct a mine risk education lesson for the students; similarly, houses in the neighbourhood are targeted with messages.

The Puntland police EOD team, supported by UNMAS and MAG, and DDG's EOD teams collected and destroyed 5,882 items of ERW and small arms and ammunition throughout the region.

<b>Puntland clearance</b>	<b>Dangerous areas identified</b>	<b>Anti-personnel mines</b>	<b>Anti-tank mines</b>	<b>UXO</b>
<b>Bari</b>	1	76	62	4,344
<b>Nugal</b>	25	3	9	170
<b>Mudug</b>	105	6	0	1,368
<b>Puntland</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>5,882</b>

By mid-year, EOD activities in Mogadishu had expanded to all 16 districts following the withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from the capital. This expansion in the area supported by UNMAS helped to reduce the threat of contamination resulting from conflict between government and opposition forces. Six AMISOM EOD teams destroyed 6,117 explosive items, including 6,076 items of UXO, 22 anti-tank mines and 19 anti-personnel mines throughout the year. In addition to contamination reported by civilians, AMISOM identified 95 dangerous areas within its area of operations in Mogadishu. To better understand the threat of ERW to local populations and contamination levels throughout South-Central Somalia, non-technical surveys by DDG, UNSOMA and MAG continued in Banadir and Mudug, coordinated by UNMAS. In Mogadishu, 3,219 explosive items were identified in 321 contaminated areas. A further 19 dangerous areas were reported by DDG and MAG in Mudug and Galgaduud.

<b>South-Central Somalia contamination</b>	<b>Dangerous areas</b>
<b>Banadir</b>	321
<b>Galgaduud</b>	10
<b>Hiraan</b>	1
<b>Mudug</b>	9
<b>South-Central Somalia</b>	<b>341</b>

Mine, ERW and IED education was provided to 157,209 men, women, boys and girls (12.9 percent, 27.8 percent, 31.3 percent and 28.0 percent of these groups, respectively) living in affected parts of the capital. Sessions were delivered by UNSOMA teams (35,843), DDG (55,255) and Ukroboronservice or UOS (66,111), as well as by DDG in the Mudug region

(8,250). UNSOMA's awareness activities were part of the AMISOM Trust Fund project funded by Japan.

In 2011, clearance and awareness activities expanded throughout Mogadishu, reaching all 16 districts for the first time since war broke out over 20 years ago. This increased support came at a critical juncture; drought and famine in six districts of South-Central Somalia resulted in a swell in IDP numbers throughout the capital, peaking at 188 IDP camps by mid-September. UNMAS was able, through ongoing projects in Mogadishu, to provide emergency clearance and awareness support for IDPs and the humanitarian community seeking to assist them. Through an initiative funded by Japan via the AMISOM Trust Fund, the area along Mogadishu's main artery from the seaport into the city was cleared of ERW, including abandoned stockpiles and ammunition. This opened the area for public access and economic development during a crucial period. Emergency service providers such as UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF and others were equipped with lifesaving awareness information by UNSOMA staff before entering new districts to provide emergency food, water and support to the IDP population. This facilitated an IDP survey, and emergency food and non-food item distribution in Mogadishu.

A majority of displaced people in Somalia tend to be women and children. To provide appropriate coverage and minimize the risk of mines and ERW for this vulnerable group in unfamiliar territory, UNSOMA targets a holistic cross-section of the population when it works in a contaminated area, using awareness and outreach teams of men and women. Fifty-five percent of the beneficiaries in 2011 were women and girls, and 59 percent were children.

For survivors, minimal health services are available in most parts of the country. Survivors are becoming an increasing priority in Somaliland, which is considering implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and Puntland, where there is an increasing shift towards development. The SMAC, working with UNMAS, has sought since 2010 to provide secondary health-care information to survivors, including on options for physiotherapy, orthotic and prosthetic devices, and psychosocial support. In South-Central Somalia, security often limits access to the single physical rehabilitation centre, which is based in Mogadishu and supported by the Somali Red Crescent Society. UNSOMA, through its emergency medical capacity, comprising 12 nurses, provided primary support to the Medina hospital in Mogadishu in 2011. The nurses, specializing in trauma, were an invaluable addition to the hospital's emergency room and operating theatre, treating trauma patients, including landmine and ERW casualties throughout the year. Nonetheless, far greater emergency trauma capabilities are required.

### **Human Interest Story: Somaliland's Transition to National Management of Mine Action**

As a result of drawn-out conflicts with Ethiopia and two decades of civil war, Somalia has been littered with abandoned ammunition, stockpiles of weapons and UXO. Border areas, particularly with Ethiopia, are contaminated with mines. This poses an ongoing threat to civilians, and inhibits freedom of movement and livelihood opportunities.

Somaliland is not recognized by the international community as an independent state, and therefore cannot accede to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. Authorities there expressed their commitment to the treaty as early as 1997, and are focused on eradicating landmines, UXO and other ERW.

Since its establishment in 1999, the SMAC, with support from the UN system, has coordinated humanitarian mine action activities under the Office of the Vice President. The SMAC is responsible for the day-to-day coordination, facilitation, strategic planning, prioritization and quality assurance of mine action operations throughout Somaliland. Its vision is to render Somaliland safe so that people can live free from the impact of landmines and explosive devices, in an environment conducive to development, where mine victims are fully integrated into society. In support of this vision, the SMAC developed a mine action strategy for Somaliland, with a long-term goal to fully activate national capacities for mine action.

Although many of the mechanisms are in place, systems need reviewing and refining. UNMAS has worked with the SMAC to identify and prioritize capacity development requirements for national authorities, the SMAC and police EOD teams, with the end goal of operational and management autonomy. A transition plan has been developed stipulating milestones for both the UN system and the Somaliland Government to achieve a full transition to full national management by the end of 2012.

A formal commitment by the Somaliland Government to support the SMAC through the transition process marked the achievement of the first transition milestone on 12 October 2011. This was a huge success for the SMAC, as well as the international community, which has supported mine action in Somaliland for over a decade. Second and third transition benchmarks—the first inter-ministerial committee meeting and a financial contribution from the Somaliland Government of US \$30,000 for support in 2011—were met by mid-December.

Since the beginning of the SMAC's operations, there has been a significant reduction in threats posed by landmines, UXO and ERW. In 2010, the SMAC completed a verification of 76 HALO discredited tasks, and has continued similar measures in 2011. Once complete, a current survey will provide the Somaliland Government with a consolidated and comprehensive mine contamination picture for the region. There has been a noteworthy reduction of high-impact areas in Somaliland, and the number of casualties per year has declined from 42 in 2008 to 26 in 2011.

In addition to clearance activities, UN mine action in coordination with the SMAC provides mine risk education, reaching 95,966 men, women, boys and girls from 2007 to 2011. The SMAC's success illustrates that it is possible to reach thousands of people in the region, and suggests that with the right collaboration and support, a sustainable national capacity can sustain ongoing activities in Somaliland.

## **South Sudan**

### **Highlights**

- 50 percent increase in landmine and ERW victims, partly as a result of conflict in the Upper Nile region.
- More than 1,055 million square metres of land released using new land release guidelines.

- Release of more than 90 percent of 6,189 identified hazards since the adoption of new guidelines on land release in mid-2008.
- Clearance of approximately 85 percent of total dangerous and suspected hazardous areas; opening of 90 percent of known roads for increased freedom of movement.
- Community-based mine risk education provided to 119,896 people in 2011.

## **Context and Challenges**

A high level of need and conditions that make operations difficult characterize the humanitarian situation in South Sudan. The real and perceived threat of landmines and ERW continues to be just one of many challenges facing the country. In 2011, threats from mines grew through incidences of re-mining in the states of Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei, especially given an increase in the return of IDPs and refugees as a result of South Sudan's separation from northern Sudan on 9 July 2011. Thousands of people displaced by conflicts in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, Abyei and within South Sudan itself travelled into and throughout the country, putting a strain on already limited resources, and exposing themselves to landmine and ERW threats of which they were unaware.

Landmine and ERW threat levels and accident rates increased throughout South Sudan in 2011. Overall threat levels increased by 10 percent as humanitarian mine action teams continued to identify new threats. Of the six states experiencing an increase in threat levels, Unity State saw a spike of 20 percent, largely due to re-mining throughout 2011. Landmine casualty rates rose by 60 percent, from 19 in 2010 to 31 in 2011. A majority of accidents occurred as a result of re-mining. Men and boys accounted for the majority of landmine casualties, given their roles in their communities.

The threat and impact of landmines vastly increased in the northern border areas of Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei states throughout 2011. By the end of 2011, approximately 30 Sudan People's Liberation Army members and civilians were killed, and another 30 injured. These incidences severely restricted the provision of life-saving humanitarian aid to affected communities throughout South Sudan, especially in Unity State. According to the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) state coordinator there, the overall performance of government and humanitarian actors substantially decreased due to the new threats.

Despite a slight increase in hazardous areas in 2011, the overall threat and impact of mines and ERW has considerably declined over the past six years. Of a total of 6,189 hazards, 809 must still be addressed. Given that these threats vary in size, it is estimated that it will take approximately six years to mitigate remaining high- and medium-impact threats. UNMACC continues to receive confirmed and unconfirmed reports of re-mining. Given the continued mass movements of people and re-mining, it is anticipated that accident rates will continue to rise throughout 2012.

## **Support from UNMAS Headquarters**

The UNMAS mine action programme underwent a fundamental transition with the liquidation of UNMIS in mid-2011, and the start of UNMISS, created by Security Council resolution 1996 (2011). Headquarters support was provided early in the mission formulation process to ensure mine action requirements were specified in the mandate, and integrated into strategic results-based frameworks. UNMAS has provided regular updates in reports of the Secretary-General to promote international attention to mine contamination and advocate for clearance of hazardous areas.

Continued support has included liaison work with stakeholders, and regular coordination on political, financial and resource mobilization matters. Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$2,609,658 from the governments of Australia, Italy, Japan and Luxembourg, and the CHF.

The UNMAS chief of programme management and planning and the programme officer conducted technical support missions to assist project implementation; liaise with peacekeeping mission staff, UN agencies and donors; and support national authorities to implement the transition plan.

In April 2011, a formal assessment was conducted by York University to document the impact of demining activities throughout South Sudan. The evaluation used a qualitative methodological approach that included a desk review of key documents, interviews, questionnaires, focus groups discussions and field visit observations. It indicated that the most important benefit of mine action activities was the sense of mental and physical security community members experienced. Other benefits included access and freedom of movement, the ability to farm and graze, and opportunities for construction and community development.

## **Support to National Authorities—National Capacity Development, Coordination and Training**

Universalization of key mine action and human rights instruments is an integral component of UNMAS support. Through the consolidated use of resources from the UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget for UNMISS and voluntary contributions, it supported the South Sudan Mine Action Authority (SSMAA) in raising awareness and building capacities to implement the mine-ban treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and advocated for accession to Protocols II and V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

In preparation for independence on 9 July, UNMAS convened a three-day workshop on international humanitarian law relevant to mine action with support from GICHD. As a result, the SSMAA drafted an action plan to prepare for signing the mine-ban treaty, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and other treaties.

To help maintain momentum, UNMAS supported the Government to participate in the inter-essional programme for the mine-ban treaty in Geneva in June. The delegation played an active role in the meeting and reiterated its plans for ratification. On 11 November, South Sudan made an historic step by depositing its instrument of accession to the treaty at United Nations headquarters. In becoming the 158th country to accede, it committed itself to destroying its stockpiles, clearing its contaminated land, and providing improved assistance to survivors and affected communities. The pledge is particularly critical as all 10 states in



South Sudan suffer from contamination. Peace, security and development continue to be impacted by mine threats.

UNMAS also assisted the Government in compiling the national report on adherence to the treaty, and facilitated the official delegation's participation at the 11th Meeting of States Parties in Phnom Penh.

The UNMAS senior technical advisor for capacity development accompanied the South Sudanese delegation to the 2nd Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This was the first international forum where South Sudan appeared as a state. The Government declared its intentions to sign the convention and work with States Parties to eliminate the threat of cluster munitions.

Another focus of UNMAS technical support to the SSMAA has been the incorporation of mine action in the national development framework. The process, which started ahead of independence in July, culminated in mine action being included in the Conflict, Prevention and Security Pillar of the Southern Sudan Development Plan 2011-2014 and in the national budget. These moves are crucial for sustainability and continued government support for the sector.

## **Operations**

UNMAS backs an effective and coordinated UN response to landmines and ERW through collaboration with UN organizations, UNMISS, international and local NGOs, commercial contractors, the SSMAA, and the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. Programme activities are coordinated by the Juba-based UNMACC, and supported by sub-offices in Juba, Malakal, Yei, Bentiu and Wau.

Although the mine action programme underwent a shift following the independence of South Sudan on 9 July, it has continued to deliver lifesaving results in support of humanitarian activities, consolidation of peace and the promotion of conditions to support economic development.

Thanks to a generous contribution from the Government of Japan for humanitarian mine action, UNMAS was able to dedicate an integrated mechanical clearance team to Upper Nile State, in an area heavily impacted by minefields. A barrier minefield once surrounded the town of Malakal, endangering many lives. Despite inclement weather conditions and periodic insecurity, much was accomplished to reduce threats.

In Central Equatoria State, an integrated team completed clearance of a dangerous area in Yei County. Local authorities requested clearance as the area was located on the outskirts of the city of Yei in close proximity to the airport, and because it was needed for the development of housing. Subsequently, the team worked on three other dangerous areas throughout the county, and then began working on a task in Ngulera also geared towards freeing land for housing.

Over 40 square kilometres of land have been released to local communities. This includes areas for schools on the Juba-Yei road, agricultural projects in Wau, a rice plantation in Aweil, a way station for the IOM outside Juba and an educational centre for the blind in Rejaf.

During the first half of 2011, and as part of the UNMIS mandate, the UNMAS programme was supported by military demining platoons from Bangladesh, Cambodia and Kenya.

## Impact

According to IMSMA data, men and boys account for the majority of landmine casualties in South Sudan, given their mobility patterns and roles within their communities. Boys alone account for nearly half of casualties. Save the Children reports that children are at risk given their daily activities, including playing, fetching water, working in fields, herding animals and going to school. Children's natural curiosity about their surroundings also leads them to stray off cleared paths and into harm's way.<sup>4</sup> If they are too young to read or are illiterate, signs posted to warn them of the presence of mines are useless. Children are also far more likely to die from their injuries than adults, as their small bodies are less able to cope with the force of a blast. Of those who survive their injuries, few will receive prostheses and adequate rehabilitation due to the lack of health services.<sup>5</sup>

According to OCHA, 342,200 IDPs and refugees returned to South Sudan from 30 October 2010 to 20 September 2011. Of these, 47 percent have returned to the recently re-mined states of Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity. Approximately 10,000 people have fled into Unity State to escape fighting in South Kordofan, while another 110,000 people displaced from conflicts in Abyei have travelled to South Sudan. These populations are particularly vulnerable because, as they leave their homes and travel into unfamiliar environments, the threat of landmine and ERW accidents rises. As the urgency of finding food, water and housing increases, the care they take to avoid threats decreases. If they are illiterate and/or have not been taught how to recognize mine signs, they are even more vulnerable.

UNMACC coordinates, facilitates and provides oversight of the quality assurance of humanitarian mine action activities throughout South Sudan. Through concerted and sustained efforts by UNMIS/UNMISS, UNMACC, national mine action counterparts, donor institutions, UN organizations, and national and international NGOs, the threats and impacts of landmines and ERW have considerably declined.

In terms of humanitarian coordination, UNMACC plays a vital role in both UNMISS and OCHA. It serves as a resource for information on landmine and ERW threats, such as by helping UN aircraft safely land in areas that may once have been contaminated by landmines and ERW. UNMACC provides landmine safety training to UNMISS, UN organizations and NGO personnel. It works with the UNMISS Public Information Office to highlight mine action achievements within the mission and provide data for press briefings for high-ranking UN officials.

An estimated two million people have benefitted from demining, mine risk education, victim assistance and capacity development activities in South Sudan, over half of whom are in Greater Equatoria. Completion of clearance of the Malakal barrier minefield is one great achievement. Thousands of people are able to safely construct their homes. Throughout the country, clearance has allowed schools to reopen and land to be reused for farming.

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<sup>4</sup> International Save the Children Alliance, "Child Landmine Survivors: An Inclusive Approach to Policy and Practice," 2000.

<sup>5</sup> Graca Machel, "Impact of Armed Conflict on Children," UNICEF, 1996, p. 27.

## **Human Interest Story: Opening Re-mined Routes and Saving a Life**

Seven-year-old Gatwech is lucky to be alive today. On 20 August 2011, he and a few of his relatives were traveling in a minibus from Bentiu to Naidiu in Unity State. Suddenly, their vehicle struck an anti-tank mine. This particular area had been experiencing an increase in mine accidents due to re-mining by various rebel militia groups.

There were nine casualties, but Gatwech and six other people survived the accident thanks to the quick actions of a MECHEM demining team conducting route clearance just 1.9 kilometres away. Hearing the blast, the MECHEM team, comprised of eight deminers and a medic, conducted emergency clearance to the accident site. Once the area was confirmed to be safe, the team evacuated the victims, including Gatwech, who was found entangled in the wreckage. A MECHEM medic stabilized the little boy before transport to a local hospital.

As the survivors recovered, the team continued to visit them and provide additional medical care whenever required. Helping little Gatwech was of particular interest, given his age and the extent of his injuries. Sadly, Gatwech lost his right leg below the knee. But MECHEM arranged for him to receive a prosthetic leg and subsequent rehabilitation from a team of dedicated professionals at the ICRC in Juba, in Central Equatoria State.

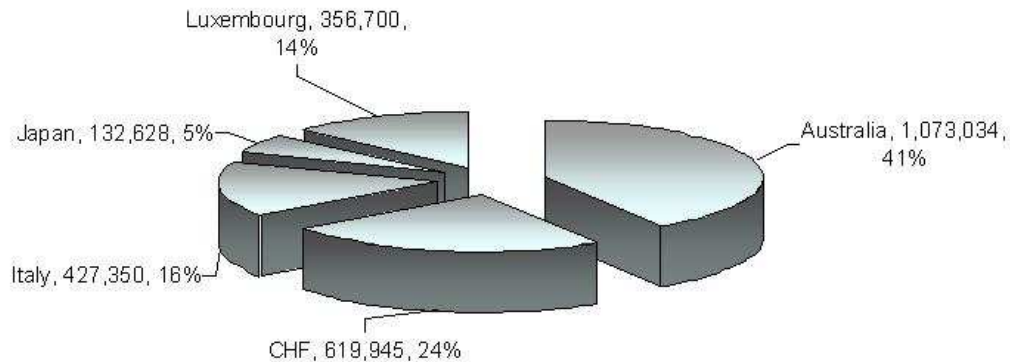
In South Sudan, it is quite rare for demining teams to serve as first responders to mine accidents. MECHEM, a UN-funded commercial contractor, had been deployed to Unity State in July 2011 by the UNMACC to conduct emergency route clearance due to re-mining. When the accident occurred, the deminers acted quickly, saving many lives. Since then, MECHEM, with the support of UNMIS and UNMISS, has been working in the area seven days a week, saving lives and opening access for other humanitarian actors.

As for Gatwech, his prognosis is promising. Following treatment at a hospital in Unity State, MECHEM will pay for his transportation to Juba so that he can receive his new prosthetic leg and begin long-term rehabilitation.

## **Support from UNMAS Headquarters**

Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$2,609,658 from the governments of Australia, Italy, Japan and Luxembourg, and the CHF.

**Voluntary Contributions to the Mine Action Programme in South Sudan in 2011**  
**(in US\$)**



## ***Sudan***

### **Highlights**

- 122 percent increase in landmine and ERW victims, partly as a result of conflict in South Kordofan.
- A total of more than 55 million square metres of land released, mostly using new land release guidelines.
- Release of more than 65 percent of 1,841 identified hazards since the adoption of new guidelines on land release in mid-2008.
- Clearance of approximately 85 percent of total dangerous and suspected hazardous areas; opening of 99 percent of roads with known hazards for increased freedom of movement.
- Community-based mine risk education provided to 140,986 people in 2011.

### **Context and Challenges**

Mines and other ERW have caused human casualties in at least eight provinces of Sudan, with Kassala, South Kordofan and Blue Nile being the most affected states. While the accident occurrence rate has decreased overall since 2005, 2011 saw the greatest number of accidents ever registered in such a short time period due to the outbreak of conflicts in these states. The conflict that ignited on 6 June 2011 has displaced more than 300,000 people within South Kordofan. Unfortunately, it then spread to Blue Nile in September. Any armed conflict inevitably leads to additional dangers from UXO left behind, and, sometimes,

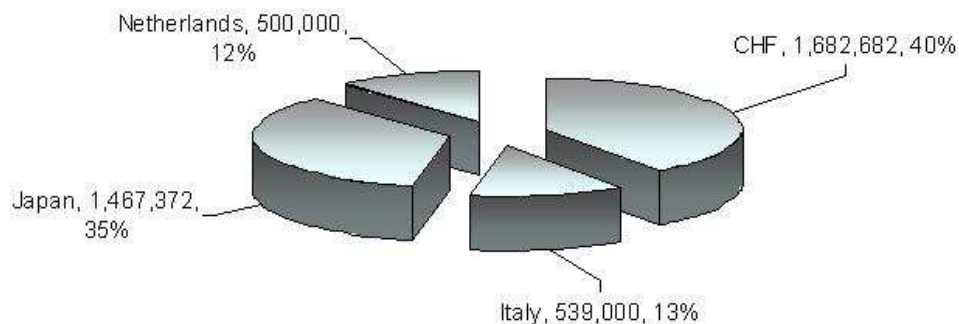
to re-contamination of areas that have been cleared. This creates a dire humanitarian situation. With the mass movement of populations fleeing from the conflict across hazardous areas, the number of victims continues to increase.

## Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS headquarters committed to assisting the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) with mine action activities after the expiration of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the UNMIS mandate. A small number of technical advisors remained in Khartoum to continue the capacity development of the NMAC and provide technical advice on the coordination of mine action activities in Sudan, outside the peacekeeping missions of UNAMID and UNISFA. The funds supporting this programme are provided from the VTF; after July 2011, these were the only funds available. The biggest contributors in 2011 were Japan and the CHF, through regular allocations and an emergency allocation.

Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$4,189,054 from the governments of Italy, Japan and the Netherlands, and the CHF.

Voluntary Contributions to the Mine Action Programme in Sudan in 2011  
(in US\$)



Sudan is a State Party to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. As such, by April 2014, 10 years after ratification, Sudan has to be declared mine-impact free. In 2011, Sudan has maintained its commitment to meet the treaty obligations.

NMAC senior staff attended the following international events to increase the visibility of mine action work in Sudan and assist the country in meeting its international obligations:

- The 14th International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisors in March 2011;
- The inter-sessional meetings of the mine-ban treaty in June 2011;
- The 2nd Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in September 2011; and
- The 10th Meeting of the States Parties to the mine-ban treaty in November 2011.

In late September 2011, UNMAS' chief of programme and planning section visited Sudan to address high level strategic considerations linked to the technical advisors remaining there.

## **Support to National Authorities—National Capacity Development, Coordination and Training**

Full ownership of mine action in Sudan by the NMAC took place in July 2011. In January 2011, towards this transition, the staff of the UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) in the northern region moved to the NMAC office. This significantly improved the relationship with the NMAC and greatly advanced on-the-job training.

After the transition, the NMAC requested technical advisors from UNMAS to continue building capacities. Technical advisors assist in three main areas: conducting humanitarian mine action (mine risk education, victim assistance, and survey and clearance operations), data and information management, and resource mobilization.

The advisors also serve as a liaison between the NMAC and UN organizations such as OCHA for the coordination of mine action activities in the eastern states, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

## **Operational Coordination**

In 2011, mine action operations in Sudan continued to be part of the multi-year work plan to meet the mine-ban treaty deadline in 2014. After July 2011, all UNMAS operations were funded by the VTF.

With the loss of UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget funds, over 80 percent of demining operations led by UNMAS have had to stop. The shortage of funds as well as the transition to NMAC leadership has led to the closing of UNMAS sub-offices in Kadugli, Kassala and Damazine. While the NMAC has kept its presence in these locations, demining sponsored by UNMAS has ceased. The only organizations conducting demining in the eastern states, South Kordofan and Blue Nile are MAG, DCA and the national demining units, although work ground to a halt in South Kordofan and Blue Nile after conflicts flared in June and September, respectively.

In the eastern states, work by MAG and the national demining units continued after the rainy season, funded through bilateral donations and the CHF. The latter has sustained clearance operations and assisted with coordination costs. The national demining units continue to be successful in their work with the MH-05 demining machine in former military camp positions such as Haladeet Shariq and Gadamayeet in Kassala state.

## **Impact**

The impact of clearance and survey operations was shadowed this year by the two conflicts in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, which doubled the number of victims of landmines and ERW in 2011 over 2010. Both states were re-contaminated.

Moreover, continued clashes bar access to these areas. It is very hard to estimate the current level of contamination, which requires a survey. On completion, UNMAS will be able to give a proper estimate of the impact on Sudan's plan to meet its mine-ban treaty deadline.

## **Human Interest Story: Opening Blue Nile**

In Sudan, having a disability and living in poverty go hand in hand. Not all persons with disabilities are poor, but it is far more difficult for them to obtain meaningful work due to discrimination, marginalization and stigmatization from peers. These attitudinal barriers combine with the lack of physical accessibility so that people with disabilities are often deprived of education, employment, health, adequate housing, food and safe water. A reduced ability to contribute to their household and community increases social exclusion.

Employment is an avenue for people with disabilities, including survivors of mine and ERW accidents, to claim their rights and enhance their lives. In fostering socioeconomic reintegration, it constitutes an important component of a holistic approach to rehabilitation, which also encompasses medical treatment, and physical and psychological rehabilitation.

With these principles in mind, UNMAS supports local partners in Sudan to implement survivor-assistance projects focused on socioeconomic reintegration. They provide vocational training, small business management skills, equipment and tools, on-the-job training and follow-up monitoring.

Mohammed Muslim, who suffers from a severe leg deformity and a partial foot amputation as a result of a war injury, was trained in blacksmithing and metal work under an UNMAO-funded survivor-assistance project at Hope Medical City in Khartoum. He said, "My life has changed completely. I feel I'm independent. I can now make my family happy and buy things I couldn't buy in the past. Without that training I wouldn't have been in this good situation."

Muslim now customizes and fabricates metallic mobility aids and corrective devices for children with disabilities. Having received psychological counselling, vocational training and small business management training, he plans to open his own private workshop near his house.

Ahmed Mohammed Idris Hamed lost both lower limbs from a mine injury. After he enrolled in a vocational training programme on ceramic tiling, he began using new skills to earn a living and support his family. "With time, I was able to overcome the fear and hopelessness that overshadowed my life," he said. "I am now a living example to those in my community and elsewhere."

Kawthar Al Balla, a 23-year-old wheelchair user and mother of one, is her family's breadwinner. She learned pastry production and tissue painting, as well as other handicraft skills. "I gained good experience, which enabled me to produce and market my products," she said. "I am now known in the community, and my income has increased significantly. I

no longer depend on my brothers for my living, and I can now offer my child a better living situation.”

Muslim, Hamed and Balla all testify to the value of survivor-assistance projects that stress socioeconomic reintegration. The need for such initiatives is still very high, however, given the large number of people with disabilities currently without support.

## **Sudan—Abyei**

### **Highlights**

- Mine action deployed to Abyei on 2 December 2011.
- One road verification group worked in December to support the mission.
- 212 kilometres of roads were surveyed for the military access of the mission.

### **Context and Challenges**

Chronic insecurity in Abyei during the Comprehensive Peace Agreement period, combined with a lack of records, has severely limited the ability of humanitarian mine action organizations to undertake surveys, clearance and risk education. While years of conflict and mistrust have fostered a widespread perception that many areas are mined, information on the scope of contamination from landmines and ERW in Abyei is extremely limited.

Since 2006, and as part of UNMIS, UNMAO has deployed several teams to Abyei to assist with the destruction of dangerous items. The teams visited 56 dangerous areas and destroyed 3,288 ERW. Clearance operations have been limited, however, to areas accessible by the UN system and its partners, normally locations along main patrol routes.

Since late 2010, reports have emerged of new mines being laid in many states of Sudan, including Abyei. The UNMACC in Juba reports at least 25 re-mining incidents in the border regions of Unity and Upper Nile in 2011, resulting in the deaths of at least 36 people and injuries to at least 45 people. On 2 August 2011, a mine accident in the Abyei area killed four UNISFA peacekeepers and injured an additional seven. Heavy fighting is ongoing in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile states in Sudan, while militia activity is reported in the Unity and Upper Nile states of South Sudan.

The August incident deterred UNISFA peacekeepers from undertaking patrols due to concerns for their safety. The presence of landmines could undermine the success of the mission.

### **Support from UNMAS Headquarters**

UNMAS continued to support the mandate of UNISFA with funds from the 2011 UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget.



## **Support to National Authorities—National Capacity Development, Coordination and Training**

The UNMAS programme directly supports UNISFA and its broader mandate to assist the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mission, per Security Council resolution 2024 (2011). It does not have a capacity development role with the NMAC.

### **Operations**

During 2011, mine action involved a road verification and clearance team of 30 personnel working on expanding access for the mission. The team verified the following routes: Abyei-Leu-Marial Achak, Abyei-Wanchuk-Tajalei-Kuthakou-Um Khariet-Dumbolaya, Um Khariet-Thupader, Abyei-Noong-Alal-Soheib-Dahlop-Shegai, and Dahlop-Amam-SI Shamam-Goli.

A total of 212 kilometres of tactical surveys (breaching for military operations) has been completed. In addition, six dangerous areas contaminated with UXO in Noong and Alal were assigned to the Ethiopian Demining Platoon for action. An unexploded 60-millimetre mortar shell, unearthed during construction work in the UNISFA Headquarters Camp, was safely destroyed. Work has now started on the first 27 kilometres of the Banton-Rummanier-Marial Achak-Leu-Wanchuk-Dokura road to open an eight-metre corridor allowing humanitarian actors access to a high-priority area for returning IDPs.

### **Impact**

The UNMAS Abyei operations have a major impact on the activities of UNISFA. As a result of the route breaching, survey and clearance work since December, UNISFA has increased confidence to deploy needed patrols, even at night. As returnees start to come back to the Abyei area, the number of beneficiaries of mine action work will increase considerably. Humanitarian assistance will be extended to them and to Misseriya nomads migrating in the area. The programme will continue to support the mission and its mandate in 2012-2013.

## ***Sudan—Darfur***

### **Highlights**

- Eight percent decrease in landmine and ERW victims, although data collection was limited.
- Clearance of approximately 85 percent of total dangerous areas; opening of accessible roads for increased freedom of movement.
- Community-based mine risk education provided to 77,537 people in 2011.

### **Context and Challenges**

Continued conflict in Darfur requires an ongoing rapid-response mine action capability to deal with increased UXO contamination in all three states. All routes expected to be used by

UNAMID as well as UN organizations and international NGOs need to be assessed and verified as safe for travel. Some areas/routes that have already been assessed are at risk of re-contamination through post-battle conflict, and thus require reassessment/verification. The fluid and unpredictable nature of the battlefield and conflict in Darfur means that once any form of conflict occurs in a given area it must automatically be considered re-contaminated. Although the landmine threat appears relatively low in Darfur, there are well-known areas of contamination, mostly on the borders between Chad and West Darfur, South Kordofan and South Darfur, and north towards Libya.

The specific and main threat is UXO contamination throughout the Darfur region. This threatens civilians, UNAMID peacekeepers and the delivery of humanitarian aid. Items of UXO include air-delivered bombs, rockets, artillery projectiles, mortars, small arms ammunition and grenades. A principal challenge is to gain access to UXO-contaminated areas, which is difficult due to the volatility of the security situation. Continued attacks on UNAMID peacekeepers, denial of access by Sudan government forces and armed groups mandate force protection for all organizations involved in peacekeeping and humanitarian aid delivery. The 18 recorded UXO incidents over the last year produced 24 injuries and three deaths.

### **Support from UNMAS Headquarters**

UNMAS continued to support the mandate of UNAMID. After July 2009, the programme became completely integrated into the mission and took the name of the Office of Ordnance Disposal (ODO). The operations of ODO were entirely funded by the UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget for 2011.

### **Support to National Authorities—National Capacity Development, Coordination and Training**

The NMAC in Sudan has no direct link to the ODO, although the latter shares information with the NMAC on a monthly basis. It discusses the plans and concept of operations if there is a mutual benefit in a particular area.

### **Operations**

UNAMID is the only integrated African Union and UN mission in the world to date. As a substantive unit within UNAMID, the ODO reports directly to the deputy joint special representative, but operationally the majority of its work is coordinated through the military component and the humanitarian liaison offices of the mission.

ODO works on a concept of operations that links support to peacekeeping operations, patrols and remote team sites, with support to humanitarian agencies and IDP returns. This allows the unit to maintain its stated outcome of reduced deaths and injuries due to ERW contamination. Although it works on the three main pillars of mine action—clearance, risk education and victim assistance—ODO conduct these activities in the context of high ERW contamination.

In all cases, clearance measures are related to battle area clearance—both surface and sub-surface—and involve EOD. Risk education is linked very closely to ERW risks, involving UXO and to a lesser extent landmines. Victim assistance focuses solely on accessing better data on deaths and injuries due to UXO accidents, working with national disability surveillance mechanisms and local NGOs.

ODO is represented on the UN Country Team and has been active in preparations to involve Darfur within the UN development assistance framework, which will happen for the first time in 2012. Previously, its work was part of the UN mission's integrated strategic framework.

## **Impact**

There are many beneficiaries of mine action in Darfur. First and foremost, the people of Darfur benefit from surveys, clearance, risk education and data gathering. The mission staff relies on route assessments, area survey and battle area clearance tasks, and risk education and awareness activities. Humanitarian agencies and by extension the communities they serve are safer due to all of the above activities. ODO is very closely linked to all plans for IDP returns and humanitarian interventions in contested areas.

## **Human Interest Stories: The Dangers of Ringing the School Bell**

Abdulla Esmaeil is 32 years old and works as headmaster of a primary school in Kulbus, in western Darfur. He wanted to learn how to teach UXO risks.

Along with 39 other teachers from different places in western Darfur, he travelled to El Geneina for a training offered by ODO in cooperation with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education. It was one of a series of sessions in 2011; others took place in Mellit, Kebkabiya and El Fasher.

Esmaeil introduced himself by telling a story—his story—about a headmaster who injured his hand when ringing the school bell of Alfaroog primary school. It was the first time he ever rang this bell, and he did not know that it was made from UXO. The explosion left one finger broken and two others injured. At the training, his hand was still bandaged.

The other participants looked concerned, but not surprised. Many schools lack resources even for basics such as school bells, so they turn to scrap metal as a substitute. Some teachers even ask school children to go and collect scrap metal, not knowing that it can include ERW and UXO.

ODO's risk education programme strives to raise awareness and promote behavioural changes to manage the risks of UXO. It supports public information campaigns, education and training, and community liaison activities. In concert with national NGOs, the programme especially targets schools, and trains local teachers to expand and sustain awareness in their communities.

Training teachers has multiple benefits. Not only do they become better informed, with knowledge they can transmit to other teachers and their pupils, but they can also model safe behaviour. The particular practice of using UXO as school bells, for example, may hinder whatever messages children hear about avoiding risks. When children see a teacher using a

strange object like a UXO, they will assume it is safe. If teachers refuse to ring the “UXO bell,” they set an example both in what they tell the children and what they do in practice.

## ***Western Sahara***

### **Highlights**

- More than 6.8 million square metres of land were released, marking a 242 percent increase over the amount released in UN-supported interventions the previous year.
- The programme demonstrated a more focused application of resources with a 422 percent increase in the number of ERW destroyed.
- The result for peacekeepers was an environment more conducive to executing their mandate. The results for the local population were increased safety and food security, which contribute to the attainment of the MDGs.
- Preparations in place to move forward with the Confidence-Building Measures programme on overland routes.

### **Impact**

The mine action programme has two target groups: first, the UN observers who must navigate desert tracks through dangerous areas, and second, local people. The latter are primarily nomadic, leaving them particularly susceptible to contamination.

More than 6.8 million square metres of land were released in 2011, marking a 242 percent increase over the amount released in UN-supported interventions the previous year. The programme demonstrated a more focused application of resources, with a 422 percent increase in the number of ERW destroyed. The result for peacekeepers was an environment more conducive to executing their mandate. The local population enjoyed increased safety and food security, which contributed to the attainment of the MDGs. The recruitment of female staff for the programme promoted gender equality and the empowerment of women.

An important aspect of UNMAS assistance to MINURSO includes providing technical support to the Confidence-Building Measures programme. This involves family visitation through air transport, which is expensive and limited in scope. In anticipation of the programme’s future expansion to overland routes, the Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC) conducted reconnaissance along 650 kilometres of proposed routes to evaluate mine and ERW threats. Its analysis and recommendations will play an essential role in planning and implementing the overland option, potentially impacting thousands of family members.

### **Context and Challenges**

Over 30 years of conflict between Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Polisario) have left Western Sahara contaminated by both landmines and ERW. This continues to have a negative impact on both sides of the 2,000-km long earthen berm built by Morocco between 1982 and 1987 to secure the western part of the territory; the berm and its associated buffer zone are the most heavily contaminated areas. Threats come from anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, aircraft bombs, air- and ground-delivered ordnance, and small arms ammunition.

UN mine action in Western Sahara operates as part of MINURSO, which was established through Security Council resolution 690 (1991) to monitor a ceasefire between the parties, and to ensure a free and fair referendum on the territory's status. Following an UNMAS mission in 2005 that identified the conditions required to undertake large-scale mine action activities, MINURSO established a small mine action capacity that has grown steadily to become more commensurate with the threat.

Capacity east of the berm now consists of four multi-faceted survey, battle area clearance, EOD and demining teams, with a 24/7 on-call response capacity to assist UN staff or civilians in case of an emergency. On the west side of the berm, the Royal Moroccan Army (RMA) is undertaking a comprehensive demining effort, launched in January 2007, due in part to rising awareness of mine and ERW accidents. MINURSO has been working with the RMA since 2007 to identify possible avenues of support for their humanitarian clearance efforts.

Since 1975, mines and ERW have reportedly caused more than 2,524 landmine casualties, including some 541 fatalities. Recent data indicate 24 new victims during 2011, although the number of victims is likely higher, given the lack of accurate data collection and reporting mechanisms in the territory.

The socioeconomic impacts from mines and ERW are considerable. Livelihood opportunities in the desert are limited by the scarcity of water, which, when coupled with poor infrastructure and social marginalization, negatively affects health and food security. The majority of mine and ERW accidents occur along the berm, which is rich in *wadis* and other water resources, making it an otherwise ideal location for animal herding and small-scale agriculture. Only a limited number of people make the territory their home, with the vast majority continuing to reside in refugee camps in Algeria. Regardless of the final resolution of the question of Western Sahara, mines and ERW will need to be addressed.

## **Achievements**

UNMAS headquarters provided strategic guidance and assistance with resource mobilization, advocacy and financial accountability. Close collaboration between field and headquarters staff ensured a smooth integration of strategic considerations with technical level programme results, as well as support on wider policy and advocacy issues.

For programme advocacy and visibility, headquarters assisted the development of a user-friendly information booklet. The guide, which has been shared with donors and made publicly available online, presents essential information on the mine and ERW situation, its impacts, programme goals and responses, and recommendations for actions. Headquarters also supported the development of an article in the fall issue of the *Journal of ERW and*

*Mine Action* to raise awareness of the situation in Western Sahara and the mine action programme there.

Other headquarters assistance facilitated liaisons with donors and the processing of funds through the VTF from the governments of the Netherlands and Spain, and the City of Barcelona. Negotiations with other donor countries focused on identifying sufficient funds or in-kind contributions for the programme, in addition to resources provided by the UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget.

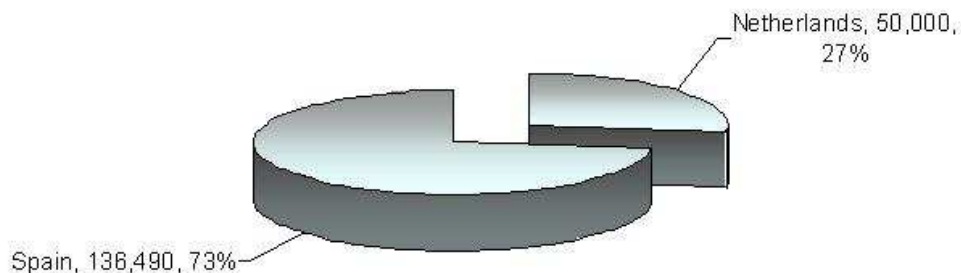
Although the mine action programme is still in its early stages, its progress has become more visible, recognized for its impact and potential. In March, the Polisario leadership requested the MACC to take steps towards the future clearance of minefields in the buffer strip east of the berm. The Polisario has also asked for support to develop a local mine action authority and standards to promote sustainable capacity.

Coordination among mine action partners made noteworthy progress with the availability of additional staff within the MACC to convene stakeholder consultations and outline strategies for mine risk education and victim assistance. The increase in casualty rates within the territory highlighted the urgent need to raise resources for mine risk education for high-risk populations. The MACC conducted a workshop with the Polisario, the ICRC, Geneva Call, Landmine Action UK (LMA) and the Saharawi Campaign to Ban Landmines in Tindouf, Algeria on 12 November. Participants exchanged information and discussed the development of a mine risk education programme in Western Sahara.

## Donors

Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$186,490 from the governments of the Netherlands and Spain.

Voluntary Contribution to the Mine Action Programme in Western Sahara  
in 2011 (in US\$)



## **VII. National Programmes Supported by UNMAS**

### ***Nepal***

#### **Highlights**

- Nepal was declared minefield free on 14 June 2011 after the clearance of 53 minefields.
- On 24 May 2011, an agreement for IED field clearance was endorsed; the Nepal Army Mine Action Coordination Centre (NAMACC) deployed five IED field clearance teams on 6 June 2011. They cleared 45 IED fields.
- The Mine Action Strategy 2011-2012 and the National Technical Standard Guidelines have been drafted and endorsed by the National Mine Action Technical Committee. They are now with the Mine Action Steering Committee for approval.
- Following the successful completion of capacity development at the NAMACC, four military demining platoons were fully accredited per the IMAS in April 2011.
- Under the leadership and coordination of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, 1,000 schools and 43 district local peace committees provided mine risk education to children and communities in the most affected areas.
- Casualties from victim-activated explosions declined to 32 as of 10 December 2011, including 2 casualties from anti-personal mines, and 30 from IEDs and ERW. This compares to 104 casualties recorded in 2007, 73 in 2008, 70 in 2009 and 41 in 2010.

#### **Impact**

While the peace process continues to face challenges in Nepal, mine action has set an example of what can be achieved through political will and sufficient resources. Continued support to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in developing and implementing the national mine action strategy, which encompasses clearance, victim assistance, mine risk education and advocacy, has assisted in the steep reduction in casualties. These gains have opened the way for the Nepalese Government to further consider accession to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty.

Clearance has also increased access to land for cultivation, herding and other activities that contribute to the livelihoods of everyday Nepalese. The capacity developed by Nepalese authorities will allow them to carry the clearance work to its fruition on their own, following the reduction of UNMAS's presence and closure of the capacity development programme in mid-2011.

#### **Context and Challenges**

Five years after the signing of its Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 21 November 2006, Nepal was finally declared minefield free on 14 June 2011. The 10-year conflict that ended in November 2006 left portions of the country contaminated by mines and ERW. All 53 minefields laid by the Nepal Army and an estimated 275 areas contaminated with command-detonated explosive devices to protect military installations, police posts and infrastructure such as communications sites have been cleared with the support of the UNMAT, meeting the obligations of the peace agreement.

The peace agreement and the Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies of 8 December 2006 committed the Nepal Army and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), or CPN (M), to rid the country of threats from landmines and ERW, and to assist in clearing minefields and destroying stockpiles of ammunition and caches of IEDs within 60 days.

Contamination by explosive devices left over from the conflict and the ongoing use of IEDs by various armed groups still represent potential threats to communities, however. A large number of IEDs used by the Maoist Army in place of conventional grenades and bombs also contaminate areas of the country.

Minimizing their negative impact on the general public requires risk education programmes, along with preparedness to immediately destroy reported explosive devices and support victims. The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction has been carrying out necessary activities, including for the relief and rehabilitation of mine and IED victims, and for mine risk education programmes in affected communities.

UNICEF's major involvement in mine action has entailed providing technical and limited financial support to the ministry in the areas of coordination, injury surveillance, risk education and victim assistance. As a result, governmental capacity to provide mine risk education to at-risk children and communities has increased. An agreement between the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction and the Ministry of Education provides for risk education in 1,000 schools, 43 district peace committees involved in mine risk education and new guidelines for victim assistance. For the first time in 2011, the Government allocated funds from regular resources to support mine risk education.

As advised by the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, the Ministry of Home Affairs has been approached by UNICEF to develop a new injury surveillance system on armed violence that will include IED incidents (victim-activated and intentional). It will be led by the Nepal Police. UNICEF will stop its support to the NGO Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) system beyond 2012.

From January to December 2011, 32 new casualties from victim-activated explosions were reported, compared to 104 casualties in 2007, and 41 casualties in 2010. This general and continuous decline is noteworthy, all the more so because post-conflict IED contamination has started to spread due to the activities of various armed groups, and the case definition for casualties from victim-activated explosions has been expanded by including new categories. As of 2011, these include members or affiliates of armed groups and people using explosives for criminal purposes. Eight of the 32 casualties that year fell into these new categories.



## **Support from UNMAS Headquarters**

UNMAS headquarters provided substantive programme support and coordinated resource mobilization activities until the end of June. Voluntary contributions and unearmarked resources allowed for programme continuity by bridging contributions from the principal funding source, the UN Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN).

Visits from the UNMAS director and programme officer played an important role in advocacy with senior government officials, and provided inputs into the UNMAT concept of operations and development of the first draft of the national Mine Action Strategy 2011-2012.

As of the end of June, all minefields were cleared per plans, national capacity was fully developed per the IMAS, and national guidelines were in place to deal with the residual problem caused by remaining IED fields. UNMAS closed down its support, while UNICEF continued assisting mine risk education, victim assistance, and the monitoring and clearance of IED fields until the end of December.

Excellent cooperation and coordination between UNMAS and UNICEF in Nepal was very successful in establishing a programme and UNMAT that produce extraordinary results—clearance of all minefields and known IED fields, the establishment of full-fledged mine risk education, and a proper and self-sufficient national mine action capacity.

## **Coordination and Training**

Three coordination meetings of the Mine Action Joint Working Group were chaired by the Ministry of Police and Reconstruction, with the involvement of other ministries, the security forces (Army, Police, Armed Police Force), the ICRC and civil society.

On 14 June 2011, the ministry and UNMAT hosted an event to celebrate Nepal being declared minefield free. Right Honorable Prime Minister Jhulanath Khanal, Chief of Army Staff Chhatraman Singh Gurung, ambassadors and representatives from foreign embassies and diplomatic missions, secretaries of the Government, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Robert Piper, the Inspector General of the Nepal Police and Armed Police Force, representatives from UN organizations, government officials, civil society representatives and media persons came to mark this historic event.

Since January 2011, the Nepal Army has planned, managed and conducted demining operations safely, effectively and efficiently, in compliance with the IMAS. During this period, the UNMAT monitored clearance activities and supported NAMACC to liaise with government counterparts for allocation of a budget for clearance activities. NAMACC successfully passed IMAS accreditation in April 2011 and is able to conduct non-technical surveys, manual mine clearance, battle area clearance and mine risk education.

The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, with the support of the UNMAT, drafted the national Mine Action Strategy 2011-2012, and National Technical Standard Guidelines for demining and mine risk education. Both were reviewed by the National Mine Action Technical Committee and forwarded for approval by the Mine Action Steering Committee.

The ministry hosted the sixth annual International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action for the second year. Honorable Barshaman Pun Ananta, Minister for Peace

and Reconstruction, recalled the commitments to demining and victim assistance expressed in the Comprehensive Peace Accord. He noted that the Government is continuously engaged in upholding these commitments through the Mine Action Steering Committee, the National Mine Action Technical Committee and the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, in partnership with the UNMAT, donor community and civil society organizations.

## **Operational Coordination**

The mine action programme received contributions from the Government of Nepal, the Nepal Peace Trust Fund, the Embassy of Denmark, the UNPFN, the Department for International Development (DFID), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the VTF and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Other contributions included demining equipment received from the governments of Australia and the United Kingdom.

In 2011, the remaining 17 minefields were cleared. The addition of the fourth military demining platoon in 2011 aided operational efficiency among the demining platoons as well as greater capacity for clearance.

Among the 275 IED fields, 110 still required clearance in 2011, among which 59 were cleared by the Nepal Army without the support of the UN system, prior to endorsement of a memorandum of agreement. After the endorsement, five IED field clearance teams were deployed to clear the remaining 51 fields. As of 31 July 2011, 6 fields still needed to be cleared. All were remote and not accessible during the monsoon season. As the UNMAS component of mine action closed after 31 July, clearance of the remaining fields was supported by the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction. Due to a lengthy correspondence process between the defence, peace and finance ministries, funds have not been released on time. Clearance operations will not start before early 2012. The remaining fields are in the districts of Rukum, Dhankuta, Bhojpur, Khotang and Dolpa, and should be cleared within one month after the restart of operations.

In the meantime, the Nepal Army conducted mine risk education sessions for 10,000 civilians, including in 32 schools.

## **Impact**

Although there have been many political priorities in Nepal, mine action as a key component and achievement of the peacebuilding process has been largely recognized by the Government, civil society and the international community. The establishment of a separate mine action section under the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction has facilitated the work of civil society in dealing directly with concerned authorities for any issues related to mine action. After the establishment of the section, the ministry became the operational arm of the national mine action authority. It provided funding for the clearance of the remaining 17 minefields in 2011 and the development of risk education activities.

Continuous UNMAT support to the ministry in developing and implementing the national mine action strategy, encompassing clearance, victim assistance, mine risk education and advocacy through the newly established mine action section, has contributed to government awareness and action to ensure Nepal is free from mines and ERW.

The Nepal Army, given support by UNMAS, can now efficiently and effectively clear landmines, IEDs and ERW in accordance with the IMAS. The addition of the fourth military demining platoon in 2011 further increased operational efficiency and capacity among the demining platoons. Since the platoons have also been accredited to the IMAS, they will qualify for deployment in DPKO missions.

Nepal is de facto complying with most provisions of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (Protocols II and V) and is in line with some important provisions of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. But it has not signed these agreements. The Nepal Army has kept its stockpiles of anti-personal landmines.

By early 2012, Nepal should be free of IED fields, but it is not yet an IED-free country, as thousands are scattered across dozens of districts. Even five years after the signature of the peace agreement, IEDs still account for 60 percent of victim-activated explosions. This is a good indication of the durability of these devices.

In total, over 65,000 victim-activated (or intentionally activated) explosions have been prevented thanks to the demolition of the Maoist Army official IED stocks and the demining of the 53 minefields.

To deal with the remaining contamination and the new post-conflict contamination of IEDs, the combination of IED risk education (so far granted to over 1 million school children and 25,000 members of the security forces, accompanied by seven massive media campaigns since 2007) and the IED disposal capacity of the Nepal Army and, to some extent, the Armed Police Force will be essential. Security forces do not know where the devices are. They depend on information provided by communities following risk education sessions to find and neutralize them.

### **Human Interest Story: Learning to Inform Authorities**

Jhalak Bahadur Shrestha, 13, studies at the Lower Secondary School of Attarpur village. He noticed explosive devices while returning home and informed his cousin, Kumar Shrestha, who immediately called the local police station. In about 30 minutes, a police team reached the site.

Five socket bombs were found one after another in a paddy. The police also found a plastic sack in the area and suspected it could contain more bombs. All the bombs were rusty and an inspector concluded that they may have been left during the Maoist insurgency. The police took the property under control to prevent possible damage, and sought help from the Army, which came and diffused the bombs.

The elder Kumar was asked how he knew he should inform the police in such a case. He replied that he had seen a television advertisement about the risk of explosions. It explained that when suspected things were found, security personnel should be informed as early as possible. The advertisements were developed by the Mine Action Joint Working Group with UNICEF support.

In another case, Bhakti Pandey found two socket bombs while he was cutting grass in his field near the village of Jaitpur. The Nepal Army's bomb disposal team reached the scene the same day and diffused the bombs after reports from locals.

The Local Peace Committee, supported by the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction and UNICEF, had commissioned the ICRC to conduct mine risk education in the area—Pandey participated in one of the classes. He stated that he became aware of the importance of informing security personnel through announcements broadcast by Radio Nepal.

## **VIII. UNMAS Support to Other Programmes: Facilitating Peace and Recovery**

### ***Guinea Bissau***

With US \$374,601 from the Government of Australia, UNMAS channeled funding to UNDP for its programme “Support to Mine Action Completion in Guinea Bissau.” A primary objective of the project was to assist the country in achieving its Article 5 deadline commitments under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. In January 2012, Guinea-Bissau became the latest country to declare that it has cleared all known mined areas according to its obligations under the treaty. Guinea-Bissau is the 10th State Party in Africa to complete demining activities. The specific objectives of the project were to provide support to mine and ERW clearance, risk education, victim assistance, coordination and advocacy.

#### ***Mine Clearance***

Under the coordination of the National Mine Action Coordination Centre (CAAMI), tasks were selected on the basis of priorities identified by community surveys that adopted a participatory and inclusive approach. The project provided additional mine clearance capacity to the national NGO Lutamos Todos Contra Minas (LUTCAM) to accelerate efforts to attain the MDGS and complete Article 5 obligations.

LUTCAM exceeded the targets set for the project. From the end of September 2011 to mid-November 2011, it restored 64,000 square meters of land for productive use, and released 97,000 square metres of land in the northern, eastern and southern regions of Guinea Bissau. Clearance resulted in local communities and returning populations having access to improved livelihoods, health centres, schools, roads, fields and water points. Thirty-four anti-personnel mines and 168 items of UXO were removed and destroyed. Overall, 971 families or 7,990 people were direct beneficiaries of the project.

#### ***Coordination***

The project aims to support the effective management of resources, assist in integrating survey results in new strategic and operational planning documents, and aid in the integration of mine action into broader national development planning. During the project's implementation, mine action activities have been effectively coordinated and monitored at the national level through regular monthly technical meetings. Activities focused on mine clearance supervision and quality control have been geared towards accelerating the demining process with national NGOs. Two database officers received refresher training on GIS to provide better services on cartographic charts and information support.

#### ***Mine Risk Education***

The project promotes and increases public awareness on the threats posed by mines and ERW in order to prevent and reduce accidents. During October and November, CAAMI coordinated and provided mine and ERW risk education activities to nearly 1,000 beneficiaries using an innovative community-based approach. This reaches grass-roots

populations through established rural community networks. The close proximity of many suspected hazardous areas to schools within the most affected regions (north and south) and other points of public interest calls for special attention. CAAMI developed mine risk education tools according to lessons learned from the communities.

As the project moves forward, it will focus on support to victim assistance. Activities will assist efforts to ensure mine and ERW survivors receive medical care and have increased socioeconomic reintegration opportunities.

### ***Jordan***

UNMAS provided financial support to the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation, through UNDP and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), to implement the Northern Border Demining Project.

### ***Ukraine***

As a follow-up to its technical assessment mission in 2010, UNMAS conducted a mission from 18 to 29 September 2011 to provide support and recommendations to the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Emergency Service related to improving the safety, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of activities to deal with ERW.

### ***Tajikistan***

UNMAS channeled US \$158,715 from the Government of Australia to UNDP for its programme "Supporting the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme." Tajikistan's landmine and ERW contamination is mostly found along the Tajik-Afghan border and the Tajik-Uzbek border, and in the central region of the country.

The strategic objective was to help the Government comply with its international obligations related to landmines and ERW. In accordance with the national strategic plan, all priority areas will be cleared by the end of 2015.

Specific objectives of the project were to support the capacity of the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre (TMAC) in its mine action coordination, regulation, planning and monitoring role. It aimed to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the TMAC's demining operations, and promote the socioeconomic reintegration of mine and ERW survivors. A final goal was to foster a safe environment in communities through mine risk education.

## **IV. Funding Sources and Financial Performance of UNMAS Mine Action Programmes**

### **Highlights**

- Twenty-four donor governments, Ballard School students, the European Union, the CHF and the IRU contributed to the VTF, compared to 19 donors in 2010 and 24 donors in 2009.
- The VTF received US \$75.5 million, compared to US \$63.5 million in 2010 and US \$90.7 million in 2009.
- The top three donors contributed 56.5 percent of all contributions: Australia provided US \$18.2 million (24 percent), Japan US \$15.2 (20.1 percent) and Canada US \$9.4 million (12.4 percent).
- Unearmarked funds of US \$2.6 million (3.5 percent of voluntary contributions) were provided in 2011 by the governments of Andorra, Denmark, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and New Zealand along with Ballard School students, compared to US \$1.9 million contributed by the governments of Andorra, Estonia, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Sweden, as well as Pace University in 2010.
- The governments of Australia, Canada, Finland and the United Kingdom, the CHF and the European Union remained committed to multi-year funding.
- Appropriations by the General Assembly for the mine action component of 10 peacekeeping mission budgets increased to US \$91.3 million in 2011, up by 13 percent from US \$80.6 million in 2010.

### ***Funding for UNMAS Mine Action***

UNMAS programmes in countries and headquarters coordination activities are funded namely by:

- Appropriations by the General Assembly for the mine action components of 10 peacekeeping missions and support offices—MINURCAT,<sup>6</sup> MINURSO, MONUSCO, UNAMID, UNIFIL, UNSOA, UNISFA, UNOCI, UNMIS and UNMISS;
- Contributions of donor governments, organizations and private individuals to the VTF;
- Funds allocated to UNMAS headquarters coordination activities within the UN Peacekeeping Support Account; and

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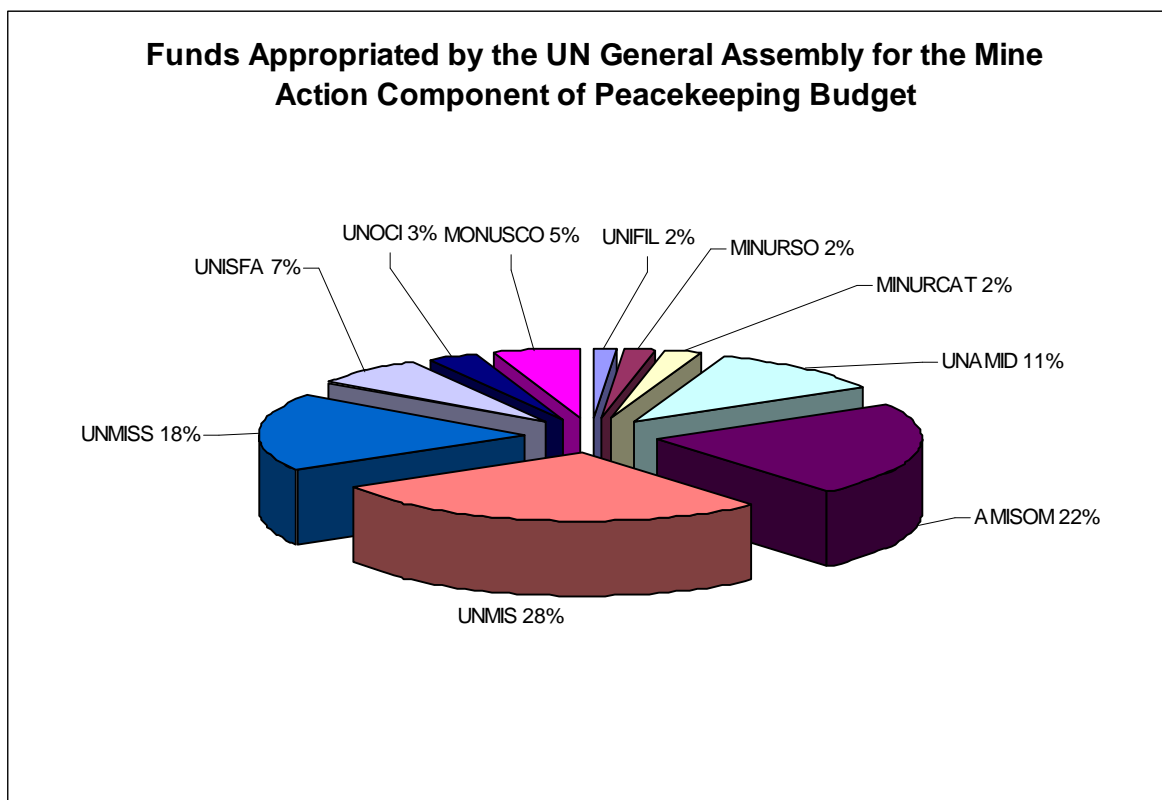
<sup>6</sup> At the liquidation stage; funded until 30 April 2011.

- Allocation of funds from other UN trust funds, such as the CHF.

The VTF was established in 1994 under the UN Department for Humanitarian Affairs, which was the focal point for mine action within the UN system prior to the 1997 formation of UNMAS under DPKO. The fund is intended to provide special resources for mine action programmes and projects—including surveys, mine clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy activities—in situations where other funding is not immediately available.

In 2011, the VTF supported activities in all five pillars of mine action. It financed missions to assess the scope of problems with landmines and ERW, UN-managed coordination, support to national programmes, advocacy and the work of UNMAS as the UN focal point for mine action.

The number of VTF-supported UNMAS programmes has significantly expanded over the years. They now include initiatives in Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza/occupied Palestinian territory, Guinea Bissau, Lebanon, Libya, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan and Western Sahara. Additionally, mine action programmes managed by UNMAS remain an integral part of UN DPKO/Department of Field Support (DFS) operations. Beyond the mine action components of the 10 peacekeeping missions, UNMAS also manages the coordination of mine action activities in Afghanistan on behalf of the Government.

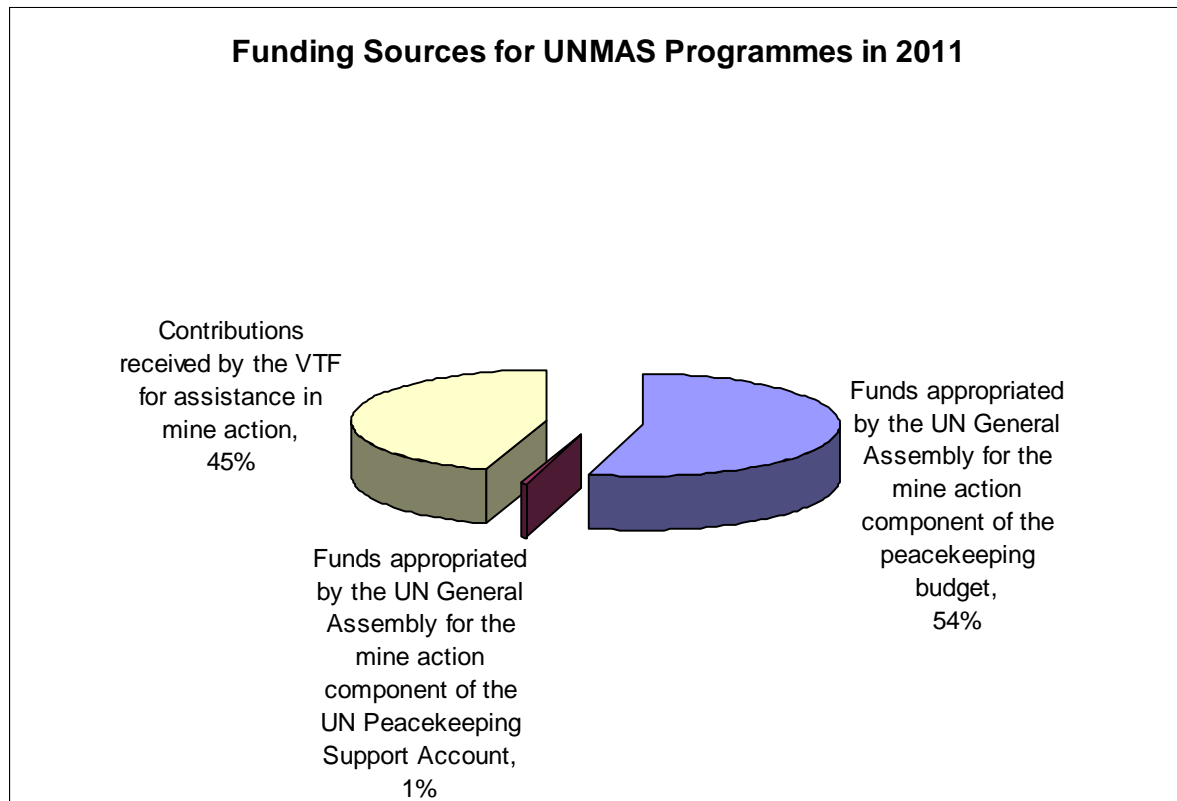




Contributions to the VTF have totaled more than US \$750 million from its inception through 31 December 2011. Donors have used the fund to channel resources to national programmes and NGOs, often through UNDP and/or UNICEF.

UNMAS aims to continue securing voluntary donations from existing donors and to expand the VTF donor base by exploring new funding opportunities, including through philanthropic foundations and endowment funds, private donations and gifts.

The following chart illustrates the percent of UNMAS income received through the VTF, the UN Peacekeeping Support Account Budget and the UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget.



Other sources of income for UNMAS include the interest income accrued on temporary cash balances. Detailed financial information on VTF performance is reported annually in the UN Financial Statements/Schedule of Individual Trust Funds, and is part of the audited consolidated financial statements of the UN trust funds.

### ***Ensuring Transparency and Accountability***

UNMAS is committed to transparency and accountability in the financial management of all donor funds contributed to the VTF as well as funds allocated to mine action activities from the UN Peacekeeping Support Account, peacekeeping missions' assessed budgets and UN regular programme budgets. To ensure efficiency and effectiveness in raising, allocating, monitoring and reporting on financial resources, and to strengthen oversight and control, UNMAS uses the ProFi system, a programme and financial management tool developed in

partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). It comprises a PeopleSoft back-end for handling financial data and a Lotus Notes user interface providing programme functionality, and includes a web-based reporting and business intelligence extension.

UNMAS has been continuously enhancing and expanding ProFi functions by introducing new modules, and adjusting and improving existing financial and programme modules. The UN Controller has delegated certifying authority to UNMAS budget, financial management and reporting unit officers, resulting in a significant reduction in time required for allocation and disbursement processes.

## ***Fundraising and Donor Outreach***

As the UN mine action focal point, UNMAS is responsible for coordinating effective and proactive mine action programming. To do so, it relies heavily on extra-budgetary funding from donors through the VTF. UNMAS field and headquarters personnel made extraordinary efforts in 2011 to maintain donor support, diversify the donor base, and establish sustainable and predictable funding levels to continue existing programming and respond to new and evolving threats.

While many challenges to the global economy remain, resources provided to mine action through the VTF increased by US \$12 million or 19 percent in 2011, compared to 2010, with total receipts of US \$75.5 million, compared to US \$63.5 million in 2010.

On a biennial basis, over the 2010-2011 period, US \$139 million was received in the VTF, a reduction from the 2008-2009 biennium, where a steady growth in contributions to the VTF over the past 11 years peaked at US \$183.2 million.

In addition to the changes in annual funding levels, UNMAS continues to adapt to the reprioritization of traditional mine action donors' funding from dedicated to integrated funding allocations to UN cluster areas, including those for humanitarian action and recovery, peace, security and development activities. Changes in funding sources reflect the evolution of mine action from a stand-alone activity to a cross-cutting issue that makes concrete contributions to wider humanitarian, peace and development dividends.

Donor policies and strategies reflect this trend by further mainstreaming mine action into larger sectors. UNMAS views these changes as positive, while working to be sure that the activities and outcomes of mine action are well understood and recognized, and that mine action can continue to deliver strong results.

UNMAS continued to identify opportunities to conduct briefings for donors and potential donors at the headquarters and field levels, and on the margins of major conferences and events, such as the annual International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors, and the meetings of States Parties to the mine-ban treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

UNMAS continued to develop its relationships with the Gulf States, with particular focus on activities in Afghanistan, Chad, Lebanon, Libya and Sudan.

A resource mobilization strategy for 2011-2013 is closely aligned with operational requirements in the field and supportive of aid effectiveness criteria spelled out in the Paris

Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action principles. The strategy focuses on risk management, quality control, transparent and timely donor reporting, and appropriately conservative resource management. It responds to donors' increased focus on results-based budgeting, measurable results, and effective, impact-based operations.

### ***Funding Constraints and Principles of Good Practices in Humanitarian Donorship***

UNMAS continues to appeal to donors for predictable, flexible and needs-based funding that will enable it to plan strategically, ensure a rapid mine action response in emergency settings, set and fulfil objectives under longer-term operational plans, and assist other UNMAT members in meeting specific mine action requirements and mandates.

UNMAS offers its appreciation to the governments of Australia and Finland, which in 2011 entered into multi-year agreements in support of both field operations and global coordination activities. It is grateful to the governments of Canada and the United Kingdom, and the European Union, which signed multi-year agreements in previous years that provided predictable funding in 2011 in support of programming in Afghanistan and Gaza/occupied Palestinian territory, as well as global coordination and rapid response capacities. UNMAS is encouraged by communications with other donors who have expressed interest in developing multi-year agreements for contributions to the VTF in 2012.

UNMAS further appreciates the support of the governments of Andorra, Denmark, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, and New Zealand along with the Ballard School in providing unearmarked funds totaling US \$2.6 million, or 3.5 percent of voluntary funds. It welcomes as well the willingness of the Government of Japan to offer funds with a range of earmarking options. Unearmarked funds and flexible earmarkings are instrumental in enabling dynamic and responsive mine action programming that can allocate funding to emergency activities or projects experiencing temporary funding constraints, and can support global coordination work. The latter has experienced a significant funding shortfall in recent years, which has greatly curtailed activities.

Special thanks are also extended to the governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for continuous support for the UN rapid response capacity, which was called into action in both Côte d'Ivoire and Libya in 2011.

### ***Funding Overview: Top Contributors to the VTF***

The top three donors to the VTF, the governments of Australia, Japan and Canada, contributed a total of US \$42.7, representing 56.5 percent of all voluntary contributions in 2011. The top 10 contributors provided US \$67.4 million, representing 89.2 percent of all VTF resources.

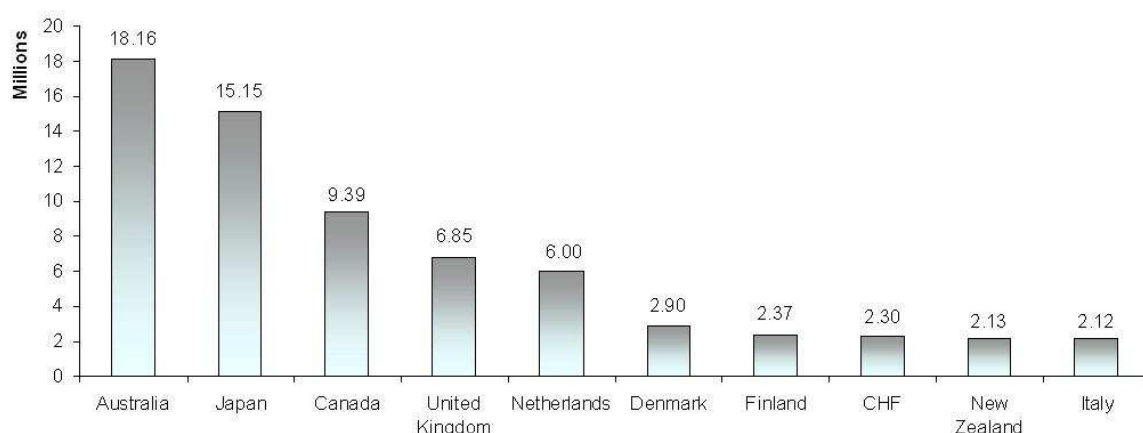
The donor base for the VTF became more diversified in 2011, with a total of 28 donors, a 47.4 percent increase over 2010, in which 19 donors contributed to the VTF. This diversification is a result of ongoing outreach efforts as well as donor interest in specific new programmes, such as the emergency response in Libya. It has reduced the concentration of funding provided by key donors and the associated risks of such concentration. UNMAS

hopes to continue this trend into 2012 by working with long-term, new and prospective donors to the VTF to foster even greater diversity of funding sources going forward.

Additional contributions came from the governments of Andorra, Austria, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States as well as the European Union. Contributions from non-governmental donors came from the CHF, the IRU and students at the Ballard School.

Donor	Advocacy	Afghanistan	Chad	Colombia	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Gaza / occupied Palestinian territories	Guinea Bissau	HO Coordination	Lebanon	Libya	Multi-country / intra-agency / organization	Somalia	South Sudan	Standing Mine Action Capacity	Sudan	Tajikistan	Unarmarked / to be unarmarked	Western Sahara	Grand Total
Andorra																	21,562		21,562
Australia		10,589,500	984,600		1,070,900		374,601	297,990		3,609,790			1,073,034			158,715			18,159,090
Austria		174,528							51,712										226,240
Ballard School																	376		376
Canada		9,391,631											619,945		1,682,682				9,391,631
CHF				30,000															2,302,627
Colombia																			30,000
Denmark		1,450,733															1,450,733		2,801,466
Estonia		4,360																	4,360
EU						32,694													32,694
Finland		1,137,608						1,294,522											2,372,530
Germany						150,000													150,000
IRU		1,900,000																	1,900,000
Italy	175,175									409,320		565,950	427,350		539,030				2,116,795
Japan		10,000,000			3,400,000				40,000	100,000			132,628		1,487,372		163,293		16,153,293
Korea, Republic of		50,000															61,013		180,000
Liechtenstein																			61,013
Lithuania		3,000																	3,000
Luxembourg		769,725			642,800			142,680											1,911,105
Netherlands		2,150,140	300,000	150,000	1,350,000	50,000		700,000		600,000				356,700	150,000	500,000	350,000	50,000	6,000,000
New Zealand						1,371,755											761,975		2,133,730
Oman		100,000																	100,000
Romania										117,369									117,369
Spain				67,390						173,630								136,490	203,890
Switzerland																			173,630
United Arab Emirates		1,999,975																	1,999,975
United Kingdom		497,694						565,118											6,853,893
United States		1,035,144									3,366,570	1,500,827			497,694				1,035,144
Grand Total	175,175	41,255,636	1,284,600	247,360	5,112,900	1,684,349	374,601	2,958,310	91,712	5,019,269	3,366,570	2,474,777	2,609,658	647,684	4,189,654	158,715	2,798,542	186,490	75,546,921

### Top Ten Contributors to the VTF in 2011



Australia increased its contribution to the VTF dramatically in 2011, providing US \$18.2 million to programming in Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea Bissau, Libya, South Sudan and Tajikistan, and to global coordination. This increase in funding, up from US \$1.4 million, made Australia the largest contributor to the VTF in 2011. It was also the largest individual donor to UNMAS programming in Afghanistan and Libya, providing critical funding at the beginning of the crisis in the latter, and additional funding to maintain operations and catalyse resources from other donors.

Italy significantly increased the breadth and amount of its contribution to the VTF from US \$738,000 for two programmes in 2010 to US\$ 2.1 million in 2011 for programming in Libya, South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia, and for global advocacy. Luxembourg also increased and diversified its contribution for 2011, from US \$300,000 in 2010 for one programme to US \$1.9 million in 2011 for efforts in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, and for global coordination.

Donors earmarked 98 percent of funds in 2011. Of the total voluntary contributions of US \$75.5 million, US \$41.3 million (54.7 percent) was earmarked for Afghanistan. The next largest earmarking of US \$6.1 million (8.1 percent) was for activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Programming in Libya was the third largest recipient of VTF funding at US \$5 million (6.6 percent of total contributions).

To help ensure coordinated UN system-wide global and national mine action activities, UNMAS continued to encourage donors to provide direct support for global coordination. UNMAS is very grateful to the governments of Australia, Finland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands for their support to headquarters coordination totaling US \$3 million.

## Financial Performance Overview

Total income of US \$167,944,310.37 was received from the three major sources of funding for mine action programmes. Programme expenditures of US \$164,379,332.62 were incurred during the financial period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011.

As noted, most donor contributions received by the VTF were earmarked for specific programmes or projects. The mine action components in 10 peacekeeping missions and support offices (MINURCAT, MINURSO, MONUSCO, UNAMID, UNIFIL, AMISOM, UNISFA, UNOCI, UNMIS and UNMISS) were funded from appropriations by the General Assembly for peacekeeping mission budgets. The Peacekeeping Support Account continued to cover the costs of six headquarters-based personnel, including five professional staff, who manage and oversee operational mine action activities carried out within the mandates of the 10 peacekeeping missions and support offices.

Voluntary contributions to the VTF increased by 19 percent, from about US \$63.5 million in 2010 to just over US \$75.5 million in 2011. Appropriations<sup>7</sup> by the General Assembly for the mine action component of peacekeeping mission budgets increased by 13 percent, from US \$80.6 million in 2010 to about US \$91.3 million in 2011. Financial resources under the Peacekeeping Support Account increased by 3 percent, from US \$1,060,000 in 2010 to US \$1,090,000 in 2011.

<b><u>Income received</u></b>	
Funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the mine action component of the peacekeeping budget	\$91,306,989.50
Voluntary contributions and funds received under inter-organizational arrangements	\$75,546,920.87
Funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the mine action component of the UN Peacekeeping Support Account	\$1,090,400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$167,944,310.37</b>
<b><u>Provisional expenditures</u></b>	
Funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the mine action component of the peacekeeping budget	\$59,501,651.71
Voluntary contributions and funds received under inter-organizational arrangements	\$103,900,794.61
Funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the mine action component of the Peacekeeping Support Account	\$976,886.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$164,379,332.62</b>

<sup>7</sup> Represents the average of the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 peacekeeping appropriations by the General Assembly.

The costs of UNMAS coordination at headquarters, which were covered by the VTF, amounted to US \$4.3 million in 2011, compared to US \$4.4 million in 2010.

Expenditures for UNMAS thematic projects reached US \$3 million, compared to US \$1.8 in 2010, while those for joint projects with UNDP and UNICEF totaled US \$4.6 million, compared to US \$693,100 in 2010.

As in the past, UNMAS used donor contributions to the VTF to support other implementing partners and projects in Cambodia and Senegal with a total of US \$24,771. Activities in Colombia are reported under the category of country programmes this year.

## Headquarters Coordination: Challenges and Achievements

### 1. UNMAS Core Activities in New York and Geneva

Income			\$2,958,310
Expenditure			
	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Personnel	-	\$2,555,349	\$2,555,349
Official travel of staff	\$13,769	\$257,455	\$271,224
Consultants and expert groups	-	\$17,675	\$17,675
Communications	-	\$37,410	\$37,410
Supplies, materials and furniture	-	\$25,239	\$25,239
Contractual services (including UNMAS project finance system development, and support and printing services)	\$116,334	\$527,747	\$644,081
Operating expenses (e.g., utilities and rental of equipment)	-	\$35,432	\$35,432
Hospitality, official functions	-	\$1,676	\$1,676
Premises	-	\$271,000	\$271,000
Sub-Total	\$130,102	\$3,728,983	\$3,859,085
Programme Support Costs	-	\$434,634	\$434,634
Total	\$130,102	\$4,163,617	\$4,293,720

## Thematic Projects

2. UNMAS Thematic Projects			
Income			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			\$822,859
Expenditure			
Project	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Advocacy	-	\$39,796	\$39,796
Advocacy and public information in support of the UN Mine Action Team	\$41,703	\$128,937	\$170,641
Landmine UXO/ERW safety	\$29,180	\$44	\$29,223
Standing Mine Action Capacity and Rapid Response Plan	\$1,035,729	\$1,709,035	\$2,744,763
Evaluation of United Nations Mine Action	-	\$27,332	\$27,332
Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining evaluation of the International Mine Action Standards		\$36,050	\$36,050
Total	\$1,106,612	\$1,941,194	\$3,047,805

## UNMAS Joint Projects with UN Partners

<b>3. UNMAS Joint Projects with United Nations Partners</b>			
Country/territory/ project activities	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
<b>Egypt</b>			
Income			-
Expenditure			
Support to the ongoing operations of the Executive Secretariat for Mine Clearance	\$1,390	-	<b>\$1,390</b>
<b>UNDP Completion Initiative</b>			
Income			<b>\$1,683,285</b>
Expenditure			
UNDP Completion Initiative	\$929,856	\$852,613	<b>\$1,782,469</b>
<b>Mine risk education, victim assistance and advocacy in support of the UNICEF Landmines and Small Arms Team</b>			
Income			<b>\$1,683,285</b>
Expenditure			
Mine risk education, victim assistance and advocacy in support of the UNICEF Landmines and Small Arms Team	\$1,155,636	\$428,464	<b>\$1,584,100</b>
<b>Guinea Bissau</b>			
Income			<b>\$374,601</b>
Expenditure			
Guinea Bissau clearance & mine risk education	\$82,989	\$290,339	<b>\$373,328</b>
<b>Pakistan</b>			
Income			-
Expenditure			
Mine risk education	-	\$489,090	<b>\$489,090</b>
<b>Jordan</b>			
Income			-
Expenditure			
Capacity building	-	\$165,513	<b>\$165,513</b>
<b>Tajikistan</b>			
Income			<b>\$158,715</b>
Expenditure			
Coordination	-	\$3,386	<b>\$3,386</b>
<b>Laos PDR</b>			
Income			-
Expenditure			
Coordination and clearance support to UXO Lao	\$43,942	\$197,501	<b>\$241,442</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,213,813</b>	<b>\$2,426,905</b>	<b>\$4,640,718</b>

## UNMAS Support to Other Implementing Partners

<b>4. UNMAS Support to Other Implementing Partners</b>			
Project/implementing partner/ country/territory	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Cambodia - landmine victim assistance	-	\$17,446	\$17,446
Senegal - victim assistance	-	\$7,325	\$7,325
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$24,771</b>	<b>\$24,771</b>

## National Mine Action Programmes Supported by UNMAS



## Colombia

<b>Colombia</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			\$247,360
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Coordination and capacity development	\$95,438	\$494,393	\$589,831
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$95,438</b>	<b>\$494,393</b>	<b>\$589,831</b>

## Nepal

<b>Nepal</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			-
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Coordination	\$2,432	\$71,526	\$73,959
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,432</b>	<b>\$71,526</b>	<b>\$73,959</b>

## UNMAS-Managed Programmes

### Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of

<b>Afghanistan</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			\$41,255,696
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Coordination and capacity development	\$4,166,859	\$16,889,089	\$21,055,949
Landmine and ERW survey clearance	\$4,588,565	\$45,035,996	\$49,624,561
Mine risk education and victim assistance	\$135,749	\$2,510,788	\$2,646,537
Victim assistance	\$755,712	\$801,896	\$1,557,608
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,646,885</b>	<b>\$65,237,770</b>	<b>\$74,884,654</b>

## Chad

<b>Chad</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			\$1,284,600
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$557,973
Operation			\$1,365,727
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$1,923,700</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$3,208,300</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Coordination	\$7,499	\$148,527	\$156,025
Clearance	\$1,042,484	\$1,786,724	\$2,829,208
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,049,983</b>	<b>\$1,935,250</b>	<b>\$2,985,233</b>
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$494,738
Operation			\$1,210,948
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,705,686</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,049,983</b>	<b>\$1,935,250</b>	<b>\$4,690,919</b>

## Côte d'Ivoire

<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$638,531
Operation			\$2,055,769
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,694,300</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Coordination			\$136,046
Operation			\$438,006
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$574,052</b>

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			\$6,112,960
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$2,398,527
Operation			\$2,462,161
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$4,860,688</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$10,973,648</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Clearance	\$62,619	\$599,413	\$662,032
Coordination	\$1,915,197	\$6,256,068	\$8,171,265
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,977,816</b>	<b>\$6,855,480</b>	<b>\$8,833,297</b>
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$1,757,740
Operation			\$1,804,374
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$3,562,114</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,977,816</b>	<b>\$6,855,480</b>	<b>\$12,395,410</b>

## Gaza/Occupied Palestinian Territory

<b>Gaza/occupied Palestinian territory</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			\$1,604,349
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Clearance, mine risk education and capacity building	\$49,822	\$1,436,207	\$1,486,029
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49,822</b>	<b>\$1,436,207</b>	<b>\$1,486,029</b>

## Lebanon

<b>Lebanon</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			\$91,712
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$1,384,050
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,475,762</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Clearance	-	-	-
Coordination and quality assurance	\$313,061	\$67,253	\$380,313
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$313,061</b>	<b>\$67,253</b>	<b>\$380,313</b>
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$1,144,656
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,144,656</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$313,061</b>	<b>\$67,253</b>	<b>\$1,524,969</b>

## Libya

<b>Libya</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			\$5,010,269
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Emergency response in Libya	\$17,656	\$1,214,212	\$1,231,869
Information management	-	\$90,421	\$90,421
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,656</b>	<b>\$1,304,633</b>	<b>\$1,322,289</b>

## Somalia

<b>Somalia</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			\$2,474,777
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$7,530,365
Operation			\$12,543,085
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$20,073,450</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$22,548,227</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Coordination, mine risk education, survey and clearance (south-central)	\$25,323	\$318,782	\$344,105
Coordination, mine risk education, survey and clearance (north)	\$52,967	\$4,449,186	\$4,502,154
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$78,290</b>	<b>\$4,767,968</b>	<b>\$4,846,258</b>
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$4,765,553
Operation			\$7,937,828
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$12,703,381</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$78,290</b>	<b>\$4,767,968</b>	<b>\$13,047,486</b>

## South Sudan

<b>South Sudan</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			\$2,609,658
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$3,594,886
Operation			\$13,288,047
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>\$16,882,933</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$19,492,591</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
			-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$1,123,409
Operation			\$4,152,539
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$5,275,948</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$5,275,948</b>

## Sudan

<b>Sudan</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			\$4,189,054
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$5,351,930
Operation			\$19,782,739
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$25,134,669</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$29,323,723</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Integrated landmine and ERW survey and clearance	\$2,978,207	\$7,452,407	\$10,430,614
Technical assistance and coordination	\$301,648	\$3,870,172	\$4,171,820
Mine risk education	-	\$259,045	\$259,045
Victim assistance	-	\$1,182,459	\$1,182,459
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,279,856</b>	<b>\$12,764,084</b>	<b>\$16,043,939</b>
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$5,335,043
Operation			\$19,720,316
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$25,055,359</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,279,856</b>	<b>\$12,764,084</b>	<b>\$41,099,298</b>

## Sudan – Abyei

<b>Abyei</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$1,004,616
Operation			\$5,316,334
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$6,320,950</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Coordination			\$41,813
Operation			\$221,270
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$263,083</b>

## Sudan – Darfur

<b>Darfur</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$4,914,908
Operation			\$5,372,042
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$10,286,950</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011	Total
Coordination			\$3,899,615
Operation			\$4,262,317
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$8,161,931</b>

## Western Sahara

<b>Western Sahara</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			\$186,490
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$640,740
Operation			\$1,104,560
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$1,745,300</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,931,790</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2011	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2011	Total
Clearance	\$78,803	\$409,742	\$488,546
Coordination	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$78,803</b>	<b>\$409,742</b>	<b>\$488,546</b>
From UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget			
Coordination			\$387,477
Operation			\$667,965
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,055,442</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$78,803</b>	<b>\$409,742</b>	<b>\$1,543,988</b>