

# FAST FACTS

## United Nations Development Programme



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### Mine Action

After a conflict has ended, landmines can continue to claim lives, impede development and create a feeling of fear and insecurity.

In addition to death and injuries, when landmines, unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war obstruct roads and poison fields, they threaten productivity, basic social services and access to property and vital infrastructure, including schools and health centers.

The UN estimates **that more than 1,000,000 people have been killed or injured by landmines** in the past 30 years, **71 percent of whom were civilians and 32 percent were children**. Worldwide, the productivity costs associated with landmine and small arms violence have been estimated as high as **US\$163 billion** a year. Although land mine injuries have declined dramatically by as much as 75 percent from 1996 to 2010, it is thought that **110 million active land mines are still scattered across the globe in 68 different countries**.

The United Nations Mine Action community is comprised of 14 UN bodies all working towards the eradication of the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war, to facilitate development and to ensure that victims are fully integrated into society.

### UNDP's approach

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports programmes in 40 countries affected by mines. UNDP works to ensure that Mine Action is incorporated into national budgets and development plans promoting agricultural production, infrastructure construction, water supply, health, education, and the delivery of other basic social services.

UNDP works closely with national Mine Action institutions and local partners to build their capacities to return areas that were previously contaminated by landmines, unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war to communities for their safe and productive use. UNDP promotes the full and effective participation of landmine victims in society and development through rehabilitation and recovery programmes. It also ensures that members of affected communities are enabled to manage the risks posed by mines through educational and advocacy programmes.

UNDP as part of the UN Mine Action Team, advocates for treaties and international legal instruments banning antipersonnel mines and cluster munitions (such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and Convention on Cluster Munitions).



UNDP supports programmes in 40 countries affected by mines. A deminer in action in the eastern DRC city of Kisangani. Photo: Gwen Dubourthoumieu/IRIN

It helps countries to meet their existing obligations under these conventions and destroy existing stockpiles.

### UNDP in action

**Burundi** and **Guinea Bissau** declared themselves mine-free in 2011, after successfully implementing national Mine Action plans developed with UNDP assistance, and meeting their obligations under the articles of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on stockpile destruction and clearance of all mine-affected areas.

UNDP assisted in the establishment of both countries' Mine Action centres and provided long-term technical, logistical and financial support to their national Mine Action authorities.

In **Cambodia**, during 2006-2011, UNDP mobilized more than \$40 million which helped to clear some 50 million square metres of mine-affected land, strengthen national capacities to regulate, coordinate and monitor the Mine Action sector, and ensure a greater focus on the socio-economic impact of Mine Action.

## UNDP in Action (cont.)

In 2011 only, UNDP helped to release some 8.9 million square metres of contaminated land which is now being used to produce food and earn income for the affected communities.

Overall 15,048 people were able to use the cleared land for either housing or agricultural use and about 205,370 people were able to access school, roads, pagodas, and other public infrastructures.

With UNDP's support, Mine Action is now a central element of the National Strategic Development Plan, and Cambodia strengthened the implementation of a 9th Millennium Development Goal related to landmines and unexploded ordnance clearance and victim assistance.

In 2011, Cambodia reached the lowest number of casualties resulting from landmines and other explosive remnants of war ever recorded in the country— 211— from the highest recorded—4,320— in 1996.

The **Tajikistan** Mine Action Centre (TMAC), with financial and technical assistance of UNDP, developed the National Mine Action Strategy for 2010-2015, endorsed by the Government in April 2011, and supported by the Poverty Reduction Strategy and other national development strategies.

UNDP through TMAC provides oversight and quality control for demining and destroying of mines and other found weapons. In 2011, the Centre coordinated and managed the clearance of more than 2,000,000 square metres of the country's mine-contaminated land (105 percent of annual target), which contributed to clearance of 86 percent of the total territory in Tajikistan.

As a result, 38 cleared sites were handed over to the local authorities for further safe use. UNDP and the International Committee of the Red Cross provided financial support to TMAC and the Red Crescent Society to deliver mine risk education to approximately 877 peer educators from communities, schools, local authorities and border units in 24 mine-affected districts— disseminating information to 70,600 mine-affected community members overall. These efforts have contributed to reduce the number of casualties five-fold in just five years— from ten in 2006 to two in 2011.



UNDP supports educational programmes that inform affected communities about the risks posed by mines. At a mine risk education session at a school in Shorish district, Iraq, the students learn about the risks of landmines and the importance of avoiding them. Photo: UNDP

UNDP is working with the **Iraqi government** to plan and coordinate Mine Action activities at the national and regional levels according to the needs and requirements of the National Development Plan and mine-affected communities. 23 new Iraqi National Mine Action Standards approved and implemented with UNDP's assistance have helped to improve the management and implementation of Mine Action in the country. UNDP is supporting government institutions and non-governmental organizations in their efforts to expand assistance to victims of the war, improve services for persons with disabilities and integrate their specific needs into national policies. As a result, in 2011, over 1,693 persons with disabilities received ortho-prosthetic devices, maintenance of devices, physiotherapy, walking aids and vocational training services; 50 participated in income-generation programmes; and the Kurdistan Organisation for Rehabilitation of the Disabled has increasingly been integrated into the Ministry of Health and the overall government health system.



Agriculture starts over in Zubeir, Iraq after mine-cleaning. Photo: UNDP/Jahal Penjwery

In **Colombia**—the second most landmine affected country in the world—a presidential programme to consolidate the capacities of regional institutions to implement actions against antipersonnel mines in six departments kicked off in 2011 with support from UNDP. As a result, four departments have increased their coordination with the mine action national authority, and six have increased their technical, organizational and operational capabilities by 50 percent compared with the initial baseline. UNDP also provided technical support to strengthen the implementation of the national Law mandating the restitution of land to victims of landmines, and formulate the 2011-2014 governmental Action Plan for mine action currently being implemented at the national level.

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