

UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY MINE ACTION STRATEGY: 2006-2010



**THE
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MINE ACTION**

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INTRODUCTION

1. Policy direction. The UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy for 2006-2010 outlines the strategic objectives, activities and indicators for UN mine action. It is informed by “Mine Action and Effective Coordination: the United Nations Inter-Agency Policy” of 6 June 2005 (referred to in this document as “the Policy”) and promotes achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and full adherence to and compliance with relevant treaties and other international instruments, in particular the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty, the convention on conventional weapons and relevant human rights instruments.

2. The strategy has been adopted by the 14 members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, comprised of UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes charged by the General Assembly with assisting and supporting Member States to implement mine action. It is designed to ensure a rational and cost-effective prioritisation of UN mine action activities over the next five years.

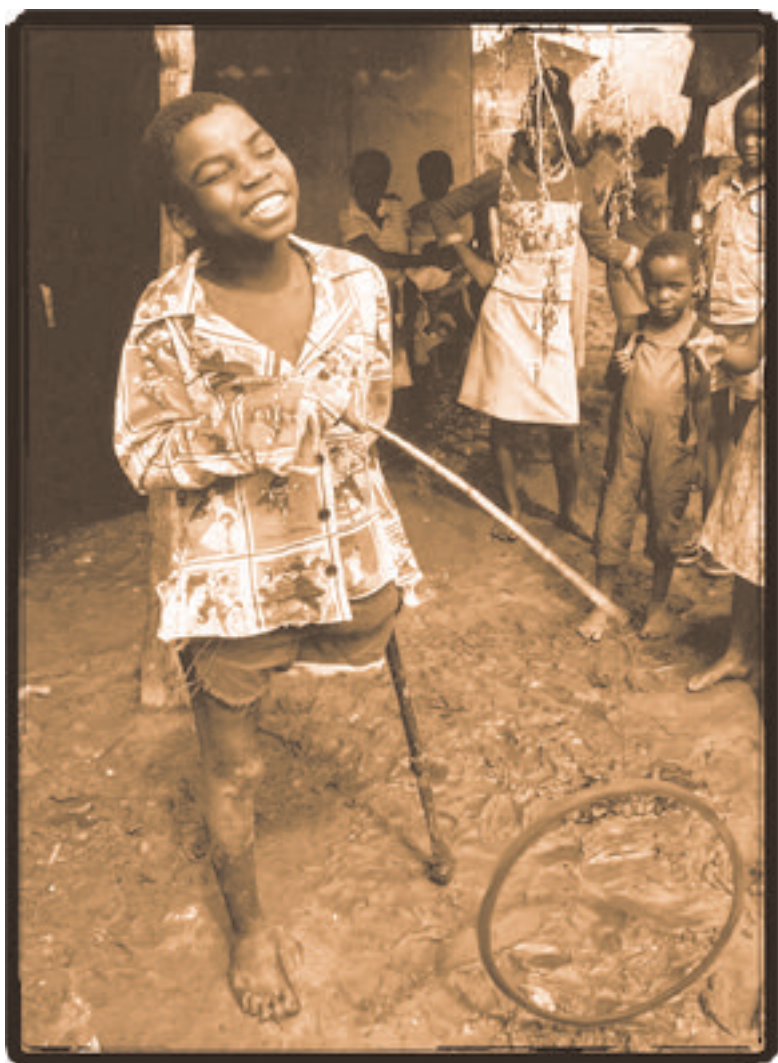
3. The UN will continue to work in partnership with countries affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), affected communities, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), donors and other entities, including non-state actors, to address the threat



posed by landmines/ERW, to build national capacities to manage the current and residual landmine/ERW problem, and to support efforts by national authorities to assist survivors. The UN reaffirms its commitment to the activities described in the Policy, including all five pillars of mine action (mine surveying, marking, and clearance; mine risk education; victim assistance; stockpile destruction; and advocacy) and support for the implementation of UN peacekeeping operation mandates in the field. All UN mine action activities will be examined in light of their contribution to the four strategic objectives set out below.

4. Assumptions. The UN believes that these strategic objectives can be fully achieved in many countries, and significantly advanced in others, within the next five years. The UN maintains that the problem of landmines/ERW can be solved in large measure through continued improvements in the cost-efficiency and effectiveness of operations, as well as through better distribution of resources to those communities most affected and to those mine action programmes that demonstrate conclusive results. The success of this strategy assumes both the current number of landmine/ERW-affected countries and constant funding levels.

5. Planning guidance. The UN mine action team will continuously monitor progress towards the strategic objectives and will conduct annual reviews, conduct evaluations and establish lessons learned, and make corresponding adjustments. UN mine action work plans will address the impact of mine action on men, women, boys and girls and seek to involve them to the extent possible in the planning and implementation of mine action initiatives. The Secretary-General will report to the General Assembly as required. The sections that follow set forth the UN's vision, a situation and risk analysis that have informed the design of this strategy, the UN's strategic goal, and four specific strategic objectives.



VISION

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

SITUATION ANALYSIS

7. Improved capacity. The capacity of the international community to solve the landmine/ERW problem has improved significantly in the last five years. Better understanding of the impact of these munitions, and the active involvement of those directly affected, have enabled mine action implementers to improve the prioritisation of mine action tasks. More effective tools to reduce risk have contributed to steadily declining casualty levels. National ownership of mine action programmes has proven critical to long-term success.

8. Treaties and conventions. Adherence to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and the convention on conventional weapons demonstrates the commitment of the international community to work together to address the impact of landmines/ ERW. The adoption by States Parties to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty of the Nairobi Action Plan in 2005, which the UN fully supports, provides further evidence of widespread, renewed commitment to the obligations codified in the treaty.

9. Diminished use. The use, production, sale and transfer of anti-personnel landmines declined significantly from 1999 to 2005.

* Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy, 6 June 2005.



As of 2005, there was no evidence or serious allegation of use of anti-personnel landmines by anti-personnel mine-ban treaty States Parties or Signatories. Still, at least three governments, not party to the treaty, were reported to be using anti-personnel landmines, and armed non-state actors were using anti-personnel landmines in at least 13 countries.*

10. Resources. Adequate and sustained funding will be required to achieve the objectives of this strategy. The costs of implementation will, to the extent possible, be reflected in the annual Portfolio of Mine Action Projects. The experience of the last seven years suggests that many donors will continue to provide financial resources through 2010 and beyond if the mine action community continues to demonstrate progress towards completion commensurate with the investment of resources in this sector.

11. Institutional flexibility. The mine action sector demonstrates an increased willingness to evaluate experience, build on successes, learn from mistakes, and undertake new approaches to address the threat of landmines and ERW. There is also a serious commitment to the creation of nationally supported institutional capacities. The national mine action authorities and mine action coordination centres that have proven useful might, in some cases, need to be re-examined, and innovative national institutional arrangements might be required to respond to substantially reduced future needs and new contexts.

12. Remaining challenges. Solid progress has been made but challenges remain. All major stakeholders, such as national authorities, the UN, other international organisations, NGOs, and

* 2005 edition of the Landmine Monitor Report, International Campaign to Ban Landmines; www.icbl.org

donors, must demonstrate an improved commitment to coordination and cooperation, with defined roles and divisions of labour based on comparative advantage to avoid duplication of work and ensure a comprehensive response. National commitment and capacity to assume the long-term residual responsibility of mine action is stronger in some countries than in others. Shifting donor funding patterns from programme support to sector and direct budget support might require innovative approaches to resource mobilisation. Efforts to increase the integration of mine action activities into national development plans and international development assistance frameworks need to be strengthened.

RISKS

13. There are clear risks to the achievement of the goals and objectives of this strategy. Increased levels of armed conflict and insecurity in mine-affected countries and regions can limit access to mine-affected communities or restrict mine action operations. Failure to comply with relevant international obligations and commitments on the part of states and other parties to conflict might pose serious impediments to the achievement of this strategy. Failure to integrate mine action concerns into development programmes and budgets might result in failure to achieve certain strategic objectives. All stakeholders need to be alert to the possibility of declining political and financial support to mine action in the midst of other humanitarian crises and development priorities. Insufficient funding support, or a lack of willingness on the part of partners to work together, are potential obstacles to the accomplishment of this strategy. Essential to its success is the commitment of national governments to strengthen engagement, to do their utmost to allocate national funds, to identify and retain capable human resources in the mine action sector, and to develop and sustain institutional capacities.

STRATEGIC GOAL

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

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

15. In pursuit of the strategic goal, the UN will focus its efforts on the following four strategic objectives.

Strategic objective 1: Reduction of death and injury by at least 50 percent.

16. The major activities are to assist national authorities to:

- a) Establish baseline data as required.
- b) Establish target casualty levels and rates.
- c) Achieve targets through prioritised marking, fencing and clearance and mine risk education.
- d) Ensure the establishment of adequate monitoring systems to measure progress in reducing casualty rates, and to identify survivors.

17. The indicators of achievement are:

- a) At least a 50 percent reduction in the landmine/ERW casualty levels in affected countries by 2010.
- b) The continuing reduction of landmine/ERW casualty rates in affected communities and countries.



Strategic objective 2: Mitigate the risk to community livelihoods and expand freedom of movement for at least 80 percent of the most seriously affected communities.

18. The major activities are to assist national authorities to:

- a) Identify and prioritise communities suffering the highest levels of socio-economic impact and restriction of movement due to landmines/ERW.
- b) Release land and facilities for productive use.
- c) Ensure adequate monitoring systems to measure progress.

19. The indicators of achievement are:

- a) Socio-economic community assets such as pastures, crop land or transportation routes are made available for productive use.
- b) A significant majority of communities enjoy freedom of movement and access to essential physical and social infrastructure.

Strategic objective 3: Integration of mine-action needs into national development and reconstruction plans and budgets in at least 15 countries.

20. The major activities are to assist national authorities to:

- a) Provide national planning agencies with mine action data and other relevant assistance essential for multi-sectoral planning and budgeting.
- b) Advocate in international fora to include mine action in international development policy and planning guidelines.
- c) Support efforts to ensure the rights of landmine/ERW survivors within the context of national programmes and facilities for persons with disabilities.
- d) Advocate for increased resources and support to persons with disabilities, including landmine/ERW survivors.

21. The indicators of achievement are:

- a) National development and reconstruction plans and budgets, and where appropriate, the Common Country Assessment and UN Development Assistance Framework, reflect mine action needs.
- b) Reports of relevant treaty-monitoring bodies reflect compliance with international human rights instruments that protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

Strategic objective 4: Assist the development of national institutions to manage the landmine/ERW threat, and at the same time prepare for residual response capacity in at least 15 countries.

22. The major activities are to:

- a) Provide capacity development support to enable national mine action institutions to manage, coordinate, and implement an appropriate response to the current landmine/ERW problem.
- b) Assist national authorities to identify appropriate national institutions and develop capacities that can meet long-term mine action requirements.

23. The indicators of achievement are:

- a) National institutions that achieve mine action goals and objectives.
- b) Appropriately-sized, trained, and equipped mine action capacities that achieve nationally-defined goals and objectives with little or no international support.

