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United Nations Development Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



# MINE ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



UNDP Iraq irrigation project in Zubeir. Agriculture starts over in Zubeir after mine clearance. (Photo: UNDP Iraq/Jamal Penjweny)

Irrigation canal in Azerbaijan built following clearance by ANAMA the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action. (Photo: Charles Downs)

UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Team, January 2013. Eighteen years after the conflict, the mine situation hampers development in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Photo: UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Chanthavone Inthavongsy is the first woman to become a senior explosives ordnance deminer in Lao PDR.  
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**Mine Action for Sustainable Development**  
**UNDP'S DEVELOPMENT AND MINE ACTION SUPPORT FRAMEWORK**  
**UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)**  
**June 2016**

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*UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in nearly 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.*

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# Mine Action for Sustainable Development: UNDP'S DEVELOPMENT AND MINE ACTION SUPPORT FRAMEWORK'

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With a changing international context as the backdrop, and building on UNDP's core strengths and experience, UNDP's 2014-17 Strategic Plan focuses on making the next big breakthrough in development: helping countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of extreme poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. *In many of the most fragile post-conflict states that count on UNDP's support for sustainable recovery; landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are a significant hindrance to this vision, and to any attempts to achieve a real development breakthrough.* Therefore to be an effective development partner in these settings, UNDP must accompany concerned countries in their efforts to rid themselves of landmines and ERW.

With a more focused agenda on eradicating extreme poverty for the decade to come, designing new ways of doing business is no longer an option but a necessity. In 2016 UNDP's Independent Evaluation Office evaluated UNDP mine action and recommended UNDP "reaffirm its strategic commitment to mine action", and called attention to the need for mine action to be implemented within the context of UNDP's assistance to programme countries. This includes designing and implementing livelihoods and poverty reduction programmes that tackle the connected issues of poverty, inequality and exclusion, while transforming productive capacities, avoiding the irreversible depletion of social and natural capital, and lowering risks arising from shocks. In other words, mine action should be seen as a critical factor in *restoring livelihoods capacities* and *building resilience* to shocks and stresses.

With this in mind, UNDP's approach to mine action will be driven by:

<b>RIGOROUS CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT</b>	Ensuring that the impact of mines and ERW on development is known nationally and that this information is factored into the selection of recovery and development priorities. Assessment also covers policy and institutional capacities required to enhance recovery and livelihoods through mine action.
<b>CAREFUL SELECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL AND TECHNICAL FOCUS AREAS</b>	Assisting countries in selecting and packaging technical and geographical areas of focus that are informed by the assessment and analysis carried out. The technical areas selected are guided by their relevance to and synergy with related areas of focus of the United Nations Development Assistant Framework's (UNDAF) and national development strategies and plans.
<b>SHARP FOCUS ON RESULTS</b>	Measuring contributions to development outcomes either directly or indirectly in terms of human, food and community security and restored livelihoods; other social and environmental indicators are used depending on the focus of the mine action intervention.

UNDP's Development and Mine Action programmes will have **three major areas of focus**: rebuilding lives and livelihoods, building capacity of local and national authorities and supporting international normative frameworks:

## **1) Translating mine action into sustainable development dividends, including human, food or community security and livelihoods**

UNDP aims to help improve the resource endowments of the poor and boost their prospects for food and human/community security, employment and livelihoods by using mine action in:

- i. empowering and protecting people and their communities;
- ii. restoring livelihoods; and
- iii. supporting peacebuilding, recovery and development.

UNDP will establish strong linkages between this goal and the issues of environmental sustainability, governance, gender and resilience.

The key fundamental development dimensions to be addressed by UNDP's Development and Mine Action programme will be as follows:

- Improvement in physical capital (e.g. debris/waste management; irrigation systems, road construction, water and sanitation systems);
- Improvement in human capital (agricultural production; land title issues and land use planning; support to victims/survivors and other persons with disabilities); and,
- Improvement in financial capital (e.g. promoting investments in previously mine affected areas).

UNDP is in a unique position, as its country office and institutional expertise, as well as its privileged relationship with various government sectors and other stakeholders, allow for the key fundamental development dimensions to be addressed through mainstreamed programme planning and management. Once the expected outcomes of a contextualised realigned Development and Mine Action are set, programmes can be considered from a multi-sectoral perspective, partnerships developed within and outside UNDP and responsibilities distributed accordingly.

## **2) Strengthening national institutions that accelerate development benefits, including food, human security, jobs and livelihoods**

UNDP mine action focuses on capacity building of national institutions in line with broader development priorities. This includes support to affected states, with milestones for transition to sustainable national ownership; technical advice, institutional support and capacity development to national authorities; support to the development of national information management and data collection systems, and advocacy for the inclusion of mine action in national development plans and budgets.

In addition to maintaining partnership with mature programmes for the provision of targeted support, UNDP will extend its expertise to countries currently affected by conflict. Lessons learned come from mine action programming and also from other sectors' experiences; they provide a basis to develop new programmes, and recommend agile institutional arrangements. UNDP will work with other development actors, in particular the private sector, and national public service institutions to ensure planning aims at the inclusion, protection and development of affected people and communities at large. UNDP will maintain its role

of initiator, and nurture South-South and triangular collaboration, ensuring the inclusion of development practitioners. UNDP will also maintain its role of facilitator of debates around the universalization of a global disarmament framework and other key sustainable development themes and.

### 3) Supporting international normative frameworks on mine action

Mine Action and UNDP Strategic Plan: The UNDP Strategic Plan provides a good framework for UNDP's mandated areas of mine action work as linked to development, notably global advocacy, capacity development for mine action governance, livelihoods and reintegration, productive employment of vulnerable populations, etc. Mine action contributes to poverty eradication, the reduction of inequalities and exclusion, and peace-building and conflict prevention, and this is linked, in particular, to UNDP Strategic Plan outcomes 1, 3 and 6. UNDP's work on development and mine action will add significant value to the objectives pursued under these outcome areas.

#### Link to the UNDP Strategic Plan and Agenda 2030

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Mine Action therefore will be implemented in the context of UNDP's assistance to programme countries to design and implement livelihoods and poverty reduction programmes that tackle the connected issues of poverty, inequality and exclusion, while transforming productive capacities, avoiding the irreversible depletion of social and natural capital, and lowering risks arising from shocks. Thus, mine action will become a critical factor in restoring livelihoods capacities and building resilience to shocks and stresses.

#### *Mine Action and SDGs*

UNDP's Development and Mine Action initiatives will contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the following ways:

- SDG1 and SDG2: By increasing livelihood opportunities for landmine affected communities and removing landmines from arable land, UNDP will increase the amount of land available for agriculture and socio-economic activities.
- SDG 8: By supporting mine action efforts that catalyze and promote economic growth and job creation for persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors/victims.
- SDG 10: Providing more opportunities and resources to marginalized and impoverished landmine affected communities, and providing assistance and support to landmine victims and other persons with disabilities.
- SDG 16: By removing landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war from communities, UNDP contributes to reducing the number of new landmine accidents and victims.

<sup>1</sup> SP Outcome 1 (Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded); SP Outcome 3 (Countries have strengthened institutions to progressively deliver universal access to basic services), and SP Outcome 6 (Early recovery and rapid return to sustainable development pathways achieved in post-conflict and post-disaster situations).

## ANNEX 1: SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF UNDP'S THREE AREAS OF FOCUS

<p><b>TRANSLATING MINE ACTION INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIVIDENDS IN THE FORM OF JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS; PROTECTING LIVES; RESTORING LIVELIHOODS; AND SUPPORTING RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT</b></p>	<p><b>Support recovery and development in affected communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By assessing capacities and vulnerabilities;</li> <li>• By providing strategies and techniques for human, community and food security; job creation; and market development;</li> <li>• By channelling targeted donor support, private sector and development investments towards improving socioeconomic conditions in mine-affected communities</li> <li>• By building the capacity of local authorities, citizen associations, academia and media in contribution to and follow up of development and mine action;</li> <li>• By liaising with and supporting the development of policies and strategies encouraging the contribution/participation of the private sector;</li> </ul>
<p><b>STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS, INCLUDING LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD AND HUMAN SECURITY</b></p>	<p><b>Support affected states</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In assessing capacities and needs and promoting coordination and management mechanisms that are inclusive;</li> <li>• With technical advice, capacity assessments and institutional capacity building to all concerned sectors (including mine action actors and beyond);</li> <li>• In reaching out to development actors and the private sector;</li> <li>• In promoting inclusive community and national resilience and development;</li> <li>• In developing and implementing national plans with milestones for a UNDP phase out;</li> <li>• In advocating for inclusion of mine action in national budgets;</li> <li>• In facilitating the mobilization of resources and coordination.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS ON MINE ACTION</b></p>	<p><b>Support development of norms through</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy and support for the universalisation and implementation of the APMBC, CCM, CCW and CRPD.</li> <li>• Advocacy for other relevant national, regional and international norm-building processes on mine action, protection of civilians from explosive violence, civil society participation, gender mainstreaming, South-South Cooperation and Sustainable Development.</li> </ul>

## ANNEX 2: MINE ACTION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UNDP's mine action and development initiatives contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) in the following ways:

**Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere:** Ensuring mine action contributes to sustainable jobs and livelihoods as well as enabling conditions for socio-economic development.

**Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture:** Prioritizing and linking mine action efforts to sustainable agricultural development, enabling previously contaminated land to be used for cultivation. Mine action can also open trading (and relief) routes and marketplaces, enabling better distribution and access to food.

**Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages:** Prioritizing mine action efforts that improve access to health services, as well as reducing landmine and ERW casualties, encourage better data collection and management regarding victims and survivors, and aiding survivor/victim assistance.

**Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning:** Prioritizing mine action programs that contribute to access to schools, and supporting mine risk education.

**Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls:** Championing mainstreaming of gender considerations in mine action assessment, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

**Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all:** Prioritizing mine action efforts that improve access to water and sanitation services.

**Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all:** Prioritizing mine action efforts that contribute to sustainable energy and electrification access.

**Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all:** Prioritizing mine action efforts that catalyze and support economic growth and job creation, including for persons with disabilities, like landmine survivors/victims.

**Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation:** Prioritizing mine action efforts that open access to the development of crucial infrastructure.

**Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries:** Designing mine action programmes that foster participation and inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized people, including survivors/victims.

**Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable:** Prioritizing urban mine action that make densely populated areas safer.

**Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns:** Developing mine action programmes that contribute to sustainable use of natural resources and effective waste management.

**Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources:** Prioritizing mine action projects that open access to ports and sustainable use of coastal regions.

**Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss:** Prioritizing mine action programmes that aid in the management of forests and national parks; encouraging the use of demining techniques that limit damage to soil and biodiversity.

**Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies:** Encouraging return of displaced people, opening freedom of movement in a post-conflict society, decreasing fear and threat of the "frozen violence" of landmines and other ERW. Mine action often plays the role of a confidence-building measure in post-conflict societies.

**Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development:** Building linkages between stakeholders.



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