

# FAST FACTS

United Nations  
Development Programme



## UNDP's support to Mine Action

### What is Mine Action?

Mine Action entails more than removing landmines from the ground. It is about ensuring an environment in which people can live safely and which brings economic and social well-being.

The 5 "pillars" of Mine Action are:

- ✓ **Demining:** surveying, clearing, and destroying landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW);
- ✓ **Victim assistance:** providing assistance and rehabilitation and reintegration services to victims;
- ✓ **Mine-risk education:** mitigating risk by helping people understand how to stay out of harm's way; preventing new victims;
- ✓ **Advocacy:** promoting a total ban on antipersonnel landmines and cluster munitions and compliance with relevant international legal instruments;
- ✓ **Stockpile destruction:** helping countries destroy their stockpiles of landmines and ERW.

### UNDP's work in Mine Action

UNDP is involved in all 5 pillars of Mine Action and its focus depends on each country's needs and priorities. It provides technical and advisory Mine Action services in about 40 countries worldwide. Other issues universal to UNDP's mandate in Mine Action include:

- ✓ Helping countries to **effectively manage** Mine Action plans and clear mine-affected land.
- ✓ Integrating Mine Action into **national development plans** and budgets covering different sectors (agriculture, infrastructure, health, education, water supply);

### MATTERS OF FACT

Number of be countries affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war in 2009: **66 states and 7 territories**; UNDP supports Mine Action programmes in **40** of them.

People estimated to have been killed or maimed by landmines in the last 30 years: **over 1,000,000**; of which **71 percent** were **civilians**, and **32 percent children**.

Number of new casualties in 2009: **4,000**— down over **75 percent** from a high of 26,000 annual casualties in 1997.

International funding for Mine Action in 2009: **\$449 million**

Area cleared of mine/ERW contamination in 2009: **An area over five times the size of Paris**. **80 per cent** of recorded clearance occurred in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Croatia, Iraq, and Sri Lanka

Cluster munitions contamination remains in at least: **23 states**.

Source: [Landmine Monitor Report 2010](#), [International Campaign to Ban Landmines](#).

- ✓ Supporting countries to meet **Treaty obligations** related to landmines & explosive remnants of war, such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities, and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.
- ✓ Ensuring that **gender** considerations and an emphasis on the **role of women** are incorporated in all Mine Action interventions.

### Mine Action and the Millennium Development Goals

Landmines and ERW have an undeniable socio-economic impact on society. Contaminated land prevents access to agricultural and housing land; prevents children from going to school; impedes communities to access health or basic infrastructure and services. In short, Mine Action enables countries to progress in achieving the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs), the eight time-bound development targets that all countries committed to achieving by 2015. See this [chart](#) to see how Mine Action helps countries progress towards achieving the MDGs: <http://www.mineaction.org/doc.asp?d=1336>.

## Highlights: UNDP's Country Support

In 2010 alone, UNDP and the **Cambodian** Mine Action Center cleared more than **6 million** square metres of contaminated land and destroyed **7,000** anti-personnel mines, **150** anti-tank mines and over **30,000** items of explosive remnants of war, such as grenades, rockets and bombs. As a result, an estimated **10,000** families benefitted, either from gaining access to newly cleared land for farming or to sources of irrigation, roads, health centres and other critical infrastructure. Nearly **2,000** students are now be able to attend schools in areas that were cleared of mines in 2010.

UNDP supports the **Iraqi** Government and mine action organisations in clearing explosive remnants of war. So far **18.7 million square meters** of land have been cleared from late 2007 till July 2010, helping **1,500** families return to their farms, and getting **2,400** children back to school. UNDP supports rehabilitation centres in the three Kurdish governorates that have given over **17,000** physiotherapy sessions, **7,000** mobility aids and over **8,500** ortho-prosthetic devices to mine victims. UNDP also facilitated income generation projects for **330** persons with disabilities. UNDP also supports the government in integrating Mine Action into national and local reconstruction and development work.

The **Azerbaijan** National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) in collaboration with UNDP, cleared and certified **143,900,245** square meters and destroyed **627,407** mines and unexploded ordnances in the past 11 years. Part of these efforts enabled **12,000** internally displaced people from **10** villages to regain access to water previously blocked by landmines. With UNDP's support, ANAMA has turned from an institution that depended on international expertise and funding to run its operations, to a fully nationally owned/managed and financially sustainable. It now shares its knowledge with other mine-affected countries, including **Afghanistan**, **Georgia** and **Tajikistan** and it helps develop international Mine Action standards.

In **Mozambique**, UNDP is supporting the Government to fulfil its obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty to clear all known mined areas by 2014 and to addresses residual threats posed by other ERW. In 2010 alone, **136** areas previously blocked to economic development because of landmines and ERW were cleared with UNDP's support; **883** mines and **531** unexploded devices were removed and destroyed; and **37** districts in Niassa, Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Zambezia, Sofala, Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo Provinces, were completely freed of mines.



UNDP works with ANAMA since 1998, supporting their mine clearing operations, mine risk education, and mine victim assistance efforts. By the end of 2010, ANAMA had cleared **41 per cent** % of all currently accessible territories contaminated with mines/UXO as a result of the conflict over Nagorno Karabakh. Photo: UNDP.

The Government of **Lao PDR** sought UNDP assistance with the organization, administration, and funding to prepare for the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Vientiane in November 2010. Together with the Government, UNDP established a Multi-donor Trust Fund for UXO activities in Lao PDR. UNDP is helping Lao PDR meet its obligations under the Convention. At the 1MSP, States Parties entrusted UNDP/BCPR with the executive coordination of work under the Lao PDR Presidency.

In **Lebanon**, UNDP strongly advocated for the ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which was completed on 5 November 2010.

For more information, visit:

[www.undp.org/cpr](http://www.undp.org/cpr)

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