Mine and UXO Mapping & Survey

YEMAC, with UNDP’s support, will establish a remote system of collecting information, collate available data, publish findings and update online sources as new information becomes available, deploy teams to conduct technical and non-technical surveys to accurately define the heat-map findings and update information Management System for MineAction.

Clearance of Mines and ERW

YEMAC is working towards geographically organised according to the assessed mine/ERW contamination impact, and equipped, reaching operational standards according to the International Mine Action Standards and national standards. Technical and non-technical surveys are completed and mine and UXO clearance conducted addressing the impact of ERW and obligations to Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)

Raising the awareness of threats

Mine risk education is provided in affected communities effectively reduces the number of mine casualties. By disseminating targeted appropriate messages, knowledge and understanding of the proper attitudes and practices is improved. Technical assistance, equipment and materials provided under this activity.

Victims Assistance

The activity supports survivors to obtain emergency care, rehabilitation support and vocational training through assessment, identification and selection of implementing partners, survey of survivors, medical examination, provision of surgical, medical and prosthetic and other equipment and materials; and rehabilitation and vocational training for survivors, particularly women.

WHERE

The project contributes to a wider development change which results in enabling, countrywide, Yemeni households and communities to effectively cope with the impact of the crisis and to (re)build their resilience. At the same time, the project strengthens confidence in and preserves and builds the institutional capacities of NMAC, YEMAC and third parties to deliver essential services to citizens.

The project assists in the restoration of normal services; allowing access to the infrastructure; reducing injuries and fatalities all of which are a prerequisite to the normalisation of economic activity in many of the most impacted regions of the country.

The UNDP project ensures NMAC/YEMAC are restructuring where required and are technically competent to conduct the efficient and effective physical operations in order to reduce the socio-economic impact of explosive remnants of war and mines on people and communities.

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The majority of Yemen’s legacy mine and ERW contamination is found in the southern coastal governorates and on the northern border governorates with Saudi Arabia plus Sana’a, Marib, Al Jawf and Hodeidah. Fighting since 2011 has added to the scale and complexity and left widespread contamination throughout much of the country particularly in the western part of the country where the majority of the population reside. Specifically, large tracts of lands are now contaminated with UXO in areas of direct and indirect land warfare and the new threat of unexploded aircraft bombs, particularly cluster-type munitions in the middle and northern regions of the country. YEMAC does not currently have the capacity to deal with the scale of contamination and is neither trained nor equipped to deal with the latest technical threats. During the fluid conflict, the challenges of reaching the most impacted population groups, particularly IDP (Internally Displaced People), are complex and multifaceted. Proactive and preventative measures include risk education, contamination survey and clearance. The reactive component of the project is victim rehabilitation. UNDP’s Mine Action intervention adheres to the UNDP Yemen Country Programme Document (CPD) with the ultimate goal to increase people’s self-reliance and revitalise the local economy.

In support of NMAC/YEMAC, UNDP: assist institution building and capacity development; provide operational support; transfer technical knowledge and assist in resource mobilisation to achieve the following outputs:

OUTPUT 1: Mine and UXO contamination is mapped and impact assessed using primary and secondary sources.

OUTPUT 2: Mines and UXO are cleared in identified priority areas.

OUTPUT 3: The awareness of the threat posed by mines and UXO is increased in affected communities.

OUTPUT 4: Survivors of ERW are more effectively supported and rehabilitated.

The Project outcomes fall into three categories.

• Immediate: better planning by trained personnel; productive land in use; lives improved; safer practices with fewer accidents and lowered stress. These are YEMAC and other partners’ behavioural changes resulting from the outputs.

• Medium-term: by the government; food and economic activity revitalised; better social integration; wider adoption of safe practices and an improved quality of life. These are behavioural changes influenced by YEMAC and their immediate outcomes.

• Society-level: more clearance is conducted reaching a greater portion of the population; health, wealth and well-being of communities is improved; greater compliance with political commitments to the APMBC (and potentially CCM). These impacts are the society level changes the project seeks to achieve.

Impact:

The surveying of mine and UXO contamination and clearance of hazardous areas is an essential component of reducing the impact of the conflict on people.

Key results:

In order to better address the new challenges, the country is facing, UNDP the new project ‘Emergency Mine Action’ started in July 2017. Between July 2017 and June 2018, with the assistance from UNDP, YEMAC cleared an area of over 9.4 million square meters and over 310 thousand different types of ERW of which over 75 thousand were destroyed. The mine risk education activities reached over 118 thousand people, of whom 140 thousand IDPs. The Victim Assistance department of YEMAC, screened over 1,100 survivors of which 337 were directly assisted with various aid. The estimated total of direct beneficiaries of the aforementioned activities is estimated to around 3 million throughout the country.

Challenges:

UNDP plans an equitable mine action response working with YEMAC throughout the country. The intervention is planned against priorities of work, security accessibility and available resources. Mobilising YEMAC’s survey and clearance assets efficiently and effectively is hindered by a lack of high quality contamination mapping, poor funding to the sector and the evolving security threats. At current organisation levels, YEMAC’s capacity for one year is around $15M.