

## DEVELOPMENT AND MINE ACTION

Landmines, cluster munitions and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) pose a threat to people's lives and livelihoods long after conflict has stopped. They also impede humanitarian action and pathways to sustainable development. The vast majority of victims of landmines and other ERW are civilians. More than half of the affected states are least developed countries. Mine action programmes aim to limit, mitigate and ultimately abolish the impact of landmines and other ERW through the five core activities related to mine action; i) mine clearance, ii) risk reduction education, iii) survivor and victim assistance, iv) stockpile destruction, and advocacy.

### UNDP's Approach

UNDP's approach to mine action follows three tracks:

- **Context analysis and needs assessment** to collect information on developmental impacts of landmines/ERWs and developing the required SDG aligned policies and institutional capacities to enhance the overall benefits of mine action programming;
- **Support national and local authorities to undertake planning, prioritization and reporting** of mine action activities based on expected development outcomes;
- **Sharp focus on development results** to ensure measurable contributions to people's lives and livelihoods.

### Focus Areas

**Strengthening livelihoods through Development and Mine Action programmes:** This involves clearing and releasing land for productive uses towards peacebuilding, recovery and sustainable development. It means enabling the construction of core infrastructures such as schools, dams, roads and marketplaces, along with safe access to land for cultivation and water sources and gathering natural resources. Employment in mine action projects often helps crisis-affected communities earn a temporary income and contributes to rebuilding their livelihoods and self-esteem. UNDP's programmes help improve human capital through mine risk education and vocational training for victims and survivors.



Supported by UNDP, the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action is working to clear the country of landmines and other Explosive Remnants of War. Photo: UNDP Azerbaijan.

### Capacity-building of national institutions and civil society:

UNDP provides technical advice, institutional support, mobilization of resources and supports the development of mine action data collection systems to inform policy and programmes to ensure maximum impact. UNDP promotes dialogue on development and mine action, as well as the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized people in decision-making to accelerate the expansion of livelihoods and employment for the poor. In doing so, UNDP advocates for transparent and accountable institutions that deliver sustainable development outcomes. UNDP is strengthening national institutions that include not only National Mine Action Authorities but also ministries and government institutions for sector-led development in charge of economy, tourism, gender, health, agriculture, education, water resources, etc.

**Compliance with international norms:** UNDP advocates for the development of and adherence to international treaties and other normative frameworks that prohibit or regulate the use of weapons. In particular, UNDP promotes the universalization and implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (APMBC); the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM); the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). UNDP helps countries comply with relevant treaties through monitoring implementation, supporting reporting obligations, developing national legislative frameworks and including development and mine action in national budgets.

## UNDP In Action

### Strengthening livelihoods

Globally, in 2018, UNDP provided 170,000 victims in affected areas with sustainable employment opportunities. This included vocational training and access to small grants and livestock, and social rehabilitation in countries such as **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia and Lebanon**.



Farmer Prak Chrin and her family work through former minefields cleared with the assistance of UNDP. Photo: UNDP Cambodia.

- In **Cambodia** over 59,000 people (50 percent female) benefited from the clearance of 12.5 square kilometers between January to December 2018. The number of casualties from landmines and other ERW dropped from 4,320 in 1996 to 58 in 2018.
- In **Lebanon**, more than 107 square kilometers have been cleared, impacting positively on livelihoods more than 305 villages. Around 97 percent of cleared land has been put to immediate socio-economic use.
- **Lao PDR** released 60 square kilometers of land in 2018, destroyed 91,468 unexploded ordnance (UXO), including 72,700 cluster munitions, and reached 141,528 beneficiaries in nine provinces.
- In **Yemen**, with the support from UNDP, the Yemen Mine Action Center activities reached over 1.5 million beneficiaries, clearing over 123 thousand of different UXO during 2018. Over 383 thousand people benefited from Mine Risk Education activities.
- In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, between 2008 to 2018 UNDP supported disposal of over 14,000 tonnes of unsafe ammunition. More than 650,000 people have benefited from increased local community safety.
- In **Angola**, more than 1,000 demining specialists trained with UNDP support have cleared over 160 square kilometers, and helped rid the country of over 297,000 anti-personnel mines, 9,508 anti-tank mines and 491,767 other pieces of ERW.
- In **Albania**, 120 mine/UXO survivors or their family members completed vocational training courses, 39 survivors received prosthetic devices. A total of 185 community organizations implemented small-scale development projects.

### Building capacity

- In **Colombia**, UNDP focused on knowledge generation and information management. The new interface integrated landmine accidents within the national health surveillance system.
- In **Lao PDR**, the efficiency of clearance operations was enhanced, and included a new evidence-based survey methodology. More effective clearance has also attracted more investment in humanitarian area clearance in 2018 and 2019, it contributes to achieve the national SDG18 targets.
- **Azerbaijan** set up a fully functioning mine action agency with the support of UNDP, which integrated sustainable development considerations and now shares experiences with other countries, including **Afghanistan, Georgia and Turkey**.
- In **Tajikistan**, UNDP has been helping to develop the capacity of the National Mine Action Centre, following a Transition to National Ownership strategy.

### Supporting Compliance with International Conventions

- With assistance from UNDP, **Albania, Guinea Bissau, Jordan, Mozambique and Uganda** declared themselves free of known anti-personnel mines, and thus meeting their demining obligations under the APMBC.
- Currently, UNDP is working with **Tajikistan, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Zimbabwe, Yemen, and Turkey to ensure that they** submit extension requests **and that** the plans are linked to national development strategies and have high-level political support.
- **The Government of Mozambique** organized the 3rd Review Conference of the APMBC in the capital city of Maputo in June 2014 with UNDP support. The *Maputo Declaration* called for a Mine-Free World by 2025.
- UNDP served as the implementation support office of the **Convention on Cluster Munitions** from its adoption in 2010 until establishment of a full time ISU unit in 2015. UNDP continues to provide capacity development support in **Lebanon and Lao PDR**.
- UNDP assisted the governments of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Mozambique** to complete the destruction of all reported quantities of cluster munitions, allowing both countries to declare compliance with Article 3 of the CCM.

For more information visit: [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

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