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YEARS

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United Nations Development Programme



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.
© UXO Lao PDR

Mine Action for Sustainable Development
UNDP'S DEVELOPMENT AND MINE ACTION SUPPORT FRAMEWORK
UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)
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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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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With a changing international context as the backdrop, UNDP’s 2014–17 Strategic Plan builds on UNDP’s core strengths and experience to make 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 contexts that count on UNDP support for sustainable recovery, landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are a significant hindrance to this vision.** To be an effective development partner in these settings, UNDP must therefore support the efforts of these countries to rid themselves of landmines and ERW.

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,” calling attention to the need to implement mine action within the context of UNDP’s assistance to programme countries. This means focusing on establishing an enabling environment and needed capacities rather than the actual physical removal of mines. Such an approach involves designing and implementing livelihoods and poverty reduction programmes that tackle the connected issues of poverty, inequality and exclusion while transforming productive capacities, thus helping to avoid the irreversible depletion of social and natural capital, and lowering risks that may arise from shocks and situations of stress. In other words, **mine action should be seen as a critical factor in restoring livelihood capacities and building resilience.**

With this in mind, UNDP’s approach to mine action is driven by a strategy that includes analysis, selection of areas of focus and clear results.

RIGOROUS CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT	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.
CAREFUL SELECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL AND TECHNICAL FOCUS AREAS	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
SHARP FOCUS ON RESULTS	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 the capacity of local and national authorities; and advocating for and supporting the implementation of international normative frameworks.

(1) Rebuilding lives: translating mine action into sustainable development dividends

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

- i. empower and protect people and their communities;
- ii. restore livelihoods;
- iii. support peacebuilding, recovery and development.

UNDP will establish strong linkages between this goal of using mine action to empower the poor and the issues of environmental sustainability, governance, gender and resilience.

The key development outcomes and results to be achieved by UNDP's Development and Mine Action programmes are:

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

UNDP is in a unique position, as its country offices and institutional expertise, as well as its privileged relationship with various government sectors and other stakeholders, make it possible to implement the key fundamental development dimensions by mainstreaming it in programme planning and management. Once the expected outcomes of a contextualized development and mine action plan are clear, programmes can be planned using a multisectoral perspective, partnerships developed within and outside UNDP and responsibilities distributed accordingly.

(2) Building capacity of national institutions that accelerate development benefits

UNDP's mine action has a strong record of successfully building the capacity of national institutions. The majority of UNDP's mine action programmes have "focused on establishing the enabling environment and management capacities rather than the physical process of landmine removal,"¹ and provide three types of assistance: policy and management assistance to local mine action institutions; coordination and resource mobilization, and technical assistance in survey and clearance methods.

¹ UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, Evaluation of UNDP Contribution to Mine Action, New York, UNDP, 2016, p. xi.



Len Pheap recounts how her mother almost stepped on a landmine barely 10 meters away from their house. Pheap asked local authorities to check and clear the surrounding areas. Now, she is able to grow crops on safe ground. “I feel safe for my children,” Pheap adds. © Maria Frio, UNDP

In addition to maintaining partnerships with mature programmes to provide targeted support, UNDP also extends its unique expertise to countries currently affected by conflict. Lessons learned come from mine action programming and 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 key sustainable development themes and the universalization of a global disarmament framework.

(3) Supporting international normative frameworks on mine action

UNDP mine action works with other agencies and programmes to promote international instruments and normative frameworks that comprehensively address the threats posed by landmines and ERW. It advocates for the instruments that prohibit or in other ways regulate the use of weapons in order to protect lives and livelihoods and contribute to peacebuilding and conflict prevention. In particular, the programme focus on 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 Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and its Protocols (CCW); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).



TABLE 1: UNDP MINE ACTION'S THREE AREAS OF FOCUS

<p>TRANSLATING MINE ACTION INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIVIDENDS IN THE FORM OF JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS; PROTECTING LIVES; RESTORING LIVELIHOODS; AND SUPPORTING RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Support recovery and development in affected communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess how people live, their capacities and vulnerabilities;• Provide strategies and techniques for human, community and food security; job creation; and market development;• Channel targeted donor support, private sector and development investments towards improving socio-economic conditions in mine-affected communities;• Utilize the land released for productive socioeconomic development;• Build/rehabilitate community infrastructure for improved livelihoods;• Build the capacity of local authorities, citizen associations, academia and media to assist development and mine action;• Liaise with and support the development of policies and strategies encouraging the contribution/participation of the private sector.
<p>STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS, INCLUDING LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD AND HUMAN SECURITY</p>	<p>Support the capacity of affected states to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess capacities and needs and promote coordination and management mechanisms that are inclusive;• Improve the capacity of all concerned sectors (mine action and beyond) through technical advice, capacity assessments and institutional capacity-building; Reach out to development actors and the private sector;• Promote inclusive community and national resilience and development;• Develop and implement national plans with milestones for a UNDP phase out;• Advocate for the inclusion of mine action in national budgets;• Facilitate the mobilization of resources and coordination.
<p>SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS ON MINE ACTION</p>	<p>Support development of norms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for and support the universalization and implementation of the APMBBC, CCM, CCW and CRPD;• Advocate 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.



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