

# UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME UPDATE

Presentation to the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance,  
Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies

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## Summary

- Today's presentation will highlight several key UN achievements over the past year.
- The country and thematic programmes discussed represent examples of key achievements for many of the goals and objectives of the UN's five-year Mine Action Strategy (2001-2005).
- Our aim is to reinforce the importance of the strategy in the UN's daily work.
- This presentation highlights activities of three UN mine action agencies:
  - United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
  - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

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## UN Mine Action Agencies

- UNMAS
  - The UN focal point for mine action policy
  - Manages mine action programmes in countries facing humanitarian emergencies or where there are UN peacekeeping operations, and where there are no other established response systems
  - Provides programme support to 7 countries
- UNDP
  - Assists governments develop sustainable institutional capacities
  - Supports 24 national mine action programmes
  - Addresses socio-economic consequences of landmine contamination
- UNICEF
  - Focal point for mine risk education (MRE)
  - Helps children/families learn how to reduce their vulnerability to mines
  - UNICEF's new *Mine Action Strategy* incorporates a rights-based approach to programming
  - Provides MRE support to 29 countries

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## UN Mine Action Programmes

The UN currently supports mine action programmes in 37 countries:

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Angola
- Azerbaijan
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Chad
- Colombia
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Georgia
- Guatemala
- Guinea-Bissau
- Iran
- Iraq
- Kosovo (FYR)
- Jordan
- Lao PDR
- Lebanon
- Mauritania
- Mozambique
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Russian Federation (North Caucasus)
- Somalia
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Syria (Golan Heights)
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Ukraine
- Vietnam
- Yemen

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## UN Mine Action Strategy – Goal 1

### Information

Information is produced, gathered and made available to all to help understand and address mine action problems.

- Inter-agency Assessment Missions (objective 1.1)
  - Tunisia, Malawi (2003)
  - Senegal (anticipated 2004)
- Other Achievements (previously discussed by Martin Barber)
  - E-Mine
  - IMSMA

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## UN Mine Action Strategy – Goal 2

### Coordination of UN-Managed Programmes

Mine-action effectively coordinated and implemented in UN-managed programmes and planning processes.

- Afghanistan
  - UNMAS is the lead UN mine action agency in Afghanistan. In 2003, UNMAS raised \$25 million through the UNMAS-administered Voluntary Trust Fund to support 17 mine action NGOs.
  - MRE has been integrated into 2,100 schools and MRE training provided to 1.7 million refugees and 100,000 IDPs.
  - UNMAS and UNDP are currently discussing with the government a transition of the Afghan programme to national authorities, with UNDP capacity building support.
- Iraq
  - As mentioned earlier this week, UNMAS activated the UN Mine Action Rapid Response Plan (RRP) in post-war Iraq. As of 1 January 2004, UNDP is the lead UN mine action agency in Iraq, responsible for assisting the National Mine Action Authority.

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- Sudan
  - Established a national mine action management capability.
  - Addressed humanitarian intervention requirements.
  - Developed a national NGO mine clearance capacity.
  - Developed a national MRE capacity.
  - Developed enhanced surveillance of mine/UXO casualties to determine the scope of the problem as a national health burden.
  - UNDP is currently establishing a long-term capacity building programme in support of the government and the SPLM.

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### Coordination of UN-Managed Programmes

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- Ongoing UNMAS Programmes
  - Cyprus
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo
  - Ethiopia/Eritrea Temporary Security Zone
  - South Lebanon
- New Programme
  - Liberia: mine action support will be provided as part of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).
- UNICEF
  - UNICEF has been engaged in rapid response planning with other UN agencies and participated in all relevant coordination activities.

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## UN Mine Action Strategy – Goal 3

### Assistance to National and Local Mine Action Programmes

National and local authorities effectively plan, coordinate and implement mine action programmes.

- Africa Region
  - Angola, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Somalia
  - **Angola:** UNDP continues to support the establishment of CNIDAH as an effective national mine action authority. Provincial coordination mechanisms have been established. National mine action standards have been developed.
- Asia-Pacific Region
  - Afghanistan, Cambodia, Iran, Laos, Sri Lanka
  - **Cambodia:** Quality Monitoring and Socio-Economic Monitoring teams of the Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA) became operational on 1 January 2004. Mine clearance data has been entered into the CMAA database, contributing to better planning and reporting at the national and provincial levels. Cambodia is establishing an institutional framework for the integration of demining activities within development plans at the commune, district, provincial and national levels. <sup>9</sup>

## . . . UN Mine Action Strategy – Goal 3

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National/local authorities effectively plan, coordinate and implement mine action programmes.

- Arab States Region
  - Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen
  - **Yemen:** One of UNDP's most successful capacity building models. Yemen was the first country in the region to sign and ratify the Ottawa Treaty and to destroy its landmine stockpile. It was the first country to complete a LIS, to develop a mine action strategic plan, and to establish a comprehensive victim assistance programme. The Government contributes US\$3 million a year for mine action.
- Europe & the CIS Region
  - Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Tajikistan, Ukraine
  - **Croatia:** UNDP recently ceased its formal technical assistance to Croatia, with primary responsibility for the national mine action programme having been handed over to the Croatian Mine Action Centre. UNDP will continue to provide ad hoc support as requested by the authorities.

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- Latin America Region
  - **Colombia:** UNDP has recently established a mine action capacity building programme, which seeks to develop a sustainable mine action structure in support of national development plans.
- Management Training (objective 3.5)
  - UNDP has provided management training to more than 400 senior and mid-level mine action managers.
- South-South Cooperation (objective 3.6)
  - UNDP promotes south-south cooperation through its Mine Action Exchange programme.
- Mainstreaming Study
  - UNDP is undertaking a study on mainstreaming mine action within development planning and budgeting processes (with PRIO). To be released at the June 2004 intersessionals. <sup>11</sup>

## . . . UN Mine Action Strategy – Goal 3

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- Capacity Development Study
  - UNDP is undertaking a study on capacity development, including a review of lessons learned (with GICHD). To be released end 2004.
- UNICEF Activities
  - UNICEF supports in-country mine risk education capacity building initiatives in 30 countries.
  - UNICEF's initiatives include a new programme to examine public health and epidemiological issues in mine action. In 2003, UNICEF co-hosted a workshop on the issue with the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- Programmes with Solvable Problems
  - The UN believes that there are a number of mine-affected countries with solvable mine problems. Additional resources and energies should be put into removing these countries from the list of affected states. <sup>12</sup>

## . . . UN Mine Action Strategy – Goal 5

### Mobilisation and Coordination of Resources

Adequate resources for mine action are mobilized and their use is effectively coordinated.

- **UNMAS:** In 2003, the UNMAS-managed Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action raised US\$50 million for its emergency response programmes and for other global UN mine action programmes.
- **UNDP:** In 2003, UNDP mobilized US\$30 million for mine action through its *Thematic Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery*, a new financial instrument to help UNDP address its development priorities. UNDP Country Offices mobilized additional resources at the country level.
- **UNICEF:** In 2003, UNICEF raised US\$12 million for its MRE programmes and for the implementation the UNICEF Mine Action Strategy (2003-2005).

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## . . . UN Mine Action Strategy – Goal 6

### Advocacy

Universal adherence to and compliance with all international instruments and/or commitments that address landmine and/or UXO problems and/or that advance the rights of affected persons.

- UNICEF has developed an **Advocacy Kit and Child Rights Guide** to the Mine Ban Treaty and formulated an advocacy strategy for the UN's Inter-agency Steering Committee on Mine Action (IASC). (objective 6.1)
- All UN mine action partners regularly engage the **senior leadership of the UN Organization** in promoting the mine action agenda. This includes UNDP Resident Representatives, UNICEF Country Team Leaders and the Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, among others. (objective 6.6)

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## CONCLUSION

- Our collective work is guided by the UN's five-year Mine Action Strategy.
- The UN's ultimate aim is to assist national authorities of mine-affected countries to manage all aspects of mine action on their own, ensuring that:
  - Community needs are addressed
  - Mine action is integrated, prioritized and well coordinated
  - Mine action is conducted in support of development needs and promotes confidence and peace building measures
- The UN seeks full national ownership with the financial and technical support of the international community.

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Thank You

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