

# UNDP MINE ACTION



## Cooperation Among Mine-affected Countries

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Education and Mine Action Technologies  
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# Background

- ✓ In recent years, key stakeholders have increasingly recognized the importance of promoting cooperation among mine-affected countries.
- ✓ UNDP Involvement
- ✓ The concept of promoting cooperation among developing countries emerged in the 1970s.
- ✓ The international community recognized the need to increase horizontal exchanges among developing countries (south-south cooperation) to complement traditional vertical north-south exchanges.

## ... Background

- ✓ General Assembly Resolutions (1973-1977): Several GA resolutions adopted calling upon the international community and UN to **increase technical exchanges** among developing countries.
- ✓ UNDP Resolution (1975): UNDP adopted a resolution calling for increased emphasis on **government-execution of development projects** and for **south-south cooperation** in the implementation of technical cooperation programmes.
- ✓ UN Conference on Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries (1978): Set out a comprehensive framework for promotion of cooperation.

# UN Commitment to Promoting Cooperation Among Mine-affected Countries

- ✓ The UN regards promotion of cooperation among mine-affected countries as one of its highest priorities.
- ✓ This commitment is reflected in the UN Five-year Mine Action Strategy, which provides strategic direction to UN efforts to promote cooperation among mine-affected countries.

# Why Cooperation Among Mine-affected Countries?

- ✓ Affected Countries Share Similar Challenges:
  - o resumption of normal life
  - o repatriation of refugees and IDPs
  - o rehabilitation of affected communities
  - o reconstruction and development of affected communities
- ✓ Information Sharing: Exchanges of views about how individual countries have been affected by mines, and how they have tackled their mine problems, can be valuable to other mine-affected countries.

# ... Why Cooperation Among Mine-affected Countries?

- ✓ Every national mine action programme has its unique strengths and opportunities for improvement.
- ✓ Individual lessons learned complement the more traditional means of technical assistance that the international mine action community provides.

# Potential Areas of Cooperation

- ✓ Exchanging technical materials.
- ✓ Sharing trials, research and training facilities.
- ✓ Pooling technical equipment on a regional basis may increase economies of scale and returns on investments.
- ✓ Sharing experiences and expertise on general approaches to implementing mine action programmes.
- ✓ Demonstrating how countries with similar histories and backgrounds are tackling the mine problem on a human, rather than purely technical, level.

# Practical Steps to Promoting Cooperation Among Mine-affected Countries

## Mine Action Exchange Programme (MAX)

- ✓ Provides a practical means of fostering cooperation among mine-affected countries.
- ✓ Provides a mechanism for the staff of mine action programmes to undertake short assignments to other programmes or mine action organizations.
- ✓ Seeks to develop and strengthen relationships among indigenous mine action programmes.
- ✓ Share different perspectives on mine action.



# ... Practical Steps to Promoting Cooperation

## Mine Action Exchange Programme (MAX)

- ✓ Mature programmes share lessons learned with new programmes on how to avoid costly mistakes.
- ✓ New programmes share lessons learned with mature programmes on systems and approaches that may differ from more traditional approaches.
- ✓ MAX Participants to Date: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Croatia and Mozambique.
- ✓ Planned 2003 Exchanges: Albania, Cambodia, Somalia and Yemen.

# How the Concept Can Further be Promoted?

- ✓ Develop an information system that provides relevant details about different mine action programmes.
  - ✓ Create an inventory of expertise and support that programmes are willing to offer each other.
  - ✓ Identify potential areas of cooperation and specific areas of need when formulating mine action plans.
- ✓ Ensure that national mine action policies encourage cooperation among affected countries.
- ✓ Engage donors to support south-south cooperation.

# Conclusion

- ✓ Cooperation among mine-affected countries is an important complement to more traditional types of technical and financial support.
- ✓ UNDP regards cooperation among mine-affected countries as an integral part of its programme activities.
- ✓ UNDP will continue to expand the MAX programme.

# ... Conclusion

## Increase Senior Political Engagement

- ✓ UNDP has been approached by some mine affected countries to assist with a mechanism to bring together mine-affected countries at a higher political level.
- ✓ Such a forum would help strengthen technical cooperation among mine affected countries.
- ✓ They would also provide an opportunity to strategize with the donor community on the types of assistance required in the field.

*We look forward to working with you on these initiatives.*



Thank You