



UNMAS

THE UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION SERVICE

Annual Report | 2010

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Foreword

As Chair of Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action, I present to you the 2010 Annual Report of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

The architecture of the United Nations is focused on five key areas: peace and security, humanitarian affairs, economic development and social progress, human rights and international law. No other weapon impacts so widely and so deeply on these areas as landmines. To understand the work of UNMAS is to understand the work of the United Nations as a whole.

Mine action activities coordinated by UNMAS at both the global and field levels have contributed to the steady and significant reduction of the threat posed by landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) as well as unmanaged ammunition depots and weapons stocks, and allowed for the return of land that is safe and conducive to development to individuals and communities. The direct impact of UNMAS programmes can be seen in Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Lebanon, Nepal, Somalia, Sudan and Western Sahara. The work of UNMAS as the United Nations focal point and coordination body for mine action serves to raise the profile of mine action work globally and advance a critical advocacy agenda for participation in and adherence to international humanitarian, human rights and disarmament norms related to mine action.

Our work in helping to protect and empower local communities contributes to wider humanitarian, peace and development dividends, and delivers concrete and measurable results. Our success stories are the product of the generous support provided by UN Member States' funds allocated by the UN General Assembly for the mine action components in seven peacekeeping operations, and by donors' considerable extra-budgetary funding support. Despite challenges, 16 donor governments, the European Union (EU), the Common Humanitarian Trust Fund for Sudan (CHF) and students from Pace University in New York contributed to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF). The VTF received US \$63.5 million throughout the reporting period, compared to US \$90.7 million in 2009 and US \$92.5 in 2008. The 30 percent decrease in incoming funds is palpable and expected to have an impact on UNMAS operations in 2011.

The top three donors contributed 71.9 percent of all voluntary funds: Japan provided US \$18.5 million of the VTF resources (29.1 percent), Canada US \$17.2 million (27 percent) and the Netherlands US \$10 million (15.7 percent). In line with the Principles of Good Practices in Humanitarian Donorship, US \$1.7 million (2.6 percent) of unearmarked funds were provided by the governments of Andorra, Estonia, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Sweden, and by the students of Pace University, a sum comparable with that received in 2009. Moreover, the governments of Australia, Canada, Finland and the United Kingdom, the CHF and the EU generously remained committed to multi-year funding.

The important contribution to global peace and security made by UNMAS, the UN focal point for mine action and lead for the Mine Action Area of Responsibility under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Cluster Approach, inspires other entities within the United Nations. UNMAS, together with its partners, also generates valuable operational and managerial best practices transferable to other sectors. I appeal to present and future UNMAS partners to continue extending their support to this important cause throughout 2011 and beyond.

Alain Le Roy
Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

Executive Summary

In 2010, UNMAS continued its work at the global and national levels to help eliminate the threats of landmines and ERW. Adherence to existing normative frameworks and commitments to new ones was a particular focus. The Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014, adopted in December 2009, renews global commitment to the full and universal implementation of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. On 1 August 2010, the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force, further solidifying international support for eradicating these indiscriminate weapons.

Global coordination and consultation were also major priorities. As the Chair of the IACG-MA, UNMAS coordinated a number of key inter-agency processes, such as the engagement of the Joint Inspection Unit in a global evaluation of UN mine action assistance, as requested by the UN General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General's Policy Committee in the 2010 "Review of Mine Action Arrangements." Following the Committee's recommendations for mine action coordination, UNMAS made significant progress in fully activating mine action as an Area of Responsibility within the UN Global Protection Cluster. This helps to facilitate more predictable, accountable and effective mine action responses and operational support in complex emergencies, natural disasters and other such situations.

At the field level, UNMAS, with its partners, has produced tangible results that are improving the safety and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people. In Afghanistan, an expansion of community-based demining has empowered women, men, girls and boys and supports ongoing stabilization efforts. An increase in donor support for mine action in Afghanistan allowed a more ambitious programme of work and expedited progress towards clearance objectives.

The mine action programme in Chad tracked a notable reduction in reported casualties from 51 in 2009 to just 17 in 2010. In addition, 78 percent of cleared land is intended for agricultural purposes, thus contributing to the livelihoods of thousands of people. UNMAS assisted the deployment and operation of the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), and backed the attainment of its mandated objectives of enhanced rule of law, human rights, regional peace and the protection of civilians.

UNMAS capacity development assistance to the Presidential Programme for Integrated Mine Action in Colombia (PAICMA) commenced in April, providing expert technical guidance to develop a comprehensive operational coordination system for civilian mine clearance. With UNMAS support, national authorities drafted National Guidelines and Technical Standards, and established procedures for accreditation, quality assurance and information management.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, an UNMAS programme continued to define the extent of the mine and ERW problem, one of the few challenges in the country that can be solved with a modest level of resources. In a strong new demonstration of national commitment, the National Assembly approved legislation for mine action. UNMAS continues to provide operational support to the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), which has a new mandate that encompasses assisting the Government in enhancing its demining capacity.

In Gaza, UNMAS overcame significant logistical and security challenges to deliver technical support and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) required to ensure the safe removal of rubble so that public facilities such as roads and schools could be rebuilt. This has provided access to essential services, stimulated the local economy, and aided the recovery of housing. UNMAS

completed the tasking and verification of risk assessments of 567 sites, information that is estimated to directly benefit 22,617 people.

In Lebanon, training, accreditation, technical and quality assurance support to the clearance assets of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) made possible the marking of portions of the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon, which is a crucial step towards long-term peace and security in Lebanon and the surrounding region.

Through the capacity development work of the UNMAS programme in Nepal, the Nepal Army planned, managed and implemented mine action through four fully outfitted military demining platoons operating in compliance with international clearance standards. The teams achieved higher efficiency in clearance and management than in previous years.

The UNMAS programme in Somalia expanded risk education to hard-to-reach areas in the South-Central region, and conducted the first systematic survey of mine and ERW contamination in Mogadishu. Completed in two districts, the survey identified 52 dangerous areas. The programme also assumed responsibility for assisting with capacity development for local authorities in the north of the country. As part of UN support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), UNMAS implemented the Explosive Management Support to AMISOM (EMSA) project, and has been providing training, mentorship and other forms of assistance to improve the capacities of the engineering units of the peacekeeping force. The establishment of EOD operations within the Transitional Federal Government provided a national capacity to assist South-Central Somalia, with the potential to expand coverage to all 10 regions.

In Sudan, 7,100 kilometres of roads were opened in 2010. Ninety-six percent of roads with clearance requirements have now been released, which facilitates increased freedom of movement, the recommencement of trade, reconstruction, infrastructural development and agricultural activities. UNMAS continued to support the mine action mandates of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), and helps build national institutional mine action capacities that foster stability, and sustainable, long-term peace-building.

The UNMAS programme in Western Sahara operates as part of the UN Mission for the organization of a Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). It experienced considerable growth in 2010 and developed a capacity that allows for accelerated threat reduction. This enabled the release of over 6.8 million square metres of land, making it safe for livelihood generation and future refugee returns.

Globally, to provide consistent, timely support to mine action programmes, the UNMAS Standing Mine Action Capacity (S-MAC) was established and conducted a number of assessment missions. It also provided interim backstopping to programmes to prevent personnel gaps from affecting coordination activities.

In the area of disarmament, UNMAS provided technical expertise to inter-agency colleagues in devising the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS), and continued to assist the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in establishing the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.

UNMAS sought to keep mine action in the international eye through extensive global press coverage of mine action generated by the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, development of new publications, greater representation through social media,

and special projects such as the awareness-raising trip to Afghanistan in June by the Academy Award-nominated actor Jeremy Renner.

Acronyms

AAR-Japan: Association for Aid and Relief-Japan
AAR VTD Association for Aid and Relief, Vocational Training for the Disabled
ACF: Action Against Hunger
ACTED: Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
AMISOM: African Union Mission in Somalia
CAP: Consolidated Appeals Process
CASA: Coordinating Action on Small Arms
CCM: Cluster Munitions Coalition
CHF: Common Humanitarian Trust Fund for Sudan
CHF: Cooperative Housing Foundation International
CIDA: Canadian International Development Agency
CNAMS: National Mine Action Centre in Senegal
CND: National Demining Centre
CPN (M): Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
CRS: Catholic Relief Services
DCA: DanChurchAid
DDG: Danish Demining Group
DFAIT: Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
DIS: Integrated Security Detachment
DMC: Department of Mine Clearance
DPKO: Department of Peacekeeping Operations
EOD: Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW: Explosive remnant of war
EU: European Union
CPA: Comprehensive Peace Agreement (Sudan)
FARDC: Congolese Armed Forces
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization
GICHD: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GIS: Geographic information system
HAP: Humanitarian Action Plan
HI: Handicap International
IACG-MA: Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action
IASG-CPRD: Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
ICBL: International Campaign to Ban Landmines
ICRC: International Campaign of the Red Cross
IDPs: Internally displaced persons
IED: Improvised explosive device
IMAS: International Mine Action Standards
IMSMA: Information Management System for Mine Action
ISACS: International Small Arms Control Standards
ISESCO: Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ISO: International Organization for Standardization
ITEP: International Test and Evaluation Programme
Lao PDR: Lao People's Democratic Republic
LMA: Landmine Action UK
LMAC: Lebanese Mine Action Centre
MACC: Mine Action Coordination Centre

MACCA: Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan
 MAG: Mines Advisory Group
 MAPA: Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan
 MASG: Mine Action Support Group
 MCPA: Mine Clearance and Planning Agency
 MDGs: Millennium Development Goals
 MINURCAT: UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad
 MINURSO: UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
 MONUC: UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo
 MONUSCO: UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
 MSB: Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (formerly SRSA,
 Swedish Rescue Services Agency)
 MTI: Mine-Tech International
 NAMACC: Nepal Army Mine Action Coordination Centre
 NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 NGO: Non-governmental organization
 NMAC: National Mine Action Centre
 NPA: Norwegian People's Aid
 NRC: Norwegian Refugee Council
 OAS: Organization of American States
 OCHA: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
 OHCHR: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
 OMAR: Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation
 PAICMA: Presidential Programme for Integrated Mine Action in Colombia
 PMAC: Puntland Mine Action Centre
 PNDHD: National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development
 Polisario: Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro
 RIAO: Information and Support Network
 RMA: Royal Moroccan Army
 SIDA: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
 S-MAC: Standing Mine Action Capacity
 SMAC: Somaliland Mine Action Centre
 SPLM: Sudan People's Liberation Movement
 SSDA: Southern Sudan Demining Authority
 SYLAM: Mine Action Synergy
 TDI: The Development Initiative
 UNAMID: United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur
 UNDP: UN Development Programme
 UNPFN: UN Peace Fund for Nepal
 UNHCR: UN High Commissioner for Refugees
 UNICEF: Children's Fund
 UNIFIL: UN Interim Force in Lebanon
 UNMAO: UN Mine Action Office
 UNMAS: UN Mine Action Services
 UNMAT: UN Mine Action Team
 UNMIS: UN Mission in Sudan
 UNODA: UN Office for Disarmament Affairs
 UNOPS: UN Office for Project Services
 UNRWA: UN Relief and Works Agency
 UNSOA: UN Support Office for AMISOM
 UNSOMA: UN Somalia Mine Action

UXO: Unexploded ordnance

VTF: Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action

WRMAO: Western Regional Mine Action Office

WFP: World Food Programme

I. Normative Frameworks: Enhancing Global Peace, Security and Development

Highlights

- Evaluation of UN assistance in mine action as requested by the UN General Assembly.
- Implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Policy Committee decisions.
- Initiation of the new UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2011-2015.

Mine Action at the UN Security Council

UN mine action is conducted on the basis of UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Increased attention to mine action reflects the growing awareness of its strong connections to achieving peace, security and development. It has a broad role in the fulfillment of security mandates for complex peacekeeping and support operations, such as UNMIS, MINURCAT, MONUSCO, the UN Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA) and UNAMID.

Mine action, including problems related to ERW and stockpile management, was referenced in a number of the Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council in 2010. These covered countries and territories with an UNMAS presence, such as:

- Afghanistan: A/64/872–S/2010/318, A/64/911–S/2010/463
- Central African Republic and Chad: S/2010/217, S/2010/409
- Nepal: S/2010/17, S/2010/214, S/2010/214
- Darfur: S/2010/50, S/2010/213, S/2010/382
- Democratic Republic of the Congo: S/2010/164
- Lebanon: S/2010/105, S/2010/352
- Somalia: S/2010/234, S/2010/447
- Sudan: S/2010/168, S/2010/31, S/2010/296, S/2010/388
- Western Sahara: S/2010/175

References to mine action also appeared in the following reports: *Children and armed conflict* (A/64/742–S/2010/181), *Children and armed conflict in Nepal* (S/2010/183), *Children and armed conflict in Philippines* (S/2010/36), Iraq (pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1883, S/2010/76, S/2010/240 and S/2010/406), Liberia (S/2010/88 and S/2010/429) and Syria (UN Disarmament Observer Force, S/2010/296).

Children and armed conflict highlights the fact that during the reporting period, more than 1,000 children were killed or injured in conflict-related violence, including as victims of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), air strikes, rocket attacks, and mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Mine Action at the UN General Assembly

As in previous years, UNMAS followed the negotiation and adoption of General Assembly resolutions referring to mine action and related treaties. These included resolutions on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (A/RES/65/186), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (A/RES/65/48); the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (A/RES/65/89); and on the situation in Afghanistan (A/RES/65/8). The resolutions underscore the central role of UNMAS in supporting the achievement of internationally agreed goals.

Mine Action Agenda

Review of the Implementation of the UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010

UNMAS continued coordinating with UN partners and national programmes to measure progress towards the four strategic objectives of the UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010. Adjustments were made to the previous monitoring methodology based on feedback from national programmes, as well as on an analytical report on initial survey findings up to late 2009. Adjustments realigned some programmatic areas to meet strategic objectives and refined the data-gathering tool.

Preparation of the New UN Inter-Agency Strategy

UNMAS coordinated the development of a new strategy to guide UN work on mine action. Work began in the IACG-MA, which created a dedicated task force. A major element of the process was a brainstorming session involving UN actors and partners in October 2010. The consultation considered the implementation of the current strategy and examined options for a new one.

On behalf of the IACG-MA, UNMAS retained the services of an external facilitator to help guide and implement the strategy development process. This included facilitating the initial brainstorming session, as well as consultations with stakeholders at the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the 10th Meeting of States Party to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. This process will continue into 2011.

Implementation of Policy Committee Decisions on Mine Action Immediately After Conflict

In his report to the General Assembly and Security Council *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict* (A/63/881-S/2009/304), the Secretary-General cited key, recurring areas of support in response to immediate post-conflict situations, including mine action. The report also noted the singular role of UNMAS within the UN system as “a go-to source of knowledge, expertise and capacity” with some rapidly deployable capacity. It pledged to review existing coordination mechanisms with the aim of improving delivery.

From March to July 2010, UNMAS led the preparation of a submission by the IACG-MA and other appropriate entities within the UN system to the Secretary-General’s Policy Committee on mine action coordination in the immediate aftermath of conflict. The submission considered a range of issues, most specifically coordination among IACG-MA members and field

programmes in immediate post-conflict settings, funding mechanisms for responses and the emerging threat of IEDs.

Most significantly, a number of partners called for coordinating mine action responses in immediate post-conflict settings not through the IACG-MA, but through the Mine Action Area of Responsibility, which UNMAS leads within the Global Protection Cluster, which is under the coordination of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The cluster approach was established as part of the Secretary-General's humanitarian reforms beginning in 2005. While the Mine Action Area of Responsibility has existed since the Global Protection Cluster's inception, the perceived effectiveness of the IACG-MA mechanism caused it to remain the principle means of coordinating mine action.

The advantages of the shift to coordination under the Global Protection Cluster, beyond alignment with an approach accepted throughout the United Nations, include engaging with a broader group of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and having a more direct link to senior UN officials and humanitarian country teams to work towards the most robust and appropriate mine action responses.

Evaluation of UN Assistance in Mine Action

In General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/84 (2009) on "Assistance in Mine Action," UN Member States identified "the need for a comprehensive and independent evaluation of the scope, organization, effectiveness and approach of the work of the United Nations in mine action." As indicated in the 2009 UNMAS Annual Report, this resolution was negotiated within the Fourth or Special Political and Decolonization Committee under the chairmanship of Sweden, then holding the Presidency of the EU.

During the debate on the resolution, Member States expressed general concern about the budgetary implications of language in the resolution, including with regards to the evaluation. There was, however, general agreement that internal UN evaluation capacity should be used. Accordingly, UNMAS, as chair of the IACG-MA, consulted various internal evaluation bodies. The Joint Inspection Unit, the only independent oversight body within the United Nations mandated to conduct evaluations, inspections and investigations system-wide, confirmed that such an evaluation was consistent with its mandate. UNMAS subsequently coordinated IACG-MA feedback on draft terms of reference provided by the Joint Inspection Unit, and the process commenced formally in September with some additional funding from the VTF.

Two meetings were arranged with UN Member States to brief them on the purpose, preparation and conduct of the evaluation. The first, in July, involved the IACG-MA briefing the EU, which sponsored the resolution. The second, convened by the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations, entailed briefing members in general. Support for the Joint Inspection Unit to conduct the evaluation was widely expressed; its final report on the evaluation is expected by mid-2011.

II. Coordination and Consultation Mechanisms to Increase Value for Money

Mine action coordination aims to improve the effectiveness of mine action responses at the country and global levels by ensuring greater predictability in response to mine action emergencies, enhancing accountability among mine action stakeholders, and fostering partnerships among and beyond members of the mine action community. At the global level, a number of inter-agency mechanisms contributed to this goal.

Highlights

- Development of IACG-MA ad hoc subsidiary bodies.
- Collaboration on ammunitions management initiatives.
- Support to donor coordination forums.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action

UN departments, offices, programmes, funds and agencies involved in mine action continued to coordinate their activities through the IACG-MA, in accordance with “Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy.” The UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations chairs the group at the principals’ level, and the Director of UNMAS does so at the working level.

The IACG-MA principals met in April 2010 to consider issues including the outcomes of the Second Review Conference on the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty in Cartagena, Colombia in late 2009, the 13th International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors in March, the ongoing review of the inter-agency mine action strategy and the evaluation of UN mine action assistance.

UNMAS chaired 12 working-level meetings of the IACG-MA that discussed current policy and operational issues, and included planning and consultation on major institutional activities. The IACG-MA also served as the forum for developing agreed language for UN speeches and interventions at various international meetings in support of treaties relevant to mine action.

UNMAS provided considerable coordination support to the First Meeting of States Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and related activities, working closely with UN partners through the IACG-MA. UNMAS and IACG-MA partners also supported the 10th Meeting of States Parties to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and its intersessional programme, as well as a range of meetings related to the Amended Protocol II and Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, including those with related groups of governmental experts.

The 13th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors was successfully organized, as were advocacy events connected to the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April. UNMAS worked together with its key UN partners to coherently and clearly represent the UN system.

Within the IACG-MA, UNMAS coordinated a range of task forces and subordinate working groups bringing together UN and other partners to address key issues identified during the year. These included the continued work of the Reporting Working Group on evaluating the implementation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010, and a separate group to ensure effective planning and implementation of a new strategy.

The Committee on Mine Action

At the 13th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors in Geneva in March, UNMAS organized a meeting of the Committee on Mine Action. Formerly known as the Steering Committee on Mine Action, it is an opportunity for the UN and implementing partners to meet and discuss thematic and programmatic issues. The main topics in 2010 included IEDs and mine action in Colombia.

The Mine Action Support Group and Other Forums

On behalf of the UN Mine Action Team (UNMAT), UNMAS continued providing secretariat support to the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), a forum of donors committed to providing political and financial support to eliminate landmines and ERW.

As agreed in 2009, 37 MASG members met in October in New York under the chairmanship of the US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement. For the first time, representatives from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates participated, showing the increasing pool of donors with an interest in mine action. The meeting shared details on financial support to mine action, and received updates from UNMAT and a briefing by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on the way forward for mine action. One member proposed that the MASG jointly undertake an evaluation of some specific countries to understand better the level of contamination, current and projected clearance rates, funding requirements and estimated completion dates, and proposed that donors develop a coordinated program of action for countries evaluated. A small committee was formed to follow up on the suggestion.

The coordinators of the Contact Group on Resource Utilization (Norway) and the Contact Group on Linking Mine Action and Development (Canada) decided to discontinue their work in favour of more formalized discussions on assistance and cooperation during plenary sessions. Consequently, the second group met for the last time during the June intersessionals meeting of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty's standing committees. At the Intersessionals, structured discussions on assistance and cooperation took place under the leadership of the President of the Cartagena Review Conference (Norway).

Following a proposal by Zambia during the 2009 Cartagena Review Conference, the 10th Meeting of States Parties to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty established a new Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance, with Albania presiding in 2011. Structured discussions on assistance and cooperation will now take place under the new committee.

The 13th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors

The 13th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisors took place in March in Geneva. Organized by UNMAT in partnership with GICHD, the meeting

provided an opportunity for nearly 300 mine action stakeholders to assess progress achieved and future challenges.

The meeting agenda comprised plenary sessions on emerging concerns, and thematic working groups on policy and programmes. As has been the trend, national directors took an increasing role in chairing and facilitating the sessions. The plenary sessions featured discussions on emerging trends in mine-action related treaties—namely, the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—and their implications for national programmes.

The UN inter-agency strategy review process was presented, and national mine action strategies were discussed. Thematic working group sessions led by national directors gave focused attention to such programme and policy concerns as operational productivity and effectiveness, sustainable national mine action capacity, community-focused mine action, and resource mobilization and management. The meeting also introduced the newly revised UN Gender and Mine Action Guidelines, provided an update on opportunities for cooperation with the World Bank on sharing data from the UN mine action strategy review in 2009, and conducted a resource mobilization training session. In an evaluation survey, participants signaled that the meeting was beneficial.

Portfolio of Mine Action Projects

An annual publication, the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects draws on the coordinated inputs of UN agencies, national authorities, NGOs and donors, with guidance from the headquarters portfolio team. The team is led by UNMAS, and includes the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

The portfolio provides an overview of how affected countries plan to address the problems of landmines and ERW in partnership with international organizations, NGOs and other actors at local, national and international levels. It offers a collection of mine action project proposals for responding to landmines and ERW that complements the Landmine Monitor Report by reflecting projects endorsed at the national level and carried out by government authorities, NGOs and UN entities. Participation in the portfolio is open to all mine action actors.

The portfolio is a resource mobilization tool with a wider coordination function. Focused mainly on activities in affected countries, it provides visibility for smaller programmes in communicating achievements and requirements to a wider global audience. It builds local capacities in the areas of proposal writing, budget development and strategic planning. An online version requires fewer resources and allows the IACG-MA to redirect resources previously spent on printing, designing and editing.

On behalf of the IACG-MA, UNMAS organized a comprehensive review of the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects process. The outcomes were encouraging and demonstrated the continued utility of the portfolio, and at the same time the need to strengthen some elements of the process and aims. The key outcomes of the review included relocating the online portfolio to the front page of www.mineaction.org to raise the visibility of the online database and foster wider use. To encourage current and potential mine action donors to use the portfolio, beginning in 2012, the headquarters portfolio team will present trends and projections similar to those employed by the UNDP's well-received Multi-donor Trust Fund reports. This will require the development of a methodology and templates for analysis following criteria identified by donors.

The UN headquarters portfolio team will increase coordination with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva to ensure the consistency of information on the mine action sector in both the portfolio and the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) Financial Tracking Service. The deadlines of the portfolio process will be synchronized with annual CAP deadlines.

Integrating Mine Action into Humanitarian Appeals

Mine action portfolio country team members continued to participate in humanitarian appeal working groups to advocate for the inclusion of mine action projects in humanitarian plans as well as consolidated appeals. Among humanitarian appeals, mine action requirements were included in those for Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza, Somalia and Sudan. Bilateral contributions and multilateral support to the VTF covered half of the total appeal of US \$330 million.

In Afghanistan, UNMAS received US \$101,499,861, US \$41,483,169 of which came through the VTF as part of its US \$258,356,564 appeal. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNMAS coordinated partners who received US \$1,701,200 under the Protection Cluster as part of the US \$837,616,628 Humanitarian Action Plan. In Gaza, UNMAS received US \$2,886,188 as part of its US \$3,395,038 request. The Somalia appeal of US \$3,307,914 received US \$2,452,965. In Sudan, a total of US \$8,006,051 was provided under the US \$78,556,100 appeal for mine action.

Collaboration with Ammunition Management Initiatives

UNMAS continued to actively participate in the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism, chaired by UNODA, to build on commonalities between mine action and ammunition management. UNMAS technical expertise assisted the development of the ISACS, based to a certain extent on the model provided by the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). CASA principles are slated to adopt the final draft of the ISACS in late 2011.

For the workshop “Shaping, Fine Tuning and Finalizing International Small Arms Control Standards,” UNMAS delivered a presentation on IMAS. The purpose of the workshop, held in Geneva in November, was to assist the second phase of the consultation, assess the overall progress of the initiative, conduct focused discussions on specific themes and provide guidance on maximizing the impact of final consultations.

UNMAS continued to assist UNODA in developing International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. As a member of the technical review board and participant in consultations to operationalize the guidelines, UNMAS will support their roll-out.

It helped UNODA present the concept behind the guidelines and highlight their utility to peacekeeping and national armies at the Second General Assembly of Latin American Peacekeeping Training Centres in Rio de Janeiro in August. Participants welcomed the guidelines. Visits were made with Rio de Janeiro’s police to look at small unit explosive holdings, a key late addition to the draft guidelines.

III. Operational Effectiveness: Enabling Wider Humanitarian, Peace and Development Dividends

Highlights

- Consolidation of the Global Protection Cluster's Mine Action Area of Responsibility.
- Establishment of S-MAC.
- Integration of victim assistance in national health sectors.

International Mine Action Standards

The IMAS continue to provide guidance to mine-affected countries on the development of national standards and legislation. In March, UNICEF submitted a revised version of the mine risk education IMAS to the IMAS Review Board, which is chaired by UNMAS. UNICEF coordinated drafting in a consultative process that involved UNMAS participation. The Mine Risk Education Advisory Group approved the revision, which consolidated seven standards into one. No additional standards were presented for approval.

In 2010, a range of significant international meetings confirmed the importance of the IMAS. Participants at the 10th Meeting of States Parties to the anti-personnel mine ban treaty noted with appreciation the IMAS on land release, non-technical and technical surveys, and clearance, and encouraged affected states to implement them to accelerate compliance with Article 5 of the convention. Action 15 of the Vientiane Action Plan, adopted by the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, also strongly reflected the IMAS.

Developing and Applying New Technologies

UNMAS and GICHD hosted the Third Mine Action Technology Workshop in Geneva in September, which was attended by 75 participants, including field operators, scientists, and manufacturers of mine detection and clearance equipment from 31 countries and programmes. This year's theme was "Merging Mine Action Technology and Methodology." Presentations and discussions were divided into three sub-themes: remote sensing and information management; technology and methodologies in the field and mechanical demining; and EOD and stockpile destruction and technology testing, evaluation and support systems. For the first time, commercial manufacturers had the opportunity to present their wares, an addition appreciated by the majority of participants as a unique opportunity to examine the latest technology in one location. Participants noted that presentations were higher in quality than in past workshops, and discussions were more concrete and constructive. UNMAS contributed to the workshop with a grant of just over US \$29,000.

As noted in the 2009 UNMAS Annual Report, the mandate of the International Test and Evaluation Programme (ITEP) came to an end in June 2010. UNMAS had served as an observer on the ITEP Executive Board and Board of Directors. Its valuable work continues to be available through the GICHD website.

UNMAS contributed to the work of GICHD on mine action technology with US \$65,000 from a contribution by the Government of Japan to the VTF. The grant supported the positions of a technology officer and technology consultant, as well as outreach activities.

Integrating Mine Action into Humanitarian and Development Programming

The Global Protection Cluster's Mine Action Area of Responsibility, led by UNMAS, has made progress in fully activating more predictable, accountable and effective mine action responses in complex emergencies, natural disasters and similar situations.

In 2010, the Global Protection Cluster deployed a support mission to Afghanistan to assist the Afghanistan Protection Cluster in strengthening its capacities in different areas of responsibility, including mine action. Accordingly, UNMAS dispatched the team leader for S-MAC, who joined colleagues from UNICEF and UNHCR for the mission.

UNMAS programmes continued to be integrated into development assistance planning, including poverty reduction strategy papers and UN development assistance frameworks. In many countries, UNMAS-managed programmes have addressed humanitarian challenges and development impacts by facilitating road reconstruction, and the revitalization of local economies, and trade and agricultural activities, ultimately contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Programmes such as those in Afghanistan and Sudan have also fostered the integration of victim assistance activities into national health and social welfare systems to ensure that issues faced by landmine and ERW survivors are addressed more broadly and sustainably.

MINE ACTION Realizing the Millennium Development Goals

	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<p>Access to previously contaminated agricultural and grazing land improves food security and income generation</p> <p>Clearance of roads allows better access to markets, lowering the cost of inputs and providing incentives for increased production</p> <p>Clearance of heavily-impacted communities allows the sustainable return of displaced persons</p> <p>Socio-economic reintegration programmes for landmine survivors creates sustainable livelihoods for an extremely vulnerable group</p>
	Achieve universal primary education	<p>Clearance of contaminated areas improves access to schools</p> <p>Clearance of wells close to communities means children spend less time travelling long and potentially dangerous routes to collect water leaving more time to attend school and do school work</p>
	Promote gender equality and empower women	<p>Non-traditional employment opportunities for women</p> <p>Socio-economic reintegration programmes for landmine survivors empower female survivors and female heads of household</p> <p>Participatory community consultations about the nature of the mine/ERW contamination problem and priorities for clearance and other mine action activities obtain the views of women and men</p>
	Reduce Child mortality	<p>Improved access to health services and facilities</p> <p>Reduced risk to children resulting from mine risk education and clearance of contaminated areas</p>
	Improve maternal health	<p>Improved access to health services and facilities</p>
	Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	<p>Improved access to health services and facilities</p> <p>Clearance of water and sanitation facilities reduces risk of malaria and other diseases</p>
	Ensure environmental sustainability	<p>Handover of cleared land and land title promotes sustainable land use</p> <p>Improved access to safe drinking water through clearance and construction of wells</p>
	Develop a global partnership for development	<p>Working in partnership with mine-affected countries committed to poverty reduction</p> <p>APMBC is clear that (i) governments of mine-affected states bear the primary responsibility but that (ii) states in a position to assist should do so</p>

Source: GOAD, Linking Mine Action and Development: Guidelines for Policy and Programme Development – Official Development Cooperation Agencies, November 2008



Standing Mine Action Capacity

Highlights

- S-MAC established to provide consistent, timely support.
- Assessment missions, programme backstopping and boards of inquiry conducted.
- Successful completion of the Rapid Response Exercise for enhanced coordination in a mine action emergency.

Impact

The raison d'être of S-MAC is to provide predictable, timely responses in emergency situations, as called for in the UN Secretary-General's report *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of*

Conflict. Well placed for quick deployment, S-MAC performed vital functions in 2010. After a serious injury to the UNMAS Programme Manager in Gaza, S-MAC deployed personnel to cover essential duties at a critical time. S-MAC also provided support to the programme in Sudan by conducting boards of inquiry related to demining accidents.

Context

The United Nations adopted the Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response in 2002 to provide a common basis for planning, monitoring threats and allocating responsibilities, and to ensure a predictable and efficient mine action response at short notice when needed. That response relied on stand-by arrangements that risked depleting existing programmes in favour of responding to emerging or evolving threats.

In his report *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict*, the Secretary-General stated that, “the immediate post-conflict period offers a window of opportunity to provide basic security, deliver peace dividends, shore up and build confidence in the political process, and strengthen core national capacity to lead peace building efforts thereby beginning to lay the foundations for sustainable development.” He also noted, “[I]n too many cases, we have missed this early window.”¹

The report recognized that standing capacities play a critical role in the early planning and start-up phases of missions, and thereby maximize the delivery of peace dividends. As a standing, rather than stand-by, capacity, S-MAC possesses the resources to react in a predictable and timely manner. This is especially useful for the Global Protection Cluster’s Mine Action Area of Responsibility.

The annual mine action Rapid Response Exercise, which makes up part of the Global Protection Cluster work plan, has been the setting for simulating mine action responses by providers and users of mine action services in the UN, NGO and broader international communities. The exercise continued to provide this opportunity in 2010, now within the context of an activated S-MAC.

Achievements: Support from Headquarters

With the introduction of S-MAC, UNMAS headquarters assumed a dynamic role in ensuring that S-MAC deployments, other than those directed by the Mine Action Area of Responsibility, assist existing programmes, and that deployments are well timed and resourced. In 2010, UNMAS conducted resource mobilization efforts with the governments of Spain and the United Kingdom. With a contribution from the Netherlands, UNMAS was able to sustain the capacity to assist in various scenarios.

Achievements: Coordination, Training and Capacity Development

To build rapidly deployable coordination and implementation capacities, and maintain those that exist, UNMAS conducted the 7th Annual Mine Action Rapid Response Exercise in coordination with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) in June. As in previous years, the exercise consisted of the deployment of a UN team with MSB support to establish mine action coordination in an emergency. This year’s exercise differed in that it factored in S-MAC and its impacts on human and material resource requirements.

¹ ‘Peace-building in the immediate aftermath of conflict’ (2009), Secretary-General Report, UN Doc A/63/881-S/2009/304.

The exercise provided opportunities for the United Nations to train selected staff in key positions and for MSB to train staff in supporting rapid response scenarios. It also assisted in validating an enhanced operational manual, including standard operating procedures. The exercise built on improvements made in past years and broadened participation by new groups. All trainees were rated for suitability on future emergency deployments under S-MAC and included in a roster.

Achievements: Operational Coordination

Programme Support

Gaza

Due to a serious injury involving the programme manager in the UNMAS Gaza programme, S-MAC reinforced the programme for six weeks. The support came at a critical juncture in the programme, as demolitions of ERW inside Gaza, a process that took more than one year to organize with the relevant authorities, were ongoing. S-MAC support ensured continuity in operations and allowed the programme to respond to requests for support in other areas of the Middle East region.

Sudan

From October into December, S-MAC supported the programme in Sudan by conducting two boards of inquiry, including in the south on the request of the Sudan Director. Previously, these investigations would have fallen to existing project staff, so S-MAC support reduced burdens on them and increased the transparency of the final reports. S-MAC also supported the Khartoum office in the absence of the Chief of Operations, assistance that proved especially timely as the programme began finalizing the concept of operations to support the referendum process in January 2011.

Poland

In cooperation with the Military Institute of Engineer Technology and the EOD Technicians Training Centre, the Polish Chief of Military Engineering sponsored an international conference entitled “Hazardous Materials: Issues of Detection and Disposal.” The S-MAC Team Leader chaired a question and answer panel on how Polish organizations may become more involved internationally, particularly with the United Nations.

Ukraine

Following a request from the Ukrainian Government, the S-MAC team leader deployed to assist the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergency Services in developing a plan to systematically address the country’s ERW legacy. The mission, hosted by the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergency Services and Ministry of Defense, revealed that vast amounts of UXO resulting from former aerial bombing, ground bases, and artillery and tank firing ranges affect some 150,000 hectares, or 1,500 square kilometres, of public land. Combined with large contaminated areas that came from ammunition storage explosions and the significant remaining legacy from World War II, this puts Ukraine’s ERW problem on a par with countries well known for UXO contamination. The mission highlighted some areas where the United Nations may significantly assist the Ukrainians in a time- and cost-efficient manner. Further support from UNMAS has since been requested.

Technical Assessment Mission in Guinea Bissau

At the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to support elements of UN Security Council Resolution 1876 (2009), UNMAS conducted an assessment mission to

Guinea Bissau to provide guidance and assistance on ammunition management and disposal to national authorities. The mission conducted a preliminary survey of ammunition storage, management and destruction capacities in order to advise the UN Integrated Peace-Building Office in Guinea Bissau on how to help address significant surplus ammunition stockpiles.

Geneva Liaison and Other Support Functions

S-MAC supported the UNMAS Geneva Liaison Office by providing technical advice based on field experience to treaty processes related to mine action, such as the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The S-MAC team leader offered inputs to the Groups of Government Experts for the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons as part of discussions around Protocol V on ERW, Amended Protocol II on anti-personnel mines and a draft Protocol IV on cluster munitions. All efforts were closely coordinated with the mine action section of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

S-MAC assumed the chairmanship of the Review Board for IMAS, and has introduced an accepted justification process to support the development and review of standards. The structure of the Review Board has been amended to reflect changes in mine action.

Landmine Safety

With the support of the Netherlands, UNMAS continued to encourage all UN agencies and organizations to integrate landmine and ERW safety training in their general safety briefings. This was largely accomplished in individual countries through mine action coordination centres and UN security personnel. At headquarters, UNMAS regularly liaised with the UN Department of Safety and Security to ensure that landmine and ERW safety training tools were part of and complement general safety training, especially in countries without dedicated mine action coordination structures.

UNMAS reviewed landmine and ERW safety training to make improvements. Completed in January 2010, the review recommended establishing landmine and ERW safety training on the Internet to ensure that all UN staff and humanitarian aid workers can access it. The review highlighted the need for making training materials available in a range of languages, including French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Dari and Pashto, in addition to English. It supported the ongoing production of the landmine and ERW safety training handbook in its current printed and DVD formats until the material is available online. A potential modification is a module on IED safety. Five thousand copies of the handbook were reprinted, and 2,000 DVDs produced for distribution in 2010.

Gender and Mine Action

Revised gender guidelines for mine action programmes were adopted and launched in 2010. UNMAS, with IACG-MA partners and other colleagues, worked on the revision based on feedback from field-based partners. On behalf of the IACG-MA, UNMAS briefed participants to the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions on the guidelines.

In August, DPKO and the UN Department of Field Support launched “Integrating a Gender Perspective into the Work of the United Nations Military in Peacekeeping Operations.” These guidelines help peacekeepers implement General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on gender equality, and foster security for all sectors of society where peacekeeping missions are deployed. UNMAS has extensive ties to the military component in all peacekeeping missions

with a mine action component, especially UNIFIL in Lebanon and UNMIS in Sudan, where uniformed personnel undertake larger scale demining activities.

From June to August, UN senior officials engaged women civil society representatives during “Open Days on Women, Peace and Security” in 25 countries and territories affected by conflict. This was part of the UN’s continued commitment to the role of women in peace-making, peace-building and peacekeeping, as elaborated in Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). Meetings were held in eight countries and territories where UNMAS has a presence: Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Nepal, the occupied Palestinian territories, Somalia, Sudan and the disputed territory of Western Sahara. In each country, UNMAS field staff was asked to provide input on the role of women in mine action. National meetings culminated in a “Global Open Day” at UN headquarters in New York led by the UN Secretary-General, and senior officials from DPKO and other departments and agencies, including UNMAS.

Victim Assistance

UNMAS’ approach to victim assistance is oriented towards supporting national structures and institutions to integrate it into wider disability provisions within national public health and welfare systems. This supports sustainability and is consistent with basic humanitarian principles that stress avoiding favouring one set of people in need of assistance over another group simply due to the origin of their injuries. UNMAS-supported victim assistance activities in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and elsewhere focus on building broader national strategies that involve key line ministries responsible for the spectrum of victim assistance activities, including emergency medical care, operative and post-operative care, and physical, vocational and psycho-social rehabilitation.

In Afghanistan a decision was made to separate victim assistance from the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA). Activities had expanded beyond what would be appropriate for the centre, and were better addressed through a dedicated programme to assist persons with disabilities more broadly. As an alternative mechanism for channeling VTF funds for victim assistance, UNMAS, in cooperation with the Afghan Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, established the UN Afghanistan Disability Support Programme, which covers people with disabilities, including landmine victims.

Mine Risk Education

UNMAS programmes continue to support mine and ERW risk education activities in partnership with UNICEF and other humanitarian organizations. Activities help reduce risks to civilians, particularly refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). UNMAS also assisted national and local authorities in implementing mine and ERW risk education, and provided guidance on standards. In Sudan, UNMAS supported the translation of the National Technical Standards and Guidelines on mine risk education, making them more accessible to local authorities and implementing partners.

At headquarters, UNMAS contributed to the revised IMAS for mine risk education, which was approved by the IMAS Review Board in March.

IV. Advocating for International Humanitarian, Human Rights and Disarmament Norms

UNMAS advocates for a world free of landmines and ERW, including cluster munitions, and for the full enjoyment of human rights by victims of these weapons. Along with inter-agency and civil society partners, as well as concerned UN Member States, UNMAS has called for the universal adoption and implementation of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Both at headquarters and in individual countries, UNMAS encourages Member States to join these treaties and comply with their relevant obligations.

UNMAS also assists other entities, notably NGOs, that are engaged in advocacy campaigns with states and non-state actors. With funding from the Government of Italy, for example, UNMAS has supported the lobbying and public awareness activities of the Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines and Geneva Call.

Highlights

- Support to implement the 2009 Cartagena Action Plan.
- Adoption of the Vientiane Declaration and Action Plan.

The Anti-personnel Mine-Ban Treaty

In preparation for the 10th Meeting of States Parties to the anti-personal mine-ban treaty, held in Geneva at the end of 2010, UNMAS coordinated the participation of inter-agency partners in the meetings of the treaty's Standing Committees and the informal preparatory meeting. It also coordinated UN inputs to the evaluation of the Implementation Support Unit at GICHD, with consultations chaired by the President of the Second Review Conference in Cartagena in 2009, and facilitated inputs from UNMAT to the draft Geneva Progress Report adopted by the 10th Meeting of States Parties.

Among other decisions, the meeting agreed on a review of the status and operation of the convention since the Second Review Conference. It granted Article 5 deadline extensions to Chad, Colombia, Denmark, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and Zimbabwe. UNMAS facilitated coordination of UN interventions for thematic discussions on enhancing international cooperation and assistance, clearing mined areas, assisting victims and achieving universal ratification of the treaty.

Considerable advocacy efforts with the Government of Nepal, in collaboration with UNICEF, took place around Nepal's possible accession to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. Continued advocacy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo resulted in the passage of long-considered national legislation on implementing the treaty.

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons aims to protect combatants from inhumane injuries and prevent civilians from being harmed by certain types of arms. Two of its protocols are relevant to mine action: Amended Protocol II on mines, booby-traps and other devices, and Protocol V on ERW. Both protocols have an implementation regime, including annual

conferences of high contracting parties to ensure a focused approach and facilitate effective implementation.

As has been the case for the last decade, UNMAS continued to provide technical inputs to deliberations relevant to mine action in the context of the convention and the two relevant protocols. It coordinated the preparation and delivery of UNMAT statements during the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the convention, the 12th annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, and the Fourth Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, held in Geneva in November.

At the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the convention, UNMAS coordinated the development of an UNMAT intervention encouraging parties to establish rules for anti-vehicle mines, preferably through a new protocol. UNMAT also suggested that parties address humanitarian impacts of explosive weapons in populated areas. The meeting devoted some time to discussions on next year's Fourth Review Conference.

Amended Protocol II

As in the previous year, the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II convened a meeting of governmental experts to foster dialogue on areas of general interest, including focused attention to the problems caused by IEDs. During the 12th Conference of High Contracting Parties, UNMAS, on behalf of UNMAT, reiterated the need for enhancing existing international norms on anti-vehicle mines. The UN does not regard the current norms as sufficient to protect civilians.

Protocol V

Substantive consultations by the High Contracting Parties during the meeting of governmental experts aimed at providing guidance on the effective implementation of Protocol V. UNMAS, on behalf of UNMAT, highlighted the importance of systematically recording the use or abandonment of explosive ammunition, and welcomed a focused approach to ammunition management. The UNMAT statement also referred to S-MAC's technical assistance mission to Ukraine, in response to a specific request from the Government linked to Protocol V.

Negotiations on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Despite progress in negotiating a possible new protocol on cluster munitions under the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, UNMAT highlighted its concern that a new draft text for the protocol could still allow the use of cluster munitions with proven humanitarian and socioeconomic impacts, and could fall well short of the norm established by the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Unexploded sub-munitions pose humanitarian, socioeconomic and environmental threats in most theaters where they have been employed. An important number of UN mine action programmes have to face the impacts of cluster munitions, including, notably, UNMAS programmes in Afghanistan and Western Sahara, and national programmes supported by UNDP in Iraq and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).

The Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force on 1 August 2010. In March, UNMAS participated in a regional conference in Pretoria on promoting and universalizing the convention. On behalf of UNMAT, UNMAS delivered an intervention on cooperation and assistance. At the

Santiago International Conference on the convention in June, UNMAS coordinated three UNMAT statements.

UNMAS participated in the preparatory session for the First Meeting of States Parties to the convention held in Geneva in September, where it provided UNMAT comments to the draft Vientiane Action Plan.

The First Meeting of States Parties adopted the Vientiane Declaration, the Vientiane Action Plan and national reporting formats for Article 7 on transparency measures, and made a number of decisions on the 2011 Work Plan. The declaration underscores the serious threat to peace, human security and development posed by cluster munitions, including through the severe consequences on individuals and communities, and as impediments to the MDGs.

The objective of the action plan, adopted following consultations with the UN, the ICRC and the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CCM), is to ensure the effective and timely implementation of the convention. It lists priorities through 66 actions in the areas of partnership, the universal adoption of the convention, stockpile destruction, clearance and destruction, risk reduction, victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, implementation support, transparency and exchange of information, national implementation measures and compliance.

At the meeting, UNMAS took part in a side event, “Gender Dimensions of UXO Including Cluster Munitions: Best Practices and Lessons Learned,” organized by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and CCM. It presented the revised gender guidelines for mine action programmes on behalf of UNMAT.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

UNMAS participated in the Third Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held in September in New York. The convention has 90 signatories and 60 States Parties, including an increased number of those affected by mines and ERW. The conference emphasized the inclusion of persons with disabilities in community life, and health and education systems, along with more governmental involvement in planning and executing strategies that address the needs of persons with disabilities in conflicts and natural disasters.

In August, UNMAS participated in the Civil Society Forum, where the UN Special Rapporteur on Disability noted challenges to the convention, including the need for more ratifications, the inclusion of related human rights elements into the MDGs, greater international cooperation, and increased awareness of issues facing women and girls.

UNMAS has taken every opportunity to encourage UN Member States, particularly those with mine and ERW victims, to accede to the convention, including through statements delivered by UNMAT during meetings under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The statements highlight using the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to address the needs and rights of mine and ERW victims, as well as the importance of integrating victim assistance into broader public health and welfare systems.

Focal Point for the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

UNMAS continued to represent DPKO in the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (IASG-CRPD). The group is co-chaired by the UN Office

of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

UNMAS provided inputs to the General Assembly report “Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled People and the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities.” At the fifth meeting of the IASG-CRPD, hosted by the World Bank in Washington, UNMAS gave an overview of recent activities, including the preparation of a draft survey for DPKO missions on building accessibility and recruitment processes for persons with disabilities, the accessibility of the UNMAS website (E-MINE), recent advocacy efforts (at the Cartagena Second Review Conference and the 13th International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors) and updates on disability-related issues from mine action programmes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan. Based on a recommendation from the meeting, UNMAS endorsed the IASG-CRPD Strategy and Action Plan on behalf of DPKO.

Engaging Non-state Actors

Anti-personnel mines and other victim-activated weapons, including IEDs, are used, often with devastating humanitarian effects, by non-state armed groups in a number of countries, such as Afghanistan, Colombia, India, Iraq, Myanmar and Pakistan. According to Geneva Call, an international NGO specializing in work with these groups, 41 non-state actors, including two more in 2010, have signed the “Deed of Commitment” to refrain from using anti-personnel mines, cooperate in mine action in areas under their control and destroy stockpiles.

The UN Secretary-General’s report to the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2010/579) highlighted the need to engage non-state armed groups in upholding international humanitarian law. The report stresses the need for a comprehensive approach to improving compliance with humanitarian norms by these groups. Compliance by the 41 signatories to the “Deed of Commitment” has resulted in the destruction of approximately 20,000 stockpiled anti-personnel mines, and thousands of IEDs and abandoned ordnance.

UNMAS continued to pursue the implementation of relevant recommendations from this and previous reports of the UN Secretary-General to reinforce the effectiveness of mine action efforts, and help ensure that armed non-state actors take responsibility for upholding international humanitarian norms.

An UNMAS grant to Geneva Call with funds from the Government of Italy supported the organization of the “Second Regional Workshop on Mine Action in the South Caucasus: Strengthening Mine Action Capacity of Civil Society” in Geneva in May. The workshop provided an opportunity for policy makers and participants from civil society to discuss treaties related to mine action, and the rights of victims of landmines and ERW, with a view to establishing a ban on landmines in the region.

V. Communicating to the Public and other Constituencies

Highlights

- Extensive global press coverage of mine action generated by the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, and events at the Shanghai World Expo in China.
- Afghanistan programme success stories highlighted by the Academy Award-nominated actor Jeremy Renner's awareness-raising trip in June.
- UNMAS advocacy efforts enhanced by strengthening its visibility through the E-MINE website achieving a high Google page ranking, expansion of UNMAS Facebook and Twitter pages, and introduction of Flickr and Wikipedia pages.
- Global mine action efforts of UNMAS highlighted in the new *UNMAS 101* advocacy film viewed by thousands on UN and YouTube websites.

Communications Support to the Field and Headquarters

UNMAS chairs the IACG-MA Communications Working Group, which engages communications focal points from UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNODA and occasionally other members. In 2010, the work of the IACG-MA resulted in extensive global press coverage, particularly around the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April. UNMAS supported outreach efforts of country offices by providing materials and disseminating information on programme highlights to a global audience.

Keeping Mine Action in the Public Eye

UNMAS media relations helped raise the profile of mine action among media, NGOs, donors and the general public. Press briefings in New York, Shanghai and Tokyo were timed with major opportunities for advocacy, including through the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, and at the Shanghai World Expo and the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Numerous stories were filed by media outlets such as AP, Reuters, Reuters AlertNet, IRIN, Al Jazeera, CNN and EFE. They focused mainly on the challenges of landmine survivors and the funding required for mine action.

The observance of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in New York was organized by UNMAS, and included a critically acclaimed painting and sculpture exhibit by Cambodian artists, a video of demining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by Slovenian photographer Arne Hodalic and photos by the renowned Peruvian photographer Kike Arnal. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping, Alain Le Roy, and other senior officials opened the exhibition, which featured music by the singer-songwriter Lucy Woodward. Over 200 participants attended the event, including the UN Permanent Representatives of Croatia and Peru; delegates from Afghanistan, Bolivia, Croatia, Italy, Japan and Peru; and representatives from UN and external partners.

The UN Secretary-General marked the occasion at a mine action exhibit in Tajikistan, where he was on official business, with a statement calling for the elimination of anti-personnel mines and

increased efforts in mine action. Activities to mark the day took place in over 20 mine- and ERW-affected countries and territories, involving government and UN officials.

UNMAS finalized *UNMAS 101*, an eight-minute advocacy film that provides a snapshot of the global work of the service, and includes interviews with the UN Secretary-General and senior DPKO officials. Academy Award-nominated actor Jeremy Renner, who starred in the Oscar-winning movie *The Hurt Locker*, narrates the film. It is available in French, Arabic, Russian, Chinese and Spanish on YouTube, as well as at www.mineaction.org and the UNMAS Facebook page.

In a continued effort to reach new audiences, UNMAS held a series of daily events over two weeks in May at the UN Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo. Thousands of visitors learned about the work of the UN through a video about demining by the Chinese battalion in UNIFIL in south Lebanon, and a screening of the new advocacy video. UNMAS was joined in Shanghai by the principal ballerina of the San Francisco Ballet, Tan Yuan Yuan, and the designated Goodwill Ambassador for Landmines from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, L'Or Mbongo.

As a follow up to his narration of the *UNMAS 101* film, Jeremy Renner visited the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA). The Hollywood star toured a minefield and joined high school students during a mine risk education session. He spoke with landmine survivors and farmers about their experiences. This full agenda gave Renner a behind-the-scenes look into what the United Nations is doing to tackle the landmine issue. Reuters and numerous international media highlighted the trip. UNTV featured a segment on it, and an advocacy video based on it was produced.

A photo exhibition by Charlotte Oestervang was displayed at Colombia University in New York City, with amazing black and white photos giving viewers a firsthand look into UN mine action efforts in Afghanistan. The exhibition was a joint effort with Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs.

As part of its regular outreach to educational institutes in and around New York, UNMAS joined students at Pace University to discuss mine action. They were inspired to conduct a fundraising activity in November as part of the Pace Fall Festival; it included a presentation by UNMAS and performances by Pace University bands. The students donated US \$300 to UNMAS.

Articles by UNMAS colleagues were published in the *Journal of ERW and Mine Action*, including "Mine-action Activities in Western Sahara" and "An Analysis of (Mine Risk Education) Provisions in Recent MA-related Conventions." "Security and Governance in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding" appeared in the December issue of *Freedom from Fear* magazine.

UNMAS officials spoke at the Landmine Education programme organized by the Humpty Dumpty Institute in New York and Arizona. Funded by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement at the US State Department, the programme educates US students and communities around the United States about the global problems of landmines and UXO.

Website Management

UNMAS manages the E-MINE website at www.mineaction.org, which is the public face of UN mine action work worldwide. It is a user-friendly resource containing relevant introductory

information on mine action, daily mine action news highlights, and detailed information including a fully searchable version of the annual Portfolio of Mine Action Projects.

E-MINE also contains links to relevant international legal documents and UN documents referring to mine action, and to the recently created UNMAS Twitter and Facebook accounts. With over 2,200 followers between these two accounts, UNMAS continues to enhance its advocacy and strategic communications goals by reaching out to new audiences.

Improvements to the E-MINE website included updates to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities and refinements to the Automated Portfolio System. The site obtained a Google page rank of eight over the year.

VI. Country Programmes: Saving Lives, Fostering Stability, Building Sustainable Livelihoods

Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of

Highlights

- Reduction of casualties by 22 percent from 2006 rates.
- Further expansion of community-based demining as a tool in mine clearance, community empowerment, sustainable development, stabilization and reintegration.
- Enhanced mechanisms for prioritization, and for the monitoring and evaluation of implementing partner performance.

Impacts

Stabilization is an increasingly important factor in the design of mine action projects. Community-based demining was developed in Afghanistan in 2008 by MACCA, which UNMAS manages at the Government's request. This approach has enabled mine action in areas where acute insecurity makes the model of mobile/roving teams less sustainable. The concept expanded through increased donor support, with operations now in the volatile provinces of Helmand, Uruzgan, Kandahar, Ghor, Nangahar and Kunar.

The strength of community-based demining lies in community ownership; 90 percent of project staff comes from the community. Enhanced safety and security, and the benefits of employment and income generation greatly improve the likelihood of success. These projects are designed for a period of up to 24 months and work on well-defined tasks. Participants are able to accumulate sufficient savings to start small businesses and/or agricultural projects once demining is complete.

Removing mines and ERW, and increasing awareness through mine risk education has resulted in a reduction in casualties of almost 75 percent since 2001. Clearance has also enabled broader development in many areas, such as the Dhala Dam in Kandahar, where Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funding has allowed UNMAS to direct clearance in support of the project. Under the MAPA, coordinated by MACCA, work also began on landmine and ERW clearance funded by the Government of Afghanistan in advance of the development of the copper mine at Aynak, in Logar province. The mine will provide a significant boost to Afghanistan's economy and create thousands of jobs.

Context and Challenges

Afghanistan remains one of the most heavily mine- and ERW-contaminated countries in the world, with 6,776 known hazardous areas covering 651 square kilometres in 2,120 communities. Mines and ERW have killed and injured thousands of Afghans over the last 30 years. They rob farmers of their livelihoods, and impede housing, resettlement and the grazing of livestock. Since mines and ERW are used as raw material for IEDs, their clearance has strong implications for security and stabilization.

In 2010, an average of 33 people per month were killed or injured by landmines and ERW, representing a decrease of 18 percent from 2009 and 22 percent from 2006. Of the 393 victims, 16 percent were female, and 65 percent were children. The largest group of victims involved boys aged 7 to 14, who accounted for 55 percent of all victims under age 18. Travelling was the most high-risk activity, followed by playing and recreation, tending animals, and collecting water, food and wood. UXO caused 74 percent of all casualties, an increasing trend that has caused MACCA to alter clearance and mine risk education work to address it.

MAPA is guided by the Government's obligations under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty—which requires clearing all known anti-personnel mines by March 2013 and assisting those who have been injured by them—and the Afghan Compact, which requires clearance of 70 percent of the known threat by May 2011. With completion of treaty obligations having reached 48 percent and compact obligations at 69 percent, these goals will not be met by their respective expiration dates. The key impediment is the lack of financial resources.

Afghanistan's Progress Toward Mine Action Benchmarks (as of 31 December 2010)							
Indicator	Adjusted baseline	Remaining contamination	Clearance processed	Compact target of 70% of hazards	Progress towards Compact (%)	Treaty target of 100% of hazards	Progress towards Treaty (%)
Number of hazards	12,754	6,638	5,752	6,116	69	12,754	48
Hazardous area (sq km)	1,277	641	622	894	70	1,277	49

Gender issues carry particular sensitivity in Afghanistan, and influence the potential of all development and humanitarian projects. Due to issues of culture and security, MAPA has been heavily staffed by male workers. Demining teams are composed of men, but some female employees work as mine risk education trainers and support staff. Currently, MAPA has over 14,000 employees, out of which 100 are female. At MACCA, efforts to address the gender imbalance among national and international staff has yielded positive results, with women making up 4 out of 14 international staff, and accounting for 3 percent of national staff, up from 0.04 percent in 2005.

Mine action has been strongly integrated into national development planning. It is a benchmark in formal government development strategies and part of the national MDGs. MACCA has formed solid relationships with a range of ministries to ensure the spread of mine action concerns into wider development plans. It has also worked to align operations with government objectives outlined in the Afghanistan Compact and Afghan National Development Strategy.

MAPA has grown resilient and flexible over its 20-year history, making enormous progress in response to the extremely challenging security environment in which it operates. Recorded cases of criminality and insurgency rose by 69 percent throughout 2010, but incidents affecting the demining community increased by only 28 percent. Out of 68 incidents, 29 percent could be described as "serious," involving IEDs and/or attacks or ambushes. Just over 20 percent entailed traffic accidents and collateral damage, while 15 percent involved abduction/kidnapping with all victims released.

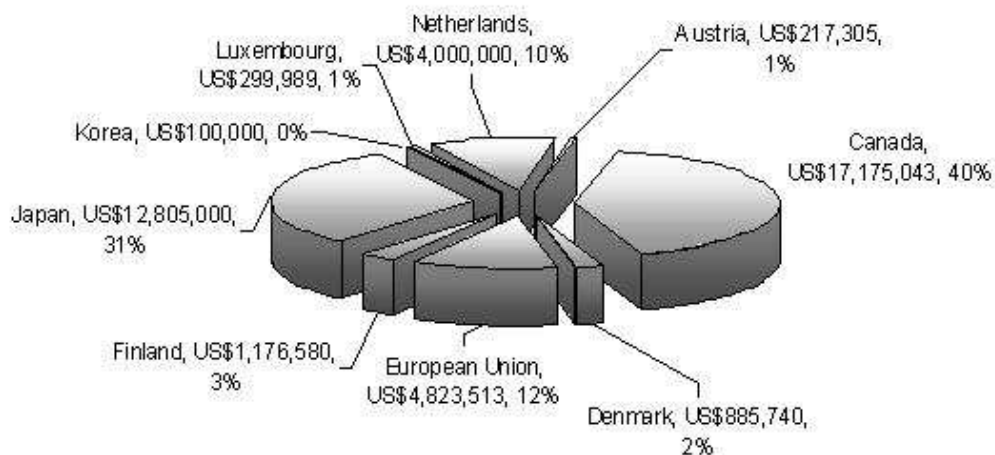
Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS has worked diligently to oversee planning and implementation of programme activities. The UNMAS Programme Officer conducted three technical missions to meet with key donors and implementing partners, and provide input on long-term strategic issues. UNMAS engaged with DPKO's Office of Operations to ensure mine action was fully integrated into the UN Secretary-General's reports on Afghanistan, talking points, and other briefing materials for senior UN management and UN Member States. Coordination with the UN Department of Safety and Security was key given the volatile security environment. Academy Award-nominated actor Jeremy Renner visited the programme, an event that will be documented through a short film.

UNMAS assisted Afghanistan in international resource mobilization through a range of donor briefings in capitals, and at Permanent Missions in New York and Geneva. These activities, in concert with those of MACCA, resulted in the VTF receiving US \$41.5 million for programming, including multilateral contributions from the governments of Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and the European Union. The contributions enabled a programme of work of US \$54.6 million (up from US \$39 million in 2009).

Voluntary Contributions In 2010 for the Mine Action Programme in Afghanistan



Coordination and Training Activities

In 2002, the Government of Afghanistan entrusted interim responsibility for the mine action programme to the United Nations, a role implemented through MACCA and area mine action centres in Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar, Herat, Jalalabad, Gardez and Kunduz. UNMAS provides

MACCA to the Government to support its development of an appropriately trained and equipped national institution capable of achieving national mine action goals. Funded through the VTF, MACCA works in partnership with the Government's Department of Mine Clearance (DMC), an office of the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority. This relationship was formalized in an agreement in February 2008, with DMC relocating to the MACCA office site in April 2008. DMC is now directly involved in the planning and coordination of mine clearance operations as the transition to a national authority progresses.

MACCA's coordination role continued to focus on strategic and operational planning for the programme, including the execution and oversight of the 1388 and 1389 operational work plans,² and development of the 1390 work plan (each plan runs from 1 April through 31 March, in line with the Afghan governmental year). These plans guide the effective deployment and monitoring of 715 operational teams and related quality assurance tasks, as well as ongoing information management for all mine action assets, whether funded through the VTF, bilaterally or commercially.

A new project management tool has utilized GIS (geographic information system) technologies to enhance MACCA's ability to prioritize clearance tasks, based on land use, altitude and terrain. This is vital at a time when contributions for landmine and ERW clearance in Afghanistan may diminish, and will ensure that funds are applied where they are most needed. Mine action was carried out in accordance with a set of established planning criteria that prioritize mine clearance in areas associated with recent victims, identified by local authorities through the area mine action centres, or slated for resettlement or development. Ranking of hazards was based on resource blockages and communities with a higher risk of producing victims based on regression and terrain analysis using a new project-monitoring tool.

MACCA developed its engagement with donors by advising on projects regardless of whether or not they are funded via the United Nations, and by working with implementers to develop projects in accordance with donor preference. This helped garner US \$98.3 million for the programme through the VTF and bilaterally. MACCA represented the mine action community at meetings of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme, which has begun to bilaterally utilize mine clearance to reintegrate demobilized anti-government combatants. For the first time, mine action NGOs received funding under this programme, with more support anticipated.

In addition to quality assurance at the field level, MACCA monitors the quality of implementing partners across a broad set of indicators, using a monitoring tool based on the principles of a balanced scorecard. The tool enables MACCA to track the output, quality and effectiveness of each partner on a quarterly basis. It allows comparisons of implementers, which inform funding decisions, and provides implementing partners with a baseline for their own improvement and development.

MACCA is represented on the UN Country Team in Kabul, and participated in the OCHA-run Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP), with a submission totaling US \$258.3 million. MACCA continued to play an integral role in the UN's Afghanistan Protection Cluster, in line with UNMAS' role as the lead for mine action within the Global Protection Cluster. It coordinated information with other humanitarian actors to support safe operations and enhance the selection of MACCA priorities.

² See: www.macca.org.af/index.php?page=en_Reports+and+Plans.

MACCA reached out to donors through media and direct advocacy to encourage both multilateral and bilateral funding for MAPA. It continued to improve its website to make information on MAPA more easily accessible for media, donors, government and other interested parties.³ On behalf of multilateral and bilateral donors, MACCA advised on priorities for and the suitability of projects submitted by mine action implementers.

Trainings for MAPA staff continued to build capacity in gender expertise, reaching 95 MACCA staff and eight representatives of implementing partners. MACCA has insisted that all projects supported by the VTF take a serious approach to gender responsiveness; implementing partners have been encouraged to develop male/female teams and required to report on beneficiaries by gender. One participant explains the impact of the training on his views and family life: “Before the training, I was not interested in my wife and daughters being educated and unfortunately favoured my sons over my daughters. After the gender awareness training though, my perspective changed and so has my behaviour. Now, everywhere I go I try to raise awareness on gender equality. I am close to my family and there is a good atmosphere at home. The training helped me see that everyone (men and women) have the right of choice—to study, work, marry, and now I love to discuss these things with others.”

Operational Coordination

MAPA continued to achieve significant progress in operations, including through the maturation of innovative solutions for operating in insecure areas. More than 20 international and national actors work throughout the country to implement all five pillars of mine action. Over 14,400 Afghan staff were employed in 2010, and 715 mobile demining teams were deployed, including manual, dog, and mechanical detection and clearance assets.

Operational achievements included the destruction of 48,769 anti-personnel mines, 644 anti-tank mines and 1,092,527 ERW. A total of 47.5 square kilometres of known and suspected minefields were released through clearance and other means; battle area clearance covered 131 square kilometres. The NGO Afghan Technical Consultants continued clearance of the barrier minefields in the Bagram area, while emergency response teams tasked by area mine action centres responded to ad hoc tasks in support of refugee returns, development projects and other emergency requirements. Even in the unstable province of Kandahar, progress was made on priority clearance tasks under a CIDA-funded multi-year agreement, while Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) contributed to work in the highly volatile Helmand province. Insurgent forces in the south have laid belts of IEDs that have become an ERW problem affecting 10 square kilometres.

The shift to increased community-based demining, where Afghan experts train and mentor members of the local community to conduct clearance, responds to security challenges and is proving to be an effective way of operating in the least secure areas. In 2010, 128 community-based demining teams were fielded; 18 percent deployed compared with 9 percent in 2009.

Mine risk education has continued to be geared towards reaching the most vulnerable populations, including IDPs in encashment centres, as well as men, women, boys and girls in impacted areas. Nearly 900,000 people were trained in landmine- and ERW-safe behaviour. The NGO Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR) employed 10 men and 10 women, mostly husbands and wives, in teams to carry out village-by-village mine risk education in the central and eastern regions of Afghanistan. The female members collected information about ERW through talking to women in households.

³ See: www.macca.org.af.

Progress has been made in supporting the Government in its consideration of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Nine MACCA staff are now embedded in the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, and a national law on the rights and privileges of persons with disabilities has been published.

Human Interest Stories: Community-Based Demining in Khost, Afghanistan

In a small village in Khost, a young Afghan works to remove landmines. Several weeks ago, he was struggling to make a living from his small farm and worried about supporting his family. He would travel long distances looking for work. Now, he is locally employed as a deminer by a MAPA-implementing partner, the Mine Clearance and Planning Agency (MCPA), and returns home every afternoon to see his wife and children. He said, "Before this I was working only as a farmer. It was hard work and I could only make a little money. Now, working as a deminer, I have a good salary, and the work is rewarding. I think it is good that we demine our own communities since we know where the minefields are better than anyone, and we appreciate the jobs that the programme creates for us."

To develop community-based demining, MCPA worked intensively to build relationships with the community elders, or *shura*, and establish trust. It then engaged with the community to design the project and recruit the team to carry it out. As a result, 120 people have secured medium-term employment. With the additional income, they will be able to expand their current enterprises, such as farming and shop keeping, and improve the economy of the women, men, girls and boys of their community.

Clearing Mines from Ghazni

In 2010, OMAR, an Afghan humanitarian mine action NGO, started clearing minefields in the centre of Ghazni City in the south-east of the country. This will support the city's preparations to be named Islamic Centre of Civilisation 2013 by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). The Canadian Government funds the project through the VTF.

The project will clear nine minefields through the deployment of eight manual demining teams, one mechanical demining unit, one mine detection dog set and one EOD team. In total, there are 48 identified minefields in the centre of Ghazni, which contaminate over six square kilometres of land, causing deaths and injuries, and preventing the land from being used for housing or farming by at least 22 communities. The project will remove mines from seven communities, including seven sites of special archaeological, historical and religious importance.

Maxwell Kerley, Director of UNMAS, said, "I am pleased that the work is now underway to clear the archaeologically and culturally rich city of Ghazni. We appeal to our donor partners and friends in the Islamic world to contribute further to this important work so that the families of Ghazni can, for the first time in 30 years, live free from the threat of landmines and other explosive remnants of war."

On completion of the project, if further funding is quickly secured, 12 demining teams could clear remaining minefields in two years, in time for the ISESCO designation in 2013. The project will follow MAPA's model of community-based demining, whereby the majority of deminers will be recruited and trained from Ghazni, under the expert oversight of OMAR's deminers. So far,

128 new jobs have been created through the project, providing vital employment in an area of intense instability and poverty.

Chad

Highlights

- Relief and development enabled through mine action in eastern Chad.
- MINURCAT mandated objectives to protect civilians achieved.
- 4,762,047 square metres of battle areas and 212 dangerous areas cleared; 1,940 kilometres of roads verified.
- 3,599 items of ERW and 17,286 small arms and ammunition destroyed.

Impact

UNMAS' programme in Chad achieved a notable reduction in reported casualties from 51 in 2009 to just 17 in 2010. Seventy-eight percent of the land cleared in 2010 was intended for agricultural purposes, thus contributing to the livelihoods of thousands of people. UNMAS also supported the work of other aid agencies, most notably through the emergency clearance of areas in and around the airstrip at Dogdore in the Dar Sila Region, after devices were located forcing the World Food Programme (WFP) and other providers to suspend operations.

UNMAS made key contributions to the peacekeeping mandate of MINURCAT, including in attaining its mandated objectives to promote the rule of law and human rights, foster regional peace and protect civilians.

Context and Challenges

In response to armed violence in eastern Chad and the Central African Republic, the UN Security Council established MINURCAT through resolution 1778 (2007) with a mandate to protect civilians, promote the rule of law and human rights, and further regional peace. The mine action component of MINURCAT operating in eastern Chad was responsible for coordinating all mine action capacities within the area of operations, in particular with the National Demining Centre (CND) regional office in Abeche.

Within the MINURCAT area of responsibility, the mine threat is relatively low, although there have been reports of rebel groups possessing anti-tank mines. Information gathering has confirmed that the extent of ERW contamination, however, is significant, so road verification and mine and ERW clearance services were contracted in 2010 through Mine-Tech International (MTI). One rapid response team was based in Abeche, and three road verification and clearance teams were deployed in Iriba, Farchana and Goz Beida.

MINURCAT and the Chadian Integrated Security Detachment (DIS) created a stable enough environment for the Security Council to end MINURCAT's mandate at the close of 2010. Based out of Abeche, the mine action component continued to support the logistical aspects of mission closure throughout the liquidation process from January to April 2011. Despite the improved security situation, acts of banditry have influenced the ability to carry out operations once the MINURCAT force departed in October. The DIS has limited capacity to provide armed escorts when required.

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

The UNMAS Programme Officer deployed in February to assist the preparation of the 2010-2011 assessed budget, and to address different options as part of a new mandate for MINURCAT. The UNMAS Chief of Programme Planning and Management made two visits, including one in February to elaborate a strategic framework based on broader mission objectives that has become a model for all other mission-related programmes, and the second in October to explore possible enhancement of UNMAS support to the CND, including by acting as an implementing partner in the Fada region, where UNMAS undertook an assessment mission in June.

UNMAS worked with the DPKO Office of Operations to ensure mine action was fully integrated in the UN Secretary-General's reports on MINURCAT, and other briefing materials for consideration by senior UN management. UNMAS also assisted with donor liaisons, in particular to mobilize resources for a mine risk education project, and a post-MINURCAT project in Fada. The sustainability of the programme was ensured by a UN General Assembly appropriation for MINURCAT 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 assessed budgets, and a voluntary contribution from the Government of the Netherlands of US \$600,000.

Coordination and Training

MINURCAT's Mine Action Unit supported the Chadian National Mine Action Strategy and Action Plan, which is based on the Government's obligations under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty, and the socioeconomic and humanitarian needs of communities in contaminated areas. UNMAS assisted the CND and its office in Abeche with establishing capacities that can be sustained after MINURCAT's closure. This included training 25 CND staff on IMAS. UNMAS worked with the CND on designing and raising resources for a 12-month mine risk education project for eastern Chad and Fada. Starting in 2011, it will be funded by the Government of Australia.

Operational Coordination

The activities of the Mine Action Unit and implementing partners in eastern Chad focused on road and route verification and the immediate clearance of identified dangerous areas. The verification of 1,940 kilometres of roads and the clearance of 212 dangerous areas in the mission area from January to November contributed towards mitigating ERW risks to host communities, refugees, IDPs and mission personnel. More than 4.7 million square metres of battle areas were cleared, as well as the landing areas and airstrips of Iriba and Dogdore, resulting in the destruction of 21,000 ERW and various ammunition.

Although the Mine Action Unit was limited to working within the MINURCAT operational area, a reconnaissance mission to Fada in Ennedi region in north-eastern Chad took place in June. As a result, seven minefields were identified, and clearance operations and mine risk education are expected to commence in 2011. This project is to be executed with the CND, and will aim to identify the scope and nature of ERW contamination, and then provide an appropriate solution to effectively mitigate risks, including for priority roads that have been abandoned for 20 years. The assessment found that hazards block the main supply route to the Libyan border, necessitating a 300-kilometre detour.

Since the start of MINURCAT mine action activities in 2008, mine action teams have visited 743 communities with some 700,000 inhabitants in eastern Chad, including 326 communities in 2010, in order to conduct general mine action assessments.

Statistics		2010
Battle area clearance (square metres)		4,762,067
Roads verified (kilometres)		1,940
Munitions found	Anti-tank mines	2
	ERW	3,599
	Small arms and ammunition	17,286
Communities visited		326
Dangerous areas identified		214
Dangerous areas cleared		212

Human Interest Story: Clearance Assistance to Enable Development

In mid-April, the Mine Action Unit received a request from World Concern, an international NGO that leads a team of six development and relief agencies. It needed to improve access to food for IDPs in the Goz Beda area of eastern Chad. Through a “cash for food” programme, World Concern employs IDPs on a variety of projects, such as the construction of stone barriers and planting of grasses to control erosion and improve water retention near four of the seven IDP camps in the area.

Three out of four areas designated for these measures were identified as former battle areas, and in one case, an artillery impact area that required survey and clearance. Within three days of receiving the request, a reconnaissance team was deployed. With additional information on the pattern of fighting in the area from local sources and MINURCAT personnel, and through coordination with World Concern to identify its priorities, a clearance plan was developed.

Over 10 days, with temperatures regularly climbing above 50 degrees Celsius and on difficult terrain, 500,000 square metres of land were assessed and hazards eliminated. An estimated 43,000 IDPs, as well as local villagers, nomads and 15,800 refugees will benefit directly or indirectly from the work of World Concern and its partners.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Highlights

- Verification and clearance of 8,930.9 kilometres of roads and 428,000 square metres of land.
- Nearly 670,000 individuals provided with mine risk education.
- Only 13 reported victims, though data collection recorded 123 victims related to previous years.
- Approval of legislation on mine action by the National Assembly.

- Development of a victim assistance strategy.

Context and Challenges

The reduction in victims in 2010 speaks directly to the impact of clearance and mine risk education initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The release of land through clearance, especially agricultural land, has contributed to food security and lessened the pressures caused by populations returning to former areas of conflict.

While the eradication of mines and ERW is among a litany of challenges people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo face on a daily basis, including disease, malnutrition, gender-based violence and continued insecurity, it is increasingly an area where positive gains are being made. Discussions in Parliament to adopt mine action legislation, the adoption of a new victim assistance strategy, and the incremental strengthening of the office of the national mine action focal point and its operational capacities indicate a positive shift in political will.

Since 1996, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been affected by conflict causing millions of deaths and significant population displacement. Landmine and ERW contamination afflicts all 11 provinces of the country, although the eight eastern provinces are most seriously contaminated. The contamination of transportation routes affects two provinces, Katanga and South Kivu, and sub-munitions have been identified in Katanga, Maniema and Orientale provinces.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has a deadline of November 2012 for clearance of known mined areas, based on its joining the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty in 2002. The presence or perception of landmines and ERW is an obstacle to agricultural livelihoods, the free movement of persons and goods, access to basic services and markets, and the rehabilitation of infrastructure. According to the data gathered, 2,694 hazardous areas are registered, of which 941 have been cleared. Of the remaining areas, 791 are minefields and 962 require battle area clearance. Since 2002, more than 6.7 million square metres of land and 20,000 kilometres of roads have been cleared or verified as safe. Despite this progress, it will be difficult to achieve the 2012 treaty deadline.

The UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) was established in February 2002 to support the deployment of the peacekeeping UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) and coordinate mine action activities. Security Council resolution 1925 (2010), noting a new phase in the country, provided a new mandate and title to the mission, the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The mandate includes a provision to “assist the Government of the (Democratic Republic of the Congo) in enhancing its demining capacity.”

The objective of the mine action programme is to reduce the security, humanitarian and socioeconomic impacts of landmines and ERW. This is accomplished through operational support to MONUSCO; UN agencies, funds and programmes; and humanitarian organizations. The programme helps mitigate risks to communities, and assists the development of national institutions in managing landmine and ERW threats, and building related capacities. The programme also contributes to the various stabilization, reconstruction and development strategies being implemented. It has benefited from continued support from the governments of the Netherlands and Spain, but reduced financial resources seriously impacted the scope of operations compared to 2009.

While the overall security situation has improved in most of the country, it remained volatile in North and South Kivu, which had an impact on operations. Violence flared in the west of the country, involving local militias. This resulted in new contamination around Mbandaka and Gemena airports in Equateur province. Logistics, infrastructure and communications remained major challenges for the programme, exacerbated by heavy rains that make parts of the country inaccessible for extended periods during the year.

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS ensured that the objectives of the UN Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy were reflected in the UNMACC strategy and plans, including by deploying a technical mission to assist in finalizing the 2011 plan and budget. The mission also provided UNMACC with advice and guidance on resource mobilization, capacity building and human resources management. UNMAS assisted with donor liaisons that secured voluntary contributions of US \$1,771,200 from the Government of the Netherlands and US \$366,250 from the Government of Spain. UNMAS also facilitated the mine action submission for the MONUC and MONUSCO budgets submitted to the UN General Assembly, and contributions to the UN Secretary-General's reports on MONUSCO to the Security Council.

Coordination and Training

In accordance with its mandate, and as requested by the Government in the absence of a formally established mine action authority, UNMACC continued coordinating all mine activities countrywide, with a particular focus on the east. At headquarters level, coordination was ensured through monthly meetings organized with all mine action stakeholders, including national and international implementing partners, UN agencies and government representatives. At the operational level, UNMACC regional offices coordinated activities, including tasking, monitoring and quality assurance. Support to the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy for the East—the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programme—entailed partnerships with MONUSCO sections such as human rights, civil affairs and elections, and with other UN entities such as the UN Department of Safety and Security, OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

UNMACC supported the parliamentary coalition for mine action in advocacy that finally led to the National Assembly adopting national legislation on mine action on 15 October. The law has been revised by the Senate, and now has to be passed by the Assembly. Efforts continued towards including mine action provisions in the national budget, with no positive result so far due to budgetary restrictions.

UNMACC assisted national authorities in drafting an Article 7 report in accordance with the obligations of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty. Since the Democratic Republic of the Congo will not be able to meet its 2012 deadline under Article 5 of the treaty, UNMACC established a working group to assist authorities in preparing a request for extension. Other efforts helped enhance the capacities of the national mine action focal point through training, field missions and joint coordination of implementing partners. The operations officer, for example, attended a senior management training course at James Madison University, while UNMACC coordinated with the US Department of Defense “train and equip” programme to develop 15 EOD specialists in the Army who will report to UNMACC. Support for participation in international meetings on mine action helped raise the profile of the Democratic Republic of the Congo within the international community.

The mine risk education officer at UNMACC continued to support national and international partners' projects, and attended working groups organized by the Ministry of Education, which has responsibility for introducing mine risk education in primary schools in 2011. A draft document for the accreditation of implementing partners was finalized with the national focal point.

UNMACC assisted in developing a national victim assistance strategy endorsed by all stakeholders and the Ministry of Social Affairs. A number of national NGOs have been selected and trained to implement projects to achieve some of the strategy's objectives.

Operational Coordination

A new concept of operations developed by UNMACC provides the basis of work for all implementing partners. The concept is based on general mine action survey road and route verification, and immediate clearance of identified dangerous areas. Twenty-five percent of the country has now been fully surveyed. This improves overall understanding of mine action problems and required actions needed to help communities remove isolated ERW. Emphasis has been given to supporting reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure, and securing access to vulnerable populations.

To better coordinate work in the east, UNMACC relocated its operations section to Goma (North Kivu), with three regional offices in Kananga, Kisangani and Goma. The move coincided with a migration to the latest Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and refinement of the national database. This resulted in a significant reduction of hazardous areas caused by duplicate or improperly recorded entries. While this desktop exercise did not make any land available to communities, it did allow for better targeting of clearance resources to areas with real contamination.

Six international and two national operators were involved in survey and clearance operations, though reduced funding significantly limited their ability to implement projects. Due to financial constraints affecting all mine clearance operators, the 2010 output significantly decreased in comparison to 2009; some operators could not deploy as many assets as required, others had to suspend operations. Only 7,637 kilometres of routes and 428,000 square metres of land were cleared in 2010, compared to 11,800 and over 2 million, respectively, in 2009. Two operators, Mechem and The Development Initiative (TDI), were contracted through UNMAS. Bilateral funds supported four international partners—DanChurchAid (DCA), with support from MSB; Handicap International (HI) and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG)—and two national NGOs, Mine Action Synergy (SYLAM) and Information and Support Network (RIO).

Operations focused on the provinces of Equateur, Orientale, Katanga, and North and South Kivu. TDI started general surveys in eastern Kasai Province, while Mechem undertook battle area clearance in the vicinity of the N'djili Airport, in Kinshasa, in anticipation of the relocation of the MONUSCO air terminal. MAG teams responded to emergency clearance requirements in Mbandaka and Gemena, in the western part of the country, following clashes in Equateur Province in April. MAG also conducted a general mine action assessment in Bas-Congo in the south-west. HI-France deployed to take over from HI-Belgium in Orientale Province, where they began surveys in Banalia and Isangi territories.

Fifteen tons of various ammunition were destroyed in several bases of the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC). The danger posed by large, unmanaged stockpiles of ammunition had been highlighted in reports by the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

including in its report to the Security Council (S/2008/773-12/12/2008). To further assist in this area, UNMAS began recruitment of an ammunition technical officer in late 2010. This complements activities by implementing partners, such as MAG, to eliminate the potential hazards posed by surplus and poorly managed stocks, including unintended explosions and further contamination.

In the field of mine risk education, UNMACC international and national partners reached out to nearly 670,000 people. A training module on project management was harmonized among implementing organizations to prepare a future training of trainers. UNMACC also worked with the Ministry of Education to include mine risk education in elementary school courses. Another major step is the development of an accreditation process for national NGOs, which was elaborated through close collaboration between the UNMACC mine risk education section and the national focal point for mine action. The accreditation process will begin in 2011.

In March 2010, a victim assistance mission carried out a needs assessment and situation analysis in various areas, towards developing an action plan for a sustainable victim assistance programme. Another objective was to help streamline victim assistance within existing structures, and advise on the establishment of ad hoc strategies for coordination and mobilization of resources. As a result, the ICRC database for mine and ERW victims (494 treated cases) was harmonized with the UNMACC IMSMA database (2,412 identified and registered cases). A national victim assistance workshop was organized in October, under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs, where a national strategy was adopted. In December 2010, 10 national and international partners were identified to start implementing 15 pilot projects, with the aim of acquiring better knowledge and data about mine and ERW victims and their needs, providing direct support to them, and building the capacities of national and international organizations to operate in the areas of victim assistance and disability.

Progress Statistics

		2009	2010
Survey and clearance	Square metres	2,070,827	1,102,188
	Kilometres of roads	11,886	8,931
Devices destroyed	Mines	153	88
	UXO	42,315	37,215
	Miscellaneous	61,448	1,069,674
Mine risk education	Participants	417,279	669,922
	Sessions	4,599	5,983

Human Interest Story: Connecting Fatuma with Life Again

Roads are essential to the life and vitality of a community. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, years of conflict have left numerous villages isolated because roads have deteriorated from heavy rains and can be contaminated by ERW. Fatuma, in Tanganika District in Katanga Province, is one such village. Cut off from surrounding villages and markets, the people of Fatuma until recently were cultivating little more than they consume.

The NGO Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), which specializes in humanitarian and development support to post-conflict communities, offered a solution through a three-year road rehabilitation project in the region. ACTED aimed to link Fatuma and villages like it to Kalemie, the biggest urban centre in the district, by opening a feeder road to allow over 26,000 people to resume trade in agricultural goods. The work, which started in 2009, came to a

halt in October 2010, when items of ERW were found. ACTED immediately notified the OCHA office in Kalemie, which in turn informed UNMACC.

After learning of the impact of the hazard on the road rehabilitation project, UNMACC tasked DCA, which was operating in the area, to undertake a survey and clearance, and train the engineers involved in the project so that they could continue their work. After 11 ERW were located and destroyed, and the safety training was completed, the roadwork recommenced.

While the entire route is not scheduled to be completed until 2012, progress to date has already allowed the people of Fatuma to begin trading with neighbouring villages and towns where they are able to sell surplus cassava, okra, potatoes and corn, thus enhancing their overall well-being and connection to the outside world. This will further improve when the road is completely rehabilitated. Ms. Justine Kapuweli, from Fatuma, was very grateful for ACTED's initiative, and said, "Now, there is no danger for me going selling my vegetables at the marketplace twice a week; many thanks."

Gaza/Occupied Palestinian Territory

Highlights

- Destruction of all known white-phosphorus ERW and munitions.
- Decrease in ERW-related casualties since the deployment of UNMAS and its implementing partners.
- ERW threat assessments for 567 sites.
- Provision of 78 ERW risk education training sessions for 1,443 at risk civilians and UN and NGO staff members, and 10 ERW safety trainings for 114 contractors involved in rubble removal activities.

Impact

UNMAS and its partners, under the banner of the UNMAT Gaza Office, have provided life-saving interventions since Operation Cast Lead ended in early 2009. These have enabled a safer environment for the civilian population and the wider humanitarian community in Gaza. Civilian casualties fell 41 percent from 2009 to a total of 16, with the majority of residual ERW hazards confined to the buffer zone along the border with Israel and areas that are generally restricted for international operators.

Training and on-site support provided to rubble removal contractors allowed for the incident-free removal of rubble, which will permit the rebuilding of public facilities such as roads and schools; the reconstruction of housing; and better access to health care, education, clean water and other basic services. It has also stimulated the local economy.

Context and Challenges

The situation in Gaza involves a restrictive and challenging security and operational environment. Political issues lend complexity, as does the number of local actors and Israeli entities with whom the UNMAT must coordinate. To address these challenges, UNMAS has built strong, transparent working relationships with relevant authorities in Israel, Gaza and the external donor community. This was crucial for UNMAS. With the assistance of key interlocutors such as the UN Office of the Deputy Special Coordinator, it was able to secure a central demolition site in Gaza, transfer explosives into Gaza, and destroy some of the ERW located

during assessments and surveys.

UNMAS worked closely with the UN Department of Safety and Security to assess security considerations and carefully plan operations. Accurate analysis from the department and other credible sources informed accurate decision-making on programme implementation.

After immediate humanitarian activities were completed in 2009, ERW buried in the rubble of damaged or destroyed buildings, infrastructure and agricultural areas was assessed as the primary threat. UNMAS transitioned to a more sustained mine action response through highlighting mine action in a variety of planning processes, most notably those aimed at the removal of the rubble and the rehabilitation of contaminated agricultural areas.

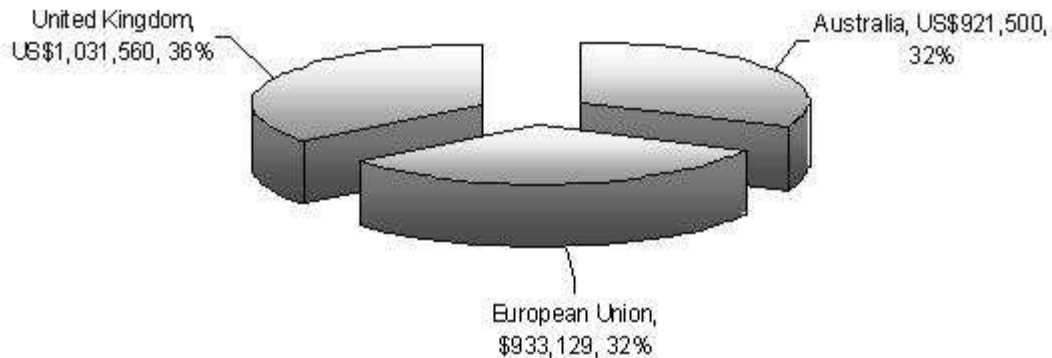
When the initial destruction of ERW containing white phosphorus was completed, UNMAS requested access to the remainder of high-explosive ERW for destruction. Local authorities in Gaza, however, declined the request, a decision that was conveyed to the Israeli authorities and international donor community. This development, combined with a notable reduction in UNMAT's operational space in Gaza in the second half of 2010 caused by limitations imposed by local authorities, resulted in the progressive downscaling of the programme through the end of the year, with a residual advisory capacity planned for 2011.

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS headquarters support included programme oversight and technical assistance. The UNMAS Director visited to address high-level political and strategic considerations; the UNMAS Programme Officer responsible for daily management of the programme also visited. UNMAS worked extensively with UN partners and concerned Member States, including members of the Quartet, in ensuring smooth implementation of the programme.

Resource mobilization efforts yielded voluntary contributions of US \$2,886,188 from the Governments of Australia and the United Kingdom, and the European Union.

Voluntary Contributions In 2010 for the Mine Action Programme in Gaza



Coordination, Training and Capacity Development

The success of the programme depended heavily on coordination with a variety of actors, all of whom could influence progress, positively and negatively. UNMAS coordinated activities and ascertained priorities and requirements with UN and non-UN partners, such as UNDP, WFP, the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), Action Against Hunger (ACF), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF) International, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), ICRC, the Nama Organization, Life and Hope, and Labour Resources. It worked closely with local authorities in Gaza and the Israeli authorities. When required, the Office of the Special Coordinator was engaged to assist.

Training on ERW safety for the humanitarian community and workers engaged in rubble removal was a crucial preventative measure that contributed to the safe removal of over 150 items of ERW from piles of rubble and twisted rebar, with no reported incidents or casualties. Roughly 25 percent of the beneficiaries from the training were women. Offered in Arabic and English, the training varied by target group, and covered issues from basic ERW safety awareness and recognition for humanitarian workers to more advanced training for site managers overseeing rubble removal.

Operational Coordination

UNMAS completed the tasking and verification of assessments of 567 sites totaling over 400,000 square metres. Of the sites, 418 were residential properties, with conservative estimates indicating that nearly 23,000 people directly benefited.

The response to EOD requests was guided by the identification of dangerous devices or the

assessment of sites as high-risk. Over 41 requests came from the local population, local and international NGOs, other UN agencies and local authorities. Twenty-four ERW items, half containing white phosphorus, were disposed. Since UNMAT's deployment in Gaza, roughly half of ERW, or 174 out of 360 items, was found in the rubble of destroyed buildings during rubble removal activities conducted by UNDP, UNRWA and CHF International between July 2009 and June 2010.

Between 10 March and 12 May, UNMAT EOD teams destroyed all known white-phosphorus ERW in Gaza, consisting of 92x155-millimetre shells and canisters, as well as three high-explosive items. The demolitions were conducted at the central demolition site, in coordination with all relevant authorities within Gaza and Israel. This represented a major breakthrough, as it involved the transfer of explosives into the territory amid the blockade imposed on Gaza since June 2007. The techniques and procedures developed by UNMAT to establish the site in southern Gaza and destroy white-phosphorus ERW in an environmentally friendly and controlled manner were innovative and practical, given the limited amount of explosives available for each demolition serial. This has been recognized as an important advance that can be applied in other programmes worldwide.

UNMAT coordinated ERW risk education sessions for at-risk civilians, such as farmers working in or near the buffer zone with Israel: 88 sessions were given to 1,557 people. These included 78 risk education sessions for 840 at-risk civilians and 603 humanitarian workers from NGOs and UN agencies, and 10 safety trainings for 114 rubble removal contractors and humanitarian workers involved in those activities.

Human Interest Story: Mr. Yousef

When returning to Gaza in the mid-1990s after more than 20 years of teaching in the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Yousef and his wife built their house in an area east of Jabalia. Locals in the area referred to the Yousef family home as The Castle. During Operation Cast Lead, however, the house was occupied by Israeli Defense Forces and later destroyed. Confronted with the loss of his home, and concerns for his family's safety, Mr. Yousef relocated his wife and nine children to a small apartment in Jabalyia.

UNMAT visited Mr. Yousef for the first time in early November 2009 to carry out a risk assessment of his destroyed property prior to the removal of rubble by UNDP contractors. The site was determined as having a high risk of ERW contamination. During subsequent rubble removal operations, UNMAT EOD teams found 32 items of ERW, including one 155-millimetre white-phosphorus artillery shell. The teams rendered all anti-tank mines safe, and excavated and removed the white phosphorus shell. Given the threat posed by transporting the leaking white phosphorus, it was decided to burn off the item in a safe and isolated area nearby. Once the site was free of ERW, UNDP contractors were able to safely clear the rubble.

With money borrowed from neighbours and friends, Mr. Yousef started building a small two-bedroom house and chicken coops on the site of the destroyed nine-bedroom house. "I work hard all the time because it helps me to forget," he said. Since completing the construction of the house and three large chicken coops, Mr. Yousef now raises 4,000 chicks, 1,500 of which he received through a UNDP programme.

Lebanon

Highlights

- Completion of 39.8 percent of approved Blue Line markers by the end of 2010.
- Continued progress with cluster munitions clearance.

Impact

The marking of the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon, which requires extensive mine action support, is a crucial step in bringing long-term peace and security to Lebanon and the surrounding region as a whole. UNIFIL mine and battle area clearance demonstrate to the local population that the UN is committed to supporting the new strategic environment in south Lebanon created by the joint efforts of the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL. The completion of a new patrol road made possible through clearance activities has been a significant contribution to this new dynamic, and increased the capacity of the Lebanese authorities and UNIFIL to carry out their respective responsibilities.

Context

Due to the conflict in 2006, south Lebanon remains contaminated with thousands of ERW as well as mines from previous conflicts. These threaten the physical integrity and economic opportunities of the local population.

The UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC), as part of UNIFIL, supports clearance and EOD assets, which have shifted their focus from battle area clearance of cluster munitions to the marking of the Blue Line. This includes coordination and training to bring military units in line with national standards, derived from the IMAS. The UNMACC acts as the liaison between the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC) and its regional centre in Nabatiah, and UNIFIL senior leadership and substantive components. In 2010, the UNMACC continued assisting the LMAC to achieve a fully functional national mine action coordination capacity. The centre assumed this responsibility in 2009.

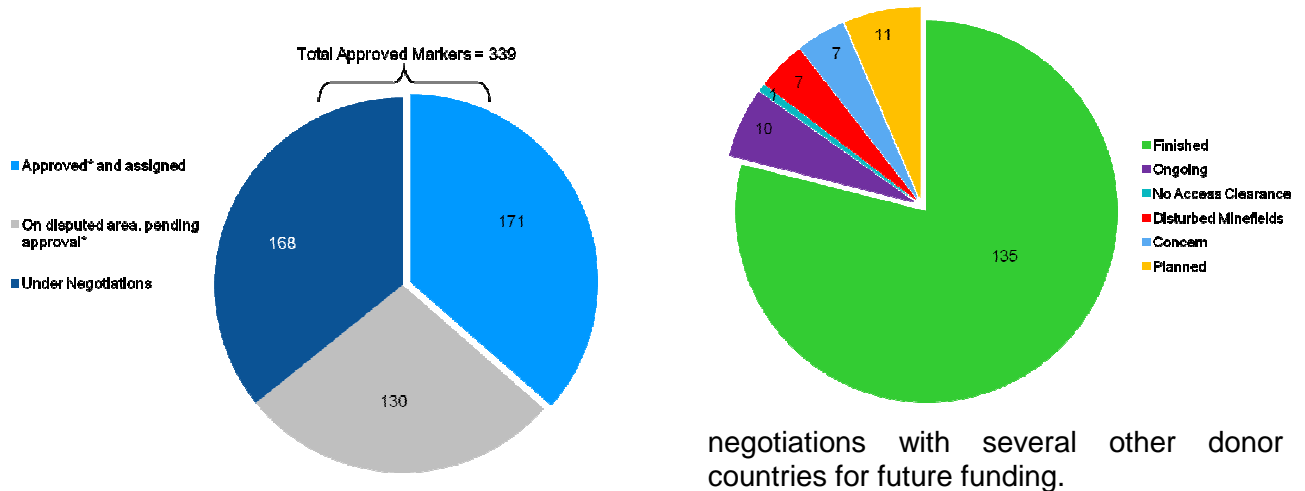
The handover of responsibility for mine action to the LMAC did not signal the completion of cluster munitions clearance, but rather the successful formation of national capacity for coordinating clearance. In its continued support for cluster munitions clearance, UNMAS provided a grant to DCA for cluster munitions clearance in south Lebanon.

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

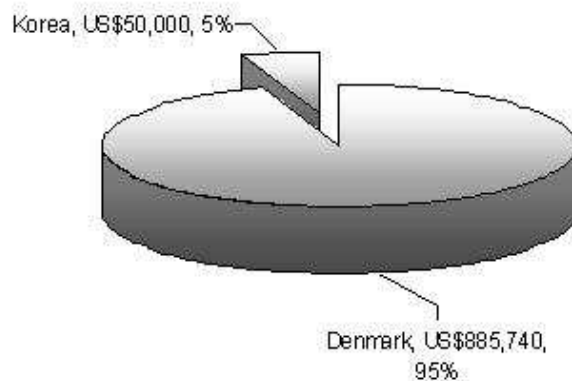
The UNMAS Director visited the programme in 2010 to review the activities of the UNMACC and its role within UNIFIL. With the LMAC, the Director reviewed issues related to the re-assessment of areas cleared after the 2006 conflict, and met with donors to discuss resource mobilization for cluster munitions clearance, and potential clearance of areas north of the newly cleared patrol road so these can be used by civilians.

The role of UNMAS headquarters is critical for UN missions such as UNIFIL, where coordination of operations is needed at headquarters and the national level. Close collaboration with the DPKO Office of Military Affairs helps ensure the smooth integration of UNMACC support within UNIFIL.

In 2010, UNMAS headquarters facilitated donor liaisons and the processing of US \$935,740 from the governments of Denmark and the Republic of Korea through the VTF. It is engaged in



Voluntary Contributions In 2010 for the Mine Action Programme in Lebanon



Coordination and Training

The UNMACC maintained its direct support for UNIFIL in the coordination of UN and non-UN mine action activities. Landmine and ERW safety briefings were given to all UN Truce Supervision Organisation Observer Group-Lebanon teams on a monthly basis, in line with their rotations, and to UNIFIL staff.

The UNMACC continued to assist UNIFIL troop-contributing countries and the LMAC with training, accreditation and quality assurance. The number of UNIFIL teams active in mine clearance increased in November with the deployment of the Cambodian contingent, to a total of six contingents active in large-scale clearance. The UNMACC and LMAC have accredited 38 teams and 312 individuals. Subsequent quality assurance ensured compliance of UN assets with national standards and inclusion of areas cleared by them in the national database.

Before the first deployment of the Cambodian unit to UNIFIL, the UNMACC conducted a pre-accreditation visit to Cambodia in order to review its preparedness and initiate accreditation to national standards. The visit focused on reviewing and updating standard operating procedures, equipment, the mechanical asset and refresher training to ensure all mine action activities are conducted in accordance with IMAS standards.

With the shift in UNIFIL clearance priorities to facilitate access lanes ensuring the visible marking of the Blue Line, the UNMACC has assisted the planning of clearance operations through data analysis and technical advice.

Operational Coordination

Following the reinforcement of UNIFIL in 2006, a number of contingents supplied EOD and mine clearance capacities, including Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and most recently Cambodia, in addition to the existing Chinese company already deployed. Along with the training, accreditation and quality assurance support that the UNMACC is providing to UNIFIL clearance assets, the UNMACC has also been involved in operational and technical support.

The UNMACC visited 263 cleared areas in 74 villages and towns, finding that the majority of communities are confident in the clearance, although sub-surface clearance is more trusted. Areas subject to only surface clearance have often remained suspect, and in some cases the land is unused. The LMAC is revisiting all suspected areas to address any lingering concerns.

As a number of minefields were subject to disruption by bulldozers and other heavy equipment during the conflict in 2006, a requirement for additional mechanical assets arose. UNMAS contracted MAG to conduct the clearance in support of the Blue Line marking project, and the extension of accommodations for the Spanish contingent. This was in addition to the grant provided to DCA, which was coordinated by the LMAC.

Human Interest Story: An Investment in Saving Lives

Siham is a female deminer who has been working for DCA in Lebanon since March 2007. Originally from Deir Kanun Annahr in the Tyre District, Siham was in need of a job when DCA started recruiting searchers to address the contamination of cluster munitions. "We are accustomed to war and its dangers, which is why the fear from mines did not prevent me from going ahead with my job," Siham said.

After being trained on clearance procedures and safety measures, Siham and her teammates started to search for cluster munitions. Despite the everyday danger, Siham finds her job quite straightforward, as it revolves around respect for standard operating procedures and safety requirements. "I trust the training that I have received, and the way I work in a minefield, and the need to support my three children outweighs my fear," Siham said.

A typical working day in Siham's life starts at 6:00 am. She and the team unpack the equipment, put on the personal protective equipment and walk down a one meter-wide path to search for cluster munitions. At the end of the day, the team supervisor records every team member's results, and demolitions are conducted to clear the area.

Siham appreciates the role of the medical team supporting them, although no accidents have occurred since DCA started operating in Lebanon. "We would never set foot in a minefield if the medical team was not present; they are always there for us," she said. It was not until an accident occurred with a colleague from another agency close to where Siham worked that she realized that the first mistake you make can be your last.

The clearance work is not without challenges: The heat and harsh terrain are among the difficulties that Siham and her team face every day. But promoted to the position of team leader only a month ago, Siham has realized how her work has turned into her passion. "It is a win-win-win situation. I advance in my career while discovering new areas in the south, support my children and make the areas safer for the locals. The greatest reward is to realize that each cluster munition I remove is a life I save."

Siham says she understands "...that donors tend to lose their patience as clearance activities slow down, but I would like to ask them not to give up on us: every centimetre of ground is worth the time we invest in it."

Somalia

Highlights

- 289,086 men, women, boys, and girls were reached with mine and ERW awareness messages in four regions of South-Central Somalia, a 100 percent increase over 2009; the first mine risk education reached Mudug and Galgaduud regions.
- First systematic survey of mine and ERW contamination in Mogadishu completed in two districts, identifying 52 dangerous areas.
- Improved capacity of AMISOM troops led to a reduction of over 80 percent in casualties from explosive devices.

Impact

The UNMAS programme in Somalia has several facets, including capacity development of local authorities, emergency humanitarian activities and peacekeeping support. Each contributes in different ways to improving the lives of local populations confronting an environment of insecurity and violence.

In Somaliland and Puntland, where UNMAS assumed responsibilities for supporting local authorities from UNDP in February, the enhancement of coordination and clearance capacities continued to enable development activities and reduce the number of civilian casualties, contributing to the stability of the two portions of Somalia where relative calm prevails.

Emergency humanitarian mine action activities in Somaliland and Puntland and in South-Central Somalia are implemented under the UN Somalia Mine Action (UNSOMA) portion of the programme. In the South-Central region, UNMAS provides much needed risk education to

populations faced with daily threats to their physical security from mines and ERW. The work of UNMAS, along with a small number of other UN and NGO humanitarian service providers, signals to average Somalis that the international community remains engaged in addressing their challenges.

In Mogadishu, as part of UNSOA, UNMAS in 2010 offered explosives management support to assist AMISOM engineering units. The project made significant gains in building capacities to ensure the safe and efficient deployment of peacekeepers. The reduction in AMISOM casualties from explosive devices has been key to the force's expansion throughout Mogadishu. This has brought calm to large portions of the city and extended the authority of the internationally recognized Transitional Federal Government.

Context and Challenges

The landmine and ERW contamination problem in Somalia is only partially understood, depending on the relative security situation in the three main regions: Somaliland, Puntland, and the South-Central region, including Mogadishu. A Landmine Impact Survey previously conducted in Somaliland and Puntland provided a general understanding of contamination and impact, and has served as a starting point for clearance activities. Towards conducting more effective operations, however, the HALO Trust completed a more detailed technical survey in Somaliland in 2008 and 2009. This has reduced the number and area of clearance tasks to 326 and 13.3 kilometres,² respectively. MAG began a similar exercise in Puntland in late 2010, in an effort to confirm previously reported areas of contamination.

In South-Central Somalia, the landmine and ERW problem is far less defined, with gaps in information, particularly in the southernmost regions, and in central Somalia, where security has been the most difficult. A baseline survey completed in 2008 for 718 communities in Bay, Bakol and Hiraan regions revealed 67 impacted communities, 59 suspected minefields and contamination in approximately 10 percent of all communities visited. High levels of contamination have also been reported in the Gedo region. Survey activities in the Afgoye Corridor and multiple districts of Mogadishu have identified a high volume of ERW, along with anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. The border area with Ethiopia is known to be mined. Over 400,000 IDPs are located in the Afgoye Corridor, where abandoned military sites house stockpiles of abandoned ordnance. IDP camps are often impacted by ERW.

A comprehensive casualty monitoring mechanism for all of Somalia is one of the biggest challenges to reducing death and injury, as a lack of baseline data renders monitoring of trends impossible. Over a third of reported mine and ERW casualties in South-Central Somalia occurred in Mogadishu. Although this represents only a fraction of likely victims, increased monitoring of mine and ERW accidents has enabled vast improvements in prioritization and targeting for mine action. Based on the casualty statistics, of 162 known victims, 84 percent survived the accident and will require support and assistance in the immediate, medium and long term.

*Reported Mine and ERW Casualties—South-Central Somalia (2010)**

	Child		Adult		Unknown		Total	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
Males	14	86	2	2	5	31	21	119
Females	5				2	12	7	12
Total: 2010	19	86	2	2	7	43	28	131

**These figures represent available data and are not comprehensive.*

Reported Mine and ERW Casualties—Somaliland (2010)

	Device				Age/gender				Casualty summary		
	Incident	UXO	Anti-personnel mine	Anti-tank mine	Male	Female	Adult	Child	Killed	Injured	Total
Total 2010	14	11	2	1	24	7	10	21	2	29	31

Somalia has not signed the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, or any related treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Somaliland has adopted legislation mirroring the requirements of the anti-personnel mine-ban convention, and intends to implement the Convention for the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Somalia has not had a fully functioning government in nearly 20 years. The internationally recognized Transitional Federal Government controls a portion of the capital with the assistance of African Union peacekeepers. Travel to and accommodation for international staff in Mogadishu has expanded over previous years, allowing more programmatic activities. The remainder of the southern and central parts of the country falls under the control of various groups and clan affiliations, with varying degrees of stability. UNMAS relies on dedicated national staff members who work within these complicated security environments. Portions of three regions in South-Central Somalia (Mudug, Galgaduud and Lower Shabelle) were accessible for humanitarian mine action activities in 2010, as well as districts of Mogadishu controlled by the Transitional Federal Government, which is indicative of the limited operational space for humanitarian actors.

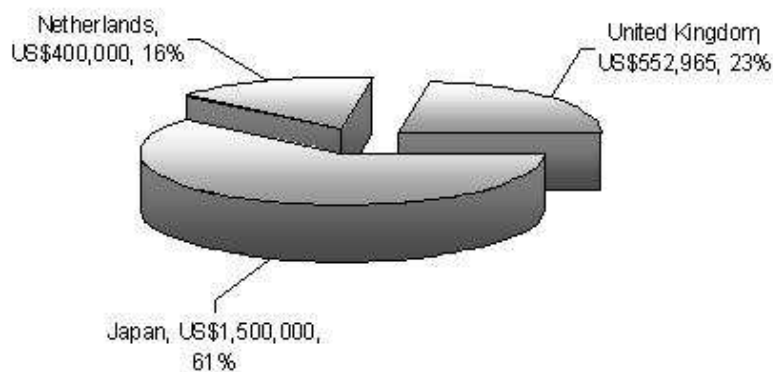
A requirement for gender-sensitive programming at all levels has fostered gender-balanced mine risk education teams, so that activities to raise awareness reach men, women, boys and girls. Survey, EOD and emergency medical teams also consist of men and women.

Achievements: Support from UNMAS Headquarters

The UNMAS Chief of Programme Planning and Management visited the Somalia programme to strategize on the expansion of support to AMISOM and the assumption of responsibilities in Somaliland and Puntland. The UNMAS Programme Officer conducted visits to Nairobi as well as Mogadishu and Somaliland to provide strategic guidance and consolidate support requirements from headquarters. UNMAS has participated consistently at both the field and headquarters levels in drafting and developing the UN Secretary-General's reports, and strategic planning exercises within DPKO and system-wide for Somalia. UNMAS also worked extensively with the Department of Safety and Security on the design of the UNMAS compound in Mogadishu, which served as the principle UN-approved accommodation for staff members from various parts of the UN system.

UNMAS supported humanitarian mine action through resource mobilization that secured US \$2,452,965 from Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Two in-kind advisors provided by Switzerland contributed to UNMAS operations in the areas of information management and administration and finance. UNMAS also secured significant increases for the UN assessed budget in support of AMISOM.

Voluntary Contributions In 2010 for the Mine Action Programme in Somalia



Achievements: Coordination, Training and Capacity Development

UNMAS coordinated stakeholder discussions, project development, vetting and submission for the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects and the CAP for Somalia. Working with local and international NGOs, as well as UN agencies, UNMAS developed a holistic mine action response strategy to support humanitarian, development and peacekeeping objectives. The UNMAS Programme Manager also took part in the Integrated Task Force review of the UN strategy in Somalia. UNMAS is one of the few UN entities with operational activities ongoing throughout Somalia, so this input assisted the review on overall substance and planning. In the absence of extensive state control in South-Central Somalia and Mogadishu, UNMAS coordinated activities of implementing partners, both those contracted by the United Nations and funded bilaterally. This has involved a thorough risk management approach to manage the ever-changing security situation in ways that ensure the safety of all staff while maximizing the number of beneficiaries that can be reached.

When UNMAS took over responsibility for mine action support in Somaliland and Puntland, it began to take steps towards a transition to full local responsibility for the management and operational support functions of the Somaliland Mine Action Centre (SMAC) and Puntland Mine

Action Centre (PMAC). Contributions from the Netherlands and United Kingdom enabled the development of National Technical Standards and Guidelines as a platform for all operational guidelines, as well as accreditation, quality assurance and monitoring activities. A capacity development needs assessment has helped to determine knowledge and capacity gaps, and facilitate the development of a training and mentorship plan for the coming 24 months. Twelve specialized training-of-trainers workshops were held for the SMAC and PMAC, humanitarian workers and community leaders in 11 affected districts throughout Somalia. This training enables local focal points to facilitate mine and ERW information sharing, and reporting of accidents and dangerous items. Complimentary support from Japan has allowed an increase in support to the police EOD teams in Somaliland. Two training courses increased their technical and operational capabilities in line with IMAS.

With the support of UNMAS, the SMAC, through workshops in regional capitals and other means, increased its engagement with government ministries, local leadership, civil society and partners, and has raised the profile of mine action activities at all levels of government and among members of the general public. Advocacy has encouraged the identification and destruction of government stockpiles, increased support to mine and ERW accident survivors, and the integration of mine risk education into the public school curriculum. At the end of the year, the Ministry of Education was considering adoption of mine risk education as a result of the strong efforts of the SMAC, supported by the Danish Demining Group (DDG) and HI.

Under the EMSA project, UNMAS has conducted extensive coordination with AMISOM, troop-contributing countries in their capitals and other international partners working to enhance the capacity of the peacekeeping operation to fulfill its mandate. It has worked to increase the capacity and capability of AMISOM peacekeepers to undertake EOD operations in a safe and efficient manner. This included training for 47 students, 41 of whom passed the EOD Level II course and have been undertaking removal and disposal activities throughout the year. UNMAS support for mine, ERW and IED awareness has enabled AMISOM to mitigate explosive threats far more effectively than in previous years. A total of 91 AMISOM officers completed five-day train-the-trainer courses to learn to conduct mine, ERW and IED awareness sessions for their soldiers. By the end of October, 1,124 AMISOM troops had attended these briefings.

In June, training was initiated to establish an explosive ordnance recognition team within the policy and military of the Transitional Federal Government. The training covered the identification and reporting of ERW, as well as assessment of items safe for transport. A team of 57 members now includes 24 EOD operators, 4 explosive detection dog handlers, and 29 people with cordoning and search skills. It is the foundation of long-term capacity within the government.

Achievements: Operational Coordination

Five police EOD teams, covering all six regions of Somaliland, removed and destroyed 2,104 items of ERW in response to community requests. These activities were supplemented by community security initiatives undertaken by DDG, which collected and destroyed 1,331 items from community and household stockpiles. HALO Trust, which has implemented demining activities in Somaliland for over a decade, cleared 9,286,712 square metres using manual and mechanical means, removing and destroying 95 anti-personnel and 26 anti-tank mines, as well as 925 ERW and small arms and munitions.

In Somaliland, mine risk education is incorporated into the activities of HALO, DDG, SMAC and the police EOD teams. As a component of their EOD activities, the police teams provided

awareness messages to 21,714 men, women, boys and girls. If a community requests assistance for an area in close proximity to a school, the EOD teams conduct a mine risk education lesson for the students; similarly, houses in the neighbourhood are targeted with messages.

The Puntland police EOD team, supported by UNMAS and MAG, collected and destroyed 2,419 items of ERW and small arms and ammunition throughout the region.

Clearance/Items Destroyed in Somaliland and Puntland						
	Manual (square metres)	Battle area clearance (square metres)	Anti- personnel mines	Anti- tank mines	ERW/small arms and ammunition	Total
Somaliland police EOD teams			0	0	2,104	2,104
HALO	1,479,933	7,806,779	95	26	925	1,046
DDG	0	0	0	0	1,331	1,331
Puntland police EOD team	0	0	0	0	2,419	2,419
Total	1,479,933	7,806,779	95	26	6,779	6,900

EOD activities were launched in Mogadishu in November 2009, representing an important step towards improving security for the peacekeeping operation and stability in the capital. This continued throughout 2010, with a total of 5,591 anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines, ERW, and small arms and ammunition destroyed. Survey activities took place district by district in three regions of South-Central Somalia, carried out by DDG (in Mudug and Banadir) and UNSOMA (in Lower Shabelle and Banadir). By the end of year, 1,140 items had been identified in 108 different locations in three of South-Central Somalia's 10 regions.

The AMISOM troops trained by the project destroyed 5,591 items from January through December. Their training, in concert with mentorship on patrol techniques provided by other supporters of the mission, allowed a sharp reduction in AMISOM casualties from explosive devices.

Survey/Clearance in South-Central Somalia (2010)		
Province	Dangerous areas identified	Items found
Banadir	94	962
Lower Shabelle	1	1
Mudug	13	177
Total	108	1,140

Clearance/Items Destroyed by AMISOM EOD Teams						
	Mechanical (square metres)	Battle area clearance (square metres)	Anti- personnel mines	Anti- tank mines	UXO/small arms and ammunition	Total

AMISOM	7,745	217	80	5,294	5,591
Total	7,745	217	80	5,294	5,591

In 2010, more Somalis were reached by mine and ERW awareness activities than in any previous year, with coverage extending throughout Somaliland and Puntland, and in four regions of South-Central Somalia. To address gender dynamics, 35 percent of all field teams are female, including supervisors and team leaders. Fifty-four percent of the beneficiaries in 2010 were women, and 67 percent were children. With the support of Japan, the UNSOMA programme provided humanitarian and lifesaving awareness information to 165,624 Somali men, women, boys and girls (including 68,028 in five districts of Mogadishu), and established a local identification and disposal capacity in three of the most densely populated and mine- and ERW-affected regions of South-Central Somalia. UNSOMA's rapid response capacity benefitted 18,125 people, and provided training to aid and relief workers in the South-Central area. Mogadishu and the Afgoye corridor were targeted due to high levels of reported contamination and casualty rates among dense populations of residents and IDPs. Awareness messages were provided to 151,280 men, women, boys and girls in Mogadishu by UNSOMA (76,439) and DDG (74,841); a further 52,344 IDPs were targeted in Afgoye.

For survivors, there are minimal health services available in most parts of the country. Survivors are becoming an increasing priority in Somaliland, which is considering implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and Puntland, where there is an increasing shift towards development priorities. The SMAC, working with UNMAS, improved the quality and consistency of secondary health care information provided to survivors, including options for physiotherapy, orthotic and prosthetic devices, and psychosocial support. During the year, the SMAC also liaised with the Ministry of Health to undertake a needs assessment of facilities available to mine and ERW survivors at regional hospitals in Somaliland.

In parts of South-Central Somalia, secondary health care is minimal, and security often limits access to the single functional physical rehabilitation centre, which is based in Mogadishu and supported by the Somali Red Crescent Society. UNSOMA, through its emergency medical capacity, comprising 12 nurses, provided primary support to the Medina hospital in Mogadishu, but far greater emergency trauma capabilities are required.

Sudan

Highlights

- 35 percent increase in landmine and ERW victims in the whole of Sudan, partly as a result of access to hitherto inaccessible areas, especially in the eastern states.
- Increased freedom of movement, trade, reconstruction, infrastructure development and agricultural activities due to the opening of 44,828 kilometres of roads from 2005 to 2010.
- More than 69,089,983 square metres of land released using new land release guidelines.
- Release of more than 60 percent of 6,080 identified hazards since the adoption of new guidelines on land release in mid-2008.
- Clearance of approximately 80 percent of total dangerous and suspected hazardous areas; opening of 96 percent of known roads for increased freedom of movement.
- Community-based mine risk education provided to 252,994 people in 2010.

- Assistance for 2,687 mine and ERW victims and persons with disabilities from 2005 to 2010.

Context and Challenges

During more than 20 years of civil conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), landmines were used and ERW scattered around major routes, inside villages, near wells and across arable land. This limited freedom of movement; constrained farming, cattle grazing and inter-community trading; and in general blocked people's access to socioeconomic resources. The fear of landmines combined with the general perception that many roads were mined led to road closures that impeded the movement of local populations and the return of IDPs to their pre-war homes, and hindered the delivery of UN and NGO humanitarian aid.

In January 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed and effectively ended the conflict. The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1590, which established UNMIS to support the CPA. To fulfil the UNMIS mine action mandate, the UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) was established in March 2005 as an integral part of the UNMIS peacekeeping efforts, with UNMAS as its principal actor. The office coordinates, facilitates and oversees quality assurance for all mine action activities in Sudan, unifies the activities of the Emergency Mine Action Programme, supports the UN peacekeeping operation and helps build national institutional mine action capacities. UNMAO is headquartered in Khartoum. Three regional UNMAO offices in Juba, Kadugli and El-Fasher coordinate operations throughout Sudan. With the 2008 inception of UNAMID, the Darfur office became the UNAMID Mine Action Office.

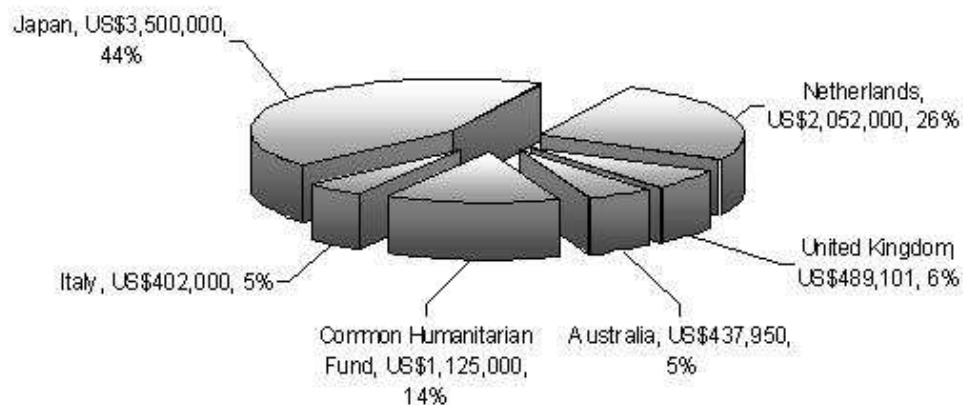
According to the Landmine Impact Survey report released in 2010, 296 communities in 15 of the 16 states surveyed have been identified as impacted by landmines and UXO. Of the 16 states, only Sennar had no impact from mines. An estimated 1,854,435 people are currently living in affected communities. When an expected 679,018 IDPs return to these areas, the total population will add up to more than 2.5 million people. This represents approximately six percent of the estimated 39 million people in Sudan. The Landmine Impact Survey was not conducted in nine other states. Six states in the north (Northern, Nile, Northern Kordofan, Khartoum, El Gezira and White Nile) were not regarded as having evidence of contamination. In three states in Darfur, security risks impeded access.

While the implementation of the CPA has been progressing, and the security situation in Sudan has improved on the whole, security concerns have affected mine action operations in some areas. In Darfur, security concerns continued to restrict mine action. Field deployments, especially in West Darfur, were hindered by numerous carjackings and armed attacks against UNAMID convoys. In southern Sudan, the 2011 referendum presented particular challenges in planning.

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS continued to support the mandates of UNMIS and UNAMID, liaise with stakeholders, and provide regular coordination on political, logistical, financial and resource mobilization matters. This encouraged contributions to the VTF of US \$8,600,051 by Australia, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the Common Humanitarian Trust Fund for Sudan (CHF).

Voluntary Contributions In 2010 for the Mine Action Programme in Sudan



UNMAS continued to liaise with troop-contributing countries to ensure the smooth training, rotation and accreditation of troops, as well as the regular review of the composition of military demining companies from Cambodia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Kenya and Pakistan, in accordance with IMAS.

The UNMAS Acting Chief of Programme Management and Oversight and programme officers conducted technical missions to support project implementation; liaise with peacekeeping mission staff, UN agencies and donors; and support national authorities to implement the transition plan. In support of Strategic Objective 4 of the UN Inter-Agency Strategy, UNMAS aided the transition process by providing financial and technical assistance for on-the-job training for staff members from the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) and the South Sudan Demining Authority (SSDA).

National Capacity Development, Coordination and Training

In order to continue enhancing national capacities throughout Sudan, a fifth workshop on transitioning the mine action coordination role from UNMAO to the SSDA and NMAC was held in Khartoum. During this workshop, the transition work plan was updated to reflect the current capacities of the two organizations as well as the actions needed for a successful transfer. Training requirements were identified and plotted on a transition matrix for both the north and the south. Support services were included in the discussion to complete the necessary elements for a successful programme.

With technical assistance from UNMAS and UNDP, national authorities mobilized approximately US \$3.5 million from the Government of National Unity and approximately US \$1.5 million from the Government of Southern Sudan. These funds are clear indicators of national commitment to

address the landmine and ERW problem. The Government of National Unity worked with UNMAS and UNDP to secure funding from the World Bank through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for the rehabilitation of some railway lines and approximately 200 kilometres of high-priority roads in the central and eastern parts of the country.

UNMAS, in partnership with other UN agencies, national authorities, and local and international NGOs, started revising the Sudan Mine Action Multi-Year Work Plan for 2011 to 2014, which constitutes the second phase of work. The plan is in its final stage. It will serve, upon its completion, as a standardized planning and resource mobilization document for all partners, identifying strategic priorities and benchmarks for mine action within the UN Development Assistance Framework. It accords with the goals set out by the Sudan Mine Action Strategic and Policy Framework as well as Sudan's commitments under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty.

UNMAS continued to contribute to peace-building between the parties to the CPA by maintaining high-level coordination, cooperation and information-sharing between the Sudan Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. This was achieved through an Information Management Committee established by the Joint Defence Board with support from UNMAS in 2007. Further UNMAS assistance helped start a formal accreditation process for joint integrated demining units, with the full accreditation of two teams achieved in 2009. The units have carried out land release operations in partnership with UNMAS-accredited commercial contractors in northern and southern Sudan. UNMAS technical assistance has aided in linking mine action activities in Sudan to broader recovery and development projects, and the return and resettlement of refugees and IDPs. These are considered key elements to stability and long-term peace-building.

In northern Sudan, UNMAS organized trainings on many aspects of operations and quality assurance, information management, international treaties and reporting requirements, the UN Development Assistance Framework, the MDGs and planning. More training in resource mobilization and public information is scheduled for the next reporting period. Also, a temporary consultant, expert in administrative and logistics issues, has been assigned to the NMAC to assist in increasing the efficiency of its logistics and administration.

In southern Sudan, UNMAS, in partnership with UNDP, provided valuable technical and financial assistance to the SSDA on a wide range of issues, including planning, coordination, priority setting, resource mobilization, information management, quality assurance and the fulfilment of international obligations. A capacity development technical advisor was recruited to lead the transition process. UNDP also recruited a UN volunteer for additional support. Both staff members work in the SSDA compound to provide day-to-day technical assistance.

Operational Coordination

The three main objectives for mine action in Sudan were: to reduce the risk of injuries and raise awareness of landmines and ERW, to help bolster national mine action capacities in light of the transition at the end of June 2011, and to remove ERW to increase humanitarian access. The National Technical Standards and Guidelines on Land Release, launched in September 2009, continued to be implemented by all mine action partners throughout Sudan.

In Sudan as a whole, 7,100 kilometres of roads were opened, bringing the cumulative total to 44,828 kilometres since clearance began. In the south, the focus remained on linking remote regions to major towns and international borders. A number of roads were opened linking Raja to the rest of south-eastern Sudan. The focus on opening routes and resettlement areas to aid

the return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees included opening links to Boma, one of the major corridors for refugees from Ethiopia, as well as the Juba-Kajo Keji road for the resettlement of IDPs and refugees in Central Equatoria State. Opening these routes will support freedom of movement, promote economic development and open access to social services. With increased development of the economy in southern Sudan, UNMAS coordinated assets for the widening and reconstruction of roads for increasing trade and commerce.

In northern Sudan, route clearance facilitated the movement of refugees and IDPs, and permitted increased aid delivery to needy communities. Clearance of roads in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, which had been previously closed to UN convoys, allowed communities in the surrounding areas to have better access to services provided by the Government and international organizations.

Clearance operations that began in 2009 in the town of Ullu, in Blue Nile State, were completed in the beginning of June. This area was deemed a top priority for humanitarian clearance, as the town was completely surrounded by minefields, with only one road leading in and out. Residents had to cross minefields to collect firewood or use land for agriculture and livestock. Twenty-four anti-tank mines, 127 anti-personnel mines and 657 ERW were cleared from over 1 million square metres of land.

In Darfur, activities consisted of route assessments, general explosive hazard assessments, ERW demolitions, ERW risk education for IDPs and civilians, and training of teachers. The office focused on assisting UNAMID activities, with differing degrees of success due to the availability of force protection, permission from the Government of Sudan and accessibility to contaminated regions.

A partnership with UNICEF provided community-based mine and ERW risk education to 252,994 people. Over 542 teachers were trained under the School-Based Risk Education programme; they in turn reached an estimated student population of over 9,112. IDPs and returnees remained the key focus of education efforts, conducted through the deployment of 36 teams under the direct supervision of over 15 organizations in the northern region and six in the southern region. Over 50,000 copies of educational materials were produced and distributed. To cultivate national capacities to manage mine risk education, training workshops and on-the-job training were conducted for the mine risk education staff of the national authorities. This was coupled with joint monitoring visits by staff of UNMAS and national authorities.

Victim assistance projects were ongoing, reaching over 2,687 mine and ERW victims and persons with disabilities. Regular meetings of two coordination groups were chaired by NMAC in Khartoum and the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs in Juba. In February, a national workshop involving all victim assistance partners, along with relevant authorities, diplomats, and experts from Sudan and abroad, was organized to revise and update the National Victim Assistance Work Plan.

Impact

Sudan's mine action programme is intended to reduce the threat from landmines and ERW, including through opening routes and releasing once-contaminated land to communities.

A recent increase in victims can potentially be explained by reduced security threats that have allowed access in areas previously closed to the civilian population, such as the Hamishkoraib locality in northern Sudan, along the Eritrean border. Increasing openness allows information

about contaminated areas and accidents to reach the programme and be recorded in the IMSMA database.

The opening of roads continues to improve freedom of movement and makes tremendous contributions to facilitating the return of refugees and IDPs as well as to the delivery of humanitarian aid. Clearance operations have renewed the use of land for agricultural purposes, and other developmental and income-generating activities.

In southern Sudan, activities in 2010 were oriented around improving movement for returnees, and increasing access to social services and infrastructure. The opening of routes continued to support freedom of movement, promote economic development and permit access to social services. Minefield clearance throughout the region aided the resettlement of IDPs along with the construction of primary schools. ERW stockpile destructions continued to be conducted throughout the year. The Cambodian Military Demining Platoon EOD team, in partnership with a Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) EOD team, completed ERW stockpile destructions in Pochalla. A total of 29,139 kilogrammes of explosives was destroyed, including anti-tank mines, anti-personnel mines and UXO. With this clearance, aircraft will be able to fly in and out of Pochalla more safely.

In Kassala, multi-tasking teams completed survey and clearance operations in the villages of Abu Gamul and Al Lafa. The release of this land will facilitate the return of approximately 3,000 displaced persons, and allow farming and herding to resume. A road between Eritrea and Sudan can be completed, promoting much needed economic development in the eastern states.

In Blue Nile State, six minefields were cleared in and around the town of Kurmuk. Through the collaboration of seven agencies, 2.5 square kilometres of land were released. A great need for land to build houses meant new construction began on newly cleared land as soon as demining teams advanced to a safe distance.

Human Interest Story: Opening Blue Nile

The scene of heavy fighting between rival forces during Sudan's civil war, Blue Nile State inherited numerous minefields planted by both sides of the conflict. The mines have severely hindered local movement, blocking rain-fed agricultural lands, water sources, grazing grounds and commercial routes.

UNMAS began assessing the impacts of mines and ERW on the state in 2005 in collaboration with the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action. By March 2007, a Landmine Impact Survey was completed. It noted that 33 communities in Blue Nile State were affected by mines and ERWs. Further surveys and mine action in the state revealed that 54 communities were affected, with 11 considered high priorities due to blockages and levels of danger.

"Blue Nile State was faced with a known problem of 61 dangerous areas, 20 defined minefields and 28 suspected hazardous areas throughout 54 communities," said Armen Harutyunyan, UNMAO Regional Operations Coordinator for northern Sudan.

These statistics were not static, as new areas of contamination were at times identified, the coordinator added. "In the 2010-2011 demining season, we aim to clear all high-priority hazards first before addressing the remaining medium- and low-priority ones."

Considered an important strategic site during the war, the Blue Nile State town of Kurmuk was surrounded by minefields laid dangerously close to its residents. Land release began in Kurmuk in 2006, with implementing partners collecting all existing documentation related to the minefields as well as all evidence of accidents to better define the land to be cleared or discounted. Land release focused on emergency humanitarian priorities like access to settlements and water. It continued with the survey and clearance of minefields surrounding the town.

Mechanical demining machines were used in six minefields defined through surveys in early 2009. The machines shortened the work by at least two years, releasing the equivalent of 300 football fields to the local population.

“The inclusion of mechanical assets in Blue Nile State has had a great impact on the clearance rates,” said Steve Davies Bem, UNMAO Operations Officer in Blue Nile State. “We have been able to survey the fields more effectively and identify the high risk areas more quickly.”

UNMAS and the NMAC have cooperated in releasing the land. Pakistani demining platoons and Ronco Consulting Ltd. helped make it a reality, destroying over 7,000 anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines and ERW.

Recently built houses can now be seen around Kurmuk on cleared land, and one area has actually become a football field. The owner of one of these dwellings, Deng Malek, moved back to Kurmuk from Keili, where his family had gone to live with relatives. “We were all crowded in and we did not have our own place. Then we found out that they cleared the mines in Kurmuk, and we returned to our land.” Mr. Malek has now finished building a second house on cleared land.

Farming, animal grazing and borderline commerce have all resumed, and a new road links the state capital of Ed Damazin to Kurmuk.

“We are very grateful to UNMAS and its partners for the clearance activities. Our people can now live in safety,” said Acting Commissioner of Kurmuk locality Zakaria Mariat.

With Sudan gradually entering a stage of new development, UNMAS plans to change from an implementation to a support role at the end of June 2011, with the NMAC taking over the coordination of demining activities.

Western Sahara

Highlights

- More than 7,609 ERW destroyed east of the berm, accelerating threat reduction by more than 422 percent in the highly contaminated areas of Mehaires and Tifariti.
- Over 6.8 million square metres of land released, making land safe for livelihood generation and future refugee returns.
- Mine and ERW safety briefings provided to 260 men and women, comprising 234 military and 26 civilian staff.

Impact

The mine action programme in Western Sahara has two target groups: UN observers who must navigate desert tracks often in dangerous areas, and local populations that are primarily nomadic, leaving them particularly susceptible to threats. More than 6.8 million square metres of land were released in 2010, marking a 242 percent increase over the amount released in UN-supported interventions the previous year. The programme also demonstrated a more focused application of resources, with a 422 percent increase in the number of ERW destroyed. The result for peacekeepers is a more conducive environment in which to execute their mandate. The results for the local population include increased safety and food security, which contributes to the attainment of the MDGs. The recruitment of female staff for the programme promoted gender equality and the empowerment of women.

An important aspect of UNMAS assistance to the peacekeeping work of MINURSO includes providing technical support to the Confidence-Building Measures programme. The programme relies on air transport, which is expensive and limited in scope, to facilitate the reunification of separated family members. In anticipation of its future expansion through the use of overland routes, the Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC) conducted a reconnaissance mission along 650 kilometres of proposed routes to evaluate mine and ERW threats. The analysis and recommendations will play an essential role in planning and implementing options for overland transport for a programme with the potential to assist thousands of families.

Context and Challenges

Over 30 years of conflict between Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberacion de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro (Polisario) have left Western Sahara contaminated by both landmines and ERW. The widespread threat throughout the territory continues to have a negative impact on both sides of the 2,000-kilometre-long earthen berm, which was built by Morocco between 1982 and 1987 to secure the western part of the territory. The berm and its associated buffer zone are known to be the most heavily contaminated areas. Current threats include anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, aircraft bombs, air and ground ordnance, and small arms and ammunition.

UN mine action in Western Sahara operates as part of MINURSO, which was established through Security Council resolution 690 (1991) to monitor a ceasefire between the parties, and to ensure a free and fair referendum on the territory's status. Following an UNMAS mission in 2005 that identified the conditions required to undertake large-scale mine action activities, MINURSO established a small mine action capacity that has grown steadily to become more commensurate with the threat.

Capacity east of the berm now consists of four multi-faceted survey, battle area clearance, EOD and demining teams, with a 24/7 on-call response capacity to assist UN staff or civilians in case of an emergency. On the western side of the berm, the Royal Moroccan Army (RMA) is undertaking a comprehensive demining effort, launched in January 2007, due in part to a rising awareness of mine and ERW accidents. MINURSO has been working with the RMA since 2007 to identify possible avenues of support for their humanitarian clearance effort.

Since 1975, mines and ERW have reportedly caused more than 2,524 landmine casualties, including some 541 fatalities. Recent data indicate 24 new victims during the year, although the number of victims is likely higher, given the lack of accurate data collection and reporting mechanisms in the territory.

The socioeconomic impacts of mines and ERW are considerable. Livelihood opportunities in the desert are limited by the scarcity of water, which, when coupled with poor infrastructure and social marginalization, negatively affects health and food security. The majority of mine and ERW accidents occur along the berm, which is rich in *wadis* and other water resources, making it an otherwise ideal location for animal herding and small-scale agriculture. Only a limited number of people make the territory their home; the vast majority continue to reside in refugee camps in Algeria. Regardless of the final resolution of the question of Western Sahara, mines and ERW will need to be addressed.

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS headquarters provided strategic guidance and assisted with resource mobilization, advocacy and financial accountability. Close collaboration between field staff and headquarters ensured a smooth integration of strategic considerations and technical programme results, as well as support on wider policy and advocacy issues.

In the area of programme advocacy and visibility, UNMAS headquarters provided assistance to the development of a user-friendly information booklet on the programme. The guide, which has been shared with donors and made publicly available on-line, provides essential information on mines and ERW, their impacts, programme goals and responses. It offers recommendations for future activities. Similarly, headquarters supported the development of an article in the fall issue of the *Journal of ERW and Mine Action* to raise awareness of the situation in Western Sahara and the programme.

Headquarters facilitated donor liaisons and the provision of US \$137,000 from the Government of the Netherlands through the VTF. It also engaged in negotiations with other donor countries to identify sufficient funds or in-kind contributions, in addition to funds provided by the peacekeeping assessed budget.

Coordination, Training and Capacity Development

Although the mine action programme in Western Sahara is still in its early stages, its progress has become increasingly visible, and recognized for its impact and potential. In March, the Polisario leadership requested that the MACC begin steps towards future clearance of minefields in the buffer strip east of the berm. It has also asked for support for developing a local mine action authority and standards.

Coordination among mine action partners made noteworthy progress with the availability of additional staff within the MACC to convene stakeholder consultations and outline strategies for mine risk education and victim assistance. Increased casualty rates within the territory highlight the urgent need to raise resources for mine risk education for high-risk populations. The MACC conducted a workshop with the Polisario, ICRC, Geneva Call, Landmine Action UK (LMA) and the Saharawi Campaign to Ban Landmines in Tindouf, Algeria in November 2010. Participants exchanged information and discussed the development of mine risk education programmes that could be implemented in 2011.

Operational Coordination

Within the framework of MINURSO's mandate, the UNMAS programme assists in the prevention and reduction of risks of death and injury from landmines and ERW, and contributes to a safer living and operating environment for the people of Western Sahara, the United Nations, and humanitarian and development organizations. Through its work, UNMAS helps create an environment conducive to peace, security and the resettlement of refugees.

Enhancement of capacity within the MACC in 2010 allowed it to provide more robust support to mission operations, increase quality assurance monitoring and dedicate additional resources to strategic engagements with partners. Among the activities prioritized was the accuracy of data management within the IMSMA system, as this information guides mission planning and operations. An additional 51 cluster strike sites were recorded. Another emphasis has been enhanced coordination and information exchange with the RMA Southern Command in Agadir, Morocco. In-kind support provided by a gratis IMSMA officer from MSB assisted in ensuring the accuracy and appropriate management of hazardous data impacting all UN and humanitarian field activities.

In July and August, the MACC, in collaboration with the MINURSO GIS Department, produced a map of dangerous areas in preparation for the Security Risk Assessment of MINURSO conducted by the UN Department of Safety and Security. The assessment highlighted mines and ERW as the most pressing threats to the safety of UN personnel in the territory. The MACC provided analysis on the proximity of emergency landing sites to dangerous areas to support the development of an aviation safety contingency plan, and directed LMA in a route assessment after heavy rains in the Mijek area caused concerns about the migration of mines in the flooding.

A major highlight has been the increase in clearance assets and productivity with the addition of a dedicated EOD team and additional battle area clearance team members. In September, the recruitment, training and accreditation of 13 new battle area clearance operators and the EOD team were completed.

Human Interest Story: Maryam and Mahjouba's Story

It was a seemingly normal day in February for Saharan families living in Rgewa *wadi*, not far from Mehaires. Two small girls, Mariam, aged five, and her friend Mahjouba, aged three, were playing with a flock of lambs belonging to one of the families. As the lambs wandered, so did the girls. They eventually strayed some distance from their families' tents.

As they wandered, the girls came upon a dark brown substance on the ground. The young girls thought they had found chocolate treats. Unfortunately for Maryam and Mahjouba, the substance was not chocolate, but toxic pieces of the explosive RDX, remnants from munitions. RDX is normally white in color, but changes to a dark brown when exposed to intense sunlight. Tempted by the prospect of the sweets, the girls ate some of the deadly substance.

The medical staff at the local hospital in Mehaires, despite their limited resources, made their best efforts to save the two girls. Unfortunately, they were unable to help Maryam. Although Mahjouba was smaller and younger, the doctors assisted her in expelling the poison before it did serious harm. They evacuated her to higher-level medical facilities at Tindouf hospital in southern Algeria.

VII. National Programmes Supported by UNMAS

Colombia

Highlights

- Draft National Guidelines and Technical Standards developed.
- Procedures for accreditation put in place for training quality assurance monitors.
- An information strategy devised, and business practices to enhance information management revised.

Impact

Colombia is committed to addressing its landmine problem and has demonstrated this thorough ratification of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty, for which it hosted the Second Review Conference in 2009. It has completed its stockpile destruction requirements, created a national mine action strategy and allocated resources accordingly. In the area of demining, compliance with Article 5 of the treaty is a priority.

UNMAS assistance to PAICMA commenced in early 2010 to provide expert technical guidance in the development of a comprehensive operational coordination system for civilian mine clearance. The new system will allow the integration of clearance activities by civilian humanitarian organizations in the national demining framework. This will increase Colombia's capacity to address its mine and ERW problem in a more robust and efficient manner, and is highlighted as being a vital element in Colombia's recent extension request under Article 5.

UNMAS assistance during the first six months of the programme demonstrated its value and potential. Additional assistance has been requested to capitalize on progress and provide a wider range of technical guidance. UNMAS support promotes an improved response to affected communities, and will contribute to broader development goals.

Context and Challenges

The Colombian landmine and ERW problem may be one of the most complex in the world. Since 1990, mines, IEDs and other explosive ordnance have been used by non-state armed groups, narcotics traffickers and paramilitary forces. The precise nature and extent of the contamination remains unclear; however, 31 of Colombia's 32 departments are contaminated.

According to PAICMA's casualty figures, there have been 8,998 victims of anti-personnel mines from 1990 through October 2010. The number of incidents has decreased since 2007, but still represents a serious situation.

To date, military demining platoons have undertaken mine and ERW clearance with support provided by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Defense Board. In May 2009, Colombia announced its intention to pass national legislation that would allow civilian demining organizations to begin operating. Recognizing the complexity of the transition, PAICMA requested UNMAS technical assistance to help develop the necessary operational coordination systems to undertake the change. The new national mine action bill, adopted on 1

December 2010, formalized the shift in the national framework. Several NGOs are actively pursuing collaboration with PAICMA to begin mine clearance activities where possible.

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

The role of UNMAS headquarters is critical in Colombia, where in-country technical staffing is minimal, and programme guidance and assistance are needed on an ongoing basis. The close collaboration between staff at the national and headquarters levels ensured the integration of strategic considerations with technical concerns. The strategy of anchoring the programme through one full-time advisor, with additional support provided through UNMAS' broader network of experts, provided an economical and efficient system for support, and reduced requirements for additional headquarters assistance with multiple deployments.

The UNMAS Programme Officer conducted an assistance mission in May, and the UNMAS Chief of Programme Planning and Management carried out a mid-term programme review in November to assess progress in implementing the joint UNMAS-PAICMA programme agreement. The review process provided an opportunity to document positive achievements in establishing the programme, and initiate the development of the operational coordination systems and procedures. Results were noted in all areas of collaboration. This information has directly informed programme planning for 2011.

UNMAS headquarters facilitated donor liaisons and the processing of funds from the governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom through the VTF, including US \$150,000 from the Government of the Netherlands.

Coordination, Training and Capacity Development

In order to develop revised operational coordination systems, the UNMAS programme conducted a range of activities to provide both technical assistance and broader capacity development. Support from the UNMAS Senior Technical Advisor facilitated the drafting of National Guidelines and Technical Standards now under review by PAICMA. The guidelines and standards represent a milestone in establishing authoritative procedures for conducting mine clearance operations under the new framework, which will include civilian humanitarian mine clearance operators. UNMAS deployed an expert consultant who undertook a comprehensive assessment that will inform the future use and quality assurance of mine detection dogs.

Draft accreditation procedures for civilian demining teams were also developed. An assessment of the quality management team was carried out as a step towards creating a comprehensive training course for staff and senior managers. A five-week training course was established, and a training-of-trainers session was held for 25 staff from PAICMA, OAS, NGOs and others partners. This was followed by individual assessments and the development of quality management plans for individual departments within PAICMA and the OAS. UNMAS also provided training in ISO (International Organization for Standardization) standards for 20 PAICMA staff.

UNMAS offered technical assistance in information management that went beyond the IMSMA to focus on broader policy and system architectures. This will provide PAICMA with the capacity to adapt and expand efficiently in response to the increase in civilian actors on the ground.

Beyond the technical aspects of operational coordination, UNMAS provided consultation and advice on a number of issues. The UNMAS advisor assisted with preparation of Colombia's request for an extension of its Article 5 commitments under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty, as well as proposed language in the draft national law on civilian demining that was adopted in December. With the appointment of a new PAICMA Director, UNMAS suggested various models for any potential restructuring of the office to ensure the most integrated approach across the various sections.

At an inter-agency level, UNMAS initiated steps to develop a joint UN mine action strategy in Colombia. The draft concept document is aimed at articulating the roles of UN agencies, and the comparative advantages that each has in supporting PAICMA and mine-affected communities. The draft strategy also highlights mine action links with the UN Country Team, specifically regarding humanitarian principles, and civil and military cooperation. UNMAS has also taken a lead in providing an important coordination link between mine action NGOs currently deployed in Colombia and PAICMA. The UNMAS support has been highly appreciated and recognized as important for NGOs and their common aim of providing humanitarian support to affected communities.

Nepal

Highlights

- 16 minefields and 150 IED fields cleared, bringing the Government of Nepal closer to reaching its commitments under the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.
- Completion of the Nepal Army–UNMAT Capacity Development Plan and reduction in international advisory support.
- Establishment of the Mine Action Section within the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction.
- Nearly a 40 percent reduction in victim-activated casualties from 2009.

Impact

While the peace process continues to face challenges in Nepal, the work conducted in mine action has set an example of what can be achieved through political will and sufficient resources. Continued support to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in developing and implementing the national mine action strategy, which encompasses clearance, victim assistance, mine risk education and advocacy, has assisted in the steep reduction in casualties. These gains have opened the way for the Nepalese Government to further consider accession to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty.

Clearance has also increased access to land for cultivation, herding and other activities that contribute to the livelihoods of everyday Nepalese. The capacity developed by Nepalese authorities will allow them to carry the clearance work to its fruition on their own, with the reduction of UNMAS's presence and closure of the capacity development programme expected in mid-2011.

Context and Challenges

The 10-year conflict in Nepal that ended in 2006 left portions of the country contaminated by mines and ERW. The Nepal Army laid 53 minefields, and an estimated 275 areas were contaminated with command-detonated explosive devices to protect military installations, police posts and infrastructure such as communications sites. A large number of IEDs used by the Maoist Army in place of conventional grenades and bombs also contaminate areas of the country.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 21 November 2006 and the Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies of 8 December 2006 committed the Nepal Army and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), or CPN (M), to rid the country of threats from landmines and ERW, and to assist in clearing minefields and destroying stockpiles of ammunition and caches of IEDs within 60 days. Since April 2007, UNMAS, in coordination with UNICEF as the UNMAT for Nepal, has been providing support to meet the obligations of the agreements.

The UNMAS component of UNMAT supports clearance of landmines and ERW, whereas the UNICEF component supports mine risk education, victim assistance and advocacy. The Mine Action Joint Working Group previously co-chaired by UNMAT has been led by the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction since August 2010 in a clear demonstration of increased commitment and capacity by the national authorities. Through the capacity development work of UNMAS, the Nepal Army plans, manages and implements mine action with four fully outfitted military demining platoons in compliance with nationally developed standards based on IMAS.

The Nepalese Department of Education, the Army, the Police Armed Forces, over 10 national NGOs and UNICEF have ongoing mine risk education projects to assist at-risk populations. Available data in 2010 revealed 43 victims of mines and ERW, the majority under the age of 18. This represents a 39 percent drop from the previous year. The data indicate that the majority of casualties are caused by victim-activated IEDs and dangerous behaviour, such as tampering.

Casualties in Nepal (2010 compared to 2009)

	Age 0-18			Age 18+			Total		% of reduction
	2009	2010	% of reduction	2009	2010	% of reduction	2009	2010	
Male	18	14	22.2	30	14	53.3	48	28	41.6
Female	14	8	42.8	8	7	12.5	22	15	31.8
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	32	22	31.25	38	21	44.7	70	43	38.7

The Nepal Government is not a state party to the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons or the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Government ratified the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities on 7 May 2010.

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS headquarters provided substantive programme support and coordinated resource mobilization activities. Voluntary contributions from the United Kingdom and unearmarked resources allowed for programme continuity by bridging contributions from the principal funding source, the UN Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN).

Visits from headquarters by the UNMAS Programme Officer played an important role in advocacy with senior government officials, and provided inputs into the UNMAT Nepal concept of operations and development of the first draft of the National Mine Action Strategy.

Coordination and Training

The establishment of a mine action section within the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction has facilitated the coordination of mine action among military, government and civil society actors. Capacity development activities with the Nepal Army continued to improve the effectiveness of demining operations and ensure compliance with national standards. The joint UNMAT-Nepal Army Mine Action Coordination Centre (NAMACC) Capacity Development Plan finalized in February 2009 was fully implemented. The heart of the plan was a series of progressively advanced training courses, in country and externally, in all aspects of field operations and mine action programme management. These have allowed the NAMACC to assume greater responsibility for programmatic activities.

The National Mine Action Strategy was drafted and submitted for endorsement to the Government. Based on the draft strategy, UNMAT and the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction prepared an annual work plan that is the basis for all mine action activities. These advances allowed for the reduction in international technical assistance by two advisors by the end of the year.

On the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction hosted a press conference to highlight the work of the Government, United Nations and civil society actors in eliminating threats from landmines and ERW. The event proved to be very effective in disseminating information and perspectives on mine action in Nepal.

UNMAT hosted the visit of the Director of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty Implementation Support Unit in February 2010 to discuss the prospect of Nepal's accession to the treaty. Meetings were held with the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, the Nepalese Army, the UN Resident Coordinator and relevant UN offices, the ICRC, civil society organizations and donors to address issues that will hopefully lead to Nepal's accession in the near future.

Operational Coordination

The multi-donor UNPFN and the UNMAS VTF supported the main costs of the Nepal programme, with the Government covering other costs associated with the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction and the NAMACC. The governments of Canada, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom contributed to the UNPFN, with additional voluntary contributions by the United Kingdom to the VTF. An in-kind advisor provided by Switzerland supported the programme in administration and finance.

The three demining platoons expanded to four in late 2010. Clearance activities resulted in the demining of 16 minefields, a 20 percent increase over 2009, with 3,269 mines and 250 ERW destroyed. Out of 275 IED fields laid by the Nepal Army during the conflict, 150 were systematically cleared.

UNMAS continued to support UNICEF in providing victim assistance with the dissemination of more than 5,000 copies of the victim assistance handbook produced in 2009. It was passed out across Nepal, covering 71 districts. Recipients of the handbook included health and physical

rehabilitation centres, organizations for persons with disabilities, NGOs, human rights organizations and secretaries of village development committees.

Human Interest Story: Chhinchu Minefield

During the conflict, the Nepal Army laid mines in and around the army barracks in Chhinchu, Surkhet District, in the mid-western region of Nepal. The minefield affected the local population as public spaces and private land were integrated into the security perimeter. Anti-personal fragmentation mines laid 10 metres from the road posed a threat to people and vehicles that passed. Children and teachers at the school were just five metres from the minefield. They had to attend class everyday, aware of the danger on their doorstep. Occasional mine explosions caused by extreme heat or lightening added to the insecurity.

Lt. Bashudev Pageni, site manager during the clearance of Chhinchu, recalled that out of all the minefields, working in Chhinchu was particularly challenging. The weather was hot and humid, making work difficult for the deminers fully suited in their body armour. Small streams flowed through parts of the minefield, bringing with them metallic debris from the nearby market. Old vehicles and other scattered metal, including from mines that had previously exploded, cluttered the signals of the detectors.

For a firsthand look at the tangible work done by the deminers and the impact on women, men, girls and boys, a visit was organized for donor representatives from Denmark and the United Kingdom, along with a representative from the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction. Even the short walk to the minefield in personal protection equipment in the hot, humid weather made them realize the challenges of the work. Talking to the site manager and deminers gave them an appreciation for this difficult and dangerous work. The delegation appreciated the team's hard work, patience, courage and efforts to liaise with women, men, girls and boys to prevent any accidents until the clearance could be completed.

Major Bijayant Sherchan, the Assistant Military Attaché of the British Embassy, noted, "Minefields still pose a threat to the people in the villages across Nepal. Demining in Nepal is critical in facilitating mobility, the return of populations and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, all important ingredients to concluding the peace process in a satisfactory manner. Mine clearance is a tedious and risky business, but critical in the peace building process, and the Nepalese Army is at the forefront. I was able to witness at firsthand the Nepal Army deminers at work in Chhinchu, and I was impressed with their professionalism and dedication in mine clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance to the local communities affected by the minefields laid during the conflict."

Bandana Sharma, Project Officer of the Danish Embassy, added, "Only after visiting the site, did I understand the gravity of the problem and the importance of the work that the deminers were doing. Hats off to them! It is indeed very challenging as I experienced it during my tour wearing personal protection equipment that, in my view, adds more to the challenge of demining."

Personally experiencing the threat the mines pose to the school children and local population allowed the visitors to put in context the raw statistics of metres cleared and devices destroyed quoted to them in Kathmandu. After the clearance, the children are able to attend school without boundaries and the edge of the road no longer poses the risks it once did.

Lt. Pangení reflected on the work, “I am very happy and satisfied with our work although it is quite tough sometimes, I forget about the difficult and stressful times when I receive a smile from the community and their blessings.”

VIII. UNMAS Support to Other Programmes: Facilitating Peace and Recovery

Cambodia

Two Cambodian NGOs—AAR Vocational Training for the Disabled (AAR VTD) and AAR Wheelchair Production for Development (AAR WCD)—continued to implement victim assistance activities with funding from UNMAS. AAR VTD provided vocational training to 38 persons with disabilities, including 18 mine and ERW survivors, from July to December 2010. Fourteen took part in electronic appliance repair training, and 24 participated in sewing training. All the students took additional classes to develop literacy, English and other skills, and to learn about the rights of persons with disabilities, financial management, and HIV and AIDS. Of the 38 graduates, 94 percent opened their own workshops in their communities, or found employment at companies and NGOs in which they can utilize acquired vocational skills. AAR WCD produced and distributed 272 wheelchairs to persons with disabilities, mainly landmine survivors. A follow-up survey showed that 90 percent considered their mobility improved through a wheelchair, and 85 percent felt that the family workload had been reduced. All these activities were supported by a contribution from the Government of Japan received in 2009.

Ethiopia

UNMAS continued aiding a component of the HI project “Addressing Victim Assistance through Development of Physical Rehabilitation.” The project’s overall purpose is to ensure that persons with disabilities, including mine and ERW survivors, are autonomous and well integrated in their communities. Funded by UNMAS, through a donation from the Government of Japan, the project specifically aims to improve access to physical rehabilitation services for people with disabilities and those suffering from mine and ERW injuries in the areas covered by the Dire Dawa and Jijiga hospitals. The project also seeks to enhance public awareness of the effectiveness of the physiotherapy and rehabilitation services offered by the hospitals, and to ensure that persons with disabilities were informed about the availability of such services.

Lao PDR

With funding from the Government of Austria of US \$46,095, UNMAS continued to assist UXO Lao clearance operations in Luang Prabang province. UNMAS’s support for mine action drew on a contribution from the Government of Japan. Funds helped strengthen the UNDP Country Office by supporting the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit Manager. In cooperation with the National Regulatory Authority and UXO Lao, the manager conducted extensive donor coordination and resource mobilization efforts, and supported Lao PDR in successfully hosting the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Vientiane.

Mauritania

With funding from the Government of Spain from 2009, UNMAS supported the project “Clearance Operations in Mauritania (Nouadhibou)” implemented by the National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development (PNDHD). The objective of the project was to assist the PNDHD, over a five-month period, to clear and destroy landmines and ERW in order to foster socioeconomic development in the community of Nouadhibou. The project also contributed to the achievement of Mauritanian obligations under the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty.

Pakistan

With US \$500,000 from the Government of Japan, UNMAS supported the UNICEF project “Mine Action in Affected Areas of North West Frontier Province and Federally Administered Tribal Areas.” The project was designed to help protect civilians by reducing risks of injury and death from landmines and ERW among at-risk populations in the Khyber-Pakhtoonkhwa Province and Federally Administered Tribal Areas. This has been done through instituting preventative interventions such as public information campaigns and the promotion of safe behaviour at the community level, establishing and enhancing coordination mechanisms, integrating mine risk education into other programmes and services, establishing a data collection and referral system for landmine and ERW incidents, and providing first-aid training.

Senegal

With funding from the Government of Spain from 2009, UNMAS supported the project “Support to Mine Victims in Casamance (Senegal),” implemented by the National Mine Action Centre in Senegal (CNAMS). The project contributed to the training of six orthopaedic specialists, and provided tools and material for making orthopaedic devices in centres in Ziguinchor and Kolda. It also delivered free medicine was delivered to survivors in the centres.

IV. Funding Sources and Financial Performance of the UNMAS Mine Action Programmes

- Sixteen donor governments, the European Union, the CHF and Pace University students contributed to the VTF, compared to 24 donors in 2009 and 19 donors in 2008.
- The VTF received US \$63.5 million, compared to US \$90.7 million in 2009 and US \$92.5 in 2008.
- The top three donors contributed 71.9 percent of all contributions: Japan provided US \$18.5 million (29.1 percent), Canada US \$17.2 (27 percent) and the Netherlands US \$10 million (15.7 percent)
- Unearmarked funds of US \$1.9 million (2.9 percent of voluntary contributions) were provided by the governments of Andorra, Estonia, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Sweden, and by Pace University students, compared to US \$1.7 million contributed by the governments of Andorra, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, New Zealand and Sweden in 2009.
- The governments of Australia, Canada, Finland and the United Kingdom, the CHF and the European Commission remained committed to multi-year funding.
- Appropriations by the UN General Assembly for the mine action component of seven peacekeeping mission budgets increased to US \$80.6 million in 2010, up by 17 percent from US \$68.9 million in 2009.

Funding for UNMAS Mine Action

UNMAS programmes in countries and headquarters coordination activities are funded namely by:

- Appropriations by the UN General Assembly for the mine action components of seven peacekeeping missions and support offices—MINURCAT,⁴ MINURSO, MONUSCO, UNAMID, UNIFIL, UNSOA and UNMIS;
- Contributions of donor governments, organizations and private individuals to the VTF;
- Funds allocated to UNMAS headquarters coordination activities within the UN Peacekeeping Support Account; and
- Allocation of funds from other UN trust funds, such as the CHF.

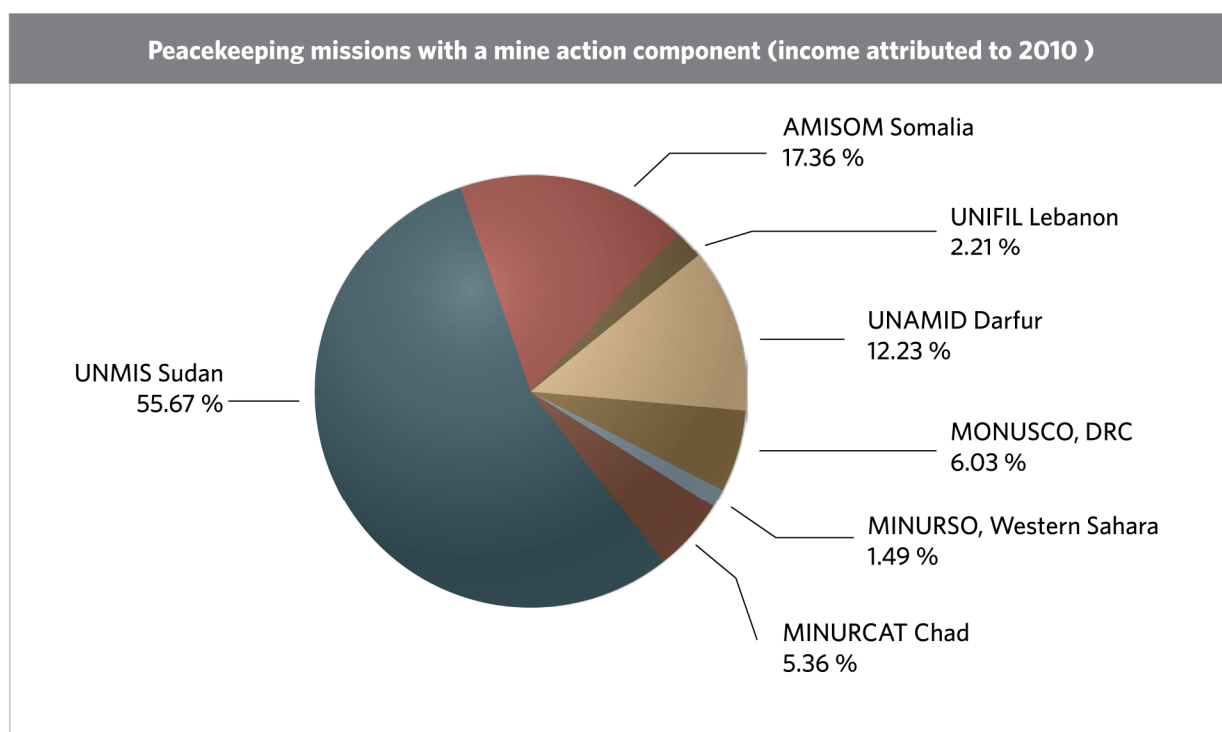
The VTF was established in 1994 under the UN Department for Humanitarian Affairs, which was the focal point for mine action within the UN system prior to the 1997 formation of UNMAS under DPKO. The fund is intended to provide special resources for mine action programmes

⁴ At the liquidation stage, funded until 30 April 2011.

and projects—including surveys, mine clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy activities—in situations where other funding is not immediately available.

In 2010, the VTF supported activities in all five pillars of mine action. It financed missions to assess the scope of problems with landmines and ERW, UN-managed coordination, support to national programmes, advocacy and the work of UNMAS as the UN focal point for mine action.

The number of VTF supported UNMAS programmes have significantly expanded over the years. They now include initiatives in Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Nepal, Somalia, Sudan and Western Sahara. Additionally, mine action programmes managed by UNMAS remain an integral part of UN DPKO/Department of Field Support operations. Beyond the mine action components of the seven peacekeeping missions, UNMAS also manages the coordination of mine action activities in Afghanistan on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan.

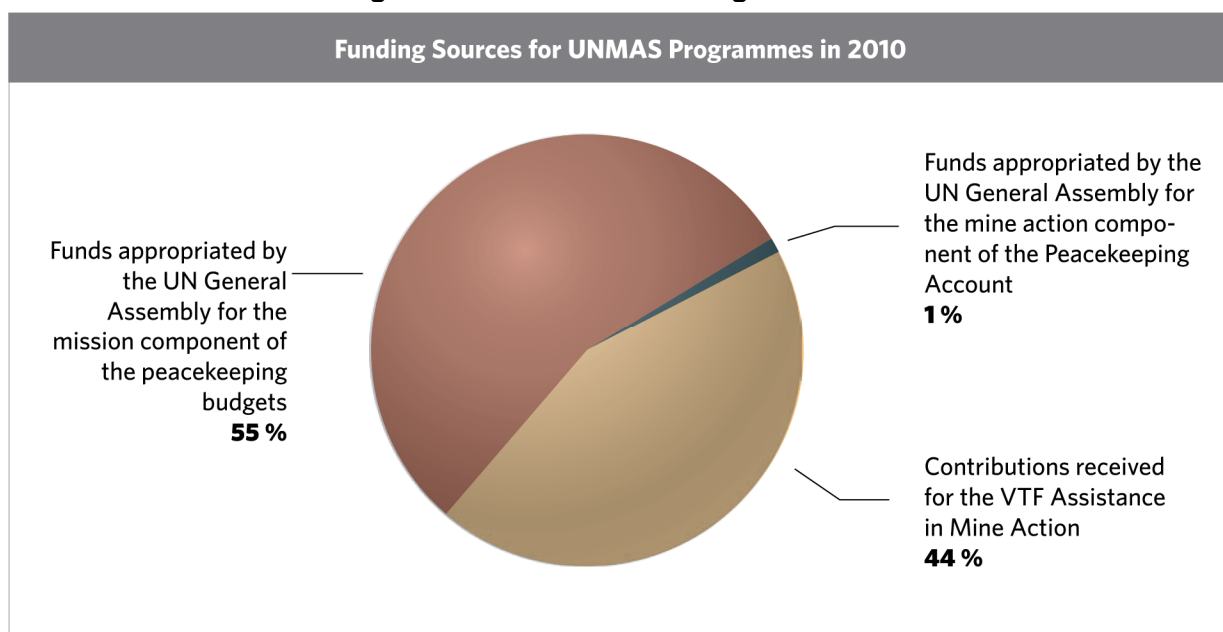


Contributions to the VTF have totaled more than US \$614.9 million from its inception through 31 December 2010. The fund has been used by donors to channel resources to national programmes and NGOs, often through UNDP or UNICEF, in Cambodia, Chad, Lao PDR, Mauritania, Mozambique, Pakistan and Senegal.

UNMAS aims to continue securing voluntary donations from existing donors and to expand the VTF donor base by exploring new funding opportunities, including through philanthropic foundations and endowment funds, private donations and gifts.

The following chart illustrates the percent of UNMAS income received through the VTF, the UN Peacekeeping Support Account Budget and the UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget.

Funding Sources for UNMAS Programmes in 2010



Other sources of income for UNMAS include the interest income accrued on temporary cash balances. Detailed financial information on VTF performance is reported annually on the UN Financial Statements/Schedule of Individual Trust Funds, and is part of the audited consolidated financial statements of the UN trust funds.

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability

UNMAS is committed to transparency and accountability in the financial management of all donor funds contributed to the VTF as well as funds allocated to mine action activities from the UN Peacekeeping Support Account, peacekeeping missions' assessed budgets and UN regular programme budgets. To ensure efficiency and effectiveness in raising, allocating, monitoring and reporting on financial resources, UNMAS uses the ProFi system, a programme and financial management tool developed in partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. It is based on a PeopleSoft platform for handling financial data and a Lotus Notes user interface.

UNMAS has enhanced ProFi functions by introducing financial agreement management and management reporting modules. The UN Controller has delegated certifying authority to UNMAS budget, financial management and reporting unit officers, resulting in a significant reduction in time required for allocation and disbursement processes.

Fundraising and Donor Outreach

As the UN mine action focal point, UNMAS is responsible for coordinating an effective and proactive mine action programme. To do so, UNMAS relies heavily on extra-budgetary funding from donors through the VTF. UNMAS field and headquarters personnel made extraordinary efforts in 2010 to maintain strong donor support by broadening the donor base, and working towards sustainable and predictable funding levels.

The past three years have been among the most challenging for the global economy, which endured a crisis with repercussions that will likely continue for years to come. The crisis had some impact on resources provided to mine action, although the VTF fared well relative to other trust funds.

Until 2010, the VTF had experienced steady growth over the last 11 years, from approximately US \$23 million in the 1998-1999 biennium to US \$183.2 million in the 2008-2009 biennium. The VTF income for 2008-2009 reached a record level, up from US \$144 million in 2006-2007. In 2010, however, the VTF received only 70 percent of the average annual income received in 2008 and 2009.

The 27.2 percent increase in voluntary contributions between 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 can primarily be attributed to the significant growth in allocations from key donors, including Australia, Canada, the European Commission, Japan and the Netherlands, favorable exchange rates and support from new donors.

In absolute financial terms, annual VTF income in 2009 was lower due to the timing of contributions made by donors. Out of the US \$90.7 million income reported in 2009, US \$31.8 million was received in the last two weeks of December 2009. That amount represents 35.1 percent of all 2009 voluntary contributions; the surplus has been carried forward to fund 2010 programme activities.

The reprioritization of traditional mine action donors' funding from dedicated to integrated funding allocations to UN cluster areas, including those for humanitarian action and recovery, peace, security and development activities, has contributed to the changing pattern of contributions. This reflects the evolution of mine action from a stand-alone activity to a crosscutting issue that makes concrete contributions to wider humanitarian, peace and development dividends. The shift is equally apparent in donor policies and strategies, which situate mine action along with larger support clusters and have adjusted funding mechanisms respectively.⁵ While further mainstreaming mine action generally constitutes a positive trend, UNMAS is engaged in concerted efforts to ensure that an adequate share of funding directly reaches mine action so it can continue to deliver strong results.

- UNMAS Donor Briefings

Through resource mobilization activities in donor and programme countries and at the global level at the MASG, UNMAS continued to engage with its support base to maintain political, financial and other forms of support.

- Building and Consolidating New Partnerships

UNMAS strengthened its relationships with the Gulf States. As a result, considerations are underway to support clearance operations in eastern Afghanistan. UNMAS continued engaging with foundations, individuals and professional organizations also willing to support clearance efforts in Afghanistan.

- Columbia University Pro Bono Research Study

UNMAS commissioned a pro bono research project from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs that examined how mine action is reflected in the foreign and defense policies of some UNMAS donor governments. Outcomes and recommendations were

⁵ Jean Devlin (2010), "Mine Action Funding: Trends Modalities and Future Prospects," results of a survey of donor countries carried out in May-June 2010, commissioned by GICHD.

shared with UNMAS field colleagues to ensure a better understanding of donors' evolving views on mine action and to adjust operational requirements accordingly.

- Development of an Internal Resource Mobilization Strategy

UNMAS has developed a resource mobilization strategy that is closely aligned with operational requirements in the field and supportive of aid effectiveness criteria spelled out in the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action principles.

In 2010, UNMAS further maintained its focus on risk management, quality control, transparent and timely donor reporting, and appropriately conservative resource management, which reflects, *inter alia*, donors' increased focus on results-based budgeting, measurable results and effective, impact-based operations.

Funding Constraints and Principles of Good Practices in Humanitarian Donorship

The pattern of primarily earmarked and one-year extra-budgetary funding continues to have a direct impact on UNMAS' ability to plan for the medium- and long term. It stands in contrast with the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action principles of multi-year and unearmarked aid. Most voluntary contributions are earmarked by donors, which leaves UNMAS very little flexibility in funding emergency activities or projects experiencing temporary funding constraints. Headquarters coordination work has experienced a significant funding shortfall resulting in curtailed activities.

To enable UNMAS to plan strategically, ensure a timely mine action response in emergency settings, fulfill objectives of longer-term operational plans and assist other UNMAT members in the implementation of specific mine action requirements and mandates, UNMAS continues to appeal to donors for predictable, flexible and needs-based funding.

It welcomes donors' continued and increased commitment to the Principles of Good Practices in Humanitarian Donorship. In this spirit, UNMAS would like to thank the Government of the United Kingdom for formalizing its generous multi-year contribution to the UNMAT of £5 million, and the governments of Australia and Canada, and the European Commission for continuing to provide multi-year support. UNMAS is grateful to the governments of Japan, Canada and the Netherlands for their continuous support of UNMAS programmes.

UNMAS further appreciates the support of the governments of Andorra, Estonia, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Sweden, and the students of Pace University, in providing unearmarked funds totaling US \$1.7 million, or 2.6 percent of voluntary funds. UNMAS is thankful for the willingness of the governments of Japan, the Netherlands and Spain to offer funds with a range of earmarking options.

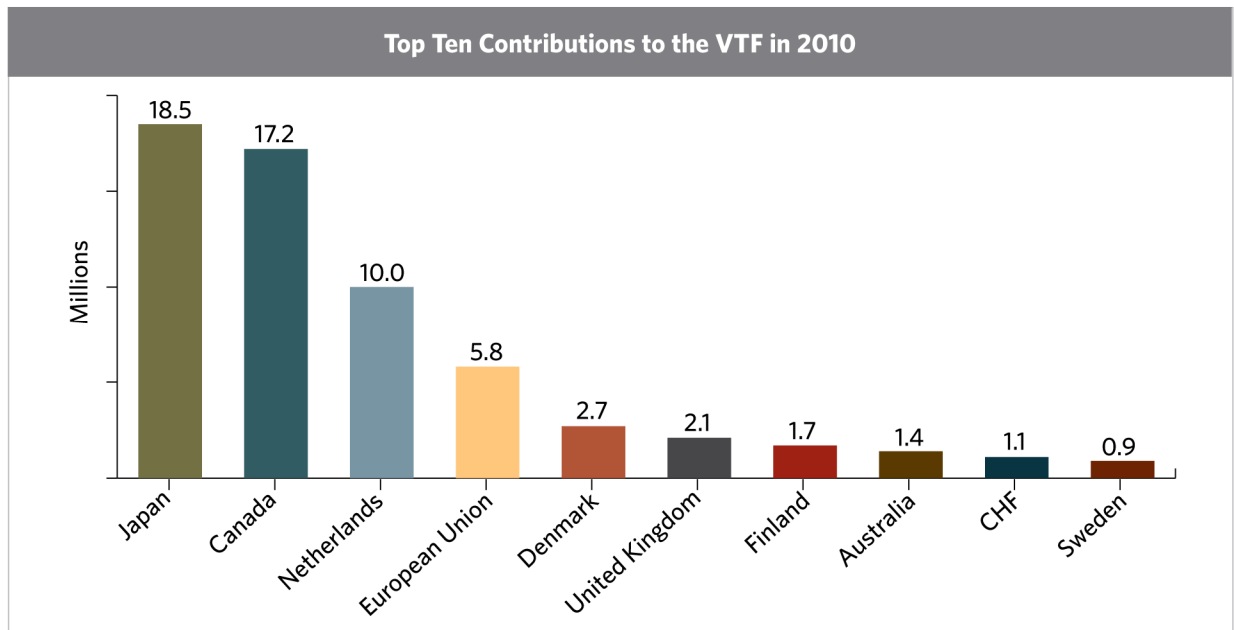
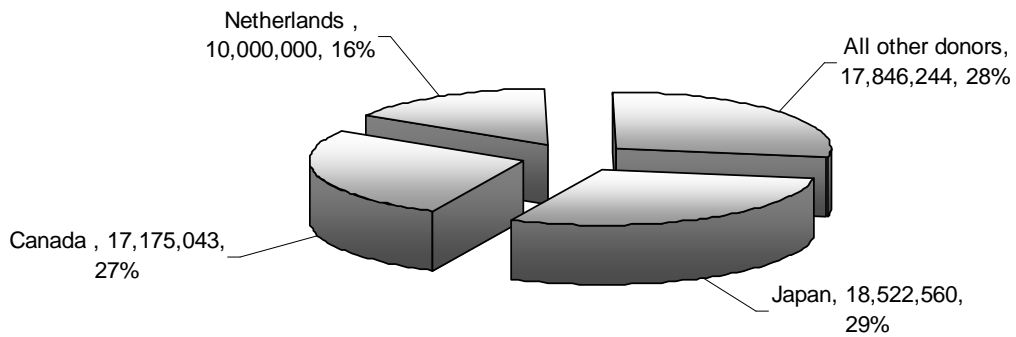
Special thanks are also extended to the governments of the Netherlands and United Kingdom for continuous support for the UN standing mine action capacity and rapid response project.

Funding Overview: Top Contributors to the VTF

The top three donors to the VTF, the governments of Canada, Japan and the Netherlands, contributed 71.9 percent of all voluntary contributions, representing US \$45.7 million of the total of US \$63.5 million. The top 10 contributors provided US \$61.3 million, representing 96.4 percent of all VTF resources.

Additional contributions came from Andorra, Austria, Estonia, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and students at Pace University.

Major VTF donors



Donors that significantly increased their contributions in 2010 included Japan, which provided US \$18.5 million for programmes in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan, as well as unearmarked funds, up from US \$11.1 million in 2009. Canada provided US \$17.2 million for Afghanistan compared to US \$14.6 in 2009. The Netherlands significantly increased its financial support, with US \$10 million for a variety of programmes and activities, including for Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sudan, Western Sahara, headquarters coordination and rapid response operations, compared to US \$6.7 million in 2009.

Donors earmarked 97.4 percent of funds. Of the total voluntary contributions of US \$63.5 million, US \$41.5 million (65.3 percent) was earmarked for Afghanistan and US \$8 million (12.6 percent) was earmarked for Sudan. Donor support to the two largest programmes, Afghanistan and Sudan, amounted to 49.5 million (77.9 percent), followed by the programme in Gaza, which received 4.5 percent of all contributions (US \$2.9 million). Funds for headquarters coordination and unearmarked funds amounted to US \$4 million, 6.4 percent of total VTF resources.

Contributions to the VTF in 2010 in US\$																
Donor	Advocacy	Afghanistan	Chad	Colombia	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Gaza	HQ coordination	Laos PDR	Lebanon	Pakistan	Somalia	Standing Mine Action Capacity	Sudan	Unearmarked	Western Sahara	Grand total
<i>Andorra</i>														27,808		27,808
<i>Australia</i>						921,500							437,950			1,359,450
<i>Austria</i>		217,305						46,095								263,400
<i>Canada</i>		17,175,043														17,175,043
<i>Common Humanitarian Fund</i>													1,125,000			1,125,000
<i>Denmark</i>		885,740					885,740		885,740							2,657,219
<i>Estonia</i>														3,979		3,979
<i>EU</i>		4,823,513				933,129										5,756,641
<i>Finland</i>		1,176,580					567,772									1,744,352
<i>Italy</i>	336,533												402,000			738,533
<i>Japan</i>		12,805,000					111,560			500,000	1,606,000		3,500,000			18,522,560
<i>Korea</i>		100,000							50,000							150,000
<i>Liechtenstein</i>														47,833		47,833
<i>Luxembourg</i>		299,989														299,989
<i>Netherlands</i>		4,000,000	600,000	150,000	1,771,200		689,800				400,000	200,000	2,052,000		137,000	10,000,000
<i>New Zealand</i>														732,100		732,100
<i>Pace University</i>														300		300
<i>Sweden</i>														866,015		866,015
<i>United Kingdom</i>						1,031,560					552,965		489,101			2,073,625
Grand total	336,533	41,483,169	600,000	150,000	1,771,200	2,886,188	2,254,872	46,095	935,740	500,000	2,558,965	200,000	8,006,051	1,678,035	137,000	63,543,847

To ensure coordinated UN system-wide global and national mine action activities, UNMAS continued to encourage donors to provide unearmarked funding for coordination activities. UNMAS is very grateful to Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands for their headquarters coordination contributions of US \$2.1 million, 33 percent of the total headquarters costs.

Financial Performance Overview

A total income of US \$145,193,244 was received from the three major sources of funding for mine action programmes. Programme expenditures of US \$167,722,188 occurred in the financial period from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.

As noted, most donor contributions received by the VTF were earmarked for specific programmes or projects. The mine action components in seven peacekeeping missions and support offices (MINURCAT, MINURSO, MONUSCO, UNAMID, UNIFIL, UNSOA and UNMIS) were funded from appropriations by the UN General Assembly for peacekeeping mission budgets. The Peacekeeping Support Account continued to cover the costs of six headquarters-based personnel, including five professional staff, who manage and oversee operational mine action activities carried out within the mandates of the seven peacekeeping missions and support offices.

Voluntary contributions to the VTF decreased by 30 percent, from about US \$90.7 million in 2009 to just over US \$63.5 million in 2010.

Appropriations⁶ by the UN General Assembly for the mine action component of peacekeeping mission budgets increased by 17 percent, from US \$68.9 million in 2009 to about US \$80.6 million in 2010.

Financial resources under the Peacekeeping Support Account arrangements increased by 7.9 percent, from US \$1,017,850 in 2009 to US \$1,060,000 in 2010.

⁶ Represents the average of the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 peacekeeping appropriations by the UN General Assembly.

Summary of Income and Expenditures for Mine Action Programmes, 2010 (us\$)

Income received

Voluntary contributions and funds received under inter-organizational arrangements	63,543,847
Funds appropriated by the UN General Assembly for the mine action component of peacekeeping mission budgets	80,589,397
Funds appropriated by the UN General Assembly for the UNMAS component of the Peacekeeping Support Account	1,060,000
Total	145,193,244

Provisional Expenditures and Advances to Implementing Partners

Voluntary contributions and funds received under inter-organizational arrangements	91,959,910
Funds appropriated by the UN General Assembly for the mine action component of peacekeeping mission budgets	74,618,433
Funds appropriated by the UN General Assembly for the UNMAS component of the Peacekeeping Support Account	1,143,844
Total	167,722,188

The costs of UNMAS coordination at headquarters, which were covered by the VTF, amounted to US \$4.4 million, compared to US \$3.9 million in 2009.

Expenditures for UNMAS thematic projects reached US \$1.8 million compared to US \$507,600 in 2009, while those on joint projects with UNDP and UNICEF totaled US \$693,100 compared to US \$575,800 in 2009.

As in the past, UNMAS used donor contributions to the VTF to support other implementing partners and projects in Cambodia, Mozambique, Mauritania and Senegal with a total of US \$237,700. In 2009, it allocated US \$638,100 for the same kind of assistance for Cambodia, Colombia, Mozambique and the Republic of Serbia. Activities in Colombia are reported under the category of country programmes this year.

Headquarters Coordination: Challenges and Achievements

Headquarters Coordination: Challenges and Achievements

1. UNMAS Core Activities in New York and Geneva

Income*			
			2,143,312
Expenditures			
	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
Personnel		2,895,629	2,895,629
Official Travel of Staff		444,831	444,831
Consultants and Expert Groups		3,725	3,725
Communications		23,578	23,578
Supplies, Materials and Furniture		5,858	5,858
Contractual Services (including UNMAS project finance system development and support and printing services)	322,693	57,121	379,814
Operating Expenses (e.g., utilities and rental of equipment)		16,816	16,816
Hospitality-official functions		746	746
Premises		143,000	143,000
Sub-Total	322,693	3,591,304	3,913,997
Programme Support Costs		473,182	473,182
Total	322,693	4,064,486	4,387,179

*A shortfall was funded from an interest income earned by the United Nations on temporary balances of contributions in the VTF and not claimed by the VTF donors, as well as voluntary contributions not specifically earmarked by donors.

Thematic Projects

Thematic Projects

2. UNMAS Thematic Projects

Income*			536,533
Project	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
Advocacy	-	174,867	174,867
Advocacy and Public Information in support of the UN Mine Action Team	170,641	96,386	267,026
Landmine UXO/ERW safety	29,223	14,203	43,427
Standing Mine Action Capacity and Rapid Response Plan	811,073	198,489	1,009,563
Evaluation of United Nations Mine Action	-	118,935	118,935
Strengthening National Mine Action Capacity	-	63,050	63,050
Technology	-	151,887	151,887
Total	1,010,937	817,818	1,828,755

*A shortfall was funded from an interest income earned by the United Nations on temporary balances of contributions in the VTF and not claimed by the VTF donors, as well as voluntary contributions not specifically earmarked by donors.

UNMAS Joint Projects with UN Partners

UNMAS Joint Projects with UN Partners

3. UNMAS Joint Projects with United Nations Partners

Country/ Territory/ Project Activities	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
Egypt			
Income*			-
Expenditures			
Support to the ongoing operations of the Executive Secretariat for Mine Clearance	1,390	7,734	9,124
Ethiopia			
Guinea Bissau			
Income**			-
Expenditures			
Ethiopia Mine Action Office Operations	644	-	644
Ethiopia/Survivors Rehabilitation and Victim Assistance	-	93,829	93,829
Guinea Bissau Mine Risk Education	29,579	-	29,579
Pakistan			
Income			500,000
Expenditures			
Mine Risk Education	389,091	10,909	400,000
Laos PDR			
Income***			46,095
Expenditures			
Coordination and Clearance Support to UXO Lao	93,269	66,621	159,890
Total	513,973	179,093	693,065

*Funded from interest income earned by the United Nations on temporary balances of contributions in the VTF.

**Funded from the contribution from the Government of Spain received and reported in the 2009 UNMAS Annual Report.

*** Funded from the contribution from the Government of Austria and prior year contributions from the Government of Japan reported in the 2009 UNMAS Annual Report.

UNMAS Support to Other Implementing Partners

UNMAS Support to Other Implementing Partners

4. UNMAS Support to Other Implementing Partners

Income*			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			-
Expenditures			
Project/Implementing partner/ Country/Territory	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
Mozambique — Support to Mine Clearance	-	73,650	73,650
Cambodia — Landmine Victim Assistance	-	61,509	61,509
Senegal — Victim Assistance	-	29,300	29,300
Mauritania — Mine Clearance	-	73,250	73,250
Total	-	237,709	237,709

*Funded by the contributions from the Governments of Japan and Spain reported in the 2009 UNMAS Annual Report

National Mine Action Programmes Supported by UNMAS

Colombia

The programme in Colombia received financial support from the Government of the Netherlands of US \$150,000, in addition to funds received from the government of the UK and the Netherlands carried over from 2009. The programme recorded expenditures totaling US \$350,101.

Colombia			
Income			
From Voluntary Trust Fund			150,000
Expenditures			
From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
Coordination and Capacity Development	134,250	215,851	350,101
Total	134,250	215,851	350,101

Nepal

The programme was funded from contributions by the governments of Australia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom received and reported on in the 2008 and 2009 UNMAS Annual Reports. No voluntary contributions were received in 2010. The UNMAT continued to support the NAMACC and Nepal Army mine clearance teams in developing key management support functions to safely and effectively undertake minefield clearance tasks. Total expenditures were US \$255,255 in 2010.

Nepal

Income*

From Voluntary Trust Fund	-
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Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
Coordination	73,959	181,296	255,255
Total	73,959	181,296	255,255

*Funded from the contributions by the governments of Australia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom received and reported in the 2008 and 2009 UNMAS Annual Reports.

UNMAS-Managed Programmes

UNMAS relies on UN General Assembly peacekeeping appropriations for mine action programmes, and considers them predictable and stable core resources. They are supplemented by annual donor contributions to the VTF. Some programmes are funded from one source only: the mine action programmes in Afghanistan and Gaza are fully supported by the VTF, while the mine action programme for the UNAMID mission is funded only from peacekeeping appropriations.

Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of

The programme in Afghanistan is fully funded from the VTF and has no core resources. UNMAS donors contributed US \$41,483,169 in 2010. Five major donors out of nine in total contributed US \$39,980,136, representing 96.4 percent of the overall funding. The top five donors were Canada (41.4 percent), Japan (30.87 percent) the European Commission (11.63 percent), the Netherlands (9.64 percent), and Finland (2.84 percent).

The Government of Canada provided US \$17,175,043 as part of a multi-year funding agreement to support operations nationally, with a focus on Kandahar, while the Government of Japan offered US \$12,805,000 for operations in Bamyán and the border areas of Pakistan.

While carry-over funding from 2009 sustained operations for a large part of the year, the programme felt significant impacts from the global financial crisis towards the end of the reporting period, particularly due to exchange rate fluctuations and adjustments to donor disbursement schedules. As a result, the significant decrease in the monetary value of pledges necessitated adjustment to the planning and delivery of the programme.

Of the funding provided, 71 percent was earmarked for mine and ERW clearance operations, 3 percent for mine risk education and victim assistance, and 26 percent for quality assurance operations, direct national capacity development, resource mobilization, data management, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and coordination among implementing partners and the Government. Bilateral donors and trust funds, notably the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Fund, continued to support the programme through the provision of some US \$46 million over the same period, largely

in full coordination with UN activities. Substantial additional funding from a range of donors, including the US Department of Defense, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and various commercial entities supported a range of task-specific clearance, ground-checking and survey activities.

Afghanistan

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	41,483,169
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Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
Coordination and Capacity Development	9,523,749	5,199,523	14,723,272
Landmine and ERW Survey Clearance	21,064,143	19,527,150	40,591,293
Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance	132,954	1,402,252	1,535,206
Total	30,720,847	26,128,925	56,849,771

Chad

The UN General Assembly appropriation for the mine action component of the MINURCAT peacekeeping budget was US \$4,323,260. This was supplemented with a voluntary contribution from the Netherlands of US \$600,000. Provisional expenditures from MINURCAT assessed funds were US \$4,028,957, of which US \$966,950 helped enhance the coordination capacity of the MINURCAT Mine Action Unit. A total of US \$3,062,007 went towards contracts for road verification and EOD activities within the mission area of operations in eastern Chad.

Chad

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	600,000
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	1,037,582
Operation	3,285,678
Sub-Total	4,323,260
Total	4,923,260

Expenditures

	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
From Voluntary Trust Fund			
Coordination	156,025	37,396	193,421
Clearance	393,707	2,279,191	2,672,898
Sub-Total	549,732	2,316,587	2,866,320
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			966,950
Operation			3,062,007
Sub-Total	-	-	4,028,957
Total	549,732	2,316,587	6,895,277

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

UN General Assembly appropriations for the mine action component of the MONUSCO peacekeeping budget totaled US \$4,860,688. Core funding was supplemented with a voluntary contribution from the Netherlands of US \$1,771,200. The programme was also funded from the balance of 2009 contributions carried over to 2010.

Provisional expenditures from the MONUSCO peacekeeping budget of US \$4,860,688 ensured effective coordination, emergency surveys, and clearance of landmines and ERW. Voluntary contributions supported coordination, emergency surveys, landmine and ERW clearance, mine risk education, and initiation of victim assistance, with expenditures of US \$3,323,079.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	1,771,200
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	1,604,027
Operation	3,256,661
Sub-Total	4,860,688
Total	6,631,888

Expenditures

	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
From Voluntary Trust Fund			
Coordination	662,032	442,050	1,104,082
Clearance	1,047,746	1,171,250	2,218,996
Sub-Total	1,709,778	1,613,301	3,323,079
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			1,604,027
Operation			3,256,661
Sub-Total	-	-	4,860,688
Total	1,709,778	1,613,301	8,183,767

Gaza

Voluntary contributions of US \$2,886,188 were provided for the programme in Gaza by the governments of Australia and the United Kingdom, and the European Commission. They supplemented 2009 contributions carried over for 2010 operations. These allowed life-saving operations to continue throughout Gaza. Mine action interventions included risk assessment, EOD operations, training to raise awareness and coordination with stakeholders for a total cost of US \$3,622,836. The programme has no core funding and was fully dependent on voluntary contributions from VTF donors.

Gaza/Occupied Palestinian Territory

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	2,886,188
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Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
Clearance	485,571	2,036,955	2,522,526
Coordination	233,794	866,516	1,100,310
Total	719,365	2,903,471	3,622,836

Lebanon

Voluntary contributions of US \$935,740 were provided by Denmark and the Republic of Korea. Projects for the coordination and quality assurance of mine and ERW clearance, and continued clearance in south Lebanon were partially funded from 2009 contributions. Expenditures totaled US \$1,418,190, out of which US \$885,740 was spent on clearance operations and US \$532,451 went towards coordination and quality assurance.

Funds appropriated by the UN General Assembly for the mine action component of the UNIFIL budget totaled US \$1,782,350. Provisional expenditures of US \$1,649,891 facilitated the safe return of IDPs and contributed to the enhanced mobility of UNIFIL troops.

Lebanon

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	935,740
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	1,782,350
Total	2,718,090

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
Clearance	-	885,740	885,740
Coordination and Quality Assurance	380,313	152,138	532,451
Sub-Total	380,313	1,037,877	1,418,190
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			1,649,891
Sub-Total	-	-	1,649,891
Total	380,313	1,037,877	3,068,081

Somalia

The mine action programme in Somalia was supported from voluntary contributions of US \$2,452,965 from the governments of Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, combined with funds carried over from 2009. The UN General Assembly appropriated US \$13,987,149 for mine action activities of UNSOA in support of AMISOM.

Mine action in Somalia included clearance, mine risk education and surveys as well as training of EOD teams to increase national capacities. Unfortunately, the security situation has had a detrimental effect in limiting operations in some areas. Total expenditures of US \$2,950,948 were recorded against voluntary contributions. US \$13,349,015 was reported against funds appropriated by the UN General Assembly.

Somalia

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	2,452,965
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	4,755,971
Operation	9,231,178
Sub-Total	13,987,149
Total	16,440,114

Expenditures

	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
From Voluntary Trust Fund			
Coordination, Mine Risk Education, Survey and Clearance (North)	2,203,453	414,157	2,617,610
Coordination, Mine Risk Education, Survey and Clearance (South Central)	332,254	1,085	333,338
Sub-Total	2,535,706	415,242	2,950,948
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			4,538,990
Operation			8,810,025
Sub-Total	-	-	13,349,015
Total	2,535,706	415,242	15,966,625

Sudan

Funding comprised US \$44,865,600 appropriated by the UN General Assembly for the mine action component of UNMIS and voluntary contributions of US \$8,006,051 from the governments of Australia, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and the CHF. A 25.4 percent decrease in voluntary contributions, from US \$10,730,506 in 2009, resulted in reductions in assets and support, especially in activities not covered by the peacekeeping mandate. The programme in Sudan relies on the services and expertise of a wide range of implementing partners, including the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), MAG (surveys and clearance), the Survey Action Center (landmine impact

surveys), NPA (surveys and clearance), the Association for Aid and Relief-Japan (mine risk education), DCA (surveys and clearance), the Christian Blind Mission (victim assistance) and Nuba Mountain Mine Action Sudan (clearance and capacity building).

Provisional expenditures of US \$40,579,118 from the peacekeeping appropriation for UNMIS supported rapid response emergency surveys, EOD and battle area clearance, landmine and ERW clearance, mine risk education, and transport route verification and clearance.

Sudan

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	8,006,051
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	13,011,024
Operation	31,854,576
Sub-Total	-
Total	52,871,651

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
Integrated Landmine and ERW Survey and Clearance	3,935,484	2,846,844	6,782,328
Technical Assistance and Coordination	2,795,182	1,467,111	4,262,293
Mine Risk Education	-	515,618	515,618
Victim Assistance	923,584	371,703	1,295,287
Sub-Total	7,654,250	5,201,277	12,855,527
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			11,767,944
Operation			28,811,174
Sub-Total	-	-	40,579,118
Total	7,654,250	5,201,277	53,434,645

Darfur (Sudan)

The Darfur programme is fully dependent on General Assembly appropriations for mine action under the UNAMID peacekeeping budget. Funding of US \$9,855,600 facilitated the work of three rapid response teams and the deployment of one route verification team to conduct emergency surveys, battle area clearance and route verification in South and West Darfur, as well as mine and ERW risk education for the local population and IDPs. UNMAS, through UNMAO and the Western Regional Mine Action Office (WRMAO), coordinated, planned and implemented mine action operations to enable UNAMID to accomplish its mandated activities. The regional office of WRMAO in El Fashir, and its sub-offices in El Geneina and Nyala, continued to coordinate mine action

activities among UNAMID, UN agencies, NGOs, and central and local authorities, and provide necessary quality assurance. Provisional expenditures totaled US \$9,436,386

Darfur

Income

From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	2,168,232
Operation	7,687,368
Total	9,855,600

Expenditures

From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	Total
Coordination			2,076,005
Operation			7,360,381
Total	-	-	9,436,386

Western Sahara

A voluntary contribution from the Government of the Netherlands of US \$137,000 supplemented the core funding for the mine action component of the MINURSO peacekeeping budget for a total of US \$914,750. Funding from the Government of the Netherlands and 2009 contributions from the Government of Spain ensured that essential resources were available to conduct mine detection, ERW clearance operations and survey activities in Polisario-controlled areas. The contributions also covered technical assistance for data collection and analysis. No coordination costs were covered by voluntary contributions.

The MINURSO budget, with provisional expenditures of US \$714,378, covered support for coordination and operations, equipment costs, and a rapid clearance and survey team within the eastern part of the mission area of operations. These activities were aimed at alleviating the threat of landmines to the local population as well as to UN personnel during patrols. Expenditures from the VTF totaled US \$321,174.

Western Sahara			
Income			
From VTF			137,000
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			320,163
Operation			594,587
Sub-Total			914,750
Total			1,051,750
Expenditures			
From VTF	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2010	Expenditures Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2010	Total
Clearance	234,730	86,443	321,173
Coordination			-
Sub-Total	234,730	86,443	321,174
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			250,032
Operation			464,346
Sub-Total			714,378
Total	234,730	86,443	1,035,552

UNMAS

2010

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