



UNMAS

Annual Report 2015



The UNMAS Annual Report 2015
describes the organization's activities and achievements
resulting from contributions to
the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for
Assistance in Mine Action.

Please see reverse for an overview of
UNMAS work in United Nations peacekeeping and
special political missions in 2015.



To learn more, download the
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[un_mineaction](https://www.instagram.com/un_mineaction)



[UNMAS United Nations](https://www.youtube.com/UNMASUnitedNations)

Cover photo:

In Afghanistan, rugged terrain is the norm. Deminers work in sun, wind and rain on the sides of precipitous mountains and in barren valleys, with little shelter. Deminers need to take regular breaks to ensure that concentration remains high. When demining, nothing is left to chance. Following standard operating procedures and routines is what keeps them safe.

UNMAS/Christian Lamontagne-PVP

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ACRONYMS

ACAP III	Afghan Civilian Assistance Programme III
APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
ASAs	Ammunition storage areas
AU	African Union
CCLAM	Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines
CCW	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions
DAICMA	La Dirección para la Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal
DMAC	Directorate of Mine Action Coordination
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
IACG-MA	Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally displaced person
IED	Improvised explosive device
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MASG	Mine Action Support Group
MEIFCS	Mine and ERW Impact Free Community Survey
MOTAPM	Mines other than anti-personnel mines
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
MTT	Multi-task team
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NMAC	National Mine Action Centre
OAS	Organization of American States
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OIOS	United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services
RRTSC	Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMACA	United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UN VTF	United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WAM	Weapons and ammunition management
WFP	World Food Programme

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The Kingdom of
the Netherlands



Country-based
Pool Fund (CBPF)

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In 2015, mine action programmes and emergency interventions continued to be required by countries in need of assistance as well as by United Nations missions. As conflicts raged in scores of places, leaving behind new legacies of deadly explosive devices, UNMAS was repeatedly called upon to deploy personnel and equipment at short notice, to assess threats and provide guidance. This year, UNMAS again proved to be a significant actor in humanitarian emergencies and a critical enabler of United Nations missions. UNMAS confirmed its well-established reputation as a reliable and effective partner undeterred by high-risk environments.

My account of UNMAS accomplishments in my biennial report on Assistance in Mine Action to the 70th session of the General Assembly made the case for Member States' recognition of the coordination role of UNMAS and the criticality of mine action for effective humanitarian responses. I am pleased that the General Assembly debate echoed my recommendations. I was also encouraged by supportive statements from a wide variety of countries which paved the way for unanimous adoption of a robust and fit-for-purpose resolution recognising the criticality of mitigating the threat posed by mines and explosive remnants of war, including improvised explosive devices, in humanitarian assistance.

Mindful of the pressing need to garner stronger support to mine action, I personally took part in the commemorations to mark the 10th anniversary of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. In this spirit, I designated world renowned actor Daniel Craig as the first United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards. Mr. Craig's attendance at a number of meetings and events during the 70th session of the General Assembly, together with his visit to active minefields in Cyprus, are testimony to his commitment to use his international stature to mobilize the world's attention and press for increased funding of this essential work.

In challenging times, UNMAS continues to adapt and respond effectively to complex demands. UNMAS performance and work ethics were again recognized this year through my UN Staff Awards where UNMAS projects were nominated in three categories: Teamwork, Staff Volunteerism and Outstanding Role Model.

Nimble, trustworthy, dedicated and effective, UNMAS embodies the United Nations at its best. I look forward to your engagement and advocacy for public and private support to UNMAS, to its brave women and men who dedicate their lives to making our world a safer place.



UN Photo / Mark Garten

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The centrality of mine action in humanitarian responses was widely and unanimously recognized by United Nations Member States and throughout the mine action sector in 2015. In his biennial report to the United Nations General Assembly on Assistance in Mine Action, the Secretary-General highlighted that mine action is “at the core of post-conflict humanitarian response” and emphasised that “contamination of mines and explosive remnants of war remains a major security issue affecting civilian populations, United Nations operations and the sustainment of global peace and security”. The Global Humanitarian Overview for 2016, launched by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator in Geneva, highlights urgent mine action requirements in a third of countries facing humanitarian crises.

The 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted the biennial resolution on “Assistance in Mine Action” placing a stronger emphasis on the humanitarian impact of mine action than ever before. Member States across all regions, whether mine-affected or not, demonstrated confidence in UNMAS as the United Nations coordinator of mine action in all its dimensions.

Civil society has echoed the message; NGOs called for UNMAS coordination of mine action in response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, and in many global consultations, including those leading up to the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, the significance of mine action has been widely raised.

Against this backdrop, affected states and United Nations entities have turned to UNMAS with an unprecedented number of requests for assistance including from those countries beset by conflict and humanitarian crises, such as Iraq and Syria; those requiring technical support to respond to new contamination, such as Mali; and those facing legacy contamination such as in Cyprus, to name but a few. In the midst of humanitarian emergencies as well as in high risk asymmetric threat environments, UNMAS continued to respond to calls for assistance and led, coordinated, and implemented life-saving work all over the globe. New programmes were established in Iraq and in response to the crisis in Syria.

The Annual Report we present to you, illustrates the outstanding results this Service has achieved in 2015. I take this opportunity to applaud UNMAS staff working in 17 affected countries and territories, in Geneva, and in New York for their tireless efforts.



UN Photo/Mark Garten

THE UNITED NATIONS COORDINATOR OF MINE ACTION

The critical role of UNMAS was recognized, reinforced and strengthened in 2015, most notably by the General Assembly which stressed the importance of UNMAS as coordinator of mine action.

An authoritative and independent audit of UNMAS was conducted in 2015 by a team of auditors from the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) who found that “UNMAS successfully collaborates with other United Nations departments and entities to ensure an effective, coordinated and proactive response to problems associated with landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and other explosives.” The audit report did not identify a single recommendation for improvement in this regard.

Furthermore, the resolution on “Assistance in Mine Action” adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December (A/RES/70/80) acknowledged the significant contribution of the United Nations and particularly noted, with appreciation, the coordination role of UNMAS as Chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)¹ and the important work the Group carries out to increase the impact of the United Nations in the field of mine action.

The resolution also asserted mine action is an “important and integrated component” of United Nations humanitarian assistance and development. Acknowledging UNMAS contribution as a technical expert and service provider in United Nations mission contexts, Member States also

recognized the necessity of integrating mine action into mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions. The UNMAS component in peace operations brings the added value of effective coordination of humanitarian mine action in those contexts.

As Chair of the IACG-MA, UNMAS continued to convene monthly meetings at working level on a variety of policy and operational monitoring issues. Notably, UNMAS coordinated the drafting of 22 treaty-related statements and delivered them on behalf of the IACG-MA, including at the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in September, the Meetings of High Contracting Parties of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in November and the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in December. Statements advocated for the universalization and implementation of relevant international normative frameworks, particularly regarding stockpile destruction and victim assistance.

Convened by UNMAS, IACG-MA Principals met in September to agree on next steps for the promulgation of the United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action and confirmed the importance of reflecting mine action in the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) process. Principals also reconfirmed, in line with the United Nations Strategy on Mine Action 2013–2018 (hereafter “the United Nations Mine Action Strategy”), that mine action is relevant to the full

¹ IACG-MA is the consultative body charged with policy and programmatic oversight and discussions related to mine action. IACG-MA members include all United Nations entities involved in mine action: the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO). Observer entities include the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank.

spectrum of United Nations responses including peace and security, human rights, humanitarian affairs, protection issues and development. UNMAS coordination and leadership promoted and substantiated these linkages.

Report of the Secretary-General on Assistance in Mine Action (A/70/207)

In 2015, UNMAS coordinated and prepared the biennial Report of the Secretary-General on Assistance in Mine Action. This required extensive consultations with mine action field programmes across the world. The report also served as the mid-term review of the United Nations Strategy on Mine Action and drew on findings of the M&E Mechanism to report on an analysis of trends and progress observed in various operating contexts that supported calls for political action on key issues.

The report notes that the number of people killed or injured by mines has declined by two-thirds since a peak in 2005 and that in mine/ERW affected countries participating in the M&E Mechanism, 51% of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas have been declared safe and returned to communities. However, the report also highlights the increase in ERW resulting from ongoing conflicts and notes that casualty figures from ERW remain unacceptably high.

Humanitarian mine action responses to the evolving threats posed by an increasing range of ERW, for example remnant improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are also highlighted. The report emphasizes that mine action remains critical to the safety of civilians affected by conflict, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), enables the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and contributes to socio-economic development. The report notes the United Nations continues to play a significant role in addressing these issues and in supporting the efforts of affected states.

As part of its responsibility to oversee implementation and to assess progress of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy, UNMAS continued to coordinate, through the IACG-MA, the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanism. Since its successful launch in July 2014, three rounds of data collection have been completed. This year, participation of field-based United Nations entities increased to 25 (from 14 in 2014). M&E Mechanism analysis and data informed international treaty meeting statements made by the IACG-MA, presentations such as those made during the 18th International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers in February, the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) meetings in February and October as well as the Report of the Secretary-General. UNMAS extended analysis and contextual reference of the United Nations data by drawing on other data sources such as the Landmine Monitor, the World Bank, the Uppsala Conflict Data Program, and the Polity Project of the Center for Systemic Peace. Progress would not have been possible without the continued and generous support of the governments of Australia, Denmark and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

UNMAS coordination of support and activities within the mine action sector was also illustrated by the development and launch of a new system to manage the online Portfolio of Mine Action Projects. Participants and users welcomed the increased accessibility resulting from technical upgrades. Dynamic, user-friendly platforms allow for reviewing in “real time” the funding status and requirements of mine action programmes across the world. The 2015 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects² features 24 country portfolios reviewed and vetted by the IACG-MA, presenting a total funding requirement of more than US\$286 million. By the end of the year, US\$91 million had been secured.

Last February, under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) it concluded with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

² For more information on the Portfolio, including charts and graphs, see <http://www.mineaction.org/pms/visualization/>

(GICHD), UNMAS convened the 18th International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers in Geneva. Senior representatives from across the humanitarian mine action sector were in attendance. Stimulating debates under the theme “More than Mines: the Evolution of Mine Action” highlighted how the mine action community has adapted to the changing nature of conflict and operating environments. Senior United Nations Officials such as the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Mr. Dmitry Titov, and the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Mr. Volker Türk, reflected on mine action support to peacekeeping and emphasised the criticality of mine action to “protection” efforts, respectively. This year saw a marked increase in the number of National Directors leading panel discussions thereby reaffirming the critical country-level perspective of this annual meeting. UNMAS also demonstrated that mine action is a non-traditional area of work where women are playing an increasingly significant role, including by ensuring a high proportion of women featured in the agenda; six of the nine plenaries were chaired by women and almost one third of the speakers were women.

UNMAS continued to coordinate an extensive outreach and advocacy programme throughout the year. Of note was UNMAS leadership in advocating against mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM). In November, UNMAS co-hosted an event in Geneva with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and GICHD allowing for the development of a substantive agenda to highlight the criticality of the issue and the humanitarian impact of these weapons. With over 100 participants discussing MOTAPM through different lenses, this meeting provided an opportunity to prepare for formal discussions on Amended Protocol II of CCW.

Through a successfully coordinated strategy, UNMAS also raised the profile of mine action within the World Humanitarian Summit process. UNMAS promoted mine action as a crucial humanitarian

component, often underrated in global discussions and processes, through several platforms including round tables and an online campaign with videos and policy papers. In close partnership with civil society, UNMAS succeeded in advocating for mine action to be mainstreamed throughout the humanitarian sphere, thereby bringing attention to mine action as a critical component to enhancing effectiveness of early crisis interventions and improving ways of serving the needs of people affected by conflict.

Like it does every year, UNMAS coordinated the agenda for a week-long series of events to mark the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (April 4th).

As this year marked the tenth anniversary of the Day, UNMAS promoted a theme of “More than Mines” to highlight the evolution of mine action during the last decade. In particular, events brought attention to programmes and countries in need of political and financial support, and highlighted the “One UN” approach to mine action underpinned by UNMAS coordination efforts.



Roundtable in Geneva providing updates from UNMAS programmes in Afghanistan, the State of Palestine and Somalia. UNMAS Geneva



The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is led through a "digital" minefield during the photo exhibition opening on 1st April 2015 at UNHQ. UNMAS/ Runa A

During the week, UNMAS organized a series of panel discussions at United Nations Headquarters in New York. A panel on IEDs, co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Chad to the United Nations, discussed this emerging threat and possible ways to mitigate the impact. Another panel, arranged in partnership with the United Nations Department of Public Information, focused on enhancing outreach and advocacy through public-private partnerships. A third panel, co-organized with the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), presented the findings of the March 2015 donor fact-finding mission to Colombia.

Also at United Nations Headquarters, UNMAS staged a photography exhibition featuring its work in the Central African Republic, Gaza, Haiti, and Somalia. UNMAS, with the generous support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, organized an opening reception which was attended by the United Nations Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and a significant number of ambassadors. Visitors were given a unique opportunity to use specially designed mobile phone applications to experience a "digital" minefield and to listen to the stories of victims and survivors. The Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as well as the United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards, actor Daniel Craig,

were filmed walking through the installation. The technology was donated by the world-renowned digital marketing agency Critical Mass. In the three months the exhibit was in place over 90,000 people were sensitized to the impact of explosive hazards in affected communities.

With generous support from the Government of Japan, UNMAS also organized an exhibition of children's artwork at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Paintings and drawings by children and youth affected by conflict in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan were paired with art created by children from Geneva inspired by the pictures from affected countries. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan in Geneva and the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva opened the month-long exhibition.

As in other years, UNMAS ensured that the annual commemoration was also marked by a broad range of activities around the world including concerts, sporting events, mine clearance demonstrations, photo exhibitions and receptions. All UNMAS country programmes, with the active involvement of national authorities and civil society, held local events to raise awareness and support for mine action.

FIRST UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL ADVOCATE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF MINES AND EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS

In April 2015 United Nations Secretary-General designated the actor Daniel Craig as the first United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards.

Mr. Craig first became impassioned about the indiscriminate impact of mines and explosive hazards when he was filming in Cambodia a number of years ago. He was hugely honoured by the Secretary-General's invitation to be the first United Nations Global Advocate for this cause and immediately agreed to lend his voice and profile to raise political and financial support for the United Nations work in mine action.



UN Photo/Mark Garten

Mr. Craig visited the United Nations mine action programme in Cyprus to assess first-hand how mine and ERW contamination impedes the return to normal life after conflict and impacts on prospects for a peaceful future. The role demining operations play as a confidence-building measure towards community reconciliation is particularly compelling in Cyprus. Mr. Craig participated in the daily briefings of a UN mission and interacted with UNMAS experts and a demining contingent from Cambodia while visiting active minefields and destroying anti-tank mines.

The Global Advocate has also taken a number of initiatives to promote mine action in the public arena, including by appearing on television on programmes such as the "Late Show with Stephen Colbert" and by publishing an editorial in the global edition of the Guardian newspaper. In addition he has recorded a number of short video messages which have received wide public attention. One promoted "mine action week" in April; one linked mine action to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; another called for financial contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (UN VTF).

<http://www.mineaction.org/unmas/videos/join-daniel-craig-help-save-lives>.

At a reception co-hosted by UNMAS and the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands which took place during the High Level Segment of the 70th session of the General Assembly in September, Mr. Craig spoke about the importance of unified and concrete action.

Global Advocate, Director UNMAS and the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
UNMAS Photo/Catianne Tjierina



Global Advocate on to visit to Cyprus.
UNMAS Photos/Lee Woodyear



Global Advocate on to visit to Cyprus.
UNMAS Photos/Lee Woodyear



Global Advocate attending the opening of the General Assembly. Those pictured include (front row, from right): Mette Holm, wife of the General Assembly President; Yoo Soon-taek, wife of the UN Secretary-General; Michelle Obama, First Lady of the United States; Queen Maxima of the Netherlands. UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz



In his own words:

Join me, join us. Most places where armed conflicts take place are contaminated by a variety of explosive hazards. They are equal-opportunity killers, whether landmines, improvised explosive devices, artillery shells or cluster bombs. When triggered, they kill indiscriminately, soldier or civilian, male or female, old or young. Often they become more unstable and dangerous with the passage of time. What once needed a tank to be detonated can be triggered by a child jumping a rope. They kill and maim, they wreck lives. Their presence, real or perceived, curtails freedom, freedom to play and go to school, freedom to collect food and water. We must join forces to defeat these deadly devices and win the fight against fear and inhumane suffering. Join me, join us. Let's win.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON MINE ACTION 2013-2018

UNMAS, together with other UN entities, is committed to implementing the objectives of the United Nations Strategy on Mine Action and reporting its progress through the M&E Mechanism.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE:

Risks to individuals and the socio-economic impacts of mines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, are reduced.

UNMAS reduces the risks posed by mines and ERW through three main areas of work: survey and clearance, risk education, and weapons and ammunition management.

Survey and Clearance

Survey, the systematic collection of mine-related information used to identify the scope of mine and ERW contamination in a given area, is the necessary first step before clearance can be carried out. It is an integrated component of all UNMAS programmes. Clearance techniques vary widely and include manual methods, the use of dogs, and mechanical approaches to detect, remove and dispose of

explosive hazards in a safe manner.

Afghanistan remains one of the most mine and ERW contaminated countries in the world and the mine action programme the largest globally. UNMAS undertakes survey and clearance activities in this country as part of its support to the Government of Afghanistan implementation of the 2013-2023 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Extension Request Work Plan.

As part of this effort, UNMAS continues to oversee the Mine and ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS), a national village-by-village



A United Nations funded demining team walks to the edge of the minefield they are clearing above Kabul.
UNMAS/Christian Lamontagne-PVP

UNMAS Actions Increasingly Efficient

M&E Mechanism data confirms that in UNMAS programmes⁴ the proportions of contaminated land and infrastructure cleared and returned to affected communities increased in 2015. The data also demonstrates UNMAS increased efficiency given that funding for clearance efforts remained relatively stable across 2014 and 2015.

Indicator		2014	2015
Per cent of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas that have been returned to the community		61%	78%
Affected Infrastructure			
Hospitals	Known and identified	15	98
	Cleared	8	73
	Annual clearance rate	57%	78%
Educational facilities	Known and identified	59	216
	Cleared	43	190
	Annual clearance rate	42%	94%
Markets	Known and identified	43	519
	Cleared	36	363
	Annual clearance rate	42%	69%
Religious facilities	Known and identified	–	3
	Cleared	–	3
	Annual clearance rate	–	100%
Government buildings	Known and identified	73	260
	Cleared	70	215
	Annual clearance rate	40%	78%

assessment to quantify the validity and impact of contaminated land. By the close of 2015, 46,498 communities had been visited by MEIFCS teams since the project's inception in 2012. As a result of survey activities this year, 36 areas incorrectly suspected to be contaminated were cancelled and returned to communities and 63 landmines and 3,336 items of UXO were destroyed. However, an additional 144 minefields and battlefields in 43 communities were discovered, which have been planned for clearance. These sites can now be planned for clearance. In the context of intensified conflict in Helmand Province, UNMAS succeeded in expanding MEIFCS in the province through close coordination and security monitoring with regional operators and thorough risk assessment and management. The project will continue in 2016.

With technical assistance provided by UNMAS, the United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA) performed vital coordination functions in support of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan, including information management, planning and prioritization and external quality management. The coordination of clearance activities countrywide resulted in 120 contaminated communities declared mine-free.

In **Colombia**, which has the second highest number of recorded mine/ERW accident rates after Afghanistan, UNMAS facilitated survey and clearance activities in South-East Antioquia, allowing communities that have been impacted by the conflict between state, non-state and paramilitary groups to finally have safe access

⁴ Abyei, Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, the Territory of Western Sahara.

Mine Action Contributes to the Colombian Peace Process

This year, mine action proved again its value in the advancement of peace processes. As part of the negotiations between the Government of Colombia and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), a landmark agreement to establish a joint humanitarian demining project, as a trust-building measure, was concluded. UNMAS was requested to provide technical assistance and also contributed to the development of a comprehensive mine action strategy for the post-conflict scenario, which resulted in the inclusion of humanitarian demining as one of the 18 key activities of the Government's Rapid Response Plan to be implemented once a peace settlement is reached.

Additionally, as the focal point for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), UNMAS provided strategic and technical advice to interlocutors participating in peace talks in Havana and to the Strategic Command for Transition of Colombia.

to land and increased mobility within the region. Clearance began in September and survey activities commenced in mid-November; by the end of the year, operations had been carried out in 17 communities.

In **Gaza**, UNMAS survey and clearance work is focused on the legacy of ERW resulting from the Israeli-Gaza conflict in 2014. In 2015, UNMAS cleared 2,300 items of ERW from residential, commercial and government buildings increasing the safety of civilians, humanitarian staff and reconstruction workers. In line with its emergency response plan, UNMAS also commenced the removal of deep-buried bombs from 164 previously identified sites. To date, 22 deep-buried bombs have been cleared and an additional 62 sites have been identified for clearance in 2016. UNMAS also provided technical support, including risk assessments, risk mitigation education and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) to United Nations and other international partners for the safe removal of rubble from destroyed buildings. As a result, approximately 600,000 tons of rubble have been cleared without a single ERW accident. In 2015, rubble clearance activities reduced the risk to civilians and increased access to basic services for approximately 250,000 people living in Gaza.

In **Somalia**, UNMAS is coordinating and funding the survey and clearance of contaminated areas along the Somali-Ethiopian border. The project not only addresses explosive hazard contamination, but also provides employment opportunities for

Somalis impacted by conflict, including youth at risk of recruitment by organizations such as Al Shabaab. Somali men and women were recruited and trained from villages in the border areas and have since carried out numerous village assessments.

Risk Education

Specialized and highly-targeted risk education campaigns are mainstreamed in all UNMAS programmes to reduce the risk of injury from explosive hazards by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change through public information, education, training and community liaison.

M&E Mechanism data confirms that mine/ERW risk education programmes in countries where UNMAS is the lead mine action agency reached over 1.2 million people in 2015; 100,000 more than in 2014.

The security situation in **Libya** deteriorated sharply in late 2014 and the United Nations relocated its staff to Tunisia. In 2015, UNMAS continued to successfully carry out mine action work in support of at risk communities in Libya by implementing a number of risk education initiatives remotely. For example, UNMAS coordinated and funded 10 risk education workshops in southern and western Libya attended by over 152 people, including community volunteers, boy and girl scouts, teachers and local NGOs from western, eastern and southern regions. Of these, 45 people also completed

train-the-trainer modules. This initiative enabled the participants to deliver community-based risk education to 14,600 individuals in Al Jufra, Benghazi, Derna, Ghat, Shaba, Tripoli and other areas requiring humanitarian assistance. UNMAS also broadcast awareness messaging through local television and radio. Moreover, leaflets, billboards and posters were developed and disseminated to affected communities throughout the country.

Similarly, in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, UNMAS delivered risk education to

conflict-affected communities through local radio broadcasting, leaflet distribution and public events. This year, UNMAS reached 138,510 beneficiaries through 3,201 risk education sessions.

In **Gaza** UNMAS has recorded 67 casualties due to ERW incidents this year. A key component of UNMAS work in Gaza is the provision of risk awareness messaging through radio and TV spots, and the delivery of targeted risk education to 22,550

IACG-MA: Working as One at Country Level

The collaborative work of the IACG-MA on policy-related issues in United Nations Headquarters is mirrored at country level, for example in **South Sudan**. UNMAS route clearance provides access for World Food Programme (WFP) trucks ensuring that vital humanitarian aid reaches communities in need. In September, UNMAS responded to an urgent request from WFP which was planning to air-drop food to the Bentiu protection of civilians site. WFP feared for the safety of people collecting the food as the area was reported to be contaminated by ERW. Following UNMAS intervention WFP were able to deliver 2,700 metric tons of food. In addition, at the request of UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNMAS surveyed areas around schools in Bentui which had been used to shelter soldiers during the conflict and delivered risk education to 200 school children in the region. Similarly UNMAS surveyed and cleared 12 sites allowing the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other international non-governmental organizations to install or repair water points.



Funded by UNMAS, The Development Initiative cleared a route leading into the Rubkona airstrip near Bentiu, Unity State, South Sudan. UN Photo/JC McIlwaine

people at increased risk including construction workers, farmers and adolescent boys.

UNMAS “Getting Smart”

In order to improve the safety of people living and working in environments contaminated by explosive hazards, UNMAS has embraced tablet and smart phone technology to develop a free Application (“App”) which provides an online training module on the dangers of mines and ERW and suggested risk mitigation procedures. During 2015 the App was adapted to include information on IEDs, and in response to the crisis in Iraq, Kurdish was added to the eight languages in which the App is already available.

The App is compatible with Apple and Android operating systems worldwide, enabling widespread access for mine action operators and civilians alike. The UNMAS App was the first security awareness and training App released by the United Nations and the only one related to explosive hazards. More than 2,000 downloads were recorded in 2015 alone.

The UNMAS Landmine & ERW Safety App can be downloaded at <http://www.mineaction.org/resources/unmas-applications>

Multi-Task Teams

A Multi-Task Team (MTT) combines survey, clearance, community liaison and risk education to deliver a comprehensive, multidimensional, mixed capability to affected populations.

UNMAS deployed five MTTs in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** to safely remove and destroy mines and other explosive hazards. Of the 150 remaining suspected hazardous areas UNMAS-funded partners cleared 23, resulting in the declaration of the provinces of South Kivu and Maniema free from the threat of known mine and cluster munition contamination. If the current

pace of clearance is maintained, it is anticipated that the Democratic Republic of the Congo may achieve APMBC clearance obligations before the target date of 1 January 2021.

In the **Territory of Western Sahara**, UNMAS also deployed one MTT to conduct battle area clearance, manual minefield clearance, EOD and technical and non-technical survey activities in mine-affected areas posing a threat to nomadic and local populations, refugees and United Nations Military Observers monitoring the ceasefire.

In the **Sudan**, UNMAS utilises a toolbox approach deploying a range of clearance methods, coupled with community liaison and risk education, depending on what is most suitable in the area requiring intervention. In 2015, UNMAS deployed one mechanical team, three mine detection dog teams and one MTT enabling clearance of 11 high-impact hazardous areas. This land is now used by local communities and the Sudan is closer to achieving its APMBC obligations.

Weapons and Ammunition Management

Unsafe, unsecured and poorly managed weapons and ammunition can too often lead to unplanned, deadly explosions which threaten the lives of people in the immediate vicinity. In addition, explosive materials looted or stolen may be used to fuel conflict, for example in the construction of IEDs. UNMAS helps decrease these risks by improving weapons and ammunition management in partnership with States requesting UNMAS support.

Weapons and ammunition management (WAM) services are tailored to assist, advise, train and equip requesting authorities. Globally, in 2015, UNMAS constructed 33 secure storage facilities, capable of safely storing tons of weapons and ammunition.

UNMAS is assisting the Federal Government of **Somalia** (FGS) to develop a comprehensive WAM system in the context of the partial lifting of the



Manual mine clearance operations in an anti-tank minefield in Mehaies, territory of Western Sahara
Photo: UNMAS funded partner, Dynasafe MineTech Limited

Somalia arms embargo by the Security Council. UNMAS, in collaboration with other entities in the United Nations Rule of Law and Security Institutions Group, designed a project proposal that will allow the Government to establish the frameworks, policies, procedures, equipment and infrastructure required for the transparent and effective management of state-owned weapons and ammunition. The project was endorsed by the FGS in April this year and implementation will commence in early 2016.

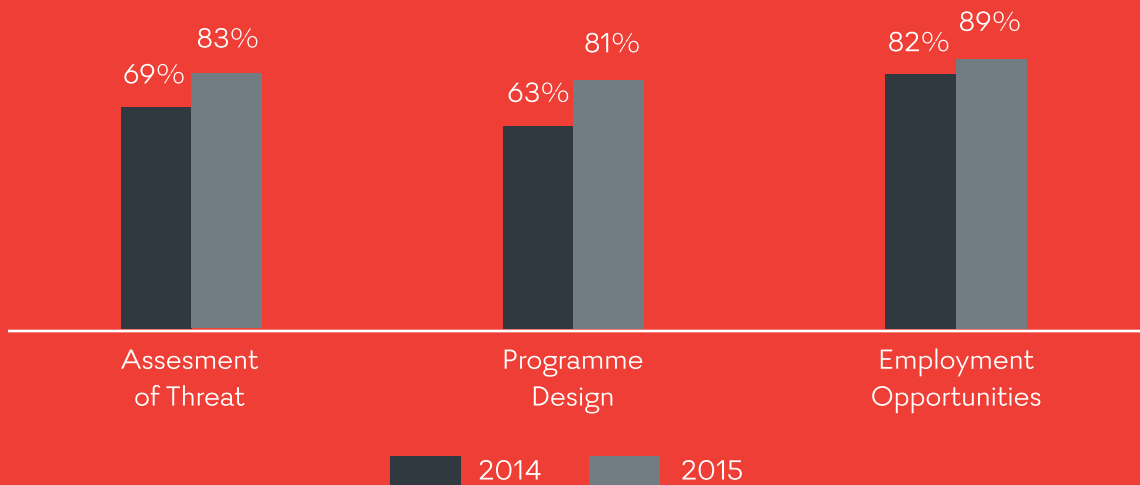
UNMAS also provided weapons-marking machines and recordkeeping equipment to the FGS, and in this context, carried out three training courses for 31 members of the Somali National Army, Somali Police Force, National Intelligence and Security Agency, Custodial Corps and the National Security Adviser's Office. As a result, the FGS can mark and

register newly imported weapons at the central storage facility at Halane. UNMAS also conducted training courses for 35 FGS staff in the destruction of small arms and light weapons, during which 187 unserviceable weapons were destroyed. A train-the-trainer programme on weapons destruction, marking and recordkeeping was also carried out to support ongoing national capacity development efforts.

Unsecured ammunition storage areas (ASAs) in **Libya** contribute to instability and the proliferation of arms across the Sahel. This year working remotely from Tunisia, UNMAS was able to create a database of ASAs which is now ready to be populated with relevant information to facilitate planning and prioritization of this complex undertaking when the political and security situation allows.

UNMAS Increases Participation of Women in its Programmes

UNMAS programmes were increasingly designed and implemented in accordance with the United Nations Gender Guidelines in 2015. The chart below shows the percentage of UNMAS programmes that reported consistent³ provision of employment opportunities for all genders, and notable improvement in the number of programmes implementing gender sensitive programme design and threat assessments, compared to 2014.



A Libyan woman undergoing mapping training organized by UNMAS. UNMAS Libya

³ Consistent implementation means that a programme reported following the Guidelines associated with each theme (community liaison, assessment of threat, programme design, and employment opportunities) at least half of the time; many report doing so at least 75% of the time.

Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity

Through its Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity (RRTSC), UNMAS is uniquely prepared and equipped to rapidly deploy experts and specialized equipment to mitigate threats posed by explosive hazards, as requested by Member States and United Nations entities. The technical support capacity increases the capability of national counterparts through the provision of needs assessments, equipment and training. In 2015, the bulk of RRTSC activities focused on Iraq and the response to the Syria crisis, where mine action is considered as a humanitarian priority by the international community.

In August, the RRTSC was deployed to Turkey, at the request of the United Nations Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Whole of **Syria** Response, who had identified an urgent need for a mine action focal point to coordinate the mine action response inside and outside Syria, to liaise on technical issues with the numerous and relevant authorities and to advocate on behalf of the sector. Mine action NGOs in the region had also emphasized the need for effective coordination of their activities.

Since deployment, UNMAS has coordinated the work of a number of international organizations currently conducting clearance in Syria. These organizations have primarily focused their activities on conducting assessments and training of national capacities. At least four additional organizations are expected to start work in early 2016. In the context of an extremely challenging environment, great progress is being made. For example, in Kobane, almost seven tons of ERW has been destroyed since August. Moreover, 17 houses, three schools, one hospital, four playgrounds and 21 shops have been searched, cleared and returned to the local community.

Several international organizations are also conducting risk education projects throughout Syria and in neighbouring countries targeting the refugee population. In the latter half of 2015, risk

education reached 110,000 people inside Syria and safety briefings were provided to 166 United Nations and NGO staff. In October, UNMAS and UNICEF conducted a risk education workshop with implementers to better mainstream risk education messaging in other humanitarian activities.

UNMAS Innovation in Syria

In the absence of a political settlement, a comprehensive mine action programme was not possible in **Syria** during 2015. Rather than wait for the situation to stabilize, and since ad-hoc clearance (conducted by civilians) is already taking place, UNMAS devised a programme to mentor and empower Syrian actors to manage specific explosive hazards with increased safety. UNMAS worked closely with Syrian organizations to identify and understand the significant challenges they face and strengthen their ability to operate in a difficult environment using methods suitable to the context. For example, UNMAS is teaching Syrians to use non-explosive clearance methods such as the pyrotechnic torch, which provides a high and sustained temperature, causing explosives to burn rather than detonate. The torch is particularly effective in the destruction of cluster munitions.

UNMAS has also assisted the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in Gaziantep, Turkey in their advocacy efforts by providing technical assistance and is also contributing to the development of the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan which now includes mine action and will be discussed at the 2016 London Conference on Syria.

In **Iraq**, on-going armed conflict has exacerbated the existing problem of explosive hazard contamination. The presence of mines, ERW and IEDs threatens the lives of thousands of people throughout the country. This contamination impedes the delivery of humanitarian relief to civilians, stabilization efforts, extension of the state authority, as well as freedom of movement,



Impact of conflict in Kobane, Syria. Anonymous Mine Action Partner

access to livelihoods and economic recovery and reconstruction efforts.

At the request of the Prime Minister of the Kurdish Regional Government supported by the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), UNMAS carried out an assessment mission to evaluate the need for technical assistance to mitigate explosive threats in Iraq, especially given the prevalence of IEDs resulting from the current conflict. The assessment mission confirmed the need for technical assistance to the United Nations and national mine action actors particularly in areas newly liberated from Daesh.

In June, UNMAS deployed a two-person team to provide support to UNAMI, the United Nations Country Team, the national authority and the international community present in Iraq in assessing and addressing explosive threats including mines, ERW and IEDs. UNMAS conducted threat assessments and surveys of areas contaminated by explosive hazards in 10 priority locations, including areas retaken from Daesh, to enable the safe and voluntary return of IDPs. UNMAS also established coordination mechanisms to reinforce national capacities for assessing and mitigating explosive threats in South Central Iraq and in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

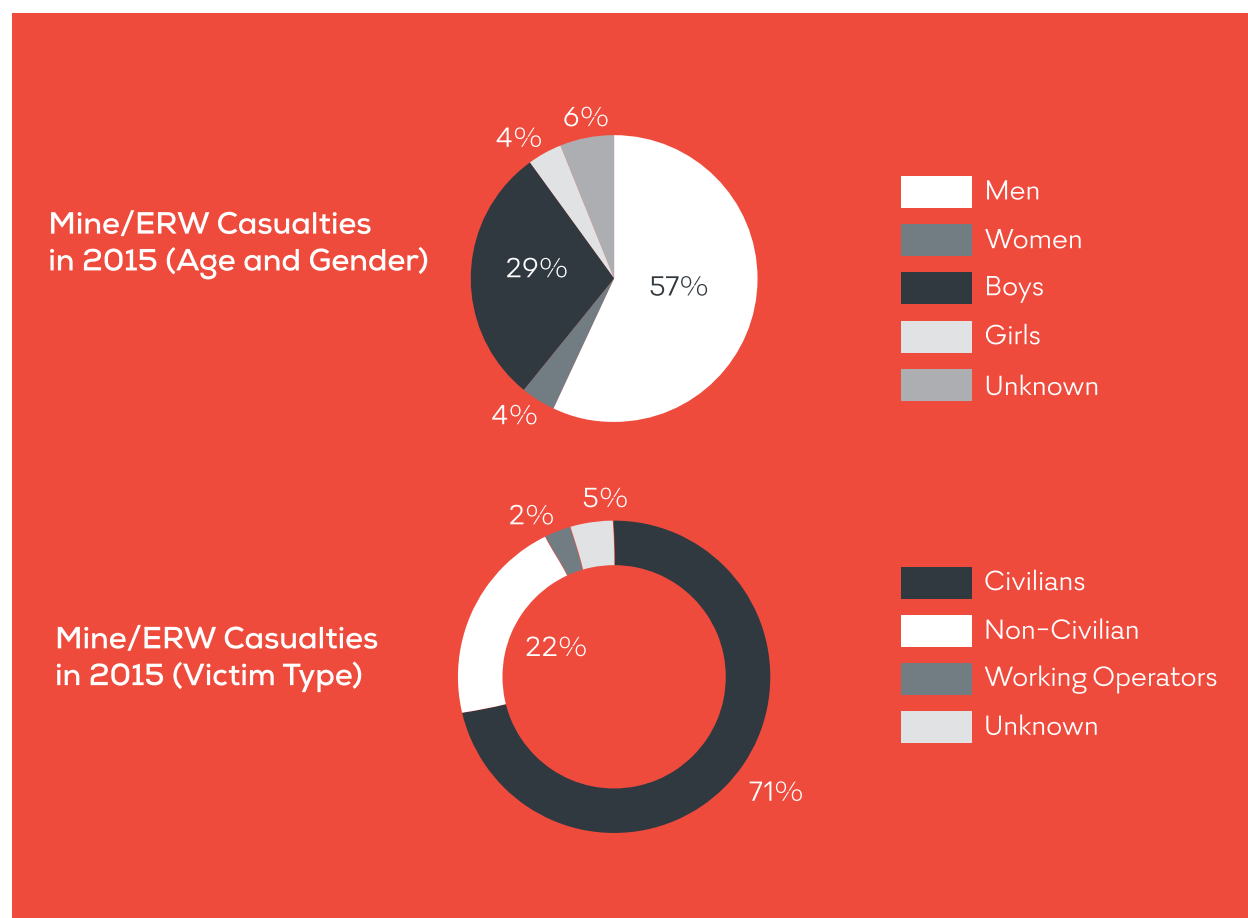
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO:

Comprehensive support is provided by national and international actors to mine and explosive remnants of war victims within broader responses to injury and disability.

As described above, a great deal of clearance and risk reduction progress has been made; casualties resulting from mine accidents have reduced, though ERW continues to have a deadly impact in affected communities. Data analysed through the M&E Mechanism in countries where UNMAS coordinates the mine action response shows how mines and ERW disproportionately impact civilians and particularly men and boys.

It is encouraging to note that in seven out of 11 countries in which UNMAS coordinates mine action, there is a national disability policy framework or strategy that specifically provides for victims and survivors of mine/ERW accidents, with Somalia joining the list in 2015. In addition, Libya and the State of Palestine also have national

disability frameworks which, though not including an explicit reference to victims and survivors of mine/ERW accidents, do provide equal rights for mine/ERW victims to access appropriate services. In order to enhance the United Nations coherence and impact in mine action, strengthened victim assistance frameworks are necessary to both save lives and improve the quality of assistance provided for victims. In its capacity as Chair of the IACG-MA, UNMAS coordinated updating the 2003 United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action. The UNMAS Geneva office led consultations with the IACG-MA as well as victim assistance experts from several organizations such as the ICRC, International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition and Handicap International. The revised





Victims of recent conflict receive humanitarian packages funded by ACAP III. UNMAS Afghanistan

UNMAS and USAID: ACAP III Delivers Immediate Assistance

Following this year's violent unrest in Kunduz, under the ACAP III project, UNMAS was able to assist victims of the conflict through the distribution of 194 humanitarian assistance packages, reaching some 880 affected individuals, including those hurt in the conflict and families of those killed and injured. The mother of Sadruddin, who survived three gunshot wounds to his back, expressed her appreciation for the package containing food and non-food items such as bedding and household articles. "I thank UNMAS and others who provided this assistance," she said, underscoring that her son would need further treatment.

A similar distribution took place on 3 November to assist those affected by a suicide attack in Shah Shaheed district of Kabul. A total of 202 packages were distributed, reaching an estimated 362 beneficiaries. The Shah Shaheed explosion, which resulted in 34 deaths and 483 injuries, left many families without a breadwinner. Barfi lost her husband in the explosion and, unable to pay rent, moved with her young son into her brother-in-law's house. "I am thankful for your caring about our situation," she said. The package will help meet her family's immediate needs in the wake of her husband's death.

Long-term services funded by the ACAP III are being rolled out across the country to provide physical rehabilitation, vocational training and psychosocial support.

Policy aims to ensure greater effectiveness of the work of the United Nations in support of victims of mines and ERW.

In addition, in its capacity as Coordinator of the Mine Action Area of Responsibility within the Global Protection Cluster, UNMAS established a coordination mechanism for victim assistance in Syria through the mine action sub-cluster. Due to the ongoing conflict, victim assistance activities by sub-cluster members are limited. In consultation with the Health Cluster, UNMAS aims to identify experienced organizations interested in joining the mine action sub-cluster and in implementing activities that can better respond to the needs of victims and their families during 2016.

As one of the five pillars of mine action, victim assistance incorporates medical assistance and rehabilitation services to victims, including job skills training and various employment opportunities, regardless of gender, age or socio-economic status. In **Afghanistan** UNMAS coordinated and funded projects which provided physical rehabilitation and vocational training for female and male victims in the provinces of Kabul, Kandahar and Herat. In the latter half of 2015, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UNMAS commenced implementation of the Afghan Civilian Assistance Programme III (ACAP III), under which immediate assistance packages were delivered to victims of mines, ERW and armed conflict. The programme also provides beneficiaries long-term physical rehabilitation, psychological support and reintegration services.

In **South Sudan**, UNMAS funded Handicap International to provide physical, psychological and socio-economic recovery for mine/ERW victims. Beneficiaries (65 male and 61 female) were equipped to develop small businesses, provided with access to prosthesis and integrated into local support groups. In addition, a variety of advocacy initiatives were conducted in partnership with the National Mine Action Authority and the Yei Agriculture Training centre, including radio programming to raise awareness for mine/ERW victims and people with disabilities in the community.

As well as providing assistance to victims, UNMAS is also committed to supporting states in strengthening the victim assistance capacity of national authorities. For example, in **Colombia**, UNMAS entered into a new partnership with the Defensoria del Pueblo, a human rights Ombudsperson of the Colombian Government. UNMAS and the Defensoria provided training to 152 Ombudpersons in eight regional offices on victim assistance and the support that should be extended to mine and/or ERW victims under International Humanitarian Law frameworks. One of the legislative frameworks of UNMAS interventions is the recent resolution on “Assistance in Mine Action” which urges Member States to provide humanitarian assistance for victims of mines and other ERW, and to take measures to spare the civilian population consistent with the principals of international humanitarian law. Likewise the General Assembly resolution on “Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices” adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December encourages states to provide appropriate assistance to the victims of IED attacks.



Archanjelo Mabe, who received victim assistance in Yei, South Sudan, Handicap International

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE:

The transfer of mine action functions to national actors is accelerated, with national capacity to fulfil mine action responsibilities increased.

UNMAS promotes national ownership of mine action by strengthening government capacity and encouraging adherence to international standards and implementation of best practices by all stakeholders. Ensuring an affected country's ability to manage its own mine action programme is vital to guaranteeing a sustainable response and remains an important commitment for UNMAS.

Data from the M&E Mechanism indicates that UNMAS continues to operate in contexts with significant national capacity challenges. Only one third of countries have a government-approved plan for transitioning responsibility for mine action from the United Nations to national authorities in place, though in 2015 the Somali Explosive Management Authority made significant steps towards establishing itself formally within Government, with explosive hazard legislation passed, funding for personnel approved through the Government budget, and development of a national plan for clearance. This year the distribution of identified areas of need remained broadly consistent with those identified in 2014 but there were notable improvements in national

capacities for information management.

Afghanistan remains a successful example of UNMAS development of a national mine action capacity. The UNMACA is fully staffed by 146 Afghan nationals, supported by a small UNMAS team that provides oversight and advisory support upon request. In 2015, UNMAS continued to liaise closely with its government counterpart, the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), located in the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, to elaborate a process to transfer full responsibility for mine action coordination to the Government.

UNMAS also worked with key ministries on risk education, victim assistance and disability. Specifically, UNMAS employed national technical advisers to develop the capacity of the ministries of Public Health and Education, as well as the ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled who have performed a number of functions including chairpersonship of coordination fora, policy and standard development, and training of ministry personnel and stakeholders.

Information Management Indicators	2014	2015
Per cent of national authorities who have adopted a plan or strategy on information management.	58%	58%
Per cent of national authorities who collect and maintain data on civilian and non-civilian deaths and injuries resulting from landmines, ERW including cluster munitions, in a database {Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) or other}.	46%	64%
Per cent of national authorities who collect age and gender disaggregated data.	46%	55%
Per cent of national authorities who collect and maintain data on civilian and non-civilian deaths and injuries resulting from IEDs in a database (IMSMA or other).	17%	67%

UNMAS and the President of Afghanistan Advance Transition to National Ownership

In 2015, UNMAS was invited by the President of Afghanistan, His Excellency Mr. Ashraf Ghani, to a meeting to discuss the successes and remaining challenges related to full transition of responsibility for mine action to the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC). Significantly, President Ghani later created a new Ministerial post responsible for mine action which will enable increased decision-making authority and provide opportunities to gain traction for mine action reforms. UNMAS worked closely with the new Minister to advise, review and prepare a transition strategic plan. In line with the plan, UNMAS has continued to collaborate with DMAC to implement a series of actions which further advance national ownership. For example, DMAC is now fully responsible for confirming land to be released has been cleared in line with national mine action standards, and undertakes the final stage of implementing partner accreditation.

In **Colombia**, UNMAS continued to assist La Dirección para la Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal (DAICMA) in the process of updating national mine action standards. UNMAS contributed to development of the national mine action glossary and as a result of UNMAS support, DAICMA was able to update national standards on task assignment, non-technical survey, accreditation and quality management, and develop new standards on the use of mine detection dogs and land release. UNMAS also supported the initial phase of transferring the humanitarian demining monitoring capacity of the Organization of American States to DAICMA by designing a detailed and phased work plan and training DAICMA quality management staff.

South-South Cooperation: Colombia and Afghanistan Share Expertise

By facilitating exchanges of experiences and lessons learned between national mine action authorities, UNMAS provides an opportunity for a long-term and sustainable response to explosive hazards.

In November, high-level officials from the Colombian national authority visited the UNMACA in Kabul, where they shared lessons learned and discussed strategic planning processes and day-to-day operational management.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, UNMAS continued capacity enhancement of the Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines (CCLAM). This year a national capacity enhancement cooperation agreement was developed and the transfer of responsibility for coordinating all humanitarian mine action activities is expected to be completed by the beginning of 2016. Throughout the year, CCLAM demonstrated improved capacity to undertake activities with limited supervision from UNMAS. In addition, UNMAS contributed to capacity development of the security services through the provision of technical advice on designing a national weapons and ammunition management plan for the Congolese National Police which aims to reduce the risk of proliferation of weapons and ammunition at community, national and regional levels.

In April 2015, at the request of the Government and agreed to by UN partners, UNMAS resumed its earlier programme in **Sudan**. UNMAS assisted the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) in strengthening its institutional capacity to meet obligations of the APMBC and other relevant international treaties, and to resource mobilize for land release, mine risk education and victim assistance. UNMAS increased the capacity of the NMAC through specialised training projects and day-to-day technical advice. In October, UNMAS conducted quality assurance training for 16 staff of the NMAC and national NGOs. UNMAS continued

to assist Sudan in reporting their achievements under the APMBC as well in preparing for participation in State Parties meetings and other international fora on mine action.

In **Iraq**, national authorities expressed the need for an increased IED mitigation capacity in areas newly

recovered from Daesh. At their request, UNMAS has undertaken an assessment of the technical capacity of both the Directorate for Mine Action in Baghdad and the Iraqi Kurdish Mine Action Authority in Erbil to identify gaps and formulate tailored responses.

UNMAS Supports National Capacity Development Remotely

Following the relocation of the United Nations from **Libya** to Tunisia the need for national capacities to oversee and deliver mine action has increased. UNMAS has supported and enabled capacity enhancement of the Libyan Mine Action Centre through training programmes held outside of the country for participants from all regions of Libya. Topics included quality assurance and quality control, implementation of accreditation processes for mine action operators and risk education management. In addition, UNMAS developed an advanced EOD training course which has been delivered on three occasions to a total of 50 Libyan EOD operators. This course, held in Jordan, was specifically designed and tailored to the current Libyan context with a focus on operational safety.



UNMAS organizes a capacity enhancement training course in Jordan for explosive ordnance operators from Libya. UNMAS Libya

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR:

Mine action is promoted and integrated in multilateral instruments and frameworks as well as national plans and legislation

Promoting and mainstreaming mine action

Through a wide range of social media tools, including websites, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, UNMAS drew global public attention to the threats posed by mines and other explosive hazards. This year, UNMAS significantly increased its digital outreach audience, as evidenced by a notable rise in the number of visits to the UN Mine Action Gateway website, administered by UNMAS, which rose from an average of 5,000 visits per month in 2014 to more than 10,000 per month in 2015. Posts on the UNMAS Facebook page were seen by more than 5.1 million people and information shared on @UNMAS Twitter feed reached more than 161 million people and resulted in 44,000 interactions. In April, UNMAS also launched a public Instagram account (un_mineaction) which is garnering an increasing number of followers.

In collaboration with Member States and other United Nations entities, UNMAS advocated for, and facilitated the mainstreaming of issues related to mine action in relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. For example, for the first time, the General Assembly resolution "Protection of and assistance to

internally displaced persons" (A/RES/70/165) referred to mines, ERW and IEDs, as a threat to IDPs and an impediment to "their voluntary return, local reintegration and resettlement". In addition, the General Assembly also adopted a new resolution on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) calling for the universalization of the treaty and expressing concern over the use of such munitions.

UNMAS was successful in ensuring mine action remains on the international agenda, including by highlighting the problem in relevant UN publications, such as the Global Study on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) "Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace". Likewise, UNMAS made sure mine action activities and messages were included in reports of the Secretary-General on "Protection of civilians", "Small arms and light weapons", "Children in armed conflict", "Illicit trade in small arms and light weapons", "Partnering for peace: moving towards partnership peacekeeping", and "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa". In addition, a specific chapter on mine action was included in the Inter-agency Standing Committee Guidelines for Integrating Gender-

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) instrument	% of mine/ERW affected states which have signed and/or ratified relevant IHL		% of mine/ERW affected states with an UNMAS presence which have signed and/or ratified relevant IHL	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	68%	68%	77%	77%
Convention on Cluster Munitions	48%	49%	69%	77%
Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons	60%	63%	38%	46%
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	93%	94%	77%	85%

General Assembly Debate and Resolution on “Assistance in Mine Action”

The biennial debate of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on Assistance in Mine Action was held on 16 October 2015, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Brian Bowler of Malawi. Mr. Dmitry Titov, Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions presented an overview of the Report of the Secretary-General. Twenty delegations delivered statements, underlining the threats posed by mines, ERW and IEDs. The United Nations and specifically the important contribution of UNMAS were praised by Member States.

The resolution on “Assistance in Mine Action” addressed by the Fourth Committee on the day of the debate was subsequently adopted without a vote by the General Assembly on 9 December 2015 (A/RES/70/80).

On behalf of the European Union, Poland facilitated the drafting and negotiation process which resulted in adoption of a fit-for-purpose resolution which highlights the humanitarian dimension of mine action, including a new reference on the impact of explosive hazards on IDPs and refugees. The resolution also includes stronger language on IEDs, referred to as “a humanitarian threat following conflict”.

The significant role of the United Nations, with UNMAS as its coordinator, is also acknowledged, as well as important initiatives launched by the UN, such as the M&E Mechanism and the updating of the United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action. In light of the key role mine action plays as a peace and confidence-building measure, Member States also underlined the importance of including mine action in mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions.



Mr. Dmitry Titov, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions

As focal point for mine action, UNMAS leads, implements and coordinates a coherent and multi-agency response, which reflects changing realities on the ground.



Ambassador Bogusław Winid of Poland

We believe the subject of this resolution is of great importance and of truly practical meaning [...]. We hopefully contributed to facilitating the work of all those everyday heroes — women and men, who put their lives at risk when addressing the threat posed by mines and other explosive hazards.



Mr. Wayne Swan, Member of the Australian House of Representatives

We value the work UNMAS does, often under very challenging circumstances. And we congratulate UNMAS for its continued dedication and professionalism.



Ms. Lorena Alvarado of Mexico

My country recognizes the role that the United Nations, led by the United Nations Mine Action Service, has played in integrating activities and programmes in the mandates of peacekeeping missions and in humanitarian and development efforts.



Mr. Mohamed H.S. Elmodir of Libya

Libya thanks and commends UNMAS for its support both to Libya and in other countries. Achievements in Libya so far could not have been realized without support from the United Nations and other states.



Officers from the African Union, UN peacekeepers and UNMAS working together in the Central African Republic. UNMAS/Catiane Tijerina

Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action.

During the last year, UNMAS intensified efforts to integrate mine action into the wider humanitarian frameworks, especially in Geneva, which has allowed for increased interaction with relevant humanitarian organizations and bodies of humanitarian law. Close cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), succeeded in ensuring the annual consolidated Global Humanitarian Overview appeal for 2016, launched in December 2015, highlighted the threats of explosive hazards to civilian populations in 12 countries, including Ukraine and Yemen and ten with an UNMAS presence.

UNMAS also joined other United Nations entities in providing Member States with technical advice on the development of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including by advocating for the number of deaths and injuries due to mines and other ERW to be included as a

relevant indicator, especially in SDG 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”.

Promoting mine action multilateral instruments and frameworks

UNMAS country level presence continued to have a positive impact on affected States joining relevant international instruments in 2015, as can be seen in the table below. Ten States ratified the CCM including the State of Palestine and Somalia, both mine/ERW affected countries with an UNMAS presence. In addition the State of Palestine ratified the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where UNMAS is also present, ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Mainstreaming mine action in national frameworks

UNMAS continued to assist national authorities to include mine action in relevant national plans, legislation and programmes. For instance, UNMAS advocacy efforts facilitated the incorporation



A Somali Police Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officer carries an 82 mm mortar to be destroyed UNMAS Somalia

of mine action in the top priorities of 12 country-based Humanitarian and Strategic Response Plans, including Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Syria.

In Somalia, UNMAS advised national authorities on the incorporation of an EOD component in the “Heegan Plan” (“readiness” plan) which aims to establish a professional and accountable police force to be deployed in liberated areas throughout Somalia. In support to the implementation of the Plan, UNMAS will also assist the Somali Police Force to consolidate its EOD capacity through the development of a federal EOD Training Department and the provision of EOD refresher training in the regions. In addition, UNMAS supported the Somali Explosive Management Authority in the elaboration of the “Badbaado Plan”

(“protection” plan) which outlines international support required to coordinate explosive hazard management over the next two years, contributing to enhanced security and stability in line with the Federal Government’s “New Deal Compact” adopted in September 2013.

Partnership with regional organizations

In 2015, UNMAS continued to strengthen its partnership with the African Union (AU) by supporting the implementation of the AU Mine Action and ERW Strategic Framework 2014–2017. UNMAS supported the AU in the development of its Safety Handbook on Landmines, ERW and IEDs to be published in 2016. UNMAS also enhanced its cooperation with organizations with experience in IED threat mitigation, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), through expertise and experience sharing, participation in exercises, and support to training development.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

UNMAS administers the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (UN VTF), the mechanism which enables mine action funding of United Nations partners, national entities and mine action operators. The UN VTF ensures a coherent, multilateral and humanitarian response to the risks posed by mines and ERW. It is subject to United Nations internal and external audit and

oversight mechanisms through the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services and the United Nations Board of External Auditors elected by Member States.

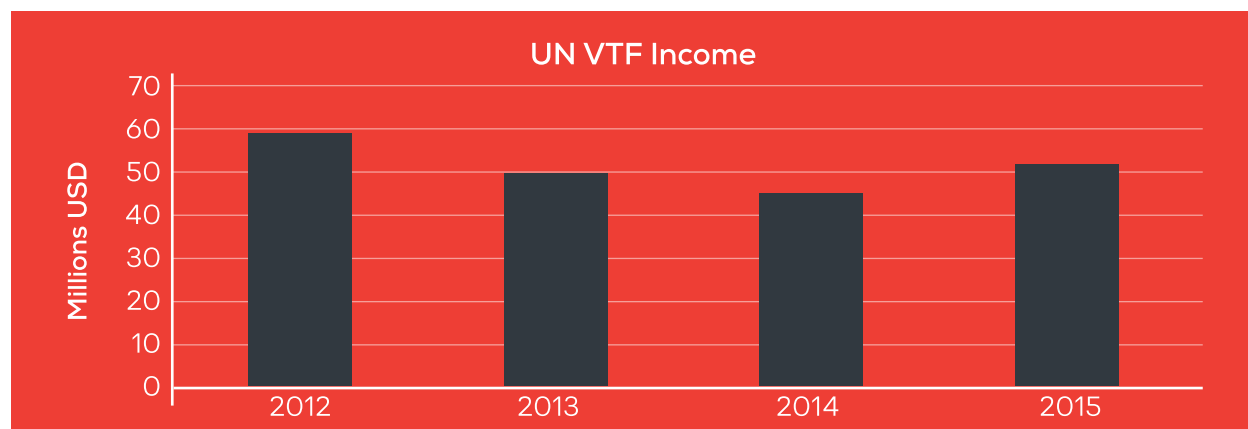
In 2015, UNMAS continued to strengthen its financial management and resource mobilization units by finalizing recruitment of key posts and

Reduction in Financial Support Impacts Treaty Compliance in Afghanistan

Afghanistan acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in September 2002, making a commitment to clear all minefields within 10 years. The magnitude of the mine problem in Afghanistan has meant that the initial deadline of 2013 was untenable. In March 2012, the Government of Afghanistan, with technical assistance provided by UNMAS, submitted a request for a 10-year extension of the deadline to remove all mines by 2023. A work plan was developed to provide a framework for meeting this commitment. The Extension Request Work Plan involves hundreds of clearance tasks and is managed by the United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA). Afghanistan successfully met its year one objectives in 2014, but due to a lack of sufficient funds, was unable to achieve its clearance targets for 2015. Additional clearance assets are urgently needed to ensure that Afghanistan can be declared mine-free by 2023.



Cluster bomb sub-munitions gathered for destruction. A high percentage of these bombs do not explode on impact, leaving behind dangerous contamination. UNMAS/Christian Lamontagne-PVP



adopting “Umoja”, an Enterprise Resource Planning tool that provides the United Nations with the ability to conduct complex and real-time analyses of critical data, a practice known as Business Intelligence.

UNMAS has also fully institutionalized International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) practices to enhance accounting and financial reporting systems. The implementation of the 2014 MoU between the United Nations and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has resulted in better management and implementation of mine action projects globally.

The improved oversight of resource management, enhanced reporting capabilities, and greater visibility of contributions has been well-received. For the first time since 2012 the UN VTF has seen growth in incoming funds.

UNMAS remains committed to the principles of good stewardship of contributions, placing great importance on transparency, accountability and cost-effectiveness.

2015 Contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action

The resolution on “Assistance in Mine Action” (A/RES/70/80) urges “reliable, predictable, timely and where possible, multi-annual contributions for mine action activities.” UNMAS is grateful to those Member States that have made financial contributions to the UN VTF in 2015.

Contributions detailed below were received by the UN VTF in 2015, as recorded in United Nations Contribution Receipt Vouchers. All figures are in USD.

Unearmarked Funding

Sustained donor support and reliable funding patterns are critical for planning, budgeting and implementing operations efficiently and expediently. In order to respond quickly and effectively to humanitarian crises, UNMAS needs unearmarked resources to allocate to areas of immediate priority.

In 2015, unearmarked funding allowed UNMAS to support humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gaza and also to strengthen the Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity (RRTSC) allowing the establishment of new programmes in Iraq and in response to the Syria crisis.

Unearmarked funding is critical to support UNMAS global operational management ensuring sound administrative procedures, rigorous financial oversight, robust M&E, effective mine action coordination and advocacy and high quality information management.

- ✓ The Kingdom of the Netherlands – 7,098,400
- ✓ Denmark – 4,387,119
- ✓ New Zealand – 744,700
- ✓ Australia – 300,000
- ✓ Republic of Korea – 89,720
- ✓ Japan – 88,127
- ✓ Liechtenstein – 27,168

- ✓ Andorra – 16,801
- ✓ Estonia – 10,000

Earmarked Funding

Funding for UNMAS Global Operational Management

UNMAS is also grateful for Member States' earmarked contributions for UNMAS global operational management. These funds ensure UNMAS strong internal management, ensuring sound administrative procedures, rigorous financial oversight, robust M&E, effective mine action coordination and advocacy and high quality information management.

Advocacy

- ✓ Italy – 164,100

Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity

- ✓ New Zealand – 372,350
- ✓ Estonia – 10,000

Afghanistan

- ✓ United States of America – 9,644,000
- ✓ United Kingdom – 6,009,459
- ✓ Canada – 3,322,259
- ✓ Japan – 2,000,000
- ✓ Finland – 761,810
- ✓ Switzerland – 490,485
- ✓ Republic of Korea – 39,900
- ✓ Lithuania – 3,500

Colombia

- ✓ Canada – 408,983
- ✓ Italy – 218,800
- ✓ Republic of Korea – 49,900

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

- ✓ Japan – 4,500,000
- ✓ OCHA Country-based Pool Fund – 400,000

Iraq

- ✓ Canada – 459,204
- ✓ United Kingdom – 348,181
- ✓ Republic of Korea – 19,900

Lebanon

- ✓ Republic of Korea – 39,900

Somalia

- ✓ Japan – 3,000,000

South Sudan

- ✓ Japan – 2,500,000
- ✓ European Union – 282,884

The State of Palestine

- ✓ Japan – 3,000,000
- ✓ United Kingdom – 597,214
- ✓ Italy – 273,500
- ✓ Poland – 35,000

Sudan

- ✓ United States of America – 300,000
- ✓ Italy – 273,500

Syria

- ✓ Italy – 269,981

UNMAS Global Expenditure 2015

Due to the transition to Umoja and the complex issues involved in the transfer of information from one financial system to another, the preparation of financial statements of the United Nations Secretariat has been delayed. As a result, UNMAS is unable to provide expenditure figures at time of publication. An addendum to the report to reflect expenditure for 2015 will be issued as soon as possible.

In-kind Contributions

UNMAS has benefitted from the support of Member States through the provision of technically specialised personnel, including EOD and IED specialists. UNMAS is grateful to Benin, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America for making their valuable expertise available to UNMAS.

Private Partnerships

UNMAS continues to collaborate with donors and affected countries to forge innovative

UNMAS Takes Donors to Colombia

In March 2015, a delegation of 12 Member States, Colombian Government Officials and representatives of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) participated in a field visit to Colombia. The trip was organized by UNMAS and the Dirección para la Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal (DAICMA) at the request of Japan as Chair of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG).

The delegation first travelled to Bogota to meet with Government stakeholders including the Minister of National Defence, the Director for Post-Conflict and the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs. Mine action NGOs also presented their activities to the delegation.

The delegation also visited minefields in Antioquia to observe the work of the military demining battalions and a humanitarian demining NGO. The delegation met with local deminers and mine-affected community members. An ex-combatant, now a deminer, underscored the important linkage between mine clearance and reintegration of former combatants, explaining how his employment as a civilian deminer has provided him and his family with new opportunities.



Mine Action Support Group visits a minefield in Colombia.
UNMAS Colombia

partnerships with civil society and the private sector to maximize resource mobilization for mine action around the world.

UNMAS communications and advocacy capabilities were strengthened by the pro-bono services of companies such as Critical Mass and The Brooklyn Brothers, as well as individuals such as Emmy Award-winning photographer Mr. Marco Grob.

In addition, on a pro-bono basis the Swedish film director Erik Eger led a team of artists, including composer Joacim Starander, editor Bjorn Lindgren

and colourist Andreas Hylander in producing a public service announcement on United Nations mine action work featuring actor Daniel Craig. This one-minute video was distributed by the United Nations and viewed by millions of people.

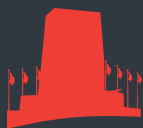
This year, again, the US-based Schonstedt Instrument Company donated 10 metal detectors to UNMAS country programmes.

UNMAS continues to seek partners to assist and improve outreach, fundraising and awareness campaigns.



UNMAS 2015 SNAP SHOT

17 PROGRAMMES
around the world



32 UNMAS STAFF
(60% FEMALE) in UNHQ & Geneva

176 INTERNATIONAL STAFF
(29% FEMALE)

426 NATIONAL STAFF
(15% FEMALE)

+ 12,500 NATIONAL STAFF EMPLOYED THROUGH UNMAS FUNDING

Aggregates



DESTROYED

- ▶ **168,000** explosive remnants of war
- ▶ **10,000** landmines



CLEARED

- ▶ **64 sq km** land = **16,000** football pitches
- ▶ **4,000 km** roads



WEAPONS & AMMUNITION STORAGE CONSTRUCTED

- ▶ **33**



RISK EDUCATION PROVIDED

- ▶ Over **2,639,000** people impacted by explosive hazards
Women 480,000 • Girls 678,000 • Men 536,000 • Boys 945,000



VICTIMS ASSISTED

- ▶ **22,000**



TRAINED

- ▶ **3,500** healthcare workers, police, teachers, military personnel



RAPID RESPONSE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

- ▶ Cyprus, Iraq, response to Syrian crisis (southern Turkey)



UNMAS

in Peace Operations 2015



Overview of UNMAS work
in United Nations peacekeeping
and special political missions in 2015.

Please see reverse
for UNMAS Annual Report 2015.



To learn more, download the
UNMAS Landmine + ERW Safety app
and visit us online at:



unmas.org



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UNMAS



[un_mineaction](https://www.instagram.com/un_mineaction)



UNMAS United Nations

Cover photo:
UNMAS Officer visits a minefield with UN Peacekeepers in Cyprus.
UNMAS/Lee Woodyear

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Information provided in alphabetical order of mission acronym.

¹ Previously United Nations Support Office to AMISOM (UNSOA).

ACRONYMS

AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
AU	African Union
HIPPO	High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
IDP	Internally displaced person
IED	Improvised explosive device
JBVMM	Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism
LibMAC	Libyan Mine Action Centre
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
PoC	Protection of civilians
UNAMID	African Union–United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
RRTSC	Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity
UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
UNSOS	United Nations Support Office in Somalia
UXO	Unexploded ordnance

MESSAGE FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARIES-GENERAL

2015 saw United Nations peace operations exposed to increasingly hazardous and high-risk environments. Mobility, resilience, and access to communities in need remain at the core of the United Nations effectiveness in protection of civilians, stabilization, and extension of state authority. In this context, UNMAS, as an integrated component of 11 peace operations, broadened the scope of its responses to demanding mission requirements, providing increasingly specialized and innovative advice and technical support to civilian and uniformed personnel, as well as to national authorities.

UNMAS reinforced its character as a critical enabler of United Nations operational, political, and policy work in theatres such as in Mali and Somalia, where improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other means of asymmetric warfare attempt to impede the work of the United Nations and its partners. UNMAS mobility enabling, site assessment and clearance activities, as well as its training, mentoring, non-lethal tactical advice into planning processes and, at times, equipping of forces and staff, enabled the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to deploy while also strengthening national capacities. In responding quickly to a request for clearance of mined areas in Cyprus, UNMAS proved the value of its advisory and technical assistance as tools to support political processes. UNMAS also rapidly deployed to Iraq, at the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to support national authorities mitigate the threat posed by IEDs. UNMAS activities in Baghdad as well as in the Kurdistan region of the country are critical to reducing the humanitarian threat posed by explosive hazards.

We greatly appreciate UNMAS contributions to peace and security and the important bridge it provides to the humanitarian, reconstruction, human rights and development work of the United Nations. As the Secretary-General underlined in the 2014 Annual Report, “UNMAS is a precious resource inside the United Nations.....its activities are driven by humanitarian needs and are critical for achieving peace, security and stabilization”. Adding to its essential work in the field, UNMAS endeavours to ensure that United Nations responses and strategies remain adapted to the world’s current threat environments, for example through contributing to the implementation of the recommendations made by the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in United Nations Peacekeeping and leading the internal United Nations reflection and work on IED threat mitigation.

We commend UNMAS efforts in mobilizing the United Nations General Assembly to recognize the crucial role played by the Organization in mine action, which we wholeheartedly support.

We encourage you to read this report and to become strong advocates for increased recognition and support to UNMAS work.



UN Photo/Cia Pak

Jeffrey Feltman
Under-Secretary-General
for Political Affairs



UN Photo/Amanda Voisard

Hervé Ladsous
Under-Secretary-General
for Peacekeeping Operations

UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (MINURSO)

Pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2218, UNMAS facilitated stabilization efforts by verifying 136 km of peacekeeper patrol routes to the east of the berm which divides the Territory of Western Sahara, providing mine/explosive remnant of war (ERW) safety training to 215 MINURSO personnel and surveying 38 potential water borehole sites. Also to the east of the berm, UNMAS surveyed and cleared mine/ERW contaminated areas where seasonal migrations of nomadic populations and movement of United Nations personnel occur. Capacity enhancement efforts continued as UNMAS provided information management support to national mine action operators. In addition, UNMAS engaged with stakeholders on both sides of the berm, thereby improving coordination and information on mine/ERW threats throughout the territory.

UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (MINUSCA)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2217, UNMAS supports national authorities in the management of small arms, light weapons and ammunition storage and collects and destroys surplus, seized or illicitly held weapons and ammunition. Activities in 2015 included the neutralisation of 2,800 items of ammunition and explosives, assessment of multiple police and military weapons storage facilities, and the construction of new armouries.



Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, inaugurates the Camp Kassai Central Armoury project in Bangui, Central African Republic. UN Photo/Dany Balepe

Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous Inaugurates Construction of the Kassai Central Armoury

During his visit to the Central African Republic in April, Mr. Hervé Ladsous, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, together with Ms. Marie-Noëlle Koyara, the Minister of Defence of the country, inaugurated the Camp Kassai Central Armoury project in Bangui, where UNMAS is constructing a new armoury capable of storing 1,000 weapons.

UNMAS removed 6 tons of unsecure explosives from a military camp in the centre of Bangui which posed an immediate danger to the local population. In addition, just over 5,150 risk reduction sessions explaining the dangers of explosive hazards and promoting risk mitigation behaviour were conducted at local markets, places of worship, internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps and schools, reaching 155,000 beneficiaries. UNMAS also worked to enhance the capacity of national security forces by providing training in weapons and ammunition marking and storage management.

UNMAS Contribution to the Implementation of Arms Embargoes

In line with UNSCR 2220 (2015) on “Small Arms”, as well as with a number of country-specific Security Council arms embargo resolutions, UNMAS supports capacity development of national authorities in States under arms embargoes or under partially lifted arms embargoes in a number of countries³. The value and importance of UNMAS activities have been recognized and highlighted by panels of experts monitoring the implementation of sanctions and arms embargoes, for instance in the December 2015 Report of the panel of experts on the Central African Republic (S/2015/936). In CAR, UNMAS assessed the weapons and ammunition stockpile management capacity of police, gendarmerie and military posts, as well as prisons and customs offices. Furthermore, UNMAS trained national security forces in armoury management, including in weapons marking and recording, thereby enhancing the capability of the Government to fulfil its obligations under the sanctions regime.

At their request, UNMAS briefed Sanctions Committees on the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan and, as an example of its role in monitoring the implementation of sanctions regimes, UNMAS is also coordinating the activities of the newly formed Arms Embargo Working Group in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN MALI (MINUSMA)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2227, UNMAS contributes to the stabilization of Mali by mitigating the threat posed by explosive hazards, including IEDs, to civilians, national security forces and peacekeepers. In northern Mali, where MINUSMA operates in an asymmetric threat environment, UNMAS advises, equips, trains and mentors peacekeeping troops on all types of explosive hazards, thereby enhancing peacekeepers' mobility. UNMAS also strengthens Malian Defence and Security Forces' explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) capacities through specialized training, mentoring and the provision of equipment. Technical assistance in stockpile management ranged from destroying obsolete and unsafely stored ammunition to refurbishing, to international standards, the armouries of the police, gendarmerie and national guard stations.

² The Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Somalia and Sudan.

UNMAS Disposes of Tons of Obsolete Ammunition in Mali

In June 2015, UNMAS completed the disposal of 32,500 pieces of obsolete and unserviceable ammunition, bringing the total amount of ammunition destroyed by UNMAS in Mali to 290 tons.

This operation, conducted at the request of the Malian Defence Forces, was undertaken at an ammunition depot in the southern central Segou region of the country and took over six months to complete. UNMAS transported weapons and ammunition to be destroyed to a secure demolition site where they were safely disposed of. Ordnance destroyed included surface-to-air missiles, rockets, mortars, bombs, artillery shells and small arms ammunition.



Nepalese peacekeepers participate in EOD training delivered by UNMAS, Kidal, Mali.
UNMAS/Imre Gelencser

In implementing provisions of MINUSMA's mandate relating to the protection of civilians and humanitarian action, UNMAS also provided ERW risk education to civilians, launched a new victim assistance project, and coordinated the activities of all civilian mine action operators and stakeholders. Considerable progress was achieved in 2015; many areas contaminated by ERW in central and northern Mali were cleared, including those that had not previously been accessible due to security concerns.

UNMAS Support to Victims of Explosive Hazard Accidents in Mali

In 2015, UNMAS funded Handicap International to assist the victims of explosive hazard accidents in the heavily contaminated regions of Gao and Timbuktu. Activities responded to the physical and socio-economic needs of victims including through physiotherapy, rehabilitation services, provision of prosthetic devices, as well as economic and social inclusion projects.

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (MONUSCO)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2211, UNMAS contributes to the implementation of the mandate under three pillars: protection of civilians, stabilisation, and support to the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework. UNMAS mitigates threats posed by ERW to civilians by assessing, clearing and destroying ERW before, during and after joint combat operations in the east of the country. In 2015, UNMAS destroyed a total of 961 items of ERW and 175,833 rounds of small arms ammunition through 599 EOD operations. In the context of the Quick Impact Project mechanism of MONUSCO, UNMAS also refurbished armouries at three police stations in the Rutshuru territory of North Kivu province.

AFRICAN UNION-UNITED NATIONS HYBRID OPERATION IN DARFUR (UNAMID)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2288, UNMAS contributes to the protection of civilians and safe delivery of humanitarian assistance by providing technical support and coordinating clearance activities in Darfur. As part of its national capacity enhancement efforts, UNMAS provided training and mentoring for national operators who conduct clearance activities across the region, in collaboration with the National Mine Action Centre. UNMAS also conducted risk education activities for local communities and peacekeepers.



UNMAS celebrates the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in Darfur. UNMAS/Bojan Vukovic

UNMAS Intervention Saves Lives in Darfur

Risk education contributes to the protection of civilians in Darfur, as required by the UNAMID mandate. While training teachers in ERW risk education in Western Darfur in 2012, UNMAS observed that teachers were using unexploded ordnance (UXO) as school bells since actual school bells were not easily obtained. This practice was dangerous and undermined risk education messages which encourage beneficiaries not to touch or tamper with UXO. In one such incident, the head teacher of a primary school had lost his right arm. In response, UNMAS distributed 500 new school bells across Darfur, along with further risk education sessions. Since then, UNMAS has partnered with the Union of the Disabled in El Geneina, which also represents ERW survivors, to produce 2,000 additional bells. Analysis of 2015 accident data demonstrates the effectiveness of this intervention, with no reported UXO accidents in schools that received new bells and awareness messages.

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2236, UNMAS provides technical support and guidance to enable United Nations peacekeeping demining teams to verify the safety of points along the Israel – Lebanon border, known as the “Blue Line”. UNMAS activities included accreditation of demining teams, quality assurance of all operational demining sites, as well as advice on the prioritization of demining operations.

UNMAS and Inter-Mission Cooperation

At the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), UNMAS continued to deploy experts from its UNIFIL programme to provide technical advice and quality assurance to UNIFIL demining teams conducting clearance in Cyprus through an inter-mission cooperation agreement. In addition, UNMAS experts assisted UNFICYP and the Committee of Missing Persons to assess explosive hazard contamination in suspected mass burial sites on the island.



A Cambodian peacekeeper, supporting UN demining operations in Cyprus, prepares to destroy three anti-tank mines. UNMAS/Lee Woodyear

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM SECURITY FORCE FOR ABYEI (UNISFA)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2251, UNMAS is mandated to ensure the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM)'s mobility, as well as to identify and clear mines in the Abyei area and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. Through the provision of explosive hazard clearance in the Abyei area and the delivery of risk education, UNMAS contributed to the safe return of displaced persons and the peaceful migration of local communities. UNMAS work also enhanced UNISFA mobility and the safe delivery of humanitarian aid. In addition, UNMAS commenced weapons and ammunition management activities in support of the UNISFA mandate to enforce a “weapons-free” Abyei.



Stockpiled ammunition in Abyei area. UNMAS Abyei

UNMAS Enables “Weapons-Free” Abyei

Since February, UNISFA has been enforcing a “weapons-free” Abyei, confiscating weapons and hundreds of rounds of small arms ammunition.

As a component of UNISFA, UNMAS contributed to this action by building storage facilities for confiscated material and importing weapons-cutting shears and an ammunition incinerator. UNMAS also developed a UNISFA-specific manual containing Standard Operating Procedures for weapons and ammunition storage and destruction.

In November, UNISFA organized a disposal ceremony attended by the Force Commander and the acting Head of Mission, during which all confiscated materiel was destroyed, including 71 light weapons (69 assault rifles, one machine gun and one shotgun) and over 2,500 items of small arms ammunition.

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2252, UNMAS serves as a critical first-responder to protect civilians and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid. UNMAS cleared ERW from all UNMISS protection of civilian (PoC) sites and responded to incidents of explosive weapon strikes in and around United Nations bases. In addition, UNMAS deployed six explosive detection dog teams to search for weapons at UNMISS facilities and inside PoC sites. UNMAS also initiated clearance in a number of other areas to enable the safe return of civilians to their homes and communities. Furthermore, UNMAS is technically assessing major roads to make them safe for peacekeepers, civilians and humanitarian workers. Due to improved data collection and operational efficiencies, and despite the difficult operating environment, 2015 was the most productive year for UNMAS since it started working in South Sudan in 2004. An unprecedented amount of previously contaminated land was declared safe and the output of mechanical clearance assets was the highest recorded.

UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE (UNOCI)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2226, UNMAS undertakes a wide range of activities to enhance the protection of civilians and promote stabilization in Côte d'Ivoire. In collaboration with national counterparts, UNMAS rehabilitated 15 armouries and handed over 2 ammunition storage facilities to local authorities. UNMAS also delivered highly specialized training to national security forces, destroyed nearly 97 tons of unserviceable ammunition, and continued to support disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations via the collection, recording, and destruction of thousands of weapons and items of ammunition. As a result, UNMAS enhanced the capacity of the police, gendarmerie and armed forces to safely and securely manage weapons and ammunition storage in Côte d'Ivoire, in compliance with international standards.



Four ammunition depots in Adiaké refurbished by UNMAS will provide secure storage for explosives and ammunitions which will prevent the dangerous consequences of any accidental explosions as well as uncontrolled access to ammunition. UNMAS Côte d'Ivoire

UNMAS Mitigates the IED Threat in Peace Operations

IEDs increasingly threaten the safety and security of United Nations peace operations. When called upon, such as in the Central African Republic, Iraq, Libya, Mali, and Somalia, UNMAS provided critical technical support, training, and advice, including on specialized equipment, in order to reduce the risks posed by IEDs to the safety and security of United Nations personnel and assets. UNMAS has been instrumental in improving force protection and increasing the mobility of peacekeeping personnel for the delivery of mission mandates. At the United Nations Headquarters, UNMAS spearheaded development of doctrine on IED risk mitigation by leading on the elaboration of internal technical guidance for mission personnel, coordinating with over 20 peace operations. In addition, in response to the High Level Panel on Technology and Innovation, UNMAS updated the “Landmine and Explosive Remnant of War Safety” mobile phone application to include information on IEDs, and taking advantage of the vast wealth of experience in IED mitigation, UNMAS also held consultations with Member States to develop a strategy for sharing lessons learned.



On 9 January 2015, an IED attack near Kidal, Mali left seven Senegalese peacekeepers wounded. In 2015, UNMAS provided enhanced support to MINUSMA troops in northern Mali in order to facilitate the implementation of the mission's mandate and to enhance the safety and freedom of movement of MINUSMA personnel. UNMAS Mali

UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2238, which identifies the securing of uncontrolled arms and related materiel, as well as the countering of their proliferation, as key roles for UNSMIL, UNMAS, through the Arms and Ammunition Advisory Section of the mission enhances the control of unsecured arms and ammunition. Since the relocation of UNSMIL and the international community to Tunisia in 2015, UNMAS pursued its work through remote management, delivery of intensive training outside the country, and close communication with stakeholders in Libya and the region. In addition, UNMAS supports the Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC) through clearance, risk education, technical advice and international advocacy. UNMAS continued strengthening the capacity of national authorities through the provision of technical and operational support to security institutions, including the Ministry of Defence and the National Security Agency, by developing technical frameworks, advising on institutional governance structures and coordinating weapons and ammunitions management activities.

UNMAS Implementation of Recommendations from the Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO)

In late 2014, the United Nations Secretary-General appointed an independent high-level panel of experts to make a comprehensive assessment of United Nations peace operations and the emerging needs of the future. The Report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) issued in June 2015 makes recommendations related to the changing nature of conflict, evolving mandates, good offices and peacebuilding challenges, managerial and administrative arrangements, planning, partnerships, human rights, protection of civilians, and capabilities and performance of uniformed personnel. UNMAS is actively engaged in implementing HIPPO recommendations in various ways. In promoting protection of civilians as a core obligation of the United Nations, by the very nature of its work, UNMAS undertakes initiatives to eliminate the immediate threat posed by explosive hazards to civilians. In terms of responding with more flexibility and speed, UNMAS has a long-standing, proven Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity (RRTSC) that is able to deploy quickly with the necessary expertise and equipment to meet immediate needs. To improve capability and performance of uniformed personnel, UNMAS has trained troops in IED risk mitigation while also introducing technology to enhance awareness and understanding of IEDs. In support of operational effectiveness and efficiency across missions, UNMAS has responded to multiple requests for specific expertise. In efforts to strengthen global and regional partnerships, UNMAS has continued to foster a strong relationship with the African Union (AU) both in development of mine action doctrine as well as in pre-deployment and in-mission training of AU peace operations troops.

UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT OFFICE IN SOMALIA (UNSOS)³ AND THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SOMALIA (UNSOM)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2245, UNMAS provides support in the field of explosive hazard management as a critical component of the UNSOS non-lethal logistical support package to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). UNMAS continued providing EOD and IED defeat technical support, training, mentoring, advice into operational planning processes and provision of specialized equipment to enhance force protection, support force mobility and mitigate the threat of IEDs. Pursuant to UNSCR 2232, and as an integrated component of UNSOM, UNMAS strengthens the capabilities of the Somali Police, to respond to explosive threats, and of the Somali Explosive Management agency to manage the Government's response to explosive hazard. UNMAS also provided strategic technical advice to the Federal Government of Somalia for the implementation of a comprehensive weapons and ammunition management system in line with sanction obligations under the partial lifting of the arms embargo.



A member of the Somali Police Force takes part in a weapons marking and registration training conducted by UNMAS. UNMAS Somalia

³ Previously United Nations Support Office to AMISOM (UNSOA).

**mine
action**
is humanitarian action