

CATALOGUE OF UNMAS MINE ACTION ACTIVITIES

Draft as of 16 January 2023

As the service provider to Secretariat entities on mine action and as a component of the Department of Peace Operations, UNMAS implements mine action mandates provided by the General Assembly and the Security Council and responds to specific requests for support from the Secretary-General or the senior UN representative in the field.

This catalogue is a living document drafted in response to a recommendation of the Board of Auditors.¹ The catalogue includes mine action activities that are undertaken to deliver a mandate or request for assistance. UNMAS activities mandated by the Security Council are reflected in the resolutions listed in Annex 1.

The activities listed here are not exhaustive. The Security Council and General Assembly may mandate and finance UNMAS to undertake activities related to mine action.

Throughout this catalogue, the term “explosive ordnance” or “EO” is used in a non-technical or legal manner to refer to landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices. Many of the terms used in this catalogue are further defined in the International Mine Action Standards, which guide UN mine action generally, and which are adapted by national authorities for their use and the use of mine action implementers operating in that country. Terms used in this catalogue may also be referred to and/or defined in international humanitarian law, disarmament law and human rights law.

Mine Action activities

1. **Clearance**: Clearance includes surveys, mapping and marking of suspected or known hazardous areas, as well as the clearance or removal of EO.
2. **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)**: Explosive ordnance risk education activities reduce the risk of injury from EO by raising awareness and promoting behavioral change through public-information campaigns, education and training, and liaison with communities.
3. **Victim assistance**: Victim assistance includes, but is not limited to, information management systems; emergency and continuing medical care; physical rehabilitation; psychosocial support and social inclusion; economic reintegration; and laws and public policies that promote effective treatment, care and protection for all disabled citizens, including explosive ordnance victims, with a human rights perspective.
4. **Stockpile Destruction**: This activity entails the destruction of stockpiled prohibited munitions. The complete destruction cycle involves transportation and storage, processing operations, equipment maintenance, staff training and accounting, and the actual physical destruction.

¹ see A/76/5/Vol II, para 61, “The Board is of the view that the Mine Action Service should specify in one central catalogue document which activities fall under the scope of the Mine Action Service and are eligible for financing by mine action funds”

5. Ammunition Management: Ammunition management refers to the technical assistance provided to eliminate or reduce risks from the storage of explosive items.
6. Advocacy: Advocacy refers to activities undertaken to mobilize support for mine action and to encourage Member States to accede, ratify and implement the relevant disarmament, humanitarian and human rights law treaties.
7. Coordination: UNMAS is the coordinator for mine action within the United Nations system as recognized by the General Assembly² and the Security Council.³ This activity includes coordinating mine action within the UN system, including through chairing the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) and coordinating the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) within the Global Protection Cluster. It also includes engagement with treaty bodies and national authorities to advocate for compliance and universalization and coordinating the development of ‘whole-of-system’ responses, as foreseen in the UN Mine Action Strategy (2019-2023).⁴
8. Quality Assurance: Quality Assurance entails assessing the work of implementing agencies to ensure that it conforms with relevant national standards.
9. Support development and application of National and International Mine Action Standards: The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) are the standards in force for all mine action operations.⁵ The United Nations has a general responsibility for enabling and encouraging the effective management of mine action programmes, including the development and maintenance of standards. UNMAS, therefore, is the office within the United Nations responsible for the development and maintenance of IMAS. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action meets at Principal’s Level (Under-Secretary General and Directors) to consider the findings and recommendations of the IMAS Steering Group. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action will then either: 1) endorse the findings and recommendations of the IMAS Steering Group; or 2) return IMAS that they have concerns about to the IMAS Steering Group for further work and reconsideration. The IMAS Steering Group provides executive direction to the IMAS Review Board. The position of Chair of the Steering Group is held by the Director of UNMAS. A Review Board provides technical input to the IMAS framework. New or amended IMAS documents are approved by the Review Board then submitted to the Steering Group for review, before endorsement by Principles of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action. The Chair of the Review Board is nominated by the Director of UNMAS and is provided by UNMAS.⁶
10. Support to National Authorities: This includes responding to requests, when possible and appropriate, to assist in the capacity building of national actors through the provision of

² See General Assembly resolution A/RES/72/75 (2017)

³ See Security Council resolution SCR 2365 (2017).

⁴ <https://www.mineaction.org/en/resources/un-mine-action-strategy-and-monitoring-and-evaluation-mechanism>

⁵ See <https://www.mineactionstandards.org/>

⁶ See https://www.mineactionstandards.org/fileadmin/user_upload/IMAS_01.10_Ed2_Amd10.pdf

technical advice, training and mentoring support to expand their compliance with relevant international treaties. The primary responsibility for mine action is with national authorities.⁷

11. Strategic and technical advice to UN leadership in country: Providing UN leadership in-country with technical and capacity development and targeted interventions, including in the areas of planning, prioritization, coordination, resource mobilization, financial management and quality management.

12. Support for the Safety and Security of United Nations Peacekeepers⁸

Providing specific mine action technical support and advice to support force protection and enabling overall mandate delivery by building capacities of mission uniformed personnel to assess and mitigate explosive ordnance threats, including but not restricted to:

- Route Verification - *the use of both invasive and non-invasive survey techniques to provide assurances that roads and highways are safe to traffic.*
- Pre-deployment assessment - *the provision of technical support to DPO to enable it to determine the suitability of uniformed units to deploy on UN operations.*
- Pre-deployment training - *generic, specialized and, where appropriate, mission-specific peacekeeping training that is based on United Nations standards and takes place prior to actual deployment to a UN operation.*
- In-country training and mentoring - *generic, specialized and, where appropriate, mission-specific peacekeeping training that is based on United Nations standards and takes place during deployment to a UN operation.*
- Provision of IED technical expertise - *specialized IED expertise shared as mandated.*
- Equipping - *providing specialized equipment for mine action activities.*

⁷ Mandated under General Assembly's resolution (A/RES/72/75), para. 14.

⁸ Mandated under Security Council's resolution SCR 2365 (2017).

Annex: Overview of UNMAS Activities in the Field – as of January 2023

| Security Council Resolution Mandates | |
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| Abyei | S/RES/2660 of 14 November 2022 |
| Afghanistan | S/RES/2626 of 17 March 2022 |
| Central African Republic | S/RES/2659 of 14 November 2022 |
| Cyprus | S/RES/2646 of 28 July 2022 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | S/RES/2666 of 20 December 2022 |
| Lebanon | S/RES/2650 of 31 August 2022 |
| Libya | S/RES/2656 of 28 October 2022 |
| Mali | S/RES/2640 of 29 June 2022 |
| Somalia | S/RES/2628 of 31 March 2022 |
| South Sudan | S/RES/2625 of 15 March 2022 |
| Sudan | S/RES/2636 of 3 June 2022 |
| Territory of Western Sahara | S/RES/2654 of 27 October 2022 |
| Yemen | S/RES/2643 of 13 July 2022 |
| Support at request of UN Secretary-General, Senior UN Official, or National Authorities | |
| Burkina Faso | UNMAS deployed in 2019 as part of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Emergency Task Force for Burkina Faso, and then established a presence following a request for assistance from the Government of Burkina Faso and the United Nations Resident Coordinator. |
| Colombia | UNMAS deployed in 2010 following a request to the resident Coordinator from the Colombia National Mine Action Center (Office of the High Commissioner for Peace - Descontamina Colombia). |
| Ethiopia | Following requests for support from the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to Ethiopia, UNMAS deployed an adviser to support the RC’s engagement with the Government on mine action. Support eventually expanded to help ensure safe deployment of humanitarian actors. |
| Iraq | UNMAS deployed in response to a request from the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Authority (IKMAA) through the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to Iraq. |
| Nigeria | UNMAS deployed to Nigeria in 2018, following a request by the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | UNMAS deployed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in response to requests from the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and the Palestinian Authority. |
| Syria | UNMAS deployed in 2018 pursuant to a request from the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Syrian Arab Republic. |