



# The United Nations Mine Action Strategy



United  
Nations



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Cover photo: Children participate in a workshop on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in one of the El Diviso school structures. This is part of UNICEF's program in El Diviso, Barbacoas – Nariño, Colombia. Photo UNICEF/UN013345/LeMoyne



# The United Nations System in Mine Action

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The United Nations Mine Action Strategy (the Strategy) constitutes an accountability framework for the UN system and participating UN entities. It guides collaborative efforts to prevent and address the threats posed by explosive ordnance during and after armed conflicts, while providing support to affected communities. The Strategy reflects the collective engagement by the members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA).<sup>1</sup> Individual UN entities contribute to mine action objectives and results in accordance with their respective mandates and ensure the effective integration of mine action within global and country-level coordination mechanisms, such as those relevant to humanitarian, peace and security, and development frameworks. As agreed by IACG-MA Principals in June 2023, this Strategy will now be subject to periodic review every two years to coincide with the biennial report of the Secretary-General on assistance in mine action.

Members of the IACG-MA include:

- ▶ UN Department of Peace Operations/UNMAS (Chair)
- ▶ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- ▶ UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- ▶ Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- ▶ UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- ▶ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- ▶ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- ▶ UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- ▶ UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- ▶ UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- ▶ World Food Programme (WFP)
- ▶ World Health Organization (WHO)
- ▶ The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)\*

*\*Observer status*

*See Annex 2 for full description*

# Vision

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The vision of the United Nations is a world free from the threat of mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munitions, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs),<sup>2</sup> where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to sustainable peace and development, where no one is left behind, where the human rights and the needs of victims<sup>3</sup> are fully respected and where parties to conflict respect international humanitarian and human rights law.

<sup>2</sup> The terms in this Strategy derive from the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 1997; the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended in 1996 (Amended Protocol II to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects); the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, 2003 (Protocol V to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons); and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this Strategy the term 'victim' will refer to persons, either collectively or individually, who have experienced physical, emotional and/or psychological injury, economic loss; whose recognition, enjoyment or exercise of their human rights on an equal basis with others has been hindered; or whose full and effective participation in society has been restricted by an accident with a confirmed or suspected presence of explosive ordnance. Victims include people killed, injured and/or impaired, their families, and communities affected by explosive ordnance consistent with IMAS 13.10, the UN Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action (2016) and relevant international humanitarian laws and conventions.





## Mission Statement

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The United Nations supports States and affected communities to prevent, reduce and manage the threat and impact of explosive ordnance during and after armed conflict, empower affected women, girls, men and boys from diverse groups to live safely, and strengthen national capacities to protect individuals and communities from the threat of mines, ERW and IEDs until such time as the assistance of the UN is no longer requested.





Deminer with toolkit ready to get to work. Photo UNMAS



# Context and Operating Environment

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**Significant progress made at global, national, and regional levels.** The use of prohibited conventional weapons is increasingly stigmatized. Through the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly, Member States have repeatedly called for efforts to address the impact of mines, ERW and IEDs. Worldwide, mine action programmes continue to make progress in addressing risks associated with explosive ordnance.

Mine action continues to be increasingly recognized as **critical in resolving conflict, peacebuilding, sustaining peace, fostering development, strengthening food security and pursuing sustainable solutions for displacement.** The enabling role of mine action is recognized in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament and in the Secretary-General's policy brief, *A New Agenda for Peace*, which calls for action to reduce the human cost of weapons. The adoption of the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) was a milestone achievement in enhancing the protection of civilians from the increasing urbanization of armed conflict. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has adopted a Policy on Protection, which commits humanitarian actors to engage collectively in efforts to mitigate and prevent risks to conflict and crisis-affected populations.

**However, the civilian toll of the increased use of explosive weapons in populated areas as well as the continued use of cluster munitions, anti-personnel landmines and IEDs in recent and ongoing armed conflicts indicates a lack of respect for the principles of international humanitarian law. Their use leads to increased contamination, exacerbates harm to civilians and poses extremely difficult clearance challenges.** These crises and conflicts contribute to population displacement, loss of livelihoods, impeded or obstructed access to essential infrastructure and services, and increased vulnerability.

**The United Nations advocates for strict compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law to prevent or mitigate harm and protect civilians from the impact of weapons.**



# Scope, Structure and Guiding Principles of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy

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## Scope

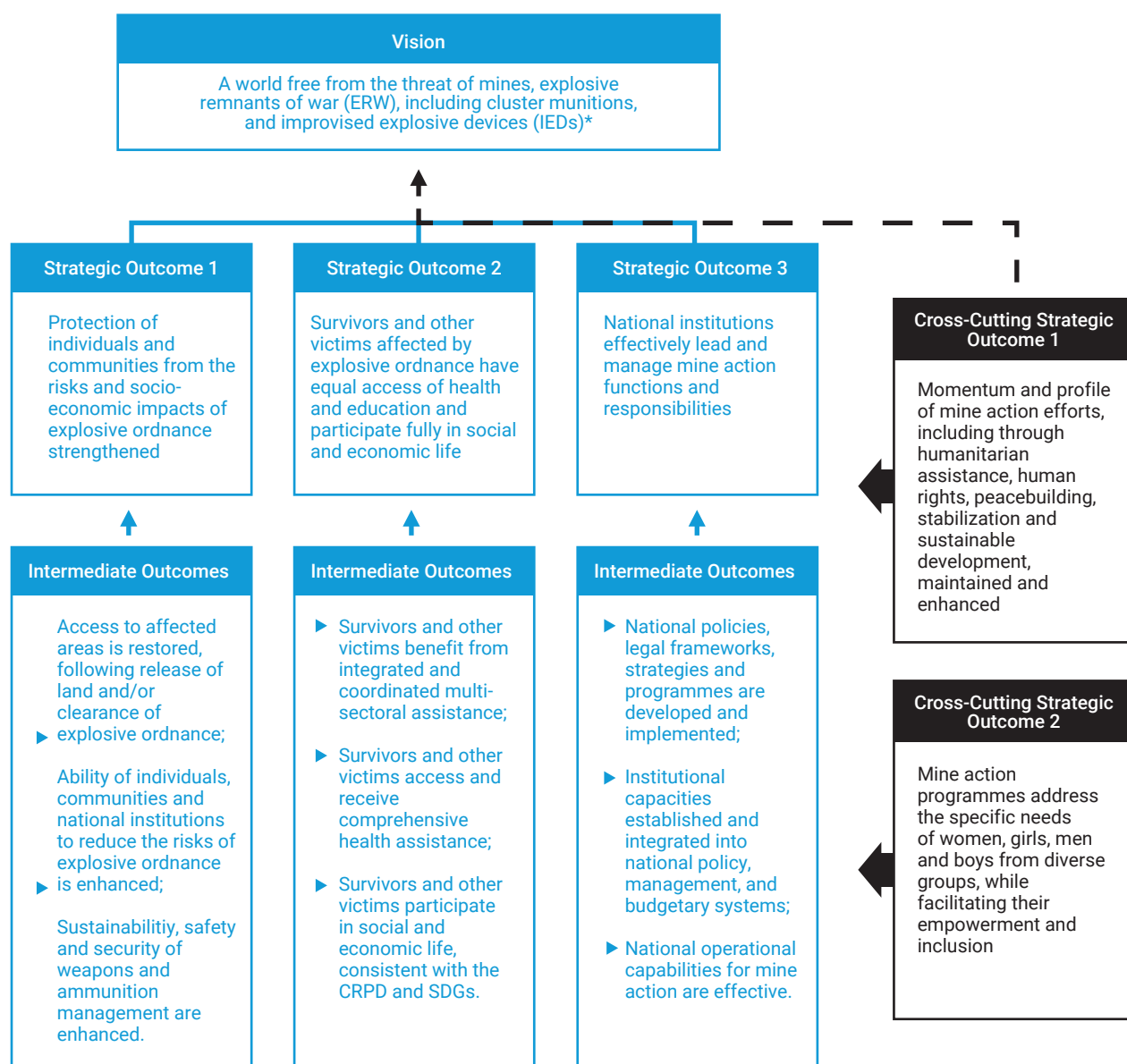
United Nations mine action includes humanitarian mine action, which is undertaken with strict respect for the principles of humanitarian assistance<sup>4</sup> and contributes to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). United Nations mine action also supports stabilization, peace and security objectives when mandated by the Security Council or requested by Member States and when feasible, considering the context and available resources. The Strategy refers to the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Amended Protocol II and Protocol V for the definitions of the terms: “mines”, “cluster munitions”, “explosive remnants of war”, “booby traps”, “other devices” and “improvised explosive devices”. These terms are grouped under the general header of “explosive ordnance” in the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The IMAS 4.10 definition of explosive ordnance notes that IEDs being cleared for “humanitarian purposes and in areas where active hostilities have ceased” are considered to fall within the scope of humanitarian mine action. This strategy also applies to United Nations mine action initiatives involving the clearance of IEDs to protect civilians and/or support the extension of state authority in areas where active hostilities persist, when so mandated by the United Nations Security Council in the context of peace operations. United Nations mine action initiatives also include support for member states developing counter-IED strategies and the training of national security institutions on IED clearance in active conflict settings, under appropriate circumstances and within available resources. The Strategy orients United Nations activities at both global, regional, sub-regional, and national levels to ensure responsiveness to context-specific needs and priorities and ensures that people remain at the center of mine action efforts.

## Structure

The **five agreed outcome** areas are:

1. Protection of individuals and communities from the risks and socio-economic impacts of explosive ordnance strengthened;
2. Victims of explosive ordnance have equal access to comprehensive health assistance and education and participate fully in social and economic life;
3. National institutions effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities;
4. Momentum and profile of mine action efforts, including through mainstreaming in humanitarian assistance, human rights, peacebuilding, stabilization, and sustainable development, maintained and enhanced (cross-cutting);
5. Mine action programmes address the specific rights, needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls, men and boys from diverse groups, while facilitating empowerment, inclusion and greater gender parity in employment (cross-cutting);

<sup>4</sup>These principles include the four humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. See [https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/OOM\\_Humanitarian%20Principles\\_Eng.pdf](https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/OOM_Humanitarian%20Principles_Eng.pdf)



## Guiding Principles

**“Leaving no one behind”** is a fundamental principle driving the overall work of the UN system, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other multilateral frameworks. **Theory of change:** The United Nations Mine Action Strategy is grounded in a theory of change which describes the interventions needed to achieve meaningful changes at the outcome level. These are based on a recognition that the pursuit of the United Nations vision for mine action relies on concerted efforts by a broad range of national and international stakeholders, to which the UN will contribute through specific outputs based on its mandates and comparative advantages. Priorities, outputs and the theory of change reflected in this Strategy are adapted to the specific context in which a United Nations mine action entity is working.

## Monitoring and reporting

The Strategy provides an accountability framework for the United Nations investment and delivery in mine action, as articulated in its theory of change and results framework. The United Nations will continue to review and report on progress in the biennial report of the United Nations Secretary-General on assistance in mine action, as mandated by the United Nations General Assembly.

## Coordination of the mine action sector

In most settings, the UN will leverage its convening and coordination role, including through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA), senior United Nations officials in-country, United Nations Country Teams, Humanitarian Country Teams, and the Mine Action Area of Responsibility in the humanitarian cluster system.

## Context-specific United Nations mine action

In each setting the United Nations mine action entity/ies with the relevant comparative advantage to respond to the context-specific challenges will adapt its/their workplan(s) to reflect how mine action initiatives contribute to the outcomes deemed necessary and feasible in that context.

## Partnerships

The UN will continue to strengthen and expand its partnerships at international, regional, sub regional and national levels to enhance coordination and synergies across countries on specific thematic issues and challenges. This includes continued engagement with the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) and regional and sub regional organizations and mechanisms.

Priorities for strengthening partnerships will include broadening collaboration on multi-sectoral assistance for survivors and their communities with national institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, community-based organizations, and NGOs specialized in rehabilitation, mental health and psycho-social assistance, as well as through more meaningful engagement of affected communities across all mine action pillars.

## Advocacy

The UN will continue to advocate for and support the universalization and implementation of and compliance with relevant international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as relevant political instruments, such as the EWIPA Political Declaration and the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition. This will be achieved through continued participation in multilateral and UN processes, as well as through strengthened partnerships with Member States, civil society and private sector initiatives related to advocacy, data collection and analysis, and the development and dissemination of standards and operational guidance.

Advocacy for mine action and relevant international humanitarian and human rights law and political instruments constitute a core part of the approach of the UN in all contexts.

## Enabling Factors

Several enabling factors are essential for the UN to achieve results within the framework of the Strategy:

- ▶ **Continued ownership and leadership by States** in determining their needs and the type of support required; in applying relevant international standards and guidelines, as appropriate; in integrating mine action, including assistance to victims and survivors and their communities, into national planning and budget processes; and in complying with obligations and commitments under international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and political instruments.
- ▶ **Enhanced political support from Member States and regional and sub regional organizations**, in particular by mainstreaming mine action into policies, resolutions, decisions, national and regional plans and strategies, and other relevant policy frameworks.



Political support is also critical for effective mainstreaming, and strengthening, of mine action into relevant peace operation mandates and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly.

- ▶ **Sustained and predictable international and national financial support** to ensure the responsiveness, effectiveness and adequacy of UN responses, including in emergency situations, and to facilitate longer-term investments in building national capacities for sustainable reduction of risks associated with explosive ordnance.
- ▶ **The effective integration of mine action in country-level United Nations strategic and coordination frameworks**, including Humanitarian Response Plans, Common Country Analyses and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, through the Humanitarian Country Teams and UN Country Teams, to ensure the inclusion of mine action as a strategic component of broader humanitarian, peacebuilding, and development efforts, as relevant and appropriate.
- ▶ **Continued close coordination and collaboration with regional and sub regional organizations and arrangements, NGOs, the private sector, research institutes, and other stakeholders** in joint operational responses, information sharing and collective advocacy efforts.
- ▶ **Strengthening of the substantive and technical skills of United Nations personnel**, by further developing and expanding the general skills of UN mine action personnel in areas such as result-based management, project management, and the use of technology, as well as broader mine action responses.
- ▶ **Access to affected areas and communities** where the safety and security of UN staff and humanitarian personnel to operate and provide assistance can be ensured.

# Strategic Outcomes

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The UN contributes to strategic and intermediate outcomes with the understanding that these are higher-order results requiring coordination and mutually reinforcing actions involving national and international partners.



A trained staff member of the Malian Defense and Security Forces safely prepares for the bulk demolition of unserviceable and obsolete ammunition. Photo UNMAS Mali



# Strategic Outcome 1: Protection of individuals and communities from the risks and socio-economic impacts of explosive ordnance strengthened

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## **Strategic Outcome 1: Protection of individuals and communities from the risks and socio-economic impacts of explosive ordnance strengthened.**

Reducing risks posed by explosive ordnance to individuals and communities and mitigating their negative socio-economic impacts will be successful when the following intermediate outcomes are achieved: contaminated areas are prioritized based on humanitarian and development priorities and surveyed, and explosive ordnance are detected, identified, rendered ineffective, recorded, recovered and disposed of; the ability of individuals and communities to mitigate associated risks are enhanced through their inclusion in mine action processes; and weapons and ammunition are managed in a sustainable, safe and secure manner.

Prioritization will be based on addressing urgent threats to individuals and communities, facilitating access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and enabling socio-economic recovery and appropriate conditions for the return, reintegration, or local resettlement of displaced populations for durable solutions to displacement. In all contexts the UN will ensure an approach sensitive to gender, age, disability, and diversity and will promote the representation and participation of affected populations in decision-making related to risk reduction programming.

The following UN outputs are expected to contribute directly to the achievement of these intermediate outcomes:

### **Intermediate Outcome 1: Access to affected areas<sup>5</sup> restored following release of land and/or clearance of explosive ordnance.**

Specific UN outputs will include:

1. Non-technical surveys, technical surveys<sup>6</sup> and clearance of Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) undertaken;
2. Survey and clearance activities facilitated, coordinated and prioritized based on humanitarian and development criteria;

<sup>5</sup> The term "area" as utilized in this Strategy includes land, infrastructure and other facilities, as well as urban areas, and other specific locations designated through ERW spot tasks.

<sup>6</sup> As defined by the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), 'non-technical surveys' comprise "the collection and analysis of data, without the use of technical interventions, about the presence, type, distribution and surrounding environment of mine/ERW contamination". 'Technical surveys' comprise, "the collection and analysis of data, using appropriate technical interventions, about the presence, type, distribution and surrounding environment of mine/ERW contamination". IMAS 04.10, Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations.

3. Application of standardized technical approaches (such as land release) and quality control measures advocated for, including those referenced in relevant national and international standards such as the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), among UN, national, international and other actors;

**Intermediate Outcome 2: Ability of individuals, communities, and national institutions to reduce the risks of explosive ordnance is enhanced.**

Specific UN outputs will include:

1. Risk education prioritizing most affected populations and vulnerable groups, as well as UN staff and other personnel operating in affected areas, in a gender, age, disability and diversity responsive manner.
2. Local and national capacities to facilitate greater risk education among individuals, communities, and institutions, including through training, community engagement and mass messaging, and other risk reduction campaigns, supported.

**Intermediate Outcome 3: Sustainability, safety and security of weapons and ammunition management are enhanced.**

Specific UN outputs will include:

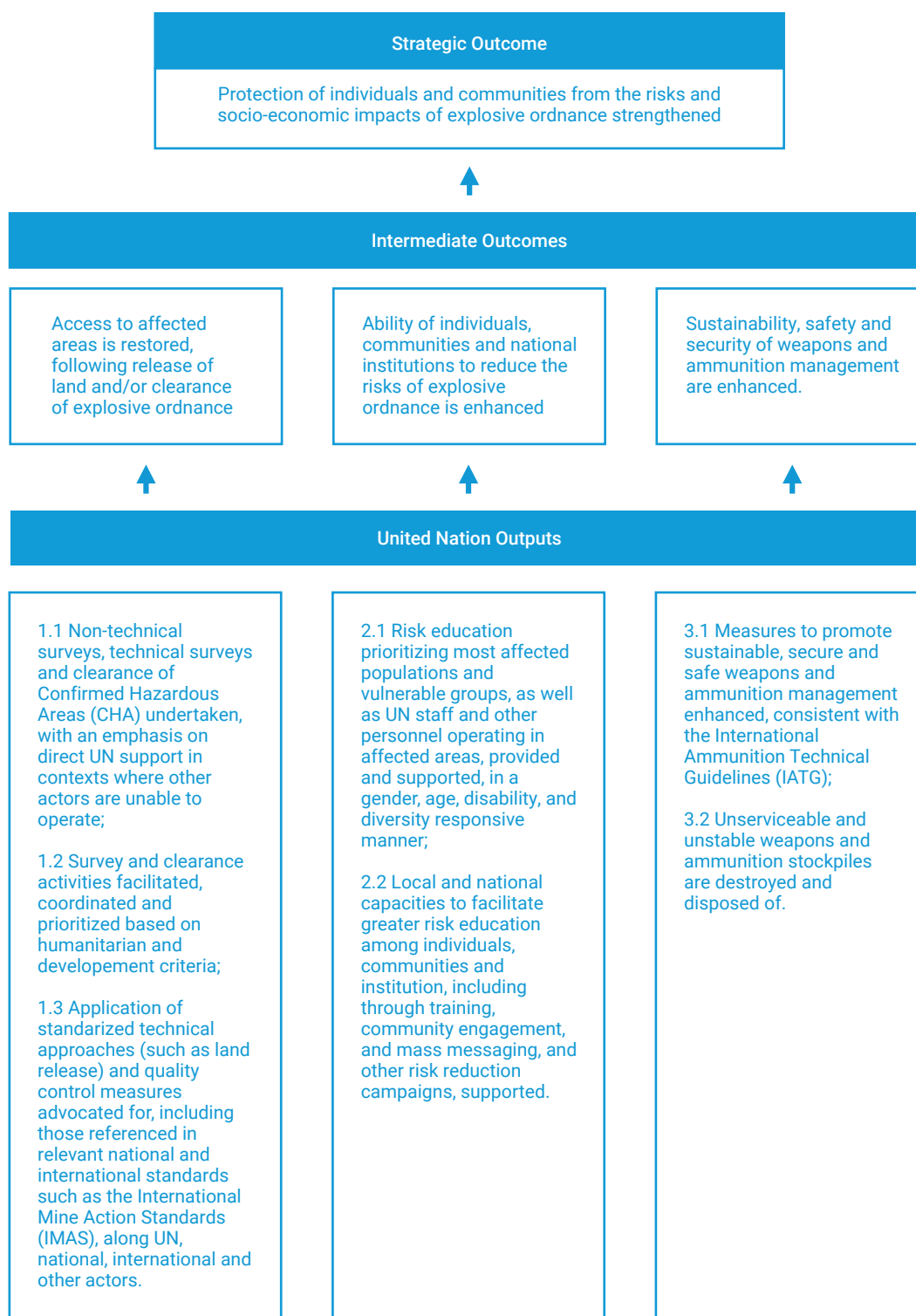
Measures to promote sustainable, secure and safe weapons and ammunition management enhanced, consistent with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG);  
Unserviceable and unstable weapons and ammunition stockpiles are destroyed and disposed of.

The UN will prioritize promoting measures for safe, secure and sustainable through-life weapons and ammunition management, including stockpile management and disposal, including through direct implementation, if requested. In areas characterized by existing but insufficient national capacities, the UN will prioritize the strengthening of national technical and institutional capacities in conformity with the relevant international standards and guidelines, complementing broader humanitarian, conflict prevention, security sector governance and reform, rule of law, peacebuilding and sustainable development efforts while safeguarding humanitarian principles.

**Assumptions**

- ▶ Existence of a safe environment and humanitarian space allowing national authorities, the UN and its partners to operate;
- ▶ Commitment and engagement of national actors in effectively implementing mine action programmes and policies;
- ▶ Existence of social and economic measures to enable productive use of cleared land and other areas;
- ▶ Availability of institutional, technical and financial resources to respond adequately to needs in a timely manner as they emerge;
- ▶ Availability of information and data, disaggregated by gender, age, disability and diversity enabling prioritization and targeting of interventions.

## Strategic Outcome 1







Song Kosal, from Cambodia, is a Youth Ambassador for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Photo by UNMAS/Marco Grob

# Strategic Outcome 2: Survivors and other victims affected by explosive ordnance have equal access to health and education and participate fully in social and economic life

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The United Nations will enhance its assistance to victims—understood as individuals (survivors), family members and communities directly and indirectly impacted by explosive ordnance—in accessing needed health services, including, as appropriate, emergency and continuing medical care, rehabilitation and psychological and psycho-social support, and ensuring their inclusion in social and economic life.<sup>7</sup> UN assistance will be provided in accordance with international humanitarian law provisions relating to victim assistance (notably the APMBC and CCM), relevant international human rights instruments (including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child) and the *United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action (2016)*<sup>8</sup> and International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) 13.10 on Victim Assistance in Mine Action.<sup>9</sup> The approach of the UN seeks to protect the rights of those who have survived or been affected by explosive ordnance; promote their participation and empowerment in social and economic activities; and ensure respect for and safeguarding of their dignity. The UN will prioritize an integrated approach by advocating for, facilitating and supporting comprehensive and multi-sector national responses and, where necessary and subject to the availability of capacities and resources, addressing critical gaps in sectoral assistance, while taking into account the specific needs and priorities of men, women, girls and boys with and without disabilities.

## **Strategic Outcome 2: Survivors and other victims affected by explosive ordnance have equal access to health and education and participate fully in social and economic life.**

Victims of explosive ordnance will be better able to survive and recover from injury and participate in social and economic life if the following intermediate outcomes are achieved: integrated national multi-sectoral assistance strategies, programmes and frameworks exist; survivors and other victims are able to access and benefit equally from comprehensive national health services, including emergency and ongoing medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support; and survivors, affected family members and communities are included in social and economic programmes (including education, work/employment and social protection). Within the framework of IMAS 13.10, the *UN Policy on Victim Assistance* and the CRPD, and in support of national efforts, the following UN outputs are expected to contribute directly to the achievement of these intermediate outcomes:

<sup>7</sup> The key elements of a multi-sector response for victims of explosive ordnance includes emergency and continuing medical care; rehabilitation; psycho-social support; access to education, social inclusion including inclusive sports, leisure and cultural activities as well as social protection and other basic social services; and inclusion in economic activities (livelihoods, job creation, employment and access to micro – finance for self-employment).

<sup>8</sup> See [https://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/un\\_policy\\_on\\_victim\\_assistance\\_in\\_mine\\_action\\_2016\\_update\\_0.pdf](https://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/un_policy_on_victim_assistance_in_mine_action_2016_update_0.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> See <https://www.mineactionstandards.org/standards/13-10/>

## **Intermediate Outcome 1: Survivors and other victims benefit from integrated and coordinated multi-sectoral assistance.**

Specific UN outputs will include:

1. Dissemination and implementation of global standards on assistance for survivors and other victims within national policies and other frameworks supported;
2. Technical assistance and guidance on assistance for survivors, including development of referral pathways<sup>10</sup> for multi-sectoral assistance, provided;
3. Awareness raising and communication on assistance priorities, service accessibility and referrals data undertaken with national and international stakeholders;
4. Coordination and planning of national and international efforts to integrate assistance to survivors, affected family members and communities within broader programmes facilitated and supported;
5. Support to the reporting by governments on progress with respect to victim assistance as part of relevant international humanitarian and human rights law instruments supported;
6. Equal participation of all survivors and other victims in assessments, decision-making, planning and implementation of multi-sectoral assistance advocated for and facilitated;

In emergency situations or contexts of weak national institutional capacities, the UN will promote and facilitate, within relevant coordination mechanisms, the development of evidence-based strategies for referrals and monitoring within an integrated and multi-sector approach, including the mine action sector, to victim assistance. In emergency contexts, the UN will advocate coverage in assistance programmes for all victims, including displaced and other affected groups. In contexts of functional national institutions and service delivery mechanisms, the UN will focus on provision of advocacy, technical and capacity development advice and coordination support to ensure adequate referral pathways and availability of services for all survivors and other victims as part of broader national multi-sector assistance strategies.

## **Intermediate Outcome 2: Survivors and other victims access and receive comprehensive health assistance.**

Specific UN outputs will include:

1. Collection, analysis and dissemination of gender, age, disability and diversity-disaggregated data on victims facilitated through relevant coordination mechanisms;
2. Development of integrated health service and assistance referral pathways for survivors and other victims supported and facilitated;<sup>11</sup>
3. Inclusion of critical life-saving health services, integrated and continued access to rehabilitation, within ongoing health programmes and initiatives advocated for and facilitated, to address gaps in coverage of survivors and other victims.

<sup>10</sup> For the purposes of the Strategy, referral pathways are understood as the process by which survivors of explosive ordnance access and benefit from different types of assistance.

<sup>11</sup> These will include medical treatment, rehabilitation, assistive technology including prosthetics and orthotics, and psycho-social support.

In emergency situations or where national services and institutions have been disrupted or are inadequate, the UN will focus on coordinating access to and provision of emergency and ongoing health services, rehabilitation and psycho-social support services to survivors and other victims within ongoing and planned UN programmes and operations. Where necessary, the UN will also facilitate and advocate for the mobilization of additional financing and expertise to ensure that gaps in addressing the needs of survivors and other victims are met. In contexts with functional national health services, the UN will focus primarily on advocating for provision of integrated services to survivors and other victims, consistent with relevant international treaty and national legal obligations and providing technical assistance and advice as necessary.

### **Intermediate Outcome 3: Survivors and other victims participate in social and economic life, consistent with the CRPD and SDGs.**

Specific UN outputs will include:

1. Equal access to quality gender, age, disability and diversity-inclusive education and learning opportunities for survivors and other victims, including affected family members and communities, through upgraded education facilities, advocated for, supported and monitored;
2. Equal inclusion of survivors and other victims, including affected family members and communities within gender, age, disability and diversity-inclusive employment and livelihood programmes, as well as national social protection and development strategies, advocated for and supported;
3. Equal accessibility for all persons with disabilities, including survivors, to public services advocated for and supported through technical assistance;

In emergency situations or contexts where conditions for long-term development do not yet exist, the UN will focus on coordinating the inclusion of survivors and other victims within ongoing and planned humanitarian assistance service delivery and short-term employment creation (including cash for work) programmes and operations. Where necessary, the UN will also facilitate mobilization of additional financing and expertise to ensure that needs of survivors and other victims are addressed and adequately monitored. In contexts where national social services and economic programmes exist, the UN will seek to enable and advocate for the inclusion of survivors, affected family members and communities as beneficiaries in accordance with national disability and other policies. In all contexts, the UN will seek to promote and support national leadership and engagement on victim assistance, while advocating for gender, age, disability, and diversity-tailored policies and programmes that take into account and address the different needs and priorities of women, girls, men and boys with or without disabilities from diverse groups.

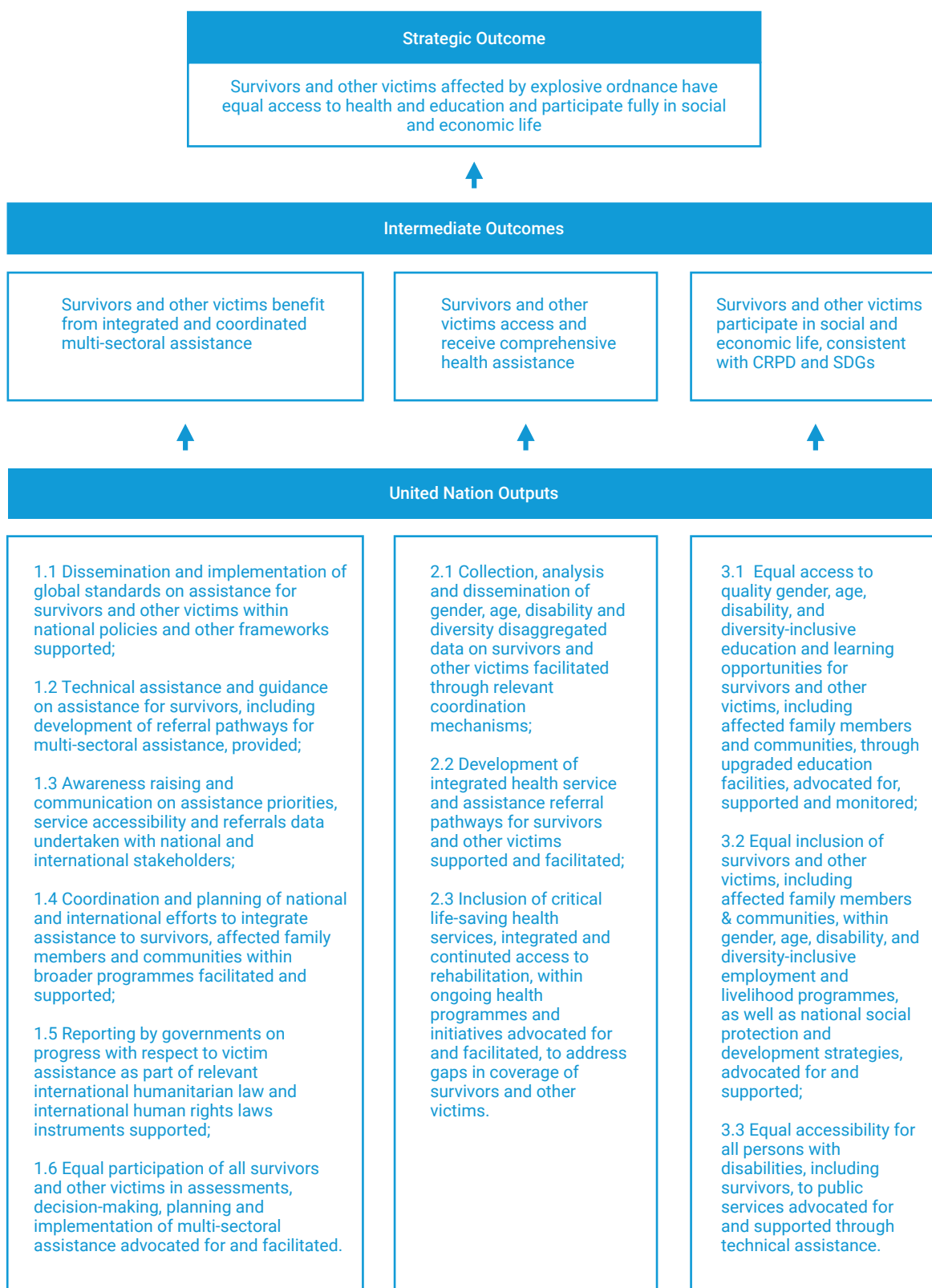
### **Assumptions**

- The adoption of national frameworks, laws and regulations with respect to the rights of persons with disabilities, including survivors, that are in accordance with international human rights law.
- Availability of gender, age, disability and diversity-disaggregated data and information on provision of assistance to survivors across health and other relevant social and public services;
- Availability of financial resources to support inclusion of victims in assistance programmes across all relevant sectors;



- Engagement and willingness of national and international stakeholders to collaborate with other components of the mine action sector and support integrated multi-sectoral victim assistance strategies.

## Strategic Outcome 2







Training and employing ex-combatants in mine action work is an effective way to promote social-economic reintegration, and to reduce the risk of recidivism. The Humanicemos Project in Colombia, led by UNMAS, makes major contributions to the peacebuilding and reconstruction of regions affected by explosive ordnance. Photo UNMAS/Juan Arredondo



# Strategic Outcome 3: National institutions effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities

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The United Nations will continue to support national leadership and capacities for mine action through the provision of technical and capacity development advice, evidence-based and context-specific interventions, and development of benchmarks for the progressive phasing out of UN assistance. In recognition of the importance of institutional development in enhancing resilience and breaking cycles of fragility and conflict, UN support will be provided in post-conflict, emergency and development situations. Across all of its support of national capacity strengthening, the UN will promote and advocate for the integration of gender, age, disability and diversity, considerations, including addressing the different needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men from diverse groups, and promoting greater gender and social inclusion in national mine action efforts.

In this regard, the strategic outcome to which the UN contributes to is:

## **Strategic Outcome 3: National institutions effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities.**

The effective and sustainable management of threats related to explosive ordnance will be greatly enhanced if the following intermediate outcomes are achieved: necessary national policy, legal and regulatory frameworks are developed or are in place; adequate national institutional capacities for managing and administering mine action exist; and there are sufficient national operational expertise and capabilities to implement mine action.

Based on an initial assessment of capacity gaps and benchmarks for the eventual phasing out of UN assistance, the following UN outputs are expected to contribute directly to the achievement of these intermediate outcomes:

### **Intermediate Outcome 1: National policies, legal frameworks, strategies and programmes on mine action are developed and implemented.**

Specific UN outputs will include:

1. Development of comprehensive and coordinated national mine action legislative frameworks, policies, strategies and programmes, including alignment with national development frameworks and the SDGs, enabled through provision of training, capacity development assistance, advice on legislative processes and advocacy efforts;
2. Collaboration between national actors, donors and UN entities promoted and facilitated to mobilize financing for implementation of national plans that support compliance with international treaty obligations, as relevant;

3. National compliance with relevant treaties and international humanitarian law and international human rights law as well as implementation of political instruments facilitated through advocacy and technical assistance.

In contexts characterized by constrained or weakened national capacities and/or emergency operational situations, the UN will focus on the development of national mine action operational and prioritization plans and other measures, including as part of emergency responses. In States where there are

### **Intermediate Outcome 2: Institutional capacities for mine action established and integrated into national policy, management, and budgetary systems.**

Specific UN outputs will include:

1. Mine action management functions, including operational planning, prioritization, coordination and quality control, strengthened;
2. Development and use of national mine action information management and analysis capacities enabled and supported;
3. Opportunities for global and regional exchanges and learning facilitated through regional, inter-country and UN networks;
4. National budget integration, resource mobilization and financial management functions strengthened.

In contexts characterized by constrained or weakened national capacities and/or emergency operational situations, the UN will focus on establishing critical national mine action functions and capacities utilizing robust capacity development approaches (twinning, co-management, and deployment of co-located advisors). This assistance will complement direct UN implementation of core mine action functions and include an explicit strategy for transferring knowledge and expertise, and progressively phasing out the UN technical and operational footprint based on the achievement of key capacity development performance milestones, including through training-of-trainers. In contexts characterized by mine action managed by national institutional capacities, UN activities will be tailored to address specific requirements and priorities (as opposed to a system wide support approach).

### **Intermediate Outcome 3: National operational capabilities for mine action are effective.**

Specific UN outputs will include:

1. National operational capacities and resources to manage the threat of explosive ordnance strengthened within key government and national non-government institutions;
2. National operational technical experts for critical threat mitigation functions trained to national standards and deployed.

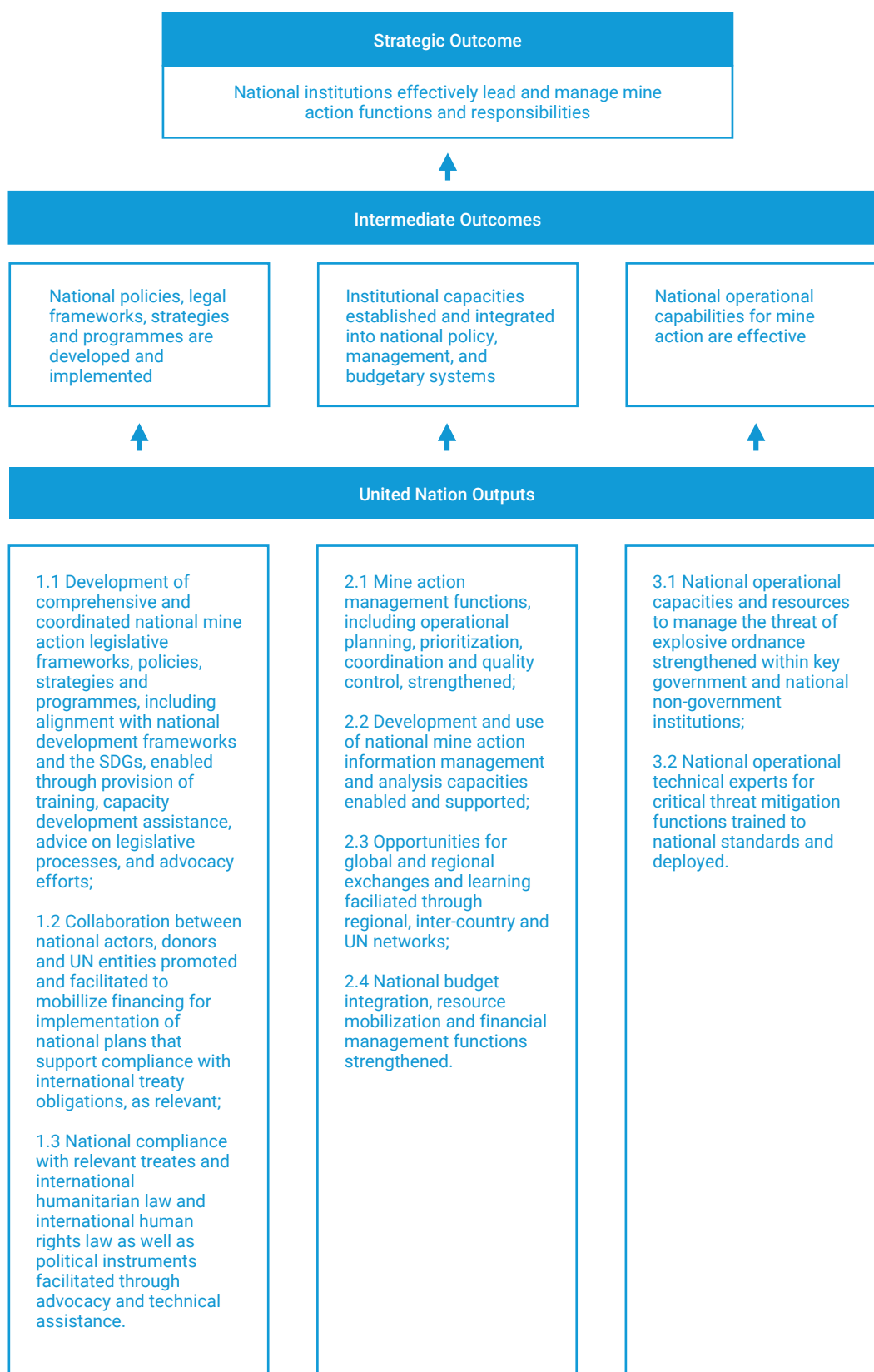
In contexts characterized by constrained or disrupted national capacities and/or emergency and humanitarian situations, the UN will focus on accelerated training of first responders, as well as provision of direct support for management (on a coordinated or joint control basis) of operations. In contexts characterized by existing institutional capacities, the UN will focus on provision of technical advice, training and other capacity development support within existing national frameworks, with a clear transition and exit strategy based on meeting capacity development benchmarks.

## Assumptions

- ▶ Existence of national ownership, commitment, engagement and leadership for mine action;
- ▶ Strong engagement and support of key international development institutions, including international financial institutions;
- ▶ National mine action institutions are integrated within broader national political and legislative systems for decision-making, funding and implementation;
- ▶ Effective cooperation and communication across relevant government ministries, and between central and local/regional administrative levels;
- ▶ Existence of coordination mechanisms for harmonizing capacity development assistance within the UN, and between UN agencies and other international partners and donors, including on criteria for monitoring and assessing progress;
- ▶ Clear systems of accountability and responsibility of national institutions engaged in mine action, including involvement of social services, military, civilian and police agencies.



## Strategic Outcome 3





A Laos deminer preparing a site for clearance, Xieng Khuang province, Lao PDR. Photo UNDP

# **Cross-Cutting Momentum and profile of mine action efforts, including through mainstreaming in humanitarian assistance, human rights, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, stabilization, and sustainable development, maintained and enhanced**

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A key priority for the United Nations is to sustain the momentum and profile of mine action at global, regional and national levels, including through enhanced integration and mainstreaming in broader UN and country-level humanitarian, peacebuilding, stabilization, and development frameworks. This constitutes a cross-cutting objective contributing directly to risk reduction, assistance to survivors and national capacity development priorities articulated in the previous sections.

As such, the UN will contribute to the achievement of the following strategic outcome:

## **Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 1: Momentum and profile of mine action efforts, including through mainstreaming in humanitarian assistance, human rights, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, stabilization, and sustainable development, maintained and enhanced.**

The above outcome can only be achieved if there is continued engagement, support and resources for global, regional and national mine action efforts, and effective mainstreaming of mine action in multilateral and national strategies and programmes for humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding, stabilization, and sustainable development. UN outputs are expected to contribute directly to two cross-cutting intermediate outcomes associated with the preceding three strategic outcomes.

## **Intermediate cross-cutting outcome 1: Progress towards the universalization and implementation of international normative frameworks is advanced.**

The UN will continue to advocate for and support the universalization and implementation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, political instruments and related action plans and other global priorities.

Key priority areas of action include:



- ▶ Continued advocacy and provision of technical assistance for the ratification of and adherence to international legal instruments (namely the APMBC, CCW, CCM, CRPD and other human rights conventions) and for the implementation of international political instruments such as the EWIPA Political Declaration and the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, as well as application of international standards and guidelines, such as the IMAS and IATG (SO1), where applicable;
- ▶ Responsive and timely UN mine action interventions to support countries in implementing international legal instruments and political instruments, including risk reduction and assistance to survivors and other victims (as reflected in the outputs of SO 1 and 2);
- ▶ Strengthening national capacities to enhance compliance and implementation of international humanitarian and human rights legal instruments and relevant political instruments, where applicable (SO2 and SO3);

**Intermediate cross-cutting outcome 2: Mine action effectively mainstreamed within humanitarian assistance, human rights, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, stabilization, and sustainable development strategies and plans.**

The UN will expand efforts to promote the integration and mainstreaming of mine action within broader assistance frameworks.

Key priority areas of action include:

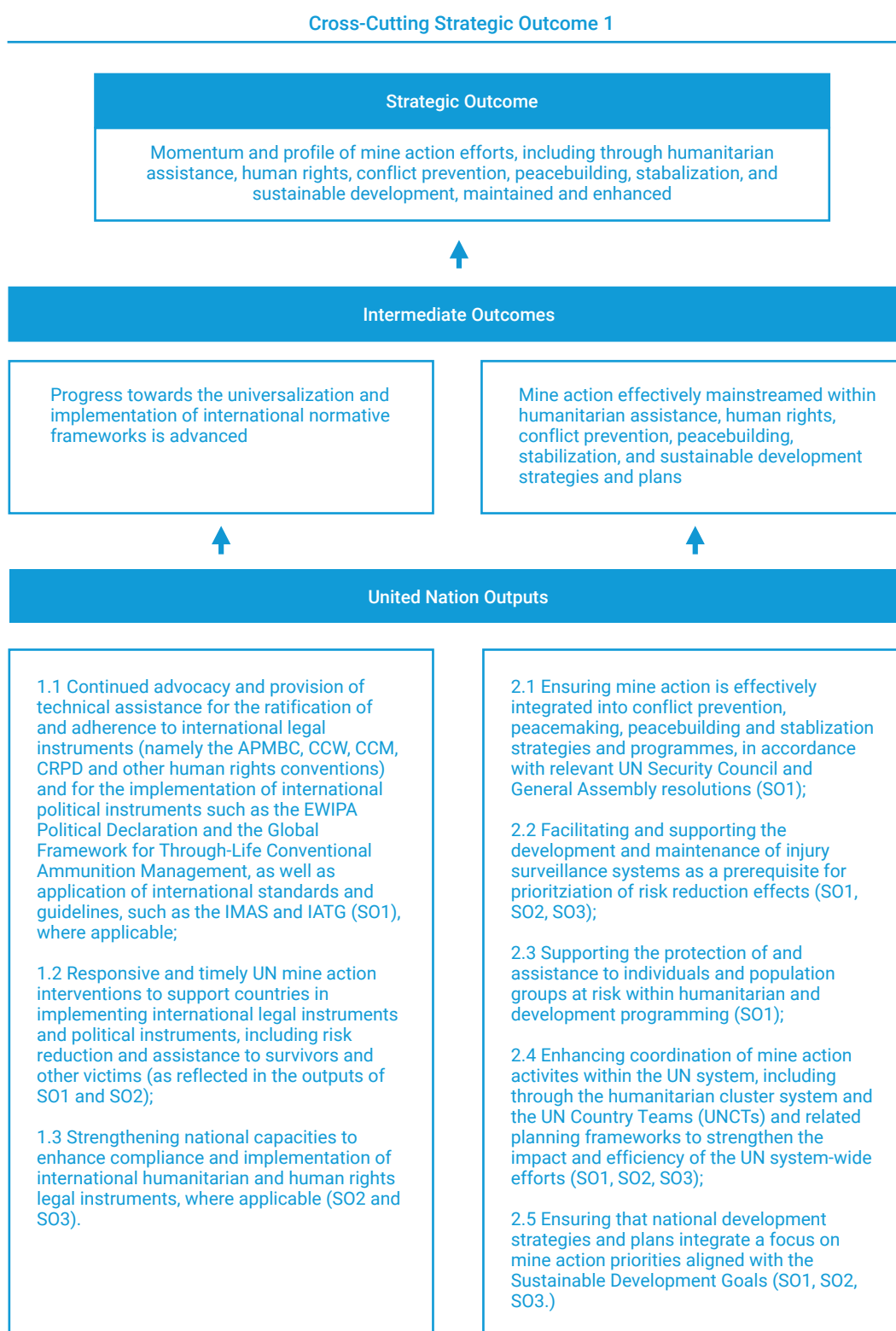
- ▶ Ensuring mine action is effectively integrated into conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacebuilding and stabilization strategies and programmes, in accordance with relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions (SO1);
- ▶ Facilitating and supporting the development and maintenance of injury surveillance systems as a prerequisite for prioritization of risk reduction efforts (SO1, SO2, SO3);
- ▶ Supporting the protection of and assistance to at-risk individuals and population groups within humanitarian and development programming (SO1);
- ▶ Enhancing coordination of mine action activities within the UN system, including through the humanitarian cluster system and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and related planning frameworks to strengthen the impact and efficiency of UN system-wide efforts (SO1, SO2, SO3);
- ▶ Ensuring that national development and prevention strategies and plans integrate a focus on mine action priorities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SO1, SO2, SO3).

**Assumptions**

- ▶ Continued engagement and commitment by States, including donors and affected countries, in the universalization and implementation of international humanitarian and human rights instruments;
- ▶ Availability of financial resources at global and national levels to maintain progress in efforts to address risks posed by explosive ordnance;



- Ongoing developments in the areas of humanitarian assistance, peace and security, and the development system enable strategic and operational mainstreaming of mine action, as well as effective coordination within the UN system.





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Children holding the special attendees' frame after attending an awareness session about the risks of explosive ordnance at a UNICEF-supported centre in Hamorieh, Rural Damascus, Syria, on 19 January 2023. Photo UNICEF/UN0826115/Shahan

# Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 2: Mine action programmes address the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys from diverse groups, while facilitating their empowerment and inclusion

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It is widely recognized that important gender, age, disability and diversity dimensions in mine action exist: women, girls, men, and boys from diverse groups are affected by explosive ordnance differently. In order to address the consequences of discrimination, inequalities and injustices – as well as reducing the risk of exacerbating their impact – the differing needs and priorities of women, girls, men and boys must be identified and taken into consideration. Furthermore, consideration should be given to the capacities and contributions that women, girls, men and boys can offer, to ensure not only their equitable participation as beneficiaries but also in the planning and implementation of mine action programmes. Within the framework of broader initiatives to address the issue of gender in humanitarian action, peace and security, and development (including notably UN Security Council Resolution 1325), as well as international normative frameworks, considerable progress has been made in mainstreaming gender, age, disability and diversity in mine action strategies and programmes, but gaps remain.

The Strategy addresses gender, age, disability and diversity inclusion as a cross-cutting strategic outcome, in line with SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and other relevant SDGs, by enhancing the integration and mainstreaming of relevant considerations across all UN country strategies, programmes and operations, as well as staffing, management, and reporting. A core UN priority is to ensure equal participation, consultation and inclusion of all affected populations in the planning and implementation of mine action programmes.

As such, the UN will contribute to the achievement of the following global outcome:

**Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 2: Mine action programmes address the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys from diverse groups, while facilitating their empowerment and inclusion.**

Effective reduction of the risks of explosive ordnance can only be achieved if gender, age, disability, and diversity are fully mainstreamed across all components of mine action programmes, including risk reduction, assistance for victims and the strengthening of national mine action capacities.

Informed by the revised *UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes*, the UN will contribute to this global cross-cutting outcome by integrating gender, age, disability, and diversity considerations and empowerment strategies across the three strategic outcome areas of the Strategy as follows:

**Strategic Outcome 1: Protection of individuals and communities from the risks and socio-economic impact of explosive ordnance is strengthened.**



In recognition of the different exposure to and knowledge of risks related to explosive ordnance among women, girls, boys and men from diverse groups, the UN will focus on the following key priorities:

- ▶ Ensuring gender, age, disability and diversity -sensitive approaches to the surveying, prioritization and procedures for handover of cleared land;
- ▶ Ensuring that risk education programmes target the specific behaviors of at-risk women, girls, boys and men;
- ▶ Facilitating incorporation of gender, age, disability, and diversity along with other social, economic, cultural and religious considerations in risk education programmes.
- ▶ Ensuring that institutional risk mitigation capacities cater to the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys, while specifically recognizing the role and capacity of girls and women as agents of change in households and within affected communities.

**Strategic Outcome 2: Victims of explosive ordnance have equal access to comprehensive health assistance and education and participate fully in social and economic life.**

To avoid inequalities and discrimination in access to and the provision of assistance for survivors, affected family members and communities, the UN will focus on the following key priorities:

- ▶ Ensuring that assistance is gender, age, disability, and diversity responsive, addresses specific gender, age, disability, and diversity needs and requirements, and is inclusive of all members of the affected population.
- ▶ Supporting participatory, consultative and gender, age, disability, and diversity-disaggregated approaches to data collection, analysis and monitoring in support of multi-sector assistance strategies.
- ▶ Advocating for and supporting gender parity among health, rehabilitation and social-support workers to ensure that the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men are addressed.
- ▶ Taking into consideration the principle of 'do no harm' so that inclusive and empowering assistance does not exacerbate the exposure of risks to Gender Based Violence (GBV).

**Strategic Outcome 3: National institutions effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities.**

As well as ensuring that gender, age, disability, and diversity considerations are mainstreamed in its own strategies and programmes, the UN will also focus on the following key priorities:

- ▶ Promoting a gender, age, disability, and diversity focus in development of national mine action capacities, including NGOs and civil society, in order to ensure that the different needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men from diverse groups are effectively addressed;
- ▶ Advocating for a gender, age, disability, and diversity and socially inclusive approach in the development of national policies, legal frameworks and plans for mine action.

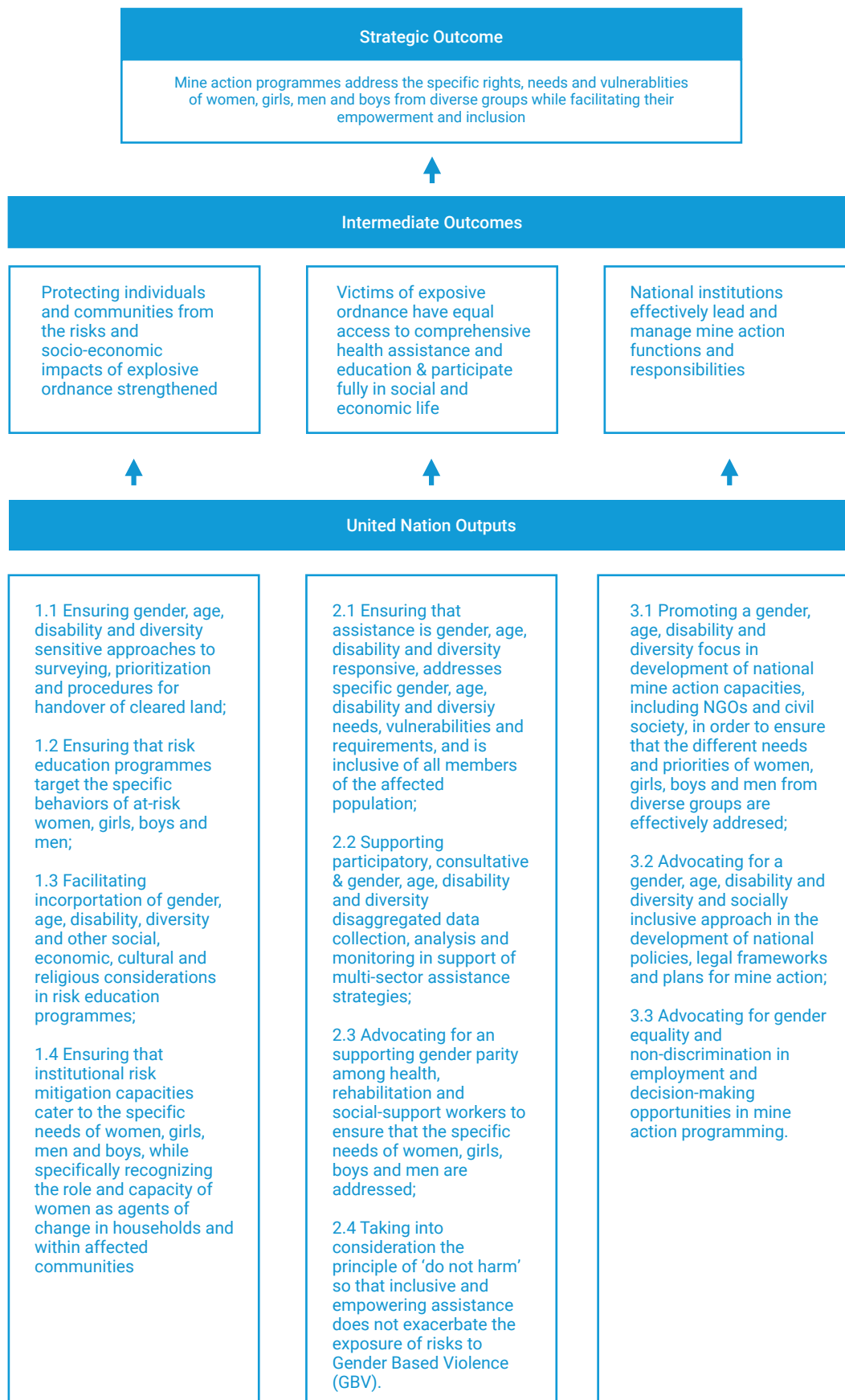


- ▶ Advocating for gender equality and non-discrimination in employment and decision-making opportunities in mine action programming.

## **Assumptions**

- ▶ National authorities and other stakeholders engage and support gender, age, disability, and diversity mainstreaming.
- ▶ Adherence to policy and guidance such as the *IASC Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action Policy (2017)*, *IASC Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Guidelines*, *IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action (2018)*, and the UN Gender and Mine Action Guidelines inform the integration of gender and diversity considerations in planning and implementation of UN mine action programmes.
- ▶ UN entities are able to effectively mainstream gender and diversity considerations within institutional approaches, strategies and programmes, including those of their contractors;
- ▶ UN entities, NGOs, civil society organizations and other stakeholders consider gender, age, disability, and diversity systematically in planning processes.

## Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 2







Explosive Ordnance Risk Education  
engagement with children linked with art  
class in South Sudan. Photo UNMAS

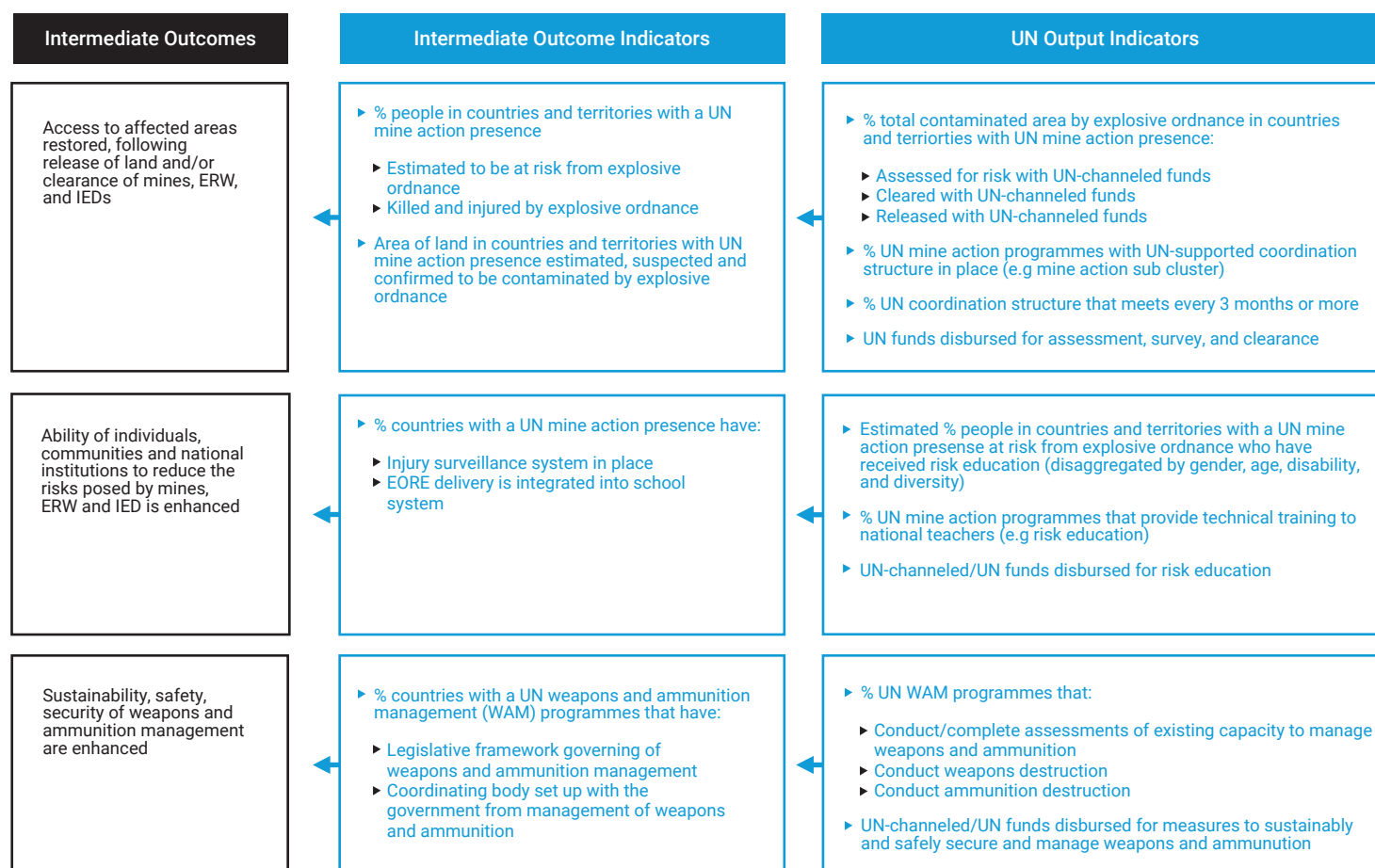


# Annex I: Theory of Change and Results Framework: Core Indicators

As part of monitoring progress, a **set of core indicators for the intermediate outcomes and the UN outputs** have been identified in the Strategy. The core indicators are summarized below according to each strategic outcome and in the context of the relevant intermediate outcome ('IO') or UN output. It is worth noting that in some cases, data from the core indicators can inform multiple IOs and will be incorporated into analysis, where relevant, although have been displayed graphically below only once.

## Core Indicators for Strategic Outcome 1: Protection of individuals and communities from the risks and socio-economic impacts of explosive ordnance strengthened.

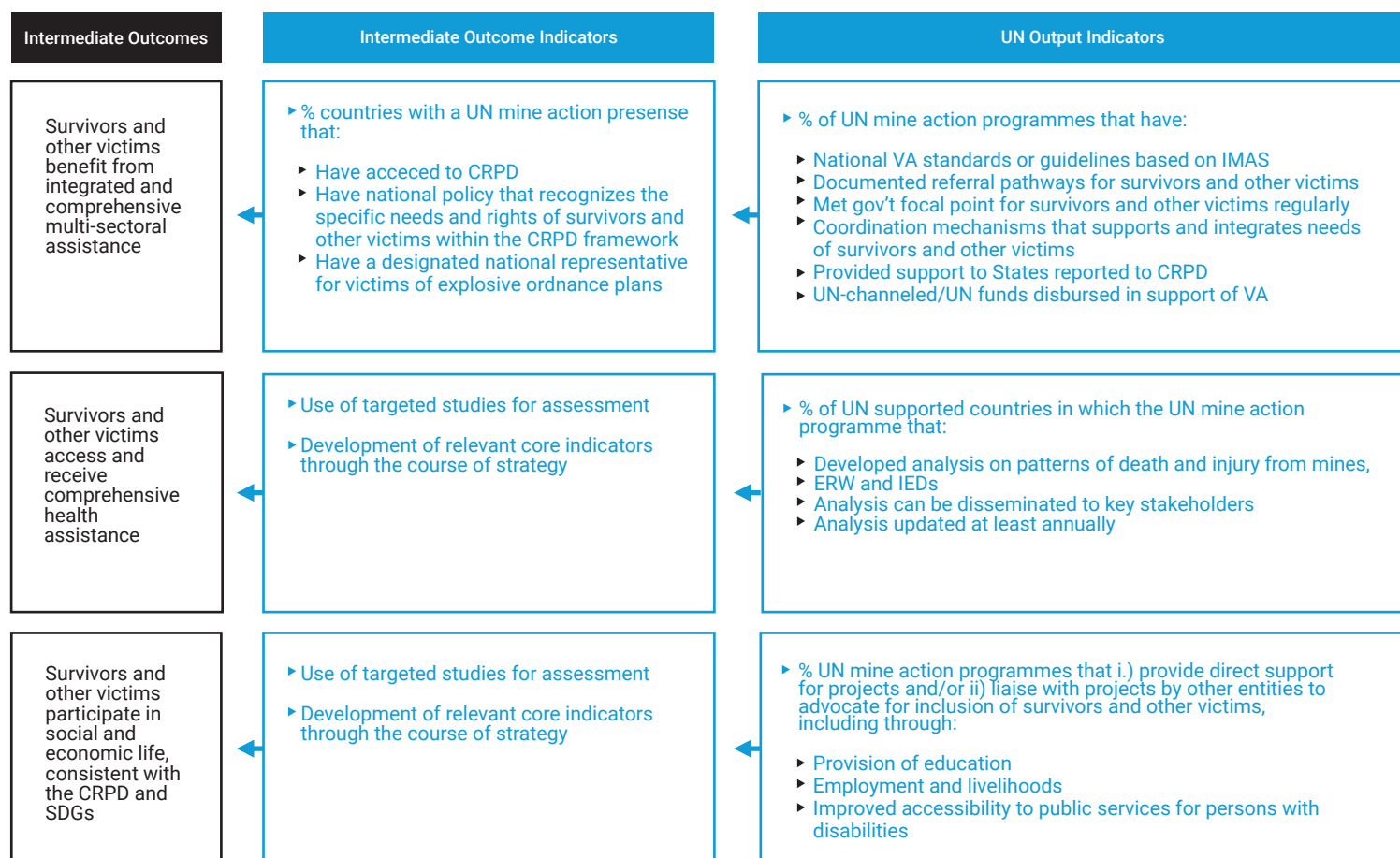
Core indicators for Strategic Outcome 1 demonstrate the extent of the threat posed by explosive ordnance (e.g. estimating populations affected by contamination of their land by explosive ordnance; the casualties from the contamination; land contaminated), assess the extent to which structures are in place to manage the threat, and examine the UN contribution to protecting individuals and the communities through clearance of land and provision of risk education and through facilitating coordination mechanisms within a country.





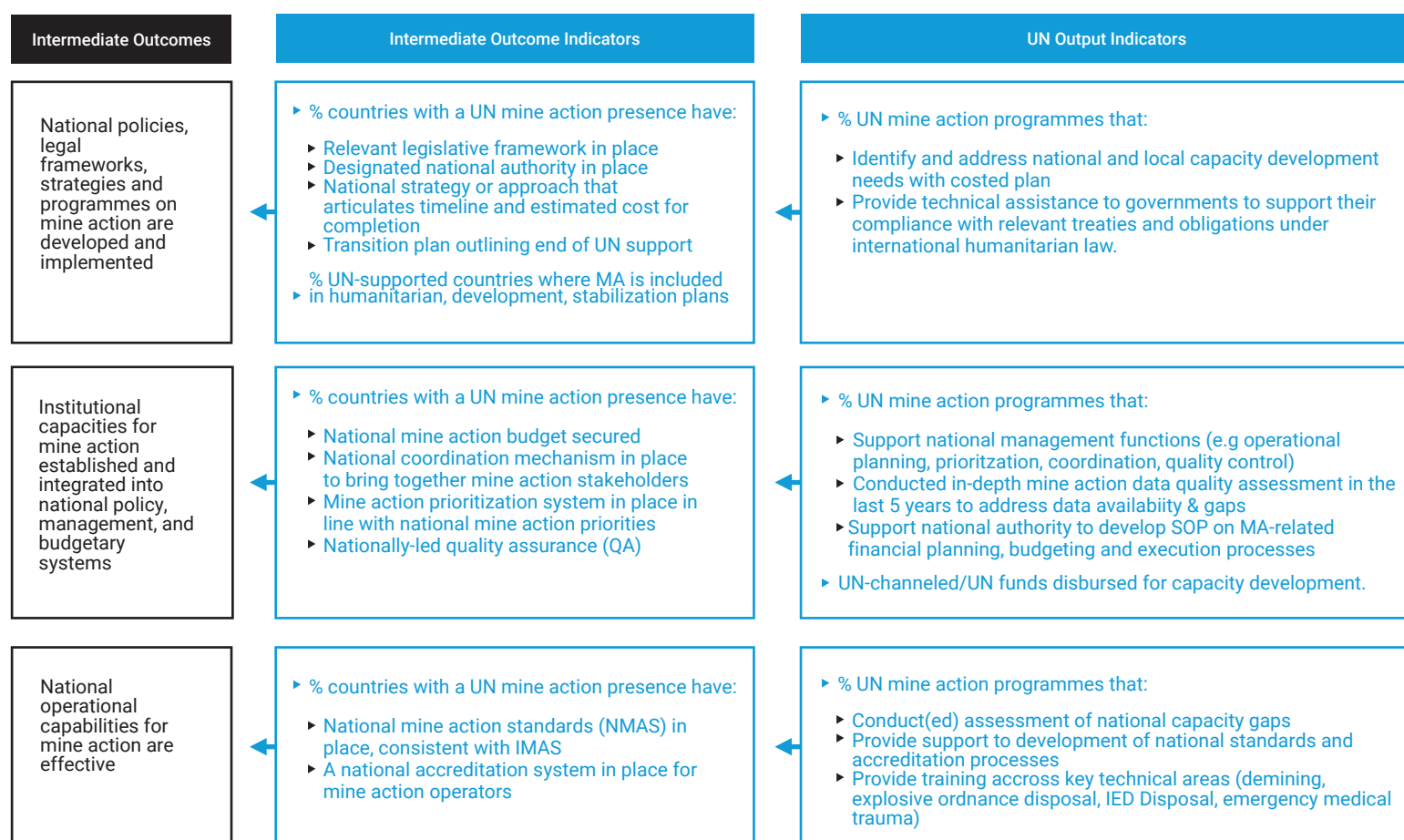
**Core Indicators for Strategic Outcome 2: Survivors and other victims affected by explosive ordnance have equal access to health and education and participate fully in social and economic life.**

Core indicators for Strategic Outcome 2 investigate the extent to which key frameworks are in place that support survivors and other victims of explosive ordnance. Monitoring of UN outputs is focussed on capturing the scope of the UN engagement in providing assistance to survivors, victims, family members and communities.



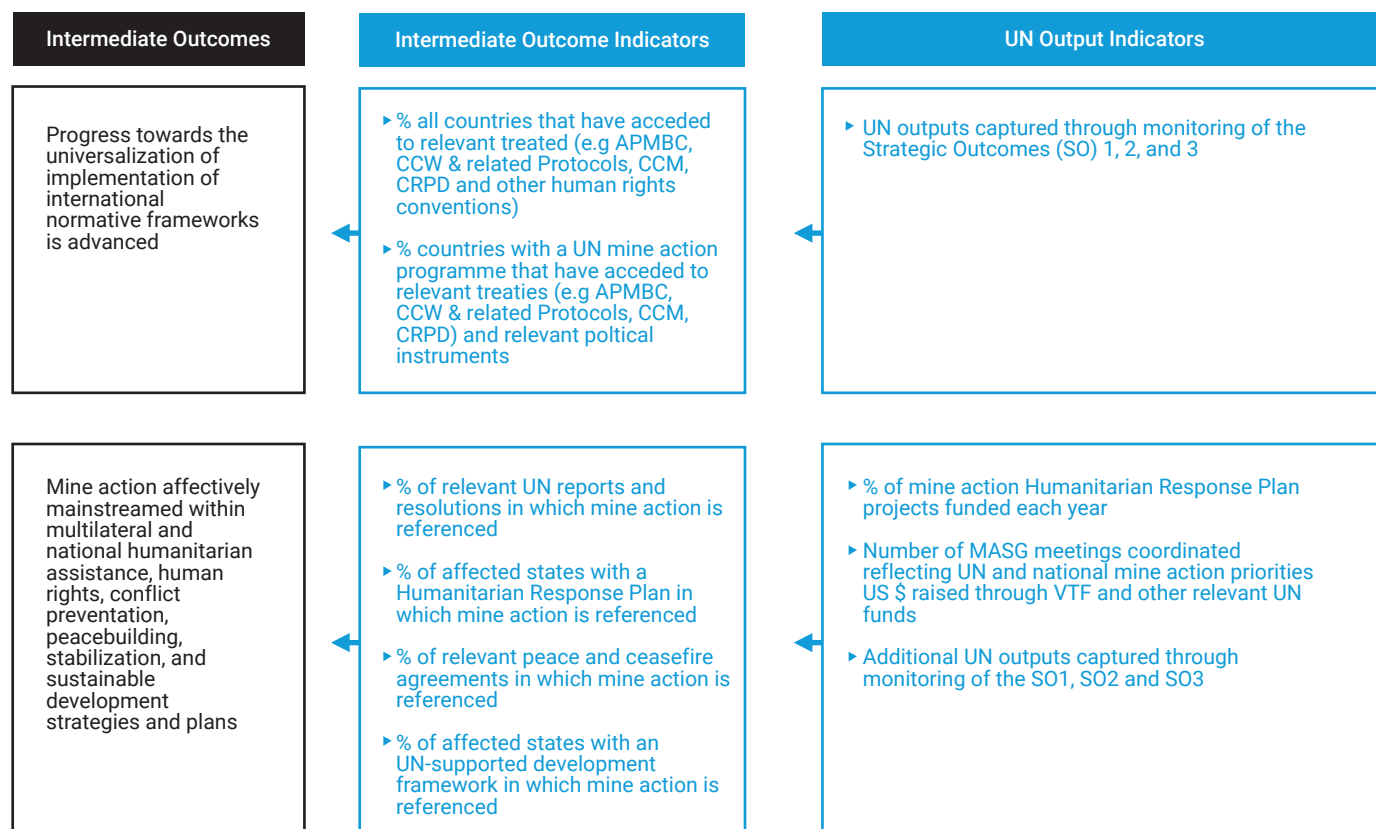
## Core Indicators for Strategic Outcome 3: National institutions effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities.

Core indicators for Strategic Outcome 3 identify key structures and processes that are valuable for host countries to have in place when developing capacities in mine action. Indicators identify the scope of role of the UN globally in its provision of support in developing mine action capacity related to these key structures and processes.



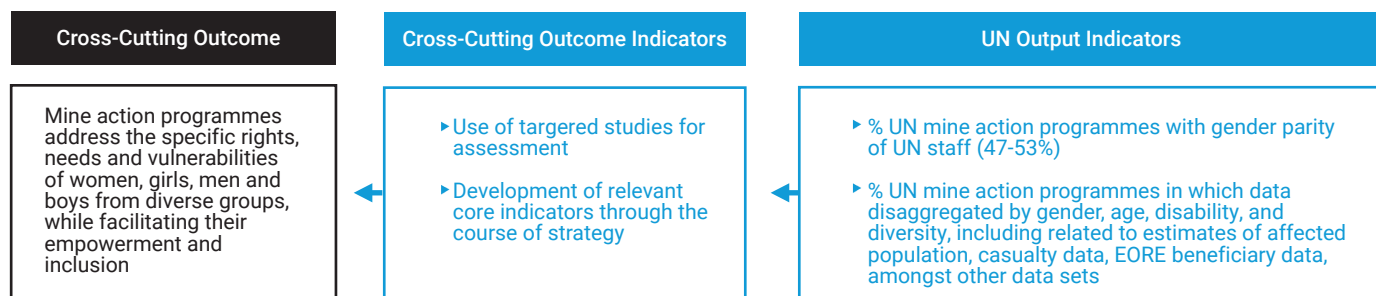
**Core Indicators for Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 1: Momentum and profile of mine action efforts, including through mainstreaming in multilateral frameworks for humanitarian assistance, human rights, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, stabilization, and sustainable development, maintained and enhanced.**

In addition to monitoring of this cross-cutting outcome in relation to the other strategic outcomes, additional monitoring will be conducted through desk research to assess the extent of progress of mainstreaming mine action into relevant international structures and frameworks.



**Core Indicators for Cross-Cutting Strategic Outcome 2: Mine action programmes address the specific rights, needs, and vulnerabilities of women, girls, men and boys from diverse groups, while facilitating their empowerment and inclusion.**

Effective monitoring of this cross-cutting outcome will depend on the UN being able to advocate for and ensure the availability of gender, age, disability, and diversity disaggregated data. In addition, the UN will be monitoring its commitment to gender parity in its programmes.





# Annex 2: The United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)

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The United Nations Mine Action Strategy (the Strategy) constitutes an accountability framework for the UN system and participating UN entities. It guides collaborative efforts to prevent and address the threats posed by explosive ordnance during and after armed conflicts, while providing support to affected communities. The Strategy reflects the collective engagement by the members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA).<sup>1</sup> Individual UN entities contribute to mine action objectives and results in accordance with their respective mandates and ensure the effective integration of mine action within global and country-level coordination mechanisms, such as those relevant to humanitarian, peace and security, and development frameworks. As agreed by IACG-MA Principals in June 2023, this Strategy will now be subject to periodic review every two years to coincide with the biennial report of the Secretary-General on assistance in mine action. Members of the IACG-MA include:

## **DPO/UNMAS (IACG-MA Chair)**

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), is the designated centralized service provider to all Secretariat entities for mine action and the United Nations system-wide coordinator providing expertise to United Nations Member States and system partners, ensuring rapid response to requests for assessments and implementing responsive programmes in peace operations and non-mission settings leading on strategy development, programme design, monitoring and oversight and stakeholder engagement. UNMAS is mandated to coordinate the United Nations system through the UN IACG-MA and subsidiary groups, and the Global Protection sub-cluster Mine Action Area of Responsibility. UNMAS also chairs the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Review Board and its Steering Committee and is the United Nations depositary of these Standards. In representing the United Nations system in international legislative bodies and other fora, UNMAS represents mine action as a critical enabler of the humanitarian, development, human rights and peace and security efforts and as an accelerator of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNMAS is a committed advocate for victim assistance.

## **FAO**

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the specialized agency of the UN that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Its goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. FAO's resilience building agenda focuses on developing, protecting and restoring sustainable livelihoods so that the integrity of societies that depend on farming, livestock, fish, forests and other natural resources is not threatened by crises. Where relevant FAO recognizes and promotes the importance of working with relevant entities to clear valuable farmlands of undetonated ordinances, so farmers can plant crops and graze their livestock safely. Restoring people's ability to farm and engage in productive livelihoods is important for food security and key for building prosperity and lasting peace in conflict/post conflict settings.

<sup>1</sup> The IACG-MA was established in 1998 to serve as the primary mechanism for consultation and coordination on mine action related issues and activities within the United Nations system. The IACG-MA promotes coherent approaches by utilizing the comparative advantage of its membership.

## **UNDP**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has a special responsibility for linking mine action to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNDP seeks to integrate mine action in recovery, peacebuilding and development processes, while strengthening capacities of national institutions to manage and coordinate activities related to advocacy, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, explosive ordnance risk education and land release (survey and mine clearance). UNDP works for an environment where economies and societies can prosper, free of threat from explosive ordnance hazards. That countries comply with international norms and adhere to international treaties, such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, is also an important element of UNDP's approach to mine action.

## **UNHCR**

In alignment with its mandate to protect and advocate for the rights of refugees, forcibly displaced individuals, and stateless populations, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) plays a pivotal role in providing policy advice and guidance within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). Working closely with its partners, UNHCR: 1) advocates for the integration of mine action and explosive ordnance risk education into protection strategies and plans for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and promotes awareness about the risks associated with explosive ordnance among the affected populations; 2) supports data collection and needs assessments to identify the extent of the explosive ordnance problem in areas where refugees and IDPs are located; 3) supports the development and implementation of risk education programs to educate refugees and IDPs about the dangers of explosive ordnance and how to stay safe in affected areas; 4) collaborates with partners to ensure that survivors of explosive ordnance accidents and their families receive necessary medical and psychosocial support and to integrate them, to the extent possible, to existing protection referral mechanisms; 5) advocates for the implementation of policies and legal frameworks related to mine action at the national and international levels, including supporting the advocacy for universalization of, and adherence to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the protection of civilians from the use of weapons with indiscriminate effects; and 6) as Cluster lead, supports the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA-AoR) within the Protection Cluster by ensuring a unified approach to addressing mine action related issues and helps mobilize resources to fund mine action.

## **UNICEF**

The protection and promotion of the rights of children, including through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on Children and Armed Conflict is central to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In collaboration with its partners, UNICEF supports: 1) the development and implementation of explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), including national and international EORE policy, guidelines and standards and in its capacity as co-chair of the EORE Advisory Group; 2) advocacy for the implementation and universalization of international humanitarian and human rights law and inter-governmental political commitments such as the Safe Schools Declaration and the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas; 3) victim assistance. In humanitarian situations where national mine action authorities do not exist or are unable to respond, UNICEF acts directly to identify and prioritize at-risk populations, carry out emergency EORE, and support other risk reduction and victim assistance. Wherever possible UNICEF works to build the capacity of its partners, seeking to ensure that initial mine action responses and life-saving assistance are people and child-centered and move rapidly toward medium- and long-term solutions. This is done with an emphasis on community engagement, including engagement of children and their families.

## **UNODA**

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) promotes universalization, supports compliance measures and activities, and assists in the implementation of the mine action normative framework. UNODA has been delegated the implementation of the Secretary-General's responsibilities under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, with the exception of his/her depositary functions. UNODA also supports States in safe, secure and sustainable weapons and ammunition management, in line with the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the International Tracing Instrument, as well as the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management and through the development and dissemination of relevant international guidelines and standards such as the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG). UNODA supports the informal consultative process on IEDs established pursuant to General Assembly resolution "Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices" and relevant discussions under CCW Amended Protocol II. Furthermore, UNODA promotes universalization and assists in the implementation of the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.

## **OHCHR**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is mandated to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in the UN Charter and international human rights law, including through prevention of human rights violations, securing respect for all human rights, promoting international cooperation to protect human rights, coordinating related activities throughout the UN, and strengthening and streamlining human rights throughout the UN system. OHCHR monitors violations committed during armed conflict and advocates for increased compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law by parties to armed conflicts. OHCHR is engaged in a number of areas directly relevant to mine action, such as protecting the rights of and combating discrimination against persons with disabilities and undertaking advocacy on and assistance with the implementation of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including in relation to survivors of mines and other explosive ordnance.

## **UNOPS**

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) enables the UN and its partners to operationalize their mandates and objectives through the design and implementation of solutions across peace and security, humanitarian, and development contexts. As an operational arm of the UN in mine action and broader explosive hazard threat mitigation, UNOPS works closely with its partners on project, programme, and portfolio design, implementation, oversight and management controls. It does so across a number of key areas, such as, human resources and talent management, supply chain and contract management of works, goods and services. With a focus on highly-effective project management and associated delivery of results, UNOPS supports partners to expand capacities, improve agility, manage risks, boost cost-effectiveness and increase quality.

## **UNWOMEN**

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women - UN Women - is committed to ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as partners and beneficiaries throughout all stages of the humanitarian, development and peace nexus (HDPN). UN Women's mandate supports and enables the UN and the wider HDPN system in the integration of gender equality and women and girl's empowerment throughout all aspects of humanitarian, recovery and sustainable development



planning and programming, including mine action. Through its inter-agency leadership and coordination role, UN Women supports other UN entities to promote gender equality and women and girls' empowerment. This includes sharing evidence-based best practice, minimum standards and guidance tools. UN Women also assists States develop policies and commitments to gender equality and women and girls' empowerment. Furthermore, it also promotes the voices, agency and capacity of women's civil society organizations and national women's machineries in HDPN efforts.

## **WFP**

The World Food Programme (WFP) delivers life-saving food, cash and other assistance in emergencies. At the same time WFP focuses on sustainable development, promoting long-term change by working in partnership with national governments and communities. WFP leads the Logistics Cluster, which stores and transports urgent relief items to disaster zones. Also, WFP leads the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster, which sets up or restores connectivity in remote areas. Furthermore, WFP manages the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service and the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot, ensuring staff and supplies from across agencies and NGOs can reach the areas where they are most needed. Food security is increasingly compromised by unexploded ordnance (UXO)/landmine contamination in some of WFP's largest operations including Ukraine, Afghanistan, Central Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, among others. Mine contamination directly impacts food systems by denying the cultivation of agricultural land, as well as influencing population movements, market viability and livelihoods options. Finally, mines can significantly impact logistical operations via limiting access and cutting off critical supply lines and infrastructure, also key to food security and humanitarian operations.

## **WHO**

The World Health Organization (WHO) works with its Member States as well as local, national and international partners to promote access to emergency trauma care, treatment and rehabilitation, including mental health services and assistive products for those injured by explosive ordnance. In line with its mandate, WHO provides direct technical support to affected countries, supports the integration of survivor needs in relevant health strategies and action plans, and promotes preventative practices. In accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, WHO works closely with both governments and civil society to ensure the full and active participation of survivors with disability in education, labor, and social life on an equal basis with others.

## **Observer - UNIDIR**

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is an autonomous institute within the UN dedicated to generating ideas and actions on disarmament and security. UNIDIR conducts research on key areas of the UN Mine Action Strategy, which includes supporting identification of good practices, sharing of lessons learned, and developing new and innovative policies, practices and approaches in the field of through-life weapon and ammunition management as well as countering threats posed by improvised explosive devices. UNIDIR contributes to the IACG-MA by consolidating knowledge, generating ideas, facilitating dialogue and providing policy and research advisory in these substantive areas.



## Note on Methodology

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On 15 June 2023 the Principals of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action determined that the core elements of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy (2019-2023) remained valid and that a desk review would suffice to update the document. Principals further decided that the Strategy would no longer be timebound and that progress would continue to be reported through the biennial reports of the United Nations Secretary-General on assistance in mine action. The Principals of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action endorsed the United Nations Mine Action Strategy on 13 December 2023.



