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## U.N. Department of Humanitarian Affairs

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# The U.N. Department of Humanitarian Affairs



The U.N. Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) is the focal point for mine-related activities in the United Nations system. "DHA is determined to accelerate existing mine clearance activities, to establish new programs in countries that require assistance and to redouble efforts to develop and standardize the United Nation's approach aimed at sustainable national capacities for mine clearance."

The DHA's efforts are concentrated in the following countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Mozambique and Yemen.



## Afghanistan

The organization's mine clearance program in Afghanistan began mine-related activities in 1989, making it the United Nation's longest running demining program. The program seeks to rid Afghanistan of its estimated 10 million mines while addressing the effects of mines on the country's general populace. This goal is primarily achieved through clearance efforts, clearance training, mine field surveying, and most notably, mine awareness education.

Through 1994, Afghanistan saw a total of 109,754 mines cleared, 215,764 unexploded ordnance devices destroyed and about 2.5 million people educated on mine awareness.



## Angola and Bosnia-Herzegovina

Following years of military conflict in countries such as Angola, where civil war raged for over two decades, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, which saw approximately three million mines laid in recent conflicts, the United Nations established mine action centers through the DHA. These centers coordinate demining tutorials and mine awareness education.

## Cambodia

Also under the auspices of the DHA is the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC), which in its eight years of operation has cleared over 153,000 of the country's estimated six to 10



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million mines. The CMAC is faced with the daunting task of reducing Cambodia's world high proportion of mine amputees—a category into which 300 new victims fall per month.

## Croatia

In coordination with the U.N. Department of Peace-Keeping Operations (DPKO), the DHA has also taken the initiative of maintaining Croatia's mine action center as the focal point for mine clearance programs. Its efforts include providing specialized advice to the national government in its quest to clear the estimated three million mines on Croatian soil.

## Mozambique

Extensive efforts have been made by the DHA in Mozambique, a country riddled by post-conflict mine dangers. Through the department's Accelerated Demining Program (ADP), an indigenous mine clearance operation of 500 people has been established. ADP currently consists of 10 mine clearance groups responsible for the Mozambican provinces of Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane.

## Yemen

Following a mine situation assessment in 1995, the United Nations began providing the Yemen government advice for clearance of the estimated 30,000 mines littering the country. It also established a database for the collection and collation of mine field data.

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