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Five Year National Strategic Mine Action Plan for Yemen

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

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**Five Year National Strategic Mine
Action Plan for Yemen, 2004 – 2009**

Revised and Extended

June 2004

Five Year National Strategic Mine Action Plan for Yemen – Revised and extended.

1. Executive Summary:

During this revised five-year period Strategic Plan the Yemen Mine Action Programme will meet the objective of the Ottawa Treaty and thus become one of the first mine affected countries in the world to make it happen. From April 1 2009 the Government of Yemen commits itself to use its national human and financial resources in its effort to eradicate and negate the remaining mines and UXOs from the soil of Yemen.

2. Scope:

This document addresses the Strategy for Mine Action in Yemen from mid 2004 to mid 2009. In line with this strategic plan a reviewed Project Document for Phase II of the UNDP support to the National Mine Action Programme (NMAP) in Yemen was signed in May 2004. A reviewed Cost-sharing Agreement between the Government of Yemen and UNDP was signed at the same time reflecting the mechanism of the Pro Doc. Follow-on revisions of this strategy will be done by the end of 2005 beginning of 2006 and will continue until the Vision (stated below) becomes reality.

3. Vision:

Put an end to the suffering of the people and the casualties caused by anti-personnel mines in mine affected areas by end of March 2009¹.

4. Strategy

- a. At the community level, to ensure that mine accidents are eliminated or reduced to a negligible rate.
- b. At the community level, to ensure that economic activity and development projects are not prevented by the presence of landmines or UXO.
- c. At the national and community level, to provide physical, psychological, and social support to survivors of landmine accidents.

5. Priorities:

According to the National Mine Action Vision and Landmine Impact Survey, Yemen National Mine Action priorities are:

- a. To negate the risk of death or injury to people living in mine-affected communities
- b. To negate the effect of landmines on livelihoods of those living in mine-affected communities.
-- At the community level, all mined areas, which block access to infrastructure such as roads, public use facilities, or water resources will be cleared or breached with clearly marked lanes.
- c. To ensure survivors of landmine accidents have equal access to educational and economic opportunity.
- d. The strategy is also designed to ensure that landmine survivors are supported and reintegrated into their communities.

6. Programme Design:

Current Situation: the Government of Yemen is strengthening the national mine action capacity capable of planning, coordinating and managing all aspects of mine action activities in the

¹ Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly 22 November 2002.

country. On October 1, 2003 the National Mine Action Programme turned in to Phase II² (2003 – 2006) and at the same time the modality changed from a UNOPS executed to a National Execution modality (NEX). The National Mine Action Committee (NMAC), Chaired by a Minister of State (Member of the Cabinet), is responsible and accountable for policy formulation, resource allocation and the National Mine Action Strategy.

The Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) is responsible for co-ordination of mine action activities, two Regional Executive Mine Action Branches (Aden and Mukhalla (REMAB)), executes national mine action plans. The Yemen Mine Action Programme currently has 936 personnel for planning, training, logistics, mine survey, mine clearance, mine awareness and victim assistance. Included in this a Mine Dog Center. In addition to this there are three international technical advisors and seven national staff employed by the UN. Further, there are eight Afghan dog experts contracted by YEMAC for the Mine Detection Dog project.

The UNDP Mine Action Exchange Programme (MAX) for capacity development of national staff will be utilized in order to exchange of experiences and further strengthening the national capacity.

2004. An organizational assessment will be conducted, and capacity development for all aspects of Mine Action will continue. All the high impacted areas will be cleared and returned to the communities affected. A few areas will remain un-cleared due to lack of suitable equipment to lift the mines buried under shifting sand and will be permanently marked. Replacement of equipment and renovation of facilities will be carried out as required.

Four Clearance Units will be re-structured to operate as independent platoons and additional equipment will be provided to introduce a one man – one lane drill. Eight additional Survey Teams will be trained, equipped and made operational.

Four independent Mine Dog Groups will be re-structured to Mine Detection Dog Sets to support the new Survey Teams. Nine Mine Detection Dogs will be bred in 2004 and trained till end of 2005 to replace aged Mine Detection Dogs.

2005. By the end 2005 a sustainable National Mine Action management process and organizational structure will be fully functional. Replacement of equipment and renovation of facilities will be carried out as required.

A socio-economic assessment of the cleared high impacted communities will be conducted.

Four Clearance Units will be re-structured to independent platoons and additionally equipped. The one man – one lane drill will be adopted. Nine additional Mine Detection Dogs will be bred in 2005 and trained by end 2006 to replace aged Dogs.

2006 By the end of 2005 or the beginning of 2006 an assessment of the UNDP Mine Action Support Programme (Phase II) will be conducted. Replacement of equipment and renovation of facilities will be carried out as required. Nine additional Mine Detection Dogs will be bred in 2006 and trained by mid 2008 to replace aged Dogs.

2007 Replacement of equipment and renovation of facilities will be carried out as required.

2008 Replacement of equipment and renovation of facilities will be carried out as required. Nine additional Mine Detection Dogs will be bred in 2008 and trained by mid 2009 to replace aged Dogs.

7. Estimated Achievements:

The Landmine Impact Survey identified a total of 594³ landmine-affected communities. By geographically “clustering” these communities, the Survey produced a Mine Survey and Clearance Plan, which “*optimizes the efficiency of Mine Clearance resources to systematically address the most mine-affected communities in the shortest time*”.

² A revised Pro Doc was signed by the Government of Yemen and UNDP in May 2004

³ In 2002 two additional mine affected communities were identified, one low and the other medium.

This plan adheres to the Level One Impact Survey recommendations and ensures that all available Mine Survey, Clearance, Mine Awareness and Victim Assistance resources are utilized in accordance with the National Mine Action Priorities to ensure maximum humanitarian effect at community level. The revised plan will continue to focus on the remaining 52 medium impacted communities (222 sq. km) as well as 147 sq. km low affected areas.

Survey and clearance rates associated with this Strategic Plan will assumable return to the communities:

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
64 sq km	83 sq km	93 sq km	95 sq km	98 sq km

This accomplishment will result in the remaining 52 medium impacted communities plus 147 sq km of low impacted areas⁴, being surveyed, cleared and returned to the affected communities by December 2008.

8. Programme Cost Phase I

The Government of Yemen has during the Phase I provided approximately 3 million USD for the Mine Action program each year. A number of other parties are also providing bilateral support to the program. The Government of USA, Germany and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provided bi-lateral support while the program also enjoys generous support from the governments of Canada, Italy, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, and Great Britain through the United Nations.

9. Programme Requirement for 2004 - 2009:

The total five-year (2004-2009) Yemen Mine Action Programme costs approximately \$ 13,320,000 in addition to an estimate of \$3,000,000 per year will be required from the Republic of Yemen). Donor funding requirements are:

- \$ 1 400 000 in year 2004 (\$ 940,000 represents the cost of the equipment to establish 8 additional survey teams and re-structuring of four clearance units).
- \$ 3,500,000 in year 2005 (This amount includes \$ 635,000 cost of equipment to re-structure the remaining four clearance Units).
- \$ 2,500,000 in year 2006
- \$ 2,340,000 in year 2007
- \$ 2,340,000 in year 2008
- \$1,170,000 in year 2009

The overall assumption is that an assessment for a proportional and adequate scale down of the programme will be conducted in 2008.

⁴ Cluster approach.