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Strategic Mine Action Plan for Yemen

The Government of Yemen is developing a national mine action capacity capable of planning, co-ordinating and managing all aspects of mine action activities in the country.

The National Demining Committee (NDC) Chaired by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, is the central body responsible for policy formulation, resource allocation and National Mine Action Strategy.

1. Scope: This document addresses Mine Action in Yemen from the beginning of calendar year 2001 through the end of calendar year 2005.

2. Vision: Yemen free from the negative humanitarian and economic effects of landmines.

- At the community level, mine accidents eliminated or reduced to a negligible rate.
- At the national level, no significant economic activity or development project prevented by the presence of landmines or UXO.

3. Priorities: According to the National Mine Action Vision and Level One Impact Survey data, **Yemen National Mine Action priorities are:**

- To negate the risk of death or injury to people living in mine-affected communities.
 - At the community level, all mined areas that block access to a critical area (such as water or pasture land) for which the community has no viable alternative will be cleared
- 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, or water resources will be cleared or breached with clearly marked lanes.
- To negate the impact of landmines on national development plans.
 - At the national level, mined areas which impede development projects (such as airport / sea port development / oil extraction) will be cleared or breached.
- To continue with Stockpile Destruction in accordance with the Ottawa Treaty.

4. Program Design:

Current Situation: Yemen has developed a fully functional National Demining Committee, a National Technical Executive Unit (NTEU), responsible for co-ordination of mine action activities, a Regional Technical Executive Unit (Aden RTEU), which executes national mine action plans. At the beginning of 2001 the Yemen Mine Action Program has 400 fully trained mine survey / mine clearance / mine awareness and victim assistance personnel organised into Four Mine Action companies. There is also a National Training Centre which accomplishes initial and refresher / safety training for mine action personnel. The NDC has established a Mine Awareness Advisory Committee

(MAAC), and a Victim Assistance Advisory Committee (VAAC), and Working Groups to assist with planning and evaluation of mine awareness and victim assistance activities.

Calendar Year 2001. To capitalise on the Level One Impact Survey (for which field work was completed in July of 2000, with data analysis completed in December of 2000), calendar year 2001 will emphasize Technical Survey (Level Two) and area reduction focused on those communities which the Level One Impact Survey determined to be most at risk / most effected by landmine contamination. In the spring of 2001, Five Technical Survey Teams will be deployed in Al Dahle, and Ibb Governorate. Mine Action companies will follow the Survey Teams into these governorates. Two additional Mine Action Companies will complete training by the end of the year. A sustainable Management Information System (IMSMA) will be fully functional by the end of 2001. Before the end of 2001, a Mine Detection Dog capability demonstration will begin in Yemen.

Calendar Year 2002. Expansion of the Program will continue in 2002. The last of eight Mine Action companies, each including Mine Awareness and Victim Assistance units, will be trained, equipped, and deployed. Three additional Technical Survey Teams will be deployed, and the first four operational Mine Detection Dog Teams (of four dogs each) will be fielded. A National Accreditation, Licensing and Quality Management system will be developed to ensure compliance with International Standards.

Calendar year 2003. In 2003, four additional Mine Detection Dog teams will be trained, equipped, and fielded. By the end of 2003 the program will be mature with eight Mine Action companies, eight Survey Teams, and eight Mine Detection Dog teams operating under the supervision of the NDC, the NTEU, and the RTEU.

Calendar year 2004

Capacity development for all aspects of Mine Action will continue.

Calendar year 2005. By 2005 a sustainable National Mine Action management process and organisational structure will be fully functional. Replacement of equipment and renovation of facilities will be accomplished as required. The NDC will develop and approve a Five-Year Strategic Mine Action Plan for 2006 through 2010.

5. Planning Assumptions.

- Costs of operating and maintaining each Mine Action company will increase, as old equipment requires replacement.
- Costs of logistical support of the survey teams and Mine Action companies will increase as operations move from the single operating area of the Aden Governorate to multiple operating locations in additional governorates.
- Manual mine clearance rates will remain 750 sqm per day per platoon.
- UXO Battlefield Area clearance rates will remain 40,000 sqm per team per day.
- By the end of 2002 Mine Detection Dog teams will make a 20 % contribution to program survey /clearance / area reduction objectives. By the end of 2003, Dog teams will make a 30% contribution to clearance / survey /area reduction objectives.

6. Estimated Accomplishments.

A total of 592 landmine effected communities were identified by the Level One Landmine Impact Survey. By geographically 'clustering" these communities, the Survey produced a Mine Survey and Clearance Plan which "*optimises the efficiency of Mine Clearance resources to systematically address the most mine-effected communities in Yemen in the shortest time*".

This plan adheres to the Level One Impact Survey recommendations and ensures that all available Mine Survey and Clearance resources in Yemen are utilised in accordance with the National Mine Action Priorities to ensure maximum humanitarian effect at community and national level.

The plan will begin with Technical Survey of the 14 highest mine-impacted communities (in the districts of Qa'tabah in Al Dahle, and Al Naderah in Ibb) in year 2001. This effort will encompass a total of 19 sqkm to be surveyed, and an estimated 15 sqkm to be cleared. Technical Survey Teams will be closely followed by Demining companies.

Survey and clearance rates associated with this Strategic Plan will result in:

2001: 2,800,000 sqm surveyed, and 1,800,000 sqm cleared manually

2002: 4,900,000 sqm surveyed, and 3,900,000 sqm cleared through dog and manual means

2003: 7,000,000 sqm surveyed, and 6,000,000 sqm cleared (dog/manual)

2004: 8,400,000 sqm surveyed, and 7,650,000 sqm cleared (dog/manual)

2005: 9,800,000 sqm surveyed, and 7,650,000 sqm cleared (dog/manual)

This will result in the 14 communities which the Level One Landmine Impact Survey determined to be most severely impacted by landmines being surveyed and cleared within 3.7 years.

7. Program Cost.

The Yemen National Mine Action Programme cost approximately \$5,000,000.00 from May 1999 through April of 2001, with funds provided as follows:

Republic of Yemen:	\$3,250,000.00
UNDP:	\$500,000.00
JAPAN:	\$488,000.00 (Mine Awareness and Victim Assistance)
Canada:	\$430,000.00 (Victim Assistance)
USA:	\$290,000.00
Norway:	\$278,000.00
Germany:	\$140,000.00 (in-kind)
Switzerland:	\$100,000.00 (in-kind)

(Figures do not include the Canadian contribution of 1.1 million, and a Japanese contribution of \$450,000, for the Level One Impact Survey, and do not include additional US bi-lateral contributions). (Note that approximately \$460,000.00 per year was budgeted for Mine Awareness and Victim Assistance).

Program requirement for 2001: The Yemen National Mine Action Program can operate according to this plan for the year 2001 on a budget of \$4,700,000.00. This figure includes the cost of training, equipping and fielding two additional Mine Action Companies, and five Technical Survey Teams.

Program requirement for 2002. Two more Mine Action companies, three Technical Survey Teams, and four Mine Detection Dog Teams will be added in 2002. Total year budget will be approximately \$5,500,000.00

Program requirement for 2003.. Four Mine Detection Dog Teams will be fielded in 2003. Total yearly budget will be approximately \$5,750,000.00

Program requirement for 2004. Total yearly budget will be approximately \$5,800,000.00

Program requirement for 2005. The Yemen National Mine Action Program can continue according to this plan on an annual budget of \$5,800,000.00.

Total Five Year Program Estimate. The total five year (2001 - 2005) Yemen Mine Action Program cost is approximately \$27,500,000.00 or an average of \$5,500,000.00 per year (of which approximately 1,625,000.00 per year will be provided by the Republic of Yemen, if it can sustain program support at the same level as years 1999 and 2000).

Donor funding requirements are: \$3,100,000.00 in year 2001.

\$3,900,000.00 in year 2002

\$4,100,000.00 in year 2003

\$4,200,000.00 in year 2004

\$4,200,000.00 in year 2005

8. Summary.

During the five year period the Yemen Mine Action Programme will double in size and reach the full compliment of eight Mine Action companies of 100 personnel each, eight Technical Survey Teams of 10 persons each, and eight Mine Detection Dog Teams with 4 dogs per team. The Mine Awareness and Victim Assistance budget will be assessed each year, but is expected to increase from approximately \$500,00.00 in year 2000 to 1 million in 2004 as the Mine Awareness Program matures and reaches all effected communities, and with more each year being invested in Victim Assistance as the Yemen Health Care System and the Community Based Rehabilitation Training system gains capacity. Stockpile Destruction will be completed according to the Ottawa Treaty.

The NDC will continually evaluate the National Mine Action Strategy and National Mine Action Program to ensure plans, policies and program performance support Government of Yemen humanitarian and developmental goals.