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United Nations Mine Action Service
UNMAS

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ACRONYMS

AAR-Japan: Association for Aid and Relief-Japan
AAR VTD: Association for Aid and Relief, Vocational Training for the Disabled
AAR WCD: Association for Aid and Relief, Wheelchair Production for Development
AMISOM: African Union Mission in Somalia
ARCS: Afghan Red Crescent Society
CEN: European Committee for Standardisation
CHINBATT: Chinese Battalion
CIDA: Canadian International Development Agency
CND: Commissariat National de Déminage
CROMAC: Croatian Mine Action Centre
DANIDA: Danish International Development Agency
DCA: DanChurchAid
DMC: Department of Mine Clearance
DPKO: Department of Peacekeeping Operations
EDA: Eritrean Demining Authority
EMAO: Ethiopian Mine Action Office
E-MINE: Electronic Mine Information Network
EOD: Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW: Explosive remnant of war
FSD: Swiss Foundation for Mine Action
IDF: Israeli Defense Forces
CPA: Comprehensive Peace Agreement (Sudan)
CPA: Comprehensive Peace Accord and Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies (Nepal)
GICHD: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
HI: Handicap International Belgium
HSTAMIDS: US Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System
IACG-MA: Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action
IASG: Inter-Agency Support Group
ICBL: International Campaign to Ban Landmines
ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross
IDPs: Internally displaced persons
IED: Improvised explosive device
IMAS: International Mine Action Standards
IMSMA: Information Management System for Mine Action
ITEP: International Test and Evaluation Programme
ITF: International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victim Assistance
LAF: Lebanese Armed Forces
Lao PDR: Lao People's Democratic Republic
LIS: Landmine Impact Survey
LMA: Landmine Action UK
LMAC: Lebanese Mine Action Centre
MACC: Mine Action Coordination Centre
MACCA: Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan

MACC-SL: Mine Action Coordination Centre-South Lebanon
MAG: Mines Advisory Group
MAPA: Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan
MASG: Mine Action Support Group
MAU: Mine Action Unit
MDC: Mine Dog & Detection Centre
MDGs: Millennium Development Goals
MINURCAT: UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad
MINURSO: UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MINUSTAH: UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti
MoE: Ministry of Education
MoLSAMD: Ministry of Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
MONUC: UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo
MoPH: Ministry of Public Health
MSB: Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (formerly SRSA, Swedish Rescue Services Agency)
NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO: Non-governmental organization
NMAC: National Mine Action Centre
NPA: Norwegian People's Aid
OCHA: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
ONUB: UN Operation in Burundi
OROLSI: Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions
Polisario: Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro
ProFi: Programme and Financial Information Management System
RMA: Royal Moroccan Army
RMAC-N: Regional Mine Action Centre in Nabatieh
SCSMAC: South Central Somalia Mine Action Centre
SIDA: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SPLA: Sudan People's Liberation Army
SRSA: Swedish Rescue Services Agency
SSDC: Southern Sudan Demining Commission
TDI: The Development Initiative
TMM: Threat Monitoring Matrix
TSZ: Temporary Security Zone
UNAMA: UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNAMID: United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur
UNDOF: UN Disengagement Observer Force
UNDP: UN Development Programme
UNESCO: UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFICYP: UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
UNHCR: UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF: UN Children's Fund
UNIFIL: UN Interim Force in Lebanon
UNMAO: UN Mine Action Office
UNMAS: UN Mine Action Service

UNMAT: UN Mine Action Team
UNMEE: UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
UNMIL: UN Mission in Liberia
UNMIN: UN Mission in Nepal
UNMIS: UN Mission in Sudan
UNMOGIP: UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
UNODC: UN Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOMIG: UN Observer Mission in Georgia
UNOPS: UN Office for Project Services
UNTFHS: UN Trust Fund for Human Security
UNTSO OGL: UN Truce Supervision Organization, Observer Group Lebanon
UXO: Unexploded ordnance
VTF: Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action
ZMAC: Zambia Mine Action Centre

FOREWORD

As Chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action, I am proud to present to you the inspiring results achieved by UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and simultaneously to highlight the great value UNMAS brings to peacekeeping and humanitarian relief efforts.

In 2008, mine action operations supported by UNMAS enabled hundreds of thousands of people and local communities to resume normal lives and reclaim their livelihoods by regaining access to previously contaminated lands. The clearance of thousands of kilometres of mined roads and essential infrastructure has contributed to the protection and empowerment of men, women, girls and boys in the nine countries or territories where UNMAS operates and in other countries and territories supported by UNMAS.

One of the more remarkable achievements of the year was the clearance of 84,000 anti-personnel mines in Afghanistan, which is more than double the average annual amount cleared between 1989 and 2007. This accomplishment is an indicator of increased coordination in Afghanistan. It highlights how the Mine Action Programme in Afghanistan (MAPA) has increased efficiency and improved aid effectiveness.

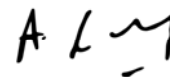
In accordance with the goals of the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*, UNMAS assisted a number of countries in meeting their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty and other mine-action-related treaties and in developing national institutions to manage their residual mine or explosive remnants of war (ERW) threats. Drawing on its expertise in dealing with unexploded sub-munitions, UNMAS provided critical field-based advice to states throughout their deliberations on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which was adopted in Dublin on 30 May and opened for signature on 3 December in Oslo.

As a result of close cooperation with Lebanese authorities, UNMAS handed over management responsibility for the mine and ERW threat in south Lebanon to the Lebanon Mine Action Centre on 31 December. In October, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees presented the Lebanon programme with the prestigious Nansen Award, emphasizing that “(o)ne of the most heroic types of humanitarian work is to demine or dismantle these devices in order to allow people to go back home and resume their lives.”

The remarkable success of UNMAS field operations and headquarters-based policy guidance and coordination services would not have been possible without the generous voluntary contributions of 19 donors, which totalled US \$92.5 million in 2008.

The significant role UNMAS plays in the peace and security sector as the mine action focal point in the UN system was consolidated throughout the year under the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI). OROLSI was established in 2007 and hosts UNMAS; the Police Division; the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Section; the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Section; and the Security Sector Reform capacity.

I congratulate UNMAS for its efforts in 2008.



Alain Le Roy
UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

A. FRAMEWORKS

Highlights

- Mine action concerns were integrated across the UN system.
- A critical short-notice situation assessment for Georgia was delivered.
- Rapid response capacity was strengthened through an expanded planning exercise.

1. Normative Frameworks

a. Integrating Mine Action Concerns Across the UN System

During 2008, the UN Secretary-General explicitly referred to mine action in 22 key reports to the UN Security Council, including those on Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Cyprus, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Nepal, Somalia, Sudan, Sudan (Darfur) and Western Sahara. Several drew on inputs from UNMAS. They included specific sections that updated the Security Council on the implementation of the mandates of specific mission, which may include clearance of landmines and ERW, verification of routes required for mission deployment, provision of mine risk education, training of national staff, and the compilation of data on casualties and accident rates.

The Secretary-General submitted two reports to the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Chad and Somalia. The reports presented information substantiating child rights violations in six categories as requested by the Security Council. In 2008, the Security Council learned that landmines and ERW kill and maim children in Chad, particularly in the north of the country. After 30 years of war, Chad counts among the top 10 countries in the world in terms of victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). Marking the location of mines in Chad is currently very difficult given the lack of data, and movement move due to rainfall and shifting sands.

The report on children and armed conflict in Somalia emphasized the persistent danger to children from landmines and ERW, explaining that these devices are responsible for an increased number of accidents involving children in and around Mogadishu following the bombardment of the capital in April 2007. The report highlighted the UNMAS assessment mission in Mogadishu. Following the report's recommendations, a mine action centre was established in Baidoa.

b. Mine Action on the Agendas of the General Assembly and Security Council

UN mine action is conducted on the basis of UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, including the biennial General Assembly resolution on assistance in mine action, the most recent of which was adopted on 13 December 2007 (A/Res/62/99). This resolution reiterated that UNMAS is designated to act as the focal point for coordinating mine action in the UN system, including operational coordination in the field. It called for UN support to build national capacities, reaffirming Strategic Objective 4 of the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*.

In 2008, General Assembly Resolution 62/741, on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations, referred to mine action.

As in previous years, UNMAS closely followed the negotiation and adoption of General Assembly resolutions referring to mine action or related treaties. These included resolutions on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol (A/Res/63/192), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (A/Res/63/85), the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty (A/Res/63/42) and the recently signed Convention on Cluster Munitions (A/Res 63/71).

c. Effective Coordination: The UN Inter-Agency Policy for Mine Action

In June 2005, the principals of the IACG-MA approved the document “Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy.” It replaced a previous inter-agency policy approved in 1998 and amended in 1999.

The policy reconfirms the role of UNMAS as focal point for mine action within the UN system, defines the vision and core commitments of UN mine action, outlines the legal framework, and describes coordination mechanisms and the roles of the 14 UN mine action actors. UNMAS coordinates the IACG-MA and its activities in line with the inter-agency policy.

d. The United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010

The *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*, adopted in 2006, focuses on the expected impact of UN mine action by 2010. UNMAS is working closely with UN Mine Action Team (UNMAT) members to monitor strategy implementation with a view to improving both prioritization and results measurement. A task force has been established to combine and draw on comparative advantages of UNMAT members. The World Bank has lent expert support, which will inform the work of the task force in 2009. At the 64th session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General will submit a report on progress.

The United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010

Vision

The vision of the United Nations is a world free of the threat of landmines and ERW, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development, and where the needs of mine and ERW victims are met, and they are fully integrated into their societies.

Strategic Goal

The United Nations will work with national authorities and in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, international and regional organizations, and others to reduce the humanitarian and socioeconomic threats posed by landmines and ERW, to the point where UN mine action assistance will no longer be necessary.

Strategic Objective 1: Reduction of death and injury by at least 50 percent.

Strategic Objective 2: Mitigate the risk to community livelihoods and expand freedom of movement for at least 80 percent of the most seriously affected communities.

Strategic Objective 3: Integration of mine action needs into national development and reconstruction plans and budgets in at least 15 countries.

Strategic Objective 4: Assist the development of national institutions to manage the landmine/ERW threat, and at the same time prepare for residual response capacities in at least 15 countries.

2. Coordination and Consultation Mechanisms

Highlights

- Effective coordination of UN efforts related to cluster munitions took place through the IACG-MA Cluster Munitions Working Group.
- The UNMAT approach to resource mobilization was promoted.
- Significant mine action concerns were discussed and solutions identified at the 11th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisers.

a. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action

UNMAS and its parent organization, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), are responsible for convening and chairing meetings of the IACG-MA. In 2008, the group met monthly at the working level, under the chairmanship of UNMAS, and in February and November at the principals' level, under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

The monthly meetings provide a forum for discussing current issues and exchanging information on relevant updates, including ongoing monitoring of threat levels. They also help in preparing for upcoming meetings and activities. The group agrees on language for UNMAT speeches and interventions delivered at meetings of states parties to mine-action-related treaties. In 2008, it organized the 11th International Meeting for National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisers, and coordinated advocacy events in connection with the 4 April anniversary of the mine-ban treaty, the Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the treaty and the International Day for Persons with Disabilities.

UNMAS continued to lead coordination efforts around cluster munitions, including by convening regular meetings of the IACG-MA Cluster Munitions Working Group. It worked at the principals' level to forge agreement on a UN position on cluster munitions, and coordinated high-level participation and interventions at the Dublin Diplomatic Conference under the Oslo Process and the Convention on Cluster Munitions signing conference in Oslo, as well as at all meetings related to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Overall, the principals worked to ensure that UNMAT spoke with one voice on the matter of cluster munitions, and supported and promoted processes for both conventions.

UNMAS also convened meetings of the IACG-MA Communications Working Group and the IACG-MA Steering Committee on Gender and Mine Action in 2008. No meetings of the Geneva IACG-MA Sub-Group took place.

b. The Committee on Mine Action

A session of the Committee on Mine Action was held at the 11th International Meeting for National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisers. The discussion focused on measuring the impacts of mine action activities, in the short term and over a 5-to-10-year period in regions where mine action began more than a decade ago. Obstacles to measuring impacts include the collection of verifiable indicators on the sectors mine action supports, such as agriculture, water and sanitation, and economic development. The outcome of the discussion was an effort to formalize evaluation training, which will be implemented in coordination with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in 2009.

c. The Mine Action Support Group

On behalf of UNMAT, UNMAS continued to provide substantive, logistical and technical secretariat support to the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), the group of donors concerned about the humanitarian, peace-building and development impacts of landmines and ERW. This support was particularly significant in facilitating consistency and momentum, since the new system of a rotating chairmanship on a trimester basis was introduced in 2008.

Under the chairmanship of the Representative of France, UNMAS worked to organize the first joint MASG-UNMAT press conference in Paris. A press release was issued on 3 April in advance of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. A press conference featured a panel including the chairman and representatives from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNMAS. Reporters from a variety of international media outlets participated, fielding many questions on operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The first MASG meeting of the year took place in Paris on 4 April. Discussions covered achievements and outstanding requirements of the mine-ban treaty, the development of mine action transition strategies and progress achieved and challenges faced by the Afghanistan and Senegal mine action programmes.

The second MASG meeting was hosted by the Government of Switzerland in Geneva on 4 June, and discussed progress accomplished during the Dublin conference on cluster munitions, the relevance of the new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to mine action, victim assistance activities in Sudan, land release, and support to states with mine clearance obligations (Article 5 of the mine-ban treaty).

The third MASG meeting, chaired by the Representative of the United Kingdom on 26 November in Geneva, coincided with the Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the mine-ban treaty. It took stock of progress in transitioning UN-managed and/or -supported mine action programmes to national authorities. It also discussed how to measure the positive impacts of mine action on beneficiaries, along with operational achievements and financial gaps in the Afghanistan programme.

d. Portfolio of Mine Action Projects

UNMAS launched the 12th edition of the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects* in New York on 4 December. The Assistant Secretary-General of OROLSI led the event. The portfolio is an annual publication, coordinated among UN agencies, national authorities, NGOs and donors, with guidance from the Headquarters Portfolio Team, comprising representatives from UNMAS, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF.

The portfolio provides an overview of how affected countries plan to address the problems posed by landmines and ERW. The 2009 edition includes submissions from 33 countries, territories or missions, spanning 300 projects. Africa accounts for the largest number of projects at 125. National NGOs submitted about 20 percent of all projects, either individually or as partner appealing agencies. Additional chapters or projects may be added to the online version on the Electronic Mine Information Network (E-MINE) website, which allows donors and stakeholders to monitor funding needs for each project.

Input to the 2009 portfolio was provided via web-based entry forms. The automation of the preparation process was further improved in 2008 and continues to allow updates throughout the year. Overall, the 2009 edition appealed for US \$459 million, of which US \$437 million remained unfunded at the time of the launch.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<i>Appealing agencies</i>	83	91	103	124	110
<i>Number of projects</i>	307	313	353	347	383
<i>Funding appeal</i>	\$352 million	\$378 million	\$459 million	\$453 million	\$404 million
<i>Funding received</i>	\$175 million	\$241 million	\$240 million	\$310 million	\$39 million
<i>Shortfall</i>	\$177 million	\$136 million	\$219million	\$143 million	\$365 million

e. Integrating Mine Action into Humanitarian Appeals

In 2008, mine action portfolio country team members continued to participate in humanitarian appeal working groups to promote the inclusion of mine action projects in humanitarian and development plans and the consolidated appeals process.

The 2008 Sudan Work Plan constituted the largest appeal, with 959 projects and a total funding request of US \$2.3 billion. Just under US \$71 million was requested for 12 mine action projects alone. By the end of the year, 31.8 percent of the total funds requested had been committed (US \$22.6 million). In August, donors offered generous bilateral support to mine action activities through the Georgia Crisis Flash Appeal.

Of the 12 consolidated appeals that constitute the Humanitarian Appeal 2009, which was launched in November 2008, mine action projects were included for countries such as Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Sudan.

f. 11th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisers

The 11th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisers was held from 13 to 18 April in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and Sibenik, Croatia. It was organized by UNMAT in partnership with the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victim Assistance (ITF) in Slovenia and the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) in Croatia. UNMAS chaired and hosted the meeting.

Following feedback from the previous year, the annual event was held in a mine-affected region for the first time and featured the first field demonstrations in situ. Over 220 mine action stakeholders participated to assess progress and future challenges. The participants included senior national directors of mine action programmes, UN mine action staff, representatives from international NGOs, experts from donor governments and other mine action implementing partners. UNMAS worked extensively with ITF and CROMAC on an online registration system to track logistical information on participants and facilitate the issuance of visas. The foreign affairs ministries in Croatia and Slovenia provided valuable support.

The meeting agenda comprised plenary sessions and workshops. Programme-related plenaries discussed UN roles and responsibilities, land release through actions other than clearance, and national capacity development and transition. Policy-related sessions covered topics such as victim assistance, the rights of survivors of and persons affected by ERW, and meeting the obligations of Article 5 of the mine-ban treaty. Updates were provided on gender action plans, GICHD, the standing committees of the treaty and Article 7 reporting, mine risk education emergency kits and cluster munitions. Three site visits took place to the Slovenian Institute for Rehabilitation and Mine Victim Assistance Institute, and the Cerovac and Gaj testing sites. Surveys completed by participants indicated that the meeting was a success and provided valuable information.

3. Operational Frameworks

a. Integrating Mine Action into Humanitarian and Development Programming

Mine action programmes overseen by UNMAS continued to be integrated into development assistance planning, as well as country assessment mechanisms where they exist. In 2008, the UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) in Sudan and the Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan (MACCA)¹ provided inputs to the UN development assistance frameworks (UNDAFs) in each country. Additionally, these and other programmes contributed to the ongoing development of new UNDAFs and common country assessments (CCAs), as well as

¹ The Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan was re-titled as the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan, or MACCA, in early 2009 to better reflect its role. This new designation has been used throughout the report to provide continuity.

relevant World Bank poverty reduction strategies and notes. Mine action in Afghanistan also remains fully integrated into the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) strategies of the country, with regular progress updates provided under the framework of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, and the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Body.

b. The Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response

The Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response was developed as part of the 2001 mine action strategy. It provides an overarching structure and approach, within which UNMAS and members of the IACG-MA monitor mine and ERW threats globally, identify and plan appropriate responses with members of UNMAT, and facilitate the rapid deployment of assessment missions, coordination capacity and operational assets. Designed to address mine action requirements in emergency phases, the framework guides the deployment of appropriate resources and creates an environment conducive to longer term planning. It can be implemented in response to either emergency humanitarian or peacekeeping operations. Due to support from the Government of the Netherlands, UNMAS was able to use fewer unearmarked funds in 2008 for this core activity.

Building Rapid Response Capacity and the Cluster Approach

In June, UNMAS held its fifth annual rapid response training exercise in Sweden in conjunction with its standby logistics support partner, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), formerly known as the Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA). This activity focused on setting up a mine action coordination centre in an emergency environment.

UNMAS enjoyed UN agency participation in the rapid response exercise on a level similar to that in 2007, with the main gain in 2008 being the attendance of representatives from the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) to provide NGO perspectives. The internal assessment component of the exercise was developed to provide a competency-based framework for measuring attendees' abilities to deploy on an operational activation. This process helped with the development of a register of trained participants. Planning is underway for the 2009 exercise, with one aim being to develop the scenario to allow for greater participation by UNMAS' OROLSI partner agencies.

Inter-agency representation allowed the simulation of the coordination mechanisms prescribed within the Protection Cluster, which emerged following the Humanitarian Response Review of the global humanitarian system. It proposed using a "cluster approach" in international responses to humanitarian emergencies to address gaps and strengthen effectiveness through partnerships. The approach ensures predictability and accountability by clarifying the division of labour among organizations, and better defining their roles and responsibilities within the different parts of the response.

To best participate in this approach, UNMAS Headquarters is a full member of the Global Protection Cluster Working Group, which is led by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The cluster has responsibility for a wide range of activities aimed at ensuring respect for the rights of all individuals, regardless of their age, gender, or social, ethnic, national, religious or other background. This requires a collaborative and coordinated response by various

national and international actors with diverse mandates, expertise and experience. The cluster seeks to assist protection actors on the ground to maintain more effective and predictable responses. In the past, representatives of the cluster team in Geneva have also attended the rapid response exercise to familiarize themselves with mine action crisis response.

In the field, UNMAS programmes are also part of the cluster system, where it is in place (for example, Afghanistan and Lebanon). This is usually under the auspices of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). UNMAS engagement is largely through the Protection Cluster, but may include other sectors where there is a requirement for more integrated operations and planning, such as emergency shelter, emergency education, early recovery, health, food security and agriculture, and inter-cluster coordination.

Rapid Response

Rapid emergency responses and effective planning are key to UNMAS's efforts to mitigate threats from landmines and ERW, and assist freedom of movement, as called for under Strategic Objective 2 in the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006–2010*.

UNMAS tapped unearmarked funding to launch a short-notice mine action needs assessment after the conflict in Georgia in 2008. On 15 August, the UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia requested mine action technical assistance from UNMAS as a result of the conflict there and the resulting potential threat of ERW. The IACG-MA met and dispatched an UNMAS-led fact-finding team to establish the level of ERW contamination within the wider Georgia area; to render necessary advice and assistance to the Resident Coordinator, the UN Country Team and the UN Department of Safety and Security; and to develop an initial response plan if required.

The team determined that the ERW threat was very limited in coverage and intensity, with the primary threat being posed by limited contamination by UXO, primarily cluster munitions, and abandoned ammunition. It found that actors already in place could meet immediate needs for mine action. Mine risk education was being provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the HALO Trust had rapidly expanded its pre-existing operational capacities. There was no substantial capability gap that UNMAS could usefully fill, a view shared by the Resident Coordinator.

The outcome of the assessment mission was that UNMAS elected not to activate the operational aspects of the Framework for Mine Action Planning and Rapid Response to mobilize financial, human and technical resources to support mine action in Georgia. UNMAS continued to monitor the situation over the remainder of the year with a view to identifying any longer term capacity development needs.

Threat Monitoring

One of the roles of the IACG-MA is to monitor global threats from mines and other ERW through the Threat Monitoring Matrix (TMM). The TMM is managed by the UNMAS Planning Officer, and updated every two weeks through the monitoring of agency field reports, the media, and other information from donors and partners. An updated TMM is sent to the IACG-MA one

week before each monthly meeting. This gives them the chance to review and request further updates or amendments prior to the meeting. Each potential threat is discussed and a response agreed upon, whether through a technical assessment mission to a new country, a change of policy or direction for an existing programme, or the decision to take no immediate action besides monitoring a situation closely.

Mine Action Planning and Inter-Agency Assessment Missions

UNMAS continued to provide regular tracking of emerging and evolving threats to the IACG-MA, and led an assessment mission to Niger in November.

Conflict in the north of Niger has resulted in mine and ERW contamination, mainly on transportation routes. This has disrupted transportation, the administration of government offices and the delivery of humanitarian aid. The Government has accumulated a stockpile of over 5,000 anti-tank mines and more than 1,000 anti-personnel mines, which impacts its obligations related to the mine-ban treaty. UNMAS undertook a technical assessment mission at the request of the Government with a view to determining options for a stockpile destruction programme. A response utilizing MSB explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams was planned for November 2008, but had to be postponed until 2009. The mission also identified options for further engagement to enhance national capacities for ammunition management and humanitarian demining.

Programme Evaluations

UNMAS remains committed to monitoring the management of its mine action programmes and commissioned an independent evaluation of the Programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo in April 2008 and undertook an additional inter-agency evaluation of the programme in October 2008.

The independent evaluation was undertaken by two female consultants. The aim was to identify challenges and inform future evaluations and technical missions. The evaluation team briefed in New York prior to and after the evaluation and the recommendations were included in the newly operational recommendations tracking database. The team visited a number of locations and implementing partners and the areas it identified informed the later inter-agency evaluation in October as well as additional measures taken by UNMAS and the programme to increase the effectiveness of the programme. The results of the evaluation were shared with implementing partners.

An inter-agency team from UNMAS and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) carried out evaluation focused on the operational issues raised in the prior evaluation. Meetings were held with senior managers of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) as well as senior representatives of UN agencies. While all stated that the programme was meeting all their requirements on matters related to ERW, the Team recommended restructuring to provide rapid deployment EOD teams to support humanitarian activities in the east, and increase support to national NGOs and mine clearance and survey activities in the south and west.

c. Assisting Victims and Survivors, and Reducing Risks

In line with Strategic Objective 3 of the UN mine action strategy,² UNMAS continues to help increase resources for survivors disabled by landmines and ERW, and ensure that their needs are met within national programmes and facilities for persons with disabilities. In Sudan, UNMAS took the lead in implementing the inter-agency victim assistance project funded by the Government of Japan through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS). The project helped the national authorities in developing the national victim assistance strategic framework as well as a work plan, conducted needs assessments, provided mine risk education, and implemented pilot projects to support mine and UXO victims. Details of project activities and achievement can be found on page 80.

Since assisting victims and survivors goes beyond the mine-ban treaty, UNMAS supports links with other legal frameworks such as Protocol V on ERW of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and, notably, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNMAS advocated for the universalization and full implementation of the Convention in 2008 at the 11th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisers, the Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the mine-ban treaty, the Second Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (see below), and the discussions on cluster munitions in the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons' Group of Governmental Experts.

In collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF and UNOPS, UNMAS organized a photo exhibition entitled "Rebuilding the lives of landmine victims in Sudan" in the Palais des Nation in Geneva during the meeting on the mine-ban treaty. An opening ceremony featured speeches by the officer-in-charge of UNMAS, the Permanent Representative of Sudan and the representative of the Director General of the United Nations in Geneva.

UNMAS supports mine risk education programmes primarily through UNICEF and other humanitarian agencies. These programmes aim to reduce risks for civilian populations by providing messages that focus on safe behavior in mine- and ERW-contaminated areas, particularly for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

UNMAS continues to encourage all agencies and organizations in the UN system to integrate landmine and ERW safety training into their general safety briefings. This is largely accomplished in the field through the mine action coordination centres and UN security personnel. At headquarters, UNMAS liaises regularly with the Department of Safety and Security to ensure that mine and ERW safety training and general safety training are complementary, and that mine and ERW safety training tools are used as part of security training in countries without mine action coordination centres or a UN mine action presence.

The Department of Safety and Security circulated a landmine and ERW safety training DVD released by UNMAS in March 2007 throughout the United Nations. UNMAS had intended to work with the developers of the DVD at the University of California at Los Angeles to produce it

² This calls for assisting national authorities to "... c) support efforts to ensure the rights of landmine/ERW survivors within the context of national programmes and facilities for persons with disabilities; d) advocate for increased resources and support to persons with disabilities, including landmine/ERW survivors."

in languages other than English and make the product available on the Internet, but this effort stalled due to a lack of funding. Subject to available funding in 2009, UNMAS intends to publish the *Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War Safety Handbook* in Arabic, French, Russian, Dari and Pashto.

B. SHAPING POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR MINE ACTION

Highlights

- The Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty entered into a new phase: Decisions were made on Article 5 extension requests, and states parties started preparation for the Second Review Conference to be held in Cartagena, Colombia from 30 November to 4 December 2009.
- The international community took urgent action against the threats posed by cluster munitions with support from the United Nations. The Convention on Cluster Munitions was adopted in Dublin on 30 May and signed in Oslo on 3 December.
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force on 3 May, providing an appropriate framework for protecting the rights and dignity of landmine and ERW survivors, and other persons with disabilities.
- Significant progress occurred in integrating gender considerations into mine action: A stocktaking workshop on good practices and lessons learned in mainstreaming gender in mine action programmes promoted a regional and nationally owned gender learning cycle.

1. Treaties

a. Advocacy

Mine action advocacy goals are woven into the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*. Advocacy remains a key pillar of mine action in general. Most UNMAS activities related to legal frameworks for mine action, including those in 2008, have an advocacy component. UNMAS strongly advocates for the universalization of existing legal frameworks, and encourages UN Member States to expand those regimes and develop new international standards to further protect civilians from the scourges of landmines and ERW, as was the case with the Convention on Cluster Munitions this year. In 2008, UNMAS also strongly advocated for the universalization of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a framework for delivering victim assistance.

With funds from Italy, UNMAS in 2008 provided grants to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and the Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines to support their advocacy and awareness activities, as well as to Geneva Call for advocacy with non-state actors.

b. The Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty

UNMAS continued to support universal ratification and full implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty in 2008. This important framework for mine action remains a key instrument for promoting the achievement of UN strategic goals.

The year was crucial for the treaty. The Ninth Meeting of States Parties made decisions on 15 requests by states parties to extend clearance obligations under Article 5; many of them currently receive UN mine action support. This is the first time a meeting of states parties has undertaken this kind of action. It thus sets a precedent for similar requests in the future. The meeting also decided that the Second Review Conference of the mine-ban treaty would be held in Cartagena, Colombia, in 2009.

To assist affected countries to understand their Article 5 obligations for clearing and destroying anti-personnel mines, the 11th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisers organized a full session on this topic and a presentation by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit of the mine-ban treaty.

At the inter-sessional meetings of states parties to the treaty in April and at the Ninth Meeting of States Parties in November, UNMAS coordinated the delivery of statements by UNMAT. It also coordinated inputs from the United Nations to the Geneva Progress Report, adopted by the meeting. The inputs reflected the general contribution of UNMAT to the implementation of the treaty. UNMAS prepared reports on the inter-sessional meetings and the Ninth Meeting of States Parties, and circulated them to the IACG-MA.

In the field, UNMAS continued to assist programmes in complying with their obligations under the treaty, including with the preparation of reports as required by Article 7, and with the development and execution of national mine action plans. Several states parties responded to UNMAS demarches to encourage the submission of Article 7 initial reports.

c. The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

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 is also known as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Two of its protocols are relevant to mine action: Amended Protocol II on mines, booby traps and other devices, and Protocol V on ERW. Established implementation mechanisms include regular meetings of states parties. As with the mine-ban treaty, these two protocols provide UN mine action with effective guidance, as indicated in the UN inter-agency policy.

In 2007, the Group of Governmental Experts was established to negotiate a proposal urgently to address the humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations, and to report on progress made to the next meeting of the group in November 2008.

UNMAS participated actively in all meetings related to the convention in 2008, and coordinated the participation of and delivery of statements by UNMAT at the meetings of states parties on Amended Protocol II and Protocol V in November 2008. The main outcomes and achievements are explained below.

The Sponsorship Programme to promote participation in convention-related meetings was fully implemented in 2008. The UNMAS Liaison Office in Geneva served as an observer to the programme's Steering Committee.

Explosive Remnants of War

Protocol V provides a framework for post-conflict remedial measures for unexploded and abandoned explosive ordnance, as well as for generic and voluntary prevention measures. So far, 48 countries have agreed to be bound by Protocol V. In July 2008, much in advance of the Second Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, the President-designate (the Ambassador of Lithuania) undertook informal consultations, appointed coordinators for specific items and chaired a group of experts.

UNMAS participated in many of these consultations, providing technical advice and inputs to the coordinators on national reporting and an Article 4 electronic template (initiated by UNMAS in 2006), victim assistance, generic prevention measures, and an ERW database for assistance and cooperation.

Together with the ICRC Physical Rehabilitation Programme, UNMAS organized an event in Geneva on victim assistance in the context of Protocol V. Experts from the mine-ban treaty Implementation Support Unit, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and ICBL were invited to deliver presentations at the event, which informed participants on the components of victim assistance and widely supported aspects of this pillar.

UNMAS will continue ensuring UN support for the implementation of Protocol V and the universalization of the treaty in 2009.

Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines

The UNMAS-coordinated statements of UNMAT to the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and to the 10th Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II in November 2008 highlighted the need to enhance existing international rules for anti-vehicle mines and other mines not categorized as anti-personnel. These new rules could be established either by amending Amended Protocol II or through a new protocol to the convention. The statements also supported the proposal of the President of Amended Protocol II to establish an informal open-ended group of experts to consider matters arising from national reports and the development of technology.

The agreed position of UNMAT is that these mines should be detectable by commonly available means, should be fitted with self-destructing and self-deactivating mechanisms, should not be fitted with anti-handling devices, and should not have sensitive fuses that allow explosion through contact by or in proximity to a person.

Universalization

In 2008, UNMAS actively supported UN regional seminars to promote the universality of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, an initiative of the Office for Disarmament Affairs financed by the European Union through a European Council joint action. With its own resources, UNMAS prepared and delivered presentations at all regional seminars and chaired some of their sessions. Seminars were held in Santo Domingo, Lomé (two sub-regional seminars), Almaty, Rabat and Kathmandu. The universalization of the convention, particularly of Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, represents an important advocacy objective for UN mine action. UNMAS plays a leading role in UNMAT in assisting the advocacy initiatives of other partners in the IACG-MA.

d. The Legal Framework for Cluster Munitions: The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Oslo Process

Since the 2007 UNMAS Annual Report, much has happened in the arena of cluster munitions. UN Member States supporting the Oslo Process on cluster munitions met in Wellington (18-22 February) and in Dublin (19-30 May), where they adopted the Convention on Cluster Munitions. UNMAT actively participated in this process and attended the Oslo Signature Conference on 3-4 December. Meanwhile, a parallel process leading to the possible development of a legal instrument on cluster munitions under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons has also continued and been monitored closely by UNMAT.

Under the leadership of UNMAS, the IACG-MA successfully contributed to the process that led states to adopt the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In coordination with UNMAT members, UNMAS is responding to the new treaty mandates and emerging realities on the ground by providing technical assistance and advice to initiatives aimed at destroying cluster munitions and stockpiles in countries beyond those in which it is currently operational. UNMAS is also preparing to provide effective assistance and expert advice to the entity designated to serve as the secretariat for the states parties to the convention.

UNMAS extensive knowledge of ERW helped it to provide expert technical advice throughout 2008 both to the Oslo Process and to the discussions on cluster munitions by the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons' Group of Governmental Experts. This expert advice included the participation of the programme manager of the Mine Action Coordination Centre-South Lebanon (MACC-SL), awarded for its achievements in cluster munitions clearance, in all relevant meetings in 2008.

These inputs were commended and widely appreciated by delegations and participants in the various processes. In particular, during the Oslo Process, UNMAS' support included clarifying the characteristics and effects of different kinds of sub-munitions, thus facilitating the identification of an adequate definition of cluster munitions and sub-munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

During negotiations on cluster munitions under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, UNMAS actively engaged with country delegations, either in session or on a bilateral

basis, to inform them about field-based technical inputs to consider when seeking a realistic definition of cluster munitions, and determining their post-conflict impacts on civilians versus their military utility.

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Process

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapon aims to protect military troops from inhumane injuries and prevent civilians from being harmed by certain types of arms. When the original convention entered into force in December 1983, it applied to incendiary weapons, mines and booby-traps, and weapons designed to injure through very small fragments.³ Since then, states parties—now totaling 108—have added provisions to ban the use of blinding laser weapons, and address lingering dangers posed by unexploded munitions and abandoned explosive ordnance.

Protocol V on ERW was negotiated by the convention's Group of Governmental Experts in 2003 and adopted by the meeting of states parties the same year. It entered into force on 12 November 2006 and currently has 40 states parties. Although the protocol is a step towards reducing the impacts of unexploded sub-munitions, the instrument mainly provides post-conflict remedial measures and some generic preventive measures of a non-legally binding nature. It does not outline restrictions on the use of any weapon, nor does it require cluster munitions to achieve a low failure or “dud” rate. Thus, it does not address the effects of cluster munitions at the time of use or the dangers for civilians caught in a cluster munitions attack. Cluster munitions account for a high percentage of UXO in post-conflict areas. They require a more specific legal regime than the one provided by Protocol V to address comprehensively all the problems they cause.

In 2008, states parties began to negotiate a proposal in the Group of Governmental Experts to address the humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions, while balancing military and humanitarian considerations. At the April meeting of the group, an increasing number of delegates began referring to the final outcome of this process as a new protocol banning at least certain kinds of cluster munitions and regulating the use of these weapons.

At the November meeting in Geneva, Chairperson Ambassador Wigotski of Denmark produced the text of a draft protocol on cluster munitions to serve as the basis for negotiations. The group informed states parties that it did not conclude its negotiations on the text and recommended additional negotiations in 2009 without prejudice to any present or future proposals.

To date, this process has been less dynamic and ambitious than that of the Oslo Process, which has negotiated a legally binding treaty. The lack of agreement on a new protocol leaves the Convention on Cluster Munitions as the only international instrument that specifically deals with these weapons.

In terms of participation, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons includes all major military powers, and the main users and producers of cluster munitions. It may capture important states parties not participating in the Oslo Process. Fewer states affected by cluster munitions are involved in the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons process, however. At the Group of Governmental Experts meeting held from 14-18 January 2008, many delegations noted that

³ See www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/CCW.asp.

the convention and the Oslo Process are complementary and mutually reinforcing (as had been stated earlier by the UN Secretary-General). Some argued that the Oslo Process should be supplementary to the work of the convention and recognize the military necessity of cluster munitions for certain states.

The Oslo Process

In 2006, the Norwegian Government announced its intention to establish a new international process to agree on a treaty on cluster bombs. A conference was convened in February 2007 in Oslo, where 46 nations agreed to a declaration committing to concluding a treaty banning cluster munitions in 2008. The group of states spearheading the Oslo Process has included Austria, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway and Peru.

States that subscribed to the Wellington Declaration in February 2008 were able to participate in treaty negotiations at the Dublin Diplomatic Conference from 19 to 30 May. The Convention on Cluster Munitions was adopted by 107 states following negotiations there, and opened for signature in Oslo on 3 December. The signing conference concluded on 4 December with close to 100 state actions, including 94 signatures, 4 ratifications and 1 provisional application. The convention will be open for signature at UN Headquarters in New York, until it enters into force after the 30th instrument of ratification is deposited.

There are 20 states that are not party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons participating in the Oslo Process, making it a globally representative forum. Participants cover all world regions and include representatives from 19 producer states, 7 states that have used cluster munitions, 34 states that have stockpiles and 11 states affected by the weapons.

e. Similarities and Differences Between the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Oslo Process

Definitions

Defining cluster munitions was critical for the purpose of a ban, as this directly affects the classification of weapons and the designation of exemptions or exceptions. Before 2008, there was no universally agreed-upon definition. Generally, any weapon that releases multiple explosive sub-munitions may be considered a form of cluster munitions. In defining cluster munitions that have caused extensive humanitarian problems, the ICRC uses the terms “inaccurate” and “unreliable.” Specific factors that could be included in defining weapons are: dud rates/failure to detonate upon impact, inaccuracy, malfunctioning, the number of sub-munitions and the ability to be targeted accurately.⁴

The development of a definition for cluster munitions was pivotal in the negotiations of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In Dublin, states parties were able to determine which weapons pose humanitarian problems and which possess characteristics that warrant exclusion or

⁴ (15 No. 1 Hum. Rts. Brief 30) Reference not clear.

exemptions from the ban. Article 2 of the convention defines cluster munitions as “a conventional munition that is designed to disperse or release explosive sub-munitions each weighing less than 20 kilograms, and includes those explosive sub-munitions.” It excludes, inter alia, weapons with fewer than 10 explosive sub-munitions and those equipped with an electronic self-destruction or self-deactivating mechanism.

The UN common position on this issue, based on its work on the ground, is that *all* cluster munitions cause unacceptable harm to civilians and should be prohibited.

Exemptions vs. Exclusions

Some states, particularly those that produce cluster bombs, have called for exemptions that will permit them to keep some of their own weapons systems. Those seeking exemptions from a ban argue that the most modern bomblets have self-destruct systems, which are designed to eliminate the long-term risk to civilians if they fail to detonate.⁵

Alternatively, some states have sought exclusions by proposing that weapons with 10 or fewer sub-munitions or weapons with sensor-fusing should not be considered cluster munitions at all.⁶ Yet these states have offered little proof as to how such features would limit the humanitarian impact during or after attacks.⁷

In principle, exempted weapons fall under the definition of cluster munitions, whereas those excluded from the definition are not regarded as cluster munitions for the purpose of a specific instrument.

Restriction vs. Total Ban

This matter is closely tied to the issue of definitions, since some states that are not signatories of the Convention on Cluster Munitions may be able to avoid regulation if a particular type of weapon escapes classification as prohibited. The different positions are briefly outlined below:

- Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons process: Restriction on use will focus on failure and reliability thresholds or rates to limit the use of cluster munitions that are more likely to cause humanitarian harm.
- Oslo Process: It advocated for a total ban on cluster bombs that cause unacceptable harm to civilians. The Government of Norway expressed the notion that weapons capable of engaging point targets and containing particular technical features should not be defined as cluster munitions because they meet the humanitarian requirements that the Oslo Process seeks to achieve.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Cluster Muniton Coalition, “The Only Good Cluster Muniton is a Banned Cluster Muniton,” *Cluster Ban Newsletter*, 21 May 2008 [www.stopclustermunitons.org/news/?id=231].

⁷ Ibid.

- UN assessment: Based on the experiences of UN agencies, *all* cluster munitions used so far, and those that are stockpiled, cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

Interoperability

Interoperability, like the definitions of cluster munitions, has been an issue that received much attention during the Oslo Process meetings. The United Nations consulted with its Office of Legal Affairs on the implications of a possible cluster munitions treaty, asking if the convention raised issues of interoperability for UN operations—for example, a situation in which a state party participates in a UN peacekeeping operation or other authorized operation together with states that are not party to the convention, and which use or transfer cluster munitions in that operation. The outcome of the discussion was that the United Nations was not in a position to interpret the provisions of the convention or an individual state’s obligations. Rather, it is up to the state party to “decide whether their mere participation in the United Nations operation (hypothetically using cluster munitions) would be in violation of their treaty obligations not to ‘assist,’ ‘encourage’ or ‘induce’ such use. The United Nations operation, however, would not be considered to be in violation of any international law principle if the use of cluster munitions was otherwise lawful.”

At the Wellington Conference in February 2008, a group of like-minded states emerged and expressed their concerns about interoperability with regard to joint operations with states not party to the convention. Some countries advocated for the inclusion of language that would enable them to participate in the joint planning or execution of military activities with states that are not parties, and that engage in activities prohibited under the new convention. The possibility of states introducing reservations to the convention on this issue was discussed. The subject remained unresolved at the conclusion of the Wellington Conference.

The Wellington Declaration introduced language to accommodate the divergent views of delegations on this and other issues. Signed by 82 states, it affirmed the objective of concluding at the Dublin conference a legally binding international instrument prohibiting cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians. The declaration was signed by a number of the like-minded countries, but some expressed disappointment at the “lack of transparency” in the management of the Oslo Process.

Interoperability, transition periods, definitions, deadlines for stockpile destruction, and retention of cluster munitions for training and research purposes were the key issues that arose in the Committee of the Whole during the Dublin conference,⁸ with some countries citing interoperability concerns to justify non-signature of the convention. Interoperability has not been addressed by the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons process.

⁸ Cluster Munition Coalition, “A Strong Start,” Dublin conference update, Day 1, 19 May 2008 [www.stopclustermunitions.org/news/?id=215].

Stockpile Destruction and Transition Periods

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons process: One advantage of this process is that it captures the major users and/or producers of cluster munitions, a number of which are not participating in the Oslo Process. But some proposals have included a transition period during which states can continue to use, with certain limitations, any cluster munitions they choose, even outdated ones with high dud rates.⁹

Oslo Process: Transition has been a contentious issue during negotiations. Some countries have proposed a transition period allowing continued use of the weapons for years after they have been banned. At the Wellington Conference, a number of states proposed transition periods for the entry into force of specific obligations restricting the use, development, production, acquisition, retention and transfer of the prohibited cluster munitions.

At the Dublin conference, proposals for transition periods allowing states to use the weapons for between 7 and 12 years were quashed by affected states. Stockpiles of existing weapons must be destroyed within 8 years.¹⁰

Clearance and Risk Mitigation, Victim Assistance and International Cooperation

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons process: Many delegations stressed the importance of linking a new protocol on cluster munitions to Protocol V with regard to provisions on mine action activities—such as clearance and marking of ERW, mine risk education and victim assistance—and international cooperation and assistance. Some countries together with the ICRC have called for the addition of victim assistance provisions in a new protocol, while others prefer not to see victim assistance provisions repeated in a new protocol.

Oslo Process: For clearance and risk mitigation activities, the Convention on Cluster Munitions instructs states parties to take into account international standards, including the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Mine action is nevertheless comprehensively addressed by the convention.

Next Steps

The successful conclusion of the Oslo Process at the Dublin Diplomatic Conference put added pressure on states participating in the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons to reach a new accord by the November 2008 meeting of states parties.¹¹ The meeting did not reach a decision on a protocol on cluster munitions, however, indicating how polarizing the issue is. The Group of Governmental Experts on cluster munitions will continue its negotiations in 2009.

⁹ Human Rights Watch, “Human Rights Watch Observations on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Draft Protocol on Cluster Munitions,” September 2008 [http://hrw.org/english/docs/2008/09/02/global19723_txt.htm].

¹⁰ Cluster Munition Coalition, “Over 100 Countries Adopt Treaty to Ban Cluster Munitions,” 30 May 2008 [www.stopclustermunitions.org/news/?id=296].

¹¹ Jeff Abramson, “107 Countries Approve Cluster Munitions Treaty,” *Arms Control Today*, July/August 2008 [www.armscontrol.org/act/2008_07-08/cluster].

Although an agreement is unlikely to result in a limitation on cluster munitions that is as comprehensive as that negotiated under the Oslo Process, many hope that a legal instrument, possibly of a more technical nature than the Convention on Cluster Munitions, will be negotiated by cluster munitions stockpilers and producers, since they have largely refrained from participating in the Oslo Process in favor of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.¹²

f. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol were opened for signature on 30 March 2007. The convention entered into force on 3 May 2008, and by the end of 2008, some 42 states had ratified it, including some affected by landmines and/or ERW. Twenty-five states had ratified the Optional Protocol. The convention provides explicit guidance to countries affected by landmines and ERW regarding the rights of survivors. It will help states fulfil victim assistance obligations pursuant to Article 6 of the mine-ban treaty and Article 8 of Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. In addition, Article 5 of the new Convention on Cluster Munitions contains victim-assistance-related obligations along with the principle of non-discrimination against victims—including those who are not cluster munitions victims. UNMAS participated in the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from 31 October to 3 November 2008 in New York.

UNMAS, as the DPKO representative in the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, participated in the second meeting of the group, held in Geneva on 19-20 June. It prepared a report on DPKO developments related to the convention, which was submitted during the meeting. The IASG was established to promote and assist in the implementation of the convention. UNMAS has emphasized the importance of the treaty for the work of many peacekeeping operations, and recommended that guidance and training materials be developed to ensure coherent UN support for implementation. UNMAS continues to consult actively with DPKO field colleagues to inform guidelines for UN country programming in coordination with IASG members.

In May, UNMAS submitted a questionnaire to UN colleagues at headquarters level and in field missions seeking an update on implementation and advocacy efforts related to the newly adopted convention. Staff who replied came from a wide variety of offices and areas of work, including mine action, child protection, human rights and the rule of law, and gender. They represented peacekeeping or political missions, such as the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), MONUC (Democratic Republic of Congo), the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

The feedback indicated a general awareness of the adoption and/or entry into force of the convention and its provisions. Many respondents viewed the convention as an opportunity to address the specific needs and rights of persons with disabilities in their particular contexts. The range of activities described demonstrated concern for several key principles of the convention, especially participation, non-discrimination and accessibility. Colleagues also gave examples of

¹² Ibid.

awareness-raising initiatives and advocacy efforts towards the ratification and implementation of the convention.

A new convention advocacy toolkit was developed by UNMAS in coordination with OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF and other UNMAT members, and with the assistance of Survivor Corps (previously known as the Landmine Survivor's Network). It is available for download online. The toolkit is targeted to all UN staff members and will be used, in particular, by UNMAT members to disseminate information on the convention and the Optional Protocol, to promote understanding of them and to assist states parties in implementing their obligations—as well as to sensitize states that are not yet party to the convention. The toolkit was presented at the 11th Annual International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisors held in March 2008 and is now available online to UN country offices, national partners, civil society groups and interested UN Member States.

In 2008, the report of the Secretary-General on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol referred to the advocacy work of UNMAS and the new toolkit.¹³ The report also noted that the toolkit will raise awareness of the importance of improving the accessibility of UN facilities and services.

UNMAS continues to update the Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Database on its website to help mine action programmes ensure that relevant information is included in reports to donors and the various treaty bodies.

g. Engaging Non-State Actors

Anti-personnel mines and other victim-activated arms are still being used by non-state actors in a number of countries and territories. The *2008 Landmine Monitor Report* chronicled the use of these weapons by non-state actors in Afghanistan, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Iraq, Myanmar, Pakistan, Peru and Sri Lanka. Non-state actors stopped using them in Lebanon and Chechnya during the same period.

UNMAS supports efforts to encourage armed non-state actors to make and uphold commitments relevant to landmines and ERW, including halting the use of anti-personnel mines. UNMAS commends the efforts in this field by Geneva Call, an international NGO dedicated to urging non-state actors to respect international humanitarian norms by signing a “Deed of Commitment for the Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action.” There were no new signatories to the Deed of Commitment this year, but some past signatories have undertaken mine action activities, including stockpile destruction, during the year.

Throughout 2008, UNMAS provided a grant to Geneva Call with funds from the Government of Italy to ensure the continuity of their core activities. By the end of the year, discussions were held with respect to the provision of new grant funds provided by the governments of Italy and the Netherlands.

¹³ See A/63/264.

2. Gender and Mine Action

To implement the provisions of paragraph 28 of “Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy” and the “Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes,” UNMAS has organized several activities to promote gender equality in mine action this year.

Updates on National Gender Action Plans

During the 11th International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisers, UNMAS, in coordination with UNMAT, designed one of the plenary sessions to provide an update on the gender action plans in a number of mine-affected countries. The discussion that ensued involved the sharing of experiences and lessons learned among participants and the panel, and supported participants in their efforts to fulfil obligations posed by the “DPKO Policy Directive on Gender Mainstreaming.” A senior female staff member from MACCA led the session. Panelists included staff from the Cambodian Mine Action Authority, a UNDP senior technical adviser, the national programme director of Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), and a representative from the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation in Jordan. The fact that men were among the panellists demonstrated their necessary role in mainstreaming gender. The presence of senior staff underscored their responsibility for advancing the roles of women and men, and girls and boys as active participants of mine action programmes.

Good practices and lessons learned included:

1. The benefits of women’s participation in the prioritization process for identifying the gender impacts of UXO contamination;
2. The need to target mine risk education messages and approaches to high-risk populations and/or behaviours;
3. The benefits of providing employment opportunities for clearance and other mine action personnel to both women and men;¹⁴
4. The need to review national standards to ensure that gender guidelines are incorporated in national gender action plans;
5. The good practice of including gender-sensitive objectives in national action plans, which makes the pre- and post-clearance process reflect the needs of women, men, girls and boys, while also ensuring that the mine action framework, and mine risk education and victim assistance activities respond to gender concerns; and
6. The need to accompany gender-sensitive programmes and deliverables with indicators to measure achievements, with an aim to universalize gender in mine clearance processes, ensure the participation of women in mine clearance planning processes, and increase government commitment to mainstreaming gender into mine action.

¹⁴ The presenter from the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation of Jordan explained that there are equal opportunities for employment in Jordan’s Mine Action Programme: 25 percent of mine risk education staff, 30 percent of the employees of the committee, 40 percent of victim assistance staff and 40 percent of target mine risk education groups are women. Women are also engaged in survey teams. In Jordan, gender-responsive mine action activities improve access to impacted households. When both women and men are consulted, more comprehensive data are obtained.

Gender Stocktaking Workshop

In September 2008, interested UNMAT members, with the assistance of UNMAS and the UN Logistics Base, convened a global workshop to take stock of the wealth of experiences gained since the launch of the “Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes” and the National Gender Action Plan model. The meeting brought together a small group of field practitioners who have been engaged in mainstreaming gender in their programmes, and who have measured successes or encountered challenges in designing and implementing such programmes over the past four years. Participants came from OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNMAS, UNHCR, several NGOs, and the national mine action authorities of Cambodia and Lao PDR. Resource persons experienced in training and gender capacity issues also attended.

Discussions from workshops in Dubai in 2006 and Nairobi in 2007 were elaborated in a stocktaking session that collected good practices and lessons learned. The group also reviewed the current “Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes,” covering the four pillars of mine clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance and advocacy. It identified practical examples of implementation.

The workshop concluded that, within the mine action sector, the practice of including gender perspectives is expanding. Various mine action practitioners and beneficiaries have embraced gender policies, which has resulted in enhanced impacts under most of the mine action pillars. It was also evident that successes are not consistent throughout the sector. Cross-network learning is only beginning to bear its first fruits. Learning needs to be homogenized, existing tools should be available to national authorities, and impacts should be monitored and evaluated.

Experiences and expertise shared during the workshop will be used to revise the gender guidelines in 2009 through proposals for amendments and a list of practical examples of implementation for each of the checklists. An online discussion facilitated by the Gender Community of Practice among mine action practitioners and experts will assess progress under the National Gender Action Plan, identify challenges and indicators of achievement, provide a venue for sharing good practices and lessons learned in mainstreaming gender in mine action, collect case studies from each country programme, and determine training needs.

Other Activities

In 2008, UNMAS periodically convened the IACG-MA Steering Committee on Gender and Mine Action, which was the forum where preparations for the stocktaking workshop were discussed. UNMAS also participated in other inter-departmental and inter-agency gender forums, including the DPKO Gender Taskforce and the OCHA Gender Capacity Inter-Agency Steering Committee meetings, where UNMAS contributed to decisions on the selection, recruitment and deployment of gender advisers to field missions.

Gender Balance in Mine Action Programmes

UNMAS examined sex-disaggregated statistics for national and international staff employed in mine action centres in Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Lebanon, Nepal, Somalia, Sudan and Western Sahara from 2005 to 2008. With respect to the previous year, the trend in 2008 showed an increase in the percentage of women international staff and a decrease in women national staff employed in mine action centres.

Among international staff, the number of women increased to over 20 percent. Most notably, however, 2008 saw an increase in women in senior positions. This enhanced women's participation in decision-making and provided opportunities for them to serve as role models for other women staff members and programme beneficiaries.

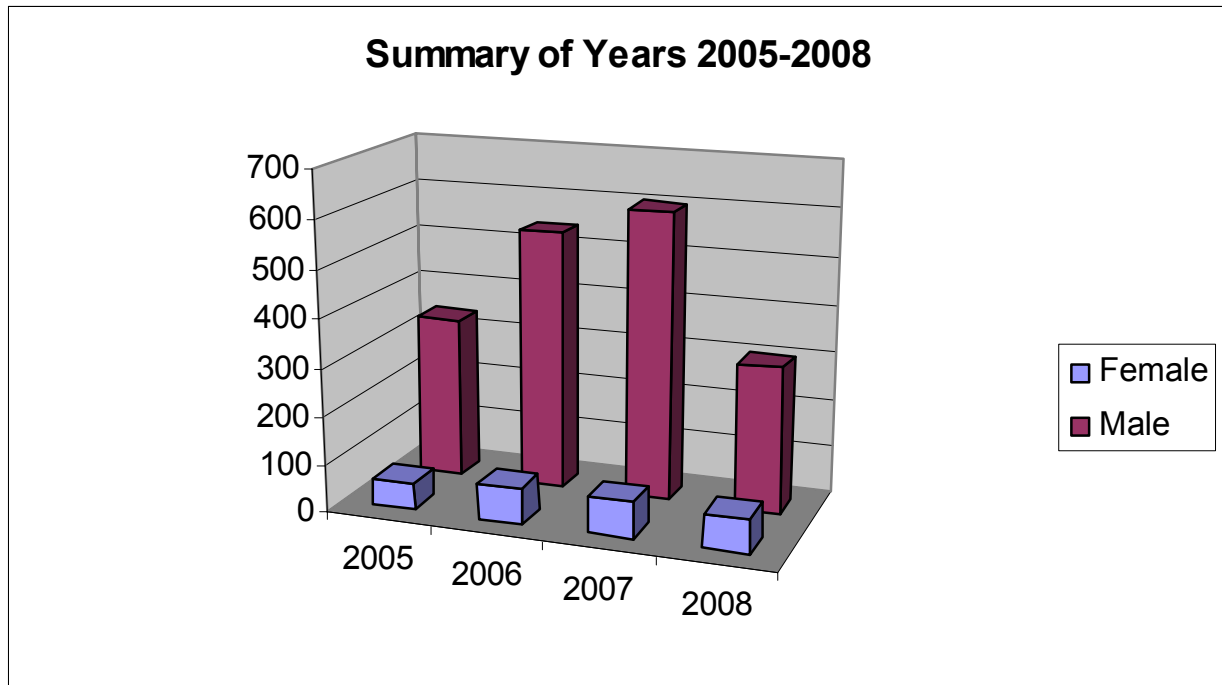
The importance of gender balance among national staff is particularly critical and requires systematic attention. Increased and sustained mine risk education activities have to be conducted by female staff in order to reach women, especially in highly traditional societies where sex segregation is the norm. The notion that it is preferable to have mine risk education seminars for women conducted by women should be applied. Women also have to be part of decision-making on the prioritization of mine clearance activities from the onset. This ensures that gender-sensitive provisions are put in place at a time when they can be most effective.

The following tables illustrate that total employment at UN mine action centres has increased dramatically from 395 staff in 2005 to 677 staff in 2008, but the percentage of female employees has declined from 14 percent in 2005 to 10.6 percent in 2008 which could be attributed to the increased number of field-based personnel integrated into coordination centre staff.

The percentage of national female staff employed at MACCA has dropped from 4 percent in 2005 to 2.5 percent in 2008, largely due to the integration of a large number of male field-based personnel into MACCA staff when quality management teams were centralized. Among international staff, however, women now hold five of the eight senior staff positions (at section or departmental chief level or above, and including the deputy director). Senior female staff members also hold other key national and international posts in other operations.

Livelihood projects targeting a wide range of women beneficiaries and linked to mine action have enhanced women's participation in their communities. During the first quarter of 2008, the MACC-SL implemented a livelihood project funded by the Japanese Government in support of the UNTFHS. It covered four villages contaminated by cluster bombs. The project was designed to ensure equal access by both women and men who have lost their income and have dependents. After the distribution of 400 agricultural nylon traps, women farmers were able to take their children to a safe place for recreation away from the threat of cluster bombs, while the MACC-SL conducted clearance in their village. In the Lebanese village of Sidiqin, women manage family beekeeping businesses. A German-funded beehive project provided 99 beehives to 33 families and planted 230 blossoming trees along the roads.

National and International UNMAS Field Programme Staff by Gender (2005-2008)



Location	2005				2006			
	National		International		National		International	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Afghanistan: MACCA	6 (4%)	142	6(23%)	20	10(3%)	308	6(31%)	13
Burundi: UN Operation in Burundi (ONUB) Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC)	4 (36)	7	0	2	4 (36)	7	0	1
Democratic Republic of Congo: MONUC MACC	2 (20)	8	1 (20)	4	2 (20)	8	1 (16)	5
Eritrea: UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) MACC	16 (29)	38	2 (25)	6	16 (29)	39	2 (22)	7
Lebanon: UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) MACC-SL	6 (28)	15	0	4	10 (37)	17	2 (14)	12
Sudan: UNMAO	11 (15)	58	3 (8)	34	13 (13)	81	9 (17)	43
Total	45 (14)	268	12 (14)	70	55 (10)	460	20 (19)	81

Location	2007				2008			
	National		International		National		International	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Afghanistan: MACCA	11(3%)	332	6(26%)	17	9(2.5%)	343	6(35%)	11
Burundi: ONUB MACC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Democratic Republic of Congo: MONUC MACC	2 (20)	8	1 (16)	5	2 (20)	8	1 (14)	6
Chad: UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (33)	2
Eritrea: UNMEE MACC	18 (24)	55	2 (18)	9	1 (20)	4	2 (66)	1
Lebanon: UNIFIL MACC	11 (35)	20	3 (14)	18	12 (38)	19	3 (20)	12
Sudan: UNMAO	14 (13)	88	8 (14)	47	20 (13)	126	8 (17)	38
Western Sahara: MINURSO	0	0	1 (100)	0	0	0	1 (50)	1
Somalia: Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF)	0	0	0	0	2 (16)	10	3 (18)	13
Nepal: UNMIN	0	0	1 (33)	2	0	6	1 (16)	5
Total	56 (10)	503	22 (18)	98	46 (8)	516	26 (22)	89

Percentage of Female Staff in UNMAS Field Programmes (2005-2008)

2005 summary			
	Female	Male	Total
Total	57	338	395
National	45	268	313
International	12	70	82
2006 summary			
	Female	Male	Total
Total	75	541	616
National	55	460	515
International	20	81	101
2007 summary			
	Female	Male	Total
Total	78	601	679
National	56	503	559
International	22	98	120
2008 summary			
	Female	Male	Total
Total	72	605	677
National	46	516	562
International	26	89	115

Global mine action activities were made possible thanks to the support of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom and in part through the unearmarked support provided by Andorra, the Holy See, Japan, New Zealand and Sweden.

C. COMMUNICATING TO THE PUBLIC AND OTHER CONSTITUENCIES

Coordinating Communications to Maximize Impact

Meetings of the IACG-MA Communications Working Group, which UNMAS chairs, resulted in inter-agency plans to raise public and media awareness about events such as the launch of the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2009*, the Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty, the opening for signature of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the presentation of the Nansen Award to the MACC-SL. The meetings brought together communications focal points from UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, the Office of Disarmament Affairs and occasionally other members of UNMAT. Coordination of communications led to extensive global press coverage, particularly around the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, which was featured by newspapers, magazines and broadcasters in more than 40 countries.

In addition, UNMAS coordinated its communications efforts with the UN Department of Public Information in New York and its global network of information centres, which played an important role in disseminating messages from UNMAS and UNMAT to local and international media.

Keeping Mine Action in the Public Eye

UNMAS' media relations and other forms of outreach helped raise the profile of UNMAT among the media, NGOs, donors and the general public in 2008. Throughout the year, UNMAS provided journalists with background information and arranged interviews to enable them to develop news and feature stories, helping to boost reporting on mine action.

UNMAS and UNDP organized a press trip to Iraq in November to draw attention to the struggle against landmines in the north. The trip was timed to coincide with the Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty and the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. Numerous stories were filed by Reuters, Al Jazeera, NRC Handelsblad (the Netherlands) and ARD German Public Radio; they focused mainly on the challenges faced by landmine survivors.

Support to the Field

UNMAS' field offices relied on information materials provided by headquarters to support their own media relations linked to global events, such as the opening for signature of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

Media training for information focal points in field offices took place at DPKO's Logistical Base in Brindisi. It provided a range of media relations skills, particularly techniques for conducting television interviews.

Website Management

In 2008, improvements to the E-MINE website at www.mineaction.org included updating the Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Database, which allows users to track which countries have ratified key treaties related to mine action, and survivors of landmines and ERW.

The development, editing, design, layout and production of the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2009* were carried out entirely through a content-management system within E-MINE. The new system reduces the time and expense involved in the previous manual arrangements to compile and produce the publication.

About 1,000 different visitors come to the E-MINE website every week, with spikes in web traffic during special events, such as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

Building Constituencies Within the United Nations

UNMAS informed other parts of the United Nations about its mission and achievements by posting numerous stories to the news section of the “iSeek” Intranet site, raising visibility about the cause of mine action and drawing attention to UNMAS’ relationship to its parent OROLSI.

D. INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS

IMAS remain an influential guide for mine-affected countries in developing their own standards and for implementing partners in conducting their operations. The IMAS website at www.mineactionstandards.org continues to be the main source of information for a wide variety and increasing number of unique visitors.

The IMAS Review Board, which comprises representatives from UN agencies, donor countries, NGOs, commercial demining companies and other key stakeholders is charged with agreeing on the need for new standards, and ensuring that each standard is reviewed and updated every three years. A board meeting was held in Geneva in March 2008 where the annual state of the standards was presented and a 2009 work plan approved.

UNMAS submitted four new standards to IACG-MA at the principals’ level; they were subsequently endorsed. The new standards are: Guide to the Establishment of Mine Action Programmes, Battle Area Clearance, Protection of the Environment and Guide for the Evaluation of Mine Action Intervention.

Work has continued on potential new standards (Guide for Development of National Mine Action Standards, Information Management, Management of Training, Guide to Quality Management in Mine Action, Guide to Risk Management in Mine Action, Demining Machine Operators Safety and Mechanical Area Reduction). The Management of Training standard is now ready and awaiting endorsement by the IACG-MA.

With the maturity of mine action today, the degree of consultation has greatly increased, making consensus more difficult to achieve. The anticipated work on reviewing IMAS and the general assessment of need for a mine action response and the conduct of technical surveys has been affected by some resistance to change and different definitions. GICHD produced the anticipated new drafts of the standard on land release, but the comments received indicated the need for a revised presentation. This work has carried over to 2009. The exercise of thoroughly analysing the process to deal with suspected land has been very useful, requiring some revised thinking.

In late 2008, a complete review of IMAS was discussed with regard to gender. A small project began work on this.

Members of the UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms requested UNMAS to share experiences gained in the initial process of developing industry standards. Advice was provided to the consultant coordinating this work. This is the second time that IMAS have been referenced in the production of other standards, and is a testament to their credibility and application. Previously, advice from UNMAS had been requested for the drafting of the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards.

UNMAS has provided considerable input to the development of several workshop agreements produced by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN). The funding for this has now ceased, and future involvement will be greatly reduced. While the CEN workshop agreement on the testing of mechanical devices in mine action has been very well received and has guided several tests, the agreement on the testing of personal protective equipment has proved to be more difficult to apply in practice and so will be reviewed in 2009. In 2008, two agreements on the processes following the use of machines were completed and are now current—CWA 15832.2008 Post Mechanical Clearance Requirements and CWA 15833.2008 Quality Management (QA and QC) for Mechanical Demining. The agreement on the characterization of soils, and their influence on metal detectors and ground-penetrating radars is close to completion.

E. DEVELOPING AND APPLYING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Facilitating Information-Sharing on New Technologies

UNMAS was closely involved in two meetings related to technology in 2008. The first was the annual Symposium on Technology, organized by CROMAC and the Croatian Centre for Testing, Development and Training Ltd. It coincided with the 11th International Meeting for National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisers. Attendees witnessed two field demonstrations of equipment and dogs. A display of products was held nearby, with representatives from manufacturers in attendance to discuss equipment performance and advantages. The second event was a Mine Action Technology Workshop, jointly sponsored in Geneva by UNMAS and GICHD. Over 75 people attended from 33 countries. There were many varied presentations, and opportunities for discussion and exchanges. The post-workshop questionnaire indicated, once again, that there is considerable value in bringing together those who are responsible for techniques and operations. Another joint meeting is planned for 2010.

UNMAS and GICHD continued to produce the joint *Technology Newsletter* as a way of disseminating information to a wider community. This compliments the *James Madison University Journal of Mine Action*, which UNMAS assists through the peer review of all articles on technology.

International Test and Evaluation Programme

UNMAS, as an observer to the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the International Test and Evaluation Programme (ITEP), has continued to attend the meetings and support the programme's spirit and intentions. The mandate of ITEP is drawing to a close in mid-2010, with concern about its future after that. To promote an extension, UNMAS and GICHD submitted a joint letter commending the concept of ITEP and recognizing achievements to date. UNMAS also submitted suggestions for future work and requested follow-up testing on facial protective equipment in accordance with the new CEN workshop agreement on personal protective equipment.

UNMAS has strongly encouraged ITEP members to support testing for all flails available for mine action, as well as the machines that can use both flail and tiller front-end attachments. This will provide much needed information for mine action programme managers. UNMAS has contributed to and remains totally supportive of the test on the new range of dual sensor detectors, which has now been delayed until the autumn of 2009.

Supporting Research and Development

UNMAS continued to assist and advise the development of more comfortable alternatives to the facial protection currently available for deminers. This has involved advice to the working group developing the testing agreement for new personal protection equipment; UNMAS advocates the need to further test a new facial protection product. Its promotion of the development of dual sensor detectors includes making available more information on the use of the US Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS) in Cambodia.

Throughout the year, there was a steady increase in the deployment of machines for the preparation of ground prior to clearance, and, in some cases, for the actual verification of suspected land. This is a reflection of the continual promotion of information about the performance and testing of machines by UNMAS, and its support to technical conferences and ITEP. Several machines have undergone additional development following lessons learned from practical application. UNMAS assisted UNOPS in selecting more machines to be deployed in UN-supported operations in 2008, which saw a significant increase in the deployment of machines with flail and tiller attachments for the processing of suspected land.

In 2008, the UNMAS technology coordinator continued to respond to technical questions from a wide variety of sources and provided advice on locating additional information. Private development continues in the areas of roller attachments, flails and neutralization devices among others, and technical input was provided concerning the handling of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). UNMAS, with funds from the Government of Japan, also supported a technology officer at GICHD.

A major conclusion from the UNMAS and GICHD Mine Action Technology Workshop was that technology is as much about improving techniques as it is about creating new devices. As a result, programmes were strongly advised to look inwardly at procedures to identify ways of improving efficiency, as well as to pursue the normal search for new devices through traditional research and development processes.

F. UNMAS COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

UNMAS currently provides direct support and assistance to 10 UN peacekeeping missions, and technical advice to 4 more. Missions with large-scale mine action programmes are the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), UNMIS, MONUC, UNMEE (under liquidation), UNIFIL, the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), MINURCAT, the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), UNMIN and MINURSO. The last four missions all commenced operations in 2006 and 2007, while the scale of the programme in UNIFIL increased exponentially following the war in 2006. The four missions that are regularly provided with technical advice and support are UNMIL, the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

1. AFGHANISTAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

Highlights

- Mine clearance results increased markedly with over 84,000 anti-personnel mines removed during the year, compared to 355,499 from 1989 to 2007.
- Significant progress was made in transferring responsibility for mine action to the Government of Afghanistan.
- MAPA has achieved over 70 percent of its specified benchmark within the Afghanistan Compact of clearing 70 percent of affected land by the end of 2010.

Context and Challenges

Mine and ERW contamination in Afghanistan comes from widespread use of mines and explosive ordnance during more than two decades of conflict. The current known mine contamination extends to more than 2,724 hazards covering an estimated total area of 691 square kilometres, with these hazards impacting over 2,220 communities and tens of thousands of inhabitants. There were 695 victims of landmines and ERW recorded in 2008. Over 89 percent of the victims were male, and 57 percent were children. This is a significant reduction in casualties since 2005, when over 100 people per month were falling victim, a rate that has dropped to less than 60 in 2008, providing a significant indicator of progress towards the UN strategic goal of reducing death and injury by 50 percent by the end of 2010.

Types of Victims by Age and Gender

Injured	Female	61	11	31	3	7	6	3	0
	Male	457	25	200	44	90	71	23	4
Killed	Female	18	3	5	2	1	6	1	0
	Male	158	8	52	13	35	28	19	3
Not specified	Male	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total		695	47	288	62	134	111	46	7

Mines and ERW not only threaten Afghans with physical harm, but they also rob farmers of their livelihoods, and impede housing, resettlement and the grazing of livestock. Seventy-five percent of the impacted communities are found in 12 of the country's 34 provinces.

Approximately 2.7 percent of all Afghans are severely disabled, with landmine and ERW accidents accounting for around 8.6 percent of this total. The impact of disability on economic participation is substantial, impoverishing survivors and their families, straining government and other health care systems, and limiting economic growth and poverty reduction.

Over 20 NGO and commercial implementing partners are working throughout the country in all areas of mine action. These partners employ over 8,000 Afghan national staff, deploy in over 500 operational teams and implement activities throughout every region.

Their 2008 efforts were coordinated by MACCA, which is supported by UNMAS and the Government of Afghanistan. MACCA worked to ensure that operations were in line with government objectives outlined within the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghan National Development Strategy. These objectives require:

- By March 2011, a reduction in the known land area contaminated by mines and UXO by 70 percent;
- By the end of 2007, all known stockpiled anti-personnel mines to be located and destroyed (completed); and
- By the end of 2010, all unsafe, unserviceable and surplus ammunition to be destroyed.

Mine action has been strongly integrated into national development planning. It is a benchmark in formal government development strategies, and part of the national MDGs. MACCA has formed strong relationships with a range of ministries to ensure the spread of mine action concerns into wider development plans, including the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India Pipeline project and the Aynak Copper Mine project.

MACCA provides regular updates on progress achieved against the National Development Strategy and Compact to Afghanistan's Joint Coordination and Monitoring Body. The mine action programme is also guided by the obligations of the Government to the mine-ban treaty, which requires clearing all emplaced anti-personnel mines in Afghanistan by March 2013; destroying all known anti-personnel mine stockpiles by March 2007; and providing mine risk education to the Afghan people, and assisting those who have been injured by mines and UXO.

Additional efforts were also made by MACCA in 2008 to assist the Government in its consideration of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Afghanistan became a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in December 2008.

Despite enormous progress, the operating environment for MAPA continued to be extremely challenging. Security incidents, direct attacks, abductions and banditry continued throughout the year, resulting in the deaths of 11 deminers and the injury of an additional 18. Fifty-one deminers were abducted, although subsequently released, except for one who remains missing. In addition, the programme suffered losses and destruction of equipment and premises, including the MACCA mine dog accreditation site, resulting in its closure and relocation in August 2008.

The programme has nonetheless found innovative and effective ways to deliver mine action operations throughout almost the entire country. Successful community liaison work and a strong investment in developing local relationships enabled initiatives in a range of areas where operations had previously ceased due to security risks, and strengthened the security of those teams working on existing sites. The security focal points within MACCA and implementing partners remained in regular and systematic contact with their counterparts throughout the country in order to achieve the best possible overall security posture.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS continued to provide direct assistance for international resource mobilization and management for the Afghanistan programme, as well as direct coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and UN partners including UNOPS, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNICEF and UNDP. UNMAS conducted regular technical missions to the country, often jointly with UNOPS, and met with representatives of UNAMA, the UN Country Team, UNDP, UNESCO, key donors and international partners, as well as all implementing partners operating throughout the country.

UNMAS also supported Afghanistan as a prominent element of the international resource mobilization process for 2008 by placing it as the main country topic for the MASG in November 2008. Afghanistan was included in a range of donor briefings in capitals, and at permanent missions in New York and Geneva. These activities, in concert with those of MACCA, resulted in approximately US \$47 million being received by the VTF for the programme in 2008, including significant multilateral contributions from the governments of Australia, Canada, Italy and Japan. The contributions, combined with multi-year funds received previously, including from the European Commission, enabled a programme of work of US \$50 million for 2008. Additional support was provided by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, the Netherlands and Spain.

Unfortunately, due to the impact of the global financial crisis and exchange rate fluctuations, the Afghanistan programme closed 2008 with limited confirmed funding for 2009. Intense efforts to raise additional funds began in late 2008; as of December, sufficient funding had not yet been identified to support the programme objectives for 2009.

UNMAS worked with the Office of Operations of DPKO to ensure mine action was fully integrated into the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan, and other briefing materials for consideration at the senior management level of the United Nations and beyond. Regular coordination activities were also conducted with the Department of Safety and Security, OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank to boost the visibility of the programme. Various media, educational, and technical interviews and events took place, including the placement of articles in mainstream media and statements from the spokesperson of the Secretary-General.

UNMAS met with major evaluation teams conducting analyses of the programme, including those from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the European Commission. UNMAS met regularly with the major bilateral donors to the programme, including the governments of Germany and the United Kingdom, the United States Department of State, and its executing agencies.

Coordination and Training

In 2002, the Government of Afghanistan entrusted interim responsibility for mine action programme coordination to the United Nations, a role implemented in the field through MACCA and area mine action centres in Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar, Herat, Jalalabad, Gardez and Kunduz. MACCA, which is supported by funding provided through the VTF, works in partnership with the government Department of Mine Clearance (DMC), an office of the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority.

This relationship was formalized in an agreement between the United Nations and Government in February 2008, a situation further strengthened by DMC's relocation to the MACCA office site in April 2008. The ongoing efforts of MACCA and DMC were guided by the work of an Inter-Ministerial Board for Mine Action that met for the first time in January 2008, with further meetings occurring in July and August. This body now has the formal role of shaping government policy on mine action.

MACCA's coordination role was demonstrated through the conduct of strategic and operational planning for the programme, including the development, execution and oversight of the 1386 and 1387 operational work plans (each plan runs from 1 April through 31 March, in line with the Afghan governmental year). These plans saw the effective deployment and monitoring of over 500 operational teams and the conduct of related quality assurance tasks, as well as ongoing information management for all mine action assets, whether funded through the VTF, bilaterally or commercially.

At the level of the area mine action centres, localized planning is conducted within the framework of the national work plans. The centres liaise with communities to meet priorities and needs in the area. Additional liaison work is done with local governance structures focused on humanitarian and development assistance to ensure integrated approaches to delivery of assistance wherever possible.

Beyond the partnership with DMC, significant progress was made in transitioning other elements of mine action from the United Nations to the Government. MACCA strengthened its already well-established advisory offices within ministries, and enhanced its work with the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD).

Highlights of this process included the introduction of mine risk education monitoring mechanisms to MoE regional activities in August 2008, support of the First Inter-ministerial Task Force for Disability meeting hosted by the MoLSAMD in October 2008, and the approval by MoLSAMD of the first National Disability Action Plan in October 2008. Support was also maintained for the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) to implement mine risk education activities in the field.

Within MACCA itself, organizational restructuring continued with a view to increasing national ownership and shifting to an emphasis on the office's coordination role. This is a critical step in terms of defining relationships with implementing partners, donors and the Government, as it has

served to focus a role that has previously extended beyond coordination and into areas including the management of implementing partners and governance. This shift has brought additional clarity in organizational responsibilities and ownership of processes, and also in the roles and activities subject to transition and government involvement. Such definition has enabled formation of an integrated office combining the capacities of both DMC and MACCA, and facilitates joint planning and action.

The number of international advisers continued to decline in 2008, with fully qualified Afghan national staff taking on positions as expatriate posts were phased out. By the end of the year, the number of international staff had dropped to 15, of whom one-third were women, including the deputy programme director, senior programme officer, senior communications officer, and chief of administration, finance and logistics.

Unfortunately, due to the loss of some key female staff members, the percentage of female national staff dropped from 3 percent to 2.6 percent in 2008. As a result, the programme has increased its efforts to identify and recruit suitably qualified female personnel where possible. A range of MACCA staff participated in gender-related training and workshops in Afghanistan and abroad throughout 2008.

MACCA developed and oversaw a survey of 300 women in three central provinces (Kabul, Parwan and Kapisa) with a goal of identifying gender-specific considerations within programme planning, information management, data collection and education opportunities within all mine action activities. The survey also captured the perceptions of women working and living in proximity to mine- and ERW-affected areas. The preliminary results are now being assessed and will form a baseline for further survey and analysis, while also informing priority-setting and planning activities currently underway. The full results will be released in early 2009.

MACCA's relationship to UNAMA was maintained through regular participation in the UN Senior Management Team and Humanitarian Country Team, and through incorporation into the newly launched cluster approach to humanitarian coordination. As a result, mine action was fully integrated into the Humanitarian Action Plan developed in 2008, with support to operations being given a priority one status. Mine action is also included in the UNDAF that will be released in 2009, and in the reports of the UN Secretary-General throughout the year.

Relationships were maintained with other international actors such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), other international security forces, and representatives of key donors such as Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. Partnerships with UNESCO aided the clearance of World Heritage sites in Bamyan.

Operations

MAPA continued to produce significant operational and institutional results during 2008. Efforts to increase outputs and effectiveness were sustained, and diverse projects and approaches were initiated to respond to ongoing operational needs.

One important step was the regional refocusing of Afghan national NGOs working on mine action, and the centralizing of their operational, administrative and logistical approaches and structures. This has had the impact of reducing their organizational complexity, while increasing their ability to quickly apply the most appropriate responses to local problems. It has improved prospects for developing community relationships, and reduced exposure to potential criminal or insurgent attacks due to fewer long-haul road movements. Stronger management processes, local ownership of the contamination problem and increased knowledge should result.

Throughout 2007 and 2008, MAPA implementing partners continued to be the target of an increasing number of security incidents, ranging from personnel abductions and theft of equipment to direct attacks and ambushes on teams and bases. Over 50 deminers were killed, injured or abducted. Assessments of these attacks have indicated that the once traditional MAPA model of bringing demining teams from one part of the country into areas where different local tribal and community environments exist is one of increasing risk, with the humanitarian nature of the tasks no longer being sufficient to assure the security of teams, despite their historically neutral image.

Unfortunately, many attacks take place in the areas of greatest need for both mine action operations, and humanitarian and development activities, largely in the south and east of Afghanistan. These communities are the most economically marginalized. They have limited state or local support structures, or external assistance due to access or security issues. Recognizing their needs, UNMAS and MACCA, in partnership with the DMC, are committed to finding a way to deliver mine action services in such locations. Extensive consultation with MAPA partners has focused on developing appropriate and secure techniques for doing so.

Central to this approach has been the establishment and expansion of a comprehensive community-based demining programme targeted at areas where other modalities may be less effective or of higher risk, and where the need for mine action is great. This approach has proven to be effective where projects are successfully anchored within the local population (such as in Tora Bora in Nangahar Province of eastern Afghanistan). It is built on the premise that 90 percent of the personnel and resources needed for the project are sourced locally. A small cadre of experienced mine action staff liaise directly with target communities to identify personnel to be hired and trained on site, while supporting vehicles and supplies are rented or procured locally. The strategy has the multiplier effect of bringing income into hundreds of local households as a supplement to their existing earnings (demining is a half-day activity allowing for retention of existing employment), while creating opportunities for additional revenue from subsequent development activities.

In this approach, the concept of *community* is critical. It is not seen strictly as a locality. Based on the environment, a community can be a single village, a cluster of villages in a valley, a district, or two halves of two different districts related by a common cultural group. As such, the local population defines the notion of community. They have ownership of the process to clear threats local to them.

At the same time, the community-based programme opens opportunities for external actors to use mine action as a platform for other development or humanitarian activities. MACCA

envisages carefully designed initiatives building on the foundations of mine clearance to provide sustainable agricultural outreach or local economic programmes, for example. Where possible, links with existing and planned UN humanitarian and development activities can be identified to harmonize approaches and ensure increased impact. Based on the progress achieved in 2008, the programme provides excellent opportunities for replication, as once the model has been implemented in one community, it can be explained and the positive outcomes demonstrated, encouraging participation and execution in neighbouring localities.

This approach is enabling Afghanistan to make otherwise unachievable progress towards its clearance commitments under the mine-ban treaty and Afghanistan Compact. Initial targets include eight districts within Farah, Nimroz, Kandahar and Helmand, with operations having commenced in three.

Another significant achievement during 2008 was the clearance of all hazardous areas within central Bamyan, except those within the World Heritage sites that require expert archaeological guidance. This project, supported entirely by the Government of Japan, resulted in the clearance of almost two square kilometres during the summer of 2008, as well as the conduct of EOD clearance in all 146 villages in the centre of Bamyan. Operations to finalize the clearance of the World Heritage sites will be completed in 2009, with the expert assistance of UNESCO.

In 2008, the first UN-supported competitive tendering process took place in Afghanistan. As a result, targeted mine action operations were executed in two locations in the west of the country, in Shindand and Badghis provinces, with two commercial organizations conducting operations after submitting winning bids.

During the year, MACCA oversaw the deployment of over 500 mine action team assets nationwide. These included 210 manual demining teams, 58 mechanical demining units, 50 mine detection dog assets (sets and groups), 79 EOD teams and 105 mine risk education teams. Twenty-two landmine impact assessment teams were also deployed to conduct an ongoing review of impact survey information and identify the outcomes of previous clearance work. Quality management has now been consolidated into operations to improve efficiencies and is carried out by 63 operations associates throughout the country.

Mine action assets were deployed to meet the planned outputs of the 1386 and 1387 operational work plans, support the regionalization of NGOs, and fulfil requirements for shifts due to the winter and summer seasons.

The resulting operational outputs included the destruction of over 84,000 anti-personnel mines, almost 1,000 anti-tank mines and over 2.5 million ERW. These results were a significant increase over those from 2007, due largely to the increased knowledge of the mine threat from an ongoing national polygon survey, and the deployment of clearance assets into more tightly defined minefield sites. Over 49 square kilometres of minefields and almost 112 square kilometres of former battle area were cleared with mechanical, manual and dog-assisted approaches.

Over 1.4 million people received mine risk education, of whom over 40 percent were female and 70 percent were children. Training for MoE teachers continued, with over 15,000 instructed on mine risk education messages and teaching techniques.

These activities marked significant progress towards mitigating risks to communities and increasing freedom of movement. Throughout 2008, 500 communities had local hazards completely removed, thereby reducing threats to hundreds of thousands of people who had previously been living in proximity to mined areas and former battlefields.

Unfortunately, during the course of the year, 50 deminers suffered accidents during operations, with 46 being injured and four dying.

Based on the ongoing review of the quality management processes in Afghanistan and the continued empowerment of the NGO community, 2008 saw an increased emphasis on ensuring that implementing partners act as owners of the quality management process to reduce the casualty rates. This emphasis will continue in 2009, along with adjustments to the process itself.

Impact

The principal strategic objectives of MAPA remained the survey, marking and clearance of hazardous areas at sites in affected communities, and the provision of targeted mine risk education to at-risk men, women, boys and girls in impacted communities, and returnees at UNHCR assistance centres. In partnership with the DMC and on behalf of the inter-ministerial body for mine action, MACCA continued to plan, coordinate, and provide quality management for mine action in line with the Afghanistan Compact and mine-ban treaty obligations.

These activities were aimed at providing a safe environment for the population, opportunities for development and the continued recovery of the country. Mine action has continued to meet these objectives by delivering consistent and tangible operational outputs, and contributing not only to the safety and security of the population, but also to economic recovery efforts through clearance of land identified for agriculture, pastures, housing and reconstruction. Population mobility in areas once considered inaccessible has increased. Real benefits come when local communities can develop income and trade, and declining casualty rates reduce the stress on overstretched systems to manage disabilities.

Impacts from mine action stretch across sectors and levels, including local populations, communities and groups as well as governance institutions. Economic benefits include the ongoing increase in arable land, which when taken in the context of food insecurity in Afghanistan makes targeted and rapid clearance a priority for any communities where blockages to accessible land exist. The ongoing clearance of secondary routes and roadways frees movement, and supports infrastructure and other forms of development. Priorities include reconstruction of the national grid, pipeline work and tourism opportunities.

Mine action continues to have a significant impact on the development planning of Afghanistan, although its potential contributions to increased economic growth and sustainable development are not yet sufficiently defined. Analysis can be expected to improve over 2009 with the

implementation of a project to better assess mine clearance work and the ongoing development of supporting socioeconomic data.

In 2008, MACCA significantly enhanced its data management processes, and the integration and analysis of key information into planning processes. These steps, coupled with the ongoing execution of the polygon survey, enabled increased focus for mine action operations, and more effective coordination and oversight at the national level. The dividends of this approach are demonstrated in the large increase in mines destroyed during 2008, and ongoing improvements in productivity, safety and effectiveness.

In terms of governance and ownership of the coordination process for mine action, progress occurred in transferring responsibility for the programme from the United Nations to the Government. The areas of mine risk education and victim assistance, and in particular disability assistance, were fully integrated into government structures with MACCA support. The establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Board and identification of the DMC as a MACCA counterpart were other important steps. The fostering of partnerships, integrated planning and the regularization of mine action at the national level represent milestones. The ability of the Government to perform mine action coordination has grown considerably.

Overall, the population of Afghanistan continued to benefit from cleared land that resulted in increased agricultural outputs and more sustainable livelihoods. The opening of routes and opportunities for development continued to improve infrastructure, freedom of movement and access. The institution of community-based approaches and the targeting of the most marginalized communities fostered a stability and security dividend beyond the physical benefits of mine action, while the continued analysis of gender perspectives on mine action enabled more focused delivery and better responses to community needs.

The programme intends to build on these achievements in 2009 through the execution of the most comprehensive and defined plan in its history. Considerably increased support from the international community will be required, however, to meet the goals of the Afghanistan Compact and mine-ban treaty. For 2009 to 2010, this will require over US \$107 million, with over US \$531 million needed to achieve all of the nation's obligations by March 2013. The people of Afghanistan count on this support to reach their goal of being free from the impacts of mines and ERW.

VILLAGERS IN TAKHAR FREE TO FARM AGAIN (Human interest story)

In the north-eastern province of Takhar in Afghanistan, 200 families live in the remote, mine-plagued village of Shaikhandara-e-Bala. A MACCA implementing partner, the Mine Dog & Detection Centre (MDC), started operations in June 2008, clearing two areas. In a ceremony in October, one parcel of 11,563 square metres was returned to village elders. Five areas remain contaminated, and MDC is working to free them.

“For nine years we have been surrounded by landmines laid around our village during the 1996 to 2001 fighting between the Taliban and the Northern Alliance,” said village elder

Najibullah. “Twenty villagers have died and a dozen have been maimed. Landmines have killed around 500 cattle, and 1,000 acres of our agricultural land is not used.”

Another villager, Mohammad Ali, described his personal experience. “I was grazing my cattle when I stepped on a landmine and lost my left leg,” he said.

The villagers have welcomed the clearance. Now their children walk with no fear in formerly mined areas. Poor farmers whose only livelihood is agriculture and livestock can once more cultivate their land.

Since the beginning of the operation, 64 anti-personnel mines have been destroyed. MDC has cleared 1 million square metres of landmines in the north-eastern region as a whole since January 2008. Nineteen anti-tank mines, 438 anti-personnel mines and 48 UXO have been destroyed.

2. CHAD

Highlights

- A mine action component was established within MINURCAT for developing a mine action programme in eastern Chad.
- A commercial mine clearance company was deployed to conduct road verification and EOD in areas of recent conflict.

Context and Challenges

Resolution 1778 (2007) of the Security Council established MINURCAT to help create the security conditions conducive to the voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons.

The MINURCAT Mine Action component deployed in September 2008 as a follow up to recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his August 2007 report (S/2007/488). He proposed a mine action capacity to assist MINURCAT in implementing its mandate. The MINURCAT programme is supplementing efforts carried out by the Commissariat National de Déminage (CND), supported by a UNDP programme. Its objectives are:

- Developing and maintaining a mine action concept of operations and a mine action plan in support of MINURCAT, and establishing liaisons with mine action partners as appropriate; and
- Supporting MINURCAT and other partners (UN agencies and NGOs) through the implementation of road and route assessments in areas of recent conflict, including by gathering, processing and evaluating information on mine and ERW threats in order to ensure freedom of movement for MINURCAT and the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Although it is estimated that the landmine threat is fairly low in eastern Chad, and particularly along the border with the Central African Republic, threats do come from ERW and the potential for newly laid landmines around specific targets. The presence or even perception of landmines and ERW may affect road and route access for UN staff and equipment, hindering humanitarian projects.

The main challenge is ERW contamination, for UN staff and local populations, especially children, refugees and IDPs who are not familiar with the current situation. In 2007, 190 casualties were reported, with an additional 112 between January and September 2008. All roads and routes to be used by MINURCAT, the United Nations and humanitarian agencies need to be assessed and verified as safe for movement. Severe constraints encompass the challenging physical environment, the size of the area and the volatility of the security situation.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

Through a contribution from Japan, UNMAS has helped in recruiting international staff based in Abéché. They work in conjunction with CND Headquarters in Ndjamena, the CND Regional Office in Abéché and the UNDP-supported programme. UNMAS also has assisted donor liaison work, securing funding for mine action activities from the MINURCAT assessed budget and further support from Spain to the VTF.

Coordination and Training

Since 1997, UNDP has been aiding the Government with the coordination of the national mine action programme through UNOPS. Clearance of landmines and ERW in Chad is mostly done through NGOs. Mine risk education and mine victim assistance are carried out by UNICEF and the ICRC. This approach ensures the most effective use of national and international resources. Planning and coordination of mine action activities so far have been based on the results of the Landmine Impact Survey (LIS), new findings, new situations and ad hoc technical surveys, which are the responsibility of the CND.

In 2008, the Government reorganized the CND, creating a high-level committee designated as the national authority for mine action. The committee will monitor and supervise the activities of the CND executive branch.

To ensure that mine action is integrated into broader development, reconstruction and humanitarian programmes, the national mine action plan has been aligned with the Government's overall reconstruction plans, Chad's MDGs and the National Poverty Reduction Strategy. Mine action has been included in the UN CCA and UNDAF, which have been approved by the Government. UNDP's Country Programme Document for Chad, prepared as the framework for interventions from 2006 to 2010, is rooted in Chad's national development priorities and goals, and was prepared with inputs from and consultations with all key stakeholders, including line ministries, civil society, UN agencies and donors.

While UNMAS and UNDP agreed that UNDP would take the UN lead on mine action institutional development in 2008 and beyond, the MINURCAT programme will also assist in strengthening capacity building for CND staff, with a particular focus on information and quality management. UNMAS, once fully deployed, will have the UN operational lead for mine action in eastern Chad (including external quality assurance and quality control for UNOPS contracts whenever possible), in close consultation with the CND Regional Office in Abéché.

Operations

Field operations initiated from Abéché were scheduled to commence in December 2008. Initial tasks include the implementation of the road verification and clearance project through the contractor Minetech International, and the establishment of the Information Management System

for Mine Action (IMSMA). As of December 2008, there were no UNMAS-sponsored mine risk education or other operational activities underway.

As part of its efforts in eastern Chad in 2008, the CND-UNDP mine action programme cleared 52 square kilometres of land and destroyed 5,240 pieces of UXO.

Impact

The MINURCAT mine action programme is still in the developmental phase, with funding secured from the MINURCAT budget to support work until June 2009. The volatile security situation in the region has significantly affected mine action efforts, with limited activities underway by very few commercial organizations and NGOs. The focus in 2009 will be on collaboration among the CND, UNMAS, UNDP and other partners, with the role of MINURCAT increasing as the environment becomes more conducive to operations.

While emphasizing support to MINURCAT operational requirements, the MINURCAT mine action programme will also assist in enhancing the operational and managerial capacities of the CND, and will contribute to the efforts of the Government of Chad to mitigate risks to communities and expand freedom of movement in the eastern part of the country. CND's efforts have been made possible in 2008 through multilateral and bilateral contributions from the governments of Canada, Japan and Libya. Additionally, CND and UNDP have received in-kind contributions of magnetic locators from the Schonstedt Humanitarian Demining Initiative in the United States.

Clearing Abougoulem, Aiming for Safe Water (Human interest story)

MAG was contracted by UNOPS in May 2008 for emergency EOD in eastern Chad. The first deployment was in Abougoulem, 85 kilometres west of Abéché. Since the rebel attacks of February 2008, a number of small villages are known to be surrounded by ERW. Access to the Oued River was dangerous because it entailed crossing the battlefield. A lot of abandoned or unexploded ammunition had been stored underground by the villagers.

Activity started during the rainy season with two EOD teams located in school premises, since they are closed at that time. All authorities supported the deployment and provided useful information. The police station chief indicated a secure place to store all items removed from the battlefield to the demolition area.

After four weeks, MAG teams had destroyed around four tons of ammunition and cleared eight square kilometres of land around the villages. Families can now go to the river for gardening and access to water. Children play football in a former battlefield. With no more accidents recorded since July 2008, life has become easier and safer.

There is the potential as well for further improvements. When arriving in the area, MAG staff member were surprised to discover that the village had no wells for safe water. They hope that after the clearance, there will be efforts to provide humanitarian aid and water points.

Between July and early December 2008, MAG as a whole surveyed 132 square kilometres in eastern Chad, cleared 52 square kilometres of land and destroyed 12 tons of ammunition.

3. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Highlights

- The MACC's operational capacities increased through the deployment of two additional international mine action operators.
- A national focal point structure was created in March 2008, and a national focal point appointed within the Ministry of Interior.
- A draft mine action law was accepted by Parliament, and reviewed and endorsed by the Defense and Security Commission, pending ratification.
- Clearance productivity has increased by 30 percent.
- Twenty percent of reported dangerous areas have been dealt with, meaning that a total of 18.8 million square metres of land have been returned to communities for their use.

Context and Challenges

All provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo are affected by landmines and/or ERW. Demining operations have focused on those provinces where data confirm the highest levels of contamination: Equateur, Province Orientale, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Katanga. To date, 2,167 victims of mines and ERW have been reported: 1,387 men, 520 women and 260 unknown. In 2008, the security situation deteriorated in the eastern part of the country (Province Orientale and North Kivu), leading to the temporary suspension of demining operations.

As part of its broader support of the MONUC mandate, mine action is also undertaken to support local communities, and help IDPs and refugees return through assistance from UNHCR and OCHA. A humanitarian challenge is the estimated 2 million IDPs moving from North Kivu and Province Orientale. That situation requires mine action to focus on emergency mine risk education.

The MACC's mandate is defined by Security Council Resolution 1291 (2000) to support MONUC deployment by carrying out and coordinating mine action activities. Resolutions 1756 (2007) and 1856 (2008) request MONUC to contribute to enhancing Congolese demining capacities.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS HQ

UNMAS supported the mine action programme by deploying an evaluation mission in April 2008 and an inter-agency operational evaluation in October 2008. Implementation of the recommendations was supported through the provision of financial resources, political support and technical guidance.

UNMAS facilitated the confirmation of MONUC's mine action role in Security Council Resolution 1856 (2008). It deployed a temporary consultant to further support the programme in resource mobilization.

Coordination and Training

In 2008, the MACC contributed to the logistical and administrative support of implementing partners, and to their accreditation and tasking. It carried out quality control for their activities.

In addition to its coordination work, the MACC has helped foster national political interest in mine action. This was illustrated by the 2008 nomination of a national mine action focal point by the Minister of Interior, and the acceptance by the National Assembly of the draft mine action law, which was endorsed by the Defense and Security Commission. The MACC assisted the Government in preparing for the legislative process.

In 2008, government representatives attended the Oslo meeting to open the signing of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Consultations have taken place around signing the convention.

The Democratic Republic of Congo has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; ratification is in process. In the meantime, the national focal point for victim assistance has mobilized civil society and drafted a proposed draft law for different provinces.

Within MONUC, the MACC is represented on the Senior Management Team, Programme Management Team and UN Country Team. It also participates in the Humanitarian Advocacy Group and the Protection Cluster.

Operations

The MACC is active under each of the five pillars of mine action. Under mine clearance, surveys, clearance and mine risk education activities have been carried out by three international NGOs (MAG, DanChurchAid or DCA, and Handicap International Belgium or HI) and one commercial contractor (MECHEM). In 2008, an additional contractor, The Development Initiative (TDI), began conducting survey and clearance operations in southern regions. Mine detection dog and mechanical capacities were deployed by MSB in Katanga. In terms of stockpile destruction, all known stocks of landmines and other ammunitions have been destroyed. Considering ongoing fighting in the eastern region, however, new stocks of abandoned ammunitions are likely to be discovered.

A mine risk education workshop was organized in Bukavu (South Kivu) with the objective of harmonizing mine risk education tools. To advance victim assistance, the Ministry of Health undertook an advocacy campaign for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In 2008, the mine action programme was funded from the MONUC assessed budget; multilateral contributions of the governments of Japan, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom; and bilateral funding from Denmark, the European Commission and Sweden.

Summary of Mine Action Activities (2005-2008)

		Mines	UXO	Misc.	Persons	Sessions		
2005	459 758	1 149	17 135	75 952	55 405	422	553	428
2006	722 204	540	8 758	79 922	181 556	1 166	468*	164
2007	420 050	155	31 384	128 357	545 324	2 866	232*	101
2008	525 898	20	5 068	102 692	475 429	2 274	153*	136
November 08	28 464	5	1 480	298	42 615	151	18	0
TOTAL	2 156 374	1 869	63 825	387 221	1 300 329	6 879	1 424	829

Impact

The impact of landmines and ERW on the lives of affected communities, particularly the large numbers of returning IDPs and refugees, is very high. Access to agricultural land, water collection points, social infrastructure, market places and neighbouring villages is blocked. Most mine and ERW accidents occur in the course of daily livelihood activities.

Although movements of IDPs and refugees increased in 2008, the number of identified victims stabilized at around 100 per year, partially as a possible result of mine risk education activities that reached nearly half a million people. Following survey and clearance activities, more than half a million square metres of land were released in 2008, allowing dozens of communities and thousands of people to live in safer environments and resume basic socioeconomic activities.

Kabumba Village: The War Has Ended, the Mines Remain (human interest story)

Kabumba is a small, remote village in Katanga Province in eastern Congo. Situated alongside the mighty Congo River, it was once a prosperous place, famous for its fishing. Numerous traders came from surrounding areas to buy fish that they would sell in nearby villages and territories. About 300 people lived there prior to the war, while several thousand people indirectly benefited from the fish and agricultural trade.

The five-year conflict from 1998 to 2003 that pitted Congolese government forces (supported by Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe) against various rebel forces (backed by Rwanda and Uganda) put an abrupt end to the socioeconomic development of Kabumba.

During the war, the Zimbabwean forces established themselves in Kabumba as they fought the Rwandan Army in the nearby town of Kabalo, 17 kilometres to the north. After the Zimbabwean soldiers ordered the population to desert the area, the once thriving village of Kabumba became little more than a military camp. Its population was subjected to a tidal wave of millions of refugees. The whole area subsequently became a frontline and the theatre of fierce fighting. All parties were heavily armed and strategically buried mines along the roads, near bridges and in numerous villages of the area. In the case of Kabumba, the Zimbabwean forces defended themselves with a defensive minefield around the village.

This hidden and deadly legacy now prevents the displaced population from returning home, even though the war has ended and the soldiers have left. In addition, the agricultural land around the village is contaminated, which seriously hampers any prospect of economic growth for returnees. Mines block access to the forest, river and two surrounding villages.

To address this situation, DCA began demining operations in Kabumba in July 2006. Large numbers of mines and booby traps have been discovered in very complicated patterns and dangerous positions. The clearance has allowed the population to progressively return to Kabumba—130 people now inhabit the village. Agricultural activities are gradually increasing as a result of the regular handover of safe areas. Socioeconomic activities will only be fully restored, however, once the area has been completely cleared.

4. ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- More than 300,000 square metres of land were cleared and returned to communities, mainly for farming and cattle grazing.
- More than 3,800 kilometres of roads were cleared or verified to be clear of mines, thus supporting the mobility of UNMEE personnel and freedom of movement for civilians.
- A successful programme closure and liquidation process was effectively completed subsequent to the mission mandate being terminated on 31 July 2008.

Context and Challenges

Landmine and ERW contamination in and around the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) came from Eritrea's struggle for independence from Ethiopia from 1962 to 1991, and the two-year war with Ethiopia from 1998 to 2000. Landmines and ERW remain a major threat to people living and working in the disputed border area. In accordance with UN mine action strategic objectives 1 and 2, activities in 2008 included releasing land needed by communities, taking a gender-sensitive approach to the provision of mine risk education, and EOD to ensure the safety of local populations. Fundamental to UNMEE mine action is the need to ensure the safe movement of peacekeepers and mission personnel.

The programme was severely hampered by fuel shortages and other constraints throughout the early part of 2008, with UNMEE ultimately having its mandate terminated by the Security Council in July of that year. A detailed plan to shift capacity to the Ethiopian side of the TSZ was effected in a carefully phased operation timed to ensure that UNMEE mobility was assured throughout. Clearance operations in Eritrea ceased in February, with mine risk education outreach ending by March (aside from training new UNMEE staff, which continued throughout).

The State of Eritrea acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty on 27 August 2001, and the treaty entered into force on 1 February 2002. Eritrea has not enacted domestic legislation or reported any new national measures to implement the treaty, as required by Article 9. Eritrea is not a state party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia signed the mine-ban treaty on 3 December 1997, ratified it on 17 December 2004 and became a state party on 1 June 2005. Ethiopia has not yet reported any steps (such as penal sanctions) to implement the treaty domestically, as required by Article 9. Ethiopia is not a state party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

UNMEE's mandate was limited to the 25-kilometre-wide TSZ and adjacent areas, 15 kilometres on either side. The MACC undertook liaison work with national authorities in Eritrea and Ethiopia, providing support to national priorities whenever possible within its mandated area. Discussions were carried out with both the Eritrean Demining Authority (EDA) and the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) in 2008 to develop a plan for transferring nationally segregated IMSMA data and identifying options for asset disposal. UNMAS has provided substantial donations of equipment to both the EDA and EMAO with the closure of the mission.

The MACC's mine action achievements were regarded as critical for UNMEE's mandated tasks and a safe mission closure.

Casualty figures ceased to be recorded with the formal end of the mandate in July 2008, and the MACC's visibility was limited to the TSZ. There were two recorded mine incidents in 2008 generating 19 casualties, three of them fatal.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS headquarters provided technical oversight and guidance to the programme, including by conducting a technical mission to the region. UNMAS worked with UNMEE, UNOPS and DPKO/DFS to manage the transition from an active programme to full liquidation. UNMAS continued to ensure that sufficient mine action funds were available from the assessed peacekeeping budget and voluntary contributions from Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and Spain.

Coordination and Training

The MACC continued to refine its plans to provide mine action support for demarcation, although the dissolution of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and the subsequent termination of the mission, precluded any concrete advances in this area.

The MACC was responsible for ensuring that all demining operators working within UNMEE were accredited and adhered to IMAS. Accreditation and quality assurance activities were conducted with MECHEM's mechanical operators and mine detection dog handlers. MACC staff and mine risk education teams conducted safety briefings for newly arrived UNMEE personnel, as well as for staff from NGOs and other UN agencies.

Operations

The MACC's work plan was based primarily on strategic objectives 1 and 2 of the *United Nations Inter-agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*, and supported the implementation of various Security Council mandates and amendments. Operational activities were focused on ensuring freedom of movement for UNMEE staff and projects, supporting the humanitarian goals of the mission by decreasing casualty rates within the MACC's area of operations (a task made more difficult by the recurring use of anti-vehicle mines by unknown parties), and facilitating access to land predominantly for agricultural purposes. The MACC also had a mandate to support the demarcation of the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea, if that process was undertaken.

The bulk of funding for the MACC was provided from the UNMEE assessed budget, with approximately five percent of the total effort supported by the VTF through contributions from Spain and the United Kingdom, and by unearmarked funds.

The MACC continued to coordinate and conduct demining operations in the TSZ and adjacent areas to support UNMEE and clear land to aid the humanitarian goals of the mission where possible until fuel shortages and other impediments saw the cessation of operations in February 2008. In total, some 300,000 square metres of land were cleared and handed over to local communities for agricultural purposes, 950 kilometres of roads were cleared, and 2,485 kilometres of roads were assessed and verified. Mine clearance and EOD teams destroyed 473 items of UXO, 2 anti-tank mines and 379 anti-personnel mines. From March, the primary operational focus became ensuring safe mobility for UNMEE movements in anticipation of either a mission reorientation to the Ethiopian side of the border or a mission closure.

Supporting National Initiatives Through Equipment Donations

Due to the termination of the mission, a number of equipment items will be donated to the EDA and EMAO. All items, donated upon approval by the General Assembly, will contribute to the successful implementation of both organizations' humanitarian demining activities in 2009.

In Eritrea, the National Mine Action Strategic Plan's vision is an Eritrea where the physical environment will permit free movement, uninhibited development and poverty reduction initiatives; where victims are assisted and integrated into society; and where there are no new victims from mines and UXO.

The EDA's requirements for 2009 and beyond are to develop national operational capacities to conduct clearance, mine risk education and EOD activities. MACC items that have been handed over to the EDA include vehicles, information and communications technology, mine clearance items, medical supplies and furniture. These will support the EDA in setting up headquarters and field teams to implement planned humanitarian demining activities.

In 2009, EMAO intends to demine 5.9 square kilometres of landmine- and UXO-contaminated land in the Tigray and Somali regions. EMAO's mine risk education and community liaison officers are expected to provide mine awareness sessions to 50,000 persons, both female and male, living in the suspected hazardous areas.

In addition to its northern branch office in Tigray, EMAO intends to establish a new branch office in the Somali region to adequately support the increasing number of mine clearance activities planned there. The area has been identified by the LIS as the most mine-contaminated region in the country.

EMAO's humanitarian demining activities contribute to fulfilling Ethiopia's mine-ban treaty commitments and its poverty reduction strategy goals, in particular through improved food security and agricultural development. EMAO expressed great gratitude to the MACC and its donors for their support, and requests continued assistance.

5. LEBANON

Highlights

- The Transition Strategy and Memorandum of Understanding for handing over coordination of humanitarian demining to the national authority as of January 2009 were signed.
- Fourteen minefields adjacent to the Blue Line, the border between Lebanon and Israel, were cleared.
- A majority of high-priority clearance targets were completed.

Context and Challenges

Following the 2006 conflict that contaminated south Lebanon with hundreds of thousands of unexploded cluster munitions, unexploded aerial bombs and other types of UXO, the second full year of clearance efforts took place in 2008. In the spring, the MACC-SL conducted an operational reassessment to review new and existing data on the contaminated areas in south Lebanon. The review established that some previously known and recorded strikes were bigger than originally estimated. As a result, the estimated contaminated area has increased to 48.1 million square metres, as opposed to the original estimate of 32 million square metres used for operational planning immediately after the war, and the estimated 38.7 million square metres at the end of 2007.

The MACC-SL in 2008 continued to focus on clearing high-priority areas, defined as, “Strikes located in or within 500m of towns or residential housing.”¹⁵ In seeking to mitigate the risk to community livelihoods and expand the freedom of movement for at least 80 percent of the most seriously affected communities, the MACC-SL has cleared 95 percent of high-priority areas. The remaining dangerous areas are 5 percent high priority, 40 percent medium priority and 55 percent low priority.

Unexploded cluster munitions and UXO have impeded the livelihoods and threatened the safety of civilians in south Lebanon. Since the cessation of hostilities on 14 August 2006, 217 civilian casualties due to unexploded cluster munitions have been reported, 20 of which were fatal. In the same period, there have been 47 civilian casualties reported due to other UXO, including 7 fatalities. Clearance operations since August 2006 have resulted in 41 injuries and 14 fatalities. The group at greatest risk is young men over 18 years of age, representing 58 percent of the total victims from unexploded cluster munitions. Females over 18 years of age account for 7 percent, and children and youths comprise 35 percent.

In relation to Strategic Objective 1 in the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*, on reducing death and injury by at least 50 percent, the clearance efforts have substantially decreased the average number of casualties.

¹⁵ The definition of high-priority areas in Lebanon is related to Strategic Objective 2 in the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*.

In 2008, the monthly average number of victims was less than 2, a significant decrease from the average of 35 per month after the ceasefire in August 2006. The number of victims in the first four and a half months after the conflict makes up 72 percent of the total number of victims from unexploded cluster munitions. Eighteen percent of all casualties happened in 2007, and 10 percent in 2008.

The MACC-SL is responsible for the effective, safe and efficient management of cluster munitions and landmine clearance operations in south Lebanon in accordance with IMAS and National Technical Standards and Guidelines. It is a joint structure staffed by personnel from UNMAS and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), who together provided operational coordination, planning and quality assurance functions in 2008 for up to 48 battle area clearance teams, one EOD team and two mechanical teams.

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1832 (2008), the MACC-SL supports and coordinates its operations with UNIFIL, which has a capacity of on average eight battle area clearance teams and eight EOD teams, depending on the rotations of troop contributing countries. These are trained and accredited by the MACC-SL. Once accredited, some of the UNIFIL teams are tasked by the MACC-SL when conducting battle area clearance, mine clearance and EOD operations.

Additionally, the MACC-SL supports UNIFIL through IMSMA mapping of contaminated areas for UNIFIL headquarters, battalions and the UN Truce Supervision Organization, Observer Group Lebanon (UNTSO OGL). It conducts liaison work with UNIFIL operations and liaison branches on the deployment of non-UNIFIL clearance assets, including the notification and coordination of demolition windows. Regular updates go to UNIFIL's Tripartite Committee. The MACC-SL also prepares language for the Secretary-General's reports on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006), and this is done by UNMAS HQ.

Directly linked to strategic objectives 3 and 4 of the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*, the transition process is underway to hand over primary responsibility for managing humanitarian clearance operations to the LAF in the form of the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC) on 1 January 2009. The transition process is part of the integration of mine action needs into Lebanon's national development and reconstruction plans. It is assisting the continued development of national institutions to manage the landmine and ERW threat through capacity development. The transition will divide the joint LAF-UN structure of the existing MACC-SL, with the LAF officers currently working at the MACC-SL becoming part of the new Regional Mine Action Centre in Nabatieh (RMAC-N). Remaining MACC-SL staff will work specifically in support of UNIFIL and troop contributing countries' clearance and EOD assets. The United Nations will support this transition through the donation of required capital equipment and an in-kind donation of 12 national and 1 international UN staff to work with the RMAC-N in 2009.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

The MACC-SL was selected as the 2008 recipient of the Nansen Refugee Award for taking the lead in the international effort to clean up deadly cluster munitions threatening the lives of civilians in south Lebanon after the 2006 conflict. The award is given annually to an individual or organization for outstanding work on behalf of refugees. It includes a US \$100,000 prize, to be donated to the recipient's project of choice.

In July 2008, the MACC-SL was awarded a UN 21 Awards commendation for its rapid response to the 2006 crisis and continued efforts into 2008. The MACC-SL also received a UN 21 Awards commendation in 2005 for excellence and outstanding inter-agency coordination.

On 3 December 2008, Lebanon was one of 94 countries that signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This underscores the Government's commitment to the fulfilment of Strategic Objective 3 in the UN mine action strategy. The convention also obliges nations to destroy all stockpiles within 8 years and to clear contaminated land within 10. Lebanon played a highly influential role during the negotiations of the treaty due to the massive use of cluster munitions in south Lebanon in 2006.

UNMAS' headquarters staff conducted three field missions to south Lebanon in 2008 (including a joint technical mission with UNOPS) to hold consultations with partners and donors, visit operational activities, and support the coordination of the transition to national responsibility for the programme. Headquarters staff continued to mobilize resources from the UN peacekeeping assessed budget and voluntary contributions.

Coordination and Training

Throughout 2008, the MACC-SL coordinated and conducted quality assurance of all clearance activities of seven organizations (with a total of 932 personnel): BACTEC, DCA, HI, MAG, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), MSB and the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD).

The MACC-SL continues to conduct weekly operational planning and coordination meetings, which are attended by the representatives of the UNIFIL Combat Engineer Section, the UNIFIL Liaison Branch, UNTSO OGL, the LMAC, all clearance organizations and the MACC Operations Branch. The main coordination function entails ensuring that all parties are kept informed of the location and tasking of the operational elements of the clearance companies. In particular, notifications of demolitions to the Lebanese authorities and the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) are done through UNIFIL. Regular updates of technical clearance issues are provided.

The MACC-SL maintains a presence at weekly UN inter-agency coordination meetings to provide updates and respond to specific requests for information.

UNIFIL also requested the assistance of the MACC-SL to support the Pilot Border Marking Project, which is coordinated by the UNIFIL Tripartite Committee with the IDF and the

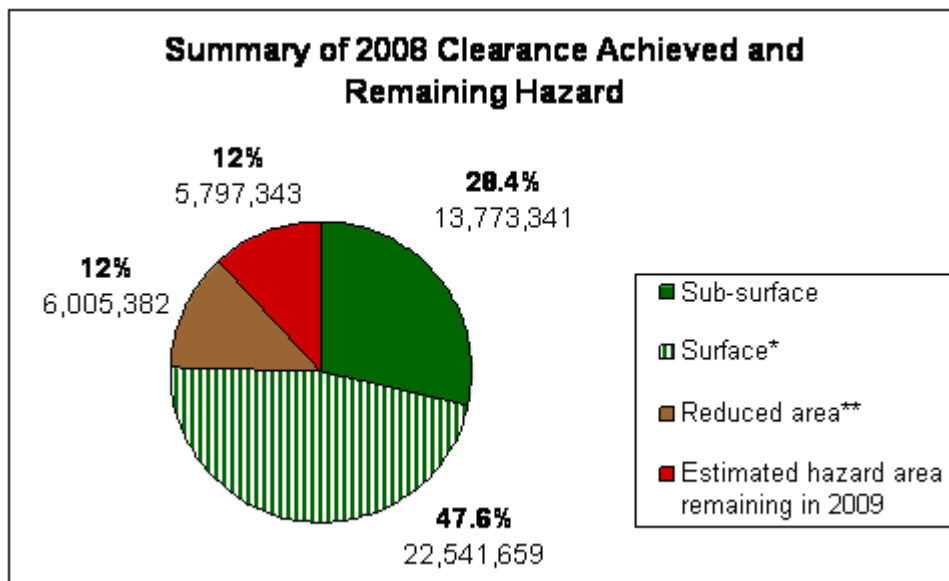
LAF, aimed at visibly marking a section of the Blue Line. As of the end of 2008, the parties had agreed to the coordinates for some 20 points, on half of which Blue Line barrels had been erected. Throughout 2007 and 2008, the MACC-SL trained Chinese Battalion (CHINBATT) troops to clear landmines in accordance with IMAS in order to open access lanes between the barrels. CHINBATT has been working with the MACC-SL and MSB in support of this objective. Successful completion of clearance along the Blue Line will promote long-term stabilization and reconstruction efforts.

In February 2008, the UNMACC and LMAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding effective until December 31, 2008. It outlines roles and responsibilities, and includes a commitment to the transition process in 2009. The UNMACC, through its office in Beirut, continues to provide ongoing information to embassies and acts as the link to the Office of the Special Coordinator for Lebanon.

Operations

From August 2006 to December 2008, the MACC-SL coordinated the clearance and reduction of 42.5 million square metres of the estimated 48.1 million square metres of contaminated areas through the joint efforts of the LAF, UNIFIL, the United Nations and bilaterally funded clearance organizations. Since the end of the 2006 conflict, a total of 153,958 cluster munitions have been located and destroyed.

The lack of detailed strike data from Israel has prevented accurate and comprehensive planning, and has required constantly adjusting operational planning to meet conditions on the ground as new strike areas are discovered. The operational reassessment in the spring of 2008 increased the known contaminated area by nearly 10 million square metres to 48.1 million square metres. At the close of operations in 2008, clearance of 88 percent of the total known contaminated area in south Lebanon had occurred. In addition to the known remaining contaminated land, some of the land that has been surface cleared will require sub-surface clearance. The remaining area to be cleared in 2009 is estimated at approximately 12 million square metres.



Note: Total area is 48.1 million square metres.

* Areas cleared only on the surface are subject to further evaluations as to whether they will also have to be cleared sub-surface. It is currently estimated that 25 percent of surface-cleared areas will require further sub-surface clearance during 2009 and beyond.

** Reduced area refers to strike areas that, as a result of actions other than clearance, are considered not to represent a risk from unexploded sub-munitions.

In 2008, the Canadian Government provided funding through the VTF for clearing 14 minefields adjacent to the Blue Line. The Al Aadeisse Minefields Project was successfully completed within 49 days, during which 70,000 square metres were cleared, and 4,569 mines were removed and destroyed. The project was the first of its kind along the Blue Line, and is in many respects viewed as a confidence and peace-building measure.

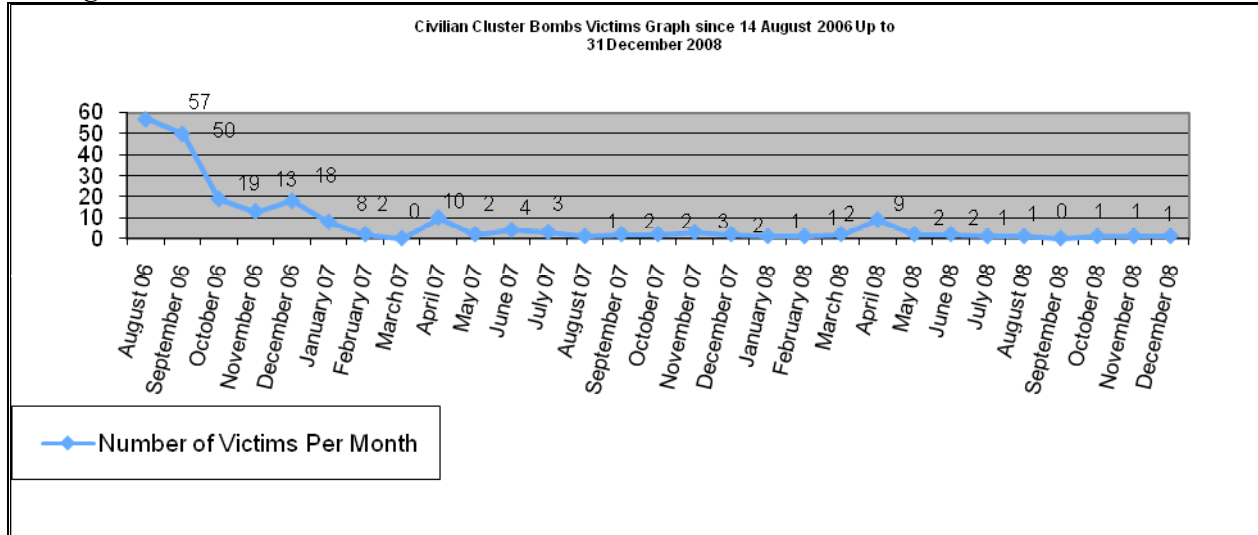
These operational achievements would not have been possible without strong support from donors who provided the required funds through the VTF, and bilaterally to the clearance organizations operating in south Lebanon. In 2008, contributions to the VTF were provided by Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Commission, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and the United States supported mine action activities bilaterally.

Significant progress has been made in fulfilling the objectives of the jointly coordinated UNMAS and UNDP project, “Social and Economic Empowerment of Cluster Bomb-Affected Communities,” which was funded by the Government of Japan through the UNTFHS during its second year of implementation. The project includes clearing unexploded cluster munitions through two battle area clearance teams from MAG, implementing post-clearance projects and building local capacities through vocational training workshops. From the beginning of the project in March 2007 until 31 December 2008, the two teams have cleared a total of 815,758 square metres, and located and destroyed 694 cluster munitions and 48 UXO items. Post-clearance projects include the provision of cows and nylon greenhouses to economically vulnerable families, and the development of public gardens in communities affected by cluster bombs.

Impact

Unexploded cluster munitions and UXO continue to kill and injure people in south Lebanon, but the MACC-SL’s operations have contributed to a marked decrease in new casualties, from 50 in September 2006 (first full month after the war) to 1 in December 2008 (see graph).

Civilian Cluster Bomb Victims 14 August 2006 to 31 December 2008



Clearance efforts have also saved livelihoods. By ensuring that clearance priorities are closely linked to the agricultural cycle, the MACC-SL has, to a great extent, enabled civilians working in the agricultural sector to resume their activities with minimal personal risk. This normalization of activities complements the economic development initiatives of other non-governmental and UN agencies.

An Award for Courage and Painstaking Work

On 6 October 2008, the MACC-SL was awarded UNHCR's top honor, the Nansen Refugee Award. The award is named after Nobel Peace laureate Fridtjof Nansen, who was the first UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and is given annually to an individual or organization for outstanding work on behalf of refugees. The MACC-SL and 1,000 deminers were selected for the award for their courageous efforts to clear south Lebanon of cluster munitions and other ERW that impeded the safe return of civilians uprooted during the conflict. In the words of current High Commissioner António Guterres: "Through their painstaking work and devotion, the teams created the conditions for a safe and dignified return home for almost 1 million displaced Lebanese."

The winner of the award may donate the \$100,000 prize to a cause of his or her choice. The MACC-SL, under the direction of the post-clearance officer and in cooperation with UNHCR and the Lebanese NGO Protection for the Environment, offered the money to purchase cows for 43 families in 7 villages who depend on their livestock for their livelihood and had lost animals as a result of the 2006 conflict. Their limited working capital had made it extremely difficult to procure new cows. Estimates based on average milk production, and the prices and sale of offspring, suggest that each cow will generate approximately US \$4,000 a year for recipient families.

The families were selected based on a needs assessment carried out by MACC-SL community liaison officers, the implementing NGO and municipal leaders. The cows were distributed in ceremonies in each village.

Mohammad Sheet from the village of Kafarkila was one of six recipients whose family received a cow at the distribution ceremony held there on 19 December 2008. Mr. Sheet lost four of his five cows during the conflict and had been unable to replace any of them. He spoke optimistically about the future of his livelihood with the addition of a second cow, noting that the additional income generated by the sale of the milk of the second cow would allow him to better support his wife and four children, but also save some money and soon purchase another animal. Mr. Sheet's situation mirrors that of many farmers throughout south Lebanon where cattle represent a primary—if not the sole—source of income for their owners. The loss of cattle during the war, coupled with contamination by cluster bombs, had significantly reduced the overall productive capacity and economic stability of the village.

Clearance of cluster munitions in south Lebanon is the first step towards the rehabilitation of affected communities. The development of post-clearance activities, the rehabilitation of livelihoods and confidence-building measures in affected communities constitute an important movement from emergency relief from immediate humanitarian threats to the sustainable development of communities and their way of life. In emphasizing this area of mine action, the MACC-SL continues its progress from focusing on post-conflict emergency responses to supporting the rehabilitation of livelihoods in affected communities.

6. NEPAL

Highlights

- Projects to assist in the safe handling and demolition of improvised arms collected in all seven Maoist cantonments were completed.
- National capacity was enhanced and sustained through the fielding of trained army supervisors for clearance teams.
- Five Nepal Army minefields were cleared by November.
- The first field based UNMAT was formed.
- An assessment of the Nepal Army's EOD and IED response capacity was initiated, along with a capacity-building project in partnership with the British Embassy.
- UNMAT participated in the Southeast Asia Pacific regional workshop on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons held in Kathmandu from 17 to 19 December.

Context and Challenges

From 1996 to 2006, there was an armed conflict between the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and several successive governments that tried unsuccessfully to contain the Maoist army. The Nepal Police initially dealt with the insurgency, but the Nepal Army was actively involved from 2000 onward. The conflict has been typified by violent clashes with Maoists who relied on homemade bombs because they lacked funds and access to commercially manufactured weapons. The police and army also used improvised weapons.

In 2005, efforts began to reach a peaceful settlement to the conflict. On the basis of Security Council Resolution 1740 (2007), the United Nations launched UNMIN in early 2007 to assist the Seven Party Alliance Government and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists) to implement the 21 November 2006 Comprehensive Peace Accord and Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies (CPA).

Constituent Assembly elections were held in April 2008, after two postponements in 2007. A coalition Government was formed for the first time in the history of Nepal. The first Prime Minister, President and Vice-President were elected and sworn in. There are still major challenges facing the implementation of the CPA and the formation of a new federal Constitution. The current UNMIN mandate, set to expire on 23 July 2009, was extended three times since UNMIN was established on 23 January 2007.

The conflict resulted in landmine and ERW contamination across the country. Prior to the establishment of UNMIN, UNICEF, in partnership with a local human rights organization, the Informal Sector Service Centre, introduced a comprehensive surveillance system that reported victim-activated explosions. Initially a media-based reporting system, it later received active support from centre affiliates in each of the 75 districts in the country. As of October 2008, 62 people were killed or injured in 32 explosions; 69 percent were males, and 65 percent were children.

The number of victims in 2008 was the lowest since data collection began in 2004. Strategic Objective 1 of the *United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010*, on the “reduction of death and injury by at least 50 percent,” has been achieved in 2008 in Nepal. Nonetheless, landmines—and to a larger extent ERW typified by improvised devices—continue to pose a humanitarian threat, and an obstacle to peace, reconciliation and development.

Gender and Age Breakdown of People Affected by Mines and IEDs
1 January to 31 October 2008

Type of casualties	Number of children (below 18)		Number of adults (above 18)		Subtotal Injury and death
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Injured	28	10	13	7	58
Killed	1	1	1	1	4
Subtotal	29	11	14	8	62

Total Number of People Affected by Mines and IEDs
1 January 2005 to 31 October 2008

	Male	Female	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown	
2005	33	13	16	60	13	7	142
2006	49	30	0	65	23	2	169
2007	35	18	0	39	9	0	101
2008 (January to October)	14	8	0	29	11	0	62

Mine action is a key element of the national development and reconstruction plans for Nepal, as highlighted in strategic objectives 3 and 4 of the UN mine action strategy. It is also specifically referenced in the CPA. The Nepal Government has yet to accede to the mine-ban treaty or sign the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, however, and has not expressed any commitment to adopt the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In 2008, the Government signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and signaled it intends to ratify the convention following legislative endorsement.

The political and security situations in Nepal posed a challenge to mine action in 2008, with a volatile environment leading up to and during elections. Demining operations were halted in July as the programme waited for a letter of invitation from the Government to continue with

operations. This was not received until 3 October 2008. It paved the way for the resumption of demining activities, with training held in November and operational demining activities underway in December.

The mine action programme in Nepal, originally part of UNMIN and titled the Mine Action Unit (MAU), officially separated from UNMIN at the end of its initial mandate on 23 July 2008. With this separation, the new UNMAT was formally established. It consists of the former MAU as well as UNICEF, and constitutes the first field application of the holistic and collaborative mine action approach already in place at UN headquarters. UNMAT works closely with UNMIN and other agencies in Nepal in support of Security Council Resolution 1825 and the implementation of the CPA.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS provided substantive programme support throughout the year and critical assistance with the negotiations for the continuation of the MAU after the anticipated end of UNMIN on 23 July 2008. The UNMAS officer-in-charge of the Programme Section visited Nepal during the second week of July to assist the team with the transition and ensure minimal interruption to the mine action activities.

UNMAS continued to provide assistance and coordination through the formation of UNMAT, separation from UNMIN and a transition to working under the UN resident coordinator's Office.

In January, recommendations were released by the UNMAS-led inter-agency assessment mission to identify long-term requirements for mine action and propose options for post-UNMIN assistance.

Following the successful completion of the IED destruction project in late June, a detailed summary of the project, its achievement and recommendations was presented to the Joint Monitoring Coordinating Committee.

Coordination and Training

According to the CPA, both sides in the conflict shall assist each other to mark landmines and booby traps, and to "defuse and excavate" those items. To meet this objective, the CPA states that "all improvised explosive devices will be collected at designated sites at a safe distance from the main cantonment areas [and] unsuitable devices will be destroyed immediately." Additionally, the agreement states, "The parties will provide maps and sketches showing current dispositions...of minefields, landmines, unexploded ordnance, standard explosives, improvised explosive devices and exact location of such items." This was to be done by providing necessary information within 30 days, and defusing, removing and/or destroying them within 60 days.

While the timelines included in the agreement were unrealistic even if a high level of capacity had existed, the two sides remain obliged to comply with the commitments they have made. The

provision of maps and sketches, which is relevant mostly for the Nepal Army, has been partially achieved. The Nepal Army has submitted maps of all 53 minefields, but details on the 275 or more security positions reinforced with command-detonated devices had not been disclosed by the end of 2008.

UNMAT has worked with the Maoist army in the management and demolition of IEDs. A British commercial company, ArmorGroup, was contracted for this purpose. ArmorGroup conducted an audit of all the IEDs in storage, which amounted to 6,790 kilogrammes of net explosive content, and more than 52,000 explosive devices, detonators, bulk explosive factory-made munitions and other explosive accessories. Of the devices surrendered, 97.5 percent were deemed too dangerous to store by the MAU and slated for destruction. The destruction programme, concluded in June, resulted in the elimination of all Priority 1 items in all major cantonment sites. ArmorGroup finished operations on 15 July 2008, working through a cooperative process with the Maoist army and MAU.

UNMAT continues to assist the Nepal Army in enhancing capacities to clear the Army's 53 minefields and more than 275 security positions reinforced with IEDs. Clearance complies with IMAS through the provision of training and supervision of activities by UNMAT. As of November 2008, the Army had cleared five minefields, under the guidance and supervision of MAU and ArmorGroup. Three other minefields have been partially cleared.

In addition to advising and providing oversight for demining, UNMAT conducts significant planning and coordination to ensure the development of the Army's capacity for managing these activities. While this capacity is not fully developed, significant improvements have been made. Additional demining and managerial training at all levels will continue through 2009. Nepal will require adequate national structures to address its extensive ERW contamination over the long-term. This strategy is a direct application of Strategic Objective 4 of the UN mine action strategy. It will "assist the development of national institutions to manage the landmine/ERW threat" and meet the indicator of achievement by developing "appropriately-sized, trained, and equipped mine action capacities that achieve nationally-defined goals and objectives with little or no international support."

Nepal's participation in the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2009* was coordinated by UNICEF through the Mine Action Joint Working Group. The coordination of the portfolio is a consultative process, reflecting the shared vision of the group.

On 4 April 2008, in commemoration of the third International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, UNICEF coordinated a meeting for mine action stakeholders, donors and the media. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General made a statement highlighting the commitment of UNMIN to assist the parties in meeting their mine action obligations.

Operations

UNMAT made great strides in 2008 to build on existing relationships and enhance partnerships within Nepal at all levels. This included, as emphasized by the UN mine action strategy, engaging “other UN agencies, national authorities, nongovernmental organizations, affected communities, donors, and other entities.” Those efforts have been made possible by a combination of funding from the UNMIN budget and from contributions to the UN Peace Trust Fund for Nepal as well as contributions from the government of the United Kingdom to the VTF. Bilateral support was provided by the governments of Canada, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Additionally, UNMAT has received in-kind contributions of magnetic locators from the Schonstedt Humanitarian Demining Initiative in the United States.

The main objectives of the original MAU, which were focused on demining, expanded in 2008 in conjunction with the founding of UNMAT. Revised objectives include improved surveillance and data collection, mine risk education and advocacy. This holistic approach to mine action incorporates the long-term goals of the UN mine action strategy and allows a more beneficial and collaborative in-country strategy.

The creation of UNMAT in conjunction with UNICEF lays the foundation for a more effective and unified advocacy strategy in 2009. The election of the new Government creates a fresh forum for advocating for Nepal to become a signatory to the relevant mine action conventions. Strategic planning for advocacy in 2009 is underway.

In addition to basic demining training and guidance, UNMAT is dedicated to developing the capacity of the Nepal Army to sustain operational capacity independently. To achieve this objective, significant training in management and operational planning is necessary, and has been initiated. Additional evaluations, recommendations and trainings are being planned for 2009.

The completion of the IED destruction programme, implemented by ArmorGroup, marked a key step towards destroying stockpiles and improving the safety of all people in Nepal, as well as complying with the CPA.

The British Embassy partnered with the UNMAS portion of UNMAT to conduct an assessment of the Nepal Army’s EOD and IED response team capacity, and conduct necessary training. To initiate this project, a technical adviser and EOD/IED expert conducted a 10-day in-country assessment. Based on this and the resulting recommendations, appropriate training will be implemented.

Mine risk education continues across the country. Emergency mine risk education is conducted in any community where an accident occurs. Comprehensive education kits have been created by UNICEF and distributed to NGOs working with affected communities. Mine risk education, victim assistance and all mine action activities in Nepal are discussed and coordinated through the Mine Action Joint Working Group. It has been revitalized in the last quarter of 2008 and will play a strategic role in advocacy, and the improved cooperation and unification of standards across mine action activities.

Gender considerations are reflected in all operational planning at UNMAT. In terms of surveys, special consideration is given to integrating gender and caste relations into the methodology to ensure a comprehensive picture of contamination and its impacts.

Impact

Mine action in Nepal directly supports the peace agreement. Substantial progress has been made since the establishment of MAU and UNMAT. The management and destruction of IEDs at cantonment sites has helped avert any possible accidents that would have disrupted the peace process. Clearance of Army-laid minefields and Maoist IEDs directly demonstrates to the public that the CPA is moving forward, and that the parties remain committed to the peace process. Furthermore, these activities increase the freedom of movement of communities near minefields and cantonment sites. The clearance of the minefield at Thada in early 2008, for example, returned arable land to five landowners, provided safe access to a local temple and created a safe living environment for the entire village.

Training and development of national capacities also improves marketable skills in all participants, potential international opportunities for Nepal within UN peacekeeping operations and the systematic prioritization of activities over the long-term.

At the end of 2007, the Government produced its first mine action strategy mandating a national mine action authority to implement specific provisions of the CPA. Despite the creation of this national authority, overall support from the Government remains difficult to maintain through the numerous political developments and challenges in 2008. However, significant improvements were noted in the fourth quarter.

The recommendations of the UNMAS-led inter-agency assessment mission, released in January 2008, have yet to be endorsed by the Government. While it has assumed responsibility for mine action, it has yet to allocate a related budget line and is cognizant of its own lack of capacity to implement the mine action provisions of the CPA.

UNMAT will continue to help develop capacities within the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, engaging the support of partners such as GICHD, external consultants, UNDP and UNICEF. UNMAS and UNMAT will also continue to support the full engagement of the Government in all relevant treaty regimes, including the mine-ban treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The UNMAT operational plan anticipates the clearance of all remaining 48 minefields by Nepal Army engineers by 2012, if adequate resources and political will are forthcoming.

Mustard and Millet Along New Roads

For years, the villagers of Thada had been petitioning for clearance of the minefield in their town. At last, in December 2007, the UN-trained Nepal Army demining team arrived.

The minefield in Thada ran along the edge of the main road through town, and between a small temple and a family home. It had been laid by the Nepal Army to protect the security and police forces initially stationed there, but when the post moved to another village in 2003, the minefield remained.

There were no casualties in the village, with mine risk education given to the community and in school, but two goats and one dog were killed. With those incidents and mines that were visible from the road, children, residents and nearby villagers lived in fear. The minefield restricted the freedom of movement of Thada's 2,000 residents as well as another 15,000 people in the greater Thada district. Young Anish once spotted a box mine while walking along the edge of the minefield. His family lives in the home adjacent to the field and the temple where he now likes to play.

In demining Thada, the Nepal Army removed 116 mines, six IEDs and one UXO. When the clearance was complete, the entire town was brought to the site for a handover ceremony. In less than a year, the site of the former minefield has been transformed.

The land taken to create the minefield had been used to grow wheat, mustard, millet and ginger. Five landowners and their families, 30 people in total, had been deprived of arable land. After clearance, they found that they had been unable to use it for so long that the ground had to be reconditioned to produce crops as it did before. Though this will take time, 58-year-old Ghanshyam Khanal is "very grateful" to have his land back.

In addition to the return of land to the farmers, the Department of Roads is planning to build a new base on the site, which will be beneficial to all Thada residents and nearby villages. This will result in improved local conditions as well as commerce in the form of traffic flow, jobs and access to other villages. The local youth committee for development has installed a volleyball net to foster a sense of community and help people enjoy the space.

8. SOMALIA

Highlights

- National EOD, survey and mine risk education operations were launched in south-central Somalia.
- In six months, 718 villages in the Bay, Bakol and Hiraan regions underwent rapid assessment surveys, revealing a contamination rate of approximately 10 percent.
- Mine risk education messages reached over 26,000 individuals in the regions of Bay, Bakol and Hiraan.
- Clearance operations have not been launched as a result of the security situation.

Context and Challenges

Contamination by ERW and landmines in Somalia is to an extent still undefined, although it is believed to be extensive, particularly in the south-central region, where the most recent intense conflicts have occurred. While the problem of landmines is a legacy from extended periods of warfare, the minefields themselves seem to be generally known to local populations. The impact of landmines is believed to be less significant than that of more widespread ERW contamination. One of the primary objectives of mine action in Somalia is to better define threats, and then to design appropriate clearance and mine risk education solutions.

The south-central region, like most of the country, has been without an effective government since 1991. Consequently, there are no established national mine action authorities. What capacity has been developed over time under the auspices of the Transitional Federal Government is limited to a rudimentary EOD capability established within the Police Force with the support of UNDP.

Limited assistance to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has been implemented through UNDP, which has provided mine detection equipment and technical advice.

The current security situation effectively precludes the establishment of a significant international presence in most of the region, although a limited presence has been established in Baidoa. UNDP, in conjunction with MSB, created the South Central Somalia Mine Action Centre (SCSMAC) in November 2007. It became operational in the second quarter of 2008.

Somalia is not a state party or signatory to any legislation or treaties related to mine action.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS has supported the UNDP-led effort in Somalia with the funding of a programme officer, who is based in Nairobi, working in conjunction with the UNDP Rule of Law and Security programme through funds provided from the Netherlands. UNMAS also assists with donor liaison activities and contributes to discussions within DPKO on possible intervention strategies.

Coordination and Training

Aside from its support to the UNDP project, UNMAS collaborated with MSB and, to a lesser degree, with MAG to launch operations in 2008 focused on the support for AMISOM and the capacity building of the Somali security sector, as well as contingency planning for a possible UN peacekeeping operation in Somalia at the appropriate time.

Operations

Field operations initiated from Baidoa commenced in January to establish baseline data. Survey operations continued throughout much of the year, with teams conducting an information-gathering exercise on mine and UXO contamination in numerous districts. Mapping in IMSMA and the documentation of data relevant to mine action are ongoing. At the end of the third quarter, the surveys suggested mine and UXO contamination affect 12 percent of surveyed villages.

Three six-person EOD teams are being trained, with only the final on-the-job training delayed because of the lack of explosives. Nine mine risk education facilitators and eight survey officers were trained, and have been conducting mine risk education and survey operations. Nine medics have been trained and qualified.

Given the current security situation, all mine action project operations continue to be restricted. Movements outside the UN compounds in Baidoa, Bay Region, Wajid, Bakol Region and Merka, and Lower Shabelle Region are prohibited in accordance with UN security regulations, which means that operations can only be supported remotely.

Impact

The mine action programme in Somalia is still in the developmental phase, with resource mobilization underway. The adverse security situation in the region has precluded any significant mine action effort to date. NGO activities remain minimal. The 2009 mine action effort will continue to be very much a collaborative one engaging UNMAS, UNDP, MSB and other partners, with the role of UNMAS increasing if the environment becomes more permissive for operations.

A Look at Mine Action

Establishing a Foundation for Mine Risk Education

For the past year, UNDP has collaborated with MSB to provide mine risk education to communities in the Bay and Bakol regions of south-central Somalia, and helped develop the mine risk education capacities of the SCMAC.

A recruitment process for two teams of facilitators began in February 2008, followed by rigorous training and testing of materials and approaches. By the end of April, the teams were fully operational in Baidoa, the administrative capital of south-central Somalia. During the initial stages, focus group discussions, and interviews with local NGOs and community focal points

were used to identify at-risk groups and local threat patterns. This helped ensure that mine risk education would appropriately target the relevant beneficiaries.

In line with the results of the LIS in northern Somalia, male youth are most likely to suffer harm from ERW or landmines. Based on this information, schools and madrasas in Baidoa district were selected as the primary targets for initial mine risk education activities. As the project progressed and the facilitators became more experienced, they were deployed in the Bakol region as well.

Using mine risk education as a tool to introduce people to mine action, the project trained and deployed local people from the targeted locations as temporary mine risk education facilitators, under the supervision of the experienced team from Baidoa. This, along with modest financial incentives and the rental of local vehicles, ensured that local people provided education in their own communities and sparked local interest. This approach generated positive perceptions of mine action and has paved the way for further cooperation around future EOD operations.

Over six months, the mine risk education facilitators reached over 26,000 individuals in the Bay and Bakol regions, and distributed targeted materials such as posters and leaflets along the way. Their outreach has covered almost all major population centres. The project trained a significant number of mine risk education focal points, the majority of whom have been teachers and NGO workers.

To ensure the sustainability of mine risk education in south-central Somalia, one of the Baidoa facilitators was groomed to become the National Mine Risk Education Coordinator, responsible for all activities within the SCMAC. The coordinator acted as team leader through the first three months of the implementation period, before he was attached to the SCMAC to task mine risk education teams, and ensure coordination between them and the other mine action components. Supported by the UNDP/MSB mine risk education officer, the coordinator quickly adapted to his role. Given appropriate support and mentoring, he will assume complete responsibility for mine risk education coordination in south-central Somalia in the foreseeable future.

In a difficult region where few activities ever evolve neatly from desk to field, mine risk education has proven that it is possible to conduct activities and reach tens of thousands of people as long as there is an emphasis on adaptation to the local context.

Medics Take on Trauma Cases in a Local Hospital

UNDP provides much-needed support to the local medical facility in Baidoa, the Bay Regional Hospital. Since early 2008, UNDP and MSB have trained and deployed eight EOD team medics to the hospital to help local staff with high numbers of sick and injured people arriving from throughout the western part of south-central Somalia. Unfortunately, despite being the best medical facility in the area, the hospital's facilities and skills are well below standards. It is thus a significant boost to send the EOD team medics there when they are not in the field.

As the number of cases at the hospital has risen, due in part to the escalating fighting in the area, the medics have helped where they could. Throughout 2008, they were involved in nearly 1,000

trauma cases, a form of ongoing exposure that ensured their skills would not become rusty. The number of fatalities significantly decreased. Along with the medics' sharing of valuable skills with the local population in a very tangible way, this has inspired considerable good will towards mine action in the region.

8. SUDAN

Highlights

- The opening of 29,145 kilometres of roads increased freedom of movement and permitted the recommencement of trade.
- Demining assets were deployed in the central region of Abyei following clashes between northern and southern government forces.
- The transition framework was completed to transfer the mine action programme to the national authorities by 2011.
- The final batch of 6,078 stockpiled anti-personnel mines was destroyed in Juba to meet the deadline of the mine-ban treaty.
- Sixty percent of identified high-impact areas were cleared; 51.1 percent of identified contaminated roads were opened to increase freedom of movement; and the number of victims has declined by 65 percent since 2006.

Context and Challenges

Over 20 years of civil war have taken a heavy toll on most parts of Sudan. The general perception that many roads are mined has led to closures and disuse for long periods, at a considerable cost to the movement of people and development. Landmines were laid on routes, villages, wells and arable land. As the repatriation of IDPs and refugees increases, mines continue to threaten food security, agricultural and economic activities, and freedom of movement.

UNMAO is mandated by Security Council Resolution 1590 and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) to coordinate, facilitate, accredit and conduct quality assurance of all mine action activities in Sudan. Following the transfer of authority from the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) to the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) on 31 December 2007 to support the effective implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement, UNMAO in Darfur has become an integral part of the new peacekeeping mission and is known as the UNAMID Mine Action Office.

To determine the scope of mine and ERW contamination, UNMAO launched an LIS in 2005. It has identified the levels of impacts on communities, and provided vital information for priority-setting and planning for mine action activities. At the end of 2008, 12 states had been surveyed out of the 15 planned by mid-2009.

Security has remained an issue throughout the country. In May, conflict erupted in the town of Abyei, an oil-rich area at the heart of a longstanding dispute between the northern and southern governments, forcing up to 50,000 people to flee the area. In the south, rebel activity by the Lords' Resistance Army along the Ugandan border delayed clearance operations, while in Darfur all patrols had to be accompanied by armed escorts. Other impediments included a longer than

usual annual rainy season in most regions of the south, delays from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the southern national authorities in granting permission to destroy stockpiles of ammunition, and difficulties in importing equipment.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS support included regular monitoring and policy guidance, as well as continued assistance with implementing the mandates of UNMIS and UNAMID, and regular coordination on political, logistical, financial and resource mobilization matters. The 2008 and 2009 mine action assessed budgets for UNMIS and UNAMID were prepared and approved by the General Assembly. A budget for the VTF, utilizing generous donor contributions, was also prepared and implemented.

UNMAS programme officers and senior staff members conducted technical missions to provide support in identifying constraints and challenges, as well as to liaise with the peacekeeping mission staff, UN agencies and donors. UNMAS also continued its support to troop-contributing countries to ensure smooth training, rotation and accreditation, as well as the review of the composition of military demining companies from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, Kenya and Pakistan, in accordance with IMAS.

In support of Strategic Objective 4 of the UN inter-agency mine action strategy, UNMAS assisted the ongoing transitional planning process by participating in planning workshops from the inception, and by providing technical and policy advice.

Coordination and Training

UNMAO continued to coordinate all mine action activities conducted by NGOs, commercial companies and UN military demining troops through its head office in Khartoum, as well as through its 3 regional and 10 sub-offices. Ensuring a smooth planning process, working towards the transition of mine action activities, and providing training to staff and partners were the three major achievements throughout 2008.

UNMAO in partnership with other UN agencies, national authorities, and local and international NGOs identified strategic priorities and benchmarks for mine action within the UNDAF, which covers development programming from 2009 to 2012. Together, they agreed to produce a multi-year plan that should serve as a common planning and resource mobilization document for all partners. This will help ensure the implementation of the goals set out by the Sudan Mine Action Strategic and Policy Framework, and compliance with Sudan's commitments to the mine-ban treaty. Annual planning, such as for the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects* and the UN & Partners Work Plan, will be reflected each year in the multi-year plan.

A significant amount of time was dedicated to building the capacity of national mine action structures. In collaboration with UNDP, an assessment of the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC, based in Khartoum) and the Southern Sudan Demining Commission (SSDC, based in

Juba) was conducted during the summer of 2008; recommendations were distributed to all stakeholders.

But the major accomplishment remained the completion of a series of four workshops to develop a plan to transfer the ownership of the Sudan Mine Action Programme to the NMAC and the SSDC. The transition will build on the core management responsibilities of a mine action entity. These include the planning and coordination of mine action activities, the establishment of national technical standards, quality and information management, accreditation and fundraising. National authorities will also be responsible for ensuring Sudan's compliance with the mine-ban treaty and other related treaties, as well as for raising awareness of mine threats and assisting victims of landmines.

The transition will be undertaken in three stages: capacity development, joint activities and full national ownership by 2011, dependent on the extension of the UNMIS mandate. UNMAO will implement an exit strategy while placing key national and international staff among national authorities' technical advisers. A Memorandum of Understanding demonstrating the commitment of the United Nations and the national authorities to the transition of the Sudan Mine Action Programme should be signed in 2009, with the implementation of the first phase of the transition plan to follow immediately after.

UNMAO reaffirmed its commitment to training by working with Cranfield University to implement seven courses at the International Mine Action Training Centre in Nairobi. A total of 130 participants from the national authorities, UNMAO and various NGOs received training in project or support management, quality assurance and control, mine risk education, medical coordination, supervision and EOD.

Operations

In 2008, UNMAO focused on five key priorities: i) opening up primary routes for humanitarian assistance activities, the safe return of IDPs and refugees, and the recommencement of trade; ii) surveys, marking and targeted clearance; iii) targeted mine risk education, especially for IDPs and refugees; iv) needs assessment and assistance to victims of landmines and ERW; and v) developing the capacities of national authorities.

To date, 29,145 kilometres of roads have been opened. Significant progress was made on roads linking remote southern regions and major towns, northern Sudan and international borders. For instance, a number of major roads were opened linking Wau to its surrounding areas, creating links to the west, towards southern Darfur, and to the south-west. Having been approached by UNHCR, UNMAO completed the verification of the Maban-Chali route, a major returns corridor from Ethiopia, while the Malakal-Kodok-Malut-Kosti route has created a valuable link between northern and southern Sudan. As well as opening routes, UNMAO has been receiving a growing number of requests to widen roads, particularly in the south, to enable the population to cope with the traffic that comes with increasing economic demand.

As a signatory of the mine-ban treaty, Sudan committed itself to carrying out the destruction of its stockpiled anti-personnel mines by 1 April 2008. In accordance with Article 4 of the treaty, UNMAO and the UNMIS Bangladeshi Military Demining Company assisted the Government of

Southern Sudan with the destruction of the final batch of 6,078 stockpiled anti-personnel mines in Juba on 31 March 2008. This completed the destruction of the known and declared stockpiles of anti-personnel mines in Sudan.

Following the violence between the Sudan Armed Forces and SPLA in Abyei, UN demining assets were deployed to assist body recovery efforts led by the ICRC, and to remove and destroy ERW as well as stockpiled abandoned munitions. UNMAO's partner DCA conducted technical surveys, battle area clearance, EOD and mine risk education, while the SRSA sent a four-person EOD team to conduct ERW spot tasks at various UN, government and NGO compounds in Abyei until the end of 2008.

In Darfur, UNMAO has been working to assess and clear priority areas of contamination from mines and ERW to assist the UNAMID mission and allow for freedom of movement. It has also provided mine risk education for civilian populations, with a focus on the IDP population. ERW safety training is being taught to new UNAMID staff upon arrival in Darfur.

To date, UNMAO has assessed more than 5 million square metres of land for building the UN super camps in El Fasher, Nyala, El Geneina and Zalingei. As the fighting continues throughout the region, reassessment of some areas and roads may be required due to possible re-contamination. A new office was opened in El Geneina in West Darfur, while in El Fasher, both the regional and sub-offices moved to the super camp at the end of 2008.

The mine risk education sector, led by UNICEF, provided education to 522,749 people, with a particular focus on IDPs, returnees and vulnerable communities. Twelve organizations participated in this effort through the deployment of 47 teams: 27 in the south, 18 in the north and 6 in Darfur. In northern Sudan, 535 teachers were trained. In the south, the first round of training of 500 teachers was completed as part of efforts to incorporate mine risk education into the school curriculum. A review of mine risk education materials used in Sudan has been completed; over 150,000 copies were reprinted. In order to increase public awareness, two public information campaigns were conducted, while a project to broadcast messages through mass media is ongoing. In line with UNMAO's plans for the transition of mine action to the Government and the building of local capacity, 18 people from the Government, NGOs and UNMAO took part in advanced mine risk education training.

Victim assistance projects continued, and coordination was improved through the monthly meetings of two victim assistance working groups, chaired in turns by the NMAC in Khartoum and the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare in Juba, officially selected as the government counterpart for UNMAO's victim assistance programme in southern Sudan. Two national workshops involving all partners, relevant authorities, diplomats, and experts from Sudan and abroad were organized.

Throughout the first half of 2008, the UNTFHS supported 14 organizations and institutions (8 in the north and 6 in the south) to implement victim assistance and disability-related projects in the areas of data collection, physical rehabilitation, social integration and advocacy. A total of 699 direct beneficiaries (among whom 40 percent were female) and 3,495 indirect beneficiaries received assistance.

UNMAO hired a professional photographer to cover a number of projects funded by the trust fund in Sudan. Thirty photos portraying mine and ERW victims were selected and displayed during three exhibitions in Sudan, as well as during the Ninth Meeting of State Parties to the mine-ban treaty in Geneva.

New funding was secured for three years from CIDA, through which six projects will be implemented in the south and four in the north by local and international NGOs. This will provide direct support to mine and ERW victims and persons with disabilities. A three-day training course, involving participants from relevant victim assistance authorities and partners, was held to help build management skills and share experiences in running victim assistance and disability-related programmes.

Throughout 2008, operations were supported by contributions received through the VTF from Canada, the European Commission, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as through an allocation from the Common Humanitarian Fund.

In particular, CIDA funded operations in Kassala and Eastern states, and victim assistance programming nationwide. The European Commission funded route verification, mechanical clearance and mine risk education projects in southern Sudan. Contributions from Japan supported route verification in South Kordofan and southern Sudan, integrated mechanical clearance in Jonglei and Upper Nile states, and mine risk education.

Impact

The principal objective of the Sudan Mine Action Programme is to reduce the threats posed by landmines and ERW. As such, the opening of roads continued to improve freedom of movement, and had a tremendous impact in facilitating the return of refugees and IDPs. The number of victims dropped by 65 percent, from 140 in 2006 to 50 in 2008.

Humanitarian and development NGOs have been permitted access to remote areas of the country, specifically in Jonglei State and Western Bahr El Ghazal. Opening the Yei-Kaya road on the Ugandan border has had a dramatic impact on trade and created another access route from Uganda to southern Sudan's capital and major towns. The opening of a network of routes in the unstable Jonglei area (specifically, Ayod-Waat-Akobo) has aided disarmament efforts, and created access for goods, aid and development. In Blue Nile State, the Gerawid-Ullu-Wadaka road is now connecting towns near the Ethiopian border. This should facilitate the return of over 8,000 IDPs and refugees to the Ullu community, and allow humanitarian agencies to access the area. Today, it is also possible to drive from Damazine to Kurmuk, a town with approximately 10,000 inhabitants, a percentage of which are landmine victims. They have benefitted from food and aid delivered by humanitarian agencies.

Prior to November 2005, the length of known trafficked road in mine-affected areas in the south and north was only 356 kilometres. By the end of 2008, UNMAO had opened 29,145 kilometres of roads through clearance and verification. This achievement greatly contributes to Strategic Objective 2 of the UN mine action strategy. It also has resulted in significant savings for the

Mission, WFP and other implementers of humanitarian aid in reduced reliance on airlift to conduct operations.

The Bangladeshi Military Demining Company completed the clearance of a large minefield at Rejaf East, outside Juba. The land will be used to for the resettlement of 5,000 refugees and IDPs expected to return to the area, as well as the expansion of a cattle camp and other agricultural projects.

Around Tawilla, an area south-west of El Fasher, Darfur that is riddled with UXO after an ambush in September 2008, UNMAO disposed of hundreds of pieces of ordnance so that Relief International could begin building a new clinic for inoculations for the local population.

Total Number of Victims of Landmines and ERW Since 2004 by Age and Gender

Age group	Not specified		Female		Male		Total		Total
	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	
45+			2	3	15	4	17	7	24
Adults	7		6	7	81	28	94	35	129
Children			20	7	93	47	113	54	167
Not specified	16	13	11	4	98	33	125	50	175
Total	23	13	39	21	287	112	349	146	495

Number of Victims Per Year Over the Last Five Years

Year	Age category	Not specified		Female		Male		Total		Total
		Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	
2004	45+				3	3	3	3	6	9
	Adults			2	2	23	12	25	14	39
	Children			6	2	27	8	33	10	43
	Not specified				1	6	3	6	4	10
	Year total			8	8	59	26	67	34	101
2005	45+			1		4	1	5	1	6
	Adults			1	1	20	6	21	7	28
	Children			3		14	8	17	8	25
	Not specified		6	5		38	8	43	14	57
	Year total		6	10	1	76	23	86	30	116
2006	45+			1		6		7	0	7
	Adults	7		1	2	21	5	29	7	36
	Children			2	1	22	7	24	8	32
	Not specified	3	5	4	1	35	17	42	23	65
	Year total	10	5	8	4	84	29	102	38	140
2007	45+					2		2	0	2
	Adults					11	2	11	2	13
	Children			5	4	16	16	21	20	41
	Not specified	10	2	2	2	14	2	26	6	32
	Year total	10	2	7	6	43	20	60	28	88
2008	45+									
	Adults			2	2	6	3	8	5	13
	Children			4		14	8	18	8	26
	Not specified	3				5	3	8	3	11
	Year total	3		6	2	25	14	34	16	50
Total	45+	0	0	2	3	15	4	17	7	24
	Adults	7	0	6	7	81	28	94	35	129
	Children	0	0	20	7	93	47	113	54	167
	Not specified	16	13	11	4	98	33	125	50	175
	Total	23	13	39	21	287	112	349	146	495

Number of Victims by State Over the Last Five Years

State	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Bahr El Ghazal	12	21	28	19	10	90
Central	4	1	1			6
Darfur	1	8	34	34	9	86
Eastern	18	8	21	6	22	75
Equatoria	23	20	25	20	4	92
Kordofan	30	45	4	7	5	91
Upper Nile	13	13	27	2		55
Total	101	116	140	88	50	495

Number of Dangerous Areas and Suspected Hazardous Areas Cleared and Released Since Sudan Mine Action Programme Began

Year	Identified	Cleared	Released	Total
2002	42	1	0	1
2003	79	21	1	22
2004	119	46	1	47
2005	320	174	16	190
2006	701	401	39	440
2007	1247	670	52	722
2008	2137	932	415	1347
Total	4645	2245	524	2769

Number of Roads Opened	Kilometres
Suspected mined roads	2,415
Opened road (mine action)	29,145
Known trafficked roads before November 2005	356
Planned roads for the south	6,652
Planned roads for the north	1,526
Planned roads for Darfur	19,290
Estimated length of roads in the mine-affected areas at the beginning of the project	56,969

Number of Mine Risk Education Recipients Over the Last Three Years

	Children			Adults			Mixed age			Unknown	Total
	Male	Female	Mixed	Male	Female	Mixed	Male	Female	Mixed		
2006	5,696	2,960	5,055	29,923	26,512	40,714	10,121	3,755	240,015	159,554	524,305
2007	7,169	6,659	2,284	115,816	111,018	24,303	1,845	1,236	233,422	279,974	783,726
2008	141,234	109,229	5,560	105,965	99,262	5,047	738	139	54,837	738	522,749

The “Sweet” Smell of Success (human interest story)

Before civil war broke out in 1983, the southern Sudan town of Yei was booming due to its proximity to the Ugandan and Congolese borders. Since then, more than 20 years of conflict have prompted dramatic declines in infrastructure, trade and industry.

Following the signature of the CPA in 2005, signs of recovery have been emerging. The city is surrounded by lush farmlands, and its location ensures business potential. Still, as you walk through the streets of Yei, you notice children playing among the rusty military tanks that litter the roadsides, and you come across villagers with missing limbs, a stark reminder of the landmines that were laid during the war.

Cecilia Yabo Juma, 33, is one of them. Two years ago, she went outside the town to collect firewood for her family. Having recently returned from a refugee camp in Uganda, she was not aware of the landmine threat in the region. As she walked in a field, she stepped on a mine and lost her right leg; the other one was badly injured in the explosion.

Ever since Cecilia’s husband died during the war, she has had to look after her three children plus another four she had adopted from her late brother. She explains how her life changed after the accident: “I used to travel a lot between Rumbek, Wau and Juba for trade, but suddenly all this stopped. I had to find new products that were much lighter and required less effort to handle.”

The Rapid Farmers Development Cooperative Centre is a community-based organization that was selected through a victim assistance project funded by the governments of first Japan and then Canada. It has been helping Cecilia to start a small business—she now sells dried fish at the local market. The fish is imported from Lake Victoria in Uganda and is easy to transport. The demand is high in Yei, therefore the business is successful enough to help Cecilia cater to her family’s needs.

Cecilia’s commerce has given her a new confidence and much-needed autonomy. She is well respected in the community. The local chief often calls her to share her story with other people. As she demonstrates how one can face the most challenging times in life with a positive attitude, her example is an encouragement to many.

The work may be hard at times, and the fish smells terrible. Recently, Cecilia suffered the loss of her sister who was helping her earn some money for the family. But she enjoys life in the market and likes to think about the future. “Maybe one day when I get more money, I will change my business,” she says. “Maybe I’ll try to sell soap.”

9. WESTERN SAHARA

Highlights

- New security and risk management strategies are in place to guarantee the safety of UN personnel and the local population.
- A mine/UXO survey for the eastern portion of Western Sahara has been completed.
- Mine action information coordination with the local authorities has been enhanced.

Context and Challenges

Western Sahara is a territory, of roughly 230,000 square kilometers, large portions of which are affected by mines and ERW since initial conflicts with colonial powers in the 1970s. For decades, local populations have suffered from this contamination. While a significant proportion of the mine contamination can be found along the earthen berm that was created by Morocco between 1982 and 1987, it persists throughout the territory. Compounding the problem is a serious lack of information pinpointing where mine contamination exists. Large numbers of mined areas do not conform to traditional military pattern minefields and are scattered in small groupings, across numerous locations. The lack of discernable patterns makes identification of these areas difficult.

Large quantities of UXO are a problem especially in areas east of the berm, where the remnants of cluster munitions strikes pose a threat to local nomadic inhabitants following their livestock and seeking appropriate conditions for settlement. Every year, there are injuries due to mines and ERW in Western Sahara. Due to a lack of infrastructure it is difficult to ensure accurate reporting of accidents and injuries, but the Royal Moroccan Army (RMA) has registered more than 2,000 since 1991, with over one-quarter of incidents producing deaths.

Since UN involvement in the territory began, the mine action issue has been highlighted as an ongoing concern. MINURSO was established in 1991 through Security Council Resolution 690. As the number of accidents mounted in the territory, including some that injured UN personnel in 1992 and 1994, the issue grew in importance. In early 1999, the parties to the conflict over Western Sahara—the Government of Morocco and the armed non-state actor Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Polisario)—agreed to cooperate with MINURSO on mine action. Agreements between MINURSO and each of the parties were signed, emphasizing the importance of information exchange regarding mines and UXO.

Building on the Mine Action Cell established by MINURSO with support from UNMAS in 2006,, MINURSO placed an even greater priority on mine and UXO contamination by creating a MACC within the mission. It has dedicated civilian staff, including a senior technical adviser for mine action. The office has focused on reducing mine and UXO victims, and supporting progress towards clearing the territory of ERW that block the transport of persons, the development of contaminated zones and the eventual return of refugees from camps in Algeria.

Since August 2006, with partial funding from UNMAS and logistical support from MINURSO, the NGO Landmine Action UK (LMA) has been working in the eastern areas, enabling MINURSO to create a comprehensive picture of the ERW problem east of the berm. Data

collection for these eastern areas is now complete. Roughly 200 dangerous areas have been recorded, with most due to cluster munition strikes. UXO is littering the ground, including items as large as 250 kilogrammes, in over 400 spots. Significant work remains in terms of analysing results and stepping up clearance efforts.

West of the berm, the RMA initiated an intensified mine and ERW clearance project in 2007 involving 10,000 troops. Sadly, accidents continue to occur, with 18 recorded in 2008, a more than two-fold increase from the previous year. In these, 13 people were injured and an estimated 9 killed.

Achievements

Support from UNMAS Headquarters

UNMAS provided significant support for the establishment of the MACC at MINURSO in February 2008. It has also been essential in getting provisions for mine action within the MINURSO assessed budget for 2008 and 2009, and in raising extra-budgetary resources. Thus far, funding has been received through voluntary contributions to the VTF from the Government of Spain. Former contributions included those from the Holy See.

Coordination and Training

Due to a lack both of information on mine and UXO contamination, and a centralized coordination body for activities on both sides of the berm, MINURSO's MACC has been focused on data collection from all field sources, and analysis and planning based on the results. During 2008, significant progress was achieved in terms of completing the survey of areas east of the berm and entering those areas into a central database at MINURSO using the IMSMA. The MACC provided training and installation for LMA's field office and headquarters staff to enable them to enter all survey data into the system, for later quality control and integration in the central MACC database. The MACC is also working with the RMA on recording more accurate information on areas west of the berm. This enhanced information has dramatically increased the safety of both UN personnel operating in the field and of local populations, who receive information on contaminated areas through local authorities.

Training of MINURSO staff on landmine safety has been strengthened through the MACC, which has provided more detailed safety packages, and tracks staff members on their progress in completing the UNMAS safety DVD. Safety training has also been extended to other UN agencies; all members of UNHCR were given landmine safety training by the MACC, which will be repeated regularly as staff turnover occurs. In cooperation with MINURSO medical personnel, casualty evacuation procedures were reviewed and practiced, and emergency trauma medical kits were improved.

Raising awareness about issues surrounding the humanitarian norms supported by mine action has been another focus of the MACC. The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was an opportunity to share information on new legal instruments, such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and on the deadly and inhumane effects of these weapons.

Operations

LMA has been working in Western Sahara since 2005 with support from UNMAS. During 2008, LMA increasingly focused on expanding and improving its clearance capacity, while completing the survey of dangerous areas and EOD tasks in the territory. Survey data collection was finished, with the final area, Agwanit, surveyed in November.

There was an increase in the area cleared and items destroyed with the addition of a third battle area clearance team. In order to increase efficiency, all team members have been cross-trained to a standard that permits them to destroy explosive ordnance. Towards promoting gender balance and increasing access to women in the local population, significant efforts have been made to recruit women into clearance teams—one-third of the members of the most recent clearance team were women.

LMA increased its clearance by roughly 300 percent in 2008, covering almost 3 million square kilometres of cluster strike areas. Significantly more individual items of explosive ordnance were removed from the eastern sectors. As many as 370 items were destroyed, including several large aircraft bombs in excess of 200 kilogrammes.

The RMA's humanitarian clearance effort fields a number of demining teams working throughout areas west of the berm. These teams are verifying areas and removing items of explosive ordnance to ensure the safety of populations living and travelling there. The Army has prioritized all suspected areas in close proximity to populated areas, main travel routes and all areas where accidents have occurred. MINURSO staff members are invited to attend destruction of all explosive ordnance carried out by the RMA. During 2008, the RMA's destruction of 300 mines and more than 2,000 pieces of UXO from clearance operations was documented by MINURSO personnel. Given the enormous contaminated area facing Moroccan demining personnel, increased focus must be given to identifying and canceling areas through the use of new technologies.

Those efforts will contribute to the achievement of the Strategic Objective 2 of the UN mine action strategy.

Impact

Although Western Sahara's population is sparse, it struggles in a barren land to find the basic elements of survival, such as water. Mines and UXO that victimize family members, kill livestock and block access to direct routes and grazing areas place an additional burden on people living on the margins of survival.

Unfortunately, Strategic Objective 1 of the UN inter-agency strategy could not be met in 2008. Although it is difficult to get accurate and detailed data regarding victims of mines and UXO, information collected during 2008 suggests an increase in mine and UXO victims. During 2008, 18 accidents occurred, more than the number of recorded accidents in 2007. Virtually all victims of mines and UXO are men; many are young men or boys. Female victims in the last two years have all been children. Accidents occur primarily when male members of households are engaged in economic activities, in particular tending animals and following herds. A significant number of anti-tank mine accidents causing deaths were reportedly linked to male shepherds

following their animals off main roads in their vehicles. Many of the accidents involving children are related to cluster munitions, where they have played with sub-munitions that resemble small toys.

The effect that mine contamination can have on development was illustrated by a serious accident involving an anti-tank mine west of the berm. Two geological surveyors were circulating in areas thought to be safe when their vehicle hit the mine. The driver was killed instantly and the passenger seriously injured. As development activities increasingly push the population into previously unused areas, more and more accidents could occur, hampering any development of new infrastructure.

Mine and UXO contamination also prevents people from feeling a sense of peace and security. Demining activities help build confidence and instill a sense of security that should support a sustainable solution in this disputed territory.

Restoring a Precious Resource (human interest story)

The first official handover of cleared land in Western Sahara was not only a celebration for the local people who were using the land, but a moment of relief and satisfaction for survivors of cluster munitions that had littered the area.

Water is the most precious of resources in the desert, so the contamination of a large water hole in the area of Budib was a major hazard for local people desperate for water for themselves and their camels. The area had been targeted with cluster munitions and cannon shells, but residents continued to use it because there is no other source of water nearby. Empty cluster munitions containers found near the strike site were even collected to store water for animals. Eventually, the unexploded cluster munitions were disturbed and individuals injured at the watering hole—especially young boys playing with the sub-munitions. One such boy is Mohamid Lamin Habub Loud, who was badly injured, but survived the blast.

Mohamid and other young survivors played a key role in assisting LMA to survey and map the area, committed to the goal of ensuring it is clear of the small and deadly weapons that had injured them. LMA later cleared the area of 54 BLU 63 sub-munitions and 20 additional pieces of UXO. A total of 492,810 square metres of precious land around this life-sustaining water hole were cleared and handed over to the community of Hasi Budibon on 24 June 2008. The local Community Chief was present to accept the certificate from LMA and thanked the organization for the work to protect local inhabitants.

G. UNMAS SUPPORT TO OTHER PROGRAMMES

1. Cambodia

UNMAS continued to support two victim assistance projects implemented by newly formed Cambodian NGOs—AAR Vocational Training for the Disabled (AAR VTD) and AAR Wheelchair Production for Development (AAR WCD)—with funds from the Government of Japan. AAR VTD provided vocational training to 48 persons with disabilities, including 29 mine and UXO survivors. Out of the 48 graduates, 89 percent are employed and managing to generate their own income. AAR WCD produced and distributed 298 wheelchairs to persons with disabilities, mainly landmine survivors. A follow-up survey AAR WCD conducted showed that 90 percent of the beneficiaries felt their mobility improved after receipt of a wheelchair, and 85 percent felt that their family's workload had been reduced.

2. Egypt

UNMAS in 2008 funded the project “Support the Ongoing Operations of Executive Secretariat for Mine Clearance” through a basic agreement with UNDP. The purpose of the project is to back the implementation of the National Plan for the Development of the North West Coast and Inland Desert, which aims at clearing landmines and promoting development. The major source of the contamination with ERW was World War II. An estimated 2,680 square kilometres of land (from Alexandria to the Libyan border, and 30 kilometres deep from the Mediterranean coastline) and 250,000 people are affected.

The project has a two-phased strategy, closely linking demining and development, and basing the demining process on clearly defined humanitarian and developmental priorities collectively identified through surveying the perceptions and views of all concerned stakeholders. The key activities are: i) establishment of the Executive Secretariat for Demining and Development of the North West Coast, and provision of capacity development and advisory support; ii) development of a communication and resource mobilization strategy, and coordination with donors, civil society and the private sector; iii) implementation of demining activities; and iv) implementation of mine risk education and victim assistance activities.

3. Lao People's Democratic Republic

UNMAS continued its support for mine action in Lao PDR through 2005 and 2008 contributions from the Government of Japan. Assistance helped strengthen the UNDP Country Office with a dedicated programme officer, later reclassified as the UXO unit chief, who aids the National Regulatory Authority and UXO Lao. Activities have included extensive donor coordination, resource mobilization, and support to Lao PDR's active participation in the preparation process for the Convention on Cluster Munitions at the regional and global levels. The 2008 contribution will support the project up to 2010.

4. Zambia

With previous funding from the Government of the Czech Republic and the United Nations International School through the VTF, UNICEF will train mine risk education instructors to work in four Zambian refugee camps. This effort will address a need identified by the Zambia Mine Action Centre (ZMAC) for mine risk education to be provided to Angolan, Congolese and other refugees in Zambia in order to promote safe mine risk behavior in relation to mines and ERW before repatriation.

A training of trainers was scheduled to be carried out by ZMAC, under the supervision of UNICEF, from June through December 2008. But it has been moved into 2009. The effort will be supported logistically by the Government of Zambia, and is intended to reach some 30,000 Angolans, 45,000 Congolese and 2,200 refugees of other nationalities. Training will be conducted in camps at Mayukwayukwa, Meheba, Mwanga and Kala.

Initial plans to undertake mine risk education had been postponed after ZMAC decided first to undertake a comprehensive national survey of mine victims. This affected capacities available for mine risk education. Options were further reduced by the deteriorating security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which resulted in the suspension of plans to repatriate refugees to that country, and the onset of the rainy season.

H. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

UNMAS activities at headquarters and in the field are funded by a number of mechanisms, namely: i) assessed contributions for peacekeeping operations and the special political mission in Nepal (UNMIN); ii) contributions of donor governments, organizations and private individuals processed by the VTF; iii) the UN Peacekeeping Support Account; and iv) other trust funds, such as the Common Humanitarian Fund for Sudan and the UN Peace Trust Fund for Nepal.

Since its inception in 1994, the VTF has received over US \$500 million in voluntary contributions from UN agencies, donor governments, the European Commission, NGOs, schools and other contributors.

UNMAS is committed to transparency and accountability in the financial management of all donor funds contributed to the VTF and the funds allocated to mine action activities from the UN Peacekeeping Support Account, peacekeeping missions' assessed budgets and UN regular programme budgets.

To this end, UNMAS has adopted the Programme and Financial Information Management system (ProFi), currently in use by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). ProFi is designed to improve internal controls in the financial management of resources, forecast project funding requirements and related revenues, and streamline the processes for project identification, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and financial reporting to donors.

UNMAS will continue to work to ensure that the VTF is well managed in a fully transparent and accountable manner by providing to donors and beneficiaries an efficient and cost-effective mechanism for coordinating, implementing and reporting mine action activities.

Highlights

- Nineteen donors contributed US \$92.5 million to the VTF.
- Canada contributed US \$25.4 million, Japan US \$19.9 million and the Netherlands 13.5 million.
- Andorra, the Holy See, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Sweden provided unearmarked funds.
- Australia, Canada, the European Commission, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom provided funds through multi-year contributions.
- Assessed budgeted contributions provided through peacekeeping mission budgets increased by 17 percent from US \$53.8 million in 2007 to US \$65 million in 2008.

Fundraising and Donor Outreach

Since being designated by the UN Secretary-General in 1997 as the focal point for mine action within the UN system, UNMAS continues to ensure an effective, proactive and coordinated response by UNMAT in countries or territories contaminated by landmines and ERW that require UN assistance. UNMAS relies heavily on extra-budgetary funding from donors through the VTF to fulfil these responsibilities.

Throughout 2008, one of UNMAS' priorities continued to be maintaining the momentum of donor support, broadening its donor base and generating new funding from non-traditional

sources in order to improve stability and predictability. As such, UNMAS simultaneously conducted resource mobilization activities in the field and at headquarters. UNMAS briefed donors in capitals, at Permanent Missions to the United Nations, at embassies in countries where UNMAS operates and at fora such as the MASG. To further expand partnerships, the United Nations, on behalf of UNMAS, entered into a contribution agreement with the City of Barcelona in Spain on the support of mine action in Mozambique.

In 2008, donors contributed generously through the VTF to support country-specific programmes and global mine action projects listed in the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2009*. Contributions for the year amounted to US \$92,479,658 or 18.5 percent of all contributions to the VTF since its inception in 1994. The amount was similar to that in 2007. All funds received were expended and/or obligated.

Donors targeted some 97 percent of funds for specific programmes and specific activities. For example, of the total contributions for 2008, US \$71.3 million, or 77 percent, was earmarked by donors for two country programmes: Afghanistan at 50.6 percent and Sudan at 26.4 percent.

Throughout 2008, UNMAS appealed to donors to provide funding directly earmarked for UNMAS headquarters coordination activities and unearmarked funding. UNMAS is very grateful to Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom for their headquarters coordination contributions totaling US \$3.4 million, or 76 percent of the total required.

The pattern of primarily earmarked and one-year voluntary funding has had an impact on UNMAS' flexibility in its medium- to longer-term planning. In 2008, the total amount of both headquarters coordination and unearmarked funds amounted to US \$5.9 million or 6.4 percent of total funds contributed.

To allow UNMAS to plan strategically, ensure its capacity to respond in a timely manner to emergency situations and assist other UNMAT members in the implementation of specific mine action-related mandates and requirements, UNMAS welcomes donors' commitments to the principles of good practices in humanitarian donorship.

Principles of Good Practices in Humanitarian Donorship

In 2008, UNMAS continued to appeal to donors to adhere to the principles of "good humanitarian donorship," which entail flexible, multi-year funding, and simplified, standardized reporting requirements. In the spirit of this principle, UNMAS continued to encourage donors to accept its Annual Report as the official substantive and financial report for contributions received by the VTF, and to provide unearmarked and/or multi-year funding.

In 2008, UNMAS welcomed CIDA's generous three-year contribution of CDN \$42 million, and is grateful to Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom for their multi-year agreements, and to Australia, Canada and the European Commission for their ongoing multi-year agreements. UNMAS is thankful to Andorra, the Holy See, New Zealand and Sweden for their provision of

unearmarked funds in 2008. Moreover, it remains appreciative of the fact that Japan, the Netherlands and Spain provided funds indicating a range of options for how they could be used.

The Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action

The Secretary-General established the VTF in 1994 to provide special resources for mine action programmes and projects, including surveys, mine clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance and advocacy activities, in situations where other funding is not immediately available.

Funded activities include but are not limited to supporting:

- Assessment missions to evaluation the scope of mine and ERW problems;
- Emergency mine action where rapid intervention is required;
- Coordination and operational activities in UN-managed programmes;
- Quality assurance and oversight of LIS exercises;
- Coordination, policy development and implementation;
- Production, gathering and dissemination of information to aid mine action, and conduct public outreach to raise awareness of issues related to mines and ERW;
- Development, monitoring and implementation of IMAS to provide a framework for efficient, effective and safer mine action activities, and guidance and coordination for the development of new mine action technologies;
- Mine action activities of UNMAT members, such as the building of partnerships to assist affected states in developing national capacities to manage the current and residual problems related to landmines and ERW;
- Development and implementation of the UNMAS ProFi system.

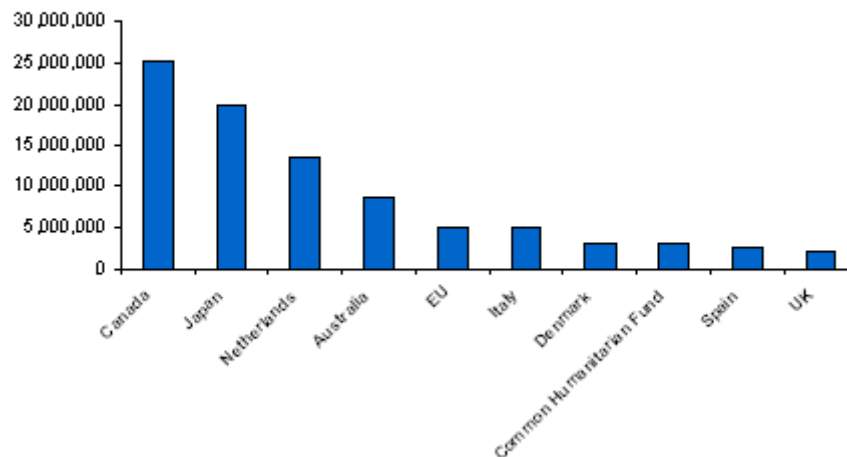
Level and Sources of Income

The following table summarizes donor contributions to and earmarks for the VTF in 2008. Seventeen governments, the European Commission and the Common Humanitarian Fund for Sudan together contributed US \$92,479,658 million, compared to US \$92,955,455 in 2007 and US \$51,029,053 in 2006.

Contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action in 2008, in US\$																			
Donor	Advocacy	Afghanistan	Chad	Colombia	Democratic Republic of Congo	Ethiopia	Guinea Bissau	HQ Coordination	Kosovo	Lebanon	Mauritania	Nepal	Rapid Response	Somalia	Sudan	To be Earmarked by Donor	Unearmarked	Western Sahara	Grand Total
Andorra																	29,126		29,126
Australia		7,922,000						192,870		415,550									8,530,420
Canada		16,685,467						502,159		3,735,771					4,432,037				25,355,434
Common Humanitarian Fund															3,011,928				3,011,928
Denmark		1,046,485						1,046,485		1,019,992									3,112,962
European Commission															5,084,370				5,084,370
Estonia		20,000																	20,000
Finland		1,396,780						399,987											1,796,767
Holy See																	6,000		6,000
Italy	209,985	4,162,595													461,967				4,834,547
Japan		10,000,000	500,000		2,340,500										6,746,038	324,949			19,911,487
Korea										100,000									100,000
Netherlands		4,865,000		270,000	2,135,000	135,000		470,000		675,000			335,000	635,000	3,380,000		600,000		13,500,000
New Zealand										55,157							791,900		847,057
Saudi Arabia										500,000									500,000
Spain		706,970	192,810				57,750	192,810	192,810	192,810	135,060				642,700			257,080	2,570,800
Sweden																	1,111,855		1,111,855
Switzerland										180,184									180,184
UK					284,900			608,873		188,863		205,621			688,463				1,976,720
Grand Total	209,985	46,805,297	692,810	270,000	4,760,400	135,000	57,750	3,413,185	192,810	7,063,326	135,060	205,621	335,000	635,000	24,447,504	324,949	2,538,881	257,080	92,479,658

The following chart shows the top ten donors, based on funds received in 2008. UNMAS also received contributions from Andorra, Estonia, Finland, the Holy See, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and Switzerland.

Top 10 Donors to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action in 2008

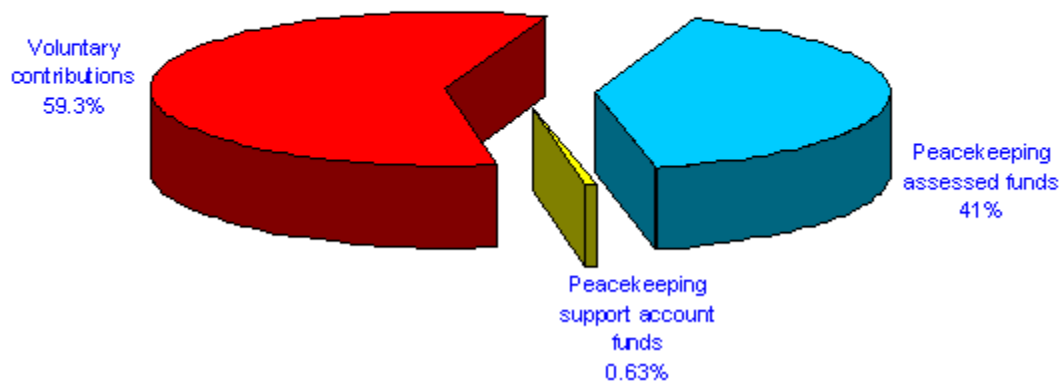


A majority of the major core donors to the VTF have sustained their funding levels for past years, which has allowed UNMAS to effectively maintain its ongoing programmes and plan for future operations. Australia and Japan significantly increased their support for mine action over the previous year. Australia provided US \$8 million to the Afghanistan programme, in addition to US \$200,000 for headquarters coordination and US \$400,000 to Lebanon. Japan also supported the Afghanistan programme with US \$10 million, together with the programmes in Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, and other thematic activities with an additional US \$10 million.

Donor support to Afghanistan and increased support to Sudan accounted for 51 percent (US \$46,805,297) and 26 percent (US \$24,447,504), respectively, of the total amount received by the VTF. Lebanon was in third place with 8 percent (US \$7,063,326) of the total. Special appreciation is extended to Australia and Switzerland for their prompt support to the Lebanon programme in the fall of 2008 to avert the funding crisis it was encountering.

The following chart illustrates the percent of UNMAS' income received through the VTF, the UN Peacekeeping Support Account Budget and the UN Peacekeeping Assessed Budget.

Sources of funding for Mine Action Programmes



Other sources of income for UNMAS consist of the interest income accrued on bank and cash balances. Miscellaneous income represents unspent balances on projects refunded by implementing partners, which are either returned to the particular donor or maintained in the VTF with the donor's consent for particular programmes.

The total income for the year, which includes voluntary contributions, bank interest and miscellaneous income for the VTF, is reported annually in the UN Financial Statements—Schedule of Individual Trust Funds, and in the audited biennium consolidated financial statements.

Summary Income and Expenditures

The table below summarizes various sources of funding to the VTF from voluntary and assessed contributions, totaling US \$158,495,058, together with total related programme expenditures of US \$178,148,499 incurred by implementing partners during the financial period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008. The excess of expenditure over income of US \$19,653,441 was funded from reserve fund balances brought forward.

The opening fund balance as of 1 January 2008 of US \$80,183,982 represents the VTF cumulative reserves and fund balances brought forward from prior years. Most voluntary contributions were earmarked to specific programmes or projects. The mine action components in seven peacekeeping missions (MINURCAT, MINURSO, MONUC, UNAMID, UNIFIL, UNMEE and UNMIS) were funded from assessed contributions. The support account for peacekeeping operations funded from assessed contributions covered the costs of six headquarters-based personnel who are primarily engaged in supervision and oversight of mine action activities in missions.

**Summary Income and Expenditures for Mine Action Programmes
for the 12-month period ended 31 December 2008**

	US \$
Opening balance of the VTF as of 1 January 2008	80,183,982
 Income	
Voluntary contributions	92,479,658
Peacekeeping missions assessed contributions	65,016,100
Peacekeeping support account assessed contributions	999,300
Total income	158,495,058
 Expenditures	
Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action	109,952,226
Peacekeeping missions based on implementing partner financial reports	67,395,394
Peacekeeping support account costs	800,879
Total expenditures	178,148,499

The following tables detail expenditures from the VTF for headquarters core functions, thematic projects, joint projects with UNDP and UNICEF, and other non-country-specific projects.

Table 1 shows that the total requirements for UNMAS' core headquarters coordination activities in 2008 amounted to US \$4,028,733, compared to US \$4,210,306 in 2007.

1. Headquarters Core Functions in New York and Geneva

Categories of expenditures	Expenditures (US \$)
Personnel	2,400,215
Official travel of staff	412,960
Consultants and expert groups (including ProFi)*	453,117
Communications	36,880
Supplies, materials and furniture	11,464
Contractual services (printing and data-processing services)	65,941
Operating expenses (premises, utilities and rental of equipment)	137,369
Conference services	46,774
Hospitality/official functions	531
Sub-total	3,565,251
 Programme support costs	 463,483
 Total	 4,028,733

2. Thematic Projects

Project	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2008	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 (US \$)	Total
Advocacy	0	264,842	264,842
Gender equality	0	34,101	34,101
Coordination and implementation of Rapid Response Plan	601,193	174,999	776,193
Landmine, UXO/ERW safety	64,854	9,573	74,427
Technology/information exchange	0	29,998	29,998
Total	666,048	513,513	1,179,561

3. Joint Projects with UNDP and UNICEF

Country/territory	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2008	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 (US \$)	Total
Iraq	857	60,593	61,450
Uganda	0	6,763	6,763
Egypt	0	113,585	113,585
Lao PDR	100,191	21,728	121,919
Zambia	2,547	76,937	79,484
Total	103,595	279,606	383,201

4. Other Special Projects

Project/implementing partner/country/territory	Outstanding advances to implementing partners as of 31 December 2008	Expenditures for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 (US \$)	Total
Survey of EOD operations—MAT, Republic of Serbia	0	269,773	269,773
Landmine victim assistance—AAR Cambodia	0	299,443	299,443
Staff development training—GICHHD, multiple countries	0	52,145	52,145
Total	0	621,361	621,361

Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of

In 2008, donors contributed US \$46,805,297 to support mine action operations in Afghanistan, US \$10.5 million less than in 2007. Two donors provided over 57 percent of these funds. The Government of Canada contributed US \$16 million as part of a multi-year funding agreement to support operations nationally, with a focus on Kandahar. The Government of Japan provided a further US \$10 million for operations in Bamiyan and the border areas of Pakistan. Other contributing countries were Australia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Netherlands and Spain.

While carryover funding from 2007 sustained operations for a large part of the year, the programme felt significant impacts from the global financial crisis towards the end of 2008, particularly due to exchange rate fluctuations and adjustments to donor disbursement schedules. As a result, the monetary value of pledged contributions in some cases fell by as much as 30 percent, with an overall reduction in actual cash received by some 13 percent over the final three-month period. This reduced funding level necessitated significant adjustment to the planning and delivery of the programme, and the resumption of operations in 2009.

Of the funding provided in 2008, 74 percent was earmarked for mine and ERW clearance operations; 5 percent for mine risk education and victim assistance; and 21 percent for quality assurance operations, equipment procurement, direct national capacity development, and coordination among implementing partners and the Government of Afghanistan. Bilateral donors continued to support the programme through the provision of some US \$32 million over the same period, targeted at all areas of mine action, largely in full coordination with UN activities. The United States remained the largest bilateral donor to humanitarian mine action in Afghanistan in 2008, with contributions from the US Department of State estimated at over US \$20 million. Substantial additional funding from a range of donors including the US Department of Defense, NATO and various commercial subcontractor entities also supported a range of task-specific clearance, ground-checking and survey activities.

As identified in the 2007 UNMAS Annual Report, the limited pool of countries contributing to mine action in Afghanistan, now combined with the significant drop in funding, has left the wider programme at significant risk of failing to meet the goals outlined within the Afghanistan Compact (clearance of 70 percent of known hazards by December 2010), the MDGs and the mine-ban treaty (complete clearance by March 2013). The donor pool must be diversified in 2009 and beyond to ensure the programme can meet these objectives.

Afghanistan

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	46,805,297
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Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to Implementing Partners as of 31 December 2008	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008	Total
Coordination and Capacity Development	280,447	14,698,943	14,979,390
Landmine and ERW Survey, Clearance and Quality Management	1,788,091	51,755,173	53,543,264
MRE and Victim Assistance	6,046	3,470,370	3,476,417

Total	2,074,584	69,924,486	71,999,070
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Chad

Contributions of US \$692,810 were received from Japan and Spain. UNMAS provided US \$287,850 to the UNDP assistance programme to the Chadian mine action authority for implementing survey, landmine and ERW clearance activities. Appropriations under the mine action component of the MINURCAT peacekeeping budget totalled US \$2,531,150. In line with Security Council resolution S/2007/488, MINURCAT deployed mine action teams to deal with landmines and ERW contamination in the border areas of Eastern Chad, which could cause casualties among UN staff and the local population. Expenditures also went towards effective coordination in the regional office of Abeche, and road verification and EOD activities.

Chad

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund		692,810
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds		
Coordination		683,411
Operation		1,847,740
Sub-Total		2,531,150
Total		3,223,960

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to Implementing Partners as of 31 December 2008	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008	Total
Clearance	3,545	284,305	287,850
Sub-Total	3,545	284,305	287,850
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			621,840
Operation			1,681,272
Sub-Total			2,303,112
Total			2,590,962

Democratic Republic of Congo

Voluntary contributions from Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom totalled US\$4,760,400, while appropriations under the mine action component of the MONUC peacekeeping budget reached US \$3,507,000. Provisional expenditures from MONUC-assessed funds of US \$3,392,606 ensured effective coordination, emergency surveys, and clearance of landmines and ERW. Voluntary contributions supported coordination, emergency surveys, landmine and ERW clearance, and mine risk education at a cost of US \$3,102,850. Funding was provided to UNOPS, UNICEF and DCA for various projects.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	4,760,400
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	1,402,800
Operation	2,104,200
Sub-Total	3,507,000
Total	8,267,400

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to Implementing Partners as of 31 December 2008	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008	Total
Clearance	0	746,086	746,086
Coordination	1,166,655	806,582	1,973,237
Mine Risk Education	276,707	106,820	383,527
Sub-Total	1,443,362	1,659,487	3,102,850
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			1,357,042
Operation			2,035,563
Sub-Total			3,392,606
Total			6,495,455

Eritrea and Ethiopia

Income for the mine action programme in the TSZ totalled US \$5,156,700. It was available primarily through the mine action component of UNMEE peacekeeping resources, aside from a contribution of US \$135,000 from the Netherlands. Uncertainty surrounding the future scope of operations due to the temporary relocation of UNMEE from Eritrea during the early months of the year, and the ongoing debate about how best to reconfigure the UN presence made it difficult to plan for the short- to medium-term. Until the termination of its mandate on 31 July 2008, the UNMEE MACC continued to coordinate and provide technical assistance for humanitarian mine action activities in and around the TSZ. Activities included landmine and ERW safety education for peacekeepers and humanitarian aid workers, mine risk education for local populations returning to previously contested areas, and demining in support of mandated tasks and overall mission objectives.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	135,000
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	1,255,425
Operation	3,766,275
Sub-Total	5,021,700
Total	5,156,700

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to Implementing Partners as of 31 December 2008	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008	Total
Coordination & Clearance	144,620	202,173	346,794
Sub-Total	144,620	202,173	346,794
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			1,544,701
Operation			4,634,103
Sub-Total			6,178,804
Total			6,525,598

Lebanon

Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom provided voluntary contributions of US \$7,063,326. VTF expenditures of US \$18,157,216 were financed from donor contributions in 2007 and 2008. DCA and UNOPS implemented projects for coordination, quality assurance, UXO clearance and continued operational clearance capacities in south Lebanon.

Appropriations under the mine action component of the UNIFIL peacekeeping assessed budget totalled US \$2,613,350 (compared to US \$2,737,590 in 2007). Funds supported the overall coordination and oversight of mine action activities in south Lebanon to facilitate the safe return of IDPs and enhance the mobility of UNIFIL troops.

Lebanon

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	7,063,326
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	2,613,350
Total	9,676,676

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to Implementing Partners as of 31 December 2008	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008	Total
Clearance	0	14,372,367	14,372,367
Coordination and Quality Assurance	738,439	3,046,410	3,784,849
Sub-Total	738,439	17,418,777	18,157,216
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			2,338,545
Total			20,495,761

Nepal

Income to the programme comprised a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom of US \$205,621 together with an appropriation under the mine action component of the UNMIN regular budget of US \$166,486. The MAU has been supporting Maoist Army combatants to fulfil their obligations under the Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies of 8 December 2006. It has also been liaising with the Nepal Army to enhance their ability to clear 53 minefields and 275 security positions reinforced with IEDs, per the agreement, and assisting national authorities in creating a national mine action authority.

Nepal

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	205,621
From Regular Budget	166,486
Total	372,107

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to Implementing Partners as of 31 December 2008	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008	Total
Coordination	0	187,193	166,486
Total	0	187,193	187,193

Somalia

Mine action operations in south-central Somalia were launched in 2008 with the primary objective of establishing a national MACC to cover the region. The SCMAC now operates alongside well-established counterparts in Somaliland and Puntland to coordinate mine action in Somalia. UNDP has a complementary component of the project based in Nairobi that focuses on capacity development for mine action within its Rule of Law and Security programme. UNMAS aims to complement this effort by developing a comprehensive mine action project.

Initial funding for mine action in Somalia came entirely from unearmarked funds from the VTF. The Netherlands has now earmarked US \$635,000 for 2009. A redeployment request for US \$573,000 is being processed from the General Assembly's approved commitment authority for AMISOM mine action activities through 30 June 2009.

Sudan

The income of US \$64,173,304 included US \$39,725,800 appropriated by the General Assembly under the mine action component of UNMIS, and voluntary contributions of US \$24,447,504 (compared to US \$17,318,342 in 2007). Increased donor funding allowed the expansion of mine action assets, the development of national operational capacity and victim assistance activities. Voluntary contributions were allocated to UNOPS and NGOs working in Sudan as service providers for project implementation. These NGOs include MAG (EOD in southern Sudan, integrated mine action in Blue Nile and mobile mechanical support); the Survey Action Center (an LIS); AAR-Japan (mine risk education and material development); DCA (EOD in South Kordofan); Christina Blind Mission (victim assistance); and Nuba Mountain Mine Action Sudan (mechanical support and capacity building), which is the national NGO directly involved with UNMAS' assistance in operational capacity development. The peacekeeping-assessed resources for UNMIS supported rapid response emergency surveys, EOD and battle area clearance, landmine and ERW clearance, mine risk education and route verification and clearance.

Sudan

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	24,447,504
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	9,136,934
Operation	30,588,866
Sub-Total	39,725,800
Total	64,173,304

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to Implementing Partners as of 31 December 2008	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008	Total
Integrated Landmine and ERW Survey and Clearance	4,011,950	6,139,115	10,151,065
Technical Assistance and Coordination	1,044,579	5,833,527	6,878,106
Mine Risk Education	0	201,586	201,586
Victim Assistance	31,595	790,019	821,614
Landmine Impact Survey	0	947,441	947,441
Sub-Total	5,088,124	13,911,688	18,999,812
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			9,735,573
Operation			32,593,007
Sub-Total			42,328,580
Total			61,328,392

Darfur

Income for this programme consisted of US \$11,281,100 appropriated by the General Assembly under the mine action component of UNAMID. Three rapid response teams and one route verification team have been deployed to conduct emergency surveys, battle area clearance, and route verification in South and West Darfur; and to provide mine and ERW risk education to the local population and IDPs. UNMAS, through UNMAO and WRMAO, coordinated, planned and implemented all mine action operations to enable UNAMID to accomplish its mandated activities. The regional office of WRMAO in El Fashir, and its sub-offices in El Geneina and Nyala, continued to coordinate mine action activities among UNAMID, UN agencies, NGOs, and central and local authorities, and provide necessary quality assurance.

Darfur

Income

From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	2,820,275
Operation	8,460,825
Total	11,281,100

Expenditures

From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	Outstanding advances to Implementing Partners as of 31 December 2008	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008	Total
Coordination			2,671,692
Operation			8,015,075
Total			10,686,767

Western Sahara

Contributions from the Holy See, Japan and the Netherlands provided support for mine detection, ERW clearance and survey activities in POLISARIO-controlled areas of Western Sahara, and partially funded a senior mine action adviser post at the MINURSO MACC to bolster coordination. Appropriations under the mine action component of the MINURSO peacekeeping budget totalled US \$336,000. Expenditures from MINURSO-assessed funds partially supported the senior mine action adviser post, and a rapid clearance and survey team within the eastern area of operations.

Western Sahara

Income

From Voluntary Trust Fund	257,080
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds	
Coordination	87,360
Operation	248,640
Sub-Total	336,000
Total	593,080

Expenditures

From Voluntary Trust Fund	Outstanding advances to Implementing Partners as of 31 December 2008	Expenditure Related to Funding Provided Prior to 1 January 2008	Total
Clearance	0	618,000	618,000
Coordination	50,358	112,921	163,279
Sub-Total	50,358	730,921	781,279
From Peacekeeping Assessed Funds			
Coordination			43,415
Operation			123,566
Sub-Total			166,981
Total			948,260