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## Leaving no one Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals

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# LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: MINE ACTION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

## GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING (GICHD)

The GICHD is an expert organisation working to reduce the impact of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive hazards, in close partnership with mine action organisations and other human security organisations. We support the ultimate goals of mine action: saving lives, returning land to productive use and promoting development. Based at the Maison de la paix in Geneva, the GICHD employs around 65 staff members from over 19 different countries. This makes the GICHD a unique and international centre of mine action expertise and knowledge. Our work is made possible by core contributions, project funding and in-kind support from more than 30 governments and organisations.

## UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in nearly 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

### **Acknowledgements**

The GICHD and UNDP wish to thank the many mine action stakeholders from within national authorities, donor agencies, the United Nations and mine action organisations who dedicated their time and efforts in responding to the questionnaire and interviews that form the basis of this study. The GICHD and UNDP also express their appreciation to UNDP Country Offices as well as broader human security experts, including from the Maison de la paix SDG Hub, for their valuable contribution. Finally, the GICHD and UNDP want to thank Elke Hottentot, Handicap International, for her input and comments on the section related to victim assistance. Special thanks go to Hans Risser for his contribution in the early phase of this study.

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The authors of this study are Ursign Hofmann (GICHD) and Olaf Juergensen (UNDP).

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# LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: MINE ACTION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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# FOREWORD

The mine action and development communities have worked as close partners for decades. Beyond releasing land for safe passage and access – providing immediate positive effects – mine action has contributed to longer-term recovery and development efforts in war-affected states around the world.

Indeed, as this study shows, mine action has a critical role to play in helping mine-affected states, often fragile or suffering from protracted crises, address the immediate humanitarian challenges posed by the presence of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, while at the same time laying the foundation of durable recovery and lasting peace and development.

Mine action is, of course, only one of the answers to the threats faced by mine-affected states in a post-conflict setting. Still, its role has at times been insufficiently considered in humanitarian-peacebuilding-development debates.

Using the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a unifying framework, this study addresses this shortcoming and identifies entry points for policymakers, mine action organisations, UN agencies, and donor partners to tighten the coherence of their work, both within the mine action sector and the broader peace and development communities. It provides a first look at how the various activities undertaken in mine action are linked to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and makes recommendations for planning, reporting and financing to heighten the overall impact and enhance mainstreaming of the sector's efforts.

National contexts, priorities, and capacities will continue to influence states' ability to reach the SDG targets. Still, we hope this study will provide sound direction towards increased mine action effectiveness in helping to make the 2030 Agenda's vision of ensuring that 'no one is left behind' a reality.



**Ambassador Stefano Toscano**  
Director  
Geneva International Centre for  
Humanitarian Demining



**Magdy Martínez-Solimán**  
United Nations Assistant Secretary-General  
Assistant Administrator  
United Nations Development Programme



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since January 2016, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – that are integrated and indivisible in nature – have shaped global development efforts. The 2030 Agenda is based on the premise that sustainable development is participatory, inclusive and non-discriminatory, so that ‘no one is left behind’, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalised in society. One of the biggest challenges in achieving this bold vision will be found in fragile states, which have been torn apart by conflict and often suffer the effects of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

In conflict and immediate post-conflict phases, mine action tends to pursue immediate humanitarian objectives rather than medium- and long-term development-oriented goals. However, as the study findings show, there is much potential for the work of mine action in fragile contexts to prepare the foundations on which sustainable peace and development can be built. As the mine action sector matures, its role as a transformational activity that not only reduces violence and fear, but also enables and accelerates broader sustainable development, should be strengthened. Mine action has in many instances played a part in reducing the humanitarian-development divide – as the Iraq example in this study demonstrates – but the 2030 Agenda provides the blueprint for doing so in a more coherent way.

To address the interconnected challenges faced in today’s rapidly changing world, the 2030 Agenda calls for integrated responses and a new approach to planning, delivery, monitoring and reporting on development outcomes. In this regard, mine action can build on decades of hard-won experience and achievements, such as focusing on the most marginalised groups in society, having a general understanding of how mine action contributes to improved lives and livelihoods, having well-developed information management systems, and increasingly using data for evidence-based planning and reporting.

These capabilities are strengths that are crucial when working towards achieving the SDGs. Through them, mine action can help other development actors address challenges of 2030 Agenda implementation related to data collection and analysis, results monitoring, and priority-setting.

The 2030 Agenda's call for going beyond 'business as usual' is helping the mine action sector reflect and address persistent challenges related to:

- aligning mine action with broader development priorities at planning and implementation phases;
- defining and monitoring outcomes in terms of equity, livelihoods, peacebuilding, and development investments;
- collecting and analysing disaggregated development data for planning and reporting of results;
- cooperating and coordinating across humanitarian-development sectors and stakeholders.

The joint GICHD-UNDP study identifies nine key findings and provides policy recommendations for each to help the mine action sector mainstream and implement the 2030 Agenda:

## **A. Ensuring No One is Left Behind**

At the core of the 2030 Agenda is the goal to 'leave no one behind' and to 'reach the furthest behind first'<sup>1</sup> to ensure inclusiveness in all its forms. Given the humanitarian and developmental impacts of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, mine action often finds itself at the forefront of efforts to rebuild lives and communities that have become marginalised, and rendered vulnerable by conflict. But, experience suggests that mine action dividends do not always benefit all members of society equally.

The study recommends strategic planning processes, the definition of indicators, sustainable development-oriented priority-setting, monitoring, and data collection and analysis as the areas where mine action can do better to ensure no one is left behind and contribute to more equitable, participatory and inclusive societies.

## **B. Mapping mine action contributions to the SDGs**

The 2030 Agenda provides a robust structure for mine action to demonstrate, through its five recognised pillars<sup>2</sup>, its catalytic and accelerating role in the achievement of SDG targets and in building resilience in mine-affected countries.

It was found that twelve SDGs are, in one way or another, of direct relevance to mine action, such as the contribution to 'promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies' (SDG 16), and in particular, the target to reduce violence and casualties. Indirectly, mine action was found to contribute to the achievement of four other

SDGs, including to ‘sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss’ (SDG 15).<sup>3</sup> To avoid simply ‘shoehorning’ mine action into the SDG framework, further mapping of mine action’s current and potential links to the SDGs will be critical in demonstrating its relevance to broader development. Data will be essential to validate these links.

## **C Using the 2030 Agenda as a framework in support of humanitarian, rights-based and legal drivers in mine action**

The 2030 Agenda does not represent the only policy framework guiding mine action. Humanitarian imperatives, legal obligations and a rights-based approach also influence work on the ground. While acknowledging these different drivers in mine action, the 2030 Agenda provides a powerful overarching framework to bring together and reinforce action under a common set of imperatives. In other words, the imperative of meeting obligations under the Anti-Personal Mine Ban or Cluster Munitions conventions, or fulfilling the rights of mine victims, and efforts geared towards achieving the SDGs can be mutually reinforcing.

## **D. Anchoring mine action within the SDG framework**

The SDGs provide a direction for policy and planning to make development truly sustainable. Given the global nature of the SDGs, more country-specific areas of work, such as mine action, are not explicitly identified, but anticipated to be addressed through national-level SDG adaptation processes (nationalisation of the global SDG framework).

Countries should try to capture the contribution of mine action to sustainable development explicitly through national SDG frameworks, by developing appropriate entry points (e.g. Goals, targets and indicators). Strong political commitment will be critical in this endeavour; a first set of countries (e.g. Afghanistan, Cambodia and Lao PDR) is currently engaged in this process. Ultimately, anchoring mine action in national SDG frameworks will facilitate integration into broader national, sectoral, and United Nations (UN) development plans.

The study finds that mine-affected countries intend to use the SDG framework for revising national mine action strategies, and as a basis for national mine action policy and priority-setting. Similarly, in their quest to respond to national development priorities, several mine action organisations and donor agencies have begun to align their policies and plans with the SDG framework. This is a promising trend and the study encourages more mine action stakeholders to take into consideration the new policy landscape and pursue efforts for alignment.

## **E. Achieving more effective and coherent mine action support through mainstreaming into broader sustainable development**

Policy coherence for sustainable development is central to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and underpins all aspects of SDG design and implementation. As with other sectors, mine action has at times been conducted in a silo, removed from broader humanitarian and development activities. The study finds that a significant step towards increased policy coherence and maximised impact consists in exploring the interactions of mine action with other sectors – such as agriculture, education, environmental protection, health and tourism. By understanding synergies, win-win interventions, possible conflicts and trade-offs, policymakers can better prioritise mine action as an accelerating element to advance multiple SDGs.

Beyond mainstreaming into strategic development frameworks, it is important that stakeholders align operations with non-mine action sectors at the implementation level through national budgets, planning, delivery, monitoring and reporting mechanisms. Increased coherence and effectiveness can also be sought within mine action organisations operating with broader humanitarian and development mandates. To achieve greater results in planning and implementation, mine action stakeholders should seek coherent policy and programme design.

## **F. Designing outcomes and indicators to document mine action contributions to sustainable development**

The 2030 Agenda calls on partners to measure and record development and change over a 15-year period. The study observes that more evidence is needed to document how mine action is a transformative activity and how it contributes to changing people's lives.

Monitoring and measuring mine action outcomes is critical. Given the 2030 Agenda's scope, this can be done using the SDG targets and indicators. The study notes the development of SDG-linked indicators as missing in specific policy and programme guidance – a gap it attempts to narrow. While it has been observed that most mine action stakeholders operate with outcome-based monitoring systems, a strengthened focus is needed on defining, and possibly standardising, sound SDG-compatible outcomes and indicators.

Disaggregating data – at a minimum with respect to sex, age, disability, and smallest administrative territory – is important to understand who the beneficiaries are, and identify any groups that are being left behind. For this to occur, sound baseline data are required. If not available, establishing baselines should be a priority.

**FIGURE 1** PROSPECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MINE ACTION TO RELEVANT SDGs



## **G. Managing and analysing information**

One of the biggest challenges in achieving the SDGs is data collection, analysis, use, and reporting; national systems are being stretched in this regard. Notably, however, mine action has been a leader in the area of data collection, management, and visualisation. Tools, practices and lessons learnt from mine action information management can be of relevance to other sectors and should be shared.

Addressing information management requirements in the SDG era, the study identifies a need for mine action information management systems to be reviewed to establish mechanisms that capture SDG-compatible indicators. Furthermore, mine action stakeholders should explore how existing systems can be adapted to report on contributions to the SDGs directly and how they can be linked to national statistical systems and databases.

## **H. Raising awareness of mine action's strategic contributions**

Raising awareness at international and national level on the role mine action can play in achieving the SDGs is important, including through capturing country-level evidence that can put a 'human face' on the work and impact of mine action.

Awareness should be increased, both within and beyond the sector, in particular with practitioners and stakeholders who rely on mine action as an enabling activity for other humanitarian and development work, and with whom stronger cooperation needs to be developed. This will enhance mine action's positioning in broader humanitarian and development thinking and practice.

## **I. Financing and new partnerships to galvanize efforts**

The study identifies resource mobilisation for mine action as an area of great concern. Recent trends in mine action financing have been downwards, dropping from approximately USD 683 million in 2012 to USD 471 million in 2015.<sup>4</sup> Coupled with the global annual investment needs for SDG implementation estimated at USD 5-7 trillion<sup>5</sup>, mine action will need to think innovatively to position itself to benefit from expected SDG-earmarked funding. Beyond financial support, partnerships with the private sector, philanthropic institutions, and trust funds can also foster entrepreneurial spirit, innovation, knowledge, and technology transfer.

The study notes that funding for mine action from development and non-traditional mine action sources is an increasing possibility – notwithstanding the fact that

there are still donors who specifically fund humanitarian action activities – if stakeholders can clearly articulate and demonstrate the development outcomes of their efforts. The SDGs offer mine action a fresh pathway to do so.

## **Tools and resources**

Tools and resources to address the recommendations made in the study are included in Chapter 6. They are intended to provide the basis for discussion and design of SDG-aligned mine action policies and programmes and include:

- i.** Background resources on the 2030 Agenda
- ii.** Questions for initiating policy analysis and mainstreaming exercises
- iii.** Simple analytical framework for scoring policy interactions
- iv.** Illustrative list of potential outcomes and indicators

# PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

The joint GICHD-UNDP study explores the links between mine action and the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. It seeks to reflect the current understanding of the contribution and impact that mine action is having on achieving the 2030 Agenda in countries affected by landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

The study also aims to provide guidance to policy and decision makers from mine action organisations, donors and particularly National Mine Action Authorities on how to:

- increase awareness and understanding of the 2030 Agenda amongst the mine action community and its core partners;
- identify the catalytic potential of mine action for progress across relevant SDGs;
- promote clear mainstreaming of mine action into broader sustainable development through integrated prioritisation, planning, financing, implementation, monitoring, and reporting mechanisms;
- establish SDG-compatible outcomes and indicators for monitoring and reporting on project achievements;
- participate in the development of national SDG strategies, policies, plans and frameworks.

Finally, the study strives to bring resources and knowledge on SDG mainstreaming from other sectors closer to the mine action community. It also hopes to provide an avenue for mine action to add its voice to the broader debates on humanitarian action and development that have emerged in recent years.



# METHODOLOGY

The findings of the study are informed by a growing wealth of policy literature on SDG implementation and guidance from United Nations agencies, development organisations, civil society, private sector, academia and practitioners. The primary evidence used in the study is drawn from a tailored questionnaire sent to 57 mine action and human security stakeholders in September 2016. The questionnaire was followed up by interviews, email exchanges, as well as comments and suggestions on early drafts of the study and presentation of preliminary findings at the 20<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisers in February 2017.

In total, the results of the study are based on more than 50 responses from mine action authorities, donor agencies, mine action organisations, the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA – comprising 14 UN entities) and UNDP Country Offices. Input was also received from other human security partners and academic institutions.<sup>6</sup> Information collected underwent a qualitative analysis and was aggregated to highlight key lessons and current practice.







## INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Sustainable development is most commonly defined as development ‘that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.<sup>7</sup> For development to be sustainable it is argued that three dimensions – economic development, social equity and environmental protection – need to be balanced and addressed in unison.<sup>8</sup>



## WHAT IS THE 2030 AGENDA AND ITS SDGS?

Building on previous development achievements and addressing shortcomings – in particular in relation to the 2000-2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – United Nations (UN) Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its indivisible and integrated 17 associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a global summit in September 2015 to guide development efforts until 2030.<sup>9</sup> The year-long global process leading towards the 2030 Agenda, known as the ‘World We Want’, helped define the 2030 Agenda (see *Annexes*).

### ▾ SELECTED RESOURCE

UN (2015), *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1.

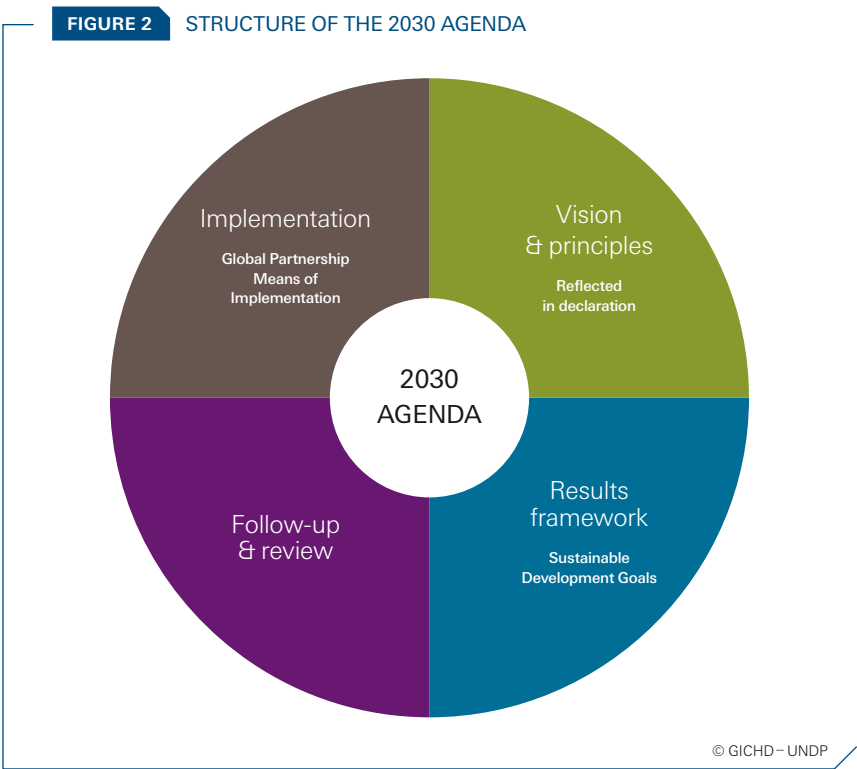
The 2030 Agenda is based on the premise that sustainable development be participatory, inclusive and non-discriminatory, so that ‘no one is left behind’, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalised. One of the biggest challenges in achieving this bold vision will be found in fragile states that have been torn apart by conflict. It is in these very places where mine action conducts the majority of its work and has a particularly important role to play.

The 2030 Agenda entered into effect on 1 January 2016 and is comprised of four central components:

**Vision and principles**

Being a response to the many significant challenges to sustainable development of our times ranging from extreme poverty, climate change, and numerous large-scale humanitarian crises, the 2030 Agenda recognises the *indivisibility* of and need to balance the three main elements of sustainable development.

This approach captures the spirit of interconnectedness of the challenges and responses needed to achieve the SDGs; it calls for the identification of synergies and trade-offs across the three dimensions of sustainable development. The building blocks of the responses to these interrelated challenges rest at the national level.<sup>10</sup>



The following principles shape the 2030 Agenda:<sup>11</sup>

<b>National ownership</b>	Each country bears the primary responsibility for its economic and social development. It needs to tailor the 2030 Agenda, its global Goals and targets to national priorities and context, leading to a national SDG results framework.
<b>Inclusiveness and participation</b>	National ownership is about the 2030 Agenda being owned by the people it is designed to help. Nationalisation of the 2030 Agenda therefore needs to be an inclusive and participatory process, giving voice to all groups of society, particularly the marginalised and vulnerable.
<b>Universality</b>	The SDGs and targets apply to developed and developing countries alike. To account for their different needs, challenges and resources, all countries have common, but differentiated responsibilities.
<b>Leaving no one behind</b>	States pledge 'that no one will be left behind [and] to reach the furthest behind first.' <sup>12</sup> The MDGs insufficiently identified the benefitting groups of society, leaving the needs of marginalised groups often unmet. At its core, the 2030 Agenda addresses all forms of discrimination and inequality.
<b>Human rights perspective</b>	The respect, protection and promotion of human rights are the very foundation of 'leaving no one behind', non-discrimination and enabling people's freedom from fear and freedom from want.
<b>Integrated approach to sustainable development</b>	Current challenges are linked to one another and are interdependent. To address them effectively, a new, integrated approach is a necessity to understand better the multidimensionality of sustainable development.
<b>Consistency with international law</b>	The 2030 Agenda respects and is consistent with the rights and obligations of states under international law. As such, treaty obligations and deadlines for States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and/or the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) prevail.

## Results framework

The 2030 Agenda comprises 17 thematic SDGs tailored to complete what the MDGs started and add elements that were missing or not strongly articulated in the 8 MDGs.<sup>13</sup> The nexus between peace and development, for instance, which was absent in the MDGs, is explicitly recognised in the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16 on 'promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies'.

The SDGs are further subdivided into 169 global targets and 230 indicators. The results framework will be subsequently adapted to national contexts.

### ➤ SELECTED RESOURCE

UN (2016), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, UN Doc. E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1.

**FIGURE 3** THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The SDGs are integrated and indivisible; success or failure in achieving a single Goal is inextricably linked to efforts to realise every Goal. A target under one SDG does not, in many cases, only contribute to 'its' own Goal, but also to other Goals. Interactions can be positive (synergies) or negative (trade-offs).<sup>14</sup>

### ➤ SELECTED RESOURCE

Le Blanc David (2015), 'Towards integration at last? The sustainable development goals as a network of targets', DESA Working Paper No. 141.

## Means of implementation

The 2030 Agenda emphasises the critical need to ensure means of implementation: revigorated global partnerships, collaborations and a diversity of financial resources, including in particular from the private sector, in achieving its ambitious Goals.

## Follow-up and review

A systematic follow-up and annual review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda ensures regular progress monitoring, reporting, and accountability. Mindful of national circumstances, capacities and priorities, follow-up and review processes are led by each country and remain voluntary.

### ▾ SELECTED RESOURCE

UN (2016), *Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level. Report of the Secretary-General*, UN Doc. A/70/684.





## MINE ACTION CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS SDG IMPLEMENTATION

In the wake of the adoption of the MDGs, mine action research, policy and operational focus moved from meeting basic human security towards promoting socio-economic development and improved lives and livelihoods.<sup>15</sup> The study findings presented here detect that this shift prompted a stronger emphasis on development and safety perception-related outcomes, and a switch from output-based and weapons-centred indicators to more outcome-focused, developmental ones.

However, since the global MDG framework did not include peace and security-related issues, a direct link could not, in general, be drawn in the study between the MDGs and mine action; mine action stakeholders needed to link their work with development in mine action strategies or development frameworks at national and organisational level (see *Annexes*).

#### ▾ SELECTED RESOURCE

UNDP and PRIO (2004), *Reclaiming the Fields of War: Mainstreaming Mine Action in Development* (New York; Oslo: UNDP; PRIO).

GICHD (2009), *Linking Mine Action and Development. Guidelines for Mine/ERW Operators* (Geneva: GICHD).

The 2030 Agenda calls for a new approach to planning, delivery, monitoring and reporting for development. In this regard, mine action stakeholders can build on decades of experience and achievements from around the world that includes:

- an overall understanding of how mine action contributes to improved lives and livelihoods as part of peacebuilding, early recovery and long-term development;
- a growing use of data for evidence-based planning and reporting;
- the establishment of information management systems;
- targeting activities at the most marginalised groups in society;
- supporting national ownership and capacity development;
- the ability to work in a range of operational settings, from humanitarian emergencies to long-term development.



## BOX 1

### CONTRIBUTION OF THE LEBANON MINE ACTION STRATEGY 2011-2020 TO THE MDGs

One strategic objective in Lebanon's Mine Action Strategy 2011-2020 addresses the potential socio-economic impact of land release. Priority is given to residential areas and areas needed for socio-economic purposes. Post-clearance survey data from 2006-2010 indeed indicate that 97% of cleared areas were immediately put into use (agriculture, housing, grazing land, public use, tourism and commerce).<sup>16</sup> The Lebanese Mine Action Centre noted that MDG 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger played an important role in mobilising funding for clearance and victim assistance.

These are strengths that are crucial when working towards achieving the SDGs. Through them, mine action can help other development stakeholders address challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda related to data collection and analysis, results monitoring and priority-setting.

At the same time, the 2030 Agenda helps us rethink some of the persistent challenges experienced during the MDG era, such as how better to:

- align mine action with broader development priorities at planning and implementation phases;
- define and monitor outcomes in terms of equity, livelihoods, peacebuilding, and development investments;
- collect and analyse disaggregated development data for planning and reporting of results;
- coordinate across humanitarian-development sectors and stakeholders.<sup>17</sup>

## MAPPING MINE ACTION CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SDGs

By its nature, SDG 16 provides the most direct entry point for mine action, in particular SDG target 16.1 that seeks to 'significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere'. As one respondent to this study stated, 'with SDG 16, peace and stability become development objectives in their own right. There is therefore no need to 'link' mine action to development – mine action delivers directly against the SDG'.

Many direct and indirect contributions of mine action to wider sustainable development outcomes are not explicitly articulated in the global SDG framework. It is therefore critical to explore how mine action – through its five pillars – can be reflected to capture the relevance of its contributions. These links need to be evidence based.

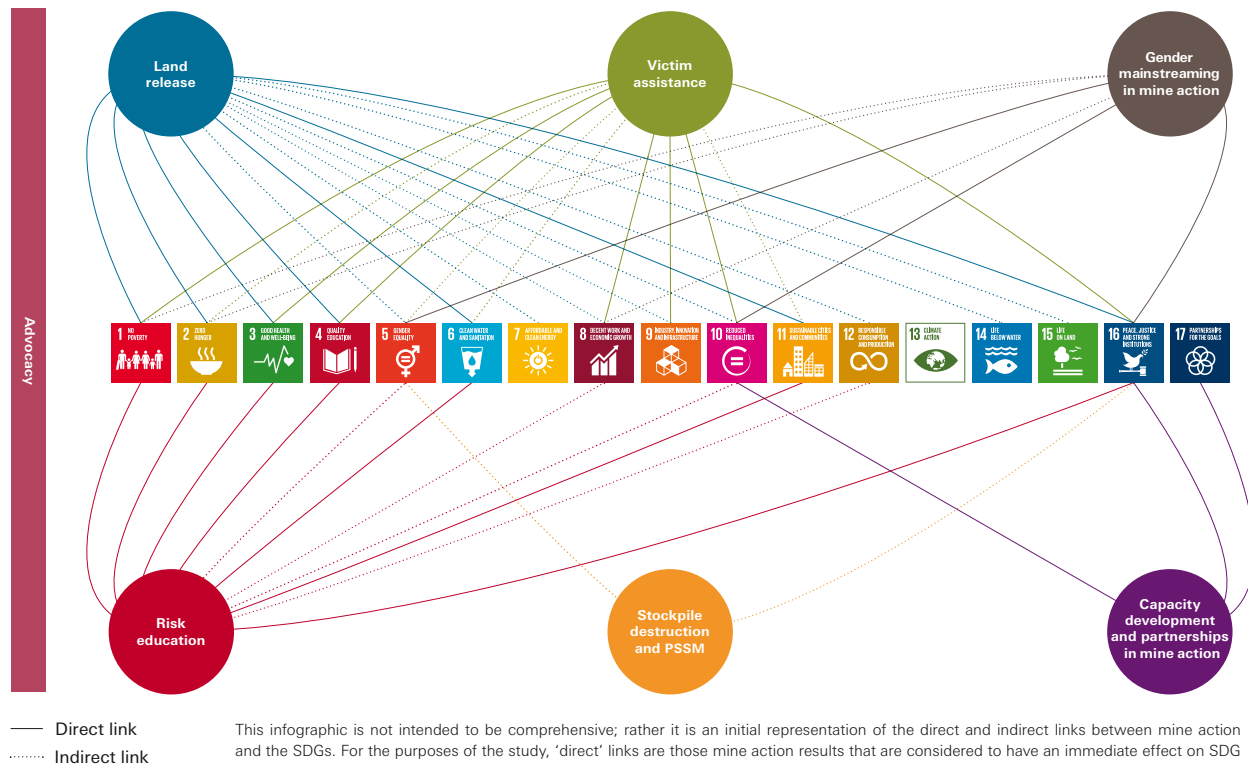
As one respondent to this study framed it, ‘without seeing clear linkage, it may be difficult to understand why mine action support needs to be continued’. It emerged from the research of this study that twelve SDGs are, in one way or another, of direct relevance to mine action. It was also found that mine action can contribute to the attainment of four other SDGs indirectly. Figure 4 attempts to summarise these major direct and indirect links between the SDGs and mine action.

The mapping exercise presented in this study breaks contributions down in four of the five mine action pillars. Considering the advocacy pillar as an overarching pillar, its contribution to the SDGs was not analysed specifically. However, other critical mine action dimensions – gender mainstreaming, capacity development and partnerships – are discussed. It should also be noted that, while the study recognises the crucial intersecting role of partnerships and cooperation across all mine action pillars/dimensions, SDG 17 which relates to means of implementation is not addressed under each of them, but analysed separately in the ‘capacity development and partnership’ section.

Mine action operations are focused in some cases on immediate and short-term results, while in other cases medium- and longer-term development aims are prioritised. Depending on timing and objectives, links to the SDGs can therefore occur at different levels; for example, a link may be possible between a short-term mine action outcome (e.g. safe access through cleared land) and the SDGs or between a medium- or longer-term mine action outcome (e.g. improved livelihoods) and the SDGs.

As the SDGs are not measured against a common set of indicators, but only their related targets, the following analysis therefore looks at the global target level of the direct and indirect links between mine action and the SDGs as illustrated in Figure 4. The analysis below is an attempt to provide input for the development of a *Theory of Change* for mine action and how it can contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

**FIGURE 4** MAJOR DIRECT AND INDIRECT LINKS BETWEEN MINE ACTION AND THE SDGs



This infographic is not intended to be comprehensive; rather it is an initial representation of the direct and indirect links between mine action and the SDGs. For the purposes of the study, 'direct' links are those mine action results that are considered to have an immediate effect on SDG targets. 'Indirect' links relate to mine action outcomes that contribute to SDG targets in the medium- and long-term.

## Land release

One of the major aims of land release is to reduce violence and casualties, benefitting marginalised and vulnerable groups in societies exposed to the threat of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). Land release aligns well with SDG target 16.1. Moreover, reducing female casualties also has direct influence on SDG target 5.2 related to eliminating violence against women and girls. The re-establishment of safe physical living environments is, however, not only an objective in itself, but also an enabling pre-condition that makes possible – and can help accelerate – many other development activities.

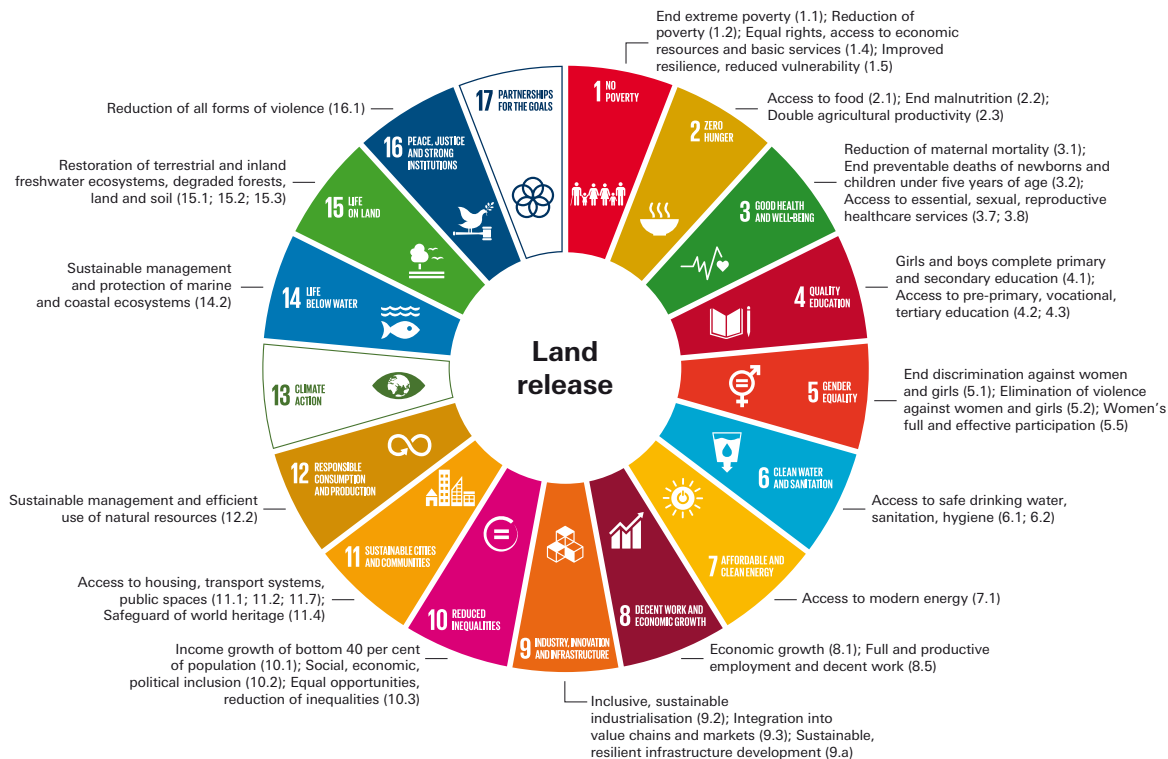
The process of releasing land removes physical blockages and mobility constraints, and facilitates safe access to basic social services for beneficiaries, such as healthcare services (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), and water and sanitation (SDG 6), thereby contributing to building resilience for beneficiaries to future crises and shocks.<sup>18</sup> Similarly, freeing up access to economic markets and natural resources can provide livelihood opportunities and yield productivity improvements in previously affected communities that help address issues of poverty, malnutrition and food insecurity (SDGs 1 and 2).<sup>19</sup>

Infrastructure can start being (re)built (SDG 9) and economies recover and grow, with mine action programmes offering decent work (e.g. deminers, medics, support services) and transferable skills (e.g. Geographic Information Systems (GIS), medical, managerial, and logistics) in affected communities which often include youth and women (SDG 8). Furthermore, the release of land frees access for (re) constructing power network infrastructures to allow energy services to become more accessible as a public good for all, including affected and non-affected communities, cities and other development sectors (SDG 7).

In urban settings, where there is often a higher concentration of contamination and risk, the removal of explosive hazards makes the safe use, rehabilitation and building of housing, settlements and transportation infrastructure possible (SDG 11). The current rise of protracted conflicts and contamination in urban areas (e.g. Iraq and Syria) underlines the critical importance of mine action in contributing to the delivery of essential urban services and laying the foundation for safe cities.

Forests and protected natural areas have often been neglected in favour of land with more immediate resettlement and development benefits. As contamination in such areas is being increasingly addressed, safe access to renewable and non-renewable natural resources, which has been shown to be central to human well-being, livelihoods and long-term recovery efforts, becomes important.<sup>20</sup>

**FIGURE 5** KEY GLOBAL SDG TARGETS RELEVANT TO LAND RELEASE





Notwithstanding, managed access to such sensitive released areas could also yield positive conservation benefits. Furthermore, in countries with high biodiversity and vegetation cover, the SDGs can facilitate a new emphasis on environmental and social mitigation measures in mine clearance (or stockpile destruction), in relation to the direct impact of operations and sustainable development impacts such as deforestation, land degradation, climate change vulnerability or loss of biodiversity. The recent Environmental and Social Impact Assessment on UNDP's contribution to mine action in Cambodia illustrates this heightened concern.<sup>21</sup>

As the case of Croatia illustrates, clearance helps remove the potential environmental hazard that mines represent in the ground<sup>22</sup> and contribute to the restoration of degraded terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15), while at the same time unlocking the potential for sustainable tourism (SDG 8). Furthermore, natural

## BOX 2

### MINE CLEARANCE AS ENABLER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN CROATIA

The Republic of Croatia is preparing the 'Mine Clearance, Regeneration and Protection of Forests and Forest Land in Protected Areas and Natura 2000 Sites in the Danube-Drava Region, Naturavita.' project. Funded through the European Commission, the project brings together the Agency for Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia, the Office for Mine Action, the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC), and public entities for parks (Kopački Rit Nature Park), forests (Hrvatske šume d.o.o), and water management (Hrvatske Vode).

The project will include the clearance of 27.526 km<sup>2</sup> of suspected mined areas, as well as the protection and regeneration of forests and forest land in the Kopački Rit Nature Park and Mura-Drava Regional Park. Furthermore, it will protect water and water-dependent ecosystems, reduce fire risk and risks of other natural disasters, and promote ecosystem services.

Once approved, the project will be implemented over five years, with the majority of mine clearance executed in the first 9 months. Of the estimated EUR 47.8 million project costs, EUR 33.1 million will be allocated to mine clearance.



resources can only be protected, used efficiently and managed sustainably, if they can be accessed safely (SDG 12).

Releasing suspected land for productive use constitutes a necessary enabling factor – one among others such as securing land tenure rights for local users<sup>23</sup> – to ensure that all groups of society, especially women and the marginalised, are included socially, politically and economically, and can enjoy equal opportunities and rights to potential unlocked benefits. Priority-setting of mine action tasks, in particular, also provides a window to effectively ensure these groups are involved (SDGs 5 and 10).



## Risk education

Risk education aims to encourage safer behaviour by beneficiaries so that the risk of death and injury from mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war is reduced.<sup>24</sup> By averting casualties and increasing reporting on mine hazards, risk education activities directly and powerfully contribute to addressing violence, including female casualties (SDGs 5 and 16).

By reducing the risk to a level where people can live more safely, risk education contributes to safer patterns in daily life, especially where resources vital for community survival (e.g. land and water in rural areas) are under stress and are pending release and handover. This, in turn, creates an environment in which economic and social development can continue to evolve in communities despite the fact that they are living in mine-affected areas.



**FIGURE 6** KEY GLOBAL SDG TARGETS RELEVANT TO RISK EDUCATION



## Victim assistance

Victim assistance is targeted at both survivors and indirect victims (e.g. families of people injured and killed, as well as people living in affected areas) of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war and is provided based on the human rights principle of non-discrimination. As such, it needs to be approached from both a disability and vulnerability angle. Socially and economically, survivors and indirect victims tend to be marginalised and discriminated against, as they are often perceived as not fully contributing members of a family or society, but rather as a burden.<sup>25</sup> The impairment of household members or the exclusion of indirect victims often heavily affects entire families (and the communities at large). Socio-economic marginalisation can at times, therefore, contribute to a vicious cycle of vulnerability.<sup>26</sup>

Survivors and indirect victims are generally among the furthest left behind in mine-affected countries, especially those overwhelmed with the responsibility for significant numbers of victims.<sup>27</sup> It is female survivors and indirect victims, in particular, that often face additional layers of discrimination based on gender roles and expectations.

Victim assistance requires that specific support to victims is implemented in a non-discriminatory manner and serves as a catalyst to advance inclusion and the rights of persons with disabilities, including survivors, and that broader efforts reach direct and indirect victims amongst wider groups of beneficiaries; this has been referred to as an integrated approach.<sup>28</sup>

Global SDG targets clearly refer to people with disabilities and in vulnerable situations. As current practice demonstrates, support to victims promotes or has the potential to promote equitable and disability-sensitive access for survivors – alongside other persons with disabilities – to an array of basic services such as healthcare (SDG 3), education facilities (SDG 4), drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (SDG 6), infrastructure for all (SDG 9), public spaces and adequate housing (SDG 11).

Similarly, victim assistance works towards increasing inclusion and equal opportunities (SDG 10), enabling decent working conditions (SDG 8), reducing vulnerability (SDG 1), and strengthening the voices of (female) victims in decision-making (SDGs 5 and 16).<sup>29</sup>

**FIGURE 7** KEY GLOBAL SDG TARGETS RELEVANT TO VICTIM ASSISTANCE



Efforts have been undertaken to realise victim assistance obligations related to survivors increasingly through broader frameworks in areas such as health, disability, education or employment, in alignment with human rights instruments, namely the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).<sup>30</sup> Addressing the rights of indirect victims through broader efforts has been less considered, but similar steps could be taken on their behalf, with a strong focus on vulnerability and social protection.

The SDGs can help in this regard, including by identifying survivors and indirect victims among the most vulnerable in society; linking victim assistance to the broader dimensions of disability, vulnerability and social protection (as well as human rights and development); and finally, collecting disaggregated data, measuring progress and ensuring accountability at national level on whether victims benefit from a country's SDG efforts, are effectively reached (e.g. access to services, increase in participation) and included as full and productive members of society amongst broader groups of beneficiaries.<sup>31</sup>

## **Stockpile destruction and Physical Security and Stockpile Management**<sup>32</sup>

As a key mine action pillar and obligation of all States Parties to relevant conventions, stockpile destruction aims to prevent future use of banned weapons. However, the destruction of treaty-banned weapons constitutes only a small portion of stockpile destruction. Weapons and ammunition found in stockpiles may also be obsolete and dangerous. This issue is particularly significant in countries where basic rules of ammunition safety management are not followed.

Poorly managed and ageing ammunition represent a considerable hazard and a threat of explosion to surrounding populations. Furthermore, if not properly secured, the ammunition can be diverted into the wrong hands and pose a serious risk to peace and security.<sup>33</sup> Further to the destruction of treaty-banned items, mine action organisations therefore increasingly engage in weapons and ammunition management programmes more broadly (Physical Security and Stockpile Management, PSSM).<sup>34</sup>

SDG 16 has a twofold significance in this context. Considering the humanitarian hazard posed by inadequately managed ammunition depots, any form of redress intends to prevent violence (including casualties of women and girls, SDG 5). PSSM programmes may also be carried out to increase the security of depots and prevent diversion of weapons and ammunition.

**FIGURE 8**

**KEY GLOBAL SDG TARGETS RELEVANT TO STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION AND PSSM**





## Gender mainstreaming in mine action

A world in which all barriers to women's empowerment and gender equality are removed is an underlying goal of the 2030 Agenda. SDG 5 enshrines this issue with a positive spillover to other Goals.<sup>35</sup> Gender mainstreaming in mine action is a powerful manifestation of these effects.

### BOX 3

#### GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN MINE ACTION

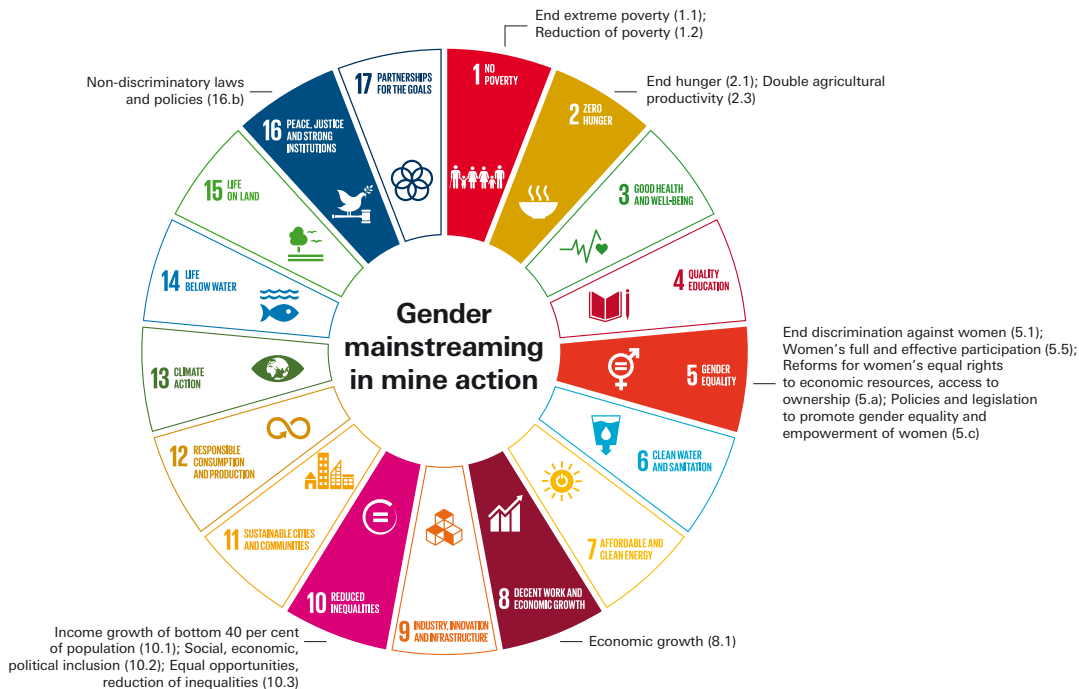
Mine action takes place in a context of differences and inequalities between women and men. Consequently, mine action programmes need to ensure that they take into account the needs of all groups of society, including women, and finally benefit them equally. This helps increase effectiveness, requiring the equal participation of women, alongside a diversity of other under-represented or marginalised groups, in defining needs and deciding on priorities and planning. Furthermore, the importance of employing women in mine action has been largely recognised, such as in survey teams, for community liaison and risk education, and as deminers. Gender mainstreaming also requires data collection to be sensitive to diversity dimensions such as sex, age, language, etc.<sup>36</sup>

The inclusion of women in mine action has important immediate benefits for women and their communities, while at the same time making mine action more effective. Gender-sensitive mine action can also do more than that. It is a pathway towards broader and truly sustainable empowerment and potentially changing societal norms about gender roles.

Giving a voice to women in a community and providing them with equal opportunities (SDG 10), including that of earning a decent living, may not only positively affect their labour market role (SDG 8), but also shift power relations in households and the wider community. Supported by relevant non-discriminatory legislation, strategies and reforms (SDGs 5 and 16), this in turn can contribute to increasing women's transformative agency leading to full and effective participation in influencing decision-making processes that affect their political, economic and social lives (SDGs 5 and 10).<sup>38</sup> As such, women can become drivers of development in the quest to promote growth (SDG 8), particularly of the poorest (SDG 10), to end poverty (SDG 1) and increase food security (SDG 2), amongst others.



**FIGURE 9** KEY GLOBAL SDG TARGETS RELEVANT TO GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN MINE ACTION



## WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MINE ACTION

While evidence on the link between female employment in mine action and women's empowerment is still often anecdotal, recent initial research commissioned by the Gender and Mine Action Programme observed decision-making agency and notions of empowerment within households. Upon employment, a majority of interviewed women tended to gain greater influence over important household decisions, including the allocation of the family's income, resulting in higher self-confidence and self-reliance. Women connected their perception of having greater voice and enjoying more respect from their communities directly to the nature of their work.<sup>37</sup>



### Capacity development and partnerships in mine action

Mine action rests on the principles of national ownership, and international cooperation and assistance in the development of capabilities across all its pillars. These working principles find their reflection throughout the SDG framework, in particular under SDG 17 on partnerships and the means of implementation, which are viewed as essential to SDG achievement.

Furthermore, capacities to strengthen institutional accountability to beneficiaries are at the centre of SDG 16. Accountability may, for instance, be further ensured through participatory project design or decision-making in setting mine action priorities or determining victim assistance plans, transparent reporting or inclusive monitoring and evaluation. Developing national capacities is also a key activity to increase the availability of high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data (SDG 17).

A long tradition of partnerships in mine action has resulted in a vibrant community of practice. For more than two decades the sector has been strong in multi-stakeholder cooperation to reduce inequalities by facilitating the exchange of knowledge, expertise and technology (SDG 17), as well as financial assistance to affected countries (SDG 10). This is illustrated through events such as the annual International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and UN Advisers, provisions on international cooperation and assistance as called for in the APMBC and CCM, and technical knowledge exchange as described in Box 5 below.

#### BOX 5

##### TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION EXCHANGE: THE GICHD-UNMAS TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

Since 2006, the GICHD and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) have convened the sector's Technology Workshops biennially. They are premiere events for mine action organisations and developers to meet and learn from one another about the latest innovations and research as well as challenges, concerns and opportunities from industry innovators and experts.

With the support of Handicap International and the NOMAD consortium, the workshop in late 2016 focused on mobile technology and aimed to raise awareness of and exchange knowledge on the range as well as the operational potential and limitations of available and upcoming mobile systems. More than 100 participants representing organisations and think tanks from developing and developed countries attended the workshop.<sup>39</sup> The theme was extremely topical in view of the current 'data revolution'.<sup>40</sup>

Notably, regional and bilateral North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation has been a strong area of emphasis for the mine action sector, but could be further increased to foster access to innovation, knowledge, and operational field experience. These efforts have helped strengthen the participation of mine-affected countries in the broader global mine action governance arena and need to be further built-on (SDG 16).



**FIGURE 10** KEY GLOBAL SDG TARGETS RELEVANT TO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS IN MINE ACTION

Access to science, innovation, technology, financial resources and knowledge through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation (17.6; 17.16); Effective public, public-private, civil society partnerships (17.17); Capacity-building support to increase availability of high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data (17.18)

Effective, accountable, transparent institutions (16.6); Inclusive, participatory, representative decision-making (16.7); Participation of developing countries in institutions of global governance (16.8)



## USING THE 2030 AGENDA AS A FRAMEWORK IN SUPPORT OF HUMANITARIAN, RIGHTS-BASED AND LEGAL DRIVERS IN MINE ACTION

The above mapping helps demonstrate the extent to which mine action can, and is, contributing to achieving the 2030 Agenda. This is notwithstanding other policy frameworks guiding mine action. Mine action also responds to humanitarian imperatives, a rights-based approach and legal obligations. The 2030 Agenda, however, provides an overarching framework that aims to bring together and reinforce action under these drivers.

### Narrowing the humanitarian-development divide: mine action in fragile contexts

Mine action regularly occurs in fragile contexts. State fragility – and conflict as its biggest driver – was arguably one of the main impediments to meeting the MDGs. The success of the SDGs will heavily depend on how state fragility and risks are managed and resilience built; fragile states are most at risk of being left behind and development gains threatened or reversed by re-occurring or new conflict.<sup>41</sup> As practice shows, political instability and the convergence of many different priorities often prevent national institutions from delivering in an inclusive and efficient way.

#### SELECTED RESOURCE

UNDP (2016), *SDG-Ready. UNDP offer on SDG implementation in fragile situations* (New York: UNDP).






## MINE ACTION IN IRAQ TO SUPPORT STABILISATION AND LIVELIHOODS

Mine action features prominently in the UNDP Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) – a mechanism designed to help rapidly stabilise newly liberated areas in Iraq. Coordinated by UNMAS, mine action activities directly support two critical FFS ‘windows’: public works and light infrastructure rehabilitation, and livelihoods support.<sup>42</sup>

Key actions include, for instance, the rehabilitation of schools within cities and townships in Al-Anbar and Ninewa provinces, paving the way for tens of thousands of Iraqi children including internally displaced persons (IDPs) to return to school, or the safe rehabilitation of water treatment plants or electrical substations and transmission lines to provide clean drinking water and power for hundreds of thousands of Iraqis. Mine action has also allowed the rehabilitation of bridges so that IDPs can return safely to their communities and begin to rebuild their lives.

As voiced by the UNDP Country Office, mine action must be factored in when conducting development interventions in newly liberated areas. Failure to do so delays the delivery of critically needed support under the two ‘windows’. While contributing to the immediate stabilisation of these areas, mine action lays the foundations for sustainable development in line with several SDGs.

In conflict and immediate post-conflict phases, mine action tends to pursue pressing humanitarian objectives rather than medium- and longer-term development-oriented goals. Yet, based on mine action’s considerable record of accomplishments over more than two decades, it certainly can be viewed as a transformational activity that not only reduces violence and fear or (re)establishes safe access for critical humanitarian work, but also enables and accelerates sustainable development. It is also well positioned to help narrow the humanitarian-development divide which has become a major point of focus for the UN and the international community. This is illustrated by recent global policy processes to rethink the traditional ‘humanitarian’, ‘peacebuilding’ and ‘development’ agendas in the context of the 2030 Agenda as summarised on the next page:

<p>World Humanitarian Summit (and its Agenda for Humanity)</p> 	<p>Building on the 2030 Agenda, the Summit called for a change in the way humanitarian challenges are addressed, risk and vulnerability reduced, the most left behind reached and conflict prevention and resolution strengthened. It addressed the interface of humanitarian action with recovery and long-term sustainable development and called for coherent and collective action to transcend the humanitarian-development divide.<sup>43</sup></p>
<p>UN Security Council resolutions</p> 	<p>Based on the reviews of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture and Peace Operations, the UN Security Council initiated a paradigm shift by embracing the concept of ‘sustaining peace’. It is understood as both a goal and process to build a common vision of a society and to ensure that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account. It requires a coherent and integrated approach to address root causes of conflict.<sup>44</sup></p>
<p>UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III and its New Urban Agenda)</p> 	<p>Building on the 2030 Agenda, HABITAT III reaffirmed the importance of sustainable and integrated urban development. It acknowledged the need to support resilient urban services during armed conflict, while promoting safe environments and access to basic services in human settlements to live, work and participate in urban life without fear of violence.<sup>45</sup></p>

## Human rights-based mine action

Mine action is underpinned by a people-centred and rights-based approach focused on saving lives and achieving respect for and fulfilment of fundamental human rights. Enshrined in the APMBC, CCM and Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), assistance to mine victims in particular is about realising the rights of survivors and indirect victims in accordance with international legal instruments such as the CRPD.<sup>46</sup>

On the other hand, the 2030 Agenda aims to realise human rights such as those enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Many of the SDGs encapsulate economic, social and cultural rights – for instance, the right to personal security under SDG 16.<sup>47</sup> This way, implementation of the 2030 Agenda in mine action ensures consistency and alignment with international (human rights) law, while a rights-based approach will continue to be seen as a critical driver for the sector.



## The interplay between mine action treaties and the 2030 Agenda

As noted above, mine action is governed by a number of internationally recognised legal frameworks, namely the APMBC, CCM and CCW. Each of these conventions enshrines specific obligations for their respective States Parties. The 2030 Agenda does not supplant these normative frameworks in any way. Rather, the treaties and 2030 Agenda can mutually reinforce each other in several ways.

First, while obligations under the conventions are legally binding with agreed deadlines that take precedent over the 2030 timeframe, their operative commitments actually echo many of the SDG targets. In other words, by fulfilling convention obligations, States Parties are also contributing to the attainment of the SDGs and associated targets.

Second, the strong political momentum around the 2030 Agenda could at the same time be used by States Parties to accelerate progress towards meeting their treaty obligations, such as by framing mine action as a national SDG accelerator. The aspiration of States Parties to the APMBC to meet their treaty obligations, to the furthest extent possible, by 2025, and by 2030 for CCM States Parties, could also be used by States Parties to prioritise mine action in national SDG planning without prejudice to their respective treaty deadlines.










BEYOND BUSINESS AS USUAL:  
THE 'HOW' OF MAINSTREAMING THE 2030  
AGENDA INTO MINE ACTION POLICIES,  
STRATEGIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

The various published studies and guides on the link between development and mine action remain fully relevant in the context of mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda in mine action.<sup>48</sup> The 2030 Agenda provides new impetus to re-emphasise this relationship. More importantly, its principle aim is to go beyond ‘business as usual’ and transform our planning, implementation and monitoring.

The 2030 Agenda being locally ‘owned’ has tremendous implications for all mine action stakeholders, as expressed by respondents to the study:

<p><b>Mine-affected countries</b></p> 	<p>Contexts, needs, priorities and capacities vary among countries. For this study, National Mine Action Authorities (NMAAs) stressed the key importance of nationalising the 2030 Agenda, SDGs, targets and indicators and ensuring mine action receives due attention in the wider national SDG context.</p>
<p><b>Mine action donor partners</b></p> 	<p>The SDGs are expected to become the reference point for development policies and financing.<sup>50</sup> A new statistical measurement of international development aid is currently in discussion at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that would capture resource flows targeted at SDG implementation (complementary to Official Development Assistance).<sup>51</sup></p> <p>It is expected that referencing the SDGs will become an additional criteria when granting mine action funding. However, when mine action primarily falls into a donor’s humanitarian assistance portfolio (and budget lines) such as for Norway and Germany, meeting immediate humanitarian needs remains the primary objective.</p>
<p><b>Mine action organisations</b></p> 	<p>In their quest to respond to national development priorities – that are expected to be shaped by the 2030 Agenda – the study finds that mine action organisations may have to adapt their strategies and approaches so that they take the 2030 Agenda into account. Donor requirements could of course also prompt such change.</p>

There exist different methodologies for mine-affected countries, donor partners and organisations to mainstream the 2030 Agenda into policies, strategies and programmes at the national and organisational level. The study identifies some of the related implementation challenges and represents a first attempt at providing solutions to overcome them. A list of guiding questions addressing each of the hurdles is contained in *Tools (Chapter 6)*.

## WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT TRANSFORMATION?

Transformation is about addressing ‘both the systemic and structural barriers to, and the drivers of change’.<sup>49</sup> The SDGs target transformational impediments and propose actions to overcome them by striving towards achieving sustainable development at all levels. The principles of the 2030 Agenda strive to change our way of working.

## ENSURING NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

As noted at the outset, the core principle of the 2030 Agenda is to ‘leave no one behind’ and ensure inclusiveness. Given the damaging impact of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, mine action often finds itself in the lead of efforts to rebuild lives and communities that have become marginalised and rendered vulnerable by conflict.

Experience suggests that mine action dividends do not always benefit all members of society equally. Mine action takes place in contexts of differences and inequalities between women and men and among other social groups in terms of assigned responsibilities, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities.

Aligning mine action with the 2030 Agenda will further lead to policy- and decision-making processes that will require broad participation of all groups. It is a persistent challenge and will require deliberate efforts to ensure that mine action is inclusive, participatory and reaches those who are left behind first.

Reflecting entry points identified in current SDG literature<sup>52</sup>, respondents to the study noted strategic planning processes, the definition of indicators, sustainable development-oriented priority-setting, monitoring, and data collection and analysis as some of the main areas where mine action can do better to ensure no one is left behind, increase community involvement and accountability, and contribute to more equitable and inclusive societies.

## ANCHORING MINE ACTION WITHIN THE SDG FRAMEWORK

As highlighted, as a global framework, the SDGs address many of the policy and planning ingredients needed for development to become truly cross-cutting and sustainable. Given the global nature and vision of the 2030 Agenda, some country-specific areas of work, such as mine action, were not explicitly included, but rather were expected to be addressed through national-level SDG adaptation efforts (nationalisation of the global SDG framework).

Many national SDG processes are still in their early phases, offering an opportunity for mine action stakeholders to influence the design and indicators used in future planning exercises. Mine-affected countries therefore need to capture the contribution of mine action and explicitly anchor it in national discourses and SDG frameworks. Some mine-affected countries have chosen a stand-alone national Goal on mine action given their national circumstances (e.g. Cambodia and Lao PDR below). In most mine-affected countries, however, integrating mine action into the national SDG framework will occur via specific mine action-relevant targets and indicators (e.g. Afghanistan).

In either case, most countries will be challenged by this nationalisation process, particularly fragile states suffering from mine contamination, political instability and burdened by weak human and institutional capacity. Lack of national mine action capacity, in particular, risks hampering efforts to mainstream mine action into the national SDG framework, pointing to the importance of sustained capacity development support.

Once national SDG frameworks are established, NMAAs should review their current national mine action strategies to determine the extent to which targets and indicators are aligned with and reflected in broader national development plans. It would also provide insight into where mine action fits in the priorities of the government. This exercise would provide direction on the need to re-adjust and position the mine action strategy within government planning and budgeting processes. A similar stocktaking exercise could also be a good entry point for donors and organisations undertaking SDG mainstreaming activities, educating them on compatibility and areas of opportunity.

The study finds that mine-affected countries (e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Lebanon, South Sudan, and Vietnam) intend to use the SDG framework for revising their national mine action strategies and/or as a basis for national mine action priority-setting.

## MINE ACTION SDG 18: CAMBODIA AND LAO PDR

In light of the magnitude of the problem, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to formulate an SDG 18 entitled: 'End The Negative Impact of Mine/ ERW and Promote Victim Assistance.' Targets and indicators are being developed by the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) in terms of their contribution to eradicating poverty, achieving zero hunger, good health, decent work and reduced inequalities. They will also be captured in Cambodia's Mine Action Strategic Plan. In parallel, CMAA is customising its Information Management System for Mine Action, and training staff on data collection and analysis that will include SDG-related targets.

Similarly, giving special prominence to the consequences of unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination, the Government of Lao PDR addresses UXO issues as part of its national SDG 18 'Lives safe from UXO'. By 2030, Lao PDR will ensure that (i) annual casualties from UXO accidents are eliminated to the extent possible, (ii) residual UXO activities are undertaken and all known UXO contamination in high-priority areas and all villages defined as 'poor' is cleared and (iii) all identified UXO survivors and victims have their needs met in health, and support is provided for livelihoods/employment to most poverty-risk survivors. UXO clearance and victim assistance also feature prominently in the UN Partnership Framework 2017-2021, supporting inclusive growth, livelihoods and resilience. In addition, UNDP is helping the Government of Lao PDR with the localisation of the SDGs. Throughout this process, UNDP will explore opportunities to link mine action to relevant SDG indicators.

Correspondingly, in their quest to respond to a mine-affected country's development priorities, that are now expected to be underpinned by the 2030 Agenda, several mine action organisations (e.g. Danish Church Aid and Handicap International) are currently aligning their strategic mine action policies and plans with the SDG framework. Also, some mine action donors, such as Switzerland, already reflect the SDGs in their mine action strategies, policies and guidelines. Others, such as the United Kingdom and the European Union intend to do so, while Finland has strengthened the connection in its funding and programming between mine action and development cooperation.





#### BOX 9

### ALIGNMENT OF UNDP'S DEVELOPMENT AND MINE ACTION SUPPORT FRAMEWORK WITH THE SDGs

In July 2016, UNDP published its Development and Mine Action Support Framework comprising three focus areas: rebuilding lives and livelihoods, building capacity, and supporting international normative frameworks. Beyond reference to relevant objectives, outcomes and outputs of the UN Mine Action Strategy and UNDP's Strategic Plan 2014-2017, clear links are drawn to relevant SDGs and targets for all areas. This aligns the Support Framework with the SDGs very tangibly.<sup>53</sup>

#### ➤ SELECTED RESOURCE

UNDP (2016),  
*UNDP's Development  
and Mine Action  
Support Framework*  
(New York: UNDP).

## ACHIEVING MORE EFFECTIVE AND COHERENT MINE ACTION SUPPORT THROUGH MAINSTREAMING INTO BROADER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2030 Agenda recognises that today's challenges and responses are interconnected. Operationalising this interaction is a demanding task that will require innovation and commitment. It will require policy coherence to break the current silos between thematic areas and within institutions (horizontal policy coherence), and across government at all levels (vertical policy coherence). Policy coherence for sustainable development is fundamental to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and underpins all aspects of SDG design and implementation.



## WHAT IS POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Policy coherence for sustainable development is an approach that tries to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development at all levels of policymaking. It aims to enable stakeholders to identify synergies between mutually supportive policies and manage trade-offs between conflicting policies. Policy coherence responds to the interdependence between dimensions and sectors, and, while respecting each country's policy space, strives for consistency with international rules.<sup>54</sup>

### Horizontal policy coherence

As with other sectors, mine action has at times suffered for being conducted in a silo, at distance from broader humanitarian or development activities. As one respondent to the study remarked, mine action should try to move away from being 'a stand-alone sector as it was presented in some countries'. To achieve greater results in planning and implementation as well as to maximise impact, efforts for more coherent policies and programme implementation should be pursued.

As a first step in this process, it was noted that exploring and scoring in a simple way the different interactions of mine action with other sectors – such as agriculture, education, environment, health, and tourism for example – would constitute a significant step towards evidence on cross-sectoral relationships, increased policy coherence and maximised impacts. This could help understand synergies, exploit win-win interventions, avoid policy conflicts and manage trade-offs between these different areas of development, and potentially influence mine action priority-setting.<sup>55</sup>

#### SELECTED RESOURCE

Nilsson Måns, Griggs Dave and Visbeck Martin (2016), 'Map the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals', *Nature*, vol. 534, pp. 320-322.

A variety of tools are available to analyse horizontal policy interaction, including a scoring system developed by the International Council for Science<sup>56</sup>, the OECD New Framework for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development<sup>57</sup>, an assessment methodology proposed by the *Stakeholder Forum*, the international charity *Bioregional* and Newcastle University<sup>58</sup>, or interactive simulation tools such as the Integrated SDG Planning Model from the Millennium Institute<sup>59</sup> (see *Tools (Chapter 6)* for an example).

## EXPLORING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN MINE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Picture 1 depicts the same two areas in Chicala Cholohanga town, in Angola's Huambo province – cleared in 2002 and 2008 respectively by The HALO Trust – in 2010 (ArcGIS imagery) and 2015 (taken by an unmanned aerial vehicle provided by the GICHD). The northern polygon comprised a road with the surrounding area growing into a much larger community. The southern polygon has recently been developed into a modern housing complex. The clearance work made land safe and accessible for subsequent national development projects.<sup>60</sup>



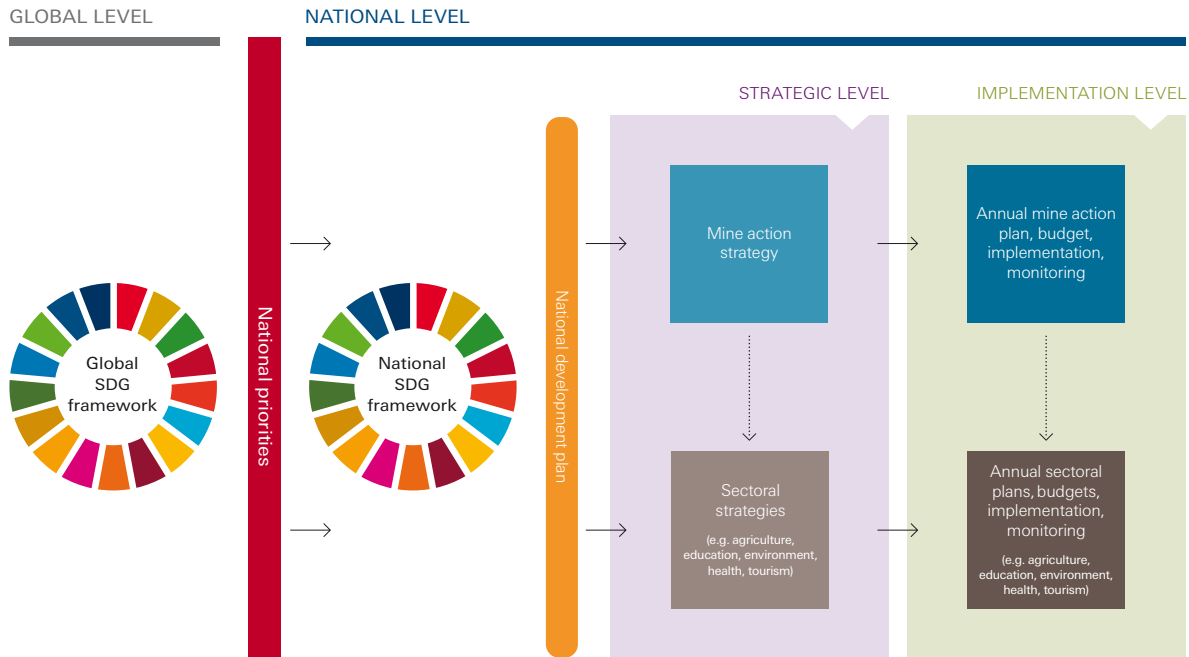
**Picture 1.** Mine action interactions with sustainable development

Beyond its mere technological interest, this comparison is a powerful illustration of the positive impact on development, but also, as required for policy coherence across the SDGs, the need to consider and manage potential externalities such as environmental degradation, increased road traffic or unequal access to resources.

National SDG frameworks are expected to structure long-term national development efforts. Understanding interactions would enable mine action actors to identify existing or new entry points to relevant broader sustainable development *Theories of Change*, plans and strategies or UN Development Assistance Frameworks. It would also enable policymakers to recognise and prioritise mine action as a driver to advance multiple SDGs and facilitate access for mine action stakeholders to engage with key government counterparts and donor partners.<sup>61</sup> In Afghanistan, for instance, most national development strategic papers, including the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (2017-2021) or the National Priority Programmes, are aligned with the SDGs. Some donor respondents to this study also highlighted that they are more likely to consider mine action support if the mine-affected countries identified it as a national (SDG) priority.

While references to other sectors have existed in strategic mine action documents, operational alignment with these sectors was at times a shortcoming during the MDG era. Respondents highlighted that, in order to make mine action interventions more effective and coherent during the SDG period, it will be necessary that they are not only mainstreamed into strategic frameworks for broader national sustainable development, but also aligned with non-mine action sectors and mechanisms at the implementation level (such as in national budgets, planning, implementation, or monitoring and reporting, see Figure 11).<sup>62</sup> Increased effectiveness and coherence of mine action interventions could also be established within organisations that operate with broader humanitarian and/or development mandates.



**FIGURE 11** MINE ACTION MAINSTREAMING INTO NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

Policy mapping that is participatory and engages stakeholders from across sectors, ministries or organisational departments will be of particular importance in the future. Identifying areas of common interests and ensuring intra-government coordination, for example, will need concerted efforts and political backing at the highest national level.<sup>63</sup> Bridging thematic issues therefore goes hand-in-hand with institutional and governance coherence.

#### BOX 12

##### SWITZERLAND'S WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

Switzerland's Mine Action Strategy 2016-2019 mainstreams the 2030 Agenda. One of its strategic objectives specifically recognises the enabling contribution of mine action to achieve a number of SDGs.

During the MDG era, Switzerland started to work towards integrating its mine action support in country programmes and to align its programming to other major thematic domains ('linking mine action and development'). Interdepartmental cooperation is ensured through the national Coordinating Committee on Mine Action between the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS) in what is known as a 'whole-of-government' approach. The FDFA is responsible for coordinating political efforts and project support, whilst the DDPS is in charge of secondments by experts of the Swiss Armed Forces to UN Mine Action Programmes.

## Vertical policy coherence

Vertical policy coherence aims at coherent actions across the local, national and global levels and tries to ensure that sustainable development actually benefits all members of society.

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires improved coordination and accountability at all levels of government. Considering possible disparities across regions, local governments are often well placed to understand local challenges, identify and respond to specific needs, see trade-offs and promote synergies. Working with local government authorities, Cambodia's Clearing for

Results Project (Phase I: 2006-2010), for instance, empowered local planning and prioritisation processes by linking them within local development plans. Despite this example, respondents to this study noted, however, better localising mine action within local development efforts and increasing community involvement as being a key area for improvement.

Intensified engagement at the local level should remain – or become – a focus of NMAAs in the design, implementation and monitoring of mine action strategies in order to tap local knowledge, increase the direct involvement of beneficiaries, and strengthen overall accountability and transparency.

## DESIGNING OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS TO DOCUMENT MINE ACTION CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Not only is the 2030 Agenda about ‘making a difference’ to the lives and livelihoods of people in all societies, it also calls on stakeholders to measure and record development and change. Recent efforts at the global level testify to the challenge of defining indicators to measure progress on the SDGs. While the majority of global SDG indicators have been approved, some others, such as for SDG target 16.1, still require methodologies and piloting. UNMAS contributes to the process.<sup>64</sup> Yet, the global SDG indicators are broad and, as such, require adaptation, at national or organisational level, to capture mine action outcomes specifically.

Beyond output indicators (such as items destroyed, square metres cleared, risk education sessions held), and in order to document exactly how mine action is catalytic, respondents to the study echoed that more evidence is still needed to demonstrate outcomes such as new or resumed land use, empowered livelihoods, or improved safety behaviour and perception.<sup>65</sup>

### ▾ SELECTED RESOURCE

DCA, DDG, HI, MAG and NPA (2013), *Statement on Outcome Monitoring in Mine Action*.

It is not possible to document mine action outcomes without assessing achievements once an intervention has concluded (and comparing them to the pre-intervention baseline).<sup>66</sup> Allocating time and resources to accurately document outcomes must be in the interest of all involved: the implementing partners, funding agencies and beneficiaries.

Overall, the area of indicators was identified as a comparatively weak link in project management cycles to date. Yet, it was observed that some mine action organisations have been operating with outcome-based monitoring systems for a number of years. Experience shows that simple monitoring systems and



results frameworks with SMART<sup>67</sup> indicators could be sufficient to define and guide data collection. This approach helps ensure that only relevant data needed to understand the effectiveness of interventions, plan operations, monitor, learn and adapt, as well as for accountability, are collected.<sup>68</sup> Lastly, it is essential that existing relevant data collected by other humanitarian and development actors be consulted when reporting on mine action outcomes.

#### ▸ SELECTED RESOURCE

Nedergaard Mikkelsen (2014), 'Outcome Monitoring in Humanitarian Mine Action', *The Journal of ERW and Mine Action*, vol. 18.1.

Feedback from the study suggests that, to the extent possible and desirable, standardising and aligning mine action outcomes with global, national or sectoral reference indicators and reporting systems will yield benefits. These types of efforts have, for instance, been undertaken by various NGOs in their attempts to standardise the definition of direct and indirect beneficiaries.<sup>69</sup> Clearly defined outcome indicators will also be instrumental in positioning mine action within national/local development planning processes, including the SDG framework design. Some respondents to the study felt that the development of SDG-linked indicators was lacking from specific policy and programme guidance.



The table below gives an example of possible SDG-aligned mine action outcomes and associated indicators related to SDG 4 and SDG 16. A more comprehensive list is provided in *Tools (Chapter 6)*.

Relevant SDG and target	Potential indicative mine action outcome	Potential indicative mine action indicator	Relevant global SDG indicator (abbreviated)
<b>4: Quality education</b> 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	Safe access to education for beneficiaries in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area	Number of beneficiaries who go to school in previously contaminated area, by sex, age and disability (and other relevant criteria)	4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary education [...]
<b>16: Peace, justice and strong institutions</b> 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	Increased safety perception by population in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area	Proportion of population that feel safe walking around previously contaminated area, by sex, age and disability (and other relevant criteria)	16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

Defining national SDG indicators often falls under the responsibility of national statistical offices. In these contexts, NMAAs should coordinate closely to avoid duplication and better align programme indicators with SDG frameworks. Importantly, with their thematic expertise, NMAAs can also advise statistical offices on key mine action indicators as was the case in Afghanistan (see below) and on how to ensure that national disability- and vulnerability-related indicators reflect mine survivors and indirect victims.<sup>70</sup>

Furthermore, disaggregating collected data is essential to understand who is benefitting from mine action, and which groups are not being targeted or reached. Ideally, data should reflect a diversity of target groups and, at a minimum, include disaggregation by sex, age, and disability. Data should also capture the lowest administrative territory possible. This geographic and demographic data can be used to create maps that reflect progress or other socio-economic changes in mine-affected areas over space and time.<sup>71</sup>



With sound baseline data the documenting of outcome achievements becomes more rigorous. A lack of understanding of the ‘point of departure’ and of whether or not a project is on track makes it difficult for stakeholders to learn from successes and challenges and to adjust policies and implementation. If not available, establishing baselines should be a priority.

## MANAGING AND ANALYSING INFORMATION

One of the biggest challenges to achieving the SDGs is data collection, analysis, use, and reporting; national systems will be stretched in this regard. Presently, information in sustainable development is still lacking at many levels as it is often not timely, relevant or disaggregated.<sup>72</sup>

Notably, mine action has long been a leader in the area of data collection, including to a lesser extent qualitative perception data on human well-being, and its visualisation through maps, which positions it well in comparison to many other sectors. Tools, practices, lessons learnt and latest technological innovations from mine action information management could be put at the disposal of other sectors. Conversely, the mine action sector should continue drawing on advances in other fields.<sup>73</sup>

Mine action databases are built and maintained around widely adopted information management standards. This makes them a consistent source of information on explosive hazards and hazard reduction activities. Respondents to this study underlined the need for these standards to be reviewed to include and capture SDG-compatible indicators. Suggestions were also made to explore how existing systems could be adapted to report on contributions to the SDGs directly and how they can be linked to national statistical databases.

However, some respondents identified national capacity to analyse and use data as a bottleneck. In this regard, the mine action sector has benefitted from a dynamic environment of innovative tools developed under a common framework called the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). Currently, IMSMA is actively used in more than 40 countries.

## GICHD'S MINE ACTION INTELLIGENCE TOOL TO MONITOR PROGRESS

As part of the IMSMA system, the GICHD provides the Mine Action INTeelligence Tool (MINT) as a web-based data analysis and indicator tracking tool for the mine action sector. It allows combining various mine action data sources as well as creating, scheduling and archiving reports.

In particular, it allows the creation of digital dashboards that visually display all information needed to efficiently analyse data sources, and to track and report progress on a mine action programme's performance and key performance indicators.



## RAISING AWARENESS OF MINE ACTION'S STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Respondents to the study also underlined the importance of raising international awareness on the role mine action can play in achieving the SDGs, including by documenting country case studies to put a 'human face' on the work and impact of mine action. Respondents went on to remark that awareness should be increased within and beyond the sector, in particular with other humanitarian and development practitioners who rely on mine action as an enabling activity for their own work. This would also help enhance the voice of mine action in current

and future humanitarian and development thinking and practice, that often take place in fora beyond specific mine action-related events such as the High-Level Political Forums related to SDG reporting.

#### BOX 14

##### RAISING AWARENESS AND MAINSTREAMING MINE ACTION WITH THE LEAD MINISTRY IN AFGHANISTAN

In Afghanistan, the Ministry of Economy is responsible for SDG nationalisation. Since early 2016, the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), with the support of UNMAS, has briefed the Ministry about the existing mine and ERW problem and the relevance of mine action for national development and peacebuilding. For example, the clearance of 17.4 km<sup>2</sup> in 2012-2016 has been a prerequisite for future multi-billion US dollar investments to start exploiting the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest copper deposit in Mes Aynak (40 km southeast of Kabul) that are expected to generate annual revenues of USD 300-400 million and 2,400 direct and 6,000 indirect jobs.<sup>74</sup>

As a result of this continuous dialogue, DMAC-UNMAS was invited for SDG revision meetings and asked to provide mine action-relevant targets, indicators and baselines. In Afghanistan's current draft SDG framework, five mine action indicators have been mainstreamed into SDG target 15.3 ('Percentage of land cleared from mine and ERW so far') and 16.1 ('Number of communities not cleared from mine and ERW'; 'Conventional landmine related deaths per 100,000; Victim-activated IED deaths per 100,000; Other explosive remnant of war deaths per 100,000').

At national level, governments have identified institutions (directorates, ministries, etc.) for leading the planning, implementation and reporting process of the 2030 Agenda. Mine action authorities need to reach out to these entities at an early stage so as to place mine action on the national SDG radar, engage in strategic dialogues, and keep abreast of nationwide sustainable development mechanisms, timelines, and entry points.

## FINANCING AND NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO GALVANISE EFFORTS

Financing and partnerships represent two of the necessary means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Against this background, the study identifies resource mobilisation for mine action as an area of great concern. Recent trends in mine action financing have been downwards, declining from approximately USD 683 million in 2012 to USD 471 million in 2015.<sup>75</sup> At a macro level, global investment needs for SDG implementation are estimated to be in the order of USD 5-7 trillion per year.<sup>76</sup> Therefore, the 2030 Agenda rightly stresses the importance of drawing on a diversity of financial resources, beyond Official Development Assistance (USD 132 billion in 2015).<sup>77</sup>

Reversing this trend and positioning itself to benefit from the anticipated SDG-earmarked funding will demand that mine action thinks more innovatively (e.g. working more with the private sector, philanthropic institutions, and trust funds). It should be noted that the majority of these funds are expected to be mobilised through domestic channels.<sup>78</sup> Yet, global platforms, such as the 'SDG Philanthropy Platform', that bridges partnerships for SDGs between philanthropic institutions, the UN, governments, the private sector and civil society, could inspire the mine action sector.<sup>79</sup>

Respondents noted that funding for mine action from development and non-traditional mine action sources is an increasing possibility – notwithstanding the fact that there are still donors who specifically fund humanitarian action activities – if the sector is able to clearly articulate and demonstrate the

### BOX 15

#### ROAD SAFETY IN AFGHANISTAN: PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UNMAS AND IRU

In 2011, UNMAS entered an innovative partnership with the International Road Transport Union (IRU) to strengthen road safety, enhance domestic and international trade, accelerate economic recovery and, ultimately, promote stabilisation in Afghanistan by demining roads between Kabul and Central Asian countries. This joint venture to clear 15 km<sup>2</sup> of roads and adjacent minefields from mines and explosive remnants of war in 2011 and 2012 was conceived as a concrete contribution to the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 and the MDGs.<sup>80</sup>

development outcomes of its work. As suggested above, the SDGs offer a strong framework to do so. However, new funding streams should not lead traditional mine action donors to reduce their commitments.

The study also notes that the mine action sector witnessed several successful partnerships with the private sector and philanthropic institutions in recent years as illustrated in Box 15.<sup>81</sup> Importantly, some partnerships went beyond mere financial support, as the private sector can also generate partnerships that foster entrepreneurial spirit, innovation, knowledge, and technology transfer. The growing global and national partnerships on many SDG implementation aspects can also become a resource for mine action to tap into.<sup>82</sup>

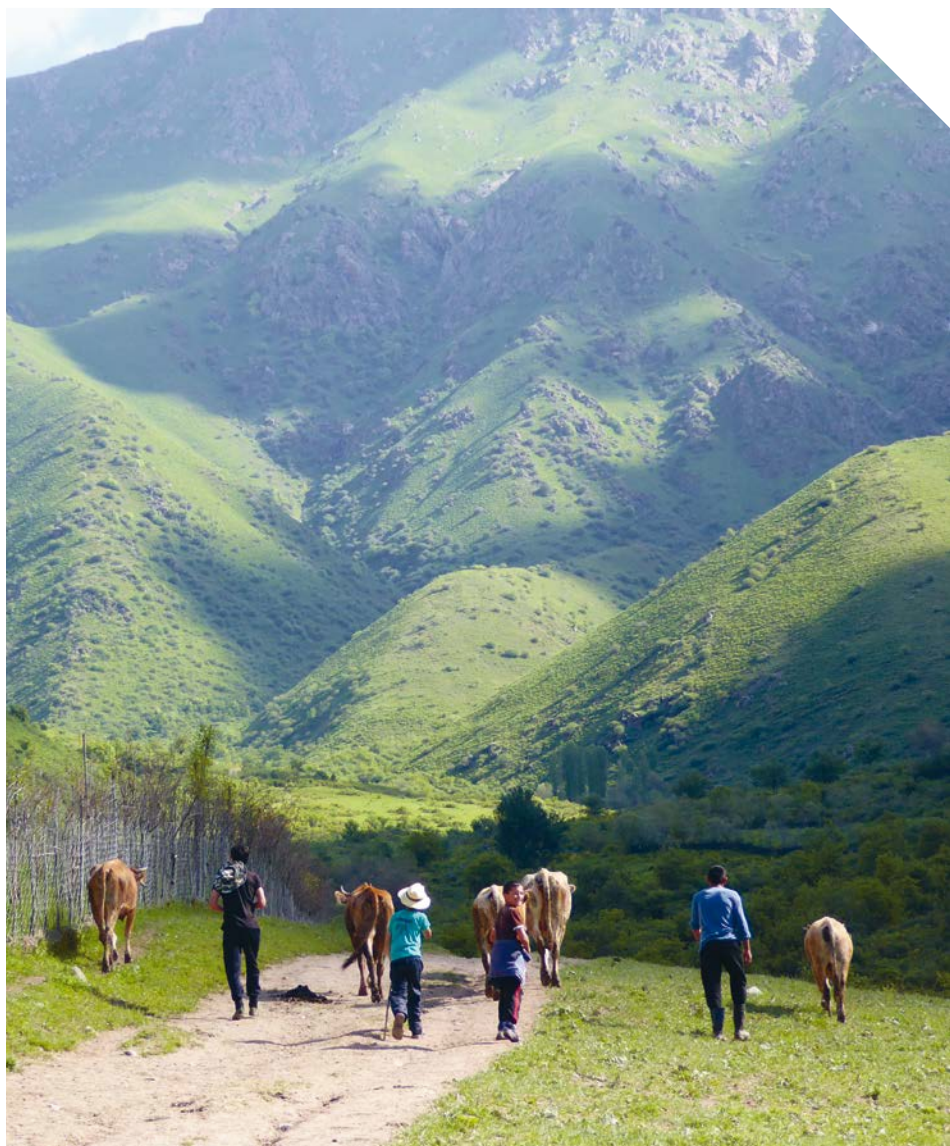
#### BOX 16

##### FOSTERING GIS INNOVATION IN MINE ACTION: PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GICHD AND ESRI

For several years, the GICHD has partnered with ESRI, the world's leading provider of GIS services. Through this cooperation, the GICHD benefits from cutting-edge GIS technology for IMSMA, provided in-kind by ESRI, which boosts technological innovation in mine action. ESRI's strong and long-standing engagement stems from its philanthropic belief that GIS has the potential to shape a better world.

Finally, partnerships that 'connect the dots' and foster the circular interaction between operational needs, mine action policymaking and applied research on new methods and tools are ever more needed to ensure that the sector delivers efficiently and coherently, which results in increased impact. It is imperative therefore that relevant fora for this exchange on needs and solutions be maintained and strengthened where possible.





## CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

This study is a first attempt to stimulate collective thinking and discussion on how mine action can contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda. It raises opportunities and challenges for the sector and identifies policy and programme implementation bottlenecks. What does emerge is that mine action should use the 2030 Agenda as a larger canvas for its work, which will help it demonstrate the value of its enabling potential for humanitarian action and development.

Through the study, it becomes clear that mine action not only reduces violence and casualties, but also enables recovery, peacebuilding, resilience and broader sustainable development objectives, particularly in fragile states. While SDG 16 is highly relevant, mine action enables many other SDGs both directly and indirectly. This is particularly relevant to the victim assistance pillar of mine action, where mine action contributes significantly to reaching the most marginalised and vulnerable in society.

Further mapping of mine action's links with other sectors – such as agriculture, education, urbanisation, health and tourism – needs to be undertaken to deepen and systematise our understanding of these relationships and potential win-win interventions, policy conflicts and trade-offs. Such future analysis is necessary for mine action to become better integrated into broader sustainable development agendas, both conceptually and through implementation.





Mine action can build on a wealth of achievements that place it in a strong position to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, however, the 2030 Agenda's call for a transformation in planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting will challenge mine action in that it requires:

- improved participation and inclusiveness in mine action interventions, as well as policy- and decision-making processes of those at risk of being left behind;
- improved mainstreaming of mine action into broader sustainable development, including the SDGs;
- strengthened focus on outcomes, indicator development, monitoring and learning for evidence-based policy- and decision-making processes and on how mine action contributions are relevant and measurable against broader national development objectives, including the SDGs;
- more diversified funding streams and innovative partnerships with the private sector and among the policy, research and operational communities to increase the overall impact of mine action.

As this study demonstrates, this transformation is, and remains, an ongoing process within the sector. Thus, collective action is required to maximise the positive dynamics of mine action in achieving the 2030 Agenda and translate vision into measurable change. For this reason, UNDP and the GICHD are committed to working with the mine action community to meet these demands through undertaking further research, and developing detailed policy and programming guidance and national capacities, as a response to the findings and recommendations of this study.





## ANNEXES

## PATH TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In September 2015, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs to guide development efforts for the following 15 years. The 2030 Agenda builds upon development work and achievements of previous decades. It is largely the culmination and convergence of two, until then, separate development processes: the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) track and the sustainable development track.

First, the 2030 Agenda builds on the MDGs that guided most development work between 2000-2015. Being the first global results framework for development with measurable and time-bound targets, the MDGs were adopted at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 and comprised eight Goals: MDG 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), MDG 2 (Achieve universal primary education), MDG 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women), MDG 4 (Reduce child mortality), MDG 5 (Improve maternal health), MDG 6 (Combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases), MDG 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability), and MDG 8 (Develop a global partnership for development). The MDGs galvanised and steered unprecedented global development cooperation. Assuming that investments in health, education and other social outcomes would unleash a virtuous cycle of growth and development, achieving the MDGs was not just valuable in itself, but also a driver for further development.<sup>83</sup>

The second process, initiated a decade earlier at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, relates to sustainable development. This track focused specifically on how development could be accomplished in a sustainable manner, but was initially viewed as mainly an environmental protection issue.<sup>84</sup>

The pursuit of both tracks has contributed to enormous – at times unequitable – achievements in human development in recent years, ranging from a reduction in extreme poverty and access to primary education, to gains in gender equality. Significant achievements were made on many of the MDG targets. For instance, the number of people living in extreme poverty was more than halved, from 1.9 billion people in 1990 to 836 million in 2015 (target 1A met). Also, the target of halving the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water was achieved (target 7C). Furthermore, progress was made in other areas such as an important drop in the number of out-of-school children of primary school age and a reduction by more than half of mortality in children under five years of age.<sup>85</sup>

### ➤ SELECTED RESOURCE

UN (2015),  
*The Millennium  
Development  
Goals Report 2015*  
(New York: UN).

Achievements were uneven across regions, within countries, across households, and left significant shortcomings: gender inequality persists, gaps between rural and urban areas continue and environmental degradation threatens progress everywhere. The poorest and most marginalised are particularly at risk in this rapidly changing world. Notwithstanding progress made, a large proportion of people living in poverty remain trapped with limited access to social protection and basic services. Redress is necessary not only to lift them out of poverty, but also to ensure that they do not fall back into it.<sup>86</sup> Continued efforts are required to address these and other shortfalls and reach the most vulnerable.

Preserving previous gains and responding to current development challenges required the linkage between poverty eradication and sustainable development to be explicitly recognised and for these two tracks to converge to form a single and comprehensive approach to development. After an extensive consultative process called the 'World We Want', the 2030 Agenda was formulated by Member States. In September 2015, at a Global Summit at UN Headquarters in New York, it was adopted and came into effect on 1 January 2016.

## LINKING MINE ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM THE MDG ERA

### Strengthened focus on mine action and development

The SDGs build on their predecessors – the MDGs. When assessing how mine action can be positioned in the 2030 Agenda, important conclusions can be drawn from the nexus between mine action, development and the MDGs.

In its early days, mine action was long confined to meeting the basic security needs of people. In the wake of the adoption of the MDGs, focus moved towards mine action as an enabler of socio-economic development, and improved lives and livelihoods.<sup>87</sup> A significant number of studies aimed to bring mine action planning and implementation closer to the development sector.<sup>88</sup>



## MINE CLEARANCE AS AN ENABLER OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN JORDAN

The socio-economic impact of releasing land in Jordan has been significant. Mine clearance, for instance, enabled the construction of the Al-Wehdeh Dam. Its reservoir has become one of the main sources of fresh water for Jordan as well as a source of electricity. In the Aqaba region, demining made the modernisation of Jordan's only port and seaside tourist destination possible. Another example includes the Mubarakeh Date Farm built after land was cleared and which provided jobs for approximately 120 people in 2012.<sup>89</sup>

## Mine action, the MDGs and other development frameworks

In most mine-affected countries today, mine action is recognised as an integral and accelerating element for recovery and development. At the time of drafting the MDGs, peace and security-related matters were not considered in the global framework. A direct link could not be drawn between the MDGs and mine action; mine action stakeholders therefore needed to connect mine action and development at national or organisational level, as relevant to their programme context. For example,

- some countries linked mine action with national development at the highest level by creating a ninth national MDG (Afghanistan, Cambodia, Lao PDR);
- South Sudan, Croatia and Lebanon, amongst others, ensured that their national mine action strategies explicitly or implicitly stressed their contribution to the achievement of the MDGs;
- mine action-related activities were integrated in national development plans, poverty reduction strategy papers, UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) or UNDP Country Programme Documents, amongst others, including in Angola, Cambodia, Egypt, Lao PDR and Tajikistan.

Respondents to this study were vocal in their opinion that articulating the enabling nature of mine action towards the MDGs was instrumental in leveraging strong attention from governments and, thereby, integrating mine action into broader frameworks. For some, this also facilitated operational priority-setting and resource mobilisation, both domestically and externally. Respondents also underlined that

MDG-linked targets were helpful for operational reporting and that conducting mine action within local development plans proved to be advantageous for beneficiary engagement.

These references to the MDGs and other development documents do not automatically mean that,

- mine action priorities were consistently aligned with broader development priorities and that institutional mechanisms were put in place to ensure coherence;
- mine action operations were properly implemented and coordinated with the follow-on development efforts that they were enabling;
- outcomes and indicators in mine action strategies and projects were formulated and tracked in line with broader development frameworks;
- analytical capacities were sufficient to monitor and report on outcome-based indicators.

▸ **SELECTED RESOURCE**

IOD PARC (2012),  
*Meta Evaluation  
of Mine Action  
and Development.  
Final Report*  
(Sheffield: IOD PARC).

**BOX 18**

**CONTRIBUTION OF MINE ACTION TO ACHIEVING  
THE MDGs IN VIETNAM**

Vietnam's national mine action programme for the period 2010-2025 (504 Program) – aimed to create a safer environment for socio-economic development that reduces poverty – had a direct link to the MDG target of halving extreme poverty by 2015. According to the Vietnam National Mine Action Centre, the implementation of mine action projects under the 504 Program contributed both directly and indirectly to Vietnam's achievement of this MDG target as early as 2012. The MDGs were considered to be very useful for priority-setting in mine action.

These shortcomings were seen to have contributed to mine action's somewhat uneven attribution to achieving the MDGs. However, it must be noted that many mine action stakeholders started addressing these failings to varying degrees of success.



For instance some started to operate with a stronger focus on outcomes and impact of their work on development and human security. But also in a collaborative spirit and as a first step, several NGOs jointly elaborated a set of guiding outcomes and indicators that attempted to record and assess the improvement in lives, land use and livelihoods of beneficiaries.<sup>90</sup> In the same vein, the UN Mine Action Strategy 2013-2018 recognises the importance of mine action's contribution to recovery and development as one of its stated outcome areas.

Similarly, while some donors considered mine action from a mainly humanitarian perspective and from budget lines, others started to define their support increasingly in terms of broader development- and security-oriented outcomes. In fact, donor countries were influenced by the MDGs: cross-references between mine action and the MDGs were acknowledged, but often remained indirect. Notwithstanding, some donors explicitly formulated strategies within overarching poverty reduction and development objectives (e.g. Australia, United Kingdom and Switzerland).



TOOLS

## SELECTED READINGS

### Publications

- OECD (2016), *Better Policies for Sustainable Development 2016. A New Framework for Policy Coherence* (Paris: OECD).
- Le Blanc David (2015), 'Towards integration at last? The sustainable development goals as a network of targets', DESA Working Paper No. 141.
- Nilsson Måns, Griggs Dave and Visbeck Martin (2016), 'Map the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals', *Nature*, vol. 534.
- United Nations Development Group (2016), *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Reference Guide to UN Country Teams*.
- United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (2017), *Global Trends: Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals* (New York; Geneva: UNDP; UNRISD).
- United Nations Development Programme (2016), *From MDGs to Sustainable Development for All: Lessons from 15 Years of Practice* (New York: UNDP).
- United Nations Development Programme (2015), *Goal 16 – The Indicators We Want: Virtual Network Sourcebook on Measuring Peace, Justice and Effective Institutions* (New York: UNDP).
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (2015), *Preparing for Action. National Briefing Package*.
- United Nations (2016), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, UN Doc. E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1.
- United Nations (2015), *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1 (21 October 2015).

## Online resources

- The Danish Institute for Human Rights, 'The Human Rights Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals', <http://sdg.humanrights.dk>
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 'sdg.guide. Getting Started with the Sustainable Development Goals. A Guide for Stakeholders', <https://sdg.guide>
- United Nations, 'United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform', <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>
- United Nations, 'United Nations Partnerships for SDGs Platform', <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships>
- World Bank, 'Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals 2017', <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgatlas/>





## GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR MAINSTREAMING THE 2030 AGENDA IN MINE ACTION

The following list is intended to provide mine action stakeholders with selective questions for an initial reflection on critical elements to mainstream the 2030 Agenda at national and organisational level.

### Ensuring no one is left behind

- What mechanisms are in place to promote active participation of the affected communities in the preparation of mine action strategies and the definition of priorities as well as in their implementation and monitoring?
- At which stages of mine action planning, implementation and evaluation could the most vulnerable, including mine victims, be given an increased participatory role and voice?
- Are collected data disaggregated consistently with respect to age, sex, disability and, if possible, the smallest administrative territory?
- How can accountability to beneficiaries be strengthened?



### **Anchoring mine action within the SDG framework**

- How can the national SDG planning process be influenced by mine action stakeholders?
- What is the most appropriate entry point for anchoring mine action in national SDG frameworks (e.g. at the Goal, target, or indicator level)?
- What lessons can be drawn from other mine action stakeholders (e.g. NMAAs, donors, UN, NGOs, etc.) undergoing this process?
- Does the existing mine action strategy (including result indicators) reflect the SDG framework, and how will it need to be revised?
- What capacities and support will be needed to ensure mine action is mainstreamed in SDG priorities, policies, and plans?

### **Achieving more effective and coherent mine action support through mainstreaming into broader sustainable development**

- Have the main types of interaction between mine action interventions, other thematic areas and the SDG targets in specific contexts been mapped and potential synergies and trade-offs identified?
- How could negative interactions be managed and/or changed to become more positive interactions, for instance through cooperation, governance measures or technology?
- How do existing plans, strategies and scopes of work include cooperation and exchange with ministries, departments or partners from other sectors linked to mine action?
- How can budgetary processes be adjusted to reflect mine action contributions to national development goals?
- How do *Theories of Change*, plans and strategies of other sectors, other departments of an organisation or at national level (including UNDAFs and UN Country Programme Documents) currently value the contributions of mine action thereto?
- Which mechanisms could be developed to better engage with non-traditional partners for improved thematic and institutional policy coherence?
- How can SDG-aligned mine action policies be operationalised at the field level, including through increased cross-sectoral joint projects?
- Are national mine action strategies formulated and implemented with the inclusion of local stakeholders?
- Are needs for capacity support of local governments captured so that they can effectively contribute to the planning, implementation and monitoring of mine action?
- What mechanisms are in place to ensure communication, coordination and joint action at different levels of government?

### Designing outcomes and indicators to document mine action contributions to sustainable development

- How can existing or new indicators be (re)defined to better document mine action's contribution to SDG targets/indicators?
- Are data and data systems available for measuring mine action's contribution to the achievement of national SDG targets?
- Which baseline data are available and how can missing baselines be established as a priority?
- How can indicator data collected by other development actors be harnessed as evidence of mine action's contribution to development outcomes?
- Are data disaggregated in order to capture all relevant groups in society, in particular the most vulnerable, such as mine victims?
- What new sources of data can be harnessed, including perception or crowd-sourced data?
- Are adequate information management and analytical capacities in place?

### Managing and analysing information

- To what extent are existing information management systems configured to capture outcomes (at the level of Goals, targets, and indicators) that can document progress on SDG contributions?
- To what extent do data analysis capacities need to be strengthened, including through staff development and technology?
- How can collected mine action data be fed into national systems or other sectoral activities?
- How can tools, practices and lessons learnt on mine action information management be put at the disposal of other sectors?

### Raising awareness of mine action's strategic contributions

- Are the concepts of sustainable development and the SDGs well understood in your organisation?
- How, and by whom, can mine action's direct and indirect contributions to the attainment of the SDGs be advocated for within the sector and the broader development arena?
- How can mine action mainstreaming be strategically aligned with national SDG initiatives?
- At what political level is mine action linked to national SDG planning efforts?



## Financing and new partnerships to galvanise efforts

- What are the expected financial needs for the implementation of SDG-linked mine action programmes?
- Are there new resource mobilisation and partnership opportunities available through increased domestic resources, public-private partnerships, and non-traditional funding streams?
- How can partnerships with the private sector or research institutions be strengthened to promote innovation and technology transfer?
- What networks (e.g. knowledge, technical, advocacy, etc.) can be used to strengthen mine action's contribution to the 2030 Agenda?
- How can visibility through social media, public events, and fundraising campaigns, etc. be increased in support of mine action-SDG resource mobilisation efforts?

# EXAMPLE OF AN ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR SCORING POLICY INTERACTIONS

Interaction (score)	Name	Effect	Mine action example
+3	Indivisible	Inextricably linked to the achievement of another Goal	Ensuring social protection and access to healthcare services for mine victims is indivisible from promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies
+2	Reinforcing	Aids the achievement of another Goal	Providing decent work by employing local communities in mine action reinforces efforts ending hunger, as communities have greater resources to access sufficient, safe and nutritious food
+1	Enabling	Creates conditions that further another Goal	Releasing land in rural areas enables an increase in food productivity, as farmers can work their land
0	Consistent	No significant positive or negative interactions	
-1	Constraining	Limits options on another Goal	If not properly managed, mine clearance can constrain food productivity, as land, forests, and soils can be degraded
-2	Counteracting	Clashes with another Goal	Over-exploitation of released land can counteract sustainable food production systems that help maintain the ecosystem
-3	Cancelling	Makes it impossible to reach another Goal	Released land excluded from productive use blocks access to natural resources

Based on Nilsson Måns, Griggs Dave and Visbeck Martin (2016), ‘Map the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals’, *Nature*, vol. 534, pp. 320-322.



## ILLUSTRATIVE MINE ACTION OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS AND POTENTIAL LINKS TO GLOBAL SDG FRAMEWORK

Relevant SDG and target	Potential indicative mine action outcome		Potential indicative mine action indicator	Relevant global SDG indicator (abbreviated)
<b>LAND RELEASE</b>				
<b>SDG 1: End poverty</b> 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in income of beneficiaries [number] months after handover of released area</li> <li>• Safe use of previously contaminated area for cultivation, market gardens and grazing [number] months after handover of released area</li> <li>• Increased safety perception by beneficiaries to use previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of beneficiaries defined as poor (according to national threshold), by sex, age and disability</li> <li>• Number of people, including labourers, using (will use) previously contaminated area to cultivate crops, market gardens or graze animals, by sex, age and disability</li> <li>• Proportion of population that feel safe working on previously contaminated area, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age
<b>SDG 1: End poverty</b> 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe access to basic services in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of beneficiaries living in households with access to basic services, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services
<b>SDG 2: Zero hunger</b> 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Productive use of released area [number] months after handover of released area</li> <li>• Increase in income of beneficiary farmers [number] months after handover of released area</li> <li>• Safe use of previously contaminated area for cultivation, market gardens and grazing [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume of crops per hectare in previously contaminated area, by sex, age and disability status of farmers</li> <li>• Average income of small-scale farmers in previously contaminated area, by sex and disability</li> <li>• Number of people, including labourers, using (will use) previously contaminated area to cultivate crops, market gardens or graze animals, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size  2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status

Relevant SDG and target	Potential indicative mine action outcome		Potential indicative mine action indicator	Relevant global SDG indicator (abbreviated)
<b>SDG 2: Zero hunger</b> 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arable land under cultivation in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of previously contaminated agricultural area in productive use</li> </ul>	2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture
<b>SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</b> 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe access to health services for beneficiaries in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of beneficiaries with access to essential health services, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services [...]
<b>SDG 4: Quality education</b> 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe access to education for beneficiaries in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> <li>Increased (primary/secondary) school enrolment in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of beneficiaries who go to school in previously contaminated area, by sex, age and disability</li> <li>Number of (primary/secondary) students at school in previously contaminated area, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3 (b) at the end of primary [...]
<b>SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</b> 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe access to drinking water in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of people who frequently use water sources previously denied to them, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
<b>SDG 7: Sustainable Energy</b> 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved access to modern energy for beneficiaries in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of beneficiaries who frequently use local power lines/sources on released land, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity

Relevant SDG and target	Potential indicative mine action outcome		Potential indicative mine action indicator	Relevant global SDG indicator (abbreviated)
<b>SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth</b> 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in formal employment in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of jobs created in previously contaminated area, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
<b>SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth</b> 8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved livelihood opportunities for youth in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training in previously contaminated area, by sex and disability</li> </ul>	8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training
<b>SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth</b> 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved touristic activities in previously contaminated area of touristic potential [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of created jobs in tourism industries enabled through land release in previously contaminated area</li> </ul>	8.9.2 Number of jobs in tourism industries as a proportion of total jobs and growth rate of jobs, by sex
<b>SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</b> 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe road infrastructure increases economic activity and mobility in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released road</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of commercial vehicles/people circulating on average per month on a previously contaminated road</li> </ul>	9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport
<b>SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries</b> 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in income of beneficiaries [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth rate of household income of poorest beneficiaries in previously contaminated area, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population
<b>SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries</b> 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased economic inclusion of beneficiaries in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of beneficiaries in previously contaminated area living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities



Relevant SDG and target	Potential indicative mine action outcome		Potential indicative mine action indicator	Relevant global SDG indicator (abbreviated)
<b>SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</b> 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe use, rehabilitation or building of housing and settlements in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of beneficiaries who are (will be) living or are (will be) settled in existing or new housing and settlements in previously contaminated area, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing
<b>SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</b> 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe road infrastructure supports human activity in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of beneficiaries frequently using released road as the primary access route to residential, grazing or farming land, services, water sources or other infrastructure, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
<b>SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</b> 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe access to cultural and natural heritage sites for sustainable management and protection</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Square metres of released land in cultural and natural heritage sites</li> </ul>	11.4.1 Total expenditure [...] spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage [...]
<b>SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</b> 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved safety of urban areas</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Square metres of released urban areas that are safe for public use</li> </ul>	11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
<b>SDG 15: Life on land</b> 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previously contaminated forests restored for sustainable management and afforestation</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Square metres of released forest land that is restored for sustainable forest management</li> </ul>	15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management
<b>SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions</b> 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced number of mine accidents or incidents reported in area of operation</li> <li>Increased safety perception by beneficiaries in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of mine casualties, by age, sex and device type</li> <li>Proportion of population that feel safe walking around previously contaminated area, by sex, age and disability</li> <li>Level of confidence of beneficiaries to use released area, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause  16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live



Relevant SDG and target	Potential indicative mine action outcome		Potential indicative mine action indicator	Relevant global SDG indicator (abbreviated)
<b>RISK EDUCATION</b>				
<b>SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions</b> 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced at-risk behaviours of target population at high risk of a mine accident</li> <li>Increased safety perception by beneficiaries in contaminated area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of reported instances of unsafe behaviour</li> <li>Number of beneficiaries at risk of a mine-related death or injury</li> <li>Proportion of population that feel safe walking in contaminated area after receiving risk education, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause  16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live
<b>VICTIM ASSISTANCE</b>				
<b>SDG 1: End poverty</b> 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved quality of life for mine victims through adequate support</li> <li>Mine victims are adequately supported and reintegrated into their communities</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of mine victims covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, age and disability</li> <li>Number of mine victims with access to rehabilitation and/or daily living support, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing [...] persons with disabilities [...]
<b>SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</b> 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mine survivors benefit from tailored quality healthcare services</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of mine survivors receiving needed health services</li> </ul>	3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services [...]
<b>SDG 4: Quality education</b> 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mine victims enjoy equal access to education and vocational training</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of mine victims receiving education and/or vocational training, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	4.5.1 Parity indices [...] such as disability status [...] for all education indicators [...]
<b>SDG 4: Quality education</b> 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mine survivors enjoy equal access to education and vocational training</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of education buildings with adequate, disability-sensitive infrastructure</li> </ul>	4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to [...] (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities [...]

Relevant SDG and target	Potential indicative mine action outcome		Potential indicative mine action indicator	Relevant global SDG indicator (abbreviated)
<b>SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</b> 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mine survivors are fully integrated into economic life</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unemployment rate of mine survivors in contaminated area, in comparison to overall unemployment ratio in that area</li> </ul>	8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
<b>SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries</b> 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased economic inclusion of mine victims</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of mine victims living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities
<b>STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION/PHYSICAL SECURITY AND STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT</b>				
<b>SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions</b> 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in diversion risks in arms and ammunition depots</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of ammunition depots secured and managed according to internationally compatible standards and procedures for the management and security of stockpiles</li> </ul>	16.4.2 Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments
<b>GENDER MAINSTREAMING</b>				
<b>SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</b> 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in female representation in national mine action programmes and/or institutions</li> <li>Effective participation of women in setting mine action priorities/impact assessment at community level</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of management positions held by women in mine action programmes and/or institutions compared to national average</li> <li>Proportion of women consulted in prioritisation/ impact assessment processes compared to ratio men/women living in community</li> </ul>	5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions
<b>SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</b> 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic empowerment of women in previously contaminated agricultural area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of women among the land owners or land users of released agricultural land</li> </ul>	5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

Relevant SDG and target	Potential indicative mine action outcome		Potential indicative mine action indicator	Relevant global SDG indicator (abbreviated)
<b>SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth</b> 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Female mine action staff benefit from equal treatment</li> <li>Increase in female employment in previously contaminated area [number] months after handover of released area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average hourly earnings of female and male employees in mine action programmes/ institutions, by occupation, age and disability</li> <li>Number of new jobs held by women in previously contaminated area, by sex, age and disability</li> </ul>	8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities  8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
<b>CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS IN MINE ACTION</b>				
<b>SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries</b> 10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced inequalities between donor and mine-affected countries through support from mine action donors</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total international mine action contributions, by recipient and donor country</li> </ul>	10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries [...]
<b>SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions</b> 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communities have access to information and participate in decisions that affect them</li> <li>Improved national ability to oversee, manage and implement mine action activities</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience with mine action institutions, by service, sex and disability</li> <li>Realistic estimation of mine problem</li> <li>Level of national implementation capacity</li> <li>Yearly progress reports on treaty obligations</li> </ul>	16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services
<b>SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions</b> 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusiveness of national mine action programmes and/or institutions</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportions of positions (by sex, age, disability, ethnicity) in mine action programmes and/or institutions compared to national distributions</li> </ul>	16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions [...] compared to national distributions
<b>SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions</b> 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusiveness of mine action prioritisation processes in contaminated areas</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of beneficiaries who believe prioritisation process was inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and ethnicity</li> </ul>	16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

Relevant SDG and target	Potential indicative mine action outcome		Potential indicative mine action indicator	Relevant global SDG indicator (abbreviated)
<b>SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</b> 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved access to mine action technology, innovation and knowledge for mine-affected countries</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of platforms, initiatives and/or cooperation agreement on technology, innovation and knowledge exchange in mine action</li> </ul>	17.6.1 Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programmes between countries, by type of cooperation
<b>SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</b> 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced international support to mine-affected countries for mine action capacity development</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial and technical assistance committed to mine-affected countries in dollar value</li> </ul>	17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries
<b>SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</b> 17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced exchange of mine action knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources through multi-stakeholder partnerships</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of multi-stakeholder partnerships in mine action</li> </ul>	17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals





## ENDNOTES

- 1 United Nations (2015a), *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1, para 4.
- 2 According to the United Nations, mine action comprises five complementary pillars: (i) mine/ERW risk education; (ii) demining, i.e. mine/ERW survey, mapping, marking and clearance; (iii) victim assistance, including rehabilitation and reintegration; (iv) stockpile destruction; (v) advocacy against the use of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions. In light of its similar relevance to the SDGs, Physical Security and Stockpile Management was added to stockpile destruction. For this mapping exercise, advocacy was considered to be an overarching element of all other pillars and its contribution to the SDGs was therefore not analysed specifically.
- 3 This mapping is not intended to be comprehensive; rather it is an initial representation of the direct and indirect links between mine action and the SDGs. For the purposes of the study, 'direct' links are those mine action results that are considered to have an immediate effect on SDG targets. 'Indirect' links relate to mine action outcomes that contribute to SDG targets in the medium- and long-term.
- 4 International Campaign to Ban Landmines (2016), *Landmine Monitor* (ICBL-CMC), p. 80.
- 5 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2014), *World Investment Report 2014. Investing in the SDGs: An Action Plan* (New York; Geneva: United Nations), p. xi.
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