



UNMAS

Annual Report 2014



The UNMAS Annual Report 2014
describes the organization's activities and achievements
resulting from contributions to
the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for
Assistance in Mine Action.

Please see reverse for an overview of
UNMAS work in United Nations peacekeeping and
special political missions in 2014.

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ACRONYMS

APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
AU	African Union
AoR	Area of responsibility
C-IED	Counter-IED
CCW	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions
DMC	Afghanistan Department of Mine Clearance
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal
ERP	Enterprise resource planning
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GMAP	Gender and Mine Action Programme
IACG-MA	Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDP	Internally displaced person
IED	Improvised explosive device
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
IMIS	Information Management Integrated System
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
LMAC	Lebanese Mine Action Centre
LibMAC	Libyan Mine Action Centre
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MACCA	Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan
MAPA	Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan
MEIFCS	Mine and ERW Impact-Free Community Survey
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
MTT	Multi-task teams
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NTS	Non-technical survey
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
RRTSC	Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity
UN VTF	United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNOAU	United Nations Office to the African Union
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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United States



European Union



New Zealand

Common
Humanitarian
Fund



**Ajuntament
de Barcelona**

City of Barcelona

MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

Today, an increasingly wide range of explosive hazards, from mines to cluster munitions, unsafe and unsecured weapons and ammunition and improvised explosive devices threaten civilians and United Nations personnel in scores of countries. UNMAS enables United Nations humanitarian responses, peacekeeping operations and special political missions to deploy.

In 2014, as fighting raged in Gaza, I called on UNMAS to support United Nations personnel and the people of Gaza. Within only a few days, UNMAS experts commenced clearance of over 200 sites, including schools and humanitarian corridors. This emergency response saved lives. It also made it possible for 250,000 children to go back to schools that were safe and free of explosive hazards.

During the year, the United Nations destroyed more than 400,000 landmines and explosive remnants of war and more than 2,000 tons of obsolete ammunition. The United Nations cleared and verified more than 1,500 kilometres of road, trained thousands of military and police officers to safely handle and dispose of explosive hazards and provided risk education to millions of people.

Last year, I had the pleasure of awarding UNMAS the UN 21 Award for Innovation. It was one of four UNMAS projects nominated for an award. UNMAS is a precious resource inside the United Nations. UNMAS works professionally, quickly and efficiently. UNMAS actions are driven by humanitarian needs and are critical for achieving peace, security and stabilization.

I call on governments, corporations and individuals to provide maximum support to UNMAS so that it may continue to enable the protection of civilians, peacekeeping and political missions, humanitarian assistance, early recovery and development.



UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

For UNMAS, 2014 was the year of transparency, accountability and compliance. UNMAS proved itself to be an efficient, respected and trusted service provider for impacted communities, humanitarian responders, affected states and the United Nations system.

This year, a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanism, established to measure progress of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013–2018 and to reinforce the United Nations impact in mine action, was launched across all UNMAS programmes. The Geneva office, UNMAS humanitarian hub, was strengthened to develop closer and more effective relationships with humanitarian partners. New technology supported management processes by improving information-sharing platforms and streamlining coordination. Recruitment of key positions resulted in more effective operations across the organization.

These internal developments have fortified the life-saving work that UNMAS delivers to communities where mines and other explosive hazards continue to cause death and injury, hinder humanitarian response and prevent post-conflict recovery and economic development. UNMAS assistance facilitates the activities of humanitarian actors and peacekeepers, so that they can deliver relief in places such as Syria, South Sudan and Somalia.

The immediate response to the Secretary-General’s call for UNMAS assistance in Gaza demonstrates UNMAS efficiency and superior technical capabilities. UNMAS is leading and coordinating an update of the United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action illustrating its continued commitment to the needs of victims and survivors. UNMAS emphasizes the role of women in mine action and highlighted their contributions during a week of events promoting the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. National ownership, including through South-South cooperation, remains an essential part of UNMAS delivery; the programme in Afghanistan is a flagship example. UNMAS continues to elaborate international frameworks to give a voice to affected countries, bringing expertise and knowledge of the realities of the field to collective reflections on relevant instruments of international humanitarian law.

This report details UNMAS achievements in 2014, the result of hard work, commitment and innovation. Every day, I have the honour of leading the dedicated staff of UNMAS to deliver the mandate entrusted to us. I take this opportunity to thank them, and you, for your continued support.



UN Photo/J C McIlwaine

THE UNITED NATIONS FOCAL POINT FOR MINE ACTION

UNMAS was created in 1997 as the focal point for mine action within the United Nations system. UNMAS coordinates United Nations mine action entities to ensure a coherent and effective approach to reducing the impact of explosive remnants of war (ERW). UNMAS works with partners at field and headquarters level to ensure that humanitarian priorities are upheld and duplication of effort is avoided through effective coordination and dialogue.

As the focal point, UNMAS chairs the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising 12 United Nations entities¹ that work together on issues related to mine action. The IACG-MA meets monthly at working level and as required at Principals level.

When the IACG-MA adopted the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013–2018, Principals emphasized the importance for United Nations entities to monitor progress made against the Strategy. This would enable the United Nations to demonstrate accountability and transparency, and advance evidence-based policymaking and results-based management. UNMAS was designated by the IACG-MA to lead the development and management of the M&E Mechanism. Funding was provided by Australia, Denmark and the Kingdom of the Netherlands has been critical to the success of the design, pilot and launch phases of the M&E Mechanism.

During the year, overseen by the IACG-MA, the UNMAS M&E team held over 45 bilateral

meetings with stakeholders, monthly inter-agency review meetings and on five occasions UNMAS and the IACG-MA briefed external stakeholders as part of broader consultations to reinforce transparency. In developing the M&E Mechanism, a total of 24 United Nations mine action programmes engaged in the consultation process. A four-month pilot of the M&E Mechanism was conducted from January to April 2014. Lessons learned from the pilot phase further informed the survey instrument.

The M&E Mechanism was officially launched in July 2014. By the end of the first round of data collection in late 2014, the survey had been distributed to 38 mine-affected countries with 14 United Nations programmes participating. Agencies coordinated with relevant counterparts on the ground as well as with national authorities.

Coordination in Action: Humanitarian and Reconstruction Efforts in Gaza

In December 2014, UNMAS enabled the UNDP Emergency Rubble Removal Programme to progress safely. UNMAS delivered daily, on-site ERW training sessions for UNDP personnel, risk assessments of rubble removal sites and EOD support. In parallel, UNMAS collaborated closely with UNICEF and UNRWA to deliver risk education to United Nations personnel, humanitarian workers and civilians across the Gaza Strip.

¹ The 12 United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes are: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Observer entities include the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the World Bank and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

UNMAS coordinated the drafting process and delivered statements on behalf of the IACG-MA at all relevant international humanitarian law meetings of States Parties including the Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in Maputo, Mozambique, the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in San José, Costa Rica and the Meeting of Experts and the Meeting of High Contracting Parties of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in Geneva, Switzerland.

UNMAS Geneva Office: A Humanitarian Hub for mine action

Mine action in emergency settings is a critical enabler of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and freedom of movement for civilians. As Geneva is the seat of major humanitarian organizations and relevant bodies of international humanitarian law, UNMAS strengthened its Geneva office to better connect with the humanitarian community, to develop strategic partnerships and to consistently integrate mine action into emergency responses.

Also through its Geneva office, UNMAS and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the lead agency for the Global Protection Cluster, have significantly strengthened their strategic partnership in support of at-risk civilian populations and by reaffirming the centrality of protection in humanitarian action.

Each year, UNMAS organises the International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers, which is co-hosted with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). UNMAS collaborated with IACG-MA members and GICHD to develop a

substantive agenda of relevance to the hundreds of delegates who attended, including national directors, United Nations entities, implementing partners, donors and research bodies. In 2014, “Monitoring and Evaluation” was chosen as the theme of the meeting, providing an opportunity to formally introduce the M&E Mechanism as well as share lessons learned and best practices in M&E. Furthermore, the meeting of the United Nations NGO Forum, chaired by UNMAS, held during this week provided an opportunity for focused dialogue between United Nations and civil society partners working in mine action.

On behalf of the sector, UNMAS coordinated the process of creating and publishing the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects for 2015, which presents the mine action needs of more than 20 mine-affected countries. Country portfolios were prepared through consultations at local level, and approved by UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS in a joint process at the headquarters level. As part of the Portfolio development, UNMAS also managed the transition to new software and a redesigned website to offer stakeholders a more accessible presentation of mine action needs.

UNMAS role as United Nations focal point for mine action is also reflected through its lead of the mine action Area of Responsibility (AoR) within the Global Protection Cluster. This mechanism, overseen by the UNMAS office in Geneva, strives to ensure a predictable, accountable and effective mine action response in emergencies. Through the AoR, UNMAS ensured mine action was considered a key protection issue in humanitarian emergencies, either in situations of conflict or natural disasters in affected states. Consequently, mine action has increasingly been included in a range of humanitarian response plans. UNMAS leads field level mine action AoRs or sub-clusters in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, occupied Palestinian territory, Somalia, and South Sudan.

PROGRESS ON THE STRATEGY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON MINE ACTION 2013-2018

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE:

Risks to individuals and the socio-economic impacts of mines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, are reduced.

UNMAS reduces the risks posed by mines and ERW through three core activities: survey and clearance, risk education and weapons and ammunition management.

Survey and Clearance

In 2014, grants from UNMAS enabled partners to conduct surveys, map and mark minefields, and clear high-priority hazardous areas.

Survey, the systematic collection of mine-related information used to identify the scope of mine and ERW contamination in a given area, is the necessary first step before clearance can be carried out and is

an integrated component of all UNMAS programmes. Data from the M&E Mechanism confirmed that, in countries with an UNMAS presence, 68 per cent of territory has been surveyed to identify and confirm contamination by explosive hazards.

In Colombia, UNMAS-funded non-technical survey (NTS) teams assessed 205 villages, determining many suspected danger zones as safe. The survey teams interviewed 6,259 households living near suspected areas of contamination. Mine clearance following the surveys enabled two land restitution projects, a central policy of the Government of Colombia, and development projects in two municipalities.



UNMAS funded Partner HALO Trust conducts non-technical survey in El Retiro, Colombia. (Credit: HALO Trust)

UNMAS Contributes to the Peace Process in Colombia

Mine action is an essential component of peacebuilding, contributing to stability and providing socio-economic benefits to conflict-affected communities and ex-combatants. In Colombia, UNMAS identified an opportunity for the reintegration of ex-combatants into civilian life via work in mine action. Once a peace agreement is reached in Colombia, the demining sector offers a means of employment and security to many former fighters. Drawing from its activities in Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNMAS continues to advocate for the incorporation of ex-combatants into mine action in Colombia.

In Afghanistan, UNMAS oversees the Mine and ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS), a country-wide, village-by-village assessment to quantify the validity and impact of affected land. By the end of December, 40,347 communities

had been visited by MEIFCS teams since the project's inception in 2012. Throughout the survey in 2014, an additional 107 minefields and battlefields were discovered in 42 communities. These sites can now be planned for clearance. MEIFCS teams also conduct on-site destruction of ERW. By the end of 2014, MEIFCS teams had destroyed 18,805 ERWs. This important survey continues in 2015.

Clearance techniques vary widely and include manual and mechanical approaches, and the use of dogs to detect, remove and dispose of explosives in a safe manner.

Afghanistan is the largest mine action programme in the world and here, UNMAS oversees the full tool box of responses. In 2014, clearance in Afghanistan resulted in mine-free status in 237 communities. Notably, UNMAS coordinated and quality-assured clearance in support of the Kabul New City Project, freeing up land to alleviate the severe housing shortage in the fast-growing capital. The Project aims to provide 55,000

UNMAS Advances Humanitarian Mine Action in Afghanistan

Khadija lives in a formerly mine-impacted village in Afghanistan. When asked to describe her life before clearance occurred, she said:

We were terrified when our children went outside to play or to collect firewood. Taking livestock to the hills for grazing and bringing them back home became a dangerous task. The contamination stopped some of us from working on our land. The lack of opportunities in the area forced men from our village [to search] outside the district, or even outside the country [for] employment.

Through effective field coordination led by the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) and UNMAS, and thanks to the donor community and thousands of dedicated deminers, Khadija and her family no longer live in fear. "We are extremely happy...This has changed our lives. We will be self-sufficient and our men will not need to leave the area to search for work elsewhere," she says. Khadija also explains how mine action has a direct impact on her family: "My son is working as a deminer. He is earning a salary in his own country instead of going abroad for work. I wish that I could be a deminer and clear all of our country. But I am happy that one of my family members is working in this noble occupation".

At a hand-over ceremony to declare several districts of Baghlan, one of the most mine-affected provinces in Afghanistan, free from the threat of mines and ERW the provincial Head of Sector Services Abdul Qadir Khurami declared that "we are very thankful to MACCA, UNMAS and the international donor community that have supported the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA)." He also praised the heroism and sacrifice of the thousands of deminers working throughout the country in dangerous and difficult environments.



Afghan deminer at work. In 2014, clearance in Afghanistan resulted in mine-free status of 237 communities. (Credit: MACCA)

residential houses, key facilities, and economic opportunities for thousands of city dwellers.

UNMAS is committed to achievement of mine-free status in Afghanistan. By April 2014, UNMAS successfully mobilized sufficient funding to enable the clearance target of the first year of the work plan to achieve mine-free status by 2023. However, increased and sustained donor assistance is needed or it is unlikely that MAPA will reach its targets.

In crisis situations, UNMAS is well-equipped to respond quickly to mitigate the threat of mines and ERW, thereby facilitating the life-saving work of United Nations partners and other humanitarian actors. This was evidenced in Gaza when UNMAS deployed to safely secure and handle explosive hazards impacting United Nations personnel and premises. Between July and December, 214 sites were cleared, enabling vital humanitarian and socio-economic activities. UNMAS also safely removed thousands of ERW from schools administered by UNRWA and the Palestinian

Authority, allowing more than 250,000 children to return to their studies.

UNMAS Emergency Response

In response to the call to action from the United Nations Secretary-General, UNMAS deployed to Gaza within four days to meet emergency humanitarian needs arising from ERW contamination.

Under Security Council resolution 2165, UNMAS was requested to provide emergency risk awareness to Syrian refugees and humanitarian workers based in Southern Turkey involved in cross-border humanitarian operations where landmines and other ERW were identified as a threat.

Globally, data from the M&E Mechanism showed that, in countries where UNMAS is present, 61 per cent of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas have been returned to the community.

Risk Education

Specialized and highly-targeted risk education campaigns are mainstreamed in all UNMAS programmes to reduce the risk of injury from explosive hazards by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change through public information, education, training and community liaison. In 2014, UNMAS grants to partners enabled provision of risk education to 1.1 million civilians and United Nations personnel.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNMAS, with funding from the Government and People of Japan, supported delivery of 2,100 risk education sessions to almost 110,000 beneficiaries. UNMAS also collaborated with the Ministry of Education to develop the national curriculum and designed manuals for distribution to at-risk schools throughout the country.

In Gaza, UNMAS risk education reached 5,300 United Nations personnel, humanitarian workers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), UNRWA teachers, engineers, construction workers, and other vulnerable populations.

Innovative Responses: Multi-Task Teams

Multi-Task Teams (MTTs) provide a comprehensive, multidimensional mixed capability to conduct survey and clearance tasks, along with community liaison and risk education to vulnerable populations. This year in South Sudan, UNMAS deployed four MTTs to priority areas to deliver all-inclusive emergency response to benefit IDPs, United Nations staff and other humanitarian actors. The teams significantly reduced risks to individuals by destroying mines and ERW and delivering risk education to more than 11,000 people. MTTs are also a valuable component of UNMAS operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, addressing contamination caused by mines and cluster munitions and preventing civilian casualties.

Weapons and Ammunition Management

Posing a threat to civilians and humanitarian actors, unsecured and poorly managed stockpiles can



At the port at Mingkaman, South Sudan, UNMAS disseminated risk education messaging to adult IDPs traversing the Nile River to Bor. After each boat departed, the team returned to the camp to educate IDP children about explosive hazards using songs and games. (UN Photo/JC McIlwaine)

lead to unexpected, deadly explosions or looting and theft of explosive materials that could be used to fuel conflict or construct improvised explosive devices (IEDs). UNMAS helps decrease these risks by working in partnership with States to improve their weapons and ammunition management.

Weapons and ammunition management services are tailored to assist, advise, train and equip requesting authorities. Globally, in 2014, UNMAS built 54 safe and secure storage facilities, capable of storing up to 400 tons of weapons and ammunition.

These services are particularly vital in Libya, where vast quantities of abandoned ordnance remain from the 2011 conflict. In April, UNMAS completed construction of a temporary explosives facility in Zintan. Due to the escalation of conflict in Tripoli, the United Nations temporarily withdrew personnel to Tunisia. UNMAS remains prepared for re-entry to Libya as the political and security situation permits. In the interim, UNMAS is providing remote support and carrying out periodic, short-term missions.

In Somalia, UNMAS strengthened the capability of the Somali security sector to better manage weapons and ammunition storage through technical advice and assistance. Training in marking and record-keeping was also provided, as well as a set of weapons shears, enabling the Government to safely dispose of obsolete weapons.

Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity

In 2009, UNMAS established a Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity (RRTSC) to respond to requests of member states and United Nations entities. Through this capacity, UNMAS is uniquely prepared and equipped to rapidly deploy experts and specialized equipment to mitigate threats posed by landmines, ERW, insecure ammunition, weapons stockpiles and IEDs.

The technical support team increases the capacity of national counterparts through the provision of needs assessments, equipment and training. For example, following a request for technical support for munitions and EOD management from the

Government of Sierra Leone, UNMAS deployed a weapons and ammunition management adviser to the country. UNMAS collaborated with a team of personnel from the Royal Sierra Leone Armed Forces and received logistical support from the United Kingdom International Security Advisory Team to destroy 8.5 tons of ammunition, thereby reducing the risk of accidental explosion and humanitarian disaster.

Protection of Civilians

The clearance and risk education work carried out by UNMAS protects civilians by reducing deaths and injuries, allowing humanitarian agencies to deliver assistance, enabling refugees and IDPs to return to their homes and providing children safe access to their schools. In UNMAS programmes around the world, the clearance of explosive hazards has resulted in improved safety and greater civilian and humanitarian access to previously contaminated land and facilities.

UNMAS promotes the broader understanding of protection that goes beyond just physical security of safety of civilians. In line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), UNMAS defines protection as: "all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of the relevant bodies of law, namely human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law".

UNMAS believes that the protection of civilians during armed conflicts is a cornerstone of international humanitarian law and applies in all circumstances and without distinction.

At the request of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, UNMAS also deploys experts and specialized equipment to mitigate the threat posed by explosive hazards to civilians and mission personnel. Please see the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions section of this report for further details.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO:

Comprehensive support is provided by national and international actors to mine and explosive remnants of war victims within broader responses to injury and disability.

Victim assistance comprises six pillars; data collection, emergency and continuing medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological support, social and economic inclusion, and the establishment of relevant laws and public policies. UNMAS is committed to supporting national authorities in strengthening victim assistance capacities across all these pillars.

For example, in Afghanistan, UNMAS funded partners to provide 11,009 survivors and other persons with disabilities with physical rehabilitation and 2,638 individuals with vocational training and referral services in 2014. UNMAS also made plans to expand these services significantly, negotiating a three-year, US\$30 million project with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide assistance to civilian victims of conflict and strengthen the Government's capabilities to meet the needs of victims. This project will be launched in 2015.

UNMAS is aware that global efforts to mainstream victim assistance into broader frameworks is a long-term process and that it takes years, if not decades, to develop a fully comprehensive response to

people with disabilities. Therefore, UNMAS mobilizes resources for targeted assistance that will have an immediate impact on the lives of mine and ERW survivors and also assists countries as they develop and invest in national policies to advance the rights and needs of mine and ERW victims, including, to the extent possible within available resources, other persons with disabilities. The M&E Mechanism confirmed that half of the countries where UNMAS operates have a disability policy framework or strategy that includes provisions for survivors and victims of mines and ERW.

In its role as chair of the IACG-MA, UNMAS commenced updating the 2003 United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action, one of seven initiatives committed to in the United Nations Strategy on Mine Action 2013–2018. Led by the UNMAS office in Geneva, consultations have taken place with IACG-MA partners and victim assistance experts to ensure the revised policy reflects a stronger normative environment for victim assistance and enhances the participation and support of IACG-MA members. The updated Policy will be presented to IACG-MA Principals for endorsement in 2015.



Twelve-year-old, Abdurrahim Ahmed Mohamed poses with his friends in front of his house in Al Salam camp for displaced persons in South Sudan (from left to right): Maggi Issa, Mohammed Abdalla, Abdurrahim, Jamil Ala Abbakar, and Faris Kharoum. (UN Photo/Albert González Farran)

Rebuilding Lives and Livelihoods in South Sudan

In Yei, South Sudan, UNMAS provides access to livelihood opportunities for landmine and ERW survivors and persons with disabilities. In 2014, UNMAS provided skills training to 100 individuals whose lives have been impacted by mines and ERW to promote small business enterprises.

Alex Wani, a former soldier lost both of his legs when he stepped on a landmine. In July 2014 he attended a training session in motor and bicycle repair which gave him the skills, confidence and vision necessary to open his own bicycle shop.

Alex prepared a business plan and was provided with a small grant and tools to launch his business. He secured a suitable workplace near a main road not far from his home. With his new income, Alex plans to send his two oldest children to school. He dreams of owning his own home so that he can save money on rent and stop living hand-to-mouth. "The training supported me," he said. "With this knowledge I will be able to change my family's life".



Alex Wani, a landmine survivor, receives a small grant and tools from UNMAS. (Credit: Handicap International)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE:

The transfer of mine action functions to national actors is accelerated, with national capacity to fulfil mine action responsibilities increased.

UNMAS promotes national ownership of mine action by strengthening government capacity and promoting international standards and best practices among all stakeholders. Ensuring government ownership of mine action is vital to guaranteeing a sustainable response, and UNMAS is committed to enhancing national capacity when requested.

Afghanistan is a key example of successful UNMAS development of a national mine action capacity. Demonstrating this progress, the MACCA is now fully staffed by nationals and, with the support of a small UNMAS office, promotes national ownership of mine action by collaborating with the Government's Department of Mine Clearance (DMC). Management of UNMAS financial support to the DMC was transferred to the DMC Director, and DMC increasingly takes responsibility for operational activities, such as the implementation of post-demining impact assessments and a number of quality assurance functions.

Important steps have also been taken to ensure that national authorities deliver high quality risk education and victim assistance. UNMAS collaborated closely with Afghanistan's Ministries of Education and Refugees to build risk education into training programmes for teachers and child protection officers and, through additional cooperation with the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, training was also provided to 8,600 Mullah imams, enabling the delivery of basic risk education messages across 18 provinces.

UNMAS provided three national advisers to Afghanistan's Ministries of Public Health; Education; and Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled, to enable the mainstreaming of victim assistance and disability issues across all departments. The advisers delivered training in physical rehabilitation, employment rights and

disability awareness to hundreds of officials. They also facilitated braille and sign language training for teachers and courses for physiotherapy students and prosthetics technicians.

South-South Cooperation

UNMAS promotes South-South exchanges of best practices, equipment, technology, skills and experiences among affected States as an important tool to develop national capacity.

In 2014, UNMAS facilitated a visit from the Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC) to the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC), which included briefings at two cluster munitions clearance sites and a discussion of best practices related to operational, organizational and transition procedures.

UNMAS, in partnership with UNDP, also supported South-South cooperation between the LMAC and the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre. As a follow-up to the successful trip to Tajikistan by the LMAC in 2013 a reciprocal visit from representatives of Tajikistan to Lebanon took place in 2014, where a forum was held to discuss experiences with local authorities and UNMAS representatives.

UNMAS also organized and supported an exchange of weapons and ammunition management best practices between Security Forces of Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Sudan with UNMAS technical experts and UNMAS-trained national authorities.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, risk education was integrated into primary school curricula through "training of trainers" projects



UNMAS provides explosive detection dogs and training to Somali security services and African Union peacekeepers in Somalia. (UNMAS Somalia)

and the development of risk education manuals for schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

Globally, UNMAS promotes compliance with, and the use of, International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) to enhance quality management capabilities. With expanded humanitarian demining activities and the real possibility of lasting peace in Colombia, UNMAS advises and strengthens Government capacity through adoption and update of national standards, working with stakeholders to enhance quality management systems.

UNMAS also trains and supports the establishment of national clearance capacities. This year, UNMAS supported Libyan counterparts to enhance their capabilities by providing operational quality assurance and quality control of clearance activities. In addition, UNMAS supported Libyan authorities in the construction of ammunition storage areas, the development of an arms and ammunition database, an ammunition

glossary, and a small arms and light weapons guide. These activities will lead to better management of arms and ammunition, thereby reducing the likelihood of accidents or proliferation.

Similarly, UNMAS delivers efficient and safety-focused solutions for countries impacted by IEDs. In Somalia, for example, IEDs pose a threat to ongoing stabilization activities and caused more than 430 civilian casualties in 2014. UNMAS trained, equipped and mentored close to 100 Somali Police in explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and trained two Somali Police teams on IED defeat. The EOD teams respond to explosive threats throughout the country, including in areas newly recovered from Al-Shabaab and the IED teams are now operational and responding to IEDs across Mogadishu, helping to keep civilians safe from IED incidents and providing a tangible response to the threats posed by Al-Shabaab and other armed groups. Training and equipping of the Somali Police Force in countering explosive hazard threats supports the development of a sustainable security sector within the country.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR:

Mine action is promoted and integrated in multilateral instruments and frameworks as well as national plans and legislation

Multilateral Instruments and Frameworks

At the global level and through its programmes, UNMAS consistently coordinated and promoted the universalization and effective implementation of international humanitarian law and human rights law related to mine action. M&E Mechanism data confirms that in 2014, while only 68 per cent of all affected countries were States Parties to the APMBC, 77 per cent of those with an UNMAS presence were States Parties. And while 48 per cent of all affected countries were States Parties to the CCM, this figure rises to 69 per cent among countries with an UNMAS presence.

This year, UNMAS supported the Democratic Republic of the Congo in requesting an extension to Article 5 of the APMBC, which requires the clearance of all anti-personnel mines on its territory within 10 years of ratification. This involved developing a detailed operational plan for ensuring compliance by the revised deadline. The Government was granted a six-year extension, and UNMAS is assisting the Congolese Centre for Mine Action to implement and monitor the operational plan. In 2013, UNMAS assisted Afghanistan to develop a similar work plan for its extension request. This year, with the support of

UNMAS, Afghanistan successfully achieved first year clearance goals.

Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Maputo, Mozambique, 23-27 June 2014)

On behalf of the IACG-MA, UNMAS coordinated the drafting and delivery of seven statements, highlighting the contribution of the United Nations to the implementation of the APMBC. All three main outcome documents adopted in Maputo – the five-year Maputo Action Plan, the Maputo Declaration and the revised implementation machinery for the APMBC – acknowledge the important role of the United Nations in mine action.

UNMAS also responded to a request from the Federal Government of Somalia to provide assistance in meeting its obligations under the partial lifting of the arms embargo established by the Security Council. UNMAS advised the Federal Government as it established a comprehensive weapons and ammunition management system that will be implemented in 2015-2016. UNMAS



UNMAS brings experience from the field to the Third Review Conference of the APMBC, in Maputo, Mozambique. (UNMAS)

also delivered training to the Somali Security Sector in weapons disposal, marking and registration.

In addition, UNMAS supports compliance with other arms embargoes through the sharing of information with relevant actors, including Panels of Experts. For example, in the Central African Republic, the Panel of Experts has a standing invitation to the Technical Working Group on Weapons and Ammunition Management, which is co-chaired by UNMAS. Likewise, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNMAS became a member of the newly formed Arms Embargo Working Group.

During meetings related to the CCW, UNMAS shared its expertise and experience during discussions on the importance of ammunition management, the humanitarian consequences of IEDs and anti-vehicle mines and the need for countries engaged in armed conflict to transmit information on the use or abandonment of explosive ordnance in a timely manner. Similarly, UNMAS represented the IACG-MA at the Third Review Conference of the APMBC, in Maputo, Mozambique, and in the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM in San José, Costa Rica. These fora offer the United Nations opportunities to reinforce the stigma against anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions, as well as to remind the international community of the continued need for international assistance and cooperation in mine action. Furthermore, during the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons biennial meeting in New York, UNMAS briefed Member States on how UNMAS is operationalizing the Programme of Action, including through the promotion of international standards at the field level.

UNMAS also advocated for the inclusion of mine action in broader stabilization, peacebuilding, and humanitarian strategies. In many crises, including those in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Mali, the State of Palestine and Somalia, UNMAS ensured mine and ERW responses were included in humanitarian appeals for 2014–2015. UNMAS also ensured that mine action advocacy messages were included in the Reports of the Secretary-General on: “Children and Armed

Conflict”, “Coordination of the Rule of Law”, “Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict” and “Women, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control”.

UNMAS in addition supported regional organizations in mainstreaming mine action into relevant policies. In 2014, together with the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), UNMAS advised and assisted the African Union (AU) in the elaboration and implementation of the Mine Action and ERW Strategic Framework. Officially launched on 4 April, this AU document defines a work plan of activities for 2014–2017 designed to enhance the capacities of AU Member States and AU operations to deal with explosive threats. UNMAS also supported AU troops deployed in Somalia and the Central African Republic in the field of explosive hazard management.

National Plans and Legislation

UNMAS continued to advocate with partners and governments for the inclusion of mine action in national plans and legislation. As a result, in Afghanistan, Mali and South Sudan, mine action has been included in the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, which define the collective strategies of United Nations entities to achieve progress towards national development.

In Somalia, with assistance from UNMAS, mine action was incorporated into the integrated Strategic Framework, which outlines the United Nations support to the Government-led Somali Compact. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNMAS continued to advocate for the ratification of the National Law on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was promulgated by the President in 2013.

UNMAS also supported the Colombian Government in the development of a report on mine action for Congress to facilitate the implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Law, a landmark initiative that aims to return 6.6 million hectares of land to more than 360,000 families over a 10-year period.

WOMEN IN MINE ACTION

As well as the strategic objectives, a cross-cutting initiative of one Strategy is to sustain the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action. As required by the guidelines, UNMAS continues to promote the role of women in mine action. By the end of 2014 women comprised 30 per cent of all UNMAS staff, including field and Headquarters, and within the senior management team at Headquarters 60 per cent are women.

Data gathered through the M&E Mechanism shows that in 2014, 57 per cent of UNMAS field programmes ensured that the needs of all persons – women, girls, boys and men – were considered in programme design. When developing threat assessments, half of UNMAS programmes assembled survey teams consisting of men and women appropriate to the groups to be interviewed, despite challenges posed by the varied cultural and security environments in which UNMAS operates. In terms of ensuring equal employment opportunities, regardless of norms that serve as barriers to women’s employment, 90 per cent of UNMAS programmes make vacancy announcements accessible to men and women, 78 per cent make all possible arrangements to accommodate both men’s and women’s needs

in the workplace and 60 per cent actively encourage women’s employment.

To further promote gender mainstreaming in its field programmes, UNMAS continued its partnership with the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP). At the request of UNMAS, GMAP carried out a gender baseline assessment in Somalia and developed a plan to train gender focal points in 2015. GMAP and UNMAS also co-authored a practice document entitled “Effective Local Strategies for Culturally-Sensitive Risk Education in Support of Stabilization and Peace-Building in Somalia”, which was widely promulgated including in the Journal of ERW and Mine Action. In addition, GMAP carried out a gender baseline assessment in Darfur, which resulted in the development of an action plan to further the programme’s efforts to mainstream gender into its activities.

At headquarters, in Geneva and globally, UNMAS drew attention to gender issues by identifying the theme “Empowering Women in Mine Action” for activities promoting the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. A number of high-level events, panels and presentations were organized and publicized by UNMAS to highlight the contributions of women in mine action.



A female deminer at work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNMAS and its partners promote gender equality in all field programmes. (UNMAS/Marc Vaillant)

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

UNMAS administers the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (UN VTF), the mechanism which enables mine action funding of United Nations partners, national entities and mine action operators. The UN VTF ensures a coherent, multilateral and humanitarian response to the risks posed by mines and ERW. The UN VTF is subject to United Nations internal and external audit and oversight mechanisms through the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services and the United Nations Board of External Auditors elected by Member States.

In 2014, UNMAS strengthened the capacity of its financial management and resource mobilization units by finalizing recruitment to key posts and implementing new management tools, including “The Cube,” a web-based application for use by internal and external stakeholders to track mine action funding. These measures have improved oversight of donor resources, enhanced reporting capabilities and provided greater visibility of donor contributions.

UNMAS, as part of the United Nations Secretariat, has transitioned to using International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), a robust, publicly recognized set of financial principles for application by public sector and non-profit entities. The implementation of IPSAS will enable strengthened accounting and financial reporting systems. Efforts to ensure the sustainability and benefits of IPSAS are ongoing. UNMAS is institutionalizing IPSAS practices and will use relevant financial information to enhance operations and decision-making processes.

UNMAS also streamlined business processes in preparation for migration of the management of the UN VTF from the previously used Information Management Integrated System (IMIS) to Umoja,

a leading-edge enterprise resource planning (ERP) software that provides a harmonized approach to management of finance, human resources, procurement and assets across the United Nations. Umoja will:

- ✓ Renew the way the United Nations manages human, financial and material resources, bringing the organization up to accepted common standards;
- ✓ Enhance decision-making by linking programmes and operations with the allocated resources;
- ✓ Reduce the average time required for administrative processes, by streamlining, integrating and automating business processes;
- ✓ Increase efficiency by reducing the amount of staff time spent on manual processes while enhancing accountability on internal controls; and
- ✓ Enable the implementation of IPSAS by the Secretariat.

A new umbrella Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with primary implementing partner, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), was negotiated and signed. The new MoU includes improved integration of donor requirements, increased transparency, better value for money and more timely delivery of projects.

UNMAS works closely with donors and affected countries to forge innovative partnerships with civil society and the private sector to maximize resource mobilization for mine action around the globe.

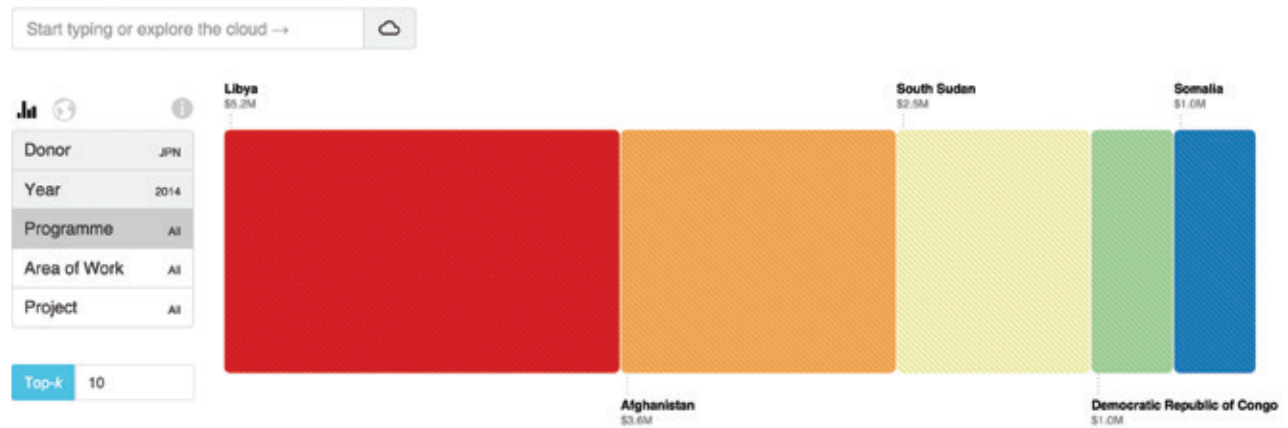
UNMAS is committed to good stewardship of all donor contributions, placing great importance on transparency, accountability and cost-effectiveness.

New web application for funding and programming information

Rolled out in December 2014, "The Cube" is a business intelligence, web-based application for presenting the history of UNMAS funding by year, donor and project through a user-friendly interface that presents interactive data visualization. The Cube extracts real-time data from the Programme and Financial Management System of UNMAS. The primary use of this application is to serve as an information sharing and transparency tool for donors as well as to raise awareness of funding gaps.

United Nations Mine Action Service

A world free of the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war



Contributions by Japan in 2014, by Programme

Programme	Amount, \$	%
Libya	5,200,000	39.10
Afghanistan	3,600,000	27.07
South Sudan	2,500,000	18.80
Democratic Republic of Congo	1,000,000	7.52
Somalia	1,000,000	7.52
Total	13,300,000	100%

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RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Governments and the private sector can support mine action through unearmarked and earmarked contributions to the UN VTF and through in-kind provision of services, equipment and personnel. Contributions detailed below were received through the UN VTF in 2014 as reflected in the United Nations contribution receipt voucher. All figures are in US dollars.

Unearmarked Funding

Unearmarked contributions allow UNMAS to carry out global mine action work in a predictable and timely manner. Sustained donor support and reliable funding patterns are critical for planning, budgeting and implementing operations efficiently and expediently. In 2014, unearmarked funding allowed UNMAS to scale up humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and occupied Palestinian territory, strengthen Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity (RRTSC), enhance UNMAS management, coordination, global advocacy and other core activities and implement the M&E Mechanism. UNMAS is especially grateful for the multi-year unearmarked contributions provided by Denmark, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and New Zealand.

- ✓ The Netherlands – 3,677,100
- ✓ Denmark – 2,765,487
- ✓ Finland – 1,128,996
- ✓ New Zealand – 851,200
- ✓ Luxembourg – 683,150
- ✓ Spain – 48,127
- ✓ Liechtenstein – 27,661
- ✓ Andorra – 20,538

Earmarked Funding

Funding for UNMAS global operation

UNMAS is grateful for Member State contributions in support of UNMAS global operation. These funds ensure that UNMAS maintains strong internal

management systems, sound administrative procedures, rigorous financial oversight, robust M&E, effective mine action coordination and advocacy and high quality information management.

- ✓ Australia – 262,220
- ✓ Japan – 88,123

Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity

- ✓ New Zealand – 425,600

Afghanistan

- ✓ Australia – 4,530,000
- ✓ Japan – 3,600,000
- ✓ Finland – 1,003,552
- ✓ Italy – 303,775
- ✓ Saudi Arabia – 100,000
- ✓ Republic of Korea – 49,900

Colombia

- ✓ European Union – 267,877
- ✓ Italy – 182,265
- ✓ Republic of Korea – 49,900

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- ✓ Japan – 1,000,000
- ✓ Common Humanitarian Fund – 200,000

Gaza / occupied Palestinian territory

- ✓ United Kingdom – 703,350
- ✓ Netherlands – 612,850
- ✓ Switzerland – 329,829
- ✓ Belgium – 306,750
- ✓ United States of America – 250,000
- ✓ Italy – 243,020
- ✓ New Zealand – 190,790
- ✓ Estonia – 20,000

Lebanon

- ✓ Republic of Korea – 49,900

Libya

- ✓ Japan – 5,200,000
- ✓ United Kingdom – 1,674,100
- ✓ Italy – 315,125
- ✓ Switzerland – 233,694

Somalia

- ✓ European Union – 5,628,560
- ✓ Canada – 2,051,711
- ✓ Japan – 1,000,000
- ✓ United Kingdom – 788,810
- ✓ Italy – 630,250

South Sudan

- ✓ Japan – 2,500,000
- ✓ European Union – 820,320
- ✓ Republic of Korea – 19,900

Sudan

- ✓ United States of America – 198,609

Territory of Western Sahara

- ✓ City of Barcelona – 60,832

UNMAS Global Expenditure 2014

The following table details expenditure for UNMAS global operations and country programmes.

Programme / Activity	Expenditure for the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014 (in US dollars)
UNMAS global operation	4,391,957
Afghanistan	12,209,925
Chad	203,861
Colombia	870,430
The Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,487,908
Libya	5,203,919
Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity	4,247,386
Somalia	13,250,981
South Sudan	4,366,874
Sudan	838,194
Gaza/occupied Palestinian territory	890,787
Western Sahara	64,855

In-Kind Contributions

UNMAS is also supported by in-kind contributions of services, equipment and personnel. In 2014, UNMAS communications and marketing capabilities were strengthened by the pro-bono services of Critical Mass, The Brooklyn Brothers and world-renowned photographer Marco Grob. Operations in the field were likewise supported by the Schonstedt Instrument Company, based in the United States, which donated 12 metal detectors to UNMAS in 2014².

In certain cases, UNMAS has benefitted from the support of Member States through the provision of specialized and technical personnel, such as EOD and C-IED specialists.

UNMAS is grateful to Benin, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America for sharing their valuable expertise.

Private Partnerships

UNMAS recognizes the importance of private partnerships in raising awareness of the effects of mines and ERW and mobilizing funds and equipment in support of operations. UNMAS continued to work closely with the Emmy Award-winning photographer Marco Grob, who produced two short movies for UNMAS, "Betty" and "Douglas", both of which were narrated by actor Daniel Craig. UNMAS also continued cooperation with advertising agency The Brooklyn Brothers, which enabled support for C-IED learning aids and collaboration on an animated fundraising video that will be completed in early 2015.

In addition, UNMAS continued to develop its partnership with the global digital media company, Critical Mass. Combining technology and content, Critical Mass constructed a digital minefield that simulates the experience of walking on contaminated ground. Through "Sweeper", an interactive smart phone and tablet application,

the digital minefield includes Marco Grob's stunning photographs of landmine survivors. In 2015, the digital minefield will be installed at the United Nations Headquarters as a permanent exhibit.

A Walk through a Digital Minefield

For most people, landmines are a distant danger never to be known or experienced. But for millions, landmines are a daily and crippling reality. On 4 April, UNMAS, in partnership with Critical Mass, a global digital agency, observed the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action by launching an interactive exhibit at New York City's New Museum to help people understand that fear.

The exhibit, entitled "Sweeper," is a multi-sensory experience that combines visual, audio, physical, mobile and interactive installation elements. Using Apple's iBeacon technology and a mobile app (that can be downloaded at www.getsweeper.com), Sweeper provides an audio tour to simulate the experience of walking through a minefield.

Dianne Wilkins, CEO of Critical Mass said, "At Critical Mass, we believe that technology should be used to make lives better – not worse – around the world. We created Sweeper for UNMAS to raise awareness for efforts to rid the world of technologies that exist solely to cause destruction."

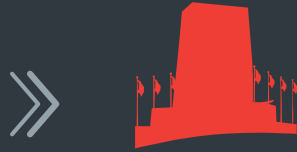
UNMAS continued to receive support from the Schonstedt Instrument Company and its Humanitarian Demining Initiative. This is a unique partnership, whereby Schonstedt, a company specializing in tools for locating underground utility structures, raises funds through grassroots outreach programmes, which are used to procure detectors for use in UNMAS humanitarian mine action programmes.

² In-kind equipment contributions to UNMAS field programmes are administered by UNOPS



UNMAS 2014 SNAPSHOT

17 PROGRAMMES
around the world



30 in
UNHQ &
Geneva
UNMAS
STAFF

100 INTERNATIONAL
staff

13,000 NATIONAL
staff
in these 17 programmes

Aggregates



DESTROYED landmines and
380,502 explosive remnants
of war (ERW)



RAPID RESPONSE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS
in ► **Cyprus, Gaza, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Sierra Leone**



RISK EDUCATION People from mine and
over **1,121,089** ERW affected communities,
UN personnel



CAPACITY OF STORAGE AREAS CONSTRUCTED
54 for **400** tons of ammunition



1,258 ► NATIONAL POLICE OFFICERS TRAINED

5,876 ► NATIONAL MILITARY PERSONNEL TRAINED



UNMAS

in Peace Operations 2014



Overview of UNMAS work
in United Nations peacekeeping
and special political missions.

Please see reverse
for UNMAS Annual Report 2014.

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ACRONYMS

AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
C-IED	Counter-IED
DDR	Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
EDD	Explosive detection dog
EDMP	Ethiopian Demining Platoon
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
HNP	Haitian National Police
IDP	Internally displaced person
IED	Improvised explosive device
JBVMM	Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism
LMAC	Lebanese Mine Action Centre
LibMAC	Libyan Mine Action Centre
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MINUSMA	Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
PSC	Peace, Security and Cooperation
RRTSC	Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity
UNAMID	African Union–United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNIOGBIS	United Nations Integrated Peace–Building Office in Guinea–Bissau
UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Forces for Abyei
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire
UNPOL	United Nations Police
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
UNSOA	United Nations Support Office for AMISOM
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

MESSAGE FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARIES-GENERAL

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is an important component of United Nations peace operations. In 2014, UNMAS was deployed in eleven peacekeeping operations and two special political missions, where its explosive hazard management expertise contributed to the transition from conflict to peace. By facilitating greater freedom of movement of personnel through survey and clearance, UNMAS enabled United Nations peace operations to deliver on core mandated tasks, including the protection of civilians and support to political processes.

Landmines and other explosive hazards impact on civilians and on United Nations personnel deployed to secure peace and stability in conflict-affected countries. Despite the challenging conditions inherent in peace operations, UNMAS has deployed to extremely challenging and harsh environments and successfully reduced the threat posed by explosive hazard contamination.

In some missions, attacks against United Nations personnel and assets have increased. Armed groups have demonstrated greater access to sophisticated weapons and techniques. UNMAS role in mitigating these threats, including those posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), has proven to be a key asset. IEDs endanger UN personnel, compromise operational effectiveness, derail political processes and place a heavy financial burden on already limited resources.

For host governments, UNMAS has assisted national authorities to achieve remarkable success in securing their weapons and explosives. UNMAS trains, advises, mentors and equips thousands of military, police and civilian personnel, building sustainable response capacities.

It is important that the Security Council ensures mine action is included in relevant mandates and that Member States provide the necessary resources for the mandates to be implemented.

We jointly welcome the 2014 UNMAS Annual Report.



UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

Jeffrey Feltman
Under-Secretary-General
for Political Affairs



UN Photo/Loey Felipe

Hervé Ladsous
Under-Secretary-General
for Peacekeeping Operations

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM SECURITY FORCE FOR ABYEI (UNISFA)

UNMAS contributes to the protection of civilians and supports freedom of movement for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) in the Abyei region. The clearance of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) from key routes and areas within Abyei and along the disputed border between Sudan and South Sudan ensured freedom of movement for UNISFA personnel and relief workers, as well as the delivery of humanitarian aid. UNMAS enhanced the safety of mission staff through the delivery of risk education for UNISFA personnel and those working for the JBVMM. In addition, UNMAS coordinated with UNISFA Ethiopian Demining Platoon (EDMP) to ensure their operations met international Mine Action standards.

UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (MINUSCA)

In the Central African Republic, UNMAS supports the national authority in the management of storage and security of small arms, light weapons and ammunition stockpiles and collects and destroys surplus, seized, or illicitly held weapons and ammunition. Activities in 2014 included the disposal of more than seven tons of unserviceable ammunition and the assessment of multiple police and military weapons



UNMAS weapon cutting shear. (UNMAS Photo)

storage facilities. Furthermore, through UNMAS-led training, members of the security forces are able to safely destroy small arms and military and police personnel can carry out weapon-cutting activities; trainees disposed of 700 small arms by the end of the year. UNMAS also established and co-chaired, with a Liaison Officer from the Ministry of Defence, a Technical Working Group on weapons and ammunition management to address the country's requirements for safe storage and improved management.

Commitment to Innovation

UNMAS has built a global and dynamic work force, and encourages innovation in every facet of its operations.

UNMAS Wins UN 21 Award

In 2014, the Secretary-General recognized UNMAS pioneering spirit by presenting the organization with a UN 21 Award in the category of Innovation for the development of mobile weapon-cutting shears. The shears are trailer-mounted, with a built-in power supply that can be towed by a standard 4x4 vehicle, shipped by air, attached beneath a helicopter or transported in a standard shipping container. This allows operators to transport the shears to disarmament sites and destroy firearms in full view of communities.

Such an approach builds confidence in the disarmament process. The shears also cut weapons in such a way that no part can ever be reused, thus making an important contribution to sustainable peace. UNMAS has deployed the mobile shears to the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mali and Somalia, and has a standby set at the United Nations Regional Service Centre in Uganda, ready for rapid deployment as required. In addition to this award, UNMAS was also nominated for UN 21 Awards in Efficiency, Outstanding Vision, and Service beyond the Call of Duty.

Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in United Nations Peacekeeping

In 2014, at the request of the Under-Secretaries-General for Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, an Expert Panel researched and recommended ways in which technology and innovation could enhance operational effectiveness. UNMAS is leading the planning and implementation of recommendations that address the threat of IEDs in mission areas, which will enhance the security of United Nations personnel and their ability to operate safely. UNMAS is a recognized leader in deploying innovative solutions to mitigate the threat of IEDs. In cooperation with Member States and United Nations partners, UNMAS will incorporate lessons learned into practice to improve the organization's ability to respond.

UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE (UNOCI)

UNMAS undertakes an array of activities to enhance the protection of civilians and promote stabilization in Côte d'Ivoire. In 2014, UNMAS technical expertise was called upon to rehabilitate 27 ammunition storage facilities under the auspices of national security forces, to deliver highly specialized training to Ivorian security forces and to destroy nearly 20 tons of unserviceable ammunition. In support of United Nations disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), UNMAS collected and recorded thousands of

weapons and items of ammunition. The collaborative efforts of UNMAS and national authorities have resulted in an internationally-recognized national capacity that is able to safely manage explosive hazards throughout the country.

Protection and Stabilization through Weapons and Ammunition Management

UNMAS technical experts train, advise, assist and, in some cases, equip security forces to manage their weapons and ammunition, including stockpiles. Through the safe and secure handling of these hazardous items, accidental explosions are avoided, lives are saved, public confidence is strengthened and theft and illicit use are prevented. UNMAS-led projects are carried out in accordance with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and the International Small Arms Control Standards. UNMAS also has extensive experience in supporting construction and refurbishment of storage facilities.

UNOCI's mandate highlights the importance of weapons and ammunition management activities in Côte d'Ivoire. To date, UNMAS has destroyed 8,364 explosive hazards and processed over 16,000 weapons, 17,700 items of ammunition and over 850,000 small arms ammunition in support of DDR. In doing so, UNMAS has enhanced broader protection and stabilization efforts in the country and enabled the establishment of a national capacity that is ready to manage explosive hazards in a safe manner, an important step in light of the current review of the sanctions imposed on Côte d'Ivoire.

Successful weapons and ammunition management projects have also been carried out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and South Sudan.

AFRICAN UNION-UNITED NATIONS HYBRID OPERATION IN DARFUR (UNAMID)

UNMAS delivers effective coordination, technical expertise and an operational demining capacity to enhance the protection of civilians as part of UNAMID's commitment to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and the Darfur peace process. UNMAS assessment and clearance enables the delivery of humanitarian assistance and ensures freedom of movement, thus opening up areas for rehabilitation and reconstruction. UNMAS also carries out risk education and supports victim assistance in local communities. In line with the capacity-development objectives of the mission, in 2014 UNMAS provided explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training to a national operator that is now conducting clearance operations independently of international support. UNMAS also assisted the National Mine Action Centre by strengthening planning, coordination and management capabilities in three states.

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (MONUSCO)

UNMAS enables mission objectives under the three pillars of protection of civilians, stabilization, and support to the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework. UNMAS mitigates threats posed by mines and ERW to civilians through rapid assessment and clearance and destruction before, during and after joint combat operations. UNMAS trained national security forces to detect

and report the location of weapons caches abandoned by armed groups and established a regional weapons and ammunition depot in Kisangani. In partnership with the Madrid Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) Centre of Excellence, UNMAS provided IED awareness training to mission personnel and national security forces. UNMAS technical experts processed and disposed of hundreds of weapons handed over by ex-combatants to the DDR component of the mission.

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL)

In Lebanon, UNMAS supports demining activities on the Lebanon-Israel border, also known as the Blue Line. UNMAS delivers induction briefings and training, conducts validation and accreditation activities and ensures licensing and quality assurance monitoring of all operational sites to ensure compliance with International Mine Action Standards. In 2014, UNMAS technical expertise allowed demining teams within United Nations peacekeeping engineering units to verify points along the Blue Line and destroy landmines. UNMAS also advised and assisted the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC) to elaborate a resource mobilization strategy for future operations.

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN LIBERIA (UNMIL)

UNMAS EOD activities in Liberia contributed to the transition of security responsibilities to national actors. An UNMAS training programme strengthened the capability of the Armed Forces of Liberia to safely manage the residual threat from ERW. In addition, UNMAS trained national police instructors in ERW recognition and safety awareness. These instructors subsequently delivered the UNMAS-designed training package to 342 in-service officers and new recruits.



The Armed Forces of Liberia receive EOD training from UNMAS. (UNMAS)

UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)

UNMAS objectives in Libya are to strengthen the Government's control of unsecured arms and ammunition, enhance counter-proliferation activities and assist the Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC) through clearance, risk education, technical advice and international advocacy. UNMAS also aims to reinforce national authorities through the delivery of technical and operational support to security institutions, including the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and the Interior, through developing technical frameworks, advising on institutional governance structures and coordinating partners' weapons and ammunitions management activities. Due to the security situation, the United Nations temporarily relocated UNSMIL staff to Tunisia in July 2014. UNMAS continues to support the LibMAC in delivering coordination, emergency clearance and risk education remotely and through periodic missions to Tripoli, as the security situation allows.



Tons of unsecured weapons and ammunition litter Libya. (UNSMIL)

MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN MALI (MINUSMA)

In Mali, UNMAS mitigates the threat posed by explosive hazards that cause injury to civilians and peacekeepers and impede the freedom of movement of all personnel. In northern Mali, where MINUSMA operates in an increasingly hazardous environment, UNMAS advises and provides peacekeeping troops with specialized equipment, training and mentorship on the identification, disposal and mitigation of explosive threats, including IEDs. Through additional training on ammunition

safety management, EOD and destruction of stockpiles of ammunition, UNMAS technical expertise enhanced national capacities to mitigate explosive threats, including IEDs. UNMAS also rehabilitated armouries and constructed a weapons-cutting facility. In addition, UNMAS technical support is provided to the National Commission against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons to enhance its capacity to coordinate mine action activities and comply with regional and international treaty obligations. In line with the mission mandate for the protection of civilians, humanitarian interventions took place, including survey, clearance, risk education and victim assistance; this work was coordinated by the Humanitarian Mine Action Working Group, co-led by UNMAS and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

A Coherent Response to IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices)

Following the successful collaboration of UNMAS and the Department of Safety and Security in developing the United Nations Security Management System Policy on IEDs, UNMAS was tasked to develop counter-IED Guidelines for all peacekeeping and special political missions’ personnel, both uniformed and civilian.

As the threat of IEDs continues to increase, UNMAS remains at the forefront of the United Nations response through the provision of C-IED activities that focus on the areas of training, advising, assisting and equipping those missions affected by the use of such devices. The United Nations is acutely aware of the need for a system-wide strategy on countering the use the IEDs. Moving forward, UNMAS will advance activities in support of the development of a fully coordinated C-IED framework that enhances the ability of the United Nations to operate in environments characterized by the use of IEDs.

Concurrently, UNMAS strengthened its cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) by participating in joint exercises and engaging with NATO C-IED, Military Engineering and EOD Centres of Excellence. NATO and UNMAS developed and delivered IED awareness courses for personnel from United Nations headquarters and field missions to the mutual benefit of both organizations.

UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT OFFICE FOR AMISOM (UNSOA) AND THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SOMALIA (UNSOM)

UNMAS explosive hazard management activities are a critical component of the UNSOA logistical support package to AMISOM. UNMAS provided EOD and IED defeat training, equipment and mentoring to AMISOM troops to enhance force protection, ensure freedom of movement and mitigate the threat posed by IEDs. As a component of UNSOM, UNMAS strengthened the capabilities of the Somali security sector, namely the Somali Police Force and the Somali Explosive Management Agency, to respond to explosive threats. UNMAS also provided strategic technical advice to the Federal Government of Somalia for the development of a comprehensive weapons and ammunition management system in line with sanction obligations under the partial lifting of the arms embargo.

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)

UNMAS resources and operations were successfully realigned to respond to the ongoing conflict and the resulting new mandate of UNMISS, which included the protection of civilians and creating the conditions necessary for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In this context, in 2014, UNMAS cleared ERW and responded to every explosive strike in and around United Nations facilities. UNMAS also deployed six explosive detection dog (EDD) teams to search for weapons and publicly destroyed items found in Protection of Civilian Sites across the country. In addition, UNMAS conducted clearance to allow the safe return of civilians to their homes and the resumption of livelihood activities. UNMAS, through, inter alia, its Mine Action Sub Cluster, was a key enabler for humanitarian actors delivering assistance to the 2.5 million people facing food insecurity. UNMAS carried out assessments of major roads, opening routes to civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarian workers. UNMAS also removed explosive hazards from key airfields, enabling the delivery of humanitarian aid in the areas most affected by fighting, and supported the mission through monitoring and reporting on the indiscriminate use of weapons, including cluster munitions.

Keeping the Protection of Civilians Sites Safe from Explosive Threats

When South Sudan erupted into deadly violence and tens of thousands of civilians fled their homes in search of safety, United Nations facilities provided refuge to more than 120,000 people. To ensure a safe environment both for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and United Nations personnel who continued to live and work in these facilities, the resources and capacity of the Mission were stretched. To ensure that these Protection of Civilians sites remained safe places free of unauthorized weapons or explosives, UNMAS augmented the security infrastructure with the rapid deployment of explosive detection dogs (EDDs). By early 2014, six highly trained EDD teams arrived in Juba.

With these EDD teams, UNMAS supported the United Nations Police (UNPOL) and United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) to ensure the safety of those living and working in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites in Juba. In 2014, the EDDs conducted 461 vehicle searches, 23,993 body searches, 600 area searches and 16 building searches.

UNMAS also safely disposed of 1,270 weapons and ammunition (including pistols, firearms, assault rifles and machine guns) collected from IDPs entering the Protection of Civilians sites throughout the year.

UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN THE TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA (MINURSO)

Both sides of the 1,465 kilometre berm dividing the Territory of Western Sahara remain contaminated with landmines and ERW. In response to this threat, UNMAS and its implementing partners destroyed mines and ERW to the east of the berm. UNMAS also delivered risk education to 16,000 beneficiaries, also east of the berm, and in refugee camps in southern Algeria. UNMAS delivery of landmine safety training to MINURSO personnel strengthens mandate implementation and enables protection and stabilization efforts. In addition, the operational and technical capacity of the newly established Saharawi Mine Action Coordination Office was improved through the provision of training in demining operations, administration, finance, data management and advocacy.

United Nations Missions rely on UNMAS Expertise

At the request of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, UNMAS frequently deploys experts and specialized equipment through its Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity (RRTSC) to mitigate the threat posed by explosive hazards to civilians and mission personnel.

The UNMAS component of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) assisted the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), in the spirit of inter-mission cooperation, by carrying out quality assurance in areas where mines were washed into the Buffer Zone by heavy rainfall. UNMAS also conducted a technical assessment to confirm the presence of mines in a suspected burial site to ensure safe operations for the Committee on Missing Persons.

At the request of the United Nations Integrated Peace-Building Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), UNMAS deployed a specialized team to assess the management of weapons and ammunition and the scope of the landmine problem in the country. UNMAS recommended that the Government and UNIOGBIS, with the support of the international community, destroy obsolete stockpiles and build storage facilities in order to reduce the risk posed by accidental explosions.

In Haiti, following successful deployments to dispose of unserviceable ammunition, MINUSTAH requested that UNMAS pilot a weapons and ammunition management project as part of the development plan of the Haitian National Police (HNP). UNMAS trained the HNP in weapons and ammunition management, small arms control standards and disposal. Additionally, UNMAS conducted needs assessments of weapons storage facilities at police locations throughout Haiti and constructed three armories in Port-au-Prince.

more than mines