

Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity

ABOUT UNMAS AND RAPID RESPONSE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT CAPACITY

In 2009, UNMAS established the Standing Mine Action Capacity (S-MAC) in order to lead the emergency operational deployment upon activation of the Rapid Response Framework and to ensure that the most efficient and supportive programme is established quickly to build confidence and support for wider humanitarian and peace building objectives. UNMAS Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity aims to carry out four main activities; 1) Rapid Response Capacity, 2) Technical Assistance and Evaluation Mission, 3) Reinforcement and Technical Support to Field Investigation. Rapid response capacity will maintain an ability to deploy to set up an emergency mine action coordination mechanism, and to deploy emergency mine action capability in cooperation with implementing partners, within 96 hours.



RAPID RESPONSE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORTS PROVIDED

UNMAS conducted a number of rapid response deployments, including to Libya, Cote d'Ivoire, the Republic of Congo, Syria and Mali, as well as programme reinforcement activities in Gaza, Chad and the Republic of the Sudan. UNMAS also conducted technical assessment missions to Guinea-Bissau, Ukraine, Armenia, the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and Central African Republic.



LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE OPERATIONS



One of the key lessons learned from the past deployments were that there is a critical need to establish a mine action coordination mechanism immediately after a humanitarian crisis occur, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to ensure all the stakeholders provide necessary assistance towards a common goal in a coordinated manner under complex and difficult circumstances. The other lessons learned was that certain financial commitment is required in order to maintain the capacity and its

preparedness of personnel including their skill levels and equipment.

In order to incorporate these lessons into future effective operations, UNMAS continues to review the cost-effectiveness of S-MAC, including the staffing requirement and duty stations, as well as identification of appropriate balance between standing element and ad-hoc element that can be provided by the existing expertise within UNMAS programmes. UNMAS also continues to implement training and exercises, including the Rapid Response Exercise that is conducted in cooperation with the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency (MSB), to maintain the capacity to provide rapid response interventions to complex emergencies as well as providing technical support not only to UNMAS programmes but also to other programmes supported by UN Mine Action Team and national authorities.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

In order to maintain the standing capacity and implement effective rapid response and technical support activities, USD 5,000,000 is requested for 2013 period. Currently approximately USD 1,800,000 have been provided by generous contributions from the Government of Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and UNMAS requests donors to kindly consider to support this critical mine action function.

For more information:

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