



2007 UN Inter Agency Mine Action Strategy for South Lebanon

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Between 12 July and 14 August 2006, a major military confrontation took place between Israel and Lebanon. Immediately after the ceasefire, UN Agencies worked in concert to counter the new cluster munitions threat. To systematically coordinate their activities and ensure oversight, the Protection Cluster Working Group in Lebanon, chaired by UNHCR's Head of the South Lebanon Office, developed the "2007 UN Inter Agency Mine Action Strategy for South Lebanon", which outlines every agency's role and responsibility. The Strategy and subsequent Work Plan was endorsed by UN Heads of Offices on 9 March 2007.

2. The aim of this document is to outline Strategy, with particular emphasis on the objectives, activities and expected outputs of such action.

II. HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

3. The July-August 2006 conflict resulted in 1,191 fatalities, the displacement of about one million people and in the severe destruction of essential infrastructure. In the days since the cessation of hostilities, 221 mine, unexploded ordnance (UXO), submunition casualties have occurred, 30 of which were lethal.¹

4. During the conflict, Israeli Defense Forces used artillery weapons, direct fire weapons, air-delivered munitions and naval artillery. Hezbollah used rockets and direct fire weapons. It is estimated that the Israeli Defense Forces dropped 2,000 – 3,000 items of ordnance per day during the first weeks of the conflict. This figure rose to 5,000 – 6,000 per day for the last two weeks of the conflict. This re-contaminated areas previously cleared by the Mine Action Coordination Center South Lebanon (MACC SL) from landmines. Villages located along or adjacent up to some 10 kilometres to the Blue Line, road systems, bridges across the Litani River and houses are most affected. 854 individual cluster munitions strike locations² have been confirmed and recorded. This contamination not only poses a direct threat to communities and internally displaced people. It caused severe damages in essential infrastructure in South Lebanon and impedes the harvest of agricultural areas, one of the main economic income generation sources in South Lebanon.

5. Instantaneously after the ceasefire, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), contracted additional clearance organisations on behalf of the MACC SL, to conduct UXO and cluster munitions clearance in villages, streets, schools, hospitals and homes. The emergency response phase lasted from August to October 2006 and was aimed at saving lives. In the recovery phase, the MACC SL now coordinates the systematic UXO and cluster munitions clearance of agricultural lands to save livelihoods.

¹ As at 13 February 2007.

² As at 26 February 2007.



Additionally, in the emergency phase, UN agencies conducted threat assessments, mine risk education, advocacy and provided victim assistance where possible. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), for instance, produced and distributed mine risk education materials combined with awareness sessions in schools and community centres; assisted mine survivors through support for vocational training; and provided prosthesis and physiotherapy support. UNICEF will continue these activities in 2007 in addition to supporting capacity building activities of national NGOs, and integrating mine risk education in school curricula in partnership with Balamand University and Norwegian People's Aid. Since implementation of the recovery phase, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), through the Population and Development Strategies Programme, has been conducting a 'Qualitative Study on the Status of the Disabled and the War-Impaired and Emerging Needs in the Most Affected Areas of Lebanon during and after the 2006 Conflict'. This Study will provide relevant governmental and non-governmental service-providers with the information required to better respond to the needs of the disabled and war-impaired in emergency and conflict situations. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture conducted a joint 'Damage and Early Recovery Needs Assessment' for war-affected farmers and sub-sectors. The Assessment resulted in recommendations and proposals for the socio-economic development of the agricultural sector, to improve the lives and livelihoods of war-affected communities. The activities of the proposed projects will take place in parallel to clearance activities of agricultural lands.

III. VISION

6. *By 31 December 2007, a mine/UXO/cluster munitions impact-free South Lebanon, except for the Blue Line, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development and subsequently, where the needs of mine, UXO and cluster munitions victims are met by their full integration into society.*

IV. RESPONSE

7. **Mine Action Pillars.** To efficiently counter the ubiquitous mine, UXO and cluster munitions threat, UN agencies agreed to contribute to relevant mine action pillars, namely, mine clearance, mine risk education, survivor assistance and advocacy and the overall coordination, public information and national capacity building of these key activities.

8. **Policy Direction.** The Strategy outlines strategic objectives, activities and expected outputs for UN Inter Agency Mine Action in South Lebanon. It is informed by "Mine Action and Effective Coordination: the United Nations Inter-Agency Policy" of 6 June 2005 and the subsequent global "United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy: 2006-2010". Sector- or agency specific guidance was derived from "UNHCR's Mine Action Operational Framework" of September 2005, the "United Nations Sectoral Victim Assistance Policy" of May 2003 and the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Operational direction was based on the "2007 MACC SL Operational Plan" and the "Lebanese Technical Standards and Guidelines".

9. **Treaties and Conventions.** Lebanon is a member to the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (the 1977 Additional Protocol I). Although not yet a



member to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (1997), the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and Other Devices, as amended in 1996 (Protocol II to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, or CCW), the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V to the 1980 CC W), which entered into force on 12 November 2006, the work of UN agencies in South Lebanon aims to fulfill the letter and spirit of the practical implications of those treaties until ratified.

10. **Resources.** Adequate and sustained funding will be required to achieve the objectives of this strategy. The costs of implementation are, to the extent possible, reflected in the 2007 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, the 2007 Lebanon Crisis Flash Appeal and the Stockholm Appeal and are regularly presented to the International Support Group for Mine Action, which is chaired by the Lebanese Ministry of National Defense. Every mine action member of the Protection Cluster Working Group is responsible for raising its required funds. Further joint projects, like the UNDP-UNMACC cluster munitions and rehabilitation project under the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) are encouraged.

11. **Potential risks and challenges.** The continuing risk of confrontation with Israel, the increased political instability in the country and the unequal distribution of funds and services based on confessional or political lines pose risks to the achievement of the objectives.

V. STRATEGIC GOAL

12. Paragraph six highlights the vision. This strategic goal will be achieved by the UN agencies working with national authorities, the private sector, international and regional organisations and others to eliminate the humanitarian and socio-economic UXO, mine and cluster munitions threat.

VI. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strategic objective 1: Elimination of death and injury caused by mines, UXO and cluster munitions.

13. Strategic activities to objective 1:

Mine, UXO & Cluster Munitions Clearance

- a. Conduct community liaison to establish and disseminate baseline data of contaminated mine, UXO and cluster munitions strike areas through IMSMA.
- b. Clear contaminated areas and conduct independent quality assurance.
- c. Conduct the post-clearance review process in all cleared areas to ensure that landowners are confident to re-use their homes and lands.

MRE & Victim Assistance

- a. Conduct mine risk education activities to mitigate the threat in the short-term.
- b. Establish baseline mine, UXO and cluster munitions casualty and fatality data and rates.
- c. Assemble a victim assistance referral database and make it accessible to the public to ensure a systematic and concerted approach to services.



- d. Measure progress in the reduction of casualty rates and victim assistance through the establishment of a monitoring system.

14. **Expected outputs to objective 1:**

- a. No new mine, UXO or cluster munitions victims in cleared areas by the end of 2007.
- b. South Lebanese existing mine, UXO or cluster munitions victims are equally well attended through regularly updated referral data of accessible victim assistance services.

Strategic objective 2: Rehabilitation of communities' livelihoods and freedom of movement for all affected communities.

15. **Strategic activities to objective 2:**

- a. Identify and prioritise communities suffering the highest levels of socio-economic impact and restriction of movement due to mines, UXO and cluster munitions.
- b. Facilitate the agricultural productive use of the cleared land and provide vocational training for alternative income generation.
- c. Develop, mobilize and integrate socio-economic projects to support the livelihoods sector in mine/UXO/cluster munitions affected communities in close liaison with cooperatives, municipalities, youth groups and community-based organisations, during and after the clearance process.
- d. Ensure adequate monitoring systems to measure progress.

16. **Expected outputs to objective 2:**

- a. Socio-economic community assets such as crop land or newly acquired services are made available for productive use.
- b. All communities enjoy access to essential physical and social infrastructure.

Strategic objective 3: Integration of mine-action needs into national development and reconstruction plans and assistance to existing structures, and the development of new national institutions to manage the landmine and cluster munitions threat.

17. **Strategic activities to objective 3:**

- a. Provide national planning agencies with mine action data and other relevant assistance essential for multi-sectoral planning and budgeting.
- b. Provide capacity development support to enable national mine action institutions to effectively respond to the mine, UXO and cluster munitions threat.
- c. Advocate for increased resources and support to mine, UXO and cluster munitions victims, persons with disabilities, and for the signing and ratification of relevant international treaties.
- d. Draft Discussion Paper; consult with relevant stakeholders; develop UNMACC Transition Plan for South Lebanon based on Discussion Paper.
- e. Formal Agreement on Transition Plan by NDO and UNMACC.
- f. Implementation of Transition Plan: Provide any outstanding training to NDO as required to support NDO's efforts to effectively respond to the mine, UXO



and cluster munitions threat in SL after December 31, 2007; hand over of any technical and capital equipment required to the NDO; completion of all UNMACC activities and operations.

18. **Expected outputs to objective 3:**
- a. National development and reconstruction plans and budgets, the CCA and UNDAF reflect mine action needs.
 - b. Establishment of a national mine action NGO that, together with relevant national institutions, achieves mine action goals and objectives.
 - c. Increased awareness of international treaties and dialogue towards joining them.
 - d. Development and implementation of a Transition Plan for UNMACC handover of all delegated authorities back to the National Demining Office