UNMAS programme in Somalia

Youth and women in Mine Action

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Case study – Somalia

Mine action enhancing the resilience of Somali communities that have been affected by conflict, explosive hazards, marginalization and poverty
General Context

• With the armed conflict ongoing, the threat of explosive hazards is growing
• Prevalence of various explosive hazards - landmines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices
• Conflict and insecurity limits socio-economic development
• Economic deprivation causes the youth and women to leave their homeland – as IDPs or refugees
Contamination mapping

- Confirmed minefields: 114 (45 sq km) – 5 are ongoing
- Suspected minefields: 65 (68 sq km)
- Battle Area: 23 (47 sq km)
- Ammunition dumps: 11
- UXO locations: 232
Civilians (adults & children) remain the primary victims of explosive hazards
- Over the last 5 years, 2,638 civilian victims of IEDs - (58% of the entire casualty)
- Over the last 5 years, 221 civilian victims of ERW/mines - (73% of them children)

**Impact of explosive hazards on civilians**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>IED Civilian Casualties</th>
<th>ERW/Mine Civilian Casualties</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>400</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>400</td>
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**Risk-taking practices in the communities:**
- Domestic stockpiling is common
- ERW for marking plots of land, fencing compounds
- The use of explosives for excavating rocks, drilling boreholes
- Former ammo storages are potential sources of energetic materials
Youth and Women

- Unemployment and social marginalization - key drivers of instability in Somalia.
- Over 50% of the population in Somalia is below the age of 15 years.
- Youth unemployment rate is among the highest in the world - two-thirds unemployed
- Youth need jobs to promote livelihood opportunities
- There is an urgent need for capacity building, vocational skills and education
Mine action empowers youth and women

- Mine Action is a job intensive sector, for young men and women
- Concept of Operations:
  - Focus on vulnerable and marginalized communities
  - Decentralized, bottom up community based approach
  - Job creation for youth and women – average family is at 6.5 members
  - Infuse resources into communities
  - Promote skills, contribute in enhancing local governance mechanism
Mine action efforts in Somalia - empowering youth and women

- Clearance of explosive hazards
- Risk education to vulnerable groups
- Explosive hazard victim recording

- 241 Locals
- Clan diversified
- Floating & better access
- 35% Youth
- 13% Female

Sustainable Development Goals

Gender
Domestic stockpile – 7 Nov 2018

Communities and local police in South Galkayo handed over to UNMAS employed team 271 explosive devices, of which 43 AP mines. The team destroyed all devices the next three days using deflagration method. The police and community representatives attended the process.
National Stadium
Support to FGS Transition Plan-phase 1 by team composed of youth and women
Area Verification, 13 Sept – 30 Nov 2018 Mogadishu
Partnering with CRESTAA, BRA, MoIFAR, NIS Foundation

Story from the field—Verification of Mogadishu stadium
Purpose:

- Enhance roadside visibility,
- Discourage the emplacement of IEDs,
- Initiate job opportunity for the youth & women,
- Positive environmental impact – removal of bad tree,
- Include the civilian population into the Stabilisation,

Pilot Task:

- Relevant to Somalia TP
- But small budget
- 47 locals involved
- 53% youth (men/women)
- 27% women
- Enhancing ownership
Habiba Ahmed - IDP, Refugee & Returnee Medic

• 28 year-old, from Mataban, displaced in 1995, immigrated to Kenya in 2006
• joined mine action in July 2018

• Trained by UNMAS as a team medic and responsible for medical services to demining team in Matban
• Inspires other women in the community
Conclusion and the Way Forward

• Explosive hazard is life and livelihood threatening reality for many Somalis

• This reality can be transformed into unique opportunities, because mine action has remarkable potentials for Making marginalized communities including youth and women empowered and resilient by creating jobs and providing skills.