UNMAS SYRIA: READY TO RESPOND
STATE OF SYRIA: ONGOING VIOLENT CONFLICT, HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

Syria’s violent conflict rages on with devastating humanitarian consequences.

In 2013 alone, over 27,000 recorded incidents of heavy weapons fire in Syria, impacting 987 communities which had an original total population of over 14 million.
LOOKING AHEAD: UNMAS RAPID RESPONSE

UNMAS Rapid Response ready to lead the development of a coordination cell for an immediate and effective mine action response.

Immediate priorities include:
• Clearance of schools and hospitals
• Safe return of refugees and IDPs
• Coordination of multiple actors on the ground
• Risk awareness in vulnerable communities
• Support to rubble removal in a contaminated environment
ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES

• No history of humanitarian mine action or coordinating authority.
• No mine action NGOs currently accredited to work in the country.
• Ongoing volatile security situation.
• Range of actors with various funding mechanisms and goals.
• Explosives and weapons dispersed among population.
EXPERIENCE: UNMAS ON THE GROUND IN SYRIA

UNMAS was part of the UNSMIS observer mission in Syria from July-August 2012.

Provided:

• *Technical support* on explosive hazards as part of investigations.

• *Risk awareness training* to over 400 UN military observers & civilian staff.
UNMAS PREPAREDNESS: INFORMATION AND PLANNING

- UNMAS has created a database to monitor and map reports of heavy weapons – now contains one year of data.

- Based on database, developed 30 and 90 day plans according to various potential scenarios.
UNMAS PREPAREDNESS: REGIONAL COORDINATION

- Already established **regional coordination forum** for mine action sector in the region.

- Coordinated development of ‘**toolbox’ of risk education materials** available to all NGOs via online portal.

- Established **forward logistics bases** in Jordan & Lebanon.
DONOR SUPPORT REQUIRED

• Support required to continue the information and planning cell for Syria to ensure preparedness: **$500,000 per annum.**

• Plans developed based on data indicate rapid and effective response requires **$20m for the first six months.**

• Crucial that **funds and equipment** are available quickly once a response is possible.

• Donors requested to be prepared to fund mine action rapidly once opportunity emerges.