New Zealand Support for the Clearance of Mines and Unexploded Ordnance

Overview

New Zealand has historically supported de-mining through bilateral programmes and multilateral funding of NZ$1 million (annually) for United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). Generally funding has gone to areas of high risk where clearance is essential to furthering development outcomes or gaining a direct humanitarian dividend.

Outlined below is an outline of New Zealand supported de-mining programmes that will commence or continue during 2013:

UNMAS De-mining Programme in the West Bank (2011 – 2013)

- New Zealand has provided NZ$2.8 million to UNMAS for a de-mining programme in the West Bank.

- The de-mining programme has the goal of clearing mined locations to enable developmental and socio-economic activities by Palestinian communities. The programme will also assist with the development of a Palestinian Mine Action Centre (PMAC) capable of managing all aspects of mine action within the West Bank.

Cambodia: Clearance of Landmine-affected Areas (2012 – 2014)

- New Zealand’s demining contribution is part of a larger contribution of US $2.5 million for a three-year agricultural development project in heavily mine-affected Otdar Meanchey province. The mine clearance funded by New Zealand will be conducted by the Halo Trust, a British demining organisation.

- The agricultural development project aims to reduce vulnerability and improve income and livelihoods opportunities for the rural poor of Otdar Meanchey, north-east Cambodia, through integrated demining and agricultural value chain strengthening.

Mozambique: Handicap International’s Mine Action Project (2012/13)

- New Zealand has provided funding of US$100,000.

- Demining is a key development objective in Mozambique and is recognised in its Poverty Reduction Programme. The funds provided by New Zealand are currently earmarked to contribute to the filling of a funding gap to clear the remaining 34,000 sq. metres of mines, suspected to be in an area in the District of Dondo, in Sofala Province.