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UNDP Mine Action Programming: Yemen

January 2016

I. UNDP Approach to 'Development and Mine Action'

UNDP's 2014-17 Strategic Plan focuses on helping countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of extreme poverty and reduction of inequalities and exclusion. In many of the most fragile post-conflict contexts that count on UNDP support, however, landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are a significant hindrance to this vision. To be an effective development partner in settings rife with landmines and ERW, UNDP has revamped its 'Development and Mine Action' Agenda through programmes that tackle the connected issues of poverty, inequality and exclusion while lowering the risks arising from shocks and stressors.

With this in mind, UNDP's approach to what is now a Development and Mine Action service line focuses on restoring livelihoods capacities and building resilience by: (1) translating mine action into sustainable development dividends in the form of jobs/livelihoods and (2) strengthening national institutions that accelerate development benefits. This approach frames overall UNDP support to Mine Action in Yemen.

II. Yemen Mine Action Context

Currently 13 governorates in the North and South of Yemen are affected by unexploded ordinance (UXO). There are increasing reports that indicate that in addition to UXO, new mines have been planted in such areas as the crossing point to Saudi Arabia between Bab-el-Mandeb and Al Hudaydah, and in Aden and Lahj governorates, including improvised explosive devices. There is considerable and growing contamination of cluster-munitions in urban and peri-urban areas with a high impact on the civilian population.

III. Key Activities

- Support the National Mine Action Committee (NMAC) and the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) in developing a new operational framework for mine action.
- Support YEMAC North in performing emergency UXO disposal activities. Initial focus being spot tasking in highly impacted governorates and survey.
- Support YEMAC South in re-establishing demining teams with a focus on UXO clearance and survey. Reported ordnance disposed of in 2015 includes 2,859 in Aden and 564 in Lahj governorates.
- The Mine Action Technical Working Group was re-activated north and south of the country. Both aim to develop the mine action information management system with UNDP/partner support.
- UNDP is collaborating with international NGOs to identify capacity building opportunities for YEMAC.

IV. Challenges

NMAC and YEMAC are state institutions divided by the ongoing conflict. UNDP plans an equitable mine action response working with YEMAC throughout the country. The intervention is planned against priorities of work, security accessibility and available resources. Mobilising YEMACs survey and clearance assets efficiently and effectively is hindered by a lack of high quality contamination mapping, poor funding to the sector and the evolving security threats. At current organisation levels, YEMACs capacity for one year is \$10-11M.

V. Budget

UNDP Mine Action Activities in 2015	Used Budget 2015	Planned Mine Action Activities for 2016	Current Funding 2016	Funding shortfall 2016
Survey, clearance, risk education and victims' rehabilitation. Institution building	\$2M	Survey, clearance, risk education and victims' rehabilitation. Institution building and capacity development	\$3.1M	\$6.9 - 7.9M