



Landmine Removal Projects Worldwide Remain Underfunded

12 September 2017, New York – The United Nations raises the alarm about the funding shortfall for the critical, life-saving projects in the 2017 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects. This annual compendium highlights funding requirements submitted by national mine action authorities and United Nations practitioners for activities to protect civilians from landmines, cluster munitions and improvised explosive devices. As of August, of the \$492 million requested for 179 projects in 22 countries and territories, only \$142 million had been received (29 per cent).

States and donors are asked to redouble their efforts to cover this gap. The biggest shortfalls remain for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, where large segments of the population have for years been living under daily threat to their lives and livelihoods.

Mine action activities play an important role in enabling societies to rebuild after armed conflict. These activities ensure land and urban areas are free from explosives, that weapons and explosives are stored safely and excess or obsolete stocks are destroyed, that victims are cared for, and that communities are aware of the risks posed by explosive devices and how to mitigate that risk. Mine action also paves the way for emergency humanitarian responses and improves humanitarian access that would otherwise be too dangerous to undertake. The benefits of such activities far outweigh their costs, but often these costs cannot be borne by the affected communities alone.

“The severe underfunding of these vital activities of the United Nations and its partners puts at risk not only the safety of the affected communities today, but their development tomorrow,” said Agnès Marcaillou, Director of United Nations Mine Action Service and Chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action. “With conflicts raging in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and other places, these communities cannot afford a delay in addressing the threat of landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices.”

The 2017 Portfolio includes projects from across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and South America, ranging from the clearance of improvised explosive devices to risk awareness programmes for children, and capacity development of national institutions to socio-economic rehabilitation for survivors. Those projects aim not only to make communities safer, but also, where relevant, to assist states in meeting their obligations under the Anti-



Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and related treaties, with the ultimate goal of ridding these countries of the scourge of landmines, explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, and improvised explosive devices. The Portfolio is available at <http://www.mineaction.org/resources/portfolios> and includes interactive options, such as graphs and charts summarising the needs according to country, region and area of work.

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