

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PROGRAMMES

UNICEF MINE ACTION STRATEGY 2002-2005

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



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PART ONE - INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

1. 'Mine action' refers to all those activities which address the problems faced by people as a result of landmine contamination. Mine action is not so much about mines, though, as about people and their interactions with a mine-contaminated environment: it aims to recreate an environment in which people can live safely, in which economic and social development can occur free from constraints, and in which mine survivors are fully integrated into their societies¹.
2. This document is intended to clarify UNICEF's mine action responsibilities as outlined in ***Mine Action and Effective Coordination: the United Nations Policy***, presented by the Secretary General to the 53rd Session of the General Assembly in 1998, and to assist in meeting the objectives of ***The United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2001-2005***, prepared in response to GA Resolution A/53/26 on *Assistance in Mine Action*, also adopted at the 53rd Session.
3. The Strategy is written within the framework of standards embodied in the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)* and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*, which underpin UNICEF's mandate and mission, the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines, and Their Destruction (MBT)*, for which UNICEF continues to be an active advocate, and the *Comprehensive and Integrated International Convention to Promote and Protect the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities*.
4. While detailed programming guidelines for mine action will be given in the Technical Notes to the UNICEF Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP), the objective of the Strategy is to make it clear within UNICEF, to the organisation's UN and other partners, and to other stakeholders including donors, the role UNICEF plays as part of an integrated, interagency, mine action response, and the approach it takes in doing so.

BACKGROUND - MILESTONES IN MINE ACTION

5. Although landmines were used throughout the 20th century, their horrific impact was not widely recognised as a humanitarian issue until the late 1980's, when thousands of returnees were killed and maimed in the wake of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.
6. Landmines also blocked access to farmland, food, water and shelter, and acted as a major obstacle to the transport and distribution of basic relief supplies, the repair of essential infrastructure, and the rehabilitation of homes, schools, and clinics. By preventing resettlement of IDPs and repatriation of refugees, and by blighting the prospects of local and national economic recovery, landmines undermined the prospects for peace and stability, and do so to this day.

¹ From Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The UN Policy (1998)

7. What is now known as humanitarian 'mine action' began in Afghanistan, as UN agencies and NGOs struggled to cope with a lethal environment by conducting emergency mine risk education, and training deminers. Programmes soon followed in Cambodia, Mozambique, northern Iraq, and other countries.
8. In tandem, and largely as a result of the work of NGO's, the ICRC, and UN agencies in mine affected countries, international awareness of the problem began to grow. This ultimately led, through a coalition of civil society groups and like-minded states, to the formulation of ***The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction*** (Mine Ban Treaty), for which UNICEF was, and continues to be, an active advocate.
9. The first treaty in history to ban a weapon widely used by military forces the world over, it opened with 122 signatories in December 1997.
10. The unique role of civil society in achieving the Mine Ban Treaty's total ban on anti-personnel landmines was recognised in the award of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)².
11. The Mine Ban Treaty commits States Parties to cease producing and transferring mines; clear minefields within 10 years; destroy stockpiles of landmines within 4 years; assist the economic and social rehabilitation of mine survivors and victims, and report each year on the progress made in fulfilling these commitments. It also provides a framework for international cooperation: those states with the means to eradicate the problem, commit to helping those without. Since 1999, this has helped to make over 200 million dollars available to mine action every year.
12. In 1998, ***Mine Action and Effective Coordination: the UN Policy*** was submitted by the Secretary General and welcomed by the 53rd session of the UN General Assembly. The Policy states the key principles for UN mine action, and defines its five³ components: mine risk education; advocacy; survey, mapping and clearance; 'victim assistance'⁴; and stockpile destruction. The Policy divides the responsibility for these activities across 11 UN agencies and departments⁵, and outlines coordination mechanisms for UN and other organisations such as the ICRC, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and NGOs.
13. UNICEF has responsibilities in relation to three of these five components:

*'UNICEF, working in collaboration with the UN Mine Action Service, is the **UN focal point for mine risk education**. In this capacity, it will provide appropriate guidance for all mine awareness programmes, liaising closely with concerned partners such as OCHA, WFP, UNHCR, WHO, and UNDP. In addition, UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO, ICRC, and other partners ... will ensure comprehensive **rehabilitation of landmines survivors**, including psychosocial counselling, physical rehabilitation (including the provision of prosthetics and orthotics), and education for those with disability. Finally, UNICEF will continue to be an active advocate for the promotion of a **total ban on anti-personnel landmines***

² The ICBL is a coalition of over 1,000 organisations based in over 60 countries.

³ Originally four components, however stockpile destruction as per the Mine Ban Treaty is generally accepted as being the fifth.

⁴ Now more commonly referred to as 'survivor assistance', so as not to stigmatise survivors or cast them as 'victims'.

⁵ Now 12, with the inclusion of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in December 2002.

and the ratification of the Ottawa Convention' (Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The UN Policy, 1998).

14. In its 2000 annual session, the **UNICEF Executive Board** acknowledged this set of responsibilities, as embodied in the UNICEF Core Corporate Commitments (CCC's) in Emergencies (E/ICEF/2000/12), which reinforce UNICEF's commitment to partnership in emergency action, strengthen the special protection of victims of armed conflict, disasters, and all forms of violence, and provides the framework for the care and protection of children and women in unstable situations.
15. Over the course of 2001, the **UN Mine Action Strategy 2001-2005**⁶ was developed by UN agencies, in consultation with ICRC, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, NGOs, and donors. It sets out 6 strategic goals, and 40 objectives, of which UNICEF has a role in all goals and 22 objectives.
16. Simultaneously, UNICEF began to work on the **UNICEF Mine Action Strategy**, to ensure it fulfills its obligations as outlined in the UN Policy, helps achieve the objectives of the UN Strategy, and meets its own broader mandate for the care and protection of children.

THE IMPACT OF LANDMINES AND OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

17. Simply being a child, with a child's natural curiosity and desire to play, touch, seek and explore, is risky in a mined environment. Ordinary daily activities such as herding livestock, fetching water, or foraging for food, fodder, or firewood can be deadly. Often, as a means of survival, children seek landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW)⁷ to use or sell their explosive or metal content. Many do not survive. A child is far more likely than an adult to die as a result of a mine blast⁸, and a child who survives is less likely to have access to rehabilitation, unlikely to have access to school, and almost certain to be vulnerable into adulthood. Children and women are also most likely to become more vulnerable if other family members are killed or injured.
18. In areas where employment opportunities are minimal, where people with disabilities are stigmatised or there is a shortage of training and rehabilitation facilities, mine survivors face enormous challenges. In most agrarian societies, the loss of a limb makes it almost impossible for a person to work, and women, in particular, may be ostracised because they are perceived as being 'damaged'.
19. Landmines also have a subtle yet profound psychological effect: by taking away freedom of movement, and robbing children of their right to play, landmines erode peace of mind - particularly for parents. In a very real sense, mines mean war continues even when a conflict has ended.
20. In addition to these direct effects, mines cause food insecurity through land denial and loss of livestock; health and hygiene problems due to lack of access to shelter, water and sanitation, and hardship due to non-

⁶ Attached, Annexe E.

⁷ ERW, or explosive remnants of war is the collective term for any explosive or parts thereof, whether fired or unfired, left over as the result of a conflict.

⁸ It is estimated that 85% of children die before reaching hospital, as compared to 40-50% of adults.

rehabilitation of essential economic infrastructure. Taken together, these factors - and the resulting disruption of the flow of trade and commerce - block local and national economic recovery and development, and undermine the fundamental human rights to peace, security, and self-determination.

21. Today, landmines can be found in over 60 countries (in all seven UNICEF regions), often years or decades after they were laid. They continue to have a significant human, social, and economic impact in more than 30 countries, most of which are among the world poorest.
22. All these countries are also affected, to varying degrees, by other explosive remnants of war⁹ (including anti-vehicle mines¹⁰), which cause many - often multiple - deaths, especially to children. In some countries such as Laos and Vietnam, and in emergencies such as Kosovo, cluster bombs rather than landmines have been the main problem. If they do not explode on impact, these function just like anti-personnel mines, and again, pose a particular threat to children, who are more inclined to tamper with them.
23. For practical purposes, mine action programmes deal with all these items, whether in terms of mine risk education, or clearance activities. In the Mine Ban Treaty, however, only anti-personnel mines are prohibited. Given the humanitarian impact of these other weapons, UNICEF has joined ICRC and others in calling for an *Optional Protocol to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, on Explosive Remnants of War* (ERW), aimed at further mitigating the effects of the detritus of war on civilian populations.

⁹ Explosive remnants of war (ERW) is the collective term for any explosive or parts thereof, whether fired or unfired, left over as the result of a conflict.

¹⁰ Anti-vehicle and anti-tank mines are not prohibited by the Mine Ban Treaty. Contrary to popular myth, they can be, and are detonated by people, and by animals.

PART TWO - THE UNICEF MINE ACTION STRATEGY

UNICEF's ROLE IN MINE ACTION

24. UNICEF recognises that landmines and other explosive remnants of war¹¹ directly and indirectly threaten children's rights to life, survival and development.
25. In mine affected countries, UNICEF works with and supports government and civil society partners to help children, their families and their communities understand how to reduce mine risks, and advocates for and with them on mine-related issues. UNICEF focuses on mine risk education, and works to integrate this into broader mine action responses.
26. This means working with state and non-state actors to promote ratification and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty in its entirety: people are aware of the threat; existing landmines are destroyed or cleared; new landmines are neither procured, manufactured nor laid; services are in place for survivors, and survivors - particularly children and women - have access to those services and are able to fully participate in their societies.
27. UNICEF advocates for and with mine survivors¹² and other people with disabilities to ensure their voices are heard, rights respected, and basic needs met. The main role of UNICEF is in identifying needs, and advocating for them to be addressed in the planning and provision of health, social, education and other services. UNICEF focuses on access of mine survivors and other people with disabilities to services and programmes, rather than on service provision itself.
28. While countries such as Afghanistan, Angola, and Cambodia suffer the most severe and widespread impact of mines and other ERW, many other countries are severely affected in more confined areas, often on or near borders, with a heavy toll on nomads, traders, and border-dwellers. Even if such areas are not inhabited, armed conflict, economic necessity, or natural disaster may suddenly displace people into or through them. UNICEF therefore works closely with the UN Mine Action Service and other organisations to ensure that mine contamination is factored into humanitarian contingency plans.
29. As most mine casualties occur during or immediately post-conflict, in emergencies where national authorities do not exist or unable to respond, UNICEF will still act to identify at-risk populations, carry out emergency mine risk education, and support other risk reduction activities, working with UNMAS and other UN agencies, and partners such as non-state actors, and international and local NGOs.
30. At a global level, and based on its work in the field, UNICEF's role is to promote best practice in mine risk education, advocate for universal ratification and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty - including the provisions for international assistance to mine affected countries - and to work for the further development of international law in relation to other explosive remnants of war.

¹¹ Explosive remnants of war (ERW) is the collective term for any explosive or parts thereof, whether fired or unfired, left over as the result of a conflict.

¹² 'Mine survivors' throughout this document refers to survivors of accidents involving mines and all other explosive remnants of war.

PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK

31. The UNICEF Mine Action Strategy 2002-2005 is rooted in the UNICEF Mission Statement, its Core Corporate Commitments in Emergencies, its Peace and Security Agenda (including the Machel Report), the World Fit for Children Outcome Document, the UNICEF Medium Term Strategic Plan 2002-2005, and the UN Mine Action Policy.
32. The Strategy is written within the framework of *The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*; *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*; *The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines, and Their Destruction (MBT)*; and the work towards a Comprehensive and Integrated International Convention to Promote and Protect the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.
33. UNICEF takes a rights-based approach to mine action, which recognises the legal and moral obligation and accountability of States to the rights and needs of their peoples, and affirms that children, women and men are subjects of rights - rights holders - rather than objects of charity. It thus follows that they should have the opportunity to express their views, and participate in decision-making on issues affecting their lives.
34. For these reasons, UNICEF places affected children, their families, and their communities at the centre of mine action, and encourages its partners to do likewise. While UNICEF particularly focuses on children and women, its work in mine action is not confined to them.
35. Consistent with a rights-based approach to programming, and its Core Corporate Commitments in Emergencies, UNICEF believes mine action responses must be integrated with political and advocacy initiatives, and that initial mine action responses and life-saving assistance should move rapidly toward medium- and long-term solutions, with an emphasis on national capacity building, community participation and community-based recovery strategies.
36. UNICEF sees mine action as a crucial supporting element of the broader humanitarian, development and peace-building agenda, and sees coordination within mine action, and between mine action and other sectors as essential to the effectiveness of mine action programmes.
37. UNICEF supports the integration of mine action components, through coordination and common planning by the various UN and other agencies engaged in these components. For this reason, UNICEF plays a key role in the UN Mine Action Strategy 2001-2005, works closely with UNMAS, UNDP, UNOPS, ICRC, GICHD, and other UN and NGO partners to fulfill its obligations as stated therein, and subscribes to the principles and common vision of:

*... a world free of the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance, where individuals and communities live in safe environment, conducive to development, and where mine survivors are fully integrated into their societies*¹³

¹³ UN Mine Action Strategy 2001-2005.

STATEMENT OF INTENT, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

UNICEF will work with partners to protect children, their families and communities from the physical, social, economic and psychological impact of landmines and other explosive remnants of war by pursuing the following three goals:

1. Mine Risk Education needs are identified and met in an appropriate, effective, and timely fashion.
2. The Mine Ban Treaty and other related legal instruments are universally ratified and implemented.
3. Mine survivors, especially children, have access to the highest attainable standards of services and support.

GOAL 1 Mine Risk Education needs are identified and met in an appropriate, effective, and timely fashion.

- 1.1 At-risk populations are identified, mine risk education needs are assessed, and appropriate mine risk education is provided, in all new and existing UN mine action programmes.
- 1.2 Mine risk education is coordinated at global and country levels, and is integrated with other mine action components, and with broader humanitarian, development and peace-building activities.
- 1.3 Threat monitoring¹⁵ and rapid response capacity is in place to meet emergency mine risk education needs.
- 1.4 Mine risk education is fully reflected in, and mutually supportive of, UNICEF's work in education, health promotion, child protection, integrated early childhood development (IECD), and other sectors.
- 1.5 Mine risk education is supported by active surveillance systems¹⁶ which enable affected communities to report on and receive assistance with mine problems.
- 1.6 Technical guidance is provided, and best practice is promoted in mine risk education.

GOAL 2 The Mine Ban Treaty and other related legal instruments are universally ratified and implemented.

- 2.1 States and non-state actors are encouraged and assisted to respectively ratify or endorse and comply with regional and international legal instruments relevant to landmines and other explosive remnants of war.
- 2.2 Local, national and global advocacy efforts in relation to mines and other explosive remnants of war are supported, in particular those by, and for, those most affected.
- 2.3 The needs of mine affected countries are identified and assessed, and subsequent planning and response supported.

¹⁴ Threat monitoring is, as it sounds, actively watching out for new mine/ERW threats, either through new contamination, or because existing contamination poses a new problem due to population movements.

¹⁵ See Annexe A for a definition of active surveillance.

- 2.4 International assistance for all mine action requirements in affected countries is promoted.
- 2.5 Development and implementation of the interagency UN Mine Action Strategy is supported.
- 2.6 Further development of international law on mines and other explosive remnants of war, including Explosive Remnants of War protocols to the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, is promoted.

GOAL 3 Mine survivors, especially children, have access to the highest attainable standards of services and support.

- 3.1 The needs of mine survivors¹⁷ are identified and assessed.
- 3.2 Local and national strategies for assistance¹⁸ to survivors are developed.
- 3.3 Public and community health, disability and other services are equally accessible to mine survivors, especially children and women.
- 3.4 Special rehabilitation and social reintegration services, if needed, are provided, especially to children
- 3.5 Child survivors are able to attend school.
- 3.6 Survivor assistance is supported by mine action programmes.

¹⁶ 'Mine survivors' throughout this document refers to survivors of accidents involving mines and all other explosive remnants of war.

¹⁷ See basic principles and further references summarised in Landmine Casualties: Needs and Assistance , *Landmine Monitor Report 2002*, pp 43-44.

PART THREE - IMPLEMENTATION

MAINSTREAMING MINE ACTION IN UNICEF

38. The goals and objectives of the UNICEF Mine Action Strategy will be supported throughout all relevant UNICEF policies, plans, programmes, and procedures. More specific objectives will therefore be developed within Country Programmes of Cooperation (CPC), Regional Office (RO) and headquarter (HQ) plans. A breakdown of responsibilities in these three tiers is summarised below, and outlined in detail in the matrix which follows.

Country Programmes of Cooperation

39. The role of the CPC is essentially to incorporate mine impact into regular situation assessments, raise awareness of the problem, and support government and other partners in planning and providing appropriate responses. This should be done as part of an interagency approach, with the aim of developing a national mine action plan.
40. The country office should also be able to conduct rapid mine risk assessment, and play a coordinating role for mine risk education in emergencies. This means putting in place organisational capacity, procedures and resources (funds, staff and supplies) to ensure that the appropriate programmatic response will be available on a timely basis.

Regional Offices

38. The regional office has oversight of the incorporation of mine action into country programmes of cooperation, and so is the main monitoring mechanism for Strategy implementation, including incorporation of mine action into emergency preparedness and response plans. The RO should coordinate UNICEF mine action responses on regional, sub-regional and cross-border programmes, and carry out advocacy at these levels.

Headquarters

39. The HQ is responsible for mine action policy, and programme guidance and the development of mine risk education tools and training for UNICEF and other agencies. It also provides desk and direct technical support to country and regional offices, and assists in the recruitment of technical experts and raising of supplementary resources to meet mine action commitments. The headquarters has global responsibility for monitoring strategy implementation, and for global advocacy on mine-related issues.

Monitoring and Evaluation

40. Mine action projects/programmes will be tracked and monitored through standard UNICEF information and financial management tools. An MTSP activity code has been developed to track mine action expenditures. Implementation of the UNICEF Mine Action Strategy will be reviewed annually, from 2003, and the Strategy will be evaluated at the end of 2005.

MATRIX OF HQ, REGIONAL AND COUNTRY OFFICE MINE ACTION RESPONSIBILITIES

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION	REGIONAL OFFICE	HEADQUARTERS
GOAL 1 Mine Risk Education (MRE) needs are identified and met in an appropriate, effective and timely fashion.	OBJECTIVE 1.1 At risk populations are identified, mine risk education needs are assessed, and appropriate mine risk reduction education is provided, in all new and existing UN mine action programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of mine/UXO issues into Sitan, CCA/UNDAF, MPO, and Annual and MT Reviews. • Advise government of option to request UN Interagency Mine Action Assessment¹⁹. • Mine/UXO²⁰ assessment²¹, in collaboration with other agencies. • MRE needs assessment²². • Advocate for inter-ministerial coordination on mine action • Identify other local partners and capacities. • Resource mobilisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate Strategy into Regional plans • Participate in/support UN Interagency Country Mine Action Assessments. • Oversight, monitoring and evaluation of programmatic response at country level. • Identification of specific areas where HQ support is required. • Coordination of cross-border needs assessments, analysis, and MRE responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme guidance • Incorporate Strategy into cluster/section workplans • Participate in UN Interagency Mine Action Assessments and coordinate with UN and other agencies on initiation of new programmes. • Technical support for MRE needs assessments²³ at country level • Assist with resource mobilisation via UN Portfolio, VTF, MASG.
	OBJECTIVE 1.2 Mine risk education is coordinated at global and country levels, and is integrated with other mine action components, and with broader humanitarian development and peace-building activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform R Rep/RC/HC of mine action needs and responses. • Support development of and second advisors to national/UN Mine Action Centres (MACs) • Coordination of MRE via MACs • Support and participate in development of national mine action strategic plans. • Incorporate mine action into CAPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review CAPs • Regional coordination with UN agencies, ICRC, NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency Coordination Group on Mine Action • Convene Mine Risk Education Working Group (with ICBL) • Technical assistance in development of national mine action strategic plans • Review CAPs

¹⁸ UN Interagency Mine Action Assessments are conducted by UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF (and sometimes other agencies) headquarters, usually in response to a formal request by a government or Humanitarian Coordinator. They are intended to establish the nature, extent, and potential impact of the mine/UXO problem in the country concerned.

¹⁹ Explosive remnants of war (ERW) is the collective term for any explosive devices, including mines, left over as the result of a conflict. UXO refers to unexploded ordnance, meaning shells, rockets, grenades, mortars and so on which have been fired but have failed to function, rendering them highly unstable. The term ERW is usually used in an advocacy context and UXO in an operational context.

²⁰ Mine/UXO assessments can also be carried out less formally, in-country, if technical expertise is available, however for full engagement by the UN system and for purposes of making the problem known in international fora, a UN assessment mission is useful. These two levels of assessment are by no means mutually exclusive.

²¹ MRE needs assessment refers to identification of at risk populations, with a detailed analysis of who is getting injured, where, and for what reason. This requires an understanding of knowledge, attitudes and practice in relation to mines/UXO, and must therefore be done by direct sampling of affected populations. The results are used to design appropriate mine risk education programmes.

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION	REGIONAL OFFICE	HEADQUARTERS
<p>Continued ...</p> <p>GOAL 1</p> <p>Mine Risk Education (MRE) needs are identified and met in an appropriate, effective and timely fashion</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 1.3</p> <p>Threat monitoring²⁴ and rapid response capacity is in place to meet emergency mine reduction education needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary responsibility for early warning, preparedness, and response as part of ongoing Situation Analysis (Sitan) • Include mine/UXO issues into MICS • Support incorporation into public health surveillance systems • Link surveillance data to mine/UXO reporting systems, and mine action response • Support UN Mine Action Rapid Response Plan • Incorporate into early warning systems and contingency plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat monitoring at regional level, esp. ref cross-border issues • Identify surge capacity requirements • Incorporate into regional contingency and other plans • Technical support to country offices for contingency planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency threat monitoring. • Provide info and analysis to RO and CO • Standby capacity • MOUs for surge capacity. • Coordinate with other UN agencies on threat monitoring and emergency response • UN Mine Action Rapid Response Plan
	<p>OBJECTIVE 1.4</p> <p>Mine risk education is fully reflected in, and mutually supportive of, UNICEF's work in education, health promotion, child protection, integrated early childhood development (IECD), and other sectors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate mine action into relevant programmes based on ongoing Sitan. • Link these in MPO/plans • During country programme strategy development and annual and mid-term reviews, determine role of sectoral programmes in mine action • Use annual and MT reviews to identify emergency mine risk/impact and need to adjust programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight of programme content, and integration between programmes at country level (e.g. child protection, health, education) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Notes to MTSP • Incorporate mine action into sectoral guidelines and tools
	<p>OBJECTIVE 1.5</p> <p>Mine risk education is supported by surveillance systems which enable affected communities to report and receive assistance with mine problems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support incorporation of mine/UXO accidents into public health surveillance systems, MICS, etc. and link to IMSMA • Support development of systems for communities to report mine/UXO problems • Link this to mine action response and prioritisation (inc. national plan) • Strengthen capacity of schools and health facilities to report mine/UXO problems as well as provide MRE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate technical guidance and tools, and identify technical support needs at country level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical guidance for and training on MRE needs assessments and surveillance systems, in conjunction with CDC and other partners • Link MRE to mine action survey, surveillance, and response in to international norms and standards, encourage participatory approaches within these

²² Threat monitoring is, as it sounds, actively watching out for new mine/ERW threats, either due to new contamination, or because existing contamination poses a new problem due to population movements.

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION	REGIONAL OFFICE	HEADQUARTERS
<p>Continued ...</p> <p>GOAL 1</p> <p>Mine Risk Education (MRE) needs are identified and met in an appropriate, effective and timely fashion</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 1.6</p> <p>Technical guidance is provided, and best practice is promoted in mine risk education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRE capacity building for national/local authorities and local NGOs • Support development of national Mine Action Standards which incorporate child-focus, gender awareness and participatory approaches • Capture and disseminate lessons learnt • Monitoring and evaluation of mine risk education programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capture lessons learned and identify models of best practice in region • Disseminate IMAS • Compile and analyse lessons learnt • Ensure monitoring and evaluation of mine risk education programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capture lessons learned and identify models of best practice in MRE • Develop tools for MRE evaluation (with GICHD) • MRE components of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)²⁵, & supplementary manuals • Incorporate child-focus, gender awareness and participatory approaches in mine action norms and standards globally • Convene Mine Risk Education Working Group (with ICBL) to identify technical guidance, support, and training needs
<p>GOAL 2</p> <p>The Mine Ban Treaty and other related legal instruments are universally ratified and implemented</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 2.1</p> <p>States and non-state actors are encouraged and assisted to respectively ratify or endorse, and comply with regional and international legal instruments relevant to landmines and other explosive remnants of war</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure States and non-State Actors are fully aware of the implications of mine use • Advocate for and support ratification and full implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty (and endorsement and observance by non-State Actors) • Support Landmine Monitor in verification of implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for MBT and related instruments in regional fora • Support regional advocacy initiatives, especially in relation to non-State Parties with shared borders • Develop strategic alliances with other groups for regional advocacy purposes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent UNICEF in meetings of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, the CCCW, and related fora, raise children's and human rights issues • Develop advocacy materials for CO/ROs • Support Landmine Monitor in global verification of implementation
	<p>OBJECTIVE 2.2</p> <p>Local, national and global advocacy efforts in relation to mines and other explosive remnants of war are supported, in particular those by and for those most affected</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action research mine/ERW impact especially on children and women • Develop links with civil society groups, especially national CBLs and survivor groups • Disseminate information and support public campaigns on mines/ERW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile case studies and share info/lessons learnt with COs and other agencies • Input into and dissemination of advocacy materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on mine/ERW impact, particularly on children and women • Link UNICEF national committees into advocacy efforts

²³ IMAS are the International Mine Action Standards, developed in ISO 9000 format by the UN with the support of GICHD. UNICEF is responsible for the MRE components, and is developing supplementary user-friendly implementation, or 'how to' manuals. IMAS and the manual/s will supercede the existing International Guidelines for Mine/UXO Awareness Education published by UNICEF in 1998.

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION	REGIONAL OFFICE	HEADQUARTERS
Continued ... GOAL 2 The Mine Ban Treaty and other related legal instruments are universally ratified and implemented.	OBJECTIVE 2.3 The needs of mine affected countries are identified and assessed, and subsequent planning and response supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request and support UN Interagency Country Mine Action Assessments²⁶. Use MRE work to gather data on mine impact, and demonstrate need for other mine action components Work with partners to use this information to raise awareness of country mine action needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in/support UN Interagency Country Mine Action Assessments. Briefings to other UN agencies and missions to region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in UNMAS-led Interagency Country Mine Action Assessment Brief UN HQ missions on mine action issues Use data and info coming from MRE programmes to raise awareness of country mine action needs
	OBJECTIVE 2.4 International assistance for all mine action requirements in affected countries is promoted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate information from Sitans, CCAs, MICs, and other sources/surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategic alliances at regional level, and raise awareness of mine action needs via regional bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include in annual UN Mine Action Portfolio, UNICEF HAR and other documents Raise in MASG and other donor fora
	OBJECTIVE 2.5 Development and implementation of the interagency UN Mine Action Strategy is supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with other mine action agencies to develop an advocacy approach, especially UN Mine Action Centres and national authorities Input into UN mine action advocacy strategy Involve senior UN leaders in advocacy efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Regional Office and other visitors to raise Mine Ban Treaty with non-States Parties Input into UN mine action advocacy strategy Involve senior UN leaders in advocacy efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with UNMAS and other UN mine action agencies on the Strategy Work closely with ICBL and other civil society groups Brief UN HQ missions on mine action issues Involve senior UN leaders in advocacy efforts
	OBJECTIVE 2.6 Advocacy for the further development of international law on mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW), including ERW protocols to the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, is promoted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document impact of mines/ERW based on work in-country (action research and data collection) Disseminate this information in-country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate regional examples of mine/ERW impact and raise in regional fora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners, especially ICRC and ICBL on international law Provide data and case studies to demonstrate impact of ERW on children and women

²⁴ UN Interagency Mine Action Assessments are conducted by UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF (and sometimes other agencies) headquarters, usually in response to a formal request by a government or Humanitarian Coordinator. They are intended to establish the nature, extent, and potential impact of the mine/UXO problem in the country concerned.

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION	REGIONAL OFFICE	HEADQUARTERS
GOAL 3 Mine survivors, especially children, have access to the highest attainable standards of services and support	GOAL 3.1 The needs of mine survivors are identified and assessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support rapid survey and longer-term inclusion of mine survivors into public health surveillance systems • Incorporate into MICS and other relevant surveys/research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and assist in collecting cross-border information on mine survivors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical support for mine accident incidence and prevalence surveys
	GOAL 3.2 Local and national strategies for assistance to survivors are developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a rights-based approach to survivor assistance • Support survivor-led advocacy groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a rights-based view of survivor assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a rights-based view of survivor assistance
	GOAL 3.3 Public and community health, disability and other services are accessible to mine survivors, especially children and women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the availability and accessibility of appropriate services • Work with partners, particularly survivor groups, to overcome access issues • Raise awareness of the rights of the disabled, and link this work to CRC and CEDAW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate information on best practice • Raise awareness of the rights of the disabled, and link this work to CRC and CEDAW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate information on best practice • Raise awareness of the rights of the disabled, and link this work to CRC and CEDAW
	GOAL 3.4 Special rehabilitation and social reintegration services, if needed, are provided, especially to children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use data and research to advocate for provision of services • Support service provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate information on best practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate information on best practice • Liaise with international organizations providing such services, at global level
	GOAL 3.5 Child survivors are able to attend school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess school attendance among children with disabilities • Work with Ministry of Education and others to ensure disabled children are able to attend school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate information on best practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate information on best practice
	GOAL 3.6 Survivor assistance is supported by mine action programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input into UN policy • Promote a rights-based approach to survivor assistance, in which mine survivors are not distinguished from other people with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input into UN policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with UNMAS and other UN mine action agencies on survivor policy issues • Promote a rights-based view of survivor assistance

ANNEXE A DEFINITIONS

Adapted from the International Mine Action Standards IMAS, and working drafts of IMAS mine risk education components as developed by UNICEF.

Active surveillance: systems to identify the presence and impact of mine/UXO contamination, including accidents. An active (as opposed to passive) surveillance system goes beyond data collection to include reporting and response mechanisms, so that affected communities can inform and get a response from the mine action programme, and that such programmes are alert and responsive to public safety needs. Information gathered through such systems assists in appropriate **mine risk education** programme design by identifying not only risky areas, but risky behaviours, and target groups. It also assists in the prioritisation of mine action tasks.

Community mine action liaison: a component of **mine risk education**. Liaison with mine/UXO affected communities to exchange information on the presence and impact of mines and UXO, create a reporting link with the mine action programme and develop risk-reduction strategies. Community liaison aims to ensure community needs and priorities are central to the planning, implementation and monitoring of mine action operations, and that communities understand the process and results of clearance operations.

Cluster bomb unit (CBU): an expendable aircraft store composed of a dispenser and sub-munitions. A bomb containing and dispensing sub-munitions which may be mines (anti-personnel or anti-tank), penetration (runway cratering), bomblets, fragmentation bomblets, etc.

Education: the imparting and acquiring over time of knowledge, attitudes and practices through teaching and learning.

Explosives: a substance or mixture of substances which, under external influences, is capable of rapidly releasing energy in the form of gases and heat.

Explosive Ordnance: all munitions containing explosives, nuclear fission or fusion materials and biological or chemical agents. This includes bombs and warheads; guided and ballistic missiles; artillery, mortar rocket and small arms ammunition; all **mines**, torpedoes and depth charges; pyrotechnics; clusters and dispensers; cartridge and propellant actuated devices; electro-explosive devices; clandestine and improvised explosive devices; and all similar or related items or components explosive in nature.

Explosive Remnants of War: the collective term for any **explosive ordnance** or other explosive item, object, or part thereof, whether fired or unfired, left over as the result of armed conflict.

Marking: emplacement of a measure of combination of measures to identify the position of a hazard or the boundary of a hazardous area.

Mine: munition designed to be placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area and to be exploded by the presence, proximity, or contact of a person or a vehicle (Ottawa Convention).

Mine action: is defined in the UN Mine Action Policy and elsewhere as having five components: advocacy; mine awareness/risk education; mine survey, mapping, marking and clearance (including explosive ordnance disposal); 'victim assistance' (assistance to survivors of mines or unexploded ordnance), and stockpile destruction (as per Mine Ban Treaty obligations).

Mine awareness: see mine risk education.

Mine risk: refers to the probability of occurrence and the potential severity of physical injury to people, property or the environment.

Mine risk education: educational activities aimed at reducing the risk of injury from mines/UXO by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change. Activities include: public information dissemination, education and training, and **community mine action liaison**.

Mine risk reduction: refers to those actions which lessen the probability and/or severity of physical injury to people, property or the environment. Mine risk reduction can be achieved by physical measures such as fencing, marking, or partial clearance, and through mine risk education programmes²⁷.

Munition: a complete device charged with explosives, propellants, pyrotechnics, initiating compositions, or nuclear, biological or chemical material for use in military operations including demolitions.

Submunition: any munition that, to perform its task, separates from its parent munition.

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO): explosive ordnance that has been primed, fused, armed, or otherwise prepared for use or used. It may have been fired, dropped, launched or projected yet remains unexploded either through malfunction of design or for any other reason. UXO is generally highly unstable and dangerous.

²⁵ While mine clearance is ultimately intended to eliminate the danger, activities such as marking and/or fencing of contaminated areas reduce risk in the interim by clearly identifying such areas. Mine marking/fencing is an essential support to mine risk education, and vice versa, as it is difficult to avoid unmarked areas. Conversely, people will only avoid marked areas if they understand what the markings mean.

ANNEXE B ACRONYMS

CAP	Consolidated Appeal Process
CBL	Campaign to Ban Landmines
CBU	Cluster Bomb Unit
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CCCW	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
CDC	US Centre for Disease Control, Atlanta
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CO	Country Office
CPC	Country Programmes of Cooperation
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
GA	General Assembly
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
HAR	Humanitarian Action Report
HQ	Headquarters
IACG MA	(UN) Inter-agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
ICBL	International Campaign to Ban Landmines
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IECD	Integrated Early Childhood Development
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
MAC	Mine Action Centre
MASG	Mine Action (donor) Support Group
MBT	Mine Ban Treaty
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPO	Master Plan of Operation
MRE	Mine Risk Education
MT	Mid/Medium Term
MTSP	Medium Term Strategic Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RO	Regional Office
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNMAS	UN Mine Action Service
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VTF	Voluntary Trust Fund
WHO	World Health Organisation
WFP	World Food Programme

ANNEXE C

MINE ACTION AND EFFECTIVE COORDINATION: THE UNITED NATIONS POLICY

MINE ACTION AND EFFECTIVE COORDINATION:

THE UNITED NATIONS POLICY

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Years of conflict have left millions of scattered and unrecorded landmines in more than fifty countries.(1) Civilians, children as well as adults, are more and more often targets of these sly weapons in times of war, and have become by the thousands victims of their deadly legacy in times of peace. Landmines have removed vast areas of land and resources from productive use. Countries with weak or barely existing

social and economic infrastructures are often hardest hit, and within these countries the poor are those who suffer the most and are least able to cope.

2. There is growing awareness within the international community that what has come to be known as the "global landmine crisis" has far-reaching consequences and requires a multi-faceted and integrated response. There is also recognition that the United Nations has a key role to play in articulating this response and in providing the necessary support and coordination mechanisms. This role was reaffirmed in the successive resolutions of the UN General Assembly on assistance in mine clearance(2), as well as in the amended protocol II to the CCW Convention (3) and in the landmark Ottawa Convention.(4)

3. In conformity with the expectations of affected populations, the United Nations has accumulated a great deal of experience in mine action. Programmes have been established in various countries, starting with Afghanistan in 1988 and Cambodia in 1992. In light of this experience and of lessons learnt, this paper was developed to encapsulate the key principles on which UN mine action is based and to clarify roles and responsibilities within the United Nations system.

II. OBJECTIVES

4. The objectives of the principles developed in this paper are threefold and complementary:

a. to foster the ability of the United Nations to support, in a coordinated, timely and effective manner, affected countries and populations in responding to the immediate and long-term problems posed by landmines;

b. to foster the ability of the United Nations to support and build upon the collective efforts of the international community at large;

c. to strengthen the credibility of the United Nations in terms of transparency, accountability and effectiveness.

III. THE NATURE OF MINE ACTION

5. Mine Action refers to all those activities geared towards addressing the problems faced by populations as a result of landmine contamination. It is not so much about mines as it is about people and their interactions with a mine-infested environment. Its aim is not technical - to survey, mark and eradicate landmines - but humanitarian and developmental - to recreate an environment in which people can live safely, in which economic, social and health development can occur free from the constraints imposed by landmine contamination, and in which victims' needs are addressed.

6. A distinction has sometimes been made between operational mine action (i.e. mine action in support of operations mandated by the UN Security Council), humanitarian mine action, and mine action in support of reconstruction and development. The United Nations does not adhere to this distinction, since it does not reflect the fact that there is considerable overlap between the various aspects of a country's recovery (peacekeeping and peace-building, reintegration of refugees and IDPs, revival of communities, reconstruction and development), and that what really matters is the establishment of clear priorities in relation to the needs of the affected populations.

7. Given the importance of an integrated and holistic response to the issue of landmine contamination, and the need to bring real and lasting support to those who are at risk, UN mine action encompasses four complementary core components:

a. mine awareness and risk reduction education;

b. minefield survey, mapping, marking, and clearance;

c. victim assistance, including rehabilitation and reintegration;

d. advocacy to stigmatise the use of landmines and support a total ban on antipersonnel landmines.

In support of these core components, other activities will be key to the success of mine action and mine action programmes, such as: resource mobilization, national/local capacity building and requisite institutional support (including human resource development of local counterparts from both government and civil society), information management (including the conduct of assessment missions, surveys and, more generally, data gathering), training of personnel (in all mine-related responsibilities, including management), and quality management (including setting of standards and programme monitoring and evaluation).

IV. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A. Scope and nature of the landmine problem

8. Landmines are first and foremost a humanitarian concern and must be addressed from this perspective. They are also an impediment to rehabilitation and sustainable development. The nature and scope of the landmine problem must be defined in terms of its humanitarian, public health, and socio-economic implications, including, in particular, its impact on lives, livelihoods, the provision of humanitarian assistance, and, more generally, an environment which should be safe and conducive to peace-building, reconstruction, and development.

9. All relevant information on landmine contamination and its humanitarian and socio-economic consequences should be provided to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), through the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators in the field or other partners as appropriate, so that a comprehensive profile of the landmine problem can be developed and early action initiated.

B. Principles for UN assistance in mine action

10. In dealing with the landmine problem, the United Nations will respect the fundamental humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and humanity so that priority is given to those who are most vulnerable. Training or support for mine action will not, in principle, be provided to the militaries of mine-contaminated

countries.

11. The United Nations will take every opportunity to stigmatize the continuing use of landmines and to support a total ban on antipersonnel landmines. In order to receive

assistance, relevant parties should be committed to supporting mine action actively, and to desisting from producing, stockpiling, using, and transferring antipersonnel landmines. When applicable, this commitment should form an integral part of peace treaties, cease-fire agreements and peace-building arrangements.

12. Exceptions to the above principle should be based only on humanitarian considerations: humanitarian mine action activities focused on reducing immediate threats to the well-being of affected communities and to the activities of humanitarian workers should not be subjected to conditionalities related to the continuing use of landmines.

C. The notion of integrated and sustainable mine action

13. The United Nations supports an holistic approach to mine action, addressing its various elements in a complementary manner both at the field level, and at the headquarters level. Mine awareness and risk reduction education, minefield mapping, marking and clearance, victim assistance and rehabilitation, advocacy to stigmatise the use of landmines and support for a comprehensive ban, are all integral parts of mine action.

14. This holistic approach requires that appropriate attention be given to the issues of national ownership, sustainability and capacity building. In countries with long-term needs, mine action programmes must be sustainable and should include as a key component the development of a national/local capacity from the outset of mine action activities throughout the development of integrated programmes. A national/local capacity (formed most often under the auspices of a government or local authorities) is characterized by its ability to develop and articulate overall policy and direction, as well as to plan, coordinate, manage, and sustain a programme that is accountable, cost-effective, and able to address the humanitarian and socio-economic implications of landmine contamination.

15. Mine action initiatives must also be an integral component of strategies designed to rehabilitate health care, education, infrastructure, agriculture and marketing systems, to name but a few of the requirements of societies recovering from violent conflicts.

D. The requirement for effective coordination

16. To ensure effective coordination within the UN system, all mine action activities will be organized in consultation with UNMAS, and with the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators in the field as appropriate.

17. When programmes are initiated in the field, coordination mechanisms should be established to ensure that strategic and forward planning takes place and that country-wide mine action activities are consistently integrated, monitored, and reviewed (including mine awareness in refugee camps in neighbouring countries and mine clearance related to peacekeeping missions, when applicable).

18. As part of these coordination mechanisms, a database should be developed, and a level I survey (followed by a level II survey) should be undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity.

19. Donors, NGOs, and other entities concerned with the problem of landmines should be encouraged to coordinate their activities with UNMAS and with the UN and local authorities responsible for mine action in the field.

20. UNMAS will ensure that regular monitoring and lessons learnt missions are conducted, and that insights gained from particular experiences are shared with all interested parties.

E. The initiation and development of mine action programmes in the field

21. Action to address the mine problem must begin as early as possible when there is a recognized need. It should include, in particular, assessments and level I surveys, awareness and risk reduction education, victim assistance, and advocacy to stigmatize the use of landmines.

22. Without prejudice to agencies' existing mandates and accountability, all requests for assistance in mine action should be reviewed in consultation with UNMAS. When justified by the circumstances, and as a first step of a United Nations response, UNMAS should, as soon as it is possible and in consultation with the UN

Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, organize a multidisciplinary and multisectoral assessment to define the scope and nature of the problem, to identify constraints and opportunities relating to the development of mine action initiatives, and to make recommendations for a comprehensive response including institutional arrangements for the coordination and implementation of mine action activities.(5)

23. The primary responsibility for taking action against the presence of landmines lies with the concerned state. Thus, in principle, the Government of the affected country should assume overall responsibility for the coordination and management of a national mine action programme. When required, UNDP, in consultation with all stakeholders, including UNMAS, relevant local partners, NGOs, donors and UN entities, should assist in creating sustainable national capacities and in preparing and implementing an overall programme plan.

24. In circumstances where the United Nations has to initiate a programme under its auspices, either because of the requirement to meet urgent humanitarian and operational needs or because of the absence of recognized national authorities, UNMAS will develop the initial programme plan in consultation with all

stakeholders, including relevant local partners, NGOs, donors and UN entities. This plan should clearly define objectives, priorities, institutional arrangements and other requirements, including technical and financial support, as well as modalities to undertake specific activities. It should be designed to meet critical urgent needs as well as the long-term requirements essential for the development of a sustainable, national/local capacity, when applicable.

25. When required, transitional arrangements for the provision of UN support to the ongoing development of a sustainable national/local mine action capacity should be identified and clearly defined at the earliest stage to ensure a smooth transfer of responsibilities. They should be decided on a case-by-case basis but will normally be implemented when the national authority assumes responsibility for the coordination and management of the overall mine action programme originally developed under UN auspices.

26. Whenever practical and in order to facilitate the transition process when it is required, the UN entity responsible for providing logistical, financial, and administrative support to a mine action programme during the initiation phase will continue to be responsible for this support throughout the development of the programme.

F. The requirement for prioritization and accountability

27. All programmes should have well-established mechanisms to set priorities for mine action activities on the basis of need and the most effective use of available resources. While it must be remembered that no two situations are alike, priorities for mine clearance will often include, inter alia, the following: provision of emergency assistance; settled land with high civilian casualty rates; land required for the resettlement of

refugees/IDPs; land required for agriculture; community development; access to and free operation of health services; reconstruction, and infrastructure development.

28. Programmes should also incorporate clearly-defined accountability mechanisms to ensure that priority needs are met and that there is cost-effective use of available resources. They should involve periodic review exercises in order to determine overall effectiveness in approach, orientation and implementation, and to advise on what changes, if any, need to be introduced.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A. Role and responsibilities of UN partners (6)

United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

29. The United Nations Mine Action Service is the focal point within the UN system for all mine-related activities. In this capacity, it is responsible for ensuring an effective, proactive and coordinated UN response to landmine contamination. UNMAS, in consultation with other partners, will establish priorities for assessment missions, facilitate a coherent and constructive dialogue with the donor and international communities on the mine issue, and coordinate the mobilization of resources. It is also responsible for the development, maintenance and promotion of technical and safety standards (a responsibility which will be delegated to UNICEF with regard to mine awareness and to WHO with regard to the public health aspect

of victim assistance); for the collection, analysis and dissemination of mine-related information, including information on technology; for advocacy efforts in support of a global ban on antipersonnel landmines; and for the management of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance.

Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA)

30. The Department for Disarmament Affairs, in collaboration with UNMAS and other entities of the Organization, will support the role of the UN Secretary-General in relation to the Ottawa Convention. The Department's specific responsibilities relate to provisions of two articles: "Transparency measures" (article 7) and "Facilitation and clarification of compliance" (article 8).

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

31. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is responsible for sharing all relevant information with UNMAS and other partners regarding the humanitarian implications of landmines. It will work to ensure that humanitarian needs are met as an integral component of the overall humanitarian endeavor. It will advocate for a global ban on antipersonnel landmines and for victim assistance. OCHA will also work closely with UNMAS on resource mobilization in its capacity as manager of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) and coordinator of the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP).

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

32. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will ensure that the needs of refugees and other populations of concern to UNHCR are met. In particular, it will work with UNICEF to develop appropriate mine awareness programmes in refugee camps and with WFP for the safe delivery of food.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

33. The United Nations Children's Fund, working in collaboration with UNMAS, is the UN focal point on mine awareness education. In this capacity, it will provide appropriate guidance for all mine awareness programmes, liaising closely with concerned partners such as OCHA, WFP, UNHCR, WHO and UNDP. UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO, ICRC, and other partners where appropriate, will ensure comprehensive rehabilitation of landmine victims, which includes psychosocial counseling, physical rehabilitation (including the provision of prosthetics and orthotics, and education for those with disabilities. Additionally, UNICEF will continue to be an active advocate for the promotion of a total ban on antipersonnel Landmines and the ratification of the Ottawa Convention.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

34. Within the UN system, the United Nations Development Programme will be responsible for addressing the socio-economic consequences of landmine contamination and for supporting national/local capacity building to ensure the elimination of the obstacle they pose to the resumption of normal economic activity,

reconstruction and development. When applicable, UNDP will have primary responsibility for the development of integrated, sustainable national/local mine action programmes in situations where the problem of landmines is not only a humanitarian emergency. It will work closely with UNMAS and share all relevant information.

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

35. The United Nations Office for Project Services is a principal service provider within the UN system for integrated mine action and capacity building programmes. It will implement mine action programmes as appropriate in collaboration with concerned partners (UNMAS, UNDP and others). As its mandate enables it to work with all UN agencies, UNOPS will be instrumental in providing the continuity of implementation that is required for mine action programmes.

World Food Programme (WFP)

36. The World Food Programme is involved in mine action in relation to its mandate to provide food assistance. Its three main areas of concern are:

- a/ the clearance of access roads for the speedy and cost-effective delivery of food assistance;
- b/ the clearance of land required for the safe return of displaced populations;
- c/ the clearance of crop land for agricultural use in order to promote sustainable levels of local food production.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

37. The Food and Agriculture Organization is involved in mine clearance in relation to its humanitarian agriculture relief activities in countries affected by complex emergencies. The definition of criteria for the selection of priority sites requiring mine clearance is a pre-requisite to the formulation of humanitarian relief/short term rehabilitation interventions.

World Bank

38. As a development agency the World Bank supports programmes, in member countries, which help lead to the eradication of poverty and to the promotion of sustainable development. Its support of mine action is based upon the recognition that mine pollution is, for many affected countries, a significant obstacle to the reestablishment of normal development activities. In this context, it shares with UNDP a perspective which views mine pollution as a development problem with long term consequences and, necessarily, with long-term solutions which extend far beyond initial humanitarian concerns. Globally, the Bank shares responsibility with UNDP for convening donor groups in reconstruction situations and thus has a major role in resource mobilization and in setting long term agendas for international support for mine action and other needs. It works closely with all UN departments and agencies. (7)

World Health Organization (WHO)

39. Within the framework of its mandate as expressed by the 101st session of its Executive Board, the World Health Organization will be responsible for the development of appropriate standards and methodologies, as well as the promotion of health service capacity building for sustainable victim assistance, through the

Ministries of Health of affected countries. It will provide public technical health support to the various UN partners involved in mine action, and cooperate closely with UNICEF and ICRC.

B. Contributions of like-minded partners

40. The United Nations welcomes and acknowledges all contributions to mine action made by like-minded partners from both governments and civil society. It recognizes in particular the instrumental role played by the NGO community and the International Committee of the Red Cross in raising public awareness of the landmine issue and addressing the needs of those at risk. In articulating and developing its mine action policy and activities, the United Nations strives to give due consideration to the concerns of all parties.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

41. Humanitarian mine action NGOs are important contributors to the building of indigenous capacities to respond to the consequences of landmines. Experienced humanitarian mine action NGOs have the capacity to effectively transfer skills related to mine awareness education, mine survey and marking, mine clearance, data collection, analysis and programme management. Their contributions to the promotion of safety and

quality assurance standards, to developing community-based prioritizing of resource deployment based on humanitarian need, and to raising local and global consciousness of the landmine problem (and its moral

implications) render them a valuable source of insight, advice and operational capacity. Often working with affected communities prior to UN involvement in a mine-affected country, NGOs are important partners in the development of policies for and the implementation of integrated, coherent and cost effective mine action programming. (8)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

42. The International Committee of the Red Cross acts to help all victims of war and internal violence and endeavors to ensure implementation of humanitarian rules restricting armed violence. In dealing with the scourge of landmines, the ICRC has encouraged the international community to adopt a "public health" approach comprising preventive, curative and rehabilitative measures. While these measures include as a key element humanitarian mine clearance, the ICRC's efforts have focused on advocacy, mine-awareness and risk-reduction education, and assistance to landmine victims (first aid, surgery, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration). The ICRC encourages efforts to promote better field cooperation and coordination in order to avoid duplication and waste of human and material resources. (9)

C. Coordination and liaison groups

43. UNMAS will ensure that the mine issue is addressed as appropriate in the context of existing coordination mechanisms. These mechanisms include: the Humanitarian Liaison Working Group (HLWG), the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA) at the headquarters level; the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and UN country team meetings at the field Level. UNMAS will also ensure that all like-minded partners outside the UN system, including Non-Governmental Organizations, the ICRC and other components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, are fully involved.

44. An Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, will support the overall inter-agency coordination of UN mine action initiatives and activities. It will include inter alia representatives from DDA, OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNOPS, WFP, FAO, the World Bank and WHO.

45. A Steering Committee on Mine Action, chaired by the Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, will support the coordination of UN mine action initiatives with those of non-UN partners. In addition to the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, it will include inter alia

representatives from ICRC and the ICBL.

VI. RESOURCES (10)

A. Overall approach and activities required in support of resource mobilization

46. Transparency, timeliness, accountability and cost effectiveness are the guiding principles behind all resource mobilization efforts in support of mine action throughout the United Nations system.

47. The various UN actors will continue to conduct their own fund raising activities for mine action both in the field and at the headquarters level. (11) However, they will coordinate these activities with UNMAS to ensure that they are coherent and mutually reinforcing. Donor meetings on mine action will be coordinated with UNMAS.

48. In order to secure the consistency of UN mine action, and unless exceptional circumstances make it clearly unpractical to do so, new mine-related projects and initiatives, if they are not already part of an ongoing UN programme, will be discussed with the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action before being submitted for funding to the international community.

49. UNMAS will initiate regular consultations with all partners involved, through the Steering Committee on Mine Action, to set priorities for mine action with a view to sharing them with the international community.

50. Where specific funds are made available in support of mine action in general, such as in the case of the UN Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) (12), UNMAS will coordinate the UN approach and serve as focal point.

51. In situations where country-specific consolidated appeals exist and mine action projects are ongoing or deemed necessary, such projects will be included in the appeals.

In its capacity as coordinator of the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), OCHA will ensure that UNMAS is consulted.

52. In order to assist donors in determining how best to utilize their resources, UNMAS will prepare each year a comprehensive "portfolio of mine action projects" outlining the resources required for all mine action projects. This document will take into consideration those projects which are already included in country-specific consolidated appeals, as well as those for which similar resource mobilization mechanisms do not exist. It will be utilized in support of donor meetings and pledging conferences.

53. Implementing agencies will ensure that the necessary mechanisms are established in the field to regularly exchange information with the international community and provide them with updates on the status of UN programmes and budget requirements, as well as detailed financial statements of income and expenditures.

54. UNMAS should be provided with the information required to maintain and discuss the "portfolio of mine action projects" at any given time with members of the international community, as well as an updated financial summary of past and ongoing mine-related operations (including cash contributions, donations in-kind and secondment of personnel).

B. Support mechanisms

1. Financing mechanisms

55. Although the resources raised for mine action are for the most part channelled through the UN system, they may also be channelled through external partners (NGOs for example) if so required for cost-effectiveness purposes.

56. The Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance (VTF) is used primarily to finance:

a/. the overall coordination of UN mine action;

b/. the conduct of assessment missions to monitor the scope of the landmine threat and the programmes established to deal with it;

c/. the initiation of new mine action activities and programmes when and where required;

d/. the bridging of funding delays in ongoing programmes.

57. The Central Emergency Revolving Fund is designed as a cash-flow mechanism to ensure the rapid and coordinated response of the organizations of the United Nations system to requests for emergency assistance (ST/SGB/251). It can be used only to make advances to UN organizations and entities. These advances have to be reimbursed as a first charge against the voluntary contributions received in response to consolidated appeals.

58. For programmes which have to be sustained in the long term, specific trust funds should be established within the financing agency as soon as possible. The objective of these trust funds is to allow for the principles of transparency, accountability and cost effectiveness to be respected.

59. Mine action in support of peacekeeping operations will continue to be financed exclusively by peacekeeping budgets and resources, to the exclusion of resources drawn from the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance.

60. World Bank resources are primarily provided on the basis of interest free credits (IDA) or loans (IBRD). Resources are provided directly to governments, who own the process and are responsible for execution. Many governments have, to date, chosen to draw upon humanitarian grants for demining. There is, however, significant potential for increased support from the Bank's credits or loans for financing mine action if a/. member governments decide that this use of Bank resources is appropriate and b/. borrower governments require resources for mine action beyond those available from grant sources.

2. Monitoring and reporting to donors

61. Implementing agencies in charge of country programmes are responsible for submitting regular progress and financial reports to donors. These reports should take into consideration cash contributions as well as contributions in-kind and secondment of personnel. They should provide sufficient details on the origin of the resources made available and on the expenditures incurred against those resources.

62. On an annual basis, UNMAS will prepare a financial statement related to mine action for distribution to the donor community.

Footnotes:

1) Throughout this document, "landmine" will be used in reference to both landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs). A glossary of terms commonly used in the context of mine action is attached as

Annex A.

2) See in particular the most recent resolution, A/RES/52/173, attached as Annex B.

3) "Amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and Other Devices", adopted in Geneva on 3 May 1996.

4) "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction", opened for signature in Ottawa on December 3, 1997.

5) Terms of reference for assessment missions are attached as Annex C.

6) The specific role of the various UN partners in relation to resource mobilization is attached as Annex D.

7) A more extensive discussion of the World Bank and Mine Action is attached to this document as Annex E.

8) Various guidelines and policy documents have been developed by the NGO community on the landmine issue. Two examples are provided as Annex F: 1/. The so-called "Bad Honnef Guidelines", originally drafted by the German Campaign to Ban Landmines and subsequently discussed and revised at an international NGO-Symposium in Bad Honnef on 23rd/24th June 1997; 2/. The Statement of Principle jointly issued by Handicap International, Mines Advisory Group and Norwegian People's Aid in Brussels on 21 November 1997.

9) A more extensive discussion of the ICRC's approach to mine action is attached to this document as Annex G.

10) The term "resources" will be used in its generic sense, referring not only to financial contributions, but also to donations in-kind (material, equipment, personnel and services).

11) The specific resource mobilization rules and procedures applying to the various UN partners is described in Annex H.

12) UNFIP serves as interface with the UN Foundation also known as the "Turner Trust Fund".

ANNEXE D

UNICEF Core Corporate Commitments in Emergencies

Title : **UNICEF Core Corporate Commitments in Emergencies**
Document Type : **Executive Board - Plans, Policies and Strategies**

Country : **Global** Document Symbol/Series: **E/ICEF/2000/12**
Year Published : **2000** PDF Link :
OSEB Doctype : **Executive Board Documents**
Session : **2000 Annual Session**

Executive Summary:

Document Text:

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ICEF/2000/12
17 March 2000

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND FOR INFORMATION
Executive Board
Annual session 2000
22-26 May 2000

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

UNICEF CORE CORPORATE COMMITMENTS IN EMERGENCIES

SUMMARY

This report was prepared in response to Executive Board decision 1997/7 (E/ICEF/1997/12/Rev.1), and as a follow-up to document E/ICEF/1997/7 on "Children and women in emergencies: strategic priorities and operational concerns for UNICEF", which confirmed the UNICEF commitment to partnership in emergency action and to the special protection of victims of armed conflict, disasters and all forms of violence.

The present report draws upon the diverse experiences of UNICEF in recent crises and elaborates on the UNICEF approach to ensuring an effective response to the needs of children and women affected by unstable situations, through mutually reinforcing actions in the areas of humanitarian policy, global advocacy and humanitarian response. The report also addresses the issue of humanitarian response through a set of "Core Corporate Commitments" (CCCs), in which capacities to forecast and respond to crises and/or unstable situations are mainstreamed into the programming and operational approach of UNICEF at country, regional and global levels. A matrix is included which outlines the four components of CCCs and defines the parameters of these commitments.

* E/ICEF/2000/9.

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Annex. Core Corporate Commitments: Immediate Response

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present document is a follow-up to the report on "Children and women in emergencies: strategic priorities and operational concerns for UNICEF" (E/ICEF/1997/7), which was presented to the Executive Board at its first regular session of 1997. The main elements outlined in the document confirmed the commitment of UNICEF to work in partnership with United Nations and other agencies in emergencies, and to insure the protection of victims of armed conflict, disasters and all forms of violence.

2. The central role of UNICEF in unstable situations is the implementation of programme activities for children and women, with particular emphasis on advocacy; assessment and coordination; and care and protection of vulnerable children. In these efforts, UNICEF implements an integrated approach in meeting the rights and needs of children and women in crisis, based on recognition of the complex range of factors and the relationships between physical and emotional security, social and cognitive development, and health and nutritional status. This integrated approach provides a wide perspective for assessing and addressing the needs of children and women in a humanitarian context.

3. The diversity of experience gained by UNICEF over the past several years in implementing this approach has highlighted the organization's commitment to providing support to children and women affected by unstable situations, through mutually reinforcing actions in the areas of humanitarian policy, global advocacy and humanitarian response.

A. Humanitarian policy

4. The mandate of UNICEF calls on the organization to collaborate closely with national Governments, other humanitarian actors within the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure the protection of, and special assistance to, children in crises and unstable situations. In the mission statement, as contained in document E/ICEF/1996/AB/L.2 and adopted by the Executive Board in decision 1996/1 (E/ICEF/1996/12/Rev.1), the role of UNICEF in the protection of children is

clearly articulated: "UNICEF is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children - victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation.... UNICEF responds in emergencies to protect the rights of children." Particular focus has been placed on ensuring that the position of UNICEF in humanitarian affairs is represented and furthered at the policy level, both within the organization and in various inter-agency forums. Special emphasis has been placed on the inclusion of the protection concerns of children and women within the framework of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

5. UNICEF continues to develop policies and strategies for the protection of children and women in unstable situations, working closely with its partners at field and global levels. Action in this regard includes the promotion of instruments of protection and international standards of humanitarian assistance; development of inter-agency policies on the protection of the internally displaced and against the proliferation of small arms; development of field-based initiatives for internally displaced persons; development of guidelines for landmine awareness and education; policies and standards for support to unaccompanied and separated children; standards for protection of children from the effects of sanctions; and training on international standards and guiding principles for humanitarian action and peacekeeping in support of children and women in times of crisis.

B. Global advocacy

6. As described in document E/ICEF/1997/7, the focus of UNICEF global advocacy is the basic humanitarian obligation to protect children and women against the effects of natural and man-made disasters and armed conflict. The rigorous application of existing standards covering the rights of children is sought, as are specific assurances of access to humanitarian assistance and an end to the deliberate targeting of children.

7. UNICEF partnerships and action on behalf of children affected by armed conflict are guided by the organization's Anti-War Agenda, by the findings of the report of Graca Machel on the "Impact of Armed Conflict on Children", and by the Peace and Security Agenda for Children, as outlined by the Executive Director at the Security Council Open Briefing on the Protection of Civilians, held in February 1999. The main areas of action are: a global call for an end to the use of children as soldiers; increased protection for humanitarian assistance and humanitarian personnel; humanitarian landmine action; protection of children from the effects of sanctions; inclusion of specific provisions for children in peace-building efforts; an end to the impunity of war crimes, especially against children; and early warning and preventive action in support of children. In this regard, the adoption of two landmark instruments, Security Council resolution 1261 of 25 August 1999 on Children Affected by Armed Conflict and Security Council resolution 1265 of 17 September 1999 on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, are clear indications of the growing prominence of children's issues on the Security Council agenda.

8. UNICEF continues to promote the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in close collaboration with United Nations and NGO partners, to establish 18 as the minimum age of recruitment and participation in hostilities. UNICEF has strongly advocated the ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and Their Destruction, which entered into force in March 1999. In coordination with the United Nations Mine Action Service, UNICEF has been designated responsible, within the United Nations system, for promoting landmine awareness worldwide; and

working to assure universality of the convention, as well as global adherence to its principles. In all areas of global advocacy, UNICEF works in close collaboration with its key United Nations partners, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

C. Humanitarian response

9. UNICEF efforts in helping to provide care and protection for children and women in unstable situations is derived from the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international legal standards. UNICEF has completed a series of internal activities to reinforce its capacity to respond rapidly, appropriately and effectively to emergencies that threaten the survival and well-being of children and women. The underlying principles of these activities are based on the following: (a) humanitarian response strategies must be integrated with political and advocacy initiatives as part of a comprehensive, rights-based approach to programming; (b) a clear coordination framework - both internally and within an inter-agency context - must be established as quickly as possible; and (c) initial response and life-saving assistance should move rapidly towards medium- and long-term solutions, with an emphasis on community-based recovery strategies.

II. CORE CORPORATE COMMITMENTS

A. The Martigny Global Consultation

10. The present document addresses the UNICEF response to crises at the programmatic level and, specifically, Core Corporate Commitments (CCCs) to ensure effective action at the onset of crises. The rapid proliferation of economic crises, natural disasters and complex emergencies poses a major challenge to UNICEF. The humanitarian, human rights and political implications of these emergencies have challenged the organization to strengthen its strategies in order to ensure the survival, protection and development of children.

11. In September 1998, UNICEF convened the Martigny Global Consultation in Switzerland to formulate a set of recommendations to improve UNICEF responsiveness to children in unstable situations, within the context of a mainstreamed programme approach. It was agreed that the organization should enhance its capacity to predict and respond to a changing global environment, marked by increased frequency and intensity of civil strife, armed conflict and natural disasters. To achieve this end, a more predictable and effective response to sudden changes or crises, and more flexible programming and operational procedures, were seen as necessary.

12. Since the consultation, improvements have been made in organizational capacity in four critical areas: (a) coordinated action in support of children and women; (b) assessment and vulnerability analysis; (c) effective delivery of UNICEF CCCs and competencies to ensure life-saving support, especially at the onset of crises, in order to advocate and sustain support throughout the transition from relief to development; and (d) planning, management and monitoring of programme responses to the rights and needs of children and women.

B. Key elements of Core Corporate Commitments

13. A primary outcome of the Martigny Consultation was the identification of a minimum set of CCCs that constitutes the organization's initial response to protection and care of children and women in unstable situations. The CCCs fall into four principal areas:

(a) Rapid assessment: The ability to conduct an immediate assessment of the situation of children and women in areas of crisis; and an objective assessment of the measures needed to ensure effective UNICEF country office management of the situation, and of the UNICEF response;

(b) Coordination: The capacity to assume a coordinating role for sectoral support and to initiate appropriate strategies for initial response in collaboration with United Nations and other partners;

(c) Programme commitments: Policy and programme guidance in the required interventions to assist field staff in designing and implementing responses to the assessed situation of children and women, in cooperation with national counterparts and international partners. This commitment entails a process of continued monitoring and evaluation of UNICEF humanitarian activities; and

(d) Operational commitments: Organizational capacity, procedures and resources (funds, staff and supplies) to ensure that the appropriate programmatic response will be available on a timely basis. This includes the ability to provide humanitarian coordination in selected instances.

(See annex for details.)

C. Implementation of Core Corporate Commitments

14. CCC implementation entails accountability for preparedness and support at all levels of the organization.

Country office

15. Country office responsibilities include:

(a) Primary responsibility for early warning, assessment, preparedness and response in the country;

(b) Assessment of the preparedness and response capacity of partners;

(c) Primary responsibility for liaison and coordination with other United Nations agencies involved in emergency response, including OCHA, UNHCR, WFP, WHO and the inter-agency coordination mechanisms established in emergency-affected areas and in capitals;

(d) Primary responsibility for maintaining and strengthening relations with donors at the country level, in order to share information and increase collaboration;

(e) Identification of specific areas where support is required from regional offices and headquarters;

(f) Contribution to regional and/or global efforts to provide support for crises in other countries;

(g) Development of closer collaborative arrangements with partners, and formulation of effective mass media strategies; and

(h) Timely monitoring and evaluation, and reporting on developments and response mechanisms.

Regional office

16. Regional office responsibilities include:

- (a) Primary responsibility for preparedness and coordination of response in the region (e.g., cross- or multi-country emergencies);
- (b) Coordination or provision of training in emergency early-warning preparedness and response for country offices;
- (c) Integration of vulnerability analysis and preparedness into the country programming processes (including situation analyses and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs));
- (d) Preparation of regional standby arrangements and/or stockpiles of critical inputs needed for rapid deployment;
- (e) Identification of human resources in the region, and maintenance of a roster of available staff and consultants, for rapid deployment;
- (f) Identification of specific areas where support is required from headquarters (including Supply Division in Copenhagen);
- (g) Contribution to global efforts to provide the support required for crises in other regions; and
- (h) Oversight, monitoring and evaluation of the programmatic response at country level.

Headquarters

17. Headquarters responsibilities include:

- (a) Coordination or provision of global training in emergency preparedness and response;
- (b) Preparation of global standby arrangements for critical inputs so that they are available for rapid deployment;
- (c) Provision of appropriate programme guidance and support, including review of programme content and clearance of the Consolidated Appeal Process;
- (d) Integration of vulnerability analysis and preparedness into global guidelines for country programming processes (including situation analyses and UNDAFs);
- (e) Identification of global human resources and maintenance of a roster of available staff and consultants, for rapid deployment when needed;
- (f) Definition of UNICEF global policies, rules/regulations and procedures;
- (g) Identification of specific areas where support is required from various regions and headquarters offices;
- (h) Coordination of the efforts of operational support divisions (Division of Financial and Administrative Management, Division of Human Resources, Division of Communication, Information Technology Division, Supply Division,

Office of Internal Audit) required during crisis situations in all regions;

(i) Provision of liaison and coordination with other United Nations agencies involved in emergency responses, including OCHA, UNHCR, UNHCHR, WFP, WHO, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the inter-agency coordination mechanisms in New York and Geneva;

(j) Support of country offices and regional offices in analysis and early warning of potential or impending crises, including immediate notification of crises reported in the international media;

(k) Coordination of security of staff in the preparedness phase and when a crisis occurs, including liaison with the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD);

(l) Close collaboration with sister agencies in the identification and training of humanitarian coordinators; and

(m) Provision of advice and guidance, and assurance of capacities in country offices, for effective United Nations coordination.

CORE CORPORATE COMMITMENTS: IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

A. RAPID ASSESSMENT

In consultation and collaboration with partners, UNICEF will:

1. Carry out a rapid assessment of the situation of children and women. This situation analysis will be undertaken from a gender and child rights perspective, and will draw upon baseline data compiled in the preparedness phase.
2. Compare general assessment of situation with specific implications for UNICEF. Programme sectors of concern to UNICEF are: health and nutrition; education; child protection; and water supply and sanitation.
 - Compile basic data required by UNICEF to analyse and plan, including: mapping of likely population displacements, logistics capacities, potential partners and Geographic Information Systems.
 - Determine organization's capacity to function in the field: ascertain presence of telecommunications infrastructure, vehicles, office premises, warehousing, access and mobility.
 - Establish organizational structure for response, staff functions and staffing plans. Identify partners; logistical arrangements and options; telecommunications/information technology and other equipment requirements; and military liaison needs.
 - Assess financial and administrative capacity in country, including sources of cash, banking and financial systems, methods of disbursement of funds and security of assets.
3. Undertake a rapid assessment of staffing requirements, both for UNICEF and on an inter-agency basis, and identify possible needs for staff in:
 - Programme coordination
 - Operations and security
 - Supply and logistics
 - Monitoring and evaluation
 - Communications
 - Telecommunications, information technology
 - Finance and administration
4. Ensure availability of a standard package of documents in field offices and at headquarters at the onset of an emergency. Package should include information and guidance on standard procedures for operations, administration, finance, security, supply and logistics, human resources, telecommunications and office set-up checklists, as well as the Programme, Policy and Procedures Manual.
5. Undertake rapid review of security preparedness in country and field offices and provide appropriate guidance.
 - Determine exact nature of crisis, potential developments and the implications of both for staff security. If there are any staff in location, establish their exact whereabouts; determine safety, extent of injuries and local capacities to treat staff; and arrange for medical evacuation.
 - Determine security implications of deploying additional staff to the affected country/area.
 - Review security plans, including relocation, evacuation and safe haven alternatives, with the country and regional offices.

B. COORDINATION

In collaboration with all partners, UNICEF will:

1. Maintain capacity to assume a coordinating role for:
 - Life-saving public health interventions in support of children and women;
 - Provision of infant feeding and nutrition rehabilitation services for children;
 - Child protection and psychosocial support;
 - Unaccompanied children;
 - Education.
2. Initiate strategies for inter-agency coordination in areas of primary concern to UNICEF.
3. Identify partners, in particular United Nations agencies and NGOs, for interventions in the areas of health, nutrition, education, child protection and water and sanitation.

C. PROGRAMME COMMITMENTS

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

To ensure the provision of basic health care services, including medical assistance for children and women, in collaboration with all partners, UNICEF will:

1. Provide essential supplies, including: emergency health kits (essential drugs); oral rehydration salts; basic clinical equipment (e.g., supplementary health kits); fortified nutritional products; micronutrient tablets (vitamin A, iron and folic acid, multiple micronutrients); and blankets.
2. Provide measles vaccinations and critical inputs, for example, vaccines, cold-chain equipment, syringes, training, and financial support for advocacy and for the immunization of children between 6 months and 12 years of age among target population. A companion dose of vitamin A will be provided as required.
3. Provide tetanus toxoid and such other critical inputs as vaccines, cold-chain equipment, syringes, training, and financial support for advocacy and for the immunization of pregnant and lactating women, as well as adolescent girls.
4. Based on rapid assessments and agreed roles and responsibilities among key partners, initiate and support therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes for children and pregnant and lactating women.
5. Ensure the provision of messages on health and nutrition issues, including the importance of breastfeeding and safe motherhood practices.

EDUCATION

To ensure the re-establishment of basic education services for children and women, in collaboration with all partners, UNICEF will:

1. Establish “safe environments for children” for learning, recreation and psychosocial support.
2. Initiate basic education services, in collaboration with communities and camp and local government authorities.
3. Provide education kits and basic learning materials for primary school children.

CHILD PROTECTION

To ensure the protection, care and well-being of children and women, in collaboration with all partners, UNICEF will:

1. Ensure the identification, registration and medical screening of unaccompanied children, with priority given to preventing separation of children under five; ensure the registration of all parents who have lost their children; and provide leadership and support for photo tracing and for care and protection of separated children.
2. Provide orientation and financial support to local partners and social workers involved in tracing, care and reunification; and ensure the provision of tracing kits for partners.
3. Where necessary, initiate the process of development, refinement and field testing of appropriate mine awareness materials for implementation of mine awareness programmes.
4. Identify and address violation of children’s rights through advocacy and work with United Nations and NGO partners.
5. Develop, provide and strengthen psychosocial support services for children and their caregivers.

WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

To ensure the initial provision of water and sanitation for children and women, in collaboration with all partners, UNICEF will:

1. Ensure the availability of a minimum safe water supply, through provision of technical and material support to external implementing partners.
2. Provide bleach, chlorine or purification tablets, and detailed user and safety instructions in the local language.

3. Provide jerry cans, or appropriate alternative, with user instructions and messages, in the local language, on handling of water and disposal of excreta and solid waste.
4. Provide soap and disseminate key hygiene messages on the dangers of cholera and other water- and excreta-related diseases.
5. Facilitate safe excreta and solid waste disposal through provision of: shovels; cash for contracting local service companies to dispose of solid waste; messages on the importance of keeping excreta (including infant faeces) buried and away from habitations and public areas; messages on disposal of human and animal corpses; and instructions on, and support for, construction of trench and pit latrines.

D. OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS

HUMAN RESOURCES

To ensure the deployment of required staff to support programmes for children and women, in collaboration with all partners, UNICEF will:

1. Initiate contact with regional and country offices and with external partners, such as agencies with standby arrangements, to establish the availability of staff in location; and arrange deployment.
2. Establish a screening mechanism and checklist to ensure that all core staff deployed to emergencies have received orientation and briefings in relevant areas.
3. If relocation and evacuation are required, make necessary arrangements to support relocated staff.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

To ensure the establishment of telecommunications, VSATs (Very Small Aperture Terminals) and Programme Manager System (PROMS) in emergency areas,

UNICEF will:

1. Based upon the rapid assessment, identify and ensure the supply of specific telecommunications needs for the office.
2. Establish PROMS in emergency areas, and/or activate structures at headquarters and regional offices to run PROMS in emergency and remote locations; and ensure the presence of trained UNICEF staff responsible for PROMS.

SUPPLIES AND LOGISTICS

To ensure the availability of supplies and appropriate logistics support for effective and timely fulfilment of the programme CCCs, UNICEF will:

1. Mobilize stock of essential supplies (programme and support) from UNICEF Supply Division, using available funds, which may include Emergency Programme Funds or Central Emergency Reserve Funds.
2. Activate existing standby arrangements with manufacturers and transporters for specific emergency requirements at all levels.
3. Activate emergency local procurement procedures (notifying vendors, revalidating tenders and requesting local procurement authority).
4. Determine cross-border procurement capacities and possibility of collaboration with the regional office.
5. Review arrangements with other United Nations agencies for shared logistics capacities, including use of warehousing.

FUND-RAISING / DONOR RELATIONS

To ensure that resources are made available to fulfil the programme commitments through the Consolidated Appeal Process, individual donor appeals and Flash Alerts, UNICEF will:

1. Initiate donor contact in order to process proposals, donor appeals and Flash Alerts effectively and immediately.
2. Ensure the availability of information packages on contribution management and reporting formats at regional and country office levels and in the emergency area.
3. At the onset of crisis, designate individual focal points in field and at headquarters to assign responsibility for donor liaison, proposal drafting and reporting.
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ANNEXE E

United Nations mine action: a strategy for 2001-2005



General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 October 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 38
Assistance in mine action

United Nations mine action: a strategy for 2001-2005*

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum 1

I. Introduction

1. Since the question of mine action was first taken up by the General Assembly in 1993, the international community has made significant progress towards creating an environment free from the threat of landmines.¹

(a) Most nations are in de facto compliance with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (anti-personnel mine ban treaty),² and the Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Convention on certain conventional weapons).³ This has resulted in a dramatic decline in the production, transfer, stockpiling and use of landmines;

(b) Public and political awareness of the landmine problem is widespread;

(c) Funding levels for mine action continue to be sustained, and even increased;

(d) In a growing number of countries, substantial progress has been made in reducing the impact of landmines through awareness education and the mapping, marking and clearance of mined areas.

2. The international mine action community has also recorded several important achievements in the area of institutional development, including the following:

* This strategy was endorsed on 26 September 2001 by the Inter-agency Coordination Group on Mine Action during a meeting chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

(a) New standards and tools have been developed, including the International Mine Action Standards, the Information Management System for Mine Action, the Mine Action Investment Database, and the Stockpile Destruction Resource Site;

(b) The Meetings of States Parties to and the Standing Committees of the anti-personnel mine ban treaty, and of the Review Conferences and Preparatory Committees of the Convention on certain conventional weapons have continued to make significant progress;

(c) Mechanisms now exist to support coordination between donors and mine-action agencies; the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining has been established; and organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines continue to undertake new initiatives.

3. With these political and institutional developments in place, and with a growing understanding of the nature and scope of the mine problem taking root, the international mine action community is ready to move ahead from an approach that reacts to problems as they arise, to one in which mine action issues are addressed strategically at the national and global level.

4. The present document lays out a map for this transition, establishing a strategy⁴ for United Nations mine action covering the period 2001-2005. It outlines broad goals for mine action in general, and sets specific objectives for the United Nations system, working in partnership with Governments, international and non-governmental organizations, affected communities and concerned individuals, in response to the global landmine problem.

II. Vision

<p>We envision a world free of the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development, and where mine survivors are fully integrated into their societies.</p>
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III. Key principles

5. The principles outlined below reflect the agreed core values and policies upon which United Nations mine action is based.⁵

Nature of mine action

6. Mine action is, above all, about the interaction of people and communities with a mine-infested environment. The purpose of mine action is to recreate a safe environment conducive to normal life and development. Accordingly, mine action refers to all those activities geared towards addressing the problems faced by populations as a result of landmine or unexploded ordnance contamination. It encompasses five complementary core components: (a) mine awareness and risk reduction education; (b) mine clearance, including survey, mapping, and marking; (c) victim assistance; (d) destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines; and (e) advocacy to stigmatize the use of landmines and support a total ban on anti-

personnel landmines (A/53/496, annex II, para. 7). In countries where landmines present a threat to local populations or an obstacle to socio-economic development, mine clearance is a principal requirement, central to mine action efforts.

Humanitarian imperative

7. The United Nations policy vis-à-vis mine action and effective coordination articulates the strong humanitarian platform from which the United Nations approaches mine action. The policy states that landmines are first and foremost a humanitarian concern and must be addressed from this perspective. They are also an impediment to rehabilitation and sustainable (socio-economic) development. In dealing with the landmine problem, the United Nations will respect the fundamental humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and humanity so that priority is given to those who are most vulnerable. In order to receive assistance, relevant parties should be committed to supporting mine action actively, and to desisting from producing, stockpiling, using, and transferring anti-personnel landmines. Humanitarian mine-action activities focused on reducing immediate threats to the well-being of affected communities and to the activities of humanitarian workers should not be subjected to conditionalities related to the continuing use of landmines (A/53/496, annex II, paras. 8 and 10-12).

Principle of national ownership and integration

8. According to the United Nations policy, “the primary responsibility for taking action against landmines lies with the concerned State” (ibid., para. 23). In countries where the scale of mine contamination is widespread and severe, and where international support is required, the United Nations stands ready to assist in the development of national/local mine-action programmes. In order to be effective, programmes in countries recovering from violent conflicts should be integrated into comprehensive strategies designed to support humanitarian action, peace-building, reconstruction and development.

Principle of cooperation and partnership

9. To ensure the most efficient response to the landmine threat, Governments, international organizations and civil society must cooperate closely with one another. The United Nations is committed to working in partnership with all like-minded organizations that endorse these principles, and to promoting effective coordination between all parties.

IV. Framework

10. The activities outlined in the present strategy document will be implemented within the context of a larger framework of treaties, resolutions and policies, which are described below.

International treaties and resolutions

11. This strategy is designed to be consistent with existing treaties, protocols and resolutions relevant to mine action, including, but not limited to, the anti-personnel mine ban treaty, the Convention on certain conventional weapons and its Protocols, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols of 1977, the Convention on

the Rights of the Child and the standard rules for the disabled.⁶ The strategy is intended to assist Member States to fulfil their international obligations and to support the universalization of relevant international instruments.

United Nations mine-action policy

12. This strategy also builds upon the United Nations policy on mine action (A/53/496, annex II), with which it is designed to be consistent. The strategy sets out concrete objectives for the period 2001-2005 for the United Nations system, working collectively under the coordination of the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat.

V. Mission Statement

Over the period 2001-2005, the United Nations will work in partnership with others to reduce the threat posed by landmines and unexploded ordnance, increase the understanding of the global mine problem, assist affected nations, and coordinate international mine-action efforts.

VI. Strategic goals and objectives

13. The strategy is built around six broad goals relevant to all core components of mine action. These goals, which are organized according to key themes, are intended to be complementary, rather than hierarchical. Together they form an integrated strategy. While the strategic goals suggest areas of priority for the international community as a whole, the objectives correspond to the specific contributions that the United Nations system intends to make, working in collaboration with its many partners to support the achievement of each goal. The United Nations intends to achieve all of the stated objectives by 2005, unless otherwise specified. For each objective, the relevant United Nations agencies will establish action plans, consisting of time lines, progress indicators and supporting outputs. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action will identify the agencies within the United Nations system responsible for the related activities (see A/53/496, annex II, para. 44).

Information

Strategic goal One. Information is produced and made available to all to understand and address mine-action problems.

- Objective 1.1 Inter-agency assessment missions completed and reports circulated for all affected countries requesting assistance within four months of formal request being received.
- Objective 1.2 A web-based mine information network developed by 2002, serving as a central gateway to all mine-related information, including reports provided under article 7 of the anti-personnel mine ban treaty, aggregated data coming from field programmes through the

Information Management System for Mine Action, and information on resources and technology.

- Objective 1.3 By mid-2002, data collected and made publicly available on the status of the national stockpiles of all States Parties to the anti-personnel mine ban treaty.
- Objective 1.4 The Information Management System for Mine Action, or equivalent compatible system, fully developed to meet the requirements of mine action programmes and deployed in all United Nations-supported programmes by 2003, with appropriate training provided to all users.
- Objective 1.5 Institutional roles defined, and information management tools established, to support mine-action technology development and dissemination of guidance to users by 2003.

Emergency response

Strategic goal Two. Rapid response capability is in place to meet mine action requirements in emergency situations.

- Objective 2.1 An emergency response plan based on collaborative arrangements among United Nations and other partners in place by the end of 2002, including arrangements for prompt mobilization of human, material and financial resources in support of the plan.
- Objective 2.2 Mine-action requirements integrated into existing early warning mechanisms, humanitarian response plans and peacekeeping contingency plans and procedures by the end of 2002.
- Objective 2.3 Guidelines developed and widely circulated by the end of 2002 regarding appropriate mine-action language to be included in ceasefire agreements, peace treaties and humanitarian access protocols.
- Objective 2.4 Protocols that are compatible with the Information Management System for Mine Action for the rapid gathering in emergency situations of mine-related information developed by the end of 2002, including provision for data on victims.
- Objective 2.5 Mine-action services effectively coordinated and implemented in United Nations-mandated operations.

Assistance to national and local authorities

Strategic goal Three. National and local capacities are in place to plan, coordinate and implement mine-action programmes.

- Objective 3.1 In United Nations-supported national programmes, mine-action strategies and plans developed and linked with overall national development and reconstruction plans.

- Objective 3.2 Transition and exit strategies developed for all United Nations-supported programmes by the end of 2002, or within one year of initiation for programmes established after that date.⁷
- Objective 3.3 International Mine Action Standards-compliant landmine impact surveys implemented in 15 of the most mine-affected countries by the end of 2004.
- Objective 3.4 Fifteen impact-based national plans completed, reflecting community participation, with nationally defined time lines.
- Objective 3.5 Management and operational training curricula targeted at personnel working in mine-action programmes developed by the end of 2002.
- Objective 3.6 A United Nations policy developed for supporting the professional retraining and employment of landmine survivors and other disabled people in mine-action organizations by the end of 2002.
- Objective 3.7 A plan for United Nations support to mine-action cooperation among mine-affected countries developed and initiated by 2003.
- Objective 3.8 Gender perspectives⁸ mainstreamed into all United Nations-supported mine-action programmes by 2003.
- Objective 3.9 All United Nations-supported victim assistance activities integrated into broader community and public health strategies by 2004.

Quality management

Strategic goal Four. Mine-action operations are implemented in a safe and cost-effective manner.

- Objective 4.1 Review, revision and drafting, where required, of additional International Mine Action Standards completed, including those relating to mine detection dogs and mechanical equipment.
- Objective 4.2 International standards for mine awareness/risk reduction education integrated into the International Mine Action Standards and disseminated by the end of 2002.
- Objective 4.3 Assistance provided to national Governments to enable them to adopt the International Mine Action Standards for all mine-action activities.
- Objective 4.4 At least one external evaluation conducted in all United Nations-supported programmes.
- Objective 4.5 Mechanism for the collection, dissemination and application of lessons learned and best practices developed for United Nations mine-action programmes by the end of 2002.
- Objective 4.6 Model language incorporating revised mine-action standards developed by the end of 2002 for use in contracts between donors, United Nations agencies and departments, and implementing partners.

- Objective 4.7 By end of 2002, United Nations technical assistance made available to national mine-action bodies to develop local mine-action legislation based on, or consisting of International Mine Action Standards.
- Objective 4.8 Initiatives to increase the availability of safe, appropriate and cost-effective techniques and technologies for mine detection and mine clearance continuously encouraged and supported.

Coordination and resource mobilization

Strategic goal Five. Adequate resources for mine action are mobilized and their use is effectively coordinated.

- Objective 5.1 Donor coordination mechanisms in countries receiving significant mine-action assistance supported or initiated by the United Nations.
- Objective 5.2 Meetings of the Steering Committee on Mine Action held twice a year, providing an effective mechanism to review operational activities and policy issues at the international level (A/53/496, annex II, para. 45).
- Objective 5.3 Global donor coordination mechanisms continuously supported.
- Objective 5.4 Requirements for assistance in mine action regularly included in existing humanitarian and developmental resource mobilization mechanisms, such as the consolidated appeal process and round tables.
- Objective 5.5 Full participation by donors in the Mine Action Investment Database achieved by 2003.
- Objective 5.6 Portfolio of mine-related projects, including United Nations and other projects, that reflect national mine-action priorities, made electronically available and frequently updated, beginning in 2002.
- Objective 5.7 A meeting of national programme directors and advisers held annually and effectively utilized as a forum for the exchanging of lessons learned and enhancing of international cooperation at the field level.
- Objective 5.8 Initiatives to strengthen mine-action coordination at the regional level, supported where appropriate.
- Objective 5.9 International technical material and financial assistance for mine action, in particular for the marking and clearance of minefields in affected countries, systematically promoted and facilitated.

Advocacy

Strategic goal Six. International instruments that address the mine/unexploded ordnance problem are universalized.

- Objective 6.1 All States regularly encouraged to ratify, accede to and comply with, existing international instruments on landmines.

- Objective 6.2 Efforts to further develop international law as it relates to landmines and explosive remnants of war supported.
- Objective 6.3 United Nations public advocacy strategy to support mine action, including the rights of victims, developed by the end of 2002.
- Objective 6.4 Increased involvement of senior leadership of the United Nations as advocates for mine action in United Nations, diplomatic, and public forums, and in affected countries and regions.

VII. Conclusion

14. The objectives identified above represent United Nations priorities for mine action for the period 2001-2005. They are ambitious, but they are also attainable. While the United Nations will remain prepared to respond to critical new needs and concerns that arise during the strategy period, the primary focus will be on achieving the strategic objectives in the present document. The impact of United Nations mine action will be significantly enhanced by this commitment to concentrate resources in those areas of intervention where the United Nations is most effective and most needed. Progress in achieving the goals and objectives in this strategy will be reported annually to the General Assembly in the report of the Secretary-General on assistance in mine action. The strategy will be formally reviewed and evaluated in 2003, involving wide consultation with the United Nations partners.

Notes

- ¹ Throughout the document, the term “landmine” will be used in reference to both landmines and unexploded ordnance.
- ² Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction: 133 Signatories and 120 States parties, as of 26 September 2001.
- ³ Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (as amended on 3 May 1996) to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects: 59 Parties, as of 26 September 2001.
- ⁴ This strategy has been developed in response to an identified need within the United Nations mine-action community for a defined vision for the future of the Organization’s response, and measurable outputs in support of this. This need was further highlighted in General Assembly resolution 55/120 of 6 December 2000, in which the Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to develop further a comprehensive mine-action strategy.
- ⁵ “Mine action and effective coordination: the United Nations policy”, submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, as part of his report on assistance in mine clearance (A/53/496, annex II, dated 14 October 1998). It was subsequently taken note of by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/26 of 17 November 1998.
- ⁶ Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex, of 20 December 1993).
- ⁷ In the context of the present document, the development of an exit strategy refers to the definition of clear objectives to be achieved in order for United Nations support to a national mine-action programme to be either terminated or very significantly reduced.

⁸ Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. (Agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the 1997 coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/52/3/Rev.1)*, chap. IV.A).
