



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
28 July 2025

Original: English

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## **Eightieth session**

Item 46 of the provisional agenda\*

### **Assistance in mine action**

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#### **Report of the Secretary-General**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The present report, covering the period from August 2023 to July 2025, is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [78/70](#) on assistance in mine action. It covers the implementation of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2019–2023 and the updated Strategy, which entered into force on 1 January 2024. Implementation is carried out by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, which is chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations and brings together entities from across the United Nations system.<sup>1</sup>

2. During the reporting period, millions of people in conflict and post-conflict settings continued to risk injury and death or suffer from limited access to basic services due to mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices.<sup>2</sup> At least 58 States and territories suffer from anti-personnel mine contamination.<sup>3</sup> A total of 29 countries and other areas are contaminated or suspected to be contaminated

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\* [A/80/150](#).

\*\* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline for technical reasons beyond the control of the submitting office.

<sup>1</sup> In the report, “United Nations” refers to members and observers of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action. For a complete list of members and observers, see [www.mineaction.org/en/un-inter-agency-coordination-group-mine-action-iacg-ma](http://www.mineaction.org/en/un-inter-agency-coordination-group-mine-action-iacg-ma). The report contains data provided by United Nations field programmes.

<sup>2</sup> The terms in the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action are derived from the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 1997; the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended in 1996 (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, 1980); the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, 2003 (Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons); and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Mine Action Review Advisory Board, *Clearing the Mines 2024* (2024). Available at [www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/Clearing\\_the\\_Mines\\_2024.pdf](http://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/Clearing_the_Mines_2024.pdf).



by cluster munition remnants,<sup>4</sup> and over 60 are affected by improvised explosive devices.<sup>5</sup> As explosive threats surge with over 120 armed conflicts worldwide,<sup>6</sup> mine action capacities are under unprecedented strain. Expanded use and subsequent contamination across conflict zones, including the fields of Ukraine, urban centres in Gaza and the Sudan, collapsed infrastructure in the Syrian Arab Republic and rural communities in Myanmar, has caused harm and driven humanitarian and development needs. In Ukraine alone, contamination now renders unusable approximately 10 per cent of the world's most fertile agricultural land, threatening both civilian lives and global food security. In Afghanistan, over 3 million people across over 1,700 communities live alongside deadly explosive ordnance, with children experiencing the heaviest casualties. Explosive ordnance contamination is exacerbated by the closure of peace operations in contaminated countries such as Mali and the Sudan, resulting in a sustained threat to local populations.

3. The widespread production and use of improvised explosive devices, which are often anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, adds another layer of complexity.<sup>7</sup> In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Nigeria and Somalia, non-State armed groups deploy increasingly sophisticated improvised explosive devices, endangering civilians, restricting humanitarian access and challenging national security forces. As noted in my report on countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices (A/79/211), these weapons require specialized response capabilities that may exceed available financial and technical resources.

4. In 2023, civilians remained the most affected, constituting 68 per cent of all casualties of improvised explosive devices, and such devices accounted for 48 per cent of all casualties caused by explosive ordnance in 25 countries, which reflects an increase from 40 per cent in 2022 (ibid.).

5. In 2024, conflict-related deaths rose 40 per cent from 2023 to at least 48,384 worldwide,<sup>8</sup> driven largely by explosive weapons in populated areas. Urban contamination presents long-term risks due to the interconnected nature of urban services, with lasting impacts on civilians and the environment.<sup>9</sup> In the Sudan, civilians suffer casualties when returning to heavily contaminated urban areas before clearance operations are completed. In Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, recent armed clashes have scattered explosive ordnance throughout densely populated neighbourhoods, creating complex operational challenges for humanitarian responders. In Gaza, more than 69 per cent of all structures have been destroyed or damaged,<sup>10</sup> generating over 41 million tons of debris, much of which is expected to be contaminated with explosive remnants of war.<sup>11</sup> The contamination threatens lives,

<sup>4</sup> See <https://backend.icblcmc.org/assets/reports/Cluster-Munition-Monitors/CMM2024/Downloads/Cluster-Munition-Monitor-2024-Web.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Data retrieved from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project database.

<sup>6</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross, *International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflict* (2025). Available at <https://international-review.icrc.org/sites/default/files/reviews-pdf/2025-03/reports-and-documents-ihl-and-the-challenges-of-contemporary-armed-conflicts-927.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Improvised anti-personnel mines are a type of improvised explosive device that falls within the framework and reporting requirements of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

<sup>8</sup> Statistical annex to the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (A/80/81-E/2025/62). Available at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2025/E\\_2025\\_62\\_Statistical\\_Annex\\_I\\_and\\_II.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2025/E_2025_62_Statistical_Annex_I_and_II.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, *Menu of Indicators to Measure the Reverberating Effects on Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas* (2021). Available at <https://doi.org/10.37559/CAAP/21/PACAV/01>.

<sup>10</sup> See [www.ochaopt.org/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-7-may-2025](http://www.ochaopt.org/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-7-may-2025).

<sup>11</sup> See [www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-271-gaza-strip](http://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-271-gaza-strip).

impedes the delivery of humanitarian aid and basic services and undermines access to education, clean water and sustainable livelihoods.

6. While contamination has increased and global military expenditure has reached the highest level ever recorded,<sup>12</sup> funding for most mine action programmes is decreasing. Funding has become unpredictable, overreliant on a few donors and overreactive to emerging contexts at the expense of enduring needs. Voluntary contributions to the voluntary trust fund for assistance in mine action decreased from \$125 million to \$46 million over the past seven years. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which are vital to mine action delivery, have closed programmes and cut thousands of staff, mostly nationals of countries affected by explosive ordnance.

## II. Update on international legal instruments related to mine action

7. International humanitarian disarmament treaties are facing growing challenges as implementation stalls, universalization efforts lose momentum and several States Parties announce or undertake withdrawals. At a time when civilians face heightened risks from widening conflicts, normative frameworks that protect human life and dignity must be preserved and upheld.

8. The presidencies of the Convention on Cluster Munitions have promoted universalization, with a particular focus on Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. There has been progress in stockpile destruction, with Peru and South Africa completing their obligations under article 3. As a result, all State Party obligations under that article of the Convention have been fulfilled. On 6 September 2024, Lithuania formally deposited its instrument of withdrawal from the Convention with the Secretary-General, exercising its right under article 20. This withdrawal took effect on 6 March 2025, marking the first instance of a State Party withdrawing from a treaty listed under chapter XXVI of the multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, which covers disarmament. That brought the number of States Parties to 111, with 12 signatory States and 73 States that have not joined.

9. The Fifth Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, hosted by Cambodia in November 2024, concluded with the adoption of the Siem Reap Angkor Political Declaration and the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025–2029 (see [APLC/CONF/2024/15/Add.1](#)) and the final document ([APLC/CONF/2024/15](#)). These agreements reaffirm the global commitment to the humanitarian goals of the Convention and outline priorities on advancing mine clearance, mine-risk education, victim assistance and sustainable funding mechanisms. Nevertheless, Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania have deposited their notifications of withdrawal from the Convention, and Poland has also announced its intention to withdraw. On 18 July 2025, Ukraine communicated to the Secretary-General, the depositary of the Convention, that it had suspended its operation of the Convention, pursuant to the provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969. Implementation remains slow, with 31 State Parties yet to complete their clearance obligation under article 5.<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, the Convention attracted new accessions: the Marshall Islands and Tonga deposited their instruments of

<sup>12</sup> Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, “Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2024”, fact sheet, April 2025. Available at [www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2025-04/2504\\_fs\\_milex\\_2024.pdf](http://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2025-04/2504_fs_milex_2024.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> See [www.apminebanconvention.org/en/membership](http://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/membership).

accession on 12 March and 25 June 2025, respectively, bringing the number of States Parties to 166.

10. High Contracting Parties, United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders promoted the universalization of 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 and its Protocols.<sup>14</sup> In 2024, Singapore acceded to the Convention, followed by Trinidad and Tobago in 2025, which consented to being bound by all the Protocols to the Convention, including Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices. With these two accessions, the Convention now has 128 High Contracting Parties. In addition, in 2024, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland announced its consent to be bound by Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War, which now counts 99 High Contracting Parties.

11. The United Nations supported the advancement of the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, advocating for stronger commitments to protect civilians from the devastating impact of explosive weapons in populated areas. During the reporting period, four States (Jordan, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Thailand) announced their endorsement of the Declaration, bringing the number of endorsing States to 88.

12. A total of 191 States and the European Union are now parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with Cameroon ratifying it on 28 September 2023, Liechtenstein on 18 December 2023 and Bhutan on 13 March 2024, while South Sudan acceded to it on 5 February 2024 and Eritrea on 6 January 2025.

13. The General Assembly adopted the Global Framework for Through-Life Conventional Ammunition Management in December 2023 to prevent the diversion, illicit trafficking and misuse of ammunition and reduce the risk of unplanned explosions at ammunition sites. Covering all types of conventional ammunition, it contains commitments by Member States to ensure the safe, secure and sustainable management of through-life conventional ammunition from production to disposal. It complements conventional arms control norms and constitutes a milestone for the international community.

14. In its resolution [58/22](#), the Human Rights Council requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with States, international organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to prepare a report for the Council at its sixty-second session on the impact of anti-personnel mines on the enjoyment of all human rights, with particular emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights.

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<sup>14</sup> In the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the protocols relevant to mine action are primarily Protocol II, as amended, and Protocol V. Both apply also in non-international armed conflicts, and all parties to conflict, including non-State actors, are bound to apply the prohibitions and restrictions therein.

### III. Implementation of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action

15. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action endorsed an updated Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action, which entered into force on 1 January 2024.<sup>15</sup> The updated Strategy retains the five strategic outcome areas reflecting all pillars of mine action, sets out a theory of change and links mine action to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The Strategy was streamlined for clarity, and its vision and mission statements were updated with stronger references to international humanitarian and human rights law. The Strategy also reflects the range of initiatives comprising United Nations mine action, highlights the importance of effective integration of mine action into country-level United Nations strategic and coordination frameworks, and reflects updated terminology to align with International Mine Action Standards 05.10 on information management and 13.10 on victim assistance.<sup>16</sup> The Strategy is no longer time-bound and will be subject to periodic reviews by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action.

#### A. Protection of individuals and communities from the risks and socioeconomic impacts of explosive ordnance

16. Explosive ordnance contamination continues to threaten civilians across multiple conflict-affected countries and territories, endangering lives and disrupting recovery. In Myanmar, civilians face daily risks as they try to reach farms, markets or schools, while many cannot return home due to the threat of contamination. Myanmar became the most affected country in terms of casualties of landmines and explosive remnants of war in 2023.<sup>17</sup> The presence of landmines on roads and in towns and coastal areas is also affecting livelihoods, particularly for those who rely on agriculture and fishing. In the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine, widespread explosive ordnance contamination continues to cause significant harm, displace communities, restrict movement and impede access to essential services. When a town or city becomes accessible, waves of civilians move from displacement or refugee camps to salvage their homes and return to their fields, exposing themselves to grave explosive ordnance risks. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, those risks are impeding the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance.

17. Extreme weather events and climate change displace explosive ordnance and complicate survey, clearance and risk education efforts. In Afghanistan, floods have displaced the contamination caused by explosive ordnance into populated areas, increasing risks for affected communities and internally displaced persons, and necessitating specific strategies for explosive ordnance risk education. In Abyei, in successive rainy seasons, the rain has been heavier and more prolonged than usual, intensified by climate change, leading to the flooding of land and roads and affecting mine clearance operations by reducing the operational window during the dry season and restricting access.

<sup>15</sup> Available at: [www.mineaction.org/en/resources/un-mine-action-strategy](http://www.mineaction.org/en/resources/un-mine-action-strategy).

<sup>16</sup> During the reporting period, the Mine Action Service, with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, led the development and oversight of the International Mine Action Standards in its capacity as Chair of the International Mine Action Standards Review Board and Steering Committee and as the official depositary of the Standards.

<sup>17</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, "Humanitarian situation report no. 10: Myanmar", 21 February 2025, available at [www.unicef.org/media/167986/file/Myanmar-Humanitarian-SitRep-31-December-2024.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/media/167986/file/Myanmar-Humanitarian-SitRep-31-December-2024.pdf).

18. The number of instances of killing and maiming of children in conflict increased by 35 per cent in 2023 (see [A/78/842-S/2024/384](#)), leaving over 1,500 children affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war.<sup>18</sup> Children were killed and maimed in unprecedented numbers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, notably in Gaza, and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine.

## 1. Survey and clearance

19. Mine action enabled the restoration of critical infrastructure, supported livelihoods and contributed to peace through the clearance and release of contaminated lands. In Afghanistan, between June and October 2024, the clearance of more than 4.4 million m<sup>2</sup> of land contaminated with explosive ordnance enabled thousands of community members in the north and north-east regions to resume their daily activities, returned land to productive use and improved safe access to schools and roads. In Iraq, more than 5 million m<sup>2</sup> of land were returned to communities in the Governorates of Ninawa, Anbar and Basrah, enabling the return of displaced families, revitalizing agriculture and housing, and supporting road network expansion. In Western Sahara, the Mine Action Service, as part of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, supported peace efforts by clearing 31 hazardous areas and releasing more than 3.8 million m<sup>2</sup> of land in 2024, verifying over 14,000 km of routes to facilitate ceasefire monitoring. In South Sudan, clearance operations facilitated safe access to 39 health facilities, 115 water points, 19 schools and over 800 other key infrastructure sites. In Ukraine, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) used remote sensing technology driven by artificial intelligence to assess damage and contamination, supporting national efforts to prioritize land for clearance.

20. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Mine Action Service and partners enabled the United Nations and other humanitarian actors to safely deliver crucial humanitarian aid by guiding an estimated 500 humanitarian convoys that delivered food, fuel and medical assistance; training 672 humanitarian workers on safe behaviours in environments contaminated by explosive ordnance; and conducting 502 explosive hazard assessments of critical infrastructure, including shelters and hospitals used by internally displaced persons. The Mine Action Service and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also integrated mine action into early recovery efforts and enabled rapid explosive hazard assessments, supporting debris clearance at 190 sites.

## 2. Explosive ordnance risk education

21. The United Nations provided risk education to protect civilians from explosive threats, with a focus on at-risk, displaced and underserved populations. In Abyei, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei intensified risk education delivery through short, customized plays targeting Dinka and Misseriya children, while deploying local community liaison officers to improve outreach to women and children.

22. In Afghanistan, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan conducted risk education sessions tailored to children, scrap collectors and nomadic communities, using customized educational video clips broadcast on national television channels. Women's access to mine action activities was expanded through two-person education teams (consisting of one male

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<sup>18</sup> International Campaign to Ban Landmines, *Landmine Monitor 2024*, November 2024.

educator and one female educator), promoting risk education information within households and communities.

23. In Colombia, the Mine Action Service protected communities affected by violence and the evolving conflict in the country by delivering risk education to more than 13,000 people, including civilians from vulnerable ethnic groups. In Yemen, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) expanded its risk education programme to protect children and communities from explosive threats, reaching more than 1.7 million people at risk through mass media, community engagement and school-based initiatives.

24. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Mine Action Service, UNICEF and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East worked with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the International Committee of the Red Cross to deliver risk education and conflict preparedness and protection training. In addition, the Mine Action Service and partners trained 1,069 humanitarian workers to deliver risk education, reaching 1.4 million people with safety messaging through mass media campaigns. The Mine Action Service also provided 9,000 posters and 10,000 flyers and pamphlets with safety messages that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) disseminated during food distributions to livestock holders and fishers.

25. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the Mine Action Service provided risk education to 439 displaced Lebanese people in Rif Dimashq and 402 returning Syrians in rural Aleppo. Following the regime change of December 2024, the Mine Action Service assumed a coordinating role for mine action, bringing together operators from both the north-west and north-east. This enabled, for the first time, the merging of survey data across formerly fragmented regions and the launch of extensive survey operations to assess the true scope of explosive ordnance contamination. The Mine Action Service also supported the transitional authorities in prioritizing clearance activities to facilitate early recovery, infrastructure rehabilitation and the safe return of displaced populations. In addition, UNDP supported post-conflict recovery and the protection of housing, land and property rights, using community liaison techniques to raise awareness among communities exposed to unexploded ordnance. In Libya, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, the Libyan Mine Action Centre and the Libyan Peace Organization reached Sudanese refugee students (413 boys and 371 girls) in Tripoli, where they make up 80 per cent of the school population, ensuring that refugee children had the knowledge to stay safe from explosive threats.

26. In Mali, from October 2024 to February 2025, the Mine Action Service and partner NGOs trained 16 community liaison officers to deliver risk education messages. In the Central African Republic, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) launched a pilot project in 2024 to train 41 local people (including 11 women) to raise awareness in the north-west of the country, which is the area most affected by landmines, in order to enhance outreach to the most remote locations. In Yemen, UNICEF expanded disability-inclusive risk education by using sign language in eight governorates and on national television, ensuring that children with hearing impairments could benefit from life-saving messages.

27. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) used digital platforms, including a dedicated WhatsApp channel and website ([www.help.unhcr.org](http://www.help.unhcr.org)), to share awareness-raising materials and enhance safety for returning refugees and other forcibly displaced populations. In Lebanon, UNHCR

distributed safety recommendations in partnership with UNICEF.<sup>19</sup> In Ukraine, UNHCR shared that information through the “Ukraine is Home” initiative implemented with the Ukrainian authorities to support recovery and return.<sup>20</sup>

28. The Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group, co-led by UNICEF, developed digital risk education guidelines, a new normative framework for risk education competencies and monthly knowledge-sharing webinars. In 2024, the Group’s advocacy work resulted in the first appointments of global coordinators for risk education within the Coordination Committees of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to sustain momentum, capitalize on achievements and monitor the progress of States Parties.

**B. Equal access to health and education and full participation in socioeconomic life for survivors and other victims affected by explosive ordnance**

29. During the reporting period, the United Nations continued to support victims<sup>21</sup> of explosive ordnance, enhancing access to essential services and promoting socioeconomic inclusion. In 2024, UNICEF provided assistance to over 5,500 children affected by explosive ordnance across 14 countries in the form of cash transfers, mental health and psychosocial support, assistive devices, livelihood support and referrals for physical rehabilitation and medical care. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNDP helped more than 110 victims, including 18 women, to regain mobility and livelihoods through lower limb prosthetic devices. In addition, humanitarian mine action partners helped over 19,000 victims and their families to gain access to such services as emergency medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support and socioeconomic assistance, all contributing to improved well-being and reintegration. In Western Sahara, cooperation with the Saharawi Association of Landmine Victims enabled survivors to rejoin their communities, reducing stigma and social exclusion.

30. In Nigeria, the Mine Action Service linked 82 victims and survivors to essential services by mapping support systems and developing referral guidelines and training for local civil society organizations. In Viet Nam, UNDP assisted with the establishment of a registry of explosive ordnance survivors and persons with disabilities in the central region and trained 521 social workers and community collaborators (204 men and 317 women) in case management and the delivery of social assistance to affected individuals, leading to more locally driven service provision.

31. In Afghanistan, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) delivered victim assistance and disability services to survivors and persons with disabilities at a physical

<sup>19</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), “Protect yourself from explosive objects”, message shared through the UNHCR WhatsApp channel, 25 September 2024, available at <https://help.unhcr.org/lebanon/en/2024/09/25/protect-yourself-from-explosive-objects/>.

<sup>20</sup> See <https://ukraineishome.org/frequently-asked-questions/frequently-asked-questions-on-return-to-ukraine/>.

<sup>21</sup> In accordance with standard 13.10 of the International Mine Action Standards on victim assistance in mine action, the term “victim” includes people killed, injured and/or impaired, their families, and communities affected by explosive ordnance. The term “survivor” is used for a direct victim who has been injured and/or impaired but not killed as a result of an accident with explosive ordnance.

rehabilitation centre in eastern Kabul. The centre also promotes gender-inclusive rehabilitation, ensuring that women and girls, who are often underserved, receive medical care. In Colombia, the Mine Action Service supported the development of victim referral pathways and helped to integrate mine action into 74 local and regional development, contingency and prevention plans. It also helped local authorities to adapt international standards on victim assistance to the national context, strengthening protection of and support for survivors.

32. The World Health Organization (WHO) supported victim assistance through its focus on the rehabilitation of mine survivors, especially through its rehabilitation programme and the global Rehabilitation 2030 initiative, which is active in 21 countries that are States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and report having mine victims in their territory or areas under their control. These initiatives entailed the provision of guidance on 20 health conditions, including several associated with mine-related injuries, such as fractures, spinal cord injury, vision impairment, hearing loss and injuries resulting in amputation. With ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology hosted by UNOPS, WHO strengthened assistive technology systems in low- and middle-income countries, including for explosive ordnance survivors, delivering over 1,000 products (including wheelchairs, crutches and toilet chairs) in Ukraine and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

33. The United Nations Global Advocate for persons with disabilities in conflict and peacebuilding situations continued his advocacy activities by promoting greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in Security Council mandates, and engaged with United Nations leaders, Member States and relevant civil society organizations to raise awareness of persons with disabilities in conflict settings.

## **C. National institutions effectively leading and managing mine action functions and responsibilities**

### **1. Strengthening national and local mine action capacity**

34. The United Nations enhanced national mine action capacities through strategic partnerships, policy support and capacity-building. The Mine Action Service advanced South-South cooperation in its work with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, incorporating the expertise of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre. In January 2024, the Agency and the Mine Action Service organized a visit to Cambodia for delegations from Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan to observe national mine action practices and learn from the experiences of Cambodia. They also held side events during key mine action forums showcasing these partnerships and promoting national ownership.

35. In Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, the Mine Action Service and UNDP provided support to national mine action authorities in relation to strategic regulatory and leadership development, financing strategies, technical training and comprehensive analyses of unexploded ordnance contamination. In so doing, they helped the authorities to design and manage training on humanitarian demining, information management and risk education in accordance with community needs and local development goals. In Iraq, the Mine Action Service facilitated the shift from reliance on international clearance entities to partnerships between international and national NGOs, enabling the transfer of expertise, accreditation of national actors and independent implementation of mine action activities. In Somalia, the Mine Action Service trained 15 Somali security forces instructors in explosive hazard awareness. These instructors subsequently trained more than 2,700 Somali security forces personnel.

36. In Ethiopia, the Mine Action Service supported the Ethiopian Mine Action Office in accrediting local and international organizations to conduct mine action activities. This included conducting surveys, marking explosive ordnance and developing national mine action standards and standard operating procedures. These efforts enhanced operational safety and effectiveness, helping the Ethiopian Mine Action Office to meet its international obligations. In Lebanon, UNDP supported the Lebanon Mine Action Centre in developing a strategic framework for the Regional School for Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon and helped to define training objectives and clarify institutional roles, thereby contributing to sustainable demining capacity.

37. In Libya, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya trained 26 forensic police officers (including 4 women) in advanced device scene incident management; 16 individuals completed the training-of-trainers course, reinforcing national capabilities against explosive threats. In Nigeria, the Mine Action Service delivered risk education training of trainers to 75 officers from the national military and police forces in 2024. Fifty of those officers became certified trainers and conducted risk education in hard-to-reach areas across north-eastern Nigeria, reaching nearly 2,000 people and enhancing community resilience against explosive threats.

38. In Ukraine, UNICEF provided over 1 million children and 200,000 caregivers with life-saving explosive ordnance risk education through community-based sessions and safety classes across 10 regions, conducted by mobile teams staffed by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine and other implementing partners. In addition, FAO collaborated with national ministries to prioritize agricultural land for clearance using data-driven methodology based on remote sensing technology. In the light of those prioritization results, FAO and partners conducted non-technical surveys, marking and clearance, resulting in the clearance of nearly 62 hectares in 2024. Recognizing the method's alignment with the country's economic recovery priorities, the Government issued a formal request to FAO in July 2024 for support with the development of a national prioritization system for arable land clearances.

## **2. Strengthening weapons and ammunition management**

39. Unsecured weapons and ammunition contribute to armed conflict, organized crime and terrorism, while poorly managed stockpiles present risks of diversion. The United Nations promoted international standards and best practices through technical assistance and specialized training to mitigate the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and to strengthen national capacities in weapons and ammunition management.

40. In the Central African Republic, the Mine Action Service component of MINUSCA initiated a training-of-trainers programme to create a cadre of national trainers specialized in weapons and ammunition management, including safe storage and handling, and to contribute to the sustainability of further national capacity development. It also reduced the risk of diversion and misuse by improving storage facilities for safe and secure weapons and ammunition management, ensuring quality assurance and control, and enhancing record-keeping and marking of State-owned weapons. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo conducted two training-of-trainers programmes covering armourer training, weapons maintenance, storage and infrastructure management, hazard classification and safe stockpile management. As a result, 11 weapons and ammunition management trainers, 57 armourers and 42 ammunition storekeepers within the national defence and security forces were certified, boosting

national capacity to maintain a secure arms management system. The Mine Action Service in Ethiopia conducted assessments, surveys and marking of explosive ordnance, facilitating safer operations while also assisting with weapons and ammunition management by identifying and handing over safe-to-move items to local authorities for disposal.

41. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research supported States and national authorities with capacity-building for weapons and ammunition management through *A Reference Methodology for National Weapons and Ammunition Management Baseline Assessments*.<sup>22</sup> Since July 2023, Côte d'Ivoire (2023), Somalia (2023),<sup>23</sup> the Gambia (2024), Costa Rica (2025) and Senegal (2025) have conducted nationally led assessments of their institutional and operational weapons and ammunition management capacities, policies, practices and procedures. Participating countries made progress towards the development of sustainable frameworks that align with international standards, ensuring more secure, accountable and effective national arms control architectures.<sup>24</sup>

#### **D. Mainstreaming mine action into humanitarian assistance, human rights, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, stabilization and sustainable development**

42. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action served as the coordination forum for mine action policies, strategies and initiatives among 12 United Nations entities and one observer entity. Each entity contributed to the integration of mine action into broader humanitarian, human rights, peace, security and development frameworks. The Group coordinated mine action efforts in various country settings, including in Myanmar, Nigeria and Ukraine. It made joint statements advocating compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law, and the universalization and full implementation of relevant disarmament treaties. On 4 April of each year, the Group takes part in the commemorations of the annual International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

43. With support from the Government of Switzerland, the United Nations convened the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth annual International Meetings of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers in April–May 2024 and April 2025, respectively. These conferences, which were co-hosted with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, attracted over 600 participants each year and provided a platform for all mine action stakeholders to share insights on challenges and best practices.

##### **1. United Nations humanitarian coordination**

44. The Mine Action Service continued to enhance efficiencies and maximize mine action delivery, and promoted collaboration across the mine action sector by coordinating efforts and sharing data with its partners through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action.

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<sup>22</sup> Hardy Giezendanner and Himayu Shiotani, *A Reference Methodology for National Weapons and Ammunition Management Baseline Assessments*, UNIDIR, 2021. Available at <https://unidir.org/publication/reference-methodology-national-weapons-and-ammunition-management-baseline-assessments>. See also the interactive map of the global use of this tool on the same web page.

<sup>23</sup> Somalia conducted an assessment autonomously in 2023, with remote assistance from UNIDIR.

<sup>24</sup> Théo Bajon, “Weapons and ammunition management in Africa insight: 2024 update”, UNIDIR, 19 June 2024.

45. In line with the ongoing humanitarian reset process, the United Nations mine action stakeholders launched a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening international humanitarian mine action and advancing a more people-centred and outcome-focused approach.

46. Under its mine action area of responsibility, the Global Protection Cluster continued to play a coordinating role among United Nations and other humanitarian mine action stakeholders to ensure more effective mine action responses. In 2024, it was active in 16 complex emergencies and coordinated with humanitarian actors to protect 41 million people at risk of explosive ordnance. As the lead of the mine action area of responsibility and the representative of the mine action sector within the Global Protection Cluster, the Mine Action Service co-led coordination in 12 country contexts, although other actors led in other settings, such as UNICEF in Myanmar, Humanity and Inclusion in the Syrian Arab Republic and DanChurchAid in Mali.

## **2. Integration of mine action into peace and security, development, human rights and humanitarian priorities**

47. Since April 2025, the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action have accounted for explosive ordnance contamination in their assessments, plans and budgets. For example, in Ukraine, FAO assisted conflict-affected farming communities with resuming agricultural activities on land suspected of being contaminated with explosives by reducing production costs and identifying the most affected areas. This support alleviated economic pressure on over 400 farmers and 4,600 farming households, helping them to avoid the risks associated with cultivating potentially contaminated land.

### **(a) Integrating mine action across relevant United Nations sectors**

48. The United Nations promoted mine action as an enabler of sustainable development, supporting reconstruction and agricultural recovery and restoring access to land and resources critical for community resilience (see figure). Mine action is vital in creating safe conditions for development interventions; it facilitates access to education, healthcare, water and livelihoods, particularly in remote and underserved areas, thereby contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In Viet Nam, UNDP and partners introduced climate-smart farming techniques and supported the construction of 350 climate-resilient houses and six community health stations on or near cleared land, thereby improving livelihoods and economic opportunities in previously contaminated areas. In South Sudan, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan cleared land in support of agricultural projects led by FAO in Upper Nile State and surveyed and cleared roads and murram borrow pits ahead of the road rehabilitation efforts of the Mission, directly improving access to food and humanitarian services.

49. In Ukraine, the World Food Programme integrated mine action into its operations, for which access to agricultural land and safe movement are essential. This entailed clearing contaminated land, securing logistics routes and providing mine safety training to staff. In Afghanistan, UNDP integrated mine action into its Sustainable Energy Services for Education and Health project to enable the safe construction of renewable energy infrastructure. It conducted non-technical surveys and assessed for explosive ordnance at over 600 sites, which were confirmed safe and certified for use. Similarly, after finding explosive ordnance on several construction sites, UNOPS began including mine action in infrastructure budgets and launched an integrated infrastructure project with a dedicated mine action component.

## Mine action as a key enabler of United Nations system-wide work



### (b) Enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers

50. The Mine Action Service helped seven United Nations peacekeeping operations to advance the Action for Peacekeeping Plus agenda, including through route clearance, explosive ordnance disposal and capacity-building for national and mission personnel. In Abyei, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei developed a mission-specific explosive remnants of war awareness package and delivered tailored safety briefings to newly deployed United Nations and humanitarian personnel.

51. The Mine Action Service supported peace operations by enhancing explosive hazard management and promoting operational safety. In Somalia, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia helped the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia to train more than 6,000 personnel in explosive hazard awareness and assess 186 key supply routes spanning more than 1,800 km to ensure the safe and secure movement of peacekeeping forces. In Cyprus, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus reinforced confidence-building measures, advising on mine clearance within the peace process and ensuring that all operations in the buffer zone followed international standards. In the Central African Republic, the Mine Action Service component of MINUSCA trained more than 2,700 peacekeepers in explosive risk awareness and mitigation, including 149 in search-and-detect operations and 125 in post-blast investigation, thereby enhancing the Mission's ability to operate in a complex security environment.

52. The Mine Action Service also contributed to transitional justice efforts in Colombia by integrating mine action into accountability and reparation processes. It provided technical assistance in the context of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace restorative justice initiative to help to ensure accountability for the use of explosive ordnance in violation of international humanitarian law during the conflict and

consideration of how mine action might serve as a reparatory measure during sentencing.

**(c) Threat mitigation advisory team**

53. The Mine Action Service enhanced United Nations mine action activities through its Improvised Explosive Device Threat Mitigation Advisory Team in New York and the mobile training team in Entebbe, Uganda. These teams delivered critical services, including training for police- and troop-contributing countries; development of guidelines, policies, manuals and training materials; and technical assessments for United Nations entities and Member States.

54. The Improvised Explosive Device Threat Mitigation Advisory Team and the mobile training team trained 328 peacekeepers (305 men and 23 women) and accredited 184 national instructors (166 men and 18 women) to deliver in-country predeployment training on countering the threat of improvised explosive devices, thereby reducing the time spent on in-mission training. To strengthen national capacity, in coordination with the Triangular Partnership Programme, the teams delivered an all-arms search course in 16 African countries, aiming to train 150 national instructors.

**E. Promoting gender parity, diversity, empowerment and inclusion in mine action**

55. Data-driven efforts enabled mine action services to reach the most vulnerable, including women, children, young people, persons with disabilities and internally displaced persons. In such settings as Lebanon, Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam, UNDP and the Mine Action Service adapted risk education by tailoring messages to the specific needs of women, girls, displaced communities and children. In the Central African Republic, the Mine Action Service component of MINUSCA partnered with Association nationale la main des sourds et muets pour le travail et le développement de Centrafrique and produced the first explosive ordnance risk awareness video to be translated into sign language. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Mine Action Service established a youth committee comprising 60 young people to deliver risk education in refugee camps throughout the occupied West Bank, thereby strengthening community-based protection.

56. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo integrated gender equality into the national mine action strategy for the period 2023–2032 and the national action plan on small arms and light weapons control for the period 2024–2028, thereby enhancing the representation of women in operations and at the policy level. In South Sudan, the Mine Action Service component of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan helped the national mine action authority to draft a gender-diversity and inclusion policy that was adopted by the Government in March 2025.

57. Efforts to achieve gender parity notwithstanding, women who work as deminers, especially in technical and field-based mine action roles, can face limited career advancement opportunities and work environments that do not sufficiently address their specific needs, such as appropriate sanitation facilities and support for pregnancy, maternity and childcare.

## IV. Observations and recommendations

58. The present report demonstrates the achievements of the mine action sector and the collaborative way in which the United Nations works to reduce and mitigate the risks and impact of explosive ordnance. In many contexts, United Nations mine action activities play a foundational role in helping national mine action authorities to build their own mine action capacities and enabling them to operate safely and efficiently.

59. I am deeply concerned by the increasing threat posed by explosive ordnance due to the rise in conflicts worldwide. With funding constrained, and the international humanitarian disarmament architecture under severe threat, there is a vital need for renewed advocacy and integration of explosive ordnance responses across humanitarian, development and recovery activities. Concerted, coordinated and adequately funded mine action is imperative if the dangerous trajectory outlined in the present report is to be reversed.

60. In the light of the recent announcements and actions by several Member States to withdraw from the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, I am gravely concerned about the potential consequences for civilian protection. These developments risk undermining a normative framework that has saved countless lives over the past two decades. In addition, the transfer of anti-personnel mines to States Parties, regardless of the intended use, raises serious concerns about compliance with the principles of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and risks undermining its humanitarian objectives. I strongly urge all States Parties to fulfil their obligations under humanitarian disarmament treaties and immediately halt any steps towards their withdrawal. I also appeal to the 31 States that have yet to join the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to do so without delay and to fully commit to its objectives. At a time when civilians face heightened risks from widening conflicts, normative frameworks that protect human life and dignity must be preserved and upheld.

61. To this end, I launched a global campaign to uphold the norms of humanitarian disarmament and accelerate mine action as an enabler of human rights and sustainable development.<sup>25</sup> This campaign echoes the commitment made by Member States in the Pact for the Future to redouble efforts to implement relevant international instruments.

62. In accordance with the principle of national ownership, I appeal to the Governments of countries affected by explosive ordnance to prioritize mine action in national development plans, budgets and peacebuilding and security sector reform initiatives backed by the necessary resources, legislative frameworks and political commitment to lead and coordinate national mine action efforts effectively.

63. I welcome the convening of the first follow-up conference, held in Oslo in April 2024, to review the implementation of the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas. In line with commitments under the Pact for the Future, I urge States to endorse and fully implement the Political Declaration, including by developing and reviewing policies and practices relevant to the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

64. I welcome the adoption of the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management and call upon States to implement their political commitments to prevent the diversion and illicit trafficking of conventional

<sup>25</sup> Secretary-General of the United Nations, “Statement by the Secretary-General on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention”, 16 June 2025. Available at [www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2025-06-16/statement-the-secretary-general-the-anti-personnel-mine-ban-convention](http://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2025-06-16/statement-the-secretary-general-the-anti-personnel-mine-ban-convention).

ammunition and to reduce the risks of unplanned conventional ammunition explosions.

65. I urge all entities with activities supported by mine action to account for explosive ordnance contamination in their assessments, plans and budgets, when required, in order to advance their own entity's primary objectives, thus ensuring that survey, clearance, risk education and victim assistance needs are addressed cost-effectively and efficiently and do not impede the implementation of humanitarian, development and early recovery projects.

66. I remain deeply concerned about growing funding shortfalls affecting countries facing significant explosive ordnance contamination, the mine action community and the broader mine action sector. These shortfalls jeopardize the safety and livelihoods of affected populations and undermine vital mine action programmes and coordination. I implore Member States to provide adequate, sustained, diverse and predictable funding for mine action, sufficient to meet the needs arising from emerging conflicts and support long-standing, lower-profile contexts that are equally important.

67. I recall General Assembly resolution [78/70](#) and Security Council resolution [2365 \(2017\)](#), which underscore the role of the United Nations, coordinated by the Mine Action Service, in the mitigation of the dangers posed by landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices. I note that the Mine Action Service has not previously drawn upon assessed contributions to fulfil these tasks and has instead relied on extrabudgetary funding. Effective implementation of mine action activities and coordination is dependent upon adequate, predictable and sustained funding.

68. I remain concerned about the implications of transitions from United Nations peace operations, particularly the reduced support for national mine action authorities and the increased risk to populations from explosive ordnance that often result from the implementation of these transitions, as well as the decline in funding that frequently accompanies them. I call upon national authorities and donors to engage in contingency planning and prepare scenario-based handover plans to transfer responsibilities effectively to national and United Nations actors; I also call upon them to invest in sustaining national capacity to maintain operations.

69. I am also concerned by the continuing threat of improvised explosive devices, which are used primarily by non-State armed groups to target and pose serious challenges to civilians, humanitarian and United Nations personnel and many national security sector actors. I call upon Member States to integrate capacity-building to counter the threat posed by improvised explosive devices into national security policies, strategies and development plans, and to prioritize sustainable investment in technical training, equipment and institutional frameworks.

70. I welcome resolution [58/22](#) of the Human Rights Council, in which the Council recognized the threat of anti-personnel mines to the full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. I also note the importance of gender-sensitive, age-appropriate and disability-inclusive perspectives in mine action programming. I call upon all Member States and international and civil society organizations to strengthen mine action to promote and protect the effective enjoyment of all human rights. I also call for the promotion of inclusive, non-discriminatory and human rights-based approaches in mine action, ensuring that such action reflects the needs of the communities it serves and contributes to their empowerment and full participation in society and the realization of all human rights.

71. I note that climate-related disruptions, such as intense and prolonged rainy seasons, compel climate-sensitive approaches to mine action. I encourage the continued

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increased use of emerging technology, data and innovation across all pillars of mine action. I urge relevant mine action organizations, Member States and donors to redouble efforts aimed at improving the cost-effectiveness, efficiency and safety of mine action activities through the use of such tools.

72. I pay tribute to all those who have lost their lives while delivering mine action in complex humanitarian and emergency situations during the reporting period. The loss of life and injuries suffered by United Nations personnel when two United Nations guesthouses in Dayr al-Balah in Gaza were hit in strikes on 19 March 2025 is a reminder of the dangerous environments in which humanitarian mine action activities take place.

73. Mine action is a vital life-saving activity and a crucial enabler of development, ensuring safe environments for communities to rebuild and thrive. I reiterate that, through coordinated and well-funded mine action, a safer future can be secured for all those living under the pernicious threat of explosive ordnance.

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