



**Ministry of International Cooperation**  
Executive Secretariat for the Demining  
& Development of the North West Coast



Al Alamein, 24 October 2014.

### **EU and UNDP Celebrate the Launch of the Second Phase of the Project to Help Develop the North West Coast and Mine Action**

The European Union (EU) Delegation to Egypt, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Egypt Country Office and the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation celebrate today the launch of the EU and UNDP Partnership Agreement to support the North-West Coast Development Plan and Relevant Mine Action Phase II. The EU has fully funded this project with 4.7 million Euros which will help clear mines, reintegrate mine victims into the economy and create awareness in the community.

"It is especially apt that this EU funded Programme is launched this week, as we gather to commemorate the fallen at the battle of Alamein on 25th October. That conflict played a vital part in the course of the Second World War, but the vast amount of unexploded ordinance left behind remains a major risk for development of the North Coast, now a top priority in Egypt, and for local communities in the area, who continue to suffer from it. EU member states who participated in the battle have helped with demining over the years but this is the first time that the EU itself contributes to the effort, and we are very pleased to be a part of it." " said Ambassador James Moran, Head of the European Union Delegation in Egypt.

Mr. Ignacio Artaza, UNDP Country Director announced: "We are very pleased to kick off this great partnership building on the successes of the first phase which allowed the Ministry of Defense to clear 83027 acres of contaminated land that are now ready for development, and improved the quality of life of 241 mine victims through the provision of artificial limbs."

The Support to the North West Coast Development and Mine Action Plan project was established in 2007 as a collective partnership between UNDP, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of International Cooperation and the Ministry of Defense. It aims to support the development of the North West Coast and Inland Desert and deal with the problem of casualties due to mines that has reached 8,313 casualties (697 killed and 7,616 injured) according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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