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Press Release

The Executive Secretariat for the Demining and Development of the North West Coast of the Ministry of International Cooperation demonstrates accomplishments and future plans

Mine-Clearance of almost 95 thousand acres at El-Alamein and the North West Coast

CAIRO, on May 20 2015 - The Executive Secretariat for the Demining and Development of the North West Coast of the Ministry of International Cooperation celebrated today its accomplishments and the implementation of Phase II of the 'Support to the North West Coast Development and Mine Action Plan'. The most remarkable among these achievements to date is the mine-clearance of 94,446 acres in Al Alamein area, the completion of three watershed management projects at the Hawaweer, Hebla and Ahdaf valleys at Matrouh. The programme is supported and funded by the Egyptian Government, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union (EUR 4,705,000) and the United States Agency for International Development (13.7 million EGP).

A comprehensive database consisting of 761 mine incident survivors has been developed, 259 of which were fitted with artificial limbs, including 29 amputees that were fitted with artificial limbs for a second time. Furthermore, 17 survivors were provided with wheelchairs and 72 women were supported with skills and micro-credits to start-up income generating projects to enhance their livelihood.

During the event the Executive Secretariat demonstrated key features of the 'Support to the North West Coast Development Plan and Mine Action Phase II' encompassing activities related to mine clearance, assistance and reintegration of landmine victims into society, and mine risk education and awareness in the Governorate of Matrouh.

The Executive Secretariat granted its Honorary Shield to Egyptian Partners during Phase I, namely, the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Education, Governorate of Matrouh, Agouza Rehabilitation and Rheumatology Center of the Armed Forces, Resala Charity Organization, and Caritas International Association.

The event also witnessed the signature of a cooperation protocol between the State Information Service (SIS) and the Ministry of International Cooperation, under which the SIS will contribute to printing of Executive Secretariat publications and promoting its mission through producing awareness and promotional kits and displaying them through its media outlets.