

JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT 2018

THE EUROPEAN UNION'S SUPPORT FOR MINE ACTION ACROSS THE WORLD

MINE CLEARANCE

STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

MINE RISK EDUCATION

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

CAPACITY BUILDING

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



Acknowledgements

This brochure was produced by the Division for Disarmament, Non-proliferation and arms export control of the European External Action Service (EEAS).

The EEAS is particularly grateful to all those who have contributed to this publication, especially Kevin Kazimirek and Alvaro Florez Diez for collecting and compiling information on the projects and the colleagues at the Publications Office in Luxembourg for the proofreading, lay-out and printing.

The information on individual EU-funded projects was kindly provided by the implementers of the projects. We would also like to thank the colleagues at the EU Delegations abroad and at the Headquarters in Brussels, the Mine Action focal points of the involved EU-entities and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and its Landmine Monitor.

Photographs in the text have been provided by courtesy of DanChurchAid (DCA), HALO Trust, Sean Sutton – Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Croatian Mine Action Centre (Cromac), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Lou Sensouphone – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Lao PDR), the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA), Danish Demining Group, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and Tiramisu.

Notice

'Mine action' is a generic term which includes any of the following range of activities: mine risk education, minefield survey assessment and marking, mine detection, mine clearance, destruction of stockpiled mines, assistance to mine victims including rehabilitation and reintegration, training and capacity building in general, advocacy against the use of anti-personnel mines and research and development of mine detection and clearance. The purpose of this publication is to provide an overview of EU-funded Mine Action in the period 2012-2016.

SWD(2018) 45

Print	ISBN 978-92-9238-555-2	doi:10.2871/244698	OF-07-17-016-EN-C
PDF	ISBN 978-92-9238-554-5	doi:10.2871/76667	OF-07-17-016-EN-N

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2018

© European Union, 2018

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Printed in Luxembourg

JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT 2018

THE EUROPEAN UNION'S SUPPORT FOR MINE ACTION ACROSS THE WORLD

MINE CLEARANCE

STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

MINE RISK EDUCATION

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

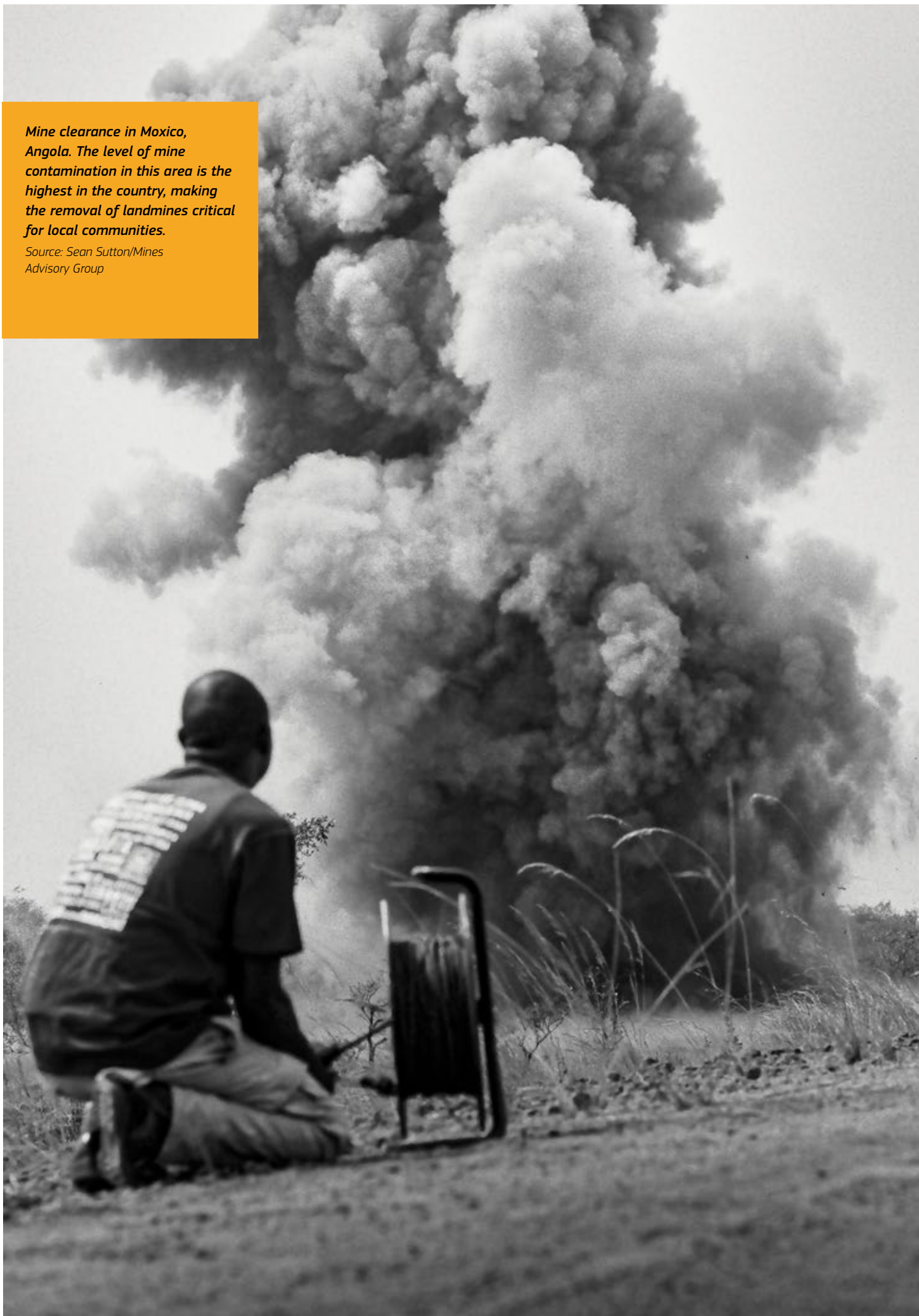
CAPACITY BUILDING

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



Mine clearance in Moxico, Angola. The level of mine contamination in this area is the highest in the country, making the removal of landmines critical for local communities.

Source: Sean Sutton/Mines Advisory Group



CONTENTS

Contents	3
Foreword by the EU High Representative	4
How the European Union supports mine action	6
World map: EU support for mine action 2012 -2016	7
The European Union funding activities across mine action sectors	8
I — Mine clearance	9
Angola	9
Chad	11
Croatia	11
Iraq	12
Laos	13
Occupied Palestinian Territory	14
Somalia	14
II — Stockpile destruction	15
Belarus	15
Ukraine	16
III — Mine risk education	17
Democratic Republic of the Congo	18
Libya	18
Myanmar	19
IV — Victim assistance	21
Bosnia and Herzegovina	22
Egypt	23
Lebanon	23
V — Capacity building	25
Colombia	27
Global	28
VI — Research and development	30
D-BOX	30
Tiramisu	31
ANNEXES	33
ANNEX I — Glossary of selected acronyms and abbreviations used in the text	33
ANNEX II —The European Union’s financial contributions to mine action activities across the world	34

FOREWORD BY THE EU HIGH REPRESENTATIVE



FEDERICA MOGHERINI

*High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and
Vice-President of the Commission*

For some people, war is not over even after a peace treaty. Landmines keep killing people and tearing societies apart years after a conflict has ended. They continue to instil terror, to stop people returning to their normal lives and of refugees to their own homes, to strip entire regions of a fair chance of economic development, and to hinder the prospects of reconciliation and stabilisation.

One of the fiercest battles of World War II, the battle of El Alamein, has left its mark for generations, for 75 years. The landmines of El Alamein were left behind by European powers – including my own country, Italy. In those times, Europe used to export war to the rest of the world. Today, the European Union is working with Egypt in clearing mines and assisting victims. We are proud to be a leading force worldwide in addressing the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war.

In 1997, a large group of countries gathered in Ottawa, and agreed that anti-personnel mines should have no place in the world. They decided to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of landmines, addressing this problem at its root. All 28 EU Member States are party to the 'Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction', better known as the Ottawa Convention.

Since then, thousands of lives have been saved. Thousands of survivors have been given the opportunity to live a more dignified life. More than 50 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed. Thirty countries that were heavily contaminated are now mine-free. Mine action has helped reconciliation in many post-conflict situations. Take Colombia, where the Government and the FARC are working together to free the country from landmines, with strong support from the European Union.

The Ottawa Convention is multilateralism at its best. An indiscriminate weapon is now banned by 163 states. In August 2017, the European Council adopted a new Decision(*) to help implement the Convention.

But the work is not over yet. Twenty years on, we are confronted with new challenges every day. Vast areas across the world remain inaccessible due to mine contamination. In Syria and Iraq, we have witnessed a resurgence of improvised explosive devices. The terrorists of Daesh intentionally leave landmines behind, now that they have been forced out of their former strongholds. And the number of mine casualties is rising for the first time since the entry into force of the Convention. This is a key driver in forcing people to leave their homes and a serious factor in the current refugee crisis.

We Europeans have chosen to be a leading force in the demining of Iraq. We have helped clear the university and the teaching hospital in Ramadi, and we are now doing the same in Mosul. We are also exploring the possibility to help demine the de-escalation zones and the liberated areas in Syria. This would provide for some early recovery and help Syrians go back to their homes, but it could also help support the peace talks in Geneva.

Ending the era of anti-personnel mines is indeed possible. We will keep engaging so that all state and non-state actors refrain from the manufacture, trade and use of anti-personnel mines, and join the Ottawa Convention. Implementing the Convention is fundamental for peace, stabilisation and economic recovery in our times, and it is also a gift to future generations. It is our responsibility to preserve and strengthen it.

Our work can make a difference between life and death for so many people around the world. We feel the moral duty

to fight landmines and we feel the urgency of this task. So I would like to express my gratitude to fellow donors, partner countries, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and civil society in general, the United Nations, the Red Cross, research organisations such as the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Ottawa Convention, and mine action operators for their commitment to a world free from landmines.

So many people around the world depend on such shared commitment – to turn the page from war, to live a life free from constant fear.*



Brussels, January 2018

(*) Council Decision 2017/1428/CFSP

HOW THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS MINE ACTION

The European Union has a long history of support to mine action, even before the Ottawa Convention was adopted in 1997. In fact, the EU was among the first to condemn the indiscriminate character of anti-personnel landmines and to recognise the unbearable suffering they impose on civil populations. As of 2014, all 28 EU Member States are party to the Ottawa Convention.

Support to international mine action remains among the high priorities of EU foreign policy. Years of experience have made the EU assistance progressively expand from mine clearance to include additional activities such as stockpile destruction, mine risk education and victim assistance. To retain its commitment to the fighting of this global threat, the EU is using various instruments.

About one third of EU support for mine action is provided through the Commission's **Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)**. The IcSP is a financing instrument specifically designed to respond quickly and flexibly to conflicts and crisis around the world. Mine action programmes are financed under the Article 3 of the IcSP that covers assistance in response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis to prevent conflicts. Mine action funded by the IcSP supports measures to address, within the framework of EU cooperation policies and their objectives, the socio-economic impact on the civilian population of anti-personnel landmines, and explosive remnants of war (ERW). This may include, inter alia, risk education, mine detection and clearance and, in conjunction therewith, stockpile destruction. EU assistance under the IcSP is provided only to the extent that an adequate and effective response cannot be provided under other financing instruments.

When addressing mines and ERW is part of the national development plan or other longer-term strategy or programme of a mine-affected country, EU mine action can be funded through geographic instruments, such as the **Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)** or the **European Development Fund (EDF)**, the **European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)** or the **Instrument for**

Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), depending on the country in question. Also **EU Regional Trust Funds** can support mine action.

In **humanitarian crisis situations** the Commission also funds mine action as part of its overall support to the protection of civilians. Such assistance may be provided on the basis of identified needs and in line with the fundamental humanitarian principles. This may include funding for humanitarian demining, assistance to victims and mine risk education.

EU Delegations in mine-affected third countries have an important role in the planning and allocation of EU funding for mine action. They are in contact with the authorities and local stakeholders and are well placed to connect local mine action needs with the most suitable EU-funded instrument.

Through the **EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation** the Commission provides funds for research and development with regard to methods and technologies for mine detection and clearance.

The **Council of the EU** adopts Decisions⁽¹⁾ to support the implementation and the universalisation of the Ottawa Convention. They are financed from the EU budget for the **Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)**.

The **European External Action Service (EEAS)** supports the High Representative in fulfilling her mandates including the development of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. It also sets up EU mine action interagency coordination meetings and compiles information about EU-funded mine action.

Mine action is also funded **within the EU** through financial instruments such as the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)** and **European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg)**. For this assistance, Croatia is the main recipient.

⁽¹⁾ Council Joint Action 2008/478 and Council Decisions 2012/700 and 2017/1428

Many **EU Member States** also support mine action on a bilateral basis. In the period 2012-2016, EU Member States supported mine action with more than EUR 300 million according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor. This brochure only covers support funded by the EU-Institutions.

Through diplomatic and financial support initiatives, the European Union will continue to be one of the leading actors in making the world free of mines.

The contact details of the mine action focal points of the mentioned EU entities are mentioned in annex.

EU SUPPORT FOR MINE ACTION 2012 -2016



THE EUROPEAN UNION FUNDING ACTIVITIES ACROSS MINE ACTION SECTORS

This chapter covers a selection of EU-funded mine action projects across the world. A comprehensive overview can be found in the annex. Many mine action projects have a mixed nature covering different aspects of mine action at the same time. The projects are placed under the chapter that corresponds with a significant aspect of the project.

I — MINE CLEARANCE

Ottawa Convention Article 5:

'Each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than ten years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party.'

The European Union, together with its implementing partners, supports numerous mine clearance projects worldwide. This chapter also covers mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) survey, mapping, marking and land-release.

Mine clearance reduces the threat posed by landmines and ERW, allowing people to live safely, for refugees to return and for development to flourish. Clearing landmines saves lives and prevents innocent people from being harmed. Furthermore, clearing mines helps secure access to natural resources such as water and land for housing, agriculture and tourism, having thus a crucial impact on the daily life and income of individuals in affected areas.

Angola

Angola is among the most mine-affected country in the world due to the 27-year-long civil war, which ended in 2002. Most landmines were placed near towns, villages and key infrastructure. In addition to the severe loss of lives, mines and ERW have since then prevented the local population from using the contaminated areas for agricultural purposes. The presence of landmines and ERW blocks access to fertile land and thus constitutes a serious impediment to the socio-economic development of the country.

In order to tackle this challenge, the European Union has funded between 2012 and 2016, EUR 20 million via the European Development Fund (EDF). The implementing partners were four national NGOs (APACOMINAS, ATM, ODAH and UDESSD) and five international: Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), DanChurchAid (DCA), MgM (Menschen gegen Minen), Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and HALO Trust.



Road verification in Angola. The clearance of land and transport networks contributes to post-conflict recovery efforts in the country

(Source: DCA)

Between September 2014 and November 2015, the European Union's implementing partner, DCA, released over 1 785 000 m² of cleared land to the local population of Moxico, the poorest and most contaminated province in Angola. After more than 30 years, the local population can once again exploit the area of Alto Campo, which is already having a major positive impact on the health and socio-economic development of the affected communities.

Furthermore, the EDF contributed EUR 1,1 million to the MAG from September 2014 until August 2016, thanks to which 550 780 m² of safe land were released and mine risk education (MRE) was provided to over 11 055 people in 237 villages in Moxico. Importantly, this project facilitated access to vital water sources and arable land as well as the construction of housing and other vital infrastructure.

Another project in the Zaire province (north-west Angola), implemented by the EU's partner NPA under its humanitarian disarmament programme, successfully demined three contaminated areas in the villages of Buela and Kinzau, inhabited by 1 595 families. Altogether 623 069 m² of contaminated land were released thanks to the destruction of 59 anti-personnel mines, six anti-vehicle mines, 25 ERW and 660 pieces of small arms ammunition. Thanks to this project, the total number of known contaminated areas in Zaire was reduced by approximately 20%. The released areas are in use by local farmers and fishermen, offering them a stable source of income. In addition, 11 MRE sessions were conducted for a total of 3 354 local inhabitants, of which 838 were men, 692 were women and 1 824 were children.

Furthermore, with support from the European Union between September 2014 and January 2016, HALO Trust reduced the risk of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) in areas of the

Bié province (central Angola) and of the Kwando-Kubango province (south-east Angola). Thirty-four contaminated areas were released to the local population and 316 mines were destroyed. A total of 11 289 people benefited directly or indirectly from this clearance.

MgM benefited, between July 2014 and October 2016, from EUR 949 775 from the EDF, which led to the clearance of 20 areas covering 2 300 m² in the Kwando-Kubango province.

With the work done by the national NGOs APACOMINAS, ATM, ODAH and UDESSD, 22 areas (covering to 3 405 441 m²) and 280 kilometres of roads were cleared, while 359 anti-personnel and 902 anti-tank mines were identified and 534 UXO were removed. A total of 819 536 people in the provinces of Benguela, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, Cunene, Huambo, Malanje and Uige benefited directly from this clearance.

Thanks to these projects, the European Union assisted Angola towards the fulfilment of its Ottawa Convention commitments and contributed to the improvement of the living conditions of vulnerable groups. Despite these collective efforts, however, both Bié and Kwando-Kubango remain heavily contaminated with landmines, as do the provinces of Benguela, Kwanza Sul, Kwanza Norte and Moxico. As of June 2017, there are still 12 remaining known contaminated areas in the province of Zaire covering approximately 29 000 m² of land. The mines continue to kill and injure men, women and children and prevent the rural poor from cultivating land and improving their livelihoods. The national demining authority, the CNIDAH (National Intersectorial Commission for Humanitarian Demining and Assistance), states that 1 074 contaminated areas require clearance and 387 contaminated areas require re-survey, cancellation or clearance.



Mine clearance in the proximity of a village in Angola

(Source: HALO Trust)

Chad



Mine clearance in Chad

(Source: Sean Sutton/MAG)

Through the EDF and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), the EU supported with EUR 3 million the MAG and Handicap International in increasing the safe access to remote and highly contaminated regions of Chad. The project lasted from October 2014 until December 2016, and focused on reducing the threat posed by landmines and ERW. Altogether, a total of 1 377 732 m² of contaminated land

was cleared, including an area of 101 335 m² which enabled the opening of a vital road. This facilitated the communication for the population of this remote region and enabled new economic opportunities to flourish. A Non-Technical Survey (NTS) of 175 suspected hazardous areas was also completed. In addition, MRE was delivered to over 4 644 people living close to contaminated areas.

Croatia

Croatia is still confronted with severe contamination of landmines and ERW due to the war years in the 1990s. In the war-affected areas landmines continue to cause economic, safety and social disturbances. Considerable agricultural areas, forests, border zones and river banks were inaccessible for years due to mine contamination or suspicion of being contaminated.

In the past 5 years the European Union has committed over EUR 84 million to mine action in Croatia. The EU's partner is the Croatian Mine Action Centre (Cromac). Since 2016, the European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development has stepped in to enable access to contaminated agricultural land. As a part of the 2014-2020 Croatian rural development programme, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) has been funding the demining of agricultural land. After two public calls for proposals and the start of demining operations, to which EAFRD contributed more than EUR 50 million, it is planned that over 50 000 m² of agricultural land will be

demined in all nine counties by the end of 2018. Cromac takes part in these mine clearance activities as a technical assistance partner.



Mine clearance in Croatia. It is estimated that there are still over 39 200 mines in the country

(Source: Cromac)

With the signing of the Ottawa Convention, Croatia committed itself to the removal of all landmines and ERW by 2019. These mine clearance activities will greatly contribute to meeting Croatia's international obligation as well as to social inclusion and economic development.



Demining programme in war-affected area. All suspected hazardous areas are marked with mine warning signs

(Source: Cromac)

Iraq

Iraq is one of the most heavily mine- and ERW-contaminated countries in the world. The presence of UXO of all kinds impedes the security and stability efforts and prevents civilians from returning home safely. The EU is a long-term partner of Iraq, cooperating in the field of stabilisation, security, humanitarian aid and the political reform agenda. So far, the European Union's humanitarian aid in the country and other forms of financial assistance has amounted to a total of EUR 608 million since the beginning of the crisis.

The European Union, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the Iraqi authorities are currently operating a joint project aimed at facilitating the stabilisation and recovery process in areas previously occupied by the so-called *Da'esh*. By reducing the risks posed by explosive weapons, the project aims at creating the conditions for the sustainable return of internally displaced persons (IDPs). At the same time, UNMAS conducts national capacity building efforts to manage emergency response operations within these areas. These efforts will help create conditions for a safe, voluntary and dignified return of more than 3 million IDPs. In the past year and a half, with the EU playing a key role in coordination, UNMAS has conducted the survey and clearance of more than 18 000 000 m² of land in and around Fallujah and around 160 000 m² in Anbar Province.



Training on explosive device disposal. Thanks to EU support, UNMAS has led and coordinated since the beginning of 2016 a blended emergency response to address the problem of explosive hazards in retaken areas

(Source: UNMAS)

In addition, the Commission has also been funding MRE actions implemented by UNICEF and Handicap International respectively in the governorates of Kirkuk, Salah ad Din, Baghdad, Anbar, Basra and Ninewa.

Laos

Contaminated with over two million tons of munitions, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is the most heavily affected country by cluster munitions. This includes 270 million submunitions from cluster bombs, of which approximately 30% may have failed to detonate. While the number of casualties has dropped markedly from 302 in 2008 to 42 in 2015, UXO contamination remains a threat to rural populations in poor and remote areas and impedes the safe use of land for socio-economic development activities. Around 80% of people in Laos live in rural areas, where livelihood opportunities are often uncertain and food and nutrition security indicators are particularly unstable. Many of the poorest districts in the country are also those most contaminated. And there are many reasons to believe that there is a causal relation between the degree of contamination and the degree of development.

The 8th national socio-economic development plan includes targets for addressing the UXO issue by 2020. The National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector (NRA) has also approved its own 5-year plan, with targets relating to UXO survey, reduced casualties and victim assistance. Furthermore, the Government launched in September 2016, together with the UN Secretary-General, the local project on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No 18 to remove the UXO obstacle to national development.



Identification of cluster munition in Xieng Khouang, the province with the highest UXO casualty rate in Lao PDR (Source: Sean Sutton/MAG)

One of the European Union's partners in tackling this challenge is MAG, which has cleared and released over 1 203 907 m² of land back to the local communities for safe agricultural use. At the same time, MRE was delivered to over 15 105 people, promoting safe behaviour towards landmines, cluster munitions and ERW.

The European Union's action in Laos also entailed victim assistance projects. In fact, MAG worked in partnership with a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) called the Quality of Life Association, which worked with local health and agricultural authorities to provide effective first aid and animal husbandry training for victims, their family members and other community members. As a result, 160 people from eight target villages received first aid and first responder training, while another 161 recipients received training in animal husbandry techniques.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is another important partner of the European Union in Laos. With the help of funding from the European Union, UNDP Lao PDR is engaged in the UXO sector via two national implementing partners, the NRA and the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao). The EU has provided funding to the sector via UNDP since 2012, with a contribution of EUR 1.3 million between 2012 and 2015 and EUR 2.4 million from 2016 onward.

The EU - UNDP joint project had an important effect on the local context: a total of 17 564 000 m² was cleared by all humanitarian operators, out of which 13 730 000 m² and 383 400 m² were released for agriculture and other development purposes respectively. Out of this, UXO Lao cleared a total of 7 971 000 m²: 6 839 000 for agriculture and 1 132 000 for other development purposes. During the project phase, the survey methodology changed from request-based survey procedures to evidence-based survey procedures, enabling a more efficient way of clearing. There has been a four-fold increase in the number of cluster munitions found per hectare. In addition, 2 146 MRE sessions were attended by over 694 938 people.



UXO Lao teams, including all-female clearance teams in Xieng Khouang, use modern and efficient survey methodologies to determine the level of contamination (Source: Lou Sensouphone/UNDP Lao PDR)

Occupied Palestinian Territory

The Gaza Strip is heavily contaminated with UXO. Through the IcSP, the European Union funded a total of EUR 800 000 for a multi-donor project led by UNMAS, which focused on reconstruction and rehabilitation activities from March 2016 until April 2017. Both buried and surface-lying aerial bombs were cleared and necessary risk mitigation support was provided. Thanks to site-specific risk assessments and continuous on-site-specific safety and quality assurance trainings, UNMAS oversaw the removal of over 1 million tons of rubble from heavily contaminated areas without a single accident. In April 2017, UNMAS cleared the last known accessible unexploded aircraft bomb in Gaza, marking an important milestone in addressing the legacy of UXO contamination in Gaza.

Since 2014, UNMAS has cleared and destroyed 29 tons of explosive material derived from 149 unexploded aerial bombs in Gaza thanks to the financial support of the EU. This has enabled the safe delivery of 92 reconstruction projects for roads, public facilities, public parks, water wells and other infrastructure across Gaza. In addition, MRE was provided to over 70 000 most at-risk inhabitants.



Thanks to EU support, UNMAS is implementing a crisis response strategy to mitigate the threat posed by explosive hazards in Gaza

(Source: UNMAS)

Somalia

With a financial contribution of the European Union of EUR 11.7 million through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) successfully implemented a project between 2012 and 2013 with two objectives: 1) improving human security of civilians in Mogadishu, focusing on five districts identified by the Mogadishu Stabilisation and Recovery Plan, and 2) enabling reconstruction and rehabilitation activities through removal of ERW, stockpiles, other explosive hazards and rubble from areas prioritised by the Mogadishu Stabilisation and Recovery Plan. Primary beneficiaries specifically included internally displaced persons, refugees and humanitarian actors. With these actions the project aimed at establishing the foundation for reconstruction, recovery and development efforts as well as supporting the police in creating a sustainable explosive management capacity. The programme's activities were successfully completed, leading to a reduction of the threat posed by ERW and other explosive hazards in the target areas. Moreover, the Somali authorities successfully developed a police explosive ordnance disposal capacity.

The project contributed to the stabilisation and rehabilitation of Mogadishu thanks to the survey and clearance of ERW and the provision of MRE to communities and vulnerable groups. At the same time, the Mogadishu port security was enhanced thanks to contamination assessments, the removal of improvised and other mines and ERW and awareness

training. Furthermore, the project also supported the Somali police in their ERW and IED disposal capacity and provided demining, survey and spot clearance in other regions outside Mogadishu. Finally, the project had a communications and advocacy component, which included radio messaging and the establishment of an emergency telephone line.



The collaborative work of the EU and UNMAS reduced the threat of explosive hazards in Mogadishu as well as in the Hirán and Gedo regions

(Source: UNMAS)

II — STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

Ottawa Convention Article 4:

'(...) each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines it owns or possesses, or that are under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than four years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party.'

States parties to the Ottawa Convention have committed themselves to destroy their stockpiles of anti-personnel mines as soon as possible but not later than 4 years after having joined the Convention. The European Union assists these states in the fulfilment of their international commitments.

Belarus

Belarus joined the Ottawa Convention in 2004. By doing so, Belarus committed itself to destroy its stockpile of approximately 3,4 million anti-personnel landmines. The EU supported Belarus in this stockpile destruction effort, for which it contracted the company EXPAL to construct a mobile mine destruction centre on the compound of the 2 271st ammunition base in Rečyca. The mines were destroyed with charges in a thick wall armoured chamber. Solid waste and gases were then processed so that they could be safe for disposal in a municipal solid waste landfill. In April 2017, the EU Delegation to Belarus attended the closing ceremony at the EXPAL destruction plant, during which the remaining 78 landmines were destroyed.



Colonel Andrey Kurakov, head of engineer troops management of the Armed Forces of Belarus, and Ambassador Andrea Wiktorin, head of the EU Delegation to Belarus, during the closing ceremony at the EXPAL destruction plant in April 2017.

Ukraine

Since fighting in the Ukraine began in 2014, it is estimated that over 1 750 people have been killed or injured by landmines and ERW. One of the European Union's implementing partners in the country is HALO Trust, which is present in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine.

The EU provided vital financial support to HALO Trust's mine clearance operations in the Ukraine from February to October 2016. Thanks to this funding, HALO Trust teams were among the first to be deployed in the region. HALO Trust deployed two Non-Technical Survey (NTS) teams to identify and map hazardous areas, conduct explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and deliver MRE. The teams assessed 94 settlements as part of the initial survey, found 66 items of ERW and delivered MRE to over 1 883 people. Following this survey, the EU-funded manual clearance team cleared a total of 147 933 m² and removed 100 items of ERW. The European Union's financial contribution for these combined activities directly benefited over 2 628 people.

Another important project — implemented together with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Trust Fund on the demilitarisation of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition since 2016 — aims at destroying 55 % of the Ukrainian stockpiled anti-personnel landmines. This would support Ukraine's fulfilment of its commitments vis-à-vis the Ottawa Convention, and would also improve the safety and security of the population in the Ukraine and the wider region. By November 2017 already 1,4 million PFM 1 landmines have been destroyed. In addition, the project also aims at increasing the Ukraine's capacity to conduct the destruction of their remaining stockpiles independently.

The European Union, through the IcSP, also partnered with the Danish Demining Group (DDG), which implemented a project between September 2015 and October 2016 aimed at reducing the immediate risk from mines and ERW on the civilian population in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts. The project involved equipping the State Emergency Service of Ukraine with the necessary technical instruments (vehicles, detectors, and safety equipment) to conduct humanitarian mine action activities in the region as well as to provide training on how to use them in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

The DDG also implemented a MRE programme. Using a variety of methods, from giving lessons in schools to a mass media campaign, the DDG was able to make communities aware of the risks and threats of ERW in their midst and reduce unsafe behaviour. Finally, the DDG conducted a NTS of all accessible areas in the two oblasts, to record and map

all hazardous areas affected by mines and ERW in order to determine the nature and extent of the contamination.



The European Union supports humanitarian mine action in eastern Ukraine

(Source: DDG)

In 2016 European Union signed an agreement with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) for the implementation of the Action 'Supporting Demining of Transport Infrastructure in Ukraine'. The aim of the project is to equip demining experts from the Ministry of Infrastructure with demining and protective equipment and to develop modern training materials, training curriculums, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) compliant with IMAS, and to train national instructors. One of the important goals of the project is to develop and adopt Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), install necessary hardware and software and train additional IMSMA users. Since the beginning of the project in November 2016, Ukrainian demining experts have found and destroyed over 10 000 mines and ERW.



Workers dismantling a stockpile of anti-personnel landmines

(Source: NATO Support and Procurement Agency, NSPA)

III — MINE RISK EDUCATION

Maputo Action Plan, Action 10 (2014):

' Each State Party that has reported mined areas under its jurisdiction or control will provide mine risk reduction and education programmes, as part of broader risk assessment and reduction activities targeting the most at-risk populations.'

The objective of mine risk education (MRE) is to promote safe behaviour by individuals towards landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war (ERW). MRE needs to start at a young age in order to educate and protect the most vulnerable members of society from the indiscriminate threat posed by landmines and ERW. The European Union has contributed between 2012 and 2016 over EUR 12 million to mine risk education programmes worldwide.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been locked in a spiral of armed conflict for decades, resulting in nationwide contamination of landmines, ERW and cluster munitions.

The European Union funded a project, jointly implemented with the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Search for Common Ground, aimed at mapping the levels of landmine and ERW contamination in the DRC. Altogether, 93 affected villages were identified in the target area. MRE was delivered to over 16 924 people, including 9 988 children. In an attempt to enhance the local capacities, 29 community focal points were trained to conduct MRE independently in the future and to report ERW to the appropriate authorities. The overall reach and impact of safety messages was considerably increased thanks to the broadcast of 542 MRE programmes on five radio stations in a mix of local and national languages. Furthermore, 400 dangerous items were removed and destroyed. Thanks to these efforts, 3 371 people living in contaminated areas immediately benefited from safe access to cleared land.



Nationwide contamination of landmines, ERW and cluster munitions pose a daily threat to the population, particularly children

(Source: Sean Sutton/MAG)

Libya

Libya has suffered political turmoil, violence and instability since 2011. Libya's borders see the trafficking of arms, migrants and refugees, and in total the ongoing conflict has affected 2.8 million Libyans, including displacing 400 000 people. One of the worst manifestations of the conflict has been the unknown scale of contamination by landmines and ERW across the country. It is estimated that demining Libya will take years, if not decades.

In partnership with civil society organisations and national authorities, the European Union has supported Libyan efforts to create a secure environment for the reconstruction of the country. The EU, through its implementing partner DanChurchAid (DCA), launched a multi-pillar project that involved the removal of unexploded ordnance (UXO), psychosocial support, armed violence reduction and MRE. In addition, the project notably supports the strengthening of the Libyan non-governmental organisation 'Free Fields Foundation' (3F) to carry out MRE, mine survey and clearance. This project takes place at various locations, such as in the communities of Fezzan, Benghazi, Tripoli and Sirte. In the latter, DCA has deployed its own clearance teams to facilitate the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs).



ERW pose a serious threat to children, who are often curious to investigate the deadly ammunition. The European Union funds educational awareness programmes in order to reduce the number of casualties from landmines and ERW

(Source: DCA)



In Libya, highly unstable explosives lie scattered around communities, hindering access to schools, playgrounds and clinics. The EU promotes safe behaviour by children toward explosive devices

(Source: DCA)

The EU-funded Danish Demining Group (DDG) project in Libya also successfully contributed to the creation of a safer and more secure environment, which in the future would enable reconstruction in post-conflict areas. DDG supported the development of the organisational and technical capacities of 3F to conduct humanitarian mine action and armed violence reduction activities in Tripoli and Sabha independently and in a sustainable manner. The project also helped to create a safer environment for the civilian population of these two cities through a mixture of mine action interventions including MRE, Non-Technical Survey (NTS) and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). Throughout the duration of the project, DDG focused on building strong national ownership and ensuring sustainability through its capacity building activities, as well as increasing acceptance of humanitarian mine action activities at the local level by both governmental and civil institutions.

Another project included mine clearance activities in Zintan, implemented by the EU's partner MAG. This project was part of a broader strategy aiming to address complex stability and human security issues in the aftermath of the conflict. The project continued on the work completed in a previous EU project of 2012, using an armoured excavator to efficiently clear large quantities of ERW and rubble. Despite evacuation in July 2014 from Libya as a result of the deteriorating security situation, this project alone cleared over 370 998 m² of land. During the process, 6 000 dangerous items were removed and 27 EOD spot tasks were completed in response to community-driven reports. In addition to these mine clearance activities, two teams were deployed to deliver MRE, which directly benefited over 5 609 people and indirectly reached another 26 272.

Myanmar

Nine out of Myanmar's 14 states and regions are contaminated with landmines and ERW. In 2015 and 2016, 298 civilian victims of landmine/ERW accidents were reported.

UNICEF, with the support of the European Union, reached out to the most at risk: children, adolescents and other local people living in conflict-affected areas contaminated by landmines and ERW in Kachin and Shan states and six townships in the south-east of Myanmar. MRE was the major focus of the project, which targets schools and non-formal education for teenagers. It also aimed at facilitating a policy change in the education system by integrating MRE in school curriculum. The specific interventions included standards

setting, quality assurance and training of 600 teachers from 300 schools, which would lead to one or more MRE lesson to 70 000 children. UNICEF also rolled out non-formal education for adolescent boys and girls out of school through the recently developed MRE life skills module.

Kachin State, located in northern Myanmar, has suffered from ongoing conflict between the government and armed groups. As a result, many individuals have fallen victim to landmine and ERW. In addition to this, the very poor living conditions affect the daily life of the local population, especially in remote villages where malaria and diarrhoea have been difficult to treat due to the lack of basic health care.



With EU support, DDG delivered MRE to over 1 884 people in Kachin State in Myanmar

(Source: DDG)

The European Union supports several projects in Kachin State, jointly implemented by the DDG. One of these projects provides training and structured engagement with partners and other stakeholders on protection awareness and principles, protection mainstreaming and training on key frameworks.

In response to the threat posed by landmines and ERW, the DDG also delivers MRE sessions in camps and surrounding communities. Those who return to their villages of origin are the main audience for these educational programmes, as they are perceived to be at greatest risk. Emergency MRE is also provided upon request by communities and local authorities based on information received on new accidents and/or laying of new mines. Thanks to these projects, MRE was delivered to over 1 884 people in Kachin State. More recently, the Danish Refugee Council, has engaged directly in filling the gap in assistance to survivors of landmine/ERW accidents through the provision of victim assistance and by emphasising the importance of structured data collection and knowledge-sharing among partners.

Upon request from the Government of Myanmar, the European Union and the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) implemented a humanitarian mine action project entitled 'Promoting peace in the ethnic areas in Myanmar through mine action'. The project focused on establishing a Mine Action Coordination Centre in Myanmar. One of the main activities was to begin initial mapping or survey activities of potentially contaminated areas in the country. The timeline for the implementation of the project was slow due to the sensitive nature of the peace process in the country at the time. However, progress was made in the development of National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) and some initial NTS activities were implemented.



NPA staff member conducting NTS activities in Myanmar

(Source: NPA)

IV — VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Ottawa Convention, Article 6:

'Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims and for mine awareness programs.'

According to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war (ERW) still indiscriminately kill or mangle approximately 6 500 individuals every year. In fact, landmines often hit the most vulnerable members of society, thereby destroying the lives of entire families. Survivors of landmine/ERW accidents not only suffer from the physical and psychological consequences of their injuries, but can also face socio-economic exclusion and even poverty. Consequently, victim assistance comprises several dimensions: emergency healthcare, physical rehabilitation, psychological and psychosocial support, socio-economic reintegration, etc.

Victim assistance is a core component of the European Union's mine action approach. The EU is committed to strengthening the care, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of women, girls, boys and men whom have fallen victim to anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and ERW. Thanks to its support, the EU guarantees victims' rights and ensures their full reintegration and participation in all spheres of society on an equal basis to others.

In addition, the Council of the EU through its 2014 Conclusions, underlined the strong linkage between victim assistance in mine action and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which provides a wider framework to comprehensively address the needs of survivors of landmine/ERW accidents and the realisation of their political as well as social and economic rights and to ensure respect for their inherent dignity. In addition, the EU remains committed to providing concrete and sustainable assistance to survivors of landmine/ERW accidents as well as to their families and communities.

Victim assistance programmes often entail sport activities as a means to reintegrate mine victims into society.

(Source: World Vision)



Bosnia and Herzegovina

The European Union is one of the largest international donors of mine action programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 1996, the EU has funded projects with over EUR 46 million. Its financial support has covered several mine action pillars, such as victim assistance, capacity building efforts, mine clearance and mine risk education (MRE). Despite these efforts, progress in the clearance and release of contaminated areas has slowed down in recent years. The Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BH MAC) estimates that the current size of mine-suspected areas in the country is over 1 091 000 m², or 2.2% of its total area. Micro-locations contaminated with mines and ERW directly affect the safety of 545 000 inhabitants or 15% of the total population. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina still has a significant amount of aged and unstable ammunition of various types posing a high risk of uncontrolled explosions. The destruction of this unsafe ammunition and the improvement of relevant capacities and infrastructure thus represents an urgent area of intervention. In order to tackle these challenges, the European Union will continue supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina in its effort to become a country free of mines.

One of the EU projects in the domain of mine clearance and stockpile destruction is the 'Explosive ordnance and remnants of war destruction' (Explode) project. Explode was established to develop and conduct military logistics operations and to support the efforts of the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the management processes for surplus ammunition and explosive ordnances. Furthermore,

Explode aims at preventing uncontrolled explosions of old and unstable ammunition that may have far reaching consequences on the security of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The project was funded by the European Union under the Instrument for Stability (IfS) with the amount of EUR 4.6 million. Over the period of 3 years, Explode has been implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the mission of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to the country. Explode is particularly important for community-level safety and thus also for the wider socio-economic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The European Union has also supported victims of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) accidents through employment opportunities. With the aim of contributing to the socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable victims and their families into society, with EUR 1 million the EU financed a victim assistance project implemented by Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund. Altogether, the project provided 285 grants for mine victims and members of their families across the country. Various kinds of business plans were supported and different equipment was delivered, such as livestock, greenhouses, beehives with bees, fruit-processing machines, carpeting machines and barber shop equipment.



From 1996 until nowadays, 1 674 people were killed or injured by mines and unexploded ordnance in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(Source: World Vision)

Egypt

The huge presence of World War II landmines and ERW in the north-west coast of Egypt affects an estimated 2 680 square kilometers of land and has claimed 8 313 casualties (697 killed and 7 616 injured) of which 5 015 were civilians. It causes also a huge obstacle to the socio-economic development of the region.

The European Union funded a project by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) addressing the humanitarian and socio-economic impact of widespread contamination of landmines and ERW. The project has worked along three main pillars: demining, victim assistance and mine risk education (MRE). The project has already reached relevant results in those fields:

A total area of 1 096 km² has been cleared and is paving the way to the establishment of an eco-oriented city, the 'New City of Alamein' aiming for sustainable development, exploring water desalination and other renewable energy methods. This city will include touristic, residential, industrial,

business, medical and educational zones which will create over 275 000 job opportunities for an expected population of 400 000 inhabitants.

Regarding direct assistance to victims, the establishment of an artificial limbs fitting and maintenance centre in Matruh represents a significant achievement for mine victims: 64 victims were provided with prosthesis spare parts, 62 victims were fitted with new artificial limbs and 8 victims received wheel chairs. By providing easy access to mine victims, it reduces effort and expenses on their side for the smooth and periodical maintenance of artificial limbs fitting.

In addition, capacity building trainings were provided to five local non-governmental organisations. Two MRE campaigns were also organised for the benefit of more than 85 000 inhabitants, including students, teachers, opinion leaders, and community leaders, and 11 trainings were organised for trainers along the north-west coast.



The establishment of an artificial limbs fitting and maintenance centre in Matruh benefits survivors of landmine/ ERW accidents in Egypt

(Source: UNDP)

Lebanon

Lebanon's contamination by landmines, cluster munitions and ERW affects 242 000 000 m² of land, used by over 930 000 people (approximately one-fourth of the Lebanese population).

The European Union strongly supports Lebanon to deal with a high contamination level that hampers socio-economic development in many areas of the country. Since 2006,

the EU has provided over EUR 38 million for mine action in Lebanon, thus remaining the largest donor of mine action programmes in the country. The European Union cooperates with a wide range of partners to reinforce the ability of the government of Lebanon to improve the socio-economic opportunities of affected communities, to reduce the threat

posed by mines, to guarantee the rights of victims and to fulfil its international commitments.

The European Union ongoing support is provided in the following areas.

Regarding mine clearance activities, the European Union's support is implemented mainly through specialised international NGOs. As of 2017, about EUR 7.5 million are being implemented through DanChurchAid (DCA), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Handicap International and Mines Advisory Group (MAG). NPA and the MAG operate in south Lebanon on cluster munitions clearance, while DCA and Handicap International work on mine clearance in the north and centre of the country. Teams are undertaking clearance in affected communities in southern Lebanon, tasked by the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC). Manual clearance is supported by a mechanical capacity to increase operational efficiency. A community liaison team collects reports of dangerous items and raises awareness of the dangers of contaminated areas.

UNDP Lebanon has been supporting the Lebanon mine action programme since 2001, thus contributing to the accelerated capacity building of the LMAC. The success of this cooperation has, over the years, led to the establishment of a solid partnership between the EU, UNDP and the LMAC. The latest phase of the EU-funded cooperation (2016-2019) intends to empower and enable the LMAC to sustainably manage and address the humanitarian and development impact posed by mines and cluster munitions, without the need for further support from the international community.

Also, 71 % of land contaminated with cluster bombs and 49 % of minefields in Lebanon were cleared by the end of 2016. In addition, UNDP jointly with its partner, the Lebanese University of Balamand, assisted Lebanese authorities in coordinating all MRE activities. Regarding victim assistance, the EU funded 82 % of the income-generating programme for mine victims in 2015 alone, benefiting over 150 persons. Amongst these, 27 also received small grants to start additional income-generating activities (for example beekeeping, poultry production and planting trees). Furthermore, 39 survivors benefited from prosthetic services. Finally, UNDP supported the consolidation of the LMAC human capital on mine action, allowing it to handle more effectively the management of the Arab regional cooperation programme and to support Lebanon's fulfilment of its international obligations in accordance with the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In addition, the European Union has allocated further funds to the LMAC in support of its capacity enhancement efforts. This support amounts to over EUR 2 million for the 2016-2019 period, implemented by UNDP. The main objective is to support the LMAC in the effective implementation of the Lebanon mine action strategy. Assistance is mainly provided in the areas of strategy and policy planning, of Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), of a regional mine action centre communication room in Nabatieh, of inter-agency and regional coordination, of revision of the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) and of the establishment of the Regional School for Humanitarian Mine Action (RSHMA).



Students gathering in Zahlé during the International Mine Awareness Day in 2017

(Source: UNDP)

V — CAPACITY BUILDING

Maputo Action Plan, Action 21 (2014):

'States Parties in a position to provide assistance and those seeking to receive assistance, where relevant and to the extent possible, will enter into partnerships for completion, with partners specifying their responsibilities to each other, articulating age- and gender-sensitive time-bound objectives and targets, making financial or other commitments, if possible on a multi-year basis, and engaging regularly in a dialogue on progress and challenges in meeting goals.'

National ownership is an important prerequisite for effective independent and sustainable mine action. A comprehensive, up-to-date and broadly supported national mine action plan or strategy, developed by the government of a mine-affected country in dialogue with donors, civil society and implementing agencies will help coordinate mine action efforts and maximise the impact of mine action. However, strengthening national capacities takes a lot of know-how and expertise, and here donors can also play an important supporting role. By structurally partnering with donors and the United Nations, an affected country can increase its capacity for national ownership, develop or upgrade its national mine action strategy and approach other donors and operators independently.



Thanks to EU support, UNMAS is enhancing the technical and strategic capacity of the DAICMA. DAICMA is providing substantial support to the socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants through humanitarian demining activities, as stipulated in the 2016 Colombian peace accord.

(Source: UNMAS)

Humanitarian mine action in Colombia is contributing to the socio-economic regeneration of local communities

(Source: HALO Trust)



Colombia

Decades of violence killed over 220 000 people and forced seven million Colombians from their homes. In March 2015, as part of the peace agreement, the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) endorsed an 'Agreement on the Cleaning and Decontamination of the Territory of the Presence of Antipersonnel Mines, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), or Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in General'.

In support of the negotiations between the government of Colombia and the FARC, the European Union funded with EUR 4 million a pilot project on mine clearance which aimed at deescalating the conflict and building trust between the parties. The collaborative work of the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the two negotiating parties and the Colombian National Mine Action Authority (DAICMA) led to the clearance of two of the most heavily mined areas in Colombia: the villages of El Orejón (municipality of Briceño, Department of Antioquia) and Santa Helena (municipality of Mesetas, Department of Meta). By December 2016, a total of 40 723 m² had been demined in these villages. During the process, eight contaminated areas were identified and 67 mines were destroyed.

To support Colombia's own mine action capacities, the EU has allocated EUR 1.8 million to an United Nations Mine

UNMAS-led project which has two main objectives: enhancing the technical and strategic capacity of the DAICMA, and strengthening the capacity of the civilian humanitarian demining sector. To accomplish the first objective, a UNMAS team of national advisors has been embedded within the DAICMA to enhance its capacities in areas including strategic planning, strategic communication and victim assistance. In addition, the DAICMA is providing substantial support to the socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants through humanitarian demining activities, as stipulated in the 2016 peace accord. To accomplish the second objective, an UNMAS-managed grant has been awarded to the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCCM) for mine clearance operations in one of the most highly impacted municipalities. Capacity development activities are implemented in Bogota and at the regional level as required, to the benefit of all mine impacted communities across Colombia. Demining teams funded under the second objective are operational in the municipality of Algeciras, in the Department of Huila.

By funding both demining and capacity building activities, the EU supports the Colombian government and society in delivering its post-conflict response strategy. This project represents a critical investment for the development of the Colombian mine action sector. Another EU-funded capacity building project implemented by UNMAS provided training in



Through UNMAS, the EU supports the capacity development efforts of the DAICMA

(Source: UNMAS)

humanitarian demining expertise and operational capacity to support the release and restitution of land to the benefit of conflict victims and vulnerable communities. Technical assistance was provided to national mine action authorities (specifically the DAICMA), humanitarian demining operators and the Organisation of American States (OAS), which holds delegated responsibility for external quality management of humanitarian demining by the government.

Major progress was made in the establishment of a regulatory and operational framework for humanitarian demining in compliance with internationally accepted standards and norms. Stakeholders reviewed national standards and agreed on the need for their improvement, while the OAS quality management mechanism was strengthened. Demining operators were supported in developing their Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), improving the effectiveness of the Colombian army's humanitarian demining operations and allowing HALO Trust to become the first civilian organisation to gain accreditation. HALO Trust then deployed four Non-Technical Survey (NTS) teams to five municipalities in Antioquia, in which 205 communities were surveyed and 40 confirmed minefields

and 26 suspected minefields (totalling 209 871 m²) were identified.

The EU has also funded HALO Trust's humanitarian mine action in Colombia over several years, contributing to socio-economic regeneration and support to local communities. Under the current project, mine action is being carried out in six municipalities across three regions (Antioquia, Cauca and Meta).

HALO Trust deploys mixed-gender survey teams across its areas of operations, allowing the collection of a wide range of community information which serves to inform the national planning and prioritisation of mine clearance in Colombia. Currently more than 30% of HALO Trust's Colombian staff are women, including many single mothers - heads of families. Some of the clearance teams also include former FARC rebels.

As of May 2017, EU-funded survey teams have interviewed over 400 people from local communities in order to gather information, leading to the identification of 12 minefields. With funding from the EU, demining teams have cleared 33 812 m² of hazardous land, safely destroying 26 anti-personnel mines. This project will continue in 2018 to make dangerous land safe, intending to benefit over 1 200 local people.

Global

The European Union's Council Decision of 13 November 2012 (2012/700/CFSP) aimed to enhance the pursuit of the aims of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention by supporting the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014, in particular by:

- Promoting the universalisation of the Convention and its norms,
- Supporting efforts of States Parties to the Convention to implement the victim assistance aspects of the Convention,
- Supporting efforts of States Parties to the Convention to implement the stockpile destruction aspects of the Maputo Action Plan,
- Implementing the mine clearance aspects of the Maputo Action Plan,
- Demonstrating the ongoing commitment of the EU and its Member States to the Convention and by communicating widely about the Convention.

The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention was entrusted to serve as the technical implementer for this Council Decision. In taking on this role, the ISU has been committed to implement the Council Decision in such a way that efforts reinforce the Convention's historic culture

of partnership and collaboration between States, non-governmental and other organisations, particularly by working closely with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and others.



Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium and HRH Prince Mired of Jordan at the High Level Segment of the Maputo Review Conference.

(Source: Ottawa Convention ISU)



Juan Carlos Ruan, Director from the Implementation Support Unit of the Ottawa Convention, and Jacek Bylica, EEAS Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-proliferation, at the launch of the new EU Council Decision in support of the Convention in December 2017 in Vienna.

(Source: Ottawa Convention ISU)

The Council Decision has provided resources to enable the ISU to support Angola, Colombia the Democratic Republic of Congo, Peru and Tajikistan in carrying out a comprehensive national mid-term appraisal of their efforts to implement the mine clearance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan.

The Council Decision has also provided resources to the ISU to support Ethiopia, Peru and Tajikistan in taking stock of the fulfilment of their victim assistance commitments under the Cartagena Action Plan. The ISU has placed a priority on States Parties that have established a national disability plan or are on the process of doing so and therefore would have some implementation history to assess. In addition, the ISU has sought to assist States Parties in complying with their Cartagena Action Plan understanding that victim assistance should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks related to disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty-reduction, while placing particular emphasis on ensuring that mine victims have access to specialised services when needed and can access on an equal basis services available to the wider population.

The Council Decision also provided resources to the ISU to support the organisation of a global conference on assistance to the victims of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. On 3–4 April 2014, the ISU joined forces with Colombia in organising the conference "Bridges between Worlds" in Medellin (Colombia). This conference was held



Victim Assistance Workshop in Peru

(source: Ottawa Convention ISU)

further to the States Parties' understanding, as expressed in the Cartagena Action Plan, that victim assistance should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks, including those related to the rights of persons with disabilities.

Finally the Council Decision provided support for a High Level Task Force on the universalisation of the Convention to be supported by the ISU, including support for high-level personalities to engage with the leaders of up to six States not party to the Convention at ministerial or a higher level regarding adherence to the Convention and to participate in other events in an attempt to draw attention to ongoing efforts to universalise and implement the Convention.

VI — RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Ottawa Convention, Article 11:

'The States Parties shall meet regularly in order to consider any matter with regard to the application or implementation of this Convention, including [...] the development of technologies to clear anti-personnel mines'

Despite the enormous efforts of the international community, landmines and ERW still represent a severe threat in many regions of the world. New technologies in demining have the potential to accelerate mine clearance and thus to make the world a safer place. As a result, the European Union spent EUR 24.5 million through the FP7⁽²⁾ Security Research Theme, on research and development between 2012 and 2016 in an attempt to facilitate and accelerate mine action efforts.

The following projects give an example of the European Union's support to various research and development programmes related to mine action.

D-BOX

The D-BOX (demining toolbox) project provides demining stakeholders with innovative, "easy to use" and low cost solutions interfaced and/or integrated in a comprehensive toolbox. This 'smart' toolbox could be used during all demining activities (from the preparation of the mission until the elimination of the mines as well as the external communication to the general public and donors) to help operators and end users choose the most suitable answer for optimal planning and preparation to low cost, safe and 'easy to use' tools for specific tasks during the different steps of the

demining activities and adapted to different scenarios and conditions.

Starting by an assessment of the state of the art on related on going activities and scenarios, the requirements for different tools and toolboxes were conducted with a strong involvement of end users.

The results of the project can be found on:
<https://d-boxproject.eu>.

⁽²⁾ FP7 stands for Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development

Tiramisu

The Tiramisu (Toolbox Implementation for Removal of Anti-personnel Mines, Sub-munitions and UXO) project aimed at providing a toolbox that covers the main mine action activities, from the survey of large areas to the actual disposal of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO).

The Tiramisu partners have used their past experiences on this topic in dialogue with mine action centres and mine action authorities and private and non-governmental mine action operators to design and develop a toolbox that represents a step forward in mine action by being the basis for a unifying, comprehensive and modular integrated solution to the clearing of large areas from UXO. The philosophy of the Tiramisu project was to concentrate most of its efforts not on already existing technology, but on the most developed technologies and methods that are still to be fielded, as well as on promising and innovating solutions, even if they may require more work to be fielded.

The results of the project can be found on <http://www.fp7-tiramisu.eu/>



The Tiramisu project will provide the mine action community with a toolbox to assist in humanitarian demining activities

(Source: courtesy of Tiramisu)

ANNEX I —

Glossary of selected acronyms and abbreviations used in the text

BH MAC	Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre	IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
CCCM	Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas)	ISU	Implementation Support Unit
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy	LMAC	Lebanese Mine Action Centre
CNIDAH	National Intersectorial Commission for Humanitarian Demining and Assistance (Angola)	MAG	Mines Advisory Group
Cromac	Croatian Mine Action Centre	MRE	mine risk education
DAICMA	Colombian Mine Action Authority (Dirección para la Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal)	NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
DCA	DanChurchAid	NMAS	National Mine Action Standards
DDG	Danish Demining Group	NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	NSPA	NATO Support and Procurement Agency
D-BOX	demining toolbox	NTS	Non-Technical Survey
EOD	explosive ordnance disposal	OAS	Organisation of American States
ERW	explosive remnants of war	OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
EU	European Union	Ottawa Convention	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction
Explode project	explosive ordnance and remnants of war destruction	RSHMA	Regional School for Humanitarian Mine Action
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
FP7	Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development	SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining	Tiramisu	toolbox implementation for removal of anti-personnel mines, submunitions and UXO
ICBL	International Campaign to Ban Landmines	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IcSP	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IDP	internally displaced person	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
IED	improvised explosive device	UXO	unexploded ordnance
IFS	Instrument for Stability	UXO Lao	Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards	3F	Free Fields Foundation

ANNEX II — European Union's financial contributions to mine action activities across the world

Table 1 European financial instruments and programmes involved in mine action

Instruments for actions inside the EU

EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013
Interreg Transition Facility	European Territorial Cooperation	Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013

Instruments for actions in third countries

CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy	
DCI	Development Cooperation Instrument	Regulation (EU) No 233/2014
EDF	European Development Fund	11th EDF Financial Regulation: Council Regulation (EU) 2015/323 10th EDF Financial Regulation: Council Regulation (EC) No 215/2008
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights	Regulation (EU) No 235/2014
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument	Regulation (EU) No 232/2014
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument	Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006
IFS	Instrument for Stability	Regulation (EC) No 1717/2006
IcSP	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace	Regulation (EU) No 230/2014
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance	Regulation (EU) No 231/2014

Table 3 European Union's financial contributions per recipient country 2012-2016 (in EUR)

EU Funding entity	Year of commitment					Total 2012-2016
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Afghanistan	1,087,500					1,087,500
DCI	1,087,500					1,087,500
Angola			18,877,915		1,616,793	20,494,708
EDF			18,877,915		1,616,793	20,494,708
CFSP		See global				
Bosnia and Herzegovina	22,500	10,008,314	767,000			10,797,814
IPA	22,500	6,108,314				6,130,814
IFS/lcSP		3,900,000	767,000			4,667,000
Central African Republic				390,000		390,000
Humanitarian aid				390,000		390,000
Chad	2,472,173	9,870	5,187,705		6,593	7,676,341
EDF		9,870	5,153,224		6,593	5,169,687
IFS/lcSP	2,472,173		34,481			2,506,654
Colombia	8,861,927	1,818,960	2,095,667	4,010,000	4,500,000	21,286,554
DCI	8,851,000	825,303	2,029,534	10,000		11,715,837
Humanitarian aid	10,927	13,657	66,133			95,163
IFS/lcSP		980,000		4,000,000	4,500,000	9,480,000
CFSP		See Global				
Croatia	30,442,733	1,169,000	7,097,761		45,778,682	84,488,176
IPA	30,442,733	1,169,000	7,097,761		5,043,000	19,889,747
EAFRD					34,946,500	34,946,500
Interreg					1,789,182	1,789,182
Transition Facility					4,000,000	4,000,000
DRC	342,738					342,738
Humanitarian aid	342,738					342,738
CFSP		See Global				
Ethiopia						
CFSP		See Global				
Egypt			4,705,000			4,705,000
ENPI/ENI			4,705,000			4,705,000
Global	15,964,745	6,898,086		50,000		22,912,831
CFSP	1,030,000					1,030,000
FP7	14,934,745	6,898,086		50,000		21,882,831
Guinea		492,352	500,000			992,352
IFS/lcSP		492,352	500,000			992,352
Guinea (Conakry)			492,351			492,351
IFS/lcSP			492,351			492,351

EU Funding entity	Year of commitment					Total 2012-2016
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
India	61,597		97,758			159,355
Humanitarian aid	61,597		97,759			159,355
Iraq			101,535	6,289,866	1,675,000	8,066,401
DCI			101,535			101,535
Humanitarian aid					1,675,000	1,675,000
IFS/IcSP				6,289,866		6,289,866
Laos	4,000,600		818,211	29,120	2,400,000	7,247,931
DCI	4,000,600		818,211	29,120	2,400,000	7,247,931
Lebanon	1,919,956	10,185,061	101,419	1,887,500	8,072,488	22,166,424
Humanitarian aid			83,419			83,419
ENPI/ENI	1,919,956	10,185,061	18,000	1,887,500	8,072,488	22,083,005
Libya	5,043,208	1,023,981		4,265,150	3,032,426	13,364,765
IFS/IcSP	5,043,208	1,023,981		4,265,150	3,032,426	13,364,765
Mali		850,000				850,000
Humanitarian aid		850,000				850,000
Mozambique			194,252			194,252
EDF			194,252			194,252
Myanmar	3,500,000	2,801,862	22,205		546,649	6,938,044
Humanitarian aid		346,851	22,205		546,649	915,705
IFS/IcSP	3,500,000	2,522,339				6,022,339
Niger	815,000					815,000
IFS/IcSP	815,000					815,000
Occupied Palestine Territory			800,000			800,000
IFS/IcSP			800,000			800,000
Peru						
CFSP		See Global				
Philippines	552,098	868,084		1,350,000		2,770,182
IFS/IcSP	552,098	868,084		1,350,000		2,770,182
Senegal	4,000,000					4,000,000
EDF	4,000,000					4,000,000
Serbia			900,000			900,000
IPA			900,000			900,000
Somalia	24,700,000					24,700,000
IFS/IcSP	24,700,000					24,700,000
South Sudan		1,500,000				1,500,000
Humanitarian aid		1,500,000				1,500,000
Sri Lanka	420,000					420,000
Humanitarian aid	420,000					420,000
Syria			75,396	1,375,469		1,450,865
Humanitarian aid			75,396	1,375,469		1,450,865

EU Funding entity	Year of commitment					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total 2012-2016
Tajikistan						
CFSP		See Global				
Turkey		102,934	19,800,000			19,902,934
IPA			19,800,000			19,800,000
EIDHR		102,934				
Ukraine			1,800,000	1,579,356	2,978,156	6,357,512
IfS/IcSP				1,579,356	2,978,156	4,557,512
ENPI/ENI			1,800,000			1,800,000
Grand Total	104,206,775	37,795,832	64,434,175	21,226,461	70,606,787	298,270,030

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE EU

In person

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct Information Centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: <http://europa.eu/contact>

On the phone or by e-mail

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696 or
- by electronic mail via: <http://europa.eu/contact>

FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE EU

Online

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website at: <http://europa.eu>

EU Publications

You can download or order free and priced EU publications from EU Bookshop at: <http://bookshop.europa.eu>. Multiple copies of free publications may be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local information centre (see <http://europa.eu/contact>)

EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1951 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

Open data from the EU

The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, both for commercial and non-commercial purposes.



*DCA female deminer
conducting mine
clearance activities in
Lebanon*

How to contact the EU on mine action:

Contact abroad:

The first point of contact is the EU Delegation in a mine affected country.
The coordinates of delegations can be found on
https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/area/geo_en

Contact in Brussels:

- ▶ **Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI)**
Responsible for IcSP
FPI2 – Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace
Tel.: +32 2 2987018
- ▶ **Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)**
Responsible for ENI, IPA
Unit B2 – Crisis reaction / Security Sector Reform
E-mail: NEAR-crisis-security@ec.europa.eu
- ▶ **Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)**
Responsible for EDF, DCI
Unit B2 – Fragility and Resilience
Tel.: +32 2 295 93 21/63 30
- ▶ **Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)**
Responsible for Humanitarian aid
Unit B.1 – Policy Development and Regional Strategy
IL-86 03/18-B-1049 Brussels/Belgium
E-mail: ECHO-B1-SECRETARIAT@ec.europa.eu
- ▶ **European External Action Service (EEAS)**
Responsible for CFSP
Division SECPOL.1 – Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Export Control
E-mail: NonProliferation-Disarm@eeas.europa.eu

