

Coordination Support to Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) Actors

The project provides information management and coordination support to HMA stakeholders within North East Syria (NES) to improve coordination and increase capacity building.

Background

The conflict in Syria has not only led to a major refugee and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) crisis, but has also seen the prolific use of cluster munitions, chemical weapons, anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), with the death toll estimated by the Syrian Centre for Policy Research in February 2016 at 470,000 deaths and 1.9 million people wounded. This equates to approximately 11.5% of the entire Syrian population..

According to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), it is estimated that 6.3 million people are currently living in areas, which have been affected by incidents involving explosive hazards and, in 88% of the sub-districts surveyed, explosive hazards are deemed to be a major protection concern by the local population. Rural areas, alongside the urban areas, are also vulnerable to landmine-related incidents and the elevated threat posed by the presence of IEDs.

UNMAS is the lead of the Mine Action Sub Cluster for the Whole of Syria and has active coordination hubs in Gaziantep and Amman. While UNMAS is engaging directly to increase dialogue between Humanitarian and stabilization actors for the North East Syria response, there is an increasing requirement for on-the-ground support for HMA coordination in North East Syria.

The HMA project provides an independent and impartial central communication point for the Mine Action Sub-Cluster (MASC) members acting on the ground, while working under the mandate of the MASC. Moreover, the HMA project provides information management (IM) support through capacity building and by providing direct support to collecting, analyzing, and reporting on mine action data. In addition to improving the HMA common operating picture in Syria through continued technical support of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and humanitarian access and risk mitigation (HARM) software, the project aims at increasing the effectiveness of HMA activities in the region to improve coordination between all HMA stakeholders amongst NGOs, national authorities and international agencies.

Project Deliverables



Coordination Support

iMMAP facilitates regular meetings of the MASC, acts as the sub-cluster representative, coordinates HMA actors, and promotes HMA standards in North East Syria.



Information Management Support

Training:

Provides training in both North-East Syria and Erbil to sub-cluster members.

Technical Support:

Provides technical information management support to the MASC in mobile data collection, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and reporting and data visualization. iMMAP also supports change management in organizations needing assistance to adapt their systems, tools, and staff appropriately to accommodate information management standards.

Integration Support:

Supports the integration of risk education with other sectors, as well as data collection into other sectoral surveys and databases. These resources include casualty and hazard reporting, and integration with other databases when needed.

Analysis:

Conducts analysis of contamination, planned clearance activities, partner capacity mapping, and other analysis on a regular basis to provide key information to the MASC lead at the Whole of Syria level and to HMA NGOs through the North-East Syria NGO forum. iMMAP supports the dissemination of products and maps to partner NGOs.

Partners

UNMAS:

UNMAS Syria Response established the Mine Action Sub Cluster (MASC) under the framework of Whole of Syria (WoS) in late 2015. As a result, mine action is fully integrated into the humanitarian response, recognised by relevant stakeholders, and has become an essential part of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Syria. Establishing mine action as an integral part of the humanitarian emergency response in Syria is essential to ensuring that the threat of explosive hazards is mitigated and that the sector positively contributes to peace sustainment efforts.

MASC:

With 27 active members, the MASC's activities include surveys, risk education, clearance and victim assistance.



Better DATA

Improve data quality, collection and timeliness to stimulate sharing and coordination



Better DECISIONS

Analyze and visualize data to support better decision making



Better OUTCOMES

Maximize program outcomes and make a difference

iMMAP's services have facilitated informed and effective disaster risk management, emergency response, and development activities by enabling evidence-based decision-making for cluster/sector leads, critical NGO, and government operations. iMMAP's goal is to alleviate the suffering of victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts by providing the humanitarian community with a decision-making service through the provision of recent, reliable and appropriate geographical and strategic information.

¹ <http://www.mineaction.org/programmes/syria>