

**COUNTRY
PEACEBUILDING FUND
PROJECT STATUS REPORT
30 JUNE 2011**

UNICEF SUPPORT TO MINE ACTION

Project No & Title:	PBF/IRF-14 (MDTF Programme: 00073919)			
Recipient UN Organization :	UNICEF	Priority Sector:	Mine Action	
National Authority:	Ministry of Economic Development (formerly Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure Development), Handicap International, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Services			
Location:	Colombo, Northern Province and Eastern Province of Sri Lanka			
Project Cost:	\$3,000,000 (UNICEF: \$2,000,000 & UNDP: \$1,000,000)			
SC Approval Date:	Starting Date:	21.01.2010	Completion Date:	24.07.2011
PBF Outcome and Priority area	<p>Priority 1: Peace dividends generate general confidence in the peace building process</p> <p>Indicator (2): % of IDPs and refugees returned and resettled in the North and East</p> <p>Immediate Objective: Key actors involved in the peace building process at national and local level are politically and institutionally able to mitigate risks of lapse or relapse into conflict</p> <p>Indicator (1): Evidence of positive change of public confidence and trust in state authorities in their commitments to reinforce security</p> <p>Programme Result 1 (PMP): Security sector reforms and judiciary systems put in place and providing services and goods at national and local level that reinforce the Rule of Law</p> <p>Indicator 1.1 (SSR): National armed forces perform their duties in conflict affected areas addressing security concerns of the target populations</p>			
Project Description:	<p>The key objectives of the project are to provide affected communities in landmine/Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) risk areas with the appropriate knowledge to protect themselves from the dangers of these devices, and to support quality rehabilitative services for survivors and other persons with disabilities. The project also aims to advocate with the Government of Sri Lanka to accede to the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention and related legal instruments, and with Non-State Armed Groups to stop using victim-activated devices.</p> <p>The UNICEF-assisted mine action programme was implemented through government entities including the Ministry of Education (MoE), local and international NGOs, and in close collaboration with other key stakeholders not directly funded under this programme, such as UNDP and all demining operators. In 2010/11, UNICEF expanded the Mine Risk Education (MRE) campaign by</p>			

	<p>more than doubling the number of NGO MRE facilitators and training 108 army staff of the Humanitarian Demining Unit (HDU), under the line Ministry of Economic Development, competent for mine action. New NGO partners were also identified and trained, and media-based MRE campaigns were conducted from July to September 2010. In addition, during this period, new MRE posters were developed and broadly disseminated.</p>
Immediate Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and adults in conflict affected areas show improved mine-safe behavior to protect themselves from the risks of landmines and ERW. • War-injured and war-disabled persons are identified, their needs assessed and referred to available services if needed. • Peace dividends generate general confidence in the peace building process.
Project Status as at June, 2011	
Funds disbursed:	LKR 1,862,687.06
Delivery rate:	99.62% of programmable amount
Outputs delivered:	<p>As of end June 2011 the following outputs were achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15,275 MRE activities were carried out in eight districts namely Jaffna, Batticaloa, Ampara, Vavuniya, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, and Trincomalee. • 124,612 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials have been distributed so far; this does not include materials developed for the emergency mass media campaign held in January 2010 and from July to September 2010. • 396 locations (villages/IDP locations) have been reached since the beginning of the Mine Action programme. • 91 schools in the eastern province and 198 schools in the northern province reported school based MRE. Approximately 83,200 children benefitted from MRE corners established to increase the knowledge and skills of students on Mine risk behavior • 36 Landmine & ERW safety briefings were conducted for humanitarian workers, Government officials, and (I)NGOs involving 1,142 participants. • To date the following trainings and key workshops have been conducted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - two national Technical Working Groups on MRE, Victim Assistance and Advocacy have been held in March and August 2010. - 33 police officers received a Training of Trainers (ToTs) in MRE in August 2010. - six ToTs have been conducted on MRE in the Education Sector. - one advance training on MRE Standard Operational Procedures was conducted for 15 senior managers from MRE agencies in December 2010. - 23 ToTs and refresher trainings on MRE were conducted for 783 staff /MRE volunteers and teachers from Mannar Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 54 HDU members of the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) participated in a MRE ToT in January 2011. • 324 monitoring visits were conducted by UNICEF and partners including review meetings with partners.
<p>Achievements and challenges</p>	<p><u>Output delivery:</u></p> <p>1. Provision of mine risk education for conflict affected communities</p> <p>A total of 675,526 people were reached by MRE and community liaison: Men- 159,749 Women - 173,242 Boys - 169,343 Girls - 173,192</p> <p>2. Provision of access to services for war-injured and war-disabled children and women</p> <p>Since July 2010, around 3,112 people with disabilities, including 1,403 women and children, benefitted from physical rehabilitation services such as mobility and assistive devices and Prosthetic and Orthotic devices.</p> <p><u>Outcome achievements</u> (with reference to programme results and indicator of PMP):</p> <p>1. Communities affected by conflict are protected including internally displaced persons and refugees</p> <p>As of June 2011, 363,131 IDPs (97%) have returned and resettled in the North and East either to their places of origin, with host families or in transit situations. 12,077 people are remaining in the IDP camps in Vavuniya and Jaffna. (Update by UNOCHA)</p> <p>27 incidents with 47 civilian victims from victim-activated landmines and explosive remnants of war were recorded during 2010 compared to 19 incidents with 29 casualties in 2009, representing a 47% increase. However, this total is fairly low taking into account that exposure to the threat had increased with people resettling into areas affected by mines/ERW.</p> <p>This low mine/ERW incident rate can be attributed to extensive MRE conducted benefitting 675,526 community members including internally displaced persons and refugees since January 2010.</p> <p>11 incidents with 15 casualties from victim-activated landmines and explosive remnants of war were recorded from 1 January to 30 June 2011.</p> <p>2. Children and adults in conflict affected areas show improved mine safe behaviour to protect themselves from the risk of land mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)</p> <p>1,465 explosive devices and suspected dangerous areas were reported by</p>

communities and the NGO network as of 30 June 2011. This increase in reporting from previous years is evidence that children and adults show improved mine safe behavior.

3. War injured and war disabled persons are identified, their needs assessed, and referred to available services

All 816 war-injured and disabled persons identified by MRE NGO partners were referred to available physical rehabilitation services and support mechanisms.

4. Peace dividends generate general confidence in the peace building process.

MRE supports social peace, which essentially includes trust building, increased community participation, and building of cross community networks and civil military relations. Since the beginning of the return and resettlement process in Sri Lanka, the safety of the displaced population returning home has been on top of the agenda. In addition to security, the government of Sri Lanka has shown real interest in engaging communities in MRE as a way to build trust between them and government services. This opportunity provided a unique chance to create a feeling of confidence and security; it constitutes a single but important starting point for reconciliation among communities in a country deeply affected by the long-standing conflict. Towards the end of 2009, when the resettlement process to the North was initiated and accelerated, UNICEF supported additional community based MRE teams by partnering with national NGOs, HDU/SLA and by supporting the MoE, and in particular the Provincial Director of Education – Northern Province, in conducting school based MRE. This remains essential as the return pattern shows that people are being resettled in areas surrounded by heavily contaminated land.

The involvement of HDU/SLA in Community Mine Risk Education together with MRE NGO partners provided an opportunity to build confidence and trust with community members. 637 explosive devices were reported by the community during the reporting period and majority of the devices were disposed of by the SLA/HDU.

Challenges

As a result of continuous Mine Risk Education, the general level of understanding on the threat of mine/explosive remnants of war is high. However, as many communities live close to infested or not yet fully surveyed areas Mine Risk Education continues to be critical in reducing the threat. In addition, people from the Southern Province have started visiting the North and East and need to learn how to adopt mine safe behavior.

UNICEF expanded the MRE capacity in 2011, especially in Mullaitivu district, to accommodate the safe resettlement in Pattikudiyiruppu Division. This area is highly contaminated with Mine/ERW and around 390 suspicious devices were reported by community members within a two week period.

Authorization procedures for NGOs operating in the Northern Province have caused disruptions and delays. As of end October 2010 this problem was resolved. But still authorization for MRE agencies is given only for 1 to 2 months after which these agencies need to reapply. This has caused some delays in

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UNDP SUPPORT TO MINE ACTION

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National Authority:	Ministry of Economic Development (formerly Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure Development), Handicap International, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Services			
Location:	Colombo, Northern Province and Eastern Province of Sri Lanka			
Project Cost:	\$3,000,000 (UNICEF: \$2,000,000 & UNDP: \$1,000,000)			
SC Approval Date:	Starting Date:	21.01.2010	Completion Date:	24.07.2011
PBF Outcome and Priority area	<p>PBF Priority 1: Peace dividends generate general confidence in the peace building process</p> <p>Indicator (2): % of IDPs and refugees returned and resettled in the North and East</p> <p>PBF Outcome: Mine action facilitated the safe and socio economic recovery of IDPs, thereby strengthening the peace dividends in the community</p> <p>Immediate Objective: Key actors involved in the peace building process at national and local level are politically and institutionally able to mitigate risks of lapse or relapse into conflict</p> <p>Indicator (1): Evidence of positive change of public confidence and trust in state authorities in their commitments to reinforce security</p> <p>Programme Result 1 (PMP): Security sector reforms and judiciary systems put in place and providing services and goods at national and local level that reinforce the Rule of Law</p> <p>Indicator 1.1 (SSR): National armed forces perform their duties in conflict affected areas addressing security concerns of the target populations</p>			
Project Description:	<p>The aim main of the umbrella UNDP support to Mine Action Project has been to support the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) to coordinate and manage mine action, including mine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) clearance. On behalf of the Government Agents (GAs), the Regional Mine Action Offices (RMAOs- previously known as the District Mine Action Offices- DMAOs) located in Jaffna and Vavuniya districts and sub-offices in Killinochchi, Mullaithivu and Mannar districts assist in preparing clearance and survey task dossiers, liaise with the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) regional command to obtain security authorization for the proposed tasks and carry out Quality Management (QM) of humanitarian de-mining. The RMAOs manage and update the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)</p>			

	<p>databases for their respective Areas of Responsibility. The RMAOs also collaborate with the administrative structures at local levels conducting Post Clearance Impact Assessments (PCIAAs).</p> <p>In order to meet the accelerated demands for demining in the North, the UNDP Support to Mine Action Project has focused upon significantly strengthening its human resource, operational and technical capacities to meet immediate, rapidly expanding and time sensitive mine action demands, particularly with respect to providing the necessary coordination and quality management support for mine clearance activities in the North. The Project has aimed to strengthen its staffing and operational capacities in the RMAOs and sub-offices. The Projects has increased its technical capacities by recruiting International Technical Advisors (ITA) to provide assistance and guidance to the National Steering Committee on Mine Action (NSCMA), the RMAOs and the demining organizations, and contribute to ensuring that humanitarian mine action in Sri Lanka is implemented in conformity with Sri Lanka's National Mine Action Standards (SLNMMAS). Where possible, the UNDP Support Project has sought to strengthen the capacities of its staff to be sensitive to the differential impacts of landmines on men, women, girls and boys and ensure a strong gender sensitive orientation to its support to mine action activities, particularly with respect to the prioritization of clearance of tasks and release of land.</p>
Immediate Objectives:	<p>UNDP: Support the Government of Sri Lanka to create a mine-free Sri Lanka through capacity development and support to coordination and field operations.</p>
Project Status as at June, 2011	
Funds disbursed:	USD 945,118.87
Delivery rate:	94.55% of programmable amount
Outputs delivered:	<p>As of end June 2011 the following outputs were achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sinhala language translation of the 17 Sri Lanka National Mine Action Standards (SLNMMAS) completed. The Tamil language translation due to be completed by the end of the third quarter. • SLNMMAS 4.50 and 6 were drafted and circulated amongst the mine action stakeholders for comments. • UNICEF consultant was in country and had consultations with the NMAC Director regarding the Victim Assistance Surveillance System. • The officially endorsed Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy has been distributed to government and nongovernmental stakeholders throughout the mine action sector in Sri Lanka. • The Mine Action Officer of the Jaffna Regional Mine Action Office participated at the Senior Managers' course in ERW & Mine Action 2011 at the James Madison University Harrisonburg, Virginia. • Procurement of 2 vehicles for the RMAOs.

Achievements and challenges	<p><u>Outcome achievements</u> (with reference to programme results and indicator of PMP):</p> <p>1. Mine action facilitated the safe and socio economic recovery of IDPs, thereby strengthening the peace dividends in the community</p> <p>As of June 2011, 363,131 IDPs (97%) have returned and resettled in the North and East either to their places of origin, with host families or in transit situations. 12,077 people are remaining in the IDP camps in Vavuniya and Jaffna. (Update by UNOCHA)</p> <p>During the reporting quarter a total of 5.4 km² of Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA) was cleared through mine field clearance. Of the 300 km² of CHA recorded as of January 1, 2010, a cumulative total of 28.7 km², accounting for 9.56% of the total Confirmed Hazardous Area, has been cleared through minefield clearance as at the end of the reporting period</p> <p>a) Government institutions are better able to manage, coordinate and quality assure mine action in Sri Lanka</p> <p>A new staffing structure for the RMAOs and NMAC that is in line with the needs of the mine action sector in Sri Lanka and with the funding capabilities is in the process of being developed. As such, recruitment of additional staff has been temporarily suspended both at the NMAC and RMAOs. Though this comprehensive assessment was scheduled to be completed before the end of quarter two, owing to a number of reasons, including the limited availability of opportunity to have broad sector consultations with stakeholders at the national and local levels (including with the RMAOs) the overall process has been delayed. As such it is estimated that the comprehensive assessment will be completed by the end of quarter three.</p> <p>The translation of the SLNMAS highlighted the need for developing appropriate mine action terminology in the Sinhala and Tamil languages, as outlined in the Glossary in SLNMAS #1, since such terminology does not currently exist. As the Sinhala language were completed by the translator, Sinhala speaking technical experts were hired at the recommendation of the NMAC to review the work of the translators and to develop such appropriate terminology in consultation with other mine action stakeholders and the NMAC. The same process would be adopted upon the completion of the Tamil language translation.</p> <p>It was decided that a consultant be hired for a period of three months to develop a Victim Assistance Strategy of which the Victim Assistance Surveillance System form will be an integral part. UNICEF will develop a TOR for this consultant in close collaboration with the NMAC and look to recruit the consultant by the end of the third quarter.</p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to assess the scope of the mine action sector including the NMAC. Accordingly there is need to determine the most sustainable operational
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and human resources structures for the NMAC/RMAOs, factoring in available resources from government and donor partners.

- Difficulties in making timely and sustain recruitment of qualified personnel for the NMAC and RMAOs (due to a number of reasons including the lack of technical MA capacity in the government sector, limited national funding for MA and lengthy public administration recruitment procedures). Continuous national and regional capacity development is therefore essential, while advocating for funds to be committed for MA under the national budget to further facilitate recruitment under government contracts.
- Time constraints and competing priorities in the field (conducting quality control and quality assurance of still high number of demining tasks) posed a challenge for the RMAOs to carry out Post Clearance Impact Assessments (PCIAs) in the reporting quarter.