



LMAC ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Go to

ACRONYMS DEFINITION

AFD	Agence française de développement	LMAC	Lebanon Mine Action Center
AP	Anti-Personnel	LMAP	Lebanon Mine Action Programme
ARCP	Arab Regional Cooperation Program	MAG	Mine Advisory Group
AT	Anti-Tank	MCT	Mine Clearance Teams
BAC	Battle Area Clearance	MF	Mine Field
BLOM	Banque du Liban et d'Outre-Mer (Beirut, Lebanon)	MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
BRIC	Beirut Research and Innovation Center	MLI	Marshall Legacy Institute
CBU	Cluster Bomb Unit	MoSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions	MRE	Mine Risk Education
CHA	Confirmed Hazard Area	MTT	Multi-Task Team
CLO	Community liaison officer	MVA	Mine Victim Assistance
CM	Cluster Munitions	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CPADD	Centre de Perfectionnement aux Actions post conflictuelles de Déminage et Dépollution	NMAS	National Mine Action Standards
DA	Dangerous Area	NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
DCA	Danish Church Aid	NTS	Non-Technical Survey
DEVCO	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development	POD	Peace Generation Organization for Demining
EDD	Explosives Detection Dogs	QA	Quality Assurance
EO	Explosive Ordnance	QC	Quality Control
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal	QM	Quality Management
ER	Engineering Regiment	RMAC-N	Regional Mine Action Center- Nabatieh
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War	RR	Rapid Response
EU	European Union	RSHDL	Regional School for Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining	SCL	Symptoms Check List
GIS	Geographic Information System	SDGs	Sustainable development goals
GoF	Government of France	SHA	Suspected Hazard Area
HI	Humanity Inclusion	SMS	Short Message Service
HMA	Humanitarian Mine Action	SOP	Standard operating procedure
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	TS	Technical Survey
IMAS	International mine action standards	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IMSMA	Information management system for mine action	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
ISG	International Support Group	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Services
LAF	Lebanese Armed Forces	UOB	University of Balamand
LAMiNDA	Lebanese Association for Mine and Natural Disaster Action	USA	United states of America
LBP	Lebanese Pound	UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
LMAA	Lebanon Mine Action Authority	WRA	Weapon Removal and Abatement

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If this year were to be given a title, it would be **'the year of overcoming challenges'**. LMAC has succeeded in addressing major important milestones, in close cooperation with all its partners.

Accordingly on the institutional level LMAC has succeeded in submitting the Convention on Cluster Munitions extension request for an additional 5 years that is needed to finish the cluster munitions known contamination.

Moreover, a new strategy was developed for the entire Mine Action Program, in a fully participatory approach, involving the national and international implementing agencies, the mine action NGOs, the UN agencies, and the donors. This strategy will enable the sector to progress through a systematic well-coordinated approach, and guide LMAC in developing the strategic implementation plan.

The institutional support provided by UNDP was also extended for 6 month with the support of Norwegian and EU embassy. This kind of support provides a civilian and humanitarian perspective for Mine Action. The support is provided through the enhancement of information management, donor coordination, reporting and fundraising or capacity building. We will seek to extend further this support.

With reference to Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, besides the exponential increase in the number of awareness events, the section had to address a new type of challenge posed by the contamination of mines migrating from the North Syrian border through floods and river beds. LMAC has also engaged in crucial regional initiative by organizing with the first Explosive Ordnance Risk Education workshop in the context of the Refugees from Syria Crisis in cooperation with the UN, Norway and GICHD. Based on the recommendations of this event, the UN has developed a project in coordination with LMAC that will design and develop innovative methods to raise awareness for returnees.

As to the support provided to victims and survivors of mines, LMAC bypass the stalemate in application of the law 220/2000 rights of persons with special needs and shifted focus to the private sector employment by engaging in training of survivors for the job market.

Besides overcoming those challenges, LMAC has had remarkable operational achievements. Released land in 2019 is **2.2 times more** than 2018. This reflects the increased reliability on NTS especially for cluster munitions. An exceptional **21,708** Anti-Personnel Mines were removed, which represents **170%** of removed AP number in 2018.

In addition, LMAC continued to play a regional leading role in capacity building and transfer of knowledge through LMAC's regional school that welcomed **four times more** students than the previous year reaching 670 out of which **35% are foreigners**.

LMAC permanent ambition is continuous improvement in all aspects of Mine Action. Accordingly it still strives to maintain its regional role, mainstream economic development, gender and protection of civilian into Mine Action while abiding to international standards and addressing the interest of donors.

LMAC would like to thank all of its partners who have contributed to, the Lebanon Mine Action Program being regarded as one of the best managed program in the world. As such we are grateful for the professionalism of the implementing agencies, the devotion of UN agencies and NGOs, and in particular the vital support of our donors in particular the US, Norway, the EU, UK, France, Netherlands, Sweden and Japan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report features the achievements and challenges of the Lebanon Mine Action Program in 2019. It highlights the close cooperation between LMAC and its partners in the aim of rendering Lebanon Free of Mines and it focuses on the numerous approaches to speed up the clearance process while addressing the need for extensive awareness and inclusion of survivors in their communities. It also emphasizes the increasing leading regional role of the Lebanon Mine Action Center.

The first chapter focuses two major milestones namely the development of a new strategy 2020-2025 and the CCM extension request. On the operational level, this year witnessed several exceptional improvements mainly the increase of mine clearance by 60% and the cancellation through NTS of more than 3 million m2. The different initiatives to enhance information management and ultimately accuracy transparency and effectiveness are also included in this chapter.

The RSHDL outreach expanded dramatically including regional and international participants in trainings. The ARCP was also quite active in 2019 organising several successful workshops. Mine Action Forum an initiative led by the Norwegian embassy, intensified cooperation and coordination between all stakeholders.

The second chapter describes the different EORE initiatives in Lebanon, spreading the scope to include the south, north east, mount Lebanon and North Lebanon reaching . In addition a new initiative following the regional workshop on the EORE of refugees from Syria in the context of return, was launched. As for MVA this year survivors were able to benefit from support on several levels however this year a new initiative was also launched to sensitize the private sector in the employment persons with disabilities in particular mine survivors.

The report finally ends with challenges mostly related to funding and future steps which include enhancement of operational efficiency, review of prioritisation, and others.



OUTPUT 1

THE EXTENT OF THE MINE PROBLEM IN LEBANON IS CONTINUOUSLY ASSESSED AND MONITORED FOR ADVANCED CLEARANCE OPERATIONS

1. ADVOCACY

1.1. LEBANON MINE ACTION PROGRAM STRATEGY

The Lebanon humanitarian mine action strategy 2020 – 2025 document is the result of the collective effort of the Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) community in Lebanon, it sets clear priorities and a firm direction **TOWARDS OUR COMMON GOAL OF A LEBANON FREE OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACT CAUSED BY EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE (EO)**. The strategy was developed under the leadership of the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC), in its capacity as the secretary to the Lebanon Mine Action Authority (LMAA), with support from the EU funded UNDP project.

OUTCOMES

The below three outcomes highlight where and how the LMAP can contribute to a positive and sustainable development in Lebanon.

OUTCOME 1

Individuals and communities feel protected and have strengthened their resilience against EO

OUTCOME 2

Released land is taken into productive use improving the socio economic living conditions for previously EO affected individuals and communities

OUTCOME 3

Survivors, family members and communities affected by EO have equal access to health, education and participate fully in social and economic life

OBJECTIVES

The LMAP is faced with a number of complex and multifaceted challenges and issues that deserves our attention. Together, we have identified the following five topics or thematic areas that will be receiving particular attention during this strategic period; 1) Advocacy, 2) Fundraising, 3) Capacity Development, 4) Accelerate land release and 5) Gender, Diversity and Inclusion.

1.2. CCM EXTENSION

On December 3rd, 2008 Lebanon signed the convention on cluster munitions. It was ratified on November 5th, 2010 and it entered into force on May 1st, 2011. At the end of 2018, 79% of known areas contaminated with cluster munitions had been cleared and released to end-users. However, it has become clear from the rate of square meters cleared per year and the available resources, that Lebanon would be unable to achieve the objective to locate, clear and destroy cluster munitions in all of the areas under its jurisdiction by May 1st, 2021. In accordance with article 4.5 of the Convention, which refers to a state party not being able to fulfill its obligation within the ten years, Lebanon is submitting this request for a five-year deadline extension to the Meeting of States Parties. This request includes an explanation of the circumstances that have prevented Lebanon from clearing all known areas from cluster munitions, and presents a detailed plan for the period of extension that should allow Lebanon to meet its obligations within the extended timeframe.

2. CONTAMINATION AND CLEARANCE REPORTING

2.1. CLEARANCE OPERATIONS

CLEARANCE OPERATIONS

The year 2019 witnessed a remarkable increase in efficiency. LMAC focused more on non-technical survey and technical survey. The multiple technical working group (TWG) meetings resulted in evolved methodologies used on a case by case basis. The total number of destroyed items is an indicator that shows the effectiveness of operational decisions. Major achievements were made in the north eastern region with the support from multiple donors.

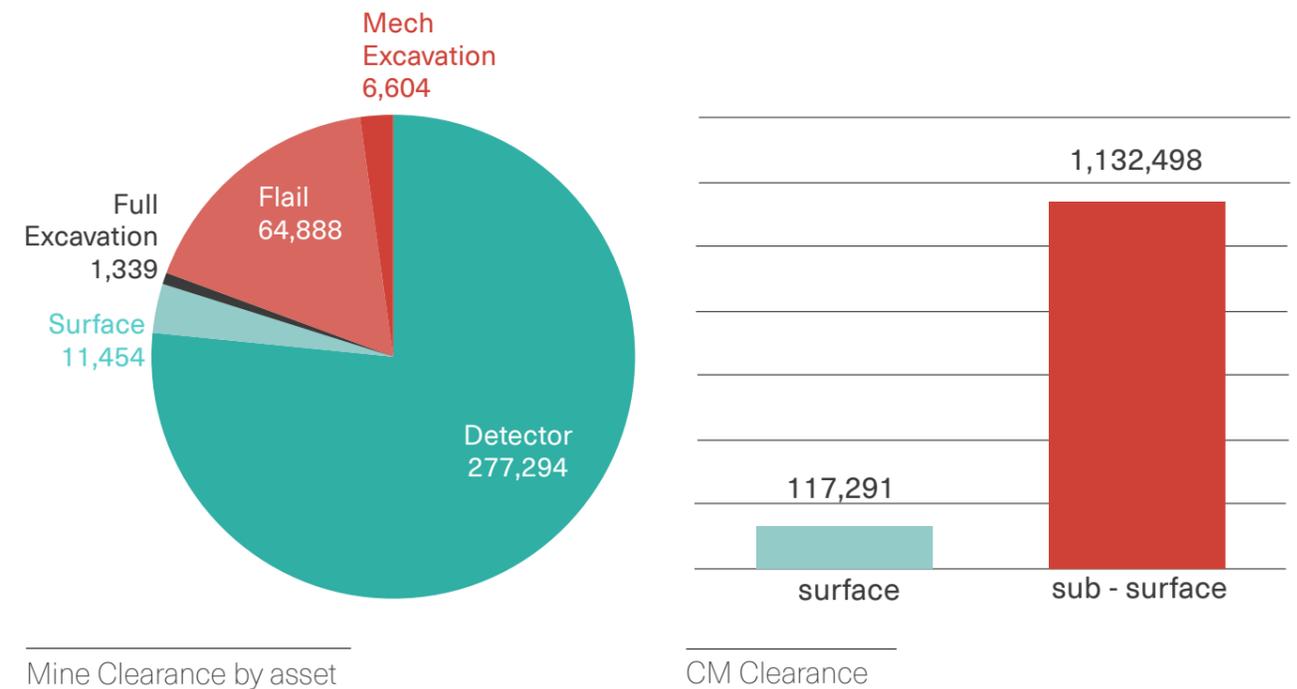
The total contaminated Hazardous Area in Lebanon at the beginning of 2019 was 46.217 M m2. The following tables represent operational results for the current year.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER		DAN CHURCH AID (DCA)	HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (HI)	MINES ADVISORY GROUP (MAG)	NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID (NPA)	PEACE GENERATION (POD)	LAMINDA	TOTAL	
BAC	Capacity (Teams)	3	-	12	5	4	3	27	
	Land Cleared (m ²)	98,721	-	630,271	161,095	259,993	99,792	1,249,872	
	Items Found	CM (item)	1,515	-	254	1,135	687	287	3,878
		UXO (item)	6	-	6	0	1	95	108
MINE CLEARANCE	Capacity (Teams)	2	4	8	7	-	3	24	
	Land Cleared (m ²)	37,481	92,264	190,920	25,784	-	15,130	361,579	
	Items Found	AP (item)	3,489	262	14,416	2,660	-	828	21,655
		AT (item)	0	0	22	0	-	0	22
UXO (item)		76	25	144	4	-	52	301	
IED	Land Cleared (m ²)	-	-	-	1,419	-	-	1,419	
	Items	CM (item)	-	-	-	1	-	1	

Table 1: Demining Capacity per Teams, Cleared Areas and Item found for the IAs

NOTES:

- The above numbers do not include the areas re-cleared by IAs. This means that the productivity of the IAs is higher than the above numbers that shows only the exact m2 cleared and ready to be handed over.
- The number of the working teams changes throughout the year, based on different contracts.
- Some of the items found by IAs are dealt with by LAF.
- Some cluster munitions were found in a minefield task, and vice-versa.



LAF contributes to the humanitarian mine action through LMAC as Manager of the mine action national program, and also through the Engineering Regiment (ER) with 4 clearance teams working in the south of Lebanon and Mount Lebanon. ER and all Combat Engineering companies in all Brigades conduct EOD spot tasks and rapid response all over Lebanon. ER supports clearance operations with mechanical teams and Mine Detection Dogs (MDD). This support is extended through LMAC to all clearance agencies. In addition to the above-mentioned statistics, the LAF cleared 132,558 m2 divided into: minefields = 121,398 m², cluster munitions = 11,160 m². The total number of destroyed items by LAF are:

CM	AP	AT	IED	UXO
159	50	14	3	4,134

Table 2: Items removed by LAF

By adding the above statistics together, the total of clearance operations results in 2019 are:

		2018	IAS	LAF	TOTAL	
TOTAL	Capacity (Teams)		51*	4	55	
	Land Cleared (m ²)		1,611,451	132,558	1,744,009	
	Items Found	CM (item)		3878	159	4,037
		AP (item)		21,655	53**	21,708
		AT (item)		22	14	36
UXO (item)			409	4,134	4,546	

* The highest number of teams at one point of time in 2019.

** 3 IEDs found and destroyed by LAF were added since they are victim operated.

NON-TECHNICAL SURVEY

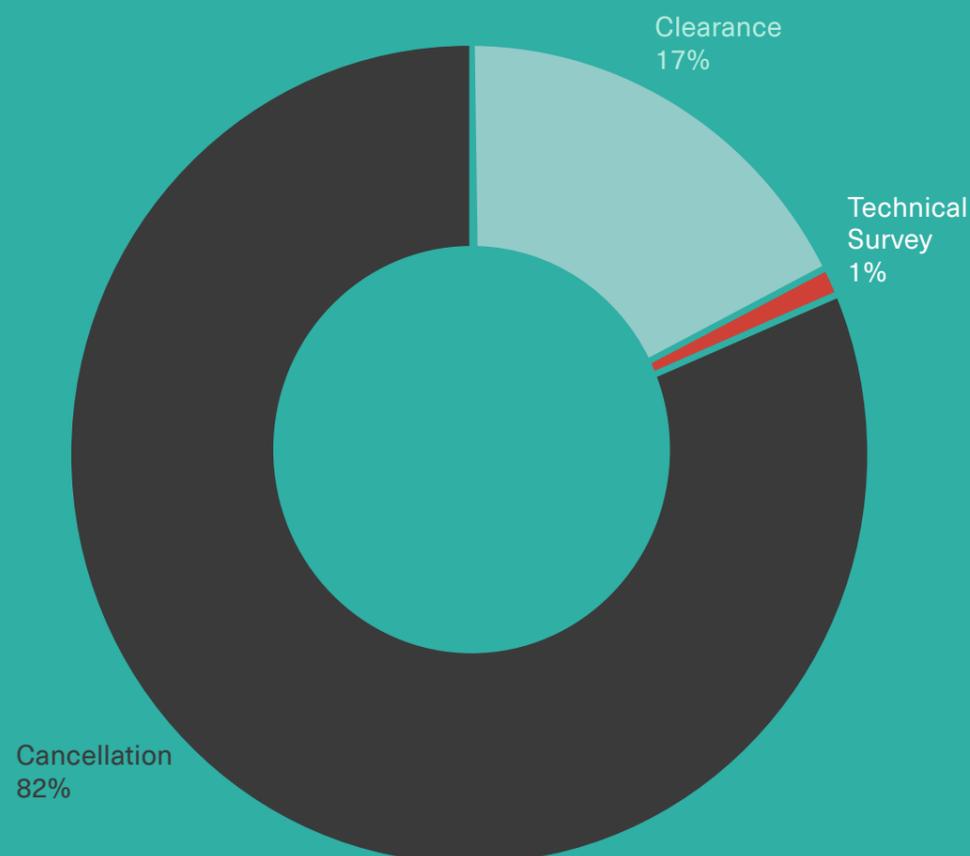
The increased focus on NTS in 2019 resulted in the cancellation of a lot of areas. Most of the cancelled areas were registered with cluster munitions hazard. The main reason for that is the Lebanon extension request submitted for the CCM convention which proposed an update of the database as a first step in the plan.

LMAC deploys 3 NTS teams, MAG and NPA are deploying their teams also. The total area cancelled by NTS throughout 2019 is 3,775,806 m².

A total of 276,058 m² new hazardous areas are added to the baselines of each type of areas.

	Tasked from Data Base		New tasks Added & surveyed		Total		Scheduled for Clearance		Area referred to TS		Cancelled through NTS	
	No.	m ²	No.	m ²	No.	m ²	No.	m ²	No.	m ²	No.	m ²
CBU	159	2,411,734	17	267,244	176	2,678,978	106	759,981	3	21,761	67	1,897,236
MF	26	218,499	3	8,714	29	227,213	6	9,094	5	13,776	18	204,343
DA	20	1,694,239	1	100	21	1,694,339	2	10,100	1	10,012	18	1,674,227
Total	205	4,324,472	21	276,058	226	4,600,530	114	779,175	9	45,549	103	3,775,806

Table 3: NTS tasks and recommendations



TOTAL CLEARANCE RESULTS

During 2019, clearance operations were supported by 5 Mechanical Teams (1 MAG + 4 LAF), and 7 Mine Detection Dogs Teams (MDD) from LAF, as secondary assets supporting the clearance teams.

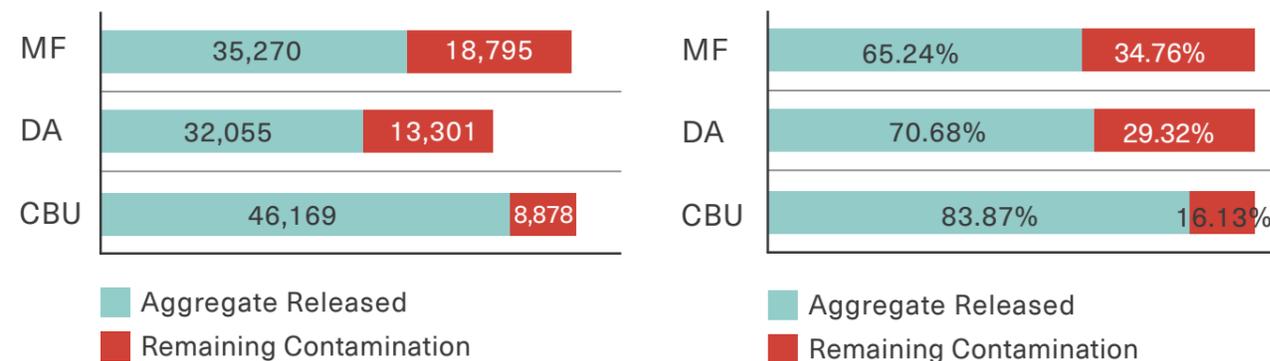
Explosive detection dogs (EDD) team from NPA works in Technical Survey (TS) for cluster munitions. In the following table, released land is the total m² that has been either cancelled or cleared during 2019.

Type	CBU's (m ²)	Dangerous Area (m ²)	Mine Fields (m ²)	Total (m ²)
Baseline	55,046,802	45,356,068	54,064,485	154,467,355
Released in 2019	3,158,268	1,674,227	687,320	5,519,815
Percentage of Released m2 (in 2019) to Baseline	5.74%	3.69%	1.27%	3.57%
Aggregate Released	46,168,900	32,055,433	35,269,804	113,494,137
Percentage of Released m2 (ALL) to Baseline	83.87%	70.68%	65.24%	73.47%
Remaining Contaminated	8,877,902	13,300,635	18,794,681	40,973,218

Table 4: Clearance progress by land type and by Area cleared

NOTES:

- The baseline has been slightly modified by the new hazardous areas surveyed by NTS teams.
- The released areas in the above table include lands released by NTS.
- The number of handed over certificates delivered for released lands in 2019 is 45.



Distribution of Baseline (x 1000 m²)

Percentages of Land

NORTH EAST REGION (NER)

Due to the special weather conditions in this region during winter, operations were halted until March 2019. Clearance operations along with (NTS+TS) were conducted throughout the year as planned. These operations continued till mid-December.

LAF continues to play a major role in this region, as the number of rapid response missions is still high. The increased number of returnees mainly for economic purposes led to more new ERW found.

Note: all following statistics are included in the previous tables.

CM	AP	AT	IED	UXO
0	8	0	0	178

Table 5: Items removed by LAF

However, the economic growth shown in the region is impressive especially in agriculture. It reflects the important role of mine action in the life of community. All items found by LAF response team from ER are coordinated through LMAC with NGOs working in the region.

Type	NGO	Area cleared (m ²)	AP	AT	CM	IED	Other
BAC	MAG	183,566	-	-	6	-	-
	NPA	2,175	-	-	-	-	-
MF	NPA	5,009	-	-	-	-	-
IED	NPA	1,419	-	-	1	-	-

Table 6: Clearance in NER

3. QUALITY ASSURANCE OF RELEASED LANDS

The Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC) uses the process of quality management (QM) as a key function in all demining activities. It is a two-stage approach to ensure quality-demining operations and guarantee that the land released to owner(s) is safe.

Accreditation for the Implementing Agencies (IA) is generally renewable based on past performances throughout the years.

No new IA applied for land release accreditation in 2019. Team accreditation on the other hand, is renewed based on the fact that LMAC have conducted successful on-site QA and QC assessments as long as appropriate performance levels having been achieved in the previous year. On the individual level, all personnel involved directly in operations are re-evaluated at the beginning of the year. In 2019, 143 operational accreditation were issued.

Although internal QA monitoring is internally conducted by all accredited IAs, it is also conducted externally by the LMAC's QA/QC Section, which covers operations, planning and training, making sure that teams abide by the IA SOP and the NMAS. In 2019, the total number of QA visits made was 671 including 61 completions. Among those 79 had as result 'unacceptable'.

The following table shows details regarding visits done to NGOs. It shows high level of adherence by NGOs to the NMAS and SOPs. Demining incidents and accidents were investigated by the NGOs. LMAC always conducted independent investigations, and appropriate actions were taken to insure increased safety and distribution of lessons learned.

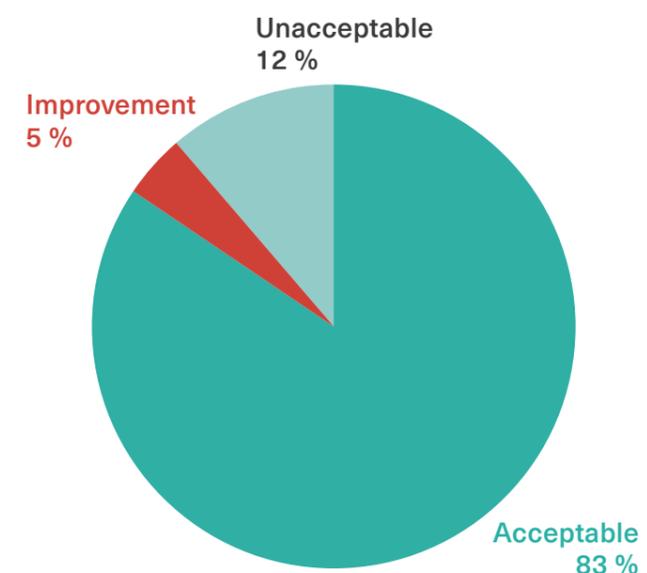
Organisations	Accreditation	Quality Assurance					Total	Unacceptable
		Monitoring	Demolitions	Completions	Training			
MAG	41	197	5	19		263	30	
LAMINDA	7	53	5	5		73	8	
NPA	45	59	1	8		113	18	
DCA	25	56	4	18		103	18	
POD	7	30	-	5		42	-	
HI	18	53	-	6		77	5	
Total	143	448	15	61		671	79	

The analysis of the above figures indicates that the percentage of unacceptable reports is 11.78%. Important remarks from these reports were circulated to all IAs when necessary.

Quality Control (QC) from LMAC focuses on the inspection of the final product, to make sure that land handed over to its owner(s) is safe to use to the agreed minimum depth.

Quality Control is designed to help all those involved identify and resolve any problems that arise in the achievement of the desired goal. During 2019, two sampling teams for quality control were working.

The total area checked was 61,374 m². The total number of working days was 199.





MRE SESSION: LAF MDD Team Demonstration

4. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The Information management in LMAC involves a system of organizational activities, starting from the gathering of information from all the implementing agencies, data analysis, integration and confirmation of accuracy and finally the dissemination of information to stakeholders. For this system to run effectively LMAC addressed the 3 intertwined pillars of IM by enhancing the software, improving the hardware and building the capacity of the staff.

Accordingly, LMAC has been preparing for the full adoption of the latest version of IMSMA (CORE) in 2020 with support from GICHD. In addition, following the UNDP technical assessment, the Royal Norwegian embassy supported LMAC with the procurement of necessary hardware.

Finally the IM staff of LMAC and implementing agencies were trained on IMSMA core.

5. NATIONAL RESOURCES

The Lebanese government commitment to mine action is clearly displayed through the contribution of around **USD 9 MILLION PER YEAR FOR MINE ACTION.**

Despite the severe economic crisis Lebanon is facing the government allocated in the 2019 budget 3.5 billion Lebanese pounds. In November, the government resigned preventing the disbursement of those funds.

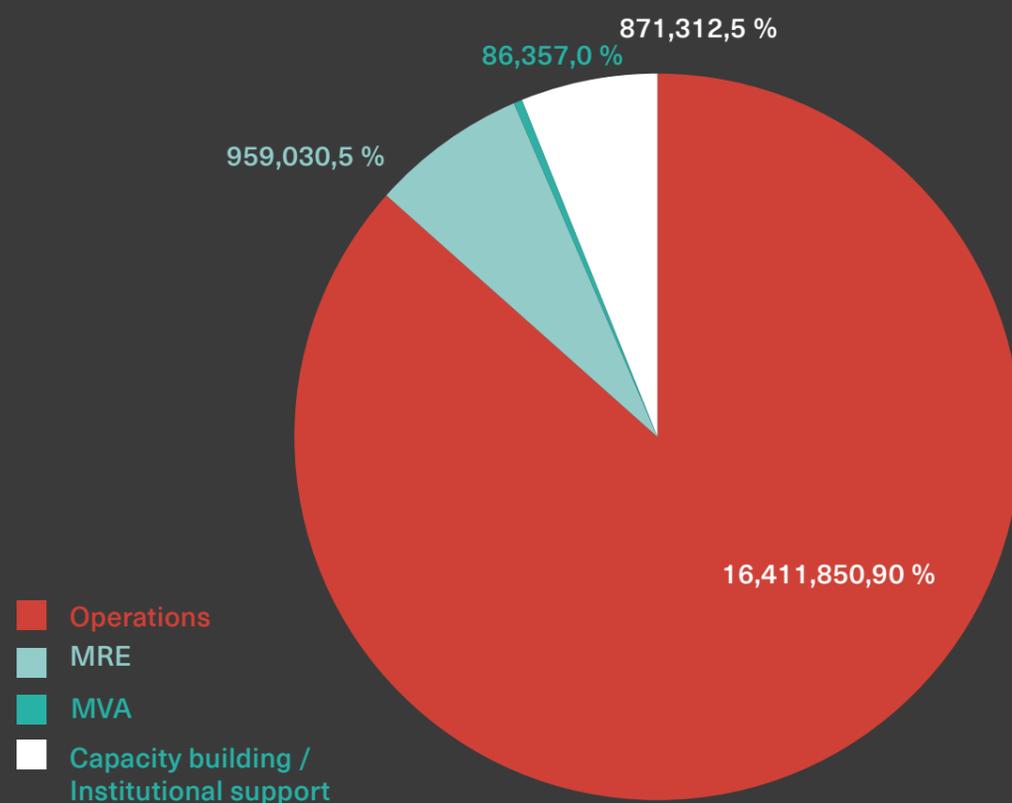
6. INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

ORGANIZATION	Donor	Activity	Amount USD
MAG	EU	Operations	983,227
	Japenese	Operations	132,223
	Netherland	Operations	1,476,755
	Norway	Operations	1,093,751
		MRE	500
	Sweedden	Operations	654,418
		MRE	1,000
	UK	Operations	1,899,702
		MRE	8,389
	UMCOR	Operations	492,212
MRE		3,600	
USA	Operations	1,701,249	
	MRE	3,660	
NPA	EU	Operations	806,124
	Norway	Operations	858,379
	UK	Operations	1,838,271
		MRE	39,400
	USA	Operations	1,163,292
HI	EU	Operations	659,415
	France	MRE	322,804
	Japan	Operations	118,446
	USA	Operations	830,668
DCA	DCA	Operations	161,375
	Japan	Operations	563,895
		Operations	939,796
	Netherland	MRE	77,262
		MVA	86,357
		Capacity Building	84,396
	UNOPS	Operations	140,231
LAMINDA	Japan	Operations	518,129
	Netherland	Operations	329407.67
		MRE	63,721
	Denmark / DRC	MRE	32,200
BALAMAND	Denmark / DRC	MRE	42,800
	UNICEF	MRE	333,489
UNDP	EU	Institutional Support to LMAC	461,815
	Norway		116,193
	UK - FCO		178,908
	UNDP TRAC		30,000
LMAC	UNMAS	MRE	30,206
RSHDL	France	Training+Equipment+Advisor	368,550
TOTAL			19,646,213

7. COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

7.1. REGIONAL SCHOOL FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING IN LEBANON

OPERATIONS	MRE	MVA	CAPACITY BUILDING
16,411,850	959,030	86,357	871,312



LMAC maintained its leading regional role in capacity building and transfer of knowledge through LMAC's regional school that welcomed four times more students than the previous year reaching 670 out of which 35% are foreigners. During 2019, the school was able to develop and improve performance by organizing a variety of high-quality courses for hundreds of participants from different regional and global countries.

The Regional School has proven to be a main pillar of LMAC regional leadership role. In 2019, it still benefits from continuous support of the French government through training technical advice and most recently an agreement with the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs to support training of participants from regional armies.

At the national level, several NGOs, operating in Lebanon, participated in a multitude of courses including EOD, NTS and EORE.

On the regional level the school maintained cooperation with the GICHD in the framework of ARCP, and organized many courses such as Non-Technical Survey, Operational efficiency, Threat Assessment and Risk Management.

It is important to highlight the international expansion of the school that for the first time, the school held in 2019 courses for participants from outside the MENA region, including a Global Gender Focal Point training supported by GMAP from GICHD, a Non-Technical Survey training for participants from Afghanistan, and EOD 2 training for participants from Guinea supported by DRC.

Apart from training courses, the school collaborated with GICHD and UNDP to co-facilitate the Middle East Regional Conference on Improvised Explosive Devices in complex urban environments and the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education for Refugees from Syria in the context of Return.



ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST 2 YEARS



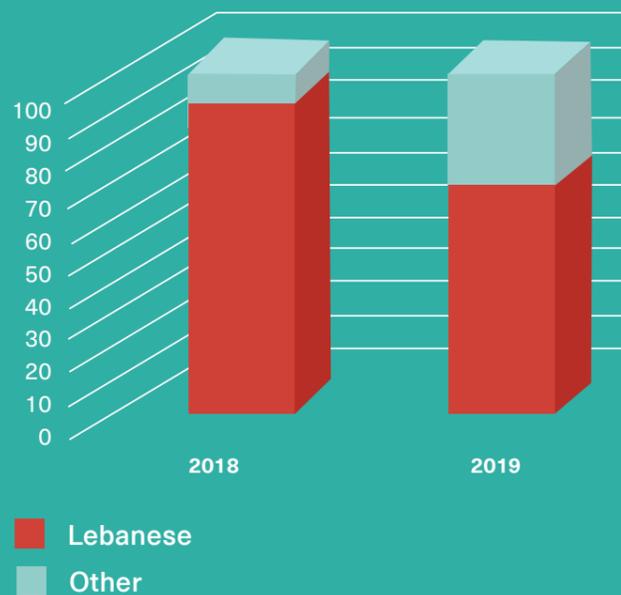
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS



GENDER PARTICIPATION



DIVERSITY PARTICIPATION



7.2. THE ARAB REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAM FOR MINE ACTION

The Arab Regional Cooperation Program has proven to be an important platform for the building the capacity of national mine action centers in the region including the countries heavily contaminated such as Iraq, Yemen and Libya and 9 other countries.

Based on the ARCP's three - year strategy 2018 – 2020, LMAC with the support of the GICHD organized regional trainings.

In addition the ARCP website www.arabrcp.org was launched with the support of the UNDP and funded by the EU.

The ARCP with the support of the GICHD, LMAC and other Arab programs organized 5 valuable events funded through the Arab fund for Economic and Social Development Organization, = Finland, the German Federal Foreign Office and Switzerland.



REGIONAL NON-TECHNICAL SURVEY TRAINING COURSE

The overall objective of this training course was to provide field staff and supervisors with the necessary skills to successfully carry out effective NTS operations in their countries. Participants included 2 LMAC officers, international and local NGOs working in Lebanon as well as representatives from Libya, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen and Sudan.

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY TRAINING COURSE

The main objective of the ARCP Operational Efficiency Training is to enhance the ability to plan efficiently, implement, monitor, assess and evaluate land release operations.

THREAT ASSESSMENT AND BUILDING SEARCH AWARENESS TRAINING COURSE

The aim of this training is to impart knowledge to senior NMAA staff including QC personnel for them to identify potential knowledge or skills gaps, while in the immediate future assist in the implementation of the new IMAS guidance on Threat Assessment, IEDD and the search phase of Building Clearance.

MINE ACTION OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT COURSE

The objective of this course was to provide knowledge and tools to better enable operational staff to manage risks in their programs. This course focused on practical measures to improve applied risk management in the field.

THE ARCP 7TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The ARCP organized in partnership with the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) in Jordan, the 7th annual conference in Amman participants included National Mine Action Directors and representatives from Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Mauritania, Iraq (DMA & IK-MAA), Libya and Yemen. The aim of the conference was to discuss the newly issued International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) with a focus on IMAS Risk Management, IMAS Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) and IMAS on Building Clearance.

7.3. MINE ACTION FORUM

Approximately 45 people attended the workshop held June 19, 2019, including the ambassadors from USA and Norway, representatives from Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the European Union, Japan, France, Canada, Italy and Denmark, UN-organisations and mine action operators. The meeting focused on providing an overview of the Lebanese mine action programme and the progress on the action points. As with every Mine Action Forum new action points were developed covering the following topics:

- 8- Advocacy more precisely the need to develop a new Lebanon Mine Action Program Strategy and to submit a CCM extension request based on an accurate baseline.
- 9- Improvement in Operational Efficiency and enhancement of Information Management

LMAC - GICHD BILATERAL MEETING

The LMAC Director and the ARCP Coordinator met with the Director of the GICHD, Ambassador Stefano Toscano, as well as Heads of Division, the regional cooperation coordinator, and many GICHD advisors to discuss the workplan and the MOU.



- 10- Explosive Ordnance Risk Education to ensure that resources are utilized to their full potential and to engage on a regional level to ensure a coordinated EORE response to refugees based on knowledge of context, target group and threats
- 11- Capacity Development through ensuring the continuous support of UNDP and undertake a regional needs assessment to identify needs and adapt training in the RSHDL accordingly.
- 12- Funding: consider reaching out to the private sector and engage with wider humanitarian sector to ensure the inclusion of humanitarian mine action in humanitarian response plans, national development plans and/or the SDG agenda.



OUTPUT 2

ALL RESIDENTS OF LEBANON ARE PROTECTED FROM HARM

1. NATIONAL EORE

The goal of Mine Risk Education is to increase awareness among affected communities thereby mitigating the risk of explosive devices through education about risks and safe behaviors. This year the Mine Risk Education department in LMAC engaged in innovative initiatives and approaches to adapt to rising needs.

Accordingly, LMAC in cooperation with the Ministry of Education launched Training of Trainers courses focusing in 2019 on public schools Health and Safety teachers, thereby triggering a multiplier effect whose impact should cover the entire public school system throughout Lebanon.



Over and above the planned awareness sessions the MRE department engaged in emergency response training sessions based on reports of new contamination and/or risky behaviors such as farmers handling and transporting mines in the south.

In this context, based on the discovery of mines migrating from Syria through river beds and floods in a new area the north border, the MRE (image MRE)department with support from the UK embassy engaged in awareness sessions for local communities in the areas of Wadi Khaled and Wadi Nahle in the North.

THE FIGURES FOR 2019 ARE:

- Number of EORE teams all over Lebanon : **24**
- Total number of MRE sessions by all NGOs = **2,746**

• Audience:

M	F	TOTAL
339,935	355,506	695,441

2. REGIONAL EORE

Following heightened concerns of the international community and UN agencies of the alarming increase of mine and ERW victims or refugees returning home in the Middle East, In coordination with the Norwegian Embassy, UNDP, UNHCR and UNICEF, LMAC organized a Explosive Ordnance Risk Education regional workshop for the refugees from Syria in the context of return. This event highlighted the opportunities, the gaps and challenges existing in EORE realm.

The conference in Lebanon was also the occasion to launch the international **EORE** advisory body challenges the The MRE section in LMAC is another example of **HOW LMAC IS A SUCCESSFUL PLATFORM FOR DISCUSSION, INNOVATION AND COORDINATION IN THE REGION.**

3. EORE APPROACHES

In addition, LMAC organized EORE activities in coordination with implementing agencies and the national steering committee. These activities include but are not limited to:

LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

- Giving awareness lectures in all districts on Lebanese Territories.
- Training of National Steering Committee activists on Mine Risk Education Participation in the Seminar untitled «Lebanon Free of Cluster Bombs and Unexploded Munitions» at BLOM Bank Headquarter - Beirut.
- Holding a workshop on “Explosive Ordnance for Displaced Syrians” at the Regional School for Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon – Hammana.

SPORTS AND YOUTH EVENTS

- Race in Kafarkila, in cooperation with the National Mine Risk Education Steering Committee Football matches at the University of AUB in Beirut and Al Hinniyeh, South of Lebanon.
- “Rally Paper” in downtown Beirut - Martyrs 'Square, during which a MRE platform was held.
- “Rally Paper” at the Regional School in the presence of representatives from GICHD.

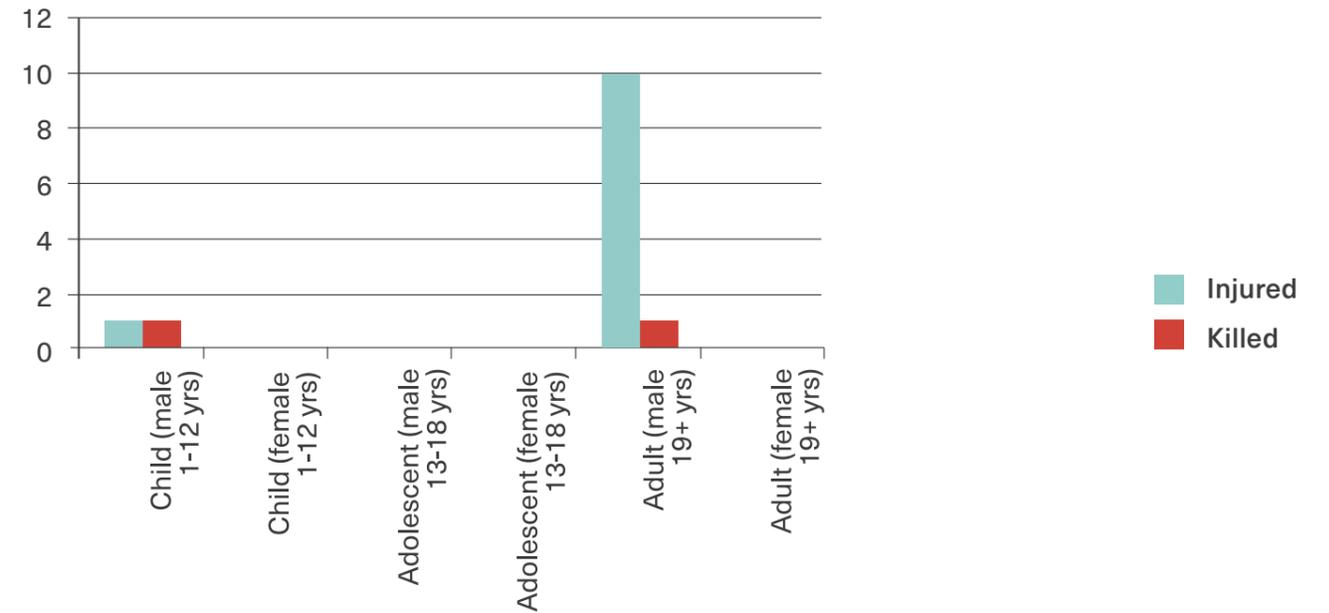
MEDIA EVENTS

- Widespread phone messaging in coordination with the Ministry of Communications
- TV interviews and reports about LMAC activities
- Social media : LMAC Facebook and twitter
- Launching of the National Mine Awareness Campaign, under the patronage of the Commander in chief of the Army
- Media display area in shopping malls
- LMAC display corner the Open Day with the UNIFIL on the occasion of the Lebanese Army Day.
- “Life of Mine” exhibition organized by the Swiss Embassy at the Beit Beirut Museum.

OUTPUT 3

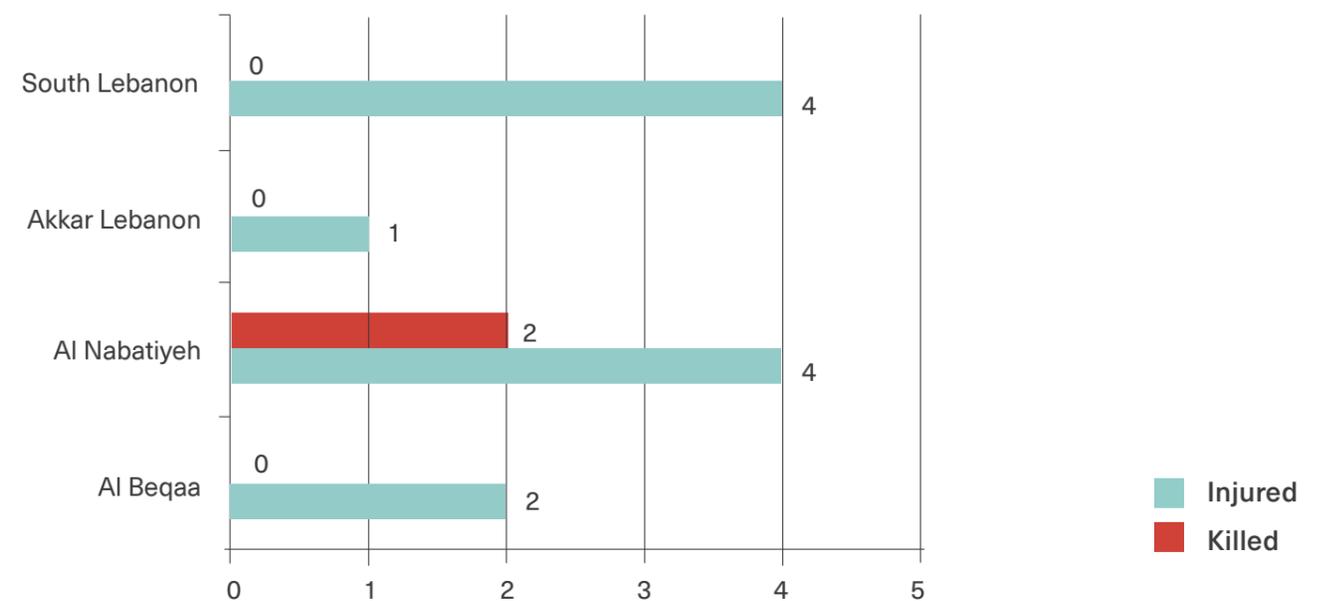
VICTIM ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED BASED ON RIGHTS AND NEEDS

In 2019 LMAC recorded 13 mine victims all male resulting in 2 deaths including a young boy, and 11 casualties including 2 Syrian Nationals and 1 Palestinian national. LMAC also recorded the loss of cattle which seems quite important this year with 13 fatalities and 3 casualties for 5 separate farmers and shepherds reflecting the socio-economic impact of mines.



Segregation by age population in 2019

AS SEEN IN THE FIGURE BELOW, THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VICTIMS WERE IN SOUTH LEBANON.



Value of mines/ERW/IED casualties by province

1. TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Persons with disabilities in Lebanon have struggled for decades in the absence of the application of the law 220/2000 that was passed in the year 2000. In the absence of new measures to insure inclusion they often feel segregated and isolated.

Although survivors of mines/ERW feel the same and are just as much in need for access to health care, education, and employment.

2. PHYSICAL REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

Survivors need rehabilitation including provision of services for physiotherapy and supply, maintenance and training in the use of assistive devices such as prostheses, walking aids and wheelchairs.

A- PROSTHETIC DEVICES - MOFA

In the year 2019, 19 victims benefited from prosthetic services funded by Ministry of foreign affairs. Needs assessment for 19 survivors in need of prosthetic and orthotic services took place:

- 18 new prosthesis
- 1 assistive device

B- PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT - DCA

In 2019, six psychosocial support interventions were executed to victims funded by DCA. Interactive sessions on mental health, with appropriate adaptation per cohort were delivered to 27 participants.. Five Follow-up Sessions followed the Main Training, each session taking around 2 hours, and implemented over a period of five weeks, with one follow-up session taking place every week.

Based on the above, LMAC decided to bypass the legal stalemate and work directly with the private sector which is considered in Lebanon a vibrant modern progressive sector often keen to engage in Corporate Social Responsibility. The approach was two folded addressing both the private sector and building the capacity of their HR sector, as well as mine survivors through job training and communications skills thereby increasing their ability to find a suitable employment in the labor market.

Physical rehabilitation focuses on helping a person regain or improve the capacities of her or his body, with mobility and independence in daily activities as the primary goal.

C- SUPPORTING TUITION FEES – DCA

In 2019, LMAC followed up with the twenty mine survivors who were selected to have their tuition fees partially funded with DCA funding.

ALL OF THEM ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND WILL CONTINUE TILL THEY GET THEIR CERTIFICATES.



CHALLENGES

1. MAINTAINING THE REGIONAL ROLE

LMAC has proven to be an essential component for regional mine action in the delicate and difficult period that many neighboring countries are facing in respect to mine contamination. Its leadership in capacity building and transfer of knowledge could benefits many countries, but most importantly people in the region. LMAC will continue to strive to address the needs of the region.

2. FUNDING

UNDENIABLY, THE KEY CHALLENGE TO MINE ACTION IN LEBANON IS FUNDING.



LMAC has acknowledged that donors' interest is not limited to the number of square meters cleared but most importantly to operational efficiency in land release in conformity with international standards and based socio-economic priorities thereby ensuring the Lebanese communities reap the benefits of clearance in a rapid and safe way enabling them to use the land for livelihood, tourism or recreational activities.



On the past year LMAC has proven its ability to play a regional leading role through the organization of training course in the RSHDL (image RSHDL) the ARCP and the regional workshop on IED and the EORE in eth context of return of Refugees from Syria. In this respect, based on the demand a project proposal was developed and received partial funding.

3. MAINTAINING INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

LMAC believes that a strong national institution is a must for ensuring proper monitoring and quality assurance/control of land release based on international recognized standards.

The Institutional support provided by UNDP will come to a halt by the end of 2019 while LMAC is still in need of institutional support whether it is through the enhancement of information management, donor coordination, reporting and fundraising or capacity building in particular to issues related to IED whether it is NMAS chapter, MRE, Clearance, Quality Assurance/ Control or MVA.

FUTURE STEPS

BASED ON THE ABOVE CHALLENGES LMAC HAS ENGAGED IN ANTICIPATING THE NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS THEREBY PLANNING FOR THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES IN COOPERATION WITH UNDP PROJECT FUNDED BY EU AND NORWAY:

1. STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Based on the newly released National Mine Action Program strategy, LMAC will develop a strategic implementation plan which will clarify the role and responsibilities of the various actors, as well as their contribution enabling LMAC to monitor progress closely and evaluate the program against pre-agreed indicators and targets.

2. ENHANCING OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

LMAC with the support of UNDP will assess existing methods and tools, to identify areas of potential improvements in operational efficiency and cost effectiveness.

3. ENSURING DATA ACCURACY

The transfer from IMSMA NG to IMSMA Core which was initiated in 2019 necessitates an overhaul systematic data clean up. This recent challenge is not unique to Lebanon but has surfaced up in many countries which requires what is known as a “technical clean up” of the data.

4. REVIEWING PRIORITIES AND RECONSIDERING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

Increased urbanization, clearance of the Blue Line, spill-over from Syria (creating a new type of contamination (IED's)) and the sudden increase in residents, have undoubtedly changed the clearance priorities. LMAC will work with operators to develop an updated prioritization approach including attention to socio-economic impact in context of current contamination.

5. DESIGNING AN EO RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR REFUGEES FROM SYRIA IN THE PROSPECT OF RETURN

The design phase of this project consist of two core elements; a) identify measures to reduce the likelihood of an EO related accident from occurring when refugees return home to their place of origin and b) reduce the negative impact/consequence when an accident occur. There are a number of unique and challenging sub elements or sub-projects related to this project that will need experts' advice and thorough analysis and research as part of the design phase.



Photo credit: Hala Amhaz - NPA

LMAC HAS PROVEN TO BE AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT FOR REGIONAL MINE ACTION