

Cover photo: clearance in Hadath Al jebbeh
Humanity & Inclusion - **HI**

LEBANON
MINE ACTION
PROGRAM STRATEGY

2020 - 2025

ACRONYMS

APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions
CCW	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
CM	Cluster Munitions
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities
EORE	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
EORR	Explosive Ordnance Risk Reduction
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
EO	Explosive Ordnance
EU	European Union
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
HMA	Humanitarian Mine Action
IED	Improvised Explosive Devices
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
LMAA	Lebanon Mine Action Authority
LMAC	Lebanon Mine Action Centre
LMAP	Lebanon Mine Action Program
MRE	Mine Risk Education
MVA	Mine Victim Assistance
RSHDL	Regional School for Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

FOREWORD
BY THE CHAIR OF THE LMAA
MINISTER OF DEFENCE

This 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.

This strategy, accentuates the Government of Lebanon's commitment to humanitarian mine action and our respect for and adherence to international humanitarian law. Lebanon has signed and/or acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions Remnants (ratified 2010), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, protocol II (ratified 2017) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (signed 2007), thus illustrating the Government of Lebanon commitment and support to international disarmament efforts. LMAA works within the spirit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and will continue to promote a ratification of the APMBC.

We are proud that Lebanon Mine Action Program (LMAA) is recognised as one of the best mine action Programmes in the world¹ and we will do our utmost to ensure its continued development and growth. In a region troubled by armed conflicts and a comprehensive and complex EO challenge, the growing authority of LMAC as a centre of excellence and a regional training hub is welcomed. The Regional School for Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon (RSHDL) is uniquely placed to provide support and training to government institutions, UN agencies, INGOs and other HMA actors throughout the Middle East and beyond, as Lebanon is an easily accessible and safe hub. RSHDL provides excellent and modern conference facilities and the LMAA supports with the provision of a wide range of mine action experts as instructors. The formalised partnership with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the LMAC role as host for the Arab Regional Cooperation Program are concrete evidence of LMAA's leading position. As demonstrated during the bi-annual Mine Action Forum meetings LMAA is promoting a transparent and inclusive partnership with all HMA stakeholders. We believe that close interaction and coordination will provide increased visibility and understanding of the challenges caused by explosive ordnance. Support and commitment from all stakeholders are welcomed and needed, if we are to fulfil the ambitious but realistic vision, outcomes and objectives outlined in this strategy.

Let me end by conveying my sincere appreciation and respect for the dangerous and hard work done by all the LMAA men and women daily. Without their continued dedication, stamina and willingness to take risk to save others this strategy will not be achievable.

Zeina Akar
Minister of National Defence
Head of National Mine Action Authority
June 2020

¹ reference to Mine Action Review, clearing the Cluster Munitions 2019 publication



LEBANESE ARMY DEMINER IS CONDUCTING OPERATIONS IN THE FIELD

INTRODUCTION

Lebanon is faced with a complex Explosive Ordnances threat stemming from four core events; the Israeli occupation (1978 – 2000), the civil war (1975 – 1990), the Israel aggression in 2006 and more recently the spill over of conflict from Syria (2011 – the defeat of the terrorist groups in 2017). The results of these events are a nation-wide contamination with Cluster Munitions Remnants (CM), landmines, Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). Fortunately, due to good survey and an updated national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database, the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC) has a good overview of the scale and the location of the remaining contamination.

The Lebanon Mine Action Program (LMAP) operates in a complex environment. The political situation in the region is fragile, and peace and security cannot be taken for granted. The large number of refugees from Syria have put an extra toll on the Lebanese society and the economy as a whole. Explosive Ordnance (EO) kills and maims, it blocks access to prime agricultural lands, hinders commercial initiatives and limits access to multiple areas of recreation and tourism. EO hinder socio-economic development and it challenges the Government of Lebanon's ability to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The LMAP has been fortunate to receive consistent and substantial funding from the Government of Lebanon, various international donors as well as from the private sector in Lebanon. With extensive contamination in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Yemen², commitment and continued support from our donors cannot be taken for granted. The best response to this challenge is to continue to deliver an efficient, safe and high quality evidence-based Program, with documented relevance and impact. We also acknowledge that we need to strengthen our visibility and better document the positive impact of our work to secure continued financial support.

The LMAP is in a good position to address the explosive ordnance threat in Lebanon as it has a good mix of renowned international HMA organisations such as MAG, NPA, HI, DRC/DDG and DCA and a growing capacity of competent and experienced national mine action operators (the Army Engineering Regiment, LAMiNDA and POD).

The National Steering Committees on Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Mine Victim Assistance (MVA) are also key assets for the LMAP. The close cooperation with various UN agencies, especially the LMAC – UNDP partnership, is another important factor for the success of the Program.

Collectively we have a range of capacities, tools and methods at our disposal; Manual deminers, mechanical assets, EO detection dogs, survey teams, EO risk education (EORE) teams and a well-functioning national database (IMSMA). In addition, Lebanon has developed a comprehensive set of National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) that are all in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

² reference; The Mine Action Review publication at mineactionreview.org



LEBANESE COMMUNITIES PROSPER, FREE FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE (EO) ⁴

The LMAP will put the Explosive Ordnance (EO) affected people at the centre of our work. We also acknowledge that we have to work in partnership and, where possible, in an integrated manner with other sectors to ensure that released land is taken into productive use.



THE LEBANON MINE ACTION PROGRAM WILL, IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, CONTINUE TO USE BEST AND EMERGING PRACTICES TO ENSURE AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND RELEVANT PROGRAM

LMAP recognises that Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) in Lebanon is a team effort and as the LMAP we will strive to work constructively together to ensure optimal use of our collective resources. We are also aware that close dialogue and interaction with affected communities is important if we are to be relevant and to have the desired impact.



HALA AMHAZ - NPA

³ vision – long term, end goal of the LMAP, why the Program exist, what we are here to address – it combines the objectives and outcomes in one overarching sentence that is easily understood by everyone
⁴ EO refers to the list of items which are defined under the key disarmament conventions; APMB, CCM and CCW (protocol II and V)
⁵ Mission - what we do to achieve the vision – the way we work

OUTCOMES⁶

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

The Lebanon Mine Action Program will strive to create safe environments for all by ensuring that EO contaminated land is surveyed, marked and released as soon as possible. In addition, affected individuals and communities will receive EO Risk Education (EORE).



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT REFUGEES FROM SYRIA HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS AND WE WILL THEREFORE ENSURE THAT EO RISK REDUCTION (EORR) TRAINING IS BOTH THREAT AND CONTEXT SENSITIVE.

OUTCOME 2

RELEASED LAND IS TAKEN INTO PRODUCTIVE USE IMPROVING THE SOCIO ECONOMIC LIVING CONDITIONS FOR PREVIOUSLY EO AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

Land release is an enabler for development and humanitarian action, and it promotes the achievement of the Lebanon Sustainable Development Goals. We will work in close partnership with national and local authorities, local communities, as well as development agencies to ensure optimal use of released land.

OUTCOME 3

SURVIVORS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY EO HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATE FULLY IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE

The Government of Lebanon, through the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Affairs have the overall responsibility to provide EO survivors, among other people with disabilities, with the support they need.

HOWEVER, AS A SECTOR AND IN LINE WITH OBLIGATIONS OUTLINED IN THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM) AND THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD), THE MINE ACTION COMMUNITY IS READY TO DO ITS PART TO SUPPORT THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.



As a concrete initiative, we will advocate for the private sector and mine action operators to employ survivors in their organisations.



FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN THE MINE SURVIVORS' TEAM OF THE LEBANESE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE DISABLED AND THE TEAM OF THE SPORTS ACADEMY FOR GIRLS AT IMAM MUSA AL-SADR STADIUM IN ANSAR IN APRIL 2018.

⁶ Outcomes – the effect of our collective efforts (outputs and objectives) on individuals and communities. Should contribute to a positive change for the Lebanon society



SEAN SUTTON - MAG

OBJECTIVES⁷

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.

OBJECTIVE 1

LEBANON ADHERES TO AND PROMOTES RELEVANT DISARMAMENT TREATIES AS A MEANS OF PROTECTING INNOCENT CIVILIANS FROM THE IMPACT OF EO

The government of Lebanon is a strong supporter of HMA and the LMAA will be the guardian of the various international disarmament conventions. We will do our utmost to comply with our obligations as outlined in the Convention on Cluster Munitions Remnants (CCM), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and we will continue to promote an accession to the AP Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).

LMAP IS COMMITTED TO MAKE LEBANON CLUSTER MUNITIONS FREE by the end of 2025 and thereby comply with art. 4 Of the CCM (in line with the extension request provided to the isu of the CCM).

The LMAP will work within the spirit of the AP Mine Ban Convention as articulated by the National Mine Action Policy and we will implement the Oslo Action Plan (developed and endorsed by the State Parties to the APMBC at the 4th Review Conference in Oslo, Norway in November 2019) and initiate voluntary reporting as outlined in art. 7 of the APMBC.

OBJECTIVE 2

THE LEBANON MINE ACTION PROGRAM CONTINUES TO DELIVER A HIGH QUALITY PRODUCT THAT IS IN HARMONY WITH DONORS' INTENTIONS AND IN LINE WITH THE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES OF THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

LMAP WANTS TO MAINTAIN ITS REPUTATION AS A WELL-MANAGED, ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT PROGRAM.



We will strive to be more visible and to interact more closely with our partners and donors.

We will seek to establish new partnerships, internationally and with the Lebanese private sector to diversify our funding base and thereby reduce our vulnerability.

We will continue to use the bi-annual Lebanon Mine Action Forum as a strategic arena for engaging in constructive and informed dialogue between the key HMA actors in Lebanon; National authorities, the operators and the LMAP donors.

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Objectives - describes what we aim to achieve in this strategic period. We can to a large degree control the objectives if the required funds and resources are made available (the assumptions are met)

OBJECTIVE 3

THE LEBANON MINE ACTION PROGRAM CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, COOPERATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

We will continue to dedicate time and resources to capacity build our staff, and our institutions. Having competent and experienced LMAP staff guarantees the continued development of our Program.

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH WHERE RESOURCES AND KNOWLEDGE ARE SHARED FREELY FOR THE BETTER GOOD OF THE SECTOR.



Equally important, we need to plan for the future and start the process of building a sustainable national mine action capacity that can deal with the residual contamination (post CCM compliance). The LMAC is to a large extent a well-functioning capacity, however routine rotation of LMAC senior management staff (Army Officers) can hamper development and continuity.

OBJECTIVE 4

THE LEBANON MINE ACTION PROGRAM WILL STRIVE TO ACCELERATE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE TO COMPLETE THE RELEASE OF ALL KNOWN CM CONTAMINATED AREAS BY 2025, AS WELL AS OTHER PRIORITY AREAS AFFECTED BY MINES AND OTHER ERW

An evidence based and accurate baseline and an updated IMSMA database with quality data is a precondition to make realistic plans towards 2025.

The Lebanon mine action Program will undertake a reprioritization of remaining hazards as a matter of urgency to be able to focus available resources.

Cluster Munitions contaminated tasks will become priorities due to the CCM 2025 – 2021 extension request, but tasks with a high humanitarian or socio-economic impact will also be prioritised.

A district-by-district approach is the most cost efficient use of resources and this will be a preferred approach after all the high priority tasks are released.

LMAP will continue to encourage and support innovation initiatives (on tools and methods) that can improve the quality and efficiency of our work.

OBJECTIVE 5

THE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND PERSPECTIVE OF WOMEN, GIRLS, MEN AND BOYS FROM ALL GROUPS OF SOCIETY ARE CONSIDERED, IN ORDER TO DELIVER AN INCLUSIVE HMA RESPONSE

MINE ACTION IS A MALE DOMINATED ENVIRONMENT AND WE HAVE THEREFORE A PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND ENSURE THAT WE HAVE A GENDER SENSITIVE APPROACH TO OUR WORK.



We also acknowledge that cluster munitions, mines and other ERW affect women, girls, men and boys differently (also based on their background and status).

We will therefore ensure that our response and dialogue with affected communities are gender and diversity sensitive.





WORKING METHODS

This strategy has been developed in a participatory manner that reflects the way that the HMA sector in Lebanon wishes to work. Evidences have proven that the sector has made significant improvements in efficiency and quality when knowledge and experiences are shared in a transparent, positive and constructive manner.

LMAP, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF LMAC, WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE TO EXPLORE AVENUES TO MEET AND COORDINATE OUR EFFORTS THROUGH ANNUAL PLANNING WORKSHOPS, REGULAR OPERATIONAL MEETINGS, TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS AND REGULAR REPORTING.

Our work shall be characterised by; trust, transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, positivity, honesty and professionalism.



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

LMAA and LMAC will have the overall responsibility to monitor the implementation of the strategy. The most important tool in this respect is the strategic plan that LMAC (and the other actors) will develop to describe their individual role and responsibility to contribute constructively to the achievements of the objective, outcomes and outputs outlined. A set of commonly agreed indicators will guide the implementing partners in their reporting.



A mid-term and final external review are planned, as well as annual reporting on progress. We also consider the Mine Action Review publication as an important annual evaluation tool for the LMAP.

MS. MIREILLE GIRARD - H.E. MS. TARJA FERNANDEZ - BRIG. GENERA JIHAD AL BECHELANY - H.E. MS. LENI STENSETH
MS. CELINE MOYROUD - MS. YUKIE MOKUO ATTENDING THE 5TH LEBANON MINE ACTION FORUM 19TH JUNE 2019

LEBANON MINE ACTION PROGRAM STRATEGY

2020 - 2025

VISION

Lebanese communities prosper, free from the threat of Explosive Ordnance

MISSION

The Lebanon Mine Action Program will, in close partnership with relevant stakeholders, continue to use best emerging practices to ensure an efficient, effective and relevant program

OUTCOMES

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

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

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

OBJECTIVES

Lebanon adheres to and promotes relevant disarmament treaties as a means a protecting innocent civilians from the impact of EO

The LMAP continues to deliver a high quality product that is in harmony with donors' intentions and in line with the needs and priorities of the affected communities

The LMAP continues to focus on the capacity development, cooperation and strategic partnerships

The LMAP will strive to accelerate LR to complete the release of all CM CHA's by 2025, as well as other priority areas affected by mines and other ERW

The specific needs and perspective of women, girls, men and boys from all groups of society are considered, in order to deliver an inclusive HMA response

OUTPUTS

CCM, CRPD and CCW promoted

Accession to the APMBC promoted

Complied with CCM art.4

Annual Oslo Action Plan reporting done

4th of April marked

Bi-Annual Mine Action Forum Hosted

Fundraising strategy developed

Communication strategy developed

Mine Action Review score improved

LMAP cap. dev. plans developed

Annual LMAP planning workshop hosted

LMAC staff rotation reduced

Exit strategy for int. support developed

Baseline updated

Reprioritization of tasks done

R&D encouraged and new methods and tools in use

LMAP efficiency improved

All CL, EORE and NTS teams' gender balanced

All NMAS gender and diversity sensitive

Women empowered to participate in the LMAP

WORKING METHODS

As the Lebanon Mine Action Program we are committed to work and act in a cooperative inclusive and transparent manner. We regard partnerships and stakeholders dialog as the best approach to ensure that we continue to improve and develop as a program and as individuals. We will ensure that we meet and coordinate our efforts regularly, and we will share openly best practice for the better good of the whole program

LMAP STRATEGY

2020 - 2025

