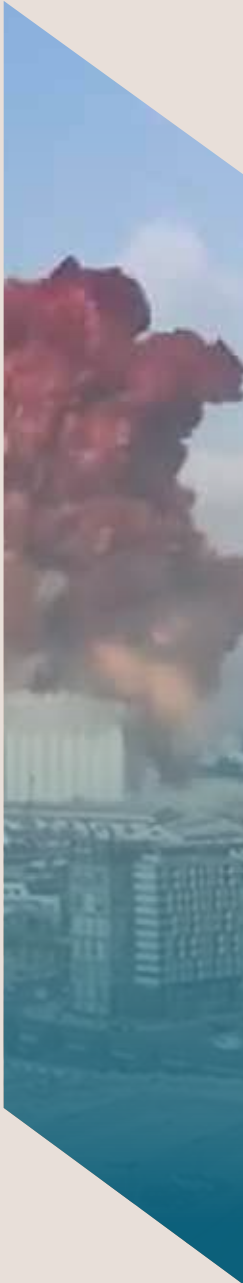


# 2020



**LMAC**  
annual report



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**LMAC**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2020

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## INTRODUCTION

No words can justly portray the year 2020 around the world and more particularly in Lebanon. In those exceptionally strenuous times, LMAC had to rise to the challenge and maintain unwavering strength and stability by relying on its team's union and harmony, the exceptional support of partners and donors, with the aim of sustainability through a continuous reassessment of needs in the HMA sector and the identification of the relevant actions to take.

On the policy level, the 2020-2025 Lebanon Mine Action Program strategy was finalized in December 2019 in full coordination with all stakeholders and officially approved and published in 2020. In addition, LMAC finalized its SOP to strengthen institutional memory and ensure business continuity in case of crisis and the periodic officer rotation.

LMAC realized early on, that the focus this year should be on the community. In March with the country's first Covid19 lockdown, the economic situation dwindled drastically in a country already ravaged by an unprecedented financial crisis. Accordingly, the government decided to distribute financial aid to the most vulnerable including victims of mines. LMAC decided to simultaneously survey the victims and therefore come out with a complete reassessment of the needs. As of May 15, clearance operations resumed after approximately 2 months of lockdown. The operations department meanwhile focused inward and launched 2 essential studies reassessing the prioritization scheme and methodology, and evaluating the operational efficiency and methods to improve it. Nevertheless despite the lockdown, the program still succeeded in releasing more than 1,5 M sqm and destroying 27,865 EO.

The Explosive Ordnance Risk Reduction section adapted by leapfrogging into automation and embracing social media while combining risk of explosives with Covid19 contamination.

The challenges of this year were unexpectedly strenuous. The country was ravaged by a socio-economic crisis even before the Covid19 crisis. The entire working methods had to change instantly, and the country ultimately had to deal with its first lockdown in mid-March for approximately 2 months.

On August 4, one of the most disastrous explosions in History blew away a big part of the capital and resulted in more than 200 dead, 6000 injured, 300,000 homes destroyed, and a complete population in shock. The sheer magnitude of the explosion unparalleled in the war-torn history of Lebanon destroyed homes, hope and immersed a whole community in despair. The Lebanon Armed Forces, as the most stable and strongest institution, was selected by the government to lead the emergency response and officers from LMAC were deployed to support in the assessment of destruction.

Another looming challenge is the increasing number of accidents on the border. A result of the Syria crisis, explosive ordnances have migrated to Lebanon and recorded an increasing number of victims in unsuspected areas. This situation will be observed for new hazards and thus necessitates EORE in the absence of application of the land release process due to the sporadic evidence all other the border.

LMAC wouldn't have been able to sustain the momentum through the different crises without the strong commitment of its partners. We hereby would like to acknowledge the persistent support of our donors namely the **EU, France, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America, and UN agencies (UNDP, UNMAS, UNOPS, and UNIFIL)**. We are grateful for the consistent dedication of the International NGOs operating in Lebanon including MAG, NPA, DCA and HI. Finally, we would like to thank all the national institutions and NGOs especially the Balamand University and the steering committee members who had to endure with us the trials and tribulations of the year 2020.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The structure of the annual report reflects the newly published Lebanon Mine Action Program Strategy developed in close collaboration with all stakeholders in HMA in Lebanon. LMAC strongly advocates for the close application of the strategy by all partners as well as annual monitoring and evaluation. A strategic implementation plan highlighting our core objectives revolving around our commitment to abide by International Convention obligations, the strong collaboration we seek with donors and stakeholders, the drive to produce quality output, our strong belief in capacity enhancement and building stronger partnerships and last but not least the inclusion of gender and diversity in every aspect of our work:

**Chapter 1** covers the results in terms of convention obligations including Operations, Quality Assurance, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, and Mine Victims Assistance.. As a whole, the achievement recorded were mostly attributed to the ability of LMAC to evolve and adapt to the different crisis with minimal repercussions. It also includes the efforts of UNDP in supporting Lebanon to the accession to the APMBC.

**Chapter 2** focuses on the importance LMAC assigns to delivering a high-quality product in line with Donor's intention. This is highlighted through the periodic holding of a mine action forum and its corresponding action points that reflects the stakeholders anticipated progress in areas of interest. It also includes the evolution of the Mine Action Review.

**Chapter 3** reports on the capacity enhancement of LMAC in particular the UNDP project as well as the regional capacity building and strategic partnership through the RSHDL and essential assets for the region. This section also summarizes the work on the exit strategy.

**Chapter 4** comprises the different initiatives LMAC launched in the last year to accelerate land release and to meet the deadlines of CCM in 2025 mainly through the new prioritization methodology and plan and the assessment of operational efficiency.

**Chapter 5** deals with Gender and diversity and how LMAC embraces and encourages inclusion.

## OBJECTIVE 1

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

### 1. PROGRESS IN LAND RELEASE OPERATIONS

#### 1.1. OVERVIEW

The year 2020 was exceptional on multiple levels. COVID-19 laid its huge impact on operations. HMA sector was affected directly with general mobilization and multiple lockdowns. On the other hand, the political and economic unrest posed its weight hindering movement on roads and eventually halting operations. These factors combined with no-operations because of bad weather resulted in an average of 46 Working days lost, 22% less than a normal year. In addition, the total funds dedicated to operations decreased by 17% compared to last year.

Nevertheless, LMAC along with all IAs have agreed on the need to cope with these circumstances. New regulations were introduced to the NMA regarding safe behavior concerning to the new virus, to be able to re-launch operations and protect staff against infection. In addition, flexible plans were developed by IAs to overcome roadblocks. As a result, 1.57 M m<sup>2</sup> of land was cleared in 2020 compared to 1.74 M m<sup>2</sup> in 2019, which represents 90%. Also, the total area released in 2020 is 6.5 M m<sup>2</sup> compared to 5.5 M m<sup>2</sup> in 2019, which represents an increase of 18%. This is an amazing achievement for all stakeholders.

#### 1.2. CLEARANCE OPERATIONS

Despite the imposed situation, the year 2020 is considered to be productive.

**LMAC CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON THE NON- TECHNICAL SURVEY AND TECHNICAL SURVEY.**

**THE MULTIPLE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETINGS HELPED TO PRODUCE 2 IMPORTANT STUDIES ON PRIORITIZATION AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY, WHICH IMPACTS WILL BE SHOWN STARTING 2021.**

The total released land and number of destroyed items are slightly lower than projected but considered to be excellent taking into consideration the above-mentioned factors.

The total contaminated Hazardous Area in Lebanon at the beginning of 2020 was **40.973 M m<sup>2</sup>**. 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	UNIFIL	TOTAL	
Capacity (Teams)		2	-	12	5	5	1	-	<b>25</b>	
BAC	Land Cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	118,071	-	793,666	140,640	116,526	18,305	-	<b>1,187,208</b>	
	Items Found	CM (item)	260	-	127	845	482	11	-	<b>1725</b>
		AT (item)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
	UXO (item)	177	-	31	15*	-	7	-	<b>230</b>	
MINE CLEARANCE	Capacity (Teams)	3	3	8	7	-	2	2	<b>25</b>	
	Land Cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	33,261	68,497	65,333	23,830	-	12,955	6,079	<b>141,458</b>	
	Items Found	AP (item)	2,378	68	7,398	3,123	-	385	875	<b>14,159</b>
		AT (item)	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	<b>4</b>
		UXO (item)	15	13	39	8	-	23	-	<b>98</b>
IED	Land Cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	-	-	1,136	11,203	-	-	-	<b>13,439</b>	
	Items	IED (item)	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>-</b>	

Table 1: Demining Capacity per Teams, Cleared Areas and Items found

\* including one pipe bomb found in Aarsal.

\*\* The size of the teams varies between IAs and inside the IA. We have small teams and large teams.

NOTES:

- The above numbers do not include the areas re-cleared by IAs, or activities for ground preparation. This means that the productivity of the IAs is higher than the above numbers that shows only the exact m2 ready to be handed over.
- The number of the working teams changes throughout the year, based on different contracts. The number of teams in this table represent the highest number at one point in time. All of LAMiNDA teams stopped working by end of August 2020.
- Some of the items found by IAs are dealt with by LAF.

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 dedicated clearance teams working all over Lebanon. Also, ER and Combat Engineering companies in all deployed 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 when needed.

In addition to the above-mentioned statistics, the LAF cleared 227,709 m2 divided into: mine-fields = 137,154 m2, cluster munitions = 90,555 m2. The total number of destroyed items by LAF including RR are:

CM	AP	AT	IED	UXO
373	2,007	24	1	8,943

Table 2: Items removed by LAF

Adding the above statistics together, the total of clearance operations results in 2020 are:

		2019	IAS	LAF	TOTAL	
TOTAL	Capacity (Teams)		50*	4	<b>54</b>	
	Land Cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )		1,342,105	227,709	<b>1,569,814</b>	
	Items Found	CM (item)		1,725	373	<b>2,098</b>
		AP (item)		14,159	2,007	<b>16,166</b>
		AT (item)		5	24	<b>29</b>
	UXO (item)		409**	8,944***	<b>9,572</b>	

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

\*\* 1 IED (pipe bomb) found by NPA and destroyed by LAF.

\*\*\* 1 IED destroyed by LAF in a RR task.



### 1.3. TECHNICAL SURVEY

LMAC is working on improving the use of TS. Hazardous areas where there is a need for more information to confirm the existence of hazard are usually dealt with by TS, which might result in a reduced area released with no need for clearance activities.

The TWG has agreed that in minefields on the blue line, in which mines are laid in an identifiable pattern, the area outside the rows of mines is a low threat hazardous area that can be surveyed technically.

In addition, minefields in other areas will be studied case by case, to determine where

full clearance is required and where TS must be applied.

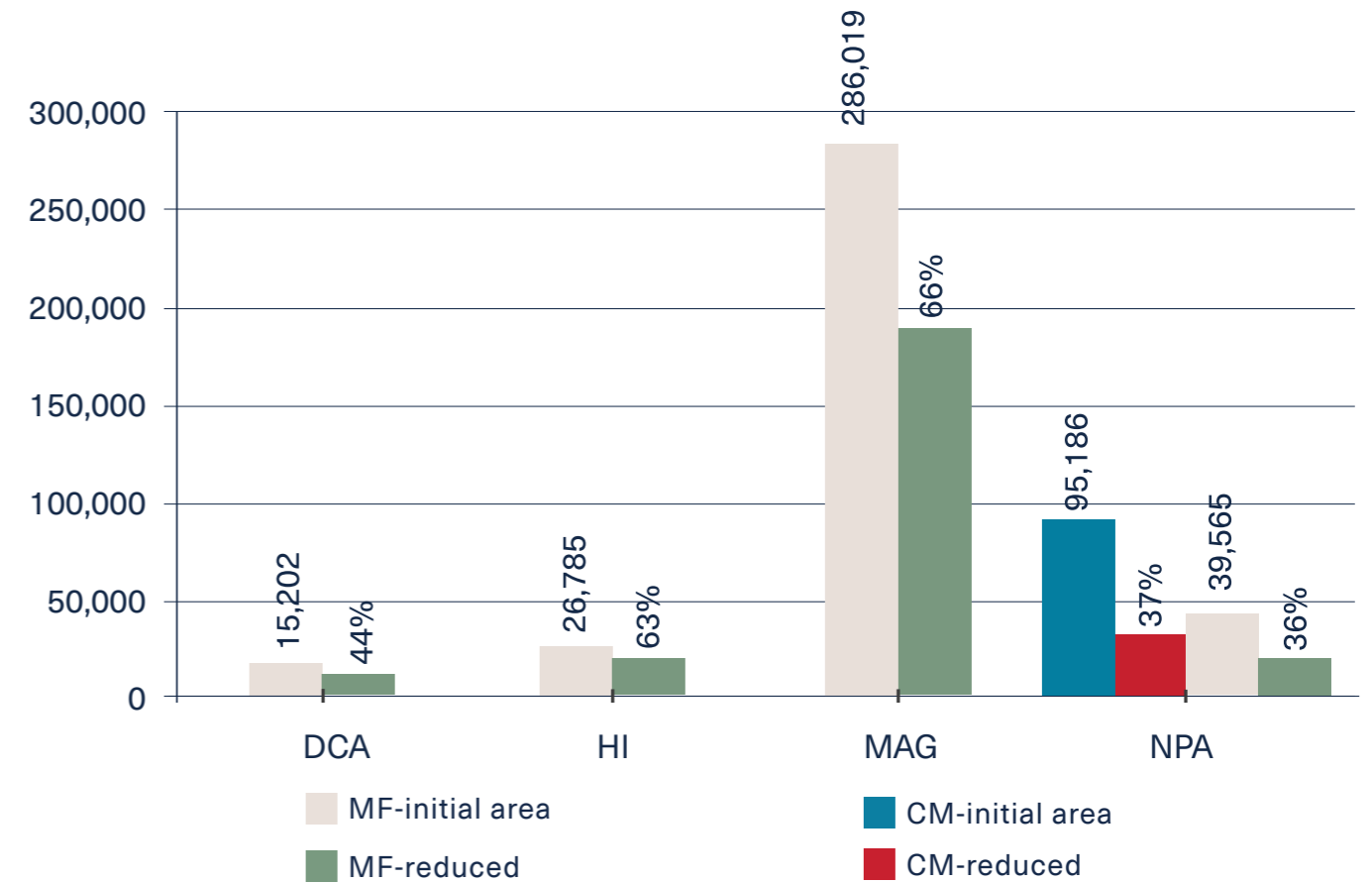
NPA has one Explosive Detection Dog Team working in TS for CMR. This team has proven its capability and effectiveness. Planning for the EDD is bound to some factors including vegetation cover and weather.

TS requires fewer funds than clearance and accelerate lands' handover where possible. In 2021, based on the operational efficiency study, the TWG will evolve the working methodologies to make TS the main method in land release.

HA Type	Row Labels	Count of HA	Initial area	Reduced	
				m <sup>2</sup> *	%
CM	NPA	6	95,186	35,209	37%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>95,186</b>	<b>35,209</b>	<b>37%</b>
MF	DCA	3	15,202	6,629	44%
	HI	4	26,785	16,819	63%
	MAG	15	286,019	188,719	66%
	NPA	11	39,565	14,395	36%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>367,571</b>	<b>226,562</b>	<b>62%</b>
ALL	DCA	3	15,202	6,629	44%
	HI	4	26,785	16,819	63%
	MAG	16	286,019	188,719	66%
	NPA	17	134,751	49,604	37%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>462,757</b>	<b>261,771</b>	<b>57%</b>

Table 3: TS results in 2020

\* Reduced area are added to total released areas in 2021.



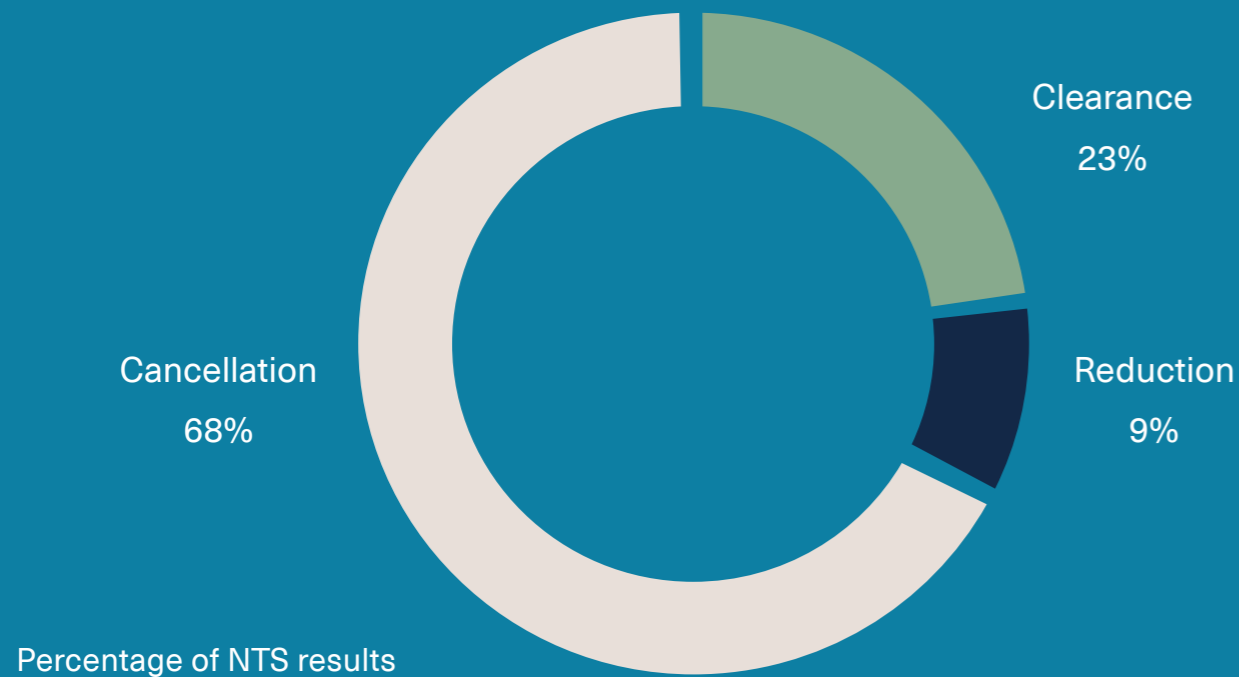
### 1.4. NON-TECHNICAL SURVEY

NTS has become a key asset for land release in LMAP. As elaborated in the CCM extension plan, the NTS of all CM sites was completed in 2020. NTS teams will continue to update information related to these sites, however, the expected level of cancellation for them is lower now. There is an increased interest among donors in NTS. The number of teams increased and covers most areas in Lebanon. NTS teams visits all HA, including minefields and DA. LMAC deploys 3 NTS teams, MAG and NPA are deploying their teams also. The total area cancelled by NTS throughout 2020 is **4,674,996 m<sup>2</sup>**. A total of 956,932 m<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>	No.	m <sup>2</sup>	No.	m <sup>2</sup>	No.	m <sup>2</sup>	No.	m <sup>2</sup>	No.	m <sup>2</sup>
CBU	112	985,987	64	915,691*	176	1,901,678	146	1,499,009	11	116,226	19	286,443
MF	60	600,604	3	41,241	63	641,845	23	77,307	32	464,760	8	99,778
DA	13	4,364,322	0	0	13	4,364,322	1	10,000	3	65,547	9	4,288,775
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>5,950,913</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>956,932</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>6,907,845</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1,586,316</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>646,533</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4,674,996</b>

Table 4: NTS tasks and recommendations

\* The majority of these new tasks are located in North East Region, most of them were cleared in 2020.



### 1.5. DATA CLEANUP

In 2020, LMAC was working to upgrade the IMSMA to the new version IMSMA CORE. The new maps developed by the new version, have clarified the existence of duplications in the HAs. The operations and Information management sections worked together to define the causes of these duplications and the correct them.

The main causes for duplications can be grouped into:

- a-** Israeli Booby Traps list and some of the Minefields were received twice on different dates and with different names. They were

entered into the database as 2 groups of dangerous areas.

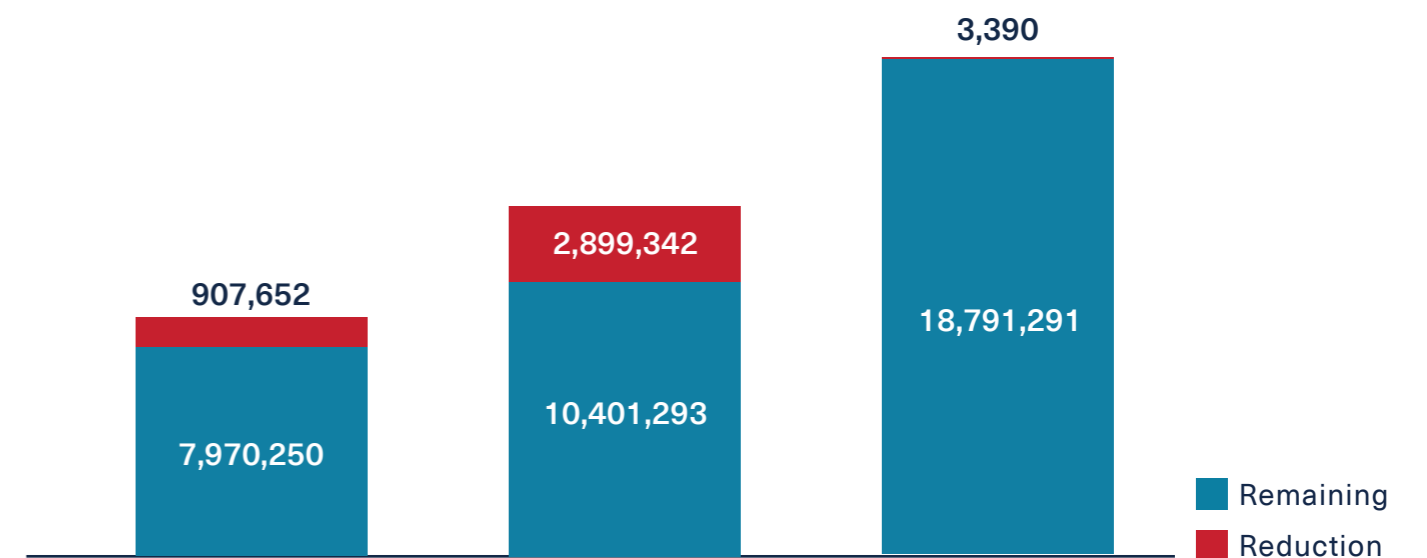
- b-** Areas considered as suspected by Israeli enemy, delivered to LAF turn out to be overlapping with Israeli laid minefields.

- c-** Overlaps identified between minefields and CBU strikes.

- d-** 80 areas where one IED identified in each of them, were reduced in size from 300x150 m2 to 40x40 m2 for each, which is more logical. In the case of other IED found in one area, the fade out for it will increase the size of that specific area.

All duplications were removed and as a result of data cleanup, the baseline was modified. It is worth noting that some of the areas erased from database induced a reduction in the aggregated released lands. The new baseline as of the end of 2020 is:

Type	CBU's (m <sup>2</sup> )	Dangerous Areas (m <sup>2</sup> )	Mine Fields (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total (m <sup>2</sup> )
Baseline end of 2019	55,046,802	45,356,068	54,064,485	154,467,355
Aggregated released lands' end of 2019	46,168,900	32,055,433	35,269,804	113,494,137
Corrected Baseline with Data Cleanup end of 2019	53,988,065	41,194,289	53,503,921	148,686,275
Corrected Aggregated released lands' with Data Cleanup end of 2019	46,017,815	30,792,996	34,712,630	111,523,441
Updated Remaining Contamination End of 2019	7,970,250	10,401,293	18,791,291	37,162,834
Total difference in Remaining HA	907,652	2,899,342	3,390	3,810,384



Data cleanup results

## 1.6. TOTAL LAND RELEASE RESULTS

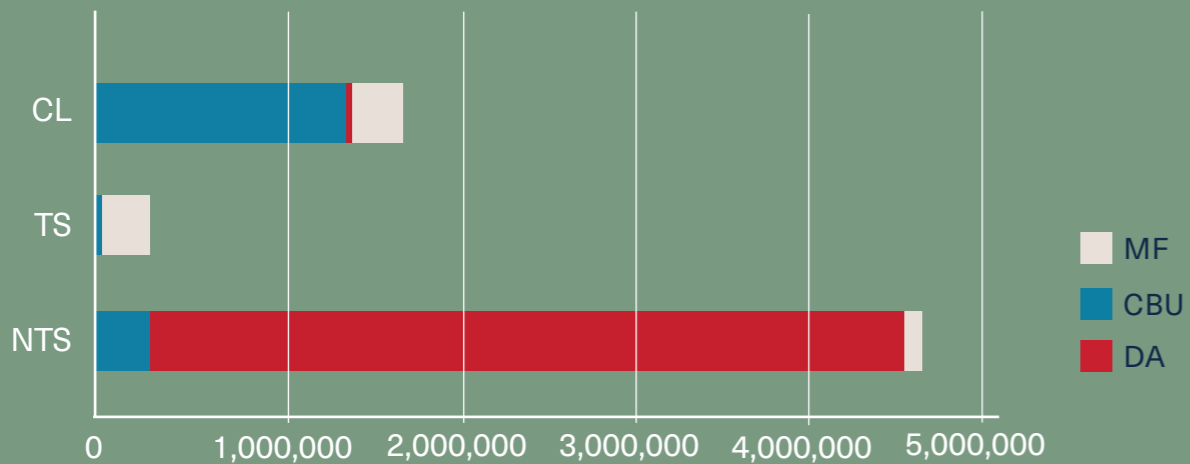
During 2020, clearance operations were supported by 5 Mechanical Teams (1 MAG + 4 LAF), and 7 Mine Detection Dogs Teams (MDD) from LAF, as secondary assets supporting the clearance teams. The explosive detection dogs (EDD) team from NPA works in Technical Survey (TS) for cluster munitions. The following table, released land is the total m2 that has been either cancelled or cleared during 2020.

Type	CBU's (m <sup>2</sup> )	Dangerous Areas (m <sup>2</sup> )	Mine Fields (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total (m <sup>2</sup> )
Corrected Baseline End of 2019	53,988,065	41,194,289	53,503,921	148,686,275
New tasks in 2020	915,691	0	41,241	956,932
<b>Baseline for 2020</b>	<b>54,903,756</b>	<b>41,194,289</b>	<b>53,545,162</b>	<b>149,643,207</b>
Released in 2020 (NTS + TS + CL)	1,599,415	4,302,214	604,952	6,506,581
% of Released m <sup>2</sup> in 2020 to Baseline	2.91 %	10.44 %	1.13 %	4.36 %
Aggregate Released in 2020	47,617,230	35,095,210	35,317,582	118,030,022
% of ALL Released m <sup>2</sup> to Baseline 2020	86.73 %	85.19 %	65.96 %	78.87 %
<b>Remaining Contamination End of 2020</b>	<b>7,286,526</b>	<b>6,099,079</b>	<b>18,227,580</b>	<b>31,613,185</b>

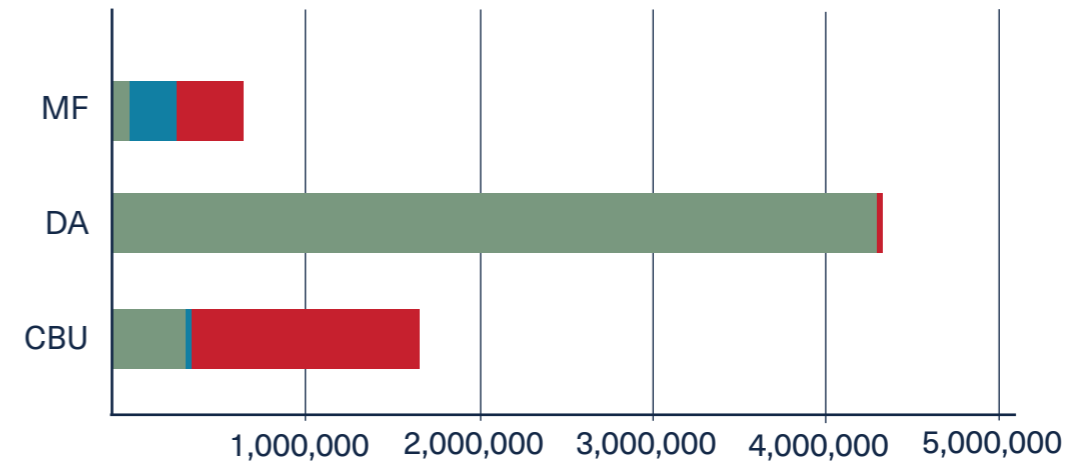
Table 6: Clearance progress by land type and by Area cleared

### NOTES:

- The baseline has been modified by the new hazardous areas surveyed by NTS teams
- The number of handed over certificates delivered for released lands in 2020 is 136

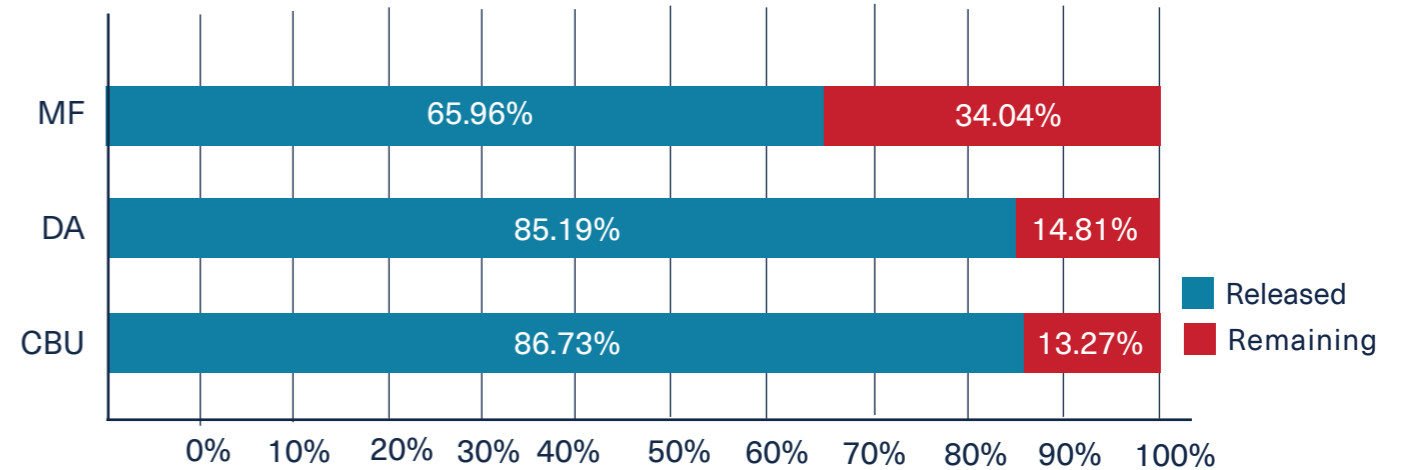


Area Released through different methods (m<sup>2</sup>)

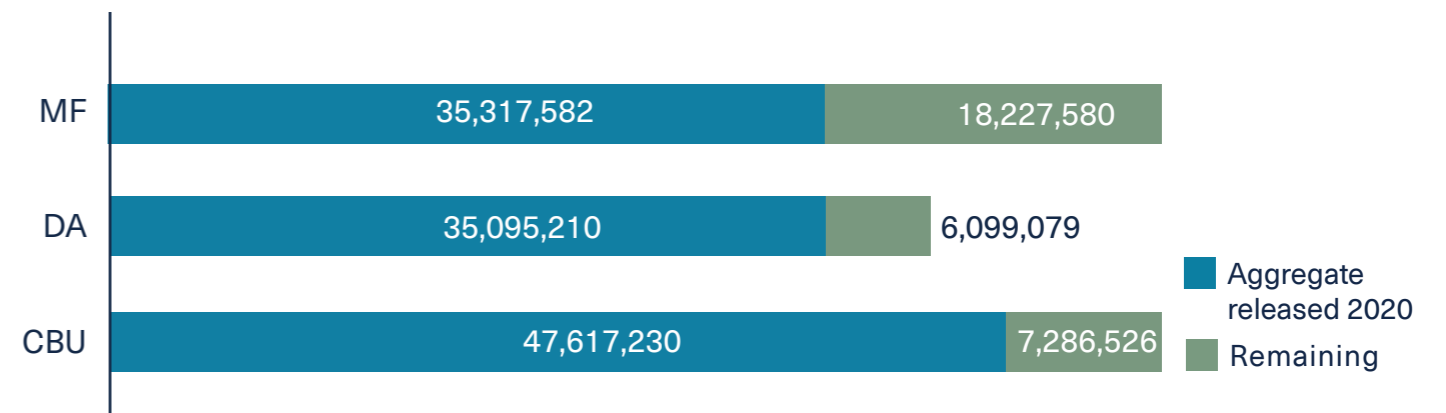


	CBU	DA	MF
NTS	286,443	4,288,775	99,778
TS	35,209	0	226,562
CI	1,277,763	13,439	278,612

Area Released by Type of Contamination



Percentages of Remaining Contamination



Distribution of Baseline 2020

## 2. QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Quality Management (QM) process uses a two-stage approach to ensure quality-demining operations and guarantees the land released to the owner(s) is safe. QAQC section in LMAC focuses on checking that the systems and procedures in place are achieving what we want. Quality Assurance (QA) provides us with the assurance that the work is being done in the approved way. Quality Control (QC) checks the results of the work to ensure that the correct result has been achieved. The main objective is to give the LMAC confidence when releasing the lands. LMAC conducts QA regularly on weekly basis. Therefore, QC checks are reduced to the minimum and performed randomly, considering that the internal QA and QC are also done regularly.

On the individual level, all personnel involved directly in operations are re-evaluated at the

beginning of the year. In 2020, 100 operational accreditations were issued. Quality Assurance checks were made at every stage of operations, including planning and training. Checklists are designed to ensure that the accredited IAs work according to their own SOPs and in compliance with the NMAS and LMAC's directions.

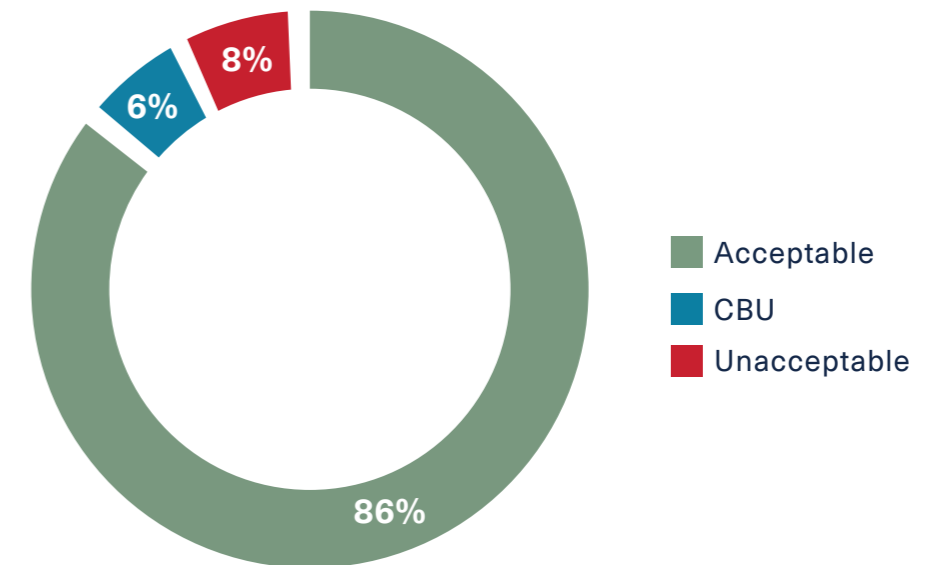
In 2020, the total number of QA visits to IAs' teams was 1093 including 90 Completions. Among those only 83 gave the result of Unacceptable. The following table shows details of the results. The analysis of these figures indicates that only 7.6% of reports were unacceptable, which reflects high adherence by the NGOs to the NMAS and remarkable improvement from last year.

Important remarks from these reports were circulated when necessary.

ORGANIZATIONS	QUALITY ASSURANCE						Unacceptable
	Monitoring	Site Setup	MedEvac	Command and Control	Completions	Total	
DCA	110	5	8	17	13	153	7
HI	29	12	7	10	-	58	3
LAMiNDA	38	2	2	-	8	50	5
MAG	359	30	26	16	34	465	40
NPA	222	22	11	2	24	281	27
POD	68	1	4	2	11	86	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1093</b>	<b>83</b>

Table 7: QA Results by Clearance Operations

UNIFIL started Clearance operations in June 2020 with 2 teams. As per the MoU signed, LMAC joined UNMAS in the accreditation of the teams and QA visits. The total number of visits executed was 39, and the number of unacceptable reports was 2.

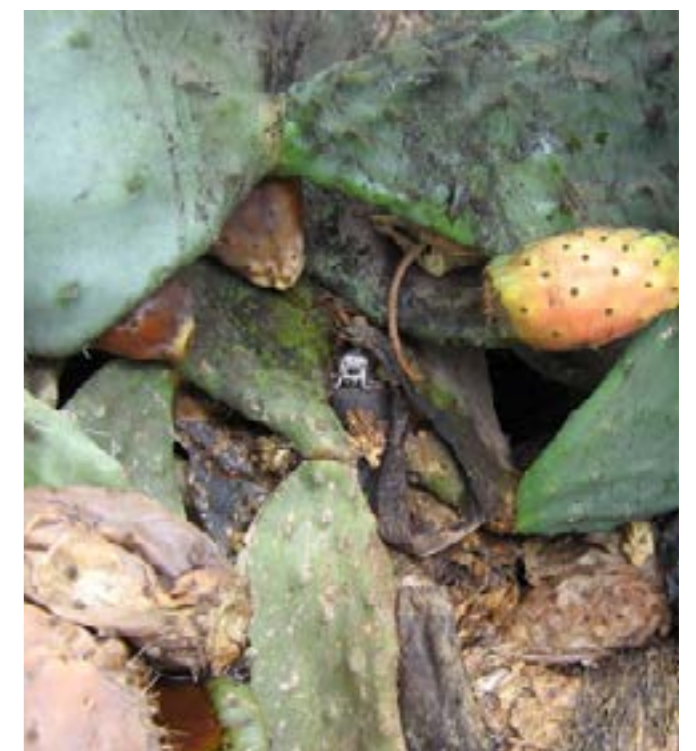


The second stage of QM is Quality Control (QC) is conducted before the land is formally handed over to its owner(s) to ensure a maximum degree of safety to the agreed minimum depth in the ground.

Demining incidents and accidents were investigated by the NGOs.

Also, LMAC conducts independent investigations, and appropriate actions were taken to ensure increased safety and communication of lessons learned. In 2020, two teams of quality control were working. The total number of tasks checked was 69; the total area checked was 38,966 m<sup>2</sup>.

The QC teams did not find any non-conformity in all the sites checked.



### 3. MINE VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

Every year new casualties are reported, increasing the total number of victims. In 2020 in Lebanon, 9 casualties of Landmine, and explosive remnants of war have been recorded in the database.

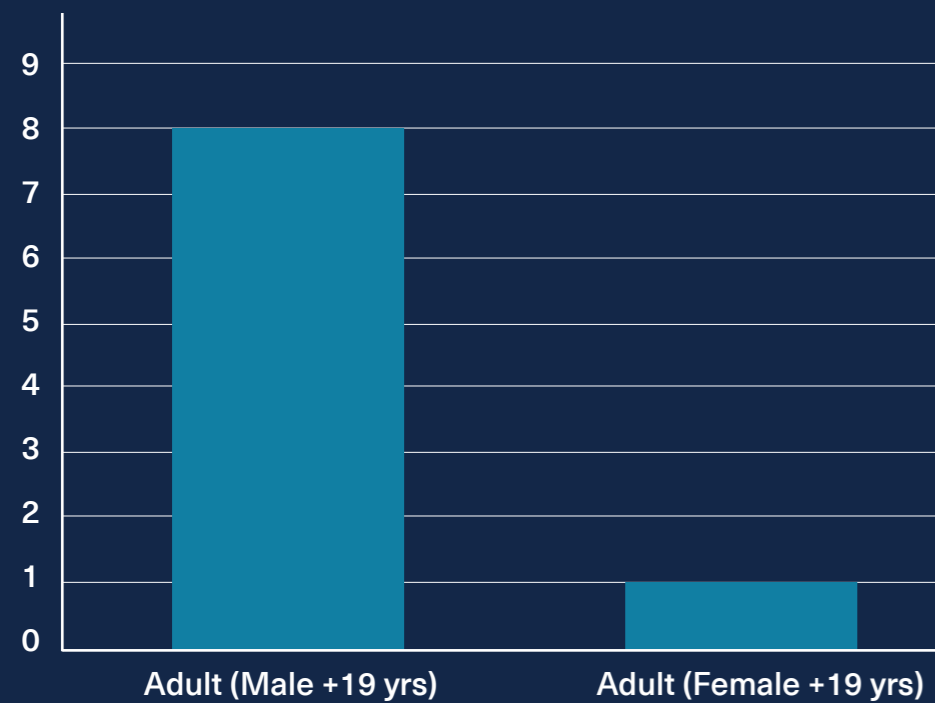
Therefore, Mine Victim Assistance should be a critical component of the public health care efforts and international humanitarian assistance. It becomes imperative to integrate victim's assistance into the national policies, plans, and legal framework.

MVA plan calls for activities addressing the specific needs of victims while incorporating relevant actions into the appropriate sectors including disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development, and poverty reduction.

### LMAC MVA CAPACITY STRENGTHENED AND COORDINATION MECHANISM ESTABLISHED

Mine victim assistance activities are always based on the existing data at LMAC.

The IMSMA database includes records of 2323 victims with segregation by age, sex, and cause of injury. In 2020, the number of casualties has decreased from 13 in 2019 to 9 in 2020. As indicated in the table below all victims were of the age group 19 and above. These individuals are active members in the society seeking to regain a normal life.

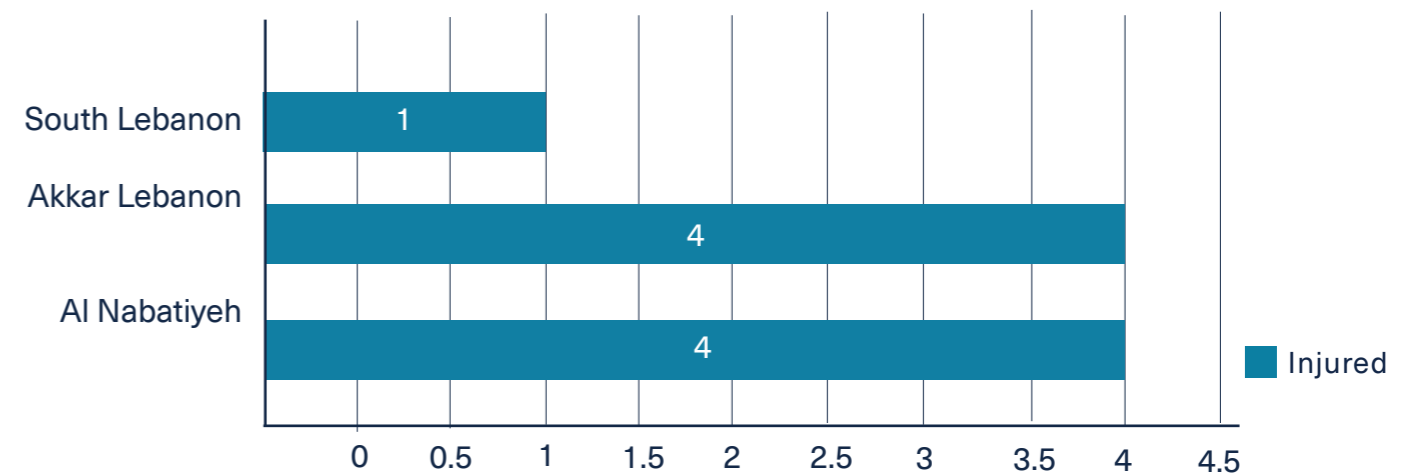


Segregation by age and sex in 2019

	Injured		Killed		Grand Total
	CM	MF	CM	MF	
Child (male) 1 - 12 yrs.	0	0	0	0	0
Child (female) 1 - 12 yrs.	0	0	0	0	0
Adolescent (male) 13 - 18	0	0	0	0	0
Adolescent (female) 13 - 18	0	0	0	0	0
Adult (male) 19 + yrs.	0	8	0	8	8
Adult (female) 19 + yrs.	0	1	0	1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>9</b>

Casualties of 2020 by sex and age

As seen in the figure below, the highest number of victims was unfortunately the most at Nabatieh and Akkar.



Distribution of mines/ERW/IED casualties by province.

## QUALITY VICTIM ASSISTANCE 2020

### 1. UPDATE THE DATABASE OF MV:

LMAC launched a countrywide initiative visiting and meeting with each victim recorded in the IMSMA database, distributing financial aid, and concurrently evaluating their situation while respecting Covid19 safety guidelines. Thus, the entire institution was mobilized to support Mine victims which resulted in providing not only financial support but also a meticulous reassessment of their needs and accurate modification of the data through the national survey

updating the previous data on mine victims. This resulting is summarized below:

1. 521 victims need close follow up.
2. 963 have mild injuries that do not need any follow up and care.
3. 467 of mine victims are dead and have nobody to get the offered support.
4. 357 of mine victims are dead and have family to get the offered support.
5. 15 have incurred some financial loss.

	Victims	Survivors	Deaths
<b>Woman</b>	Lebanese	92	44
	Non-Lebanese	5	0
<b>Men</b>	Lebanese	1010	344
	Non-Lebanese	54	9
<b>Boys</b>	Lebanese	448	169
	Non-Lebanese	28	6
<b>Girls</b>	Lebanese	60	45
	Non-Lebanese	8	1
<b>Total</b>		1692	618
		<b>2323</b>	

Table of victims, by type of casualty, age and sex

### 2. PHYSICAL REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

MVA committee has followed up the mine survivors that need rehabilitation including the provision of services for physiotherapy and supply, maintenance and training in the use of assistive devices such as prostheses, walking aids, and wheelchairs. 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.

#### PROSTHETIC DEVICES - MOSA

In the year 2020, 4 victims benefited from prosthetic services funded by Ministry of social

#### SUPPORTING TUITION FEES - DCA

In 2020, LMAC followed up the twenty mine victims who were selected to have their tuition fees partially funded with DCA and who started their income generation projects.



## 4. EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

### 4.1. AUTOMATION AND REMOTE DATA ENTRY

Like many departments in LMAC, the EORE department adapted to the restrictions on physical meetings by focusing inward thereby modernizing the EORE department while taking advantage of the latest Information Management tools. Accordingly, LMAC developed a system based on IMSMA software, generating a form that enables every designated EORE officer in the different approved NGOs to enter data on the field through a downloadable app on the personal mobile. This data on preapproved activities can be sent into IMSMA thereby contributing to the full automation of the EORE sector and data disaggregated by geographical areas beneficiaries, gender age, etc. from the field.

### 4.2. MEDIA CENTER

With the generous support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, LMAC established the media center which coincided with an increased importance on remote communication and awareness. This center will enable LMAC to actively increase communication and outreach to all partners' stakeholders, beneficiaries, and people affected by the contamination in Lebanon.

### 4.3. HARMONIZING WITH COVID19 CRISIS

The Facebook page and Twitter page were launched in 2019 and since then have gradually increased followers. Adapting to the changing working environment LMAC and partners relied increasingly on social media this year to raise awareness on explosive ordnance. Several campaigns joined both explosive and covid19 awareness to residents in Lebanon including Lebanese national, and refugees, thereby minimizing movement and thus abiding to COVID 19 restrictions.

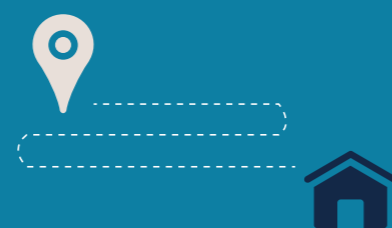
### 4.4. THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MINE AWARENESS

Every year, LMAC and partners organize several activities across the country to raise awareness on the risk of mines and other explosive ordnances. This year was the first year LMAC couldn't plan any events since April 4 fell at the beginning of the first Covid19 lockdown. Accordingly, LMAC Facebook posts for the occasion were boosted and reached 130,000. LMAC faced these challenges by harmonizing with the Covid19 campaign and by taking advantage of the high connectivity of people residing in Lebanon.

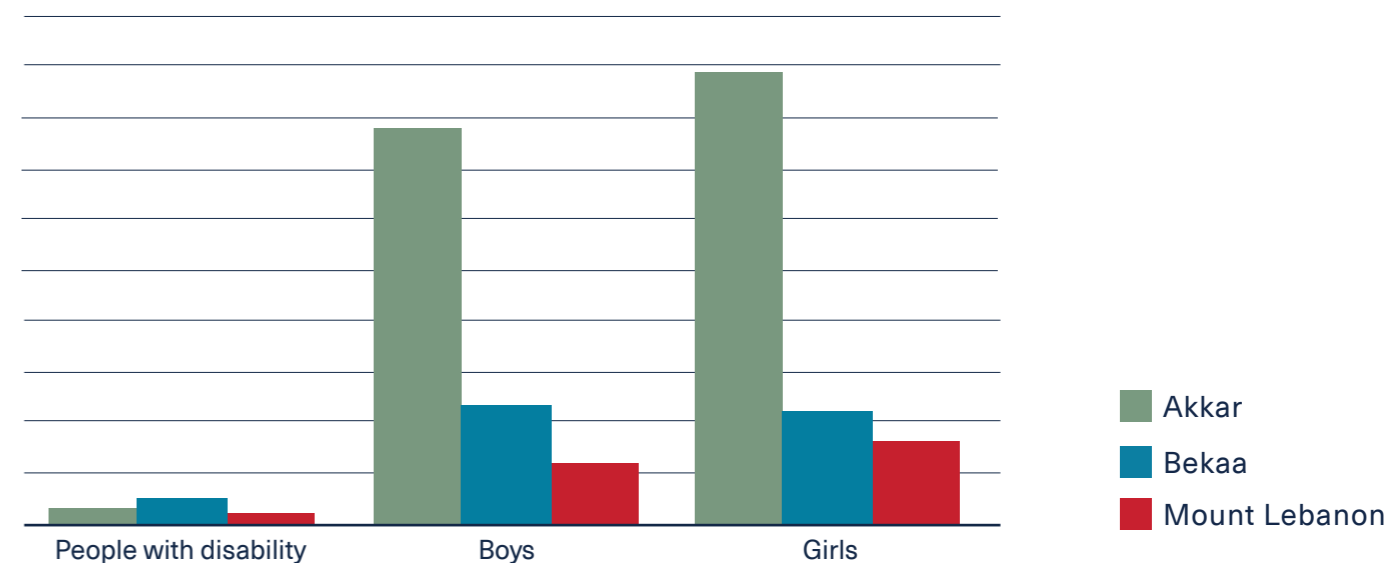
### 4.5 EORE WITH UNICEF SUPPORT AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF BALAMAND

During the year 2020, under the supervision of **LMAC**, **UNICEF** partnered with the **University of Balamand** to execute a risk education project aimed at enabling about 200 children from vulnerable communities to have access to improved and equitable prevention and response measures.

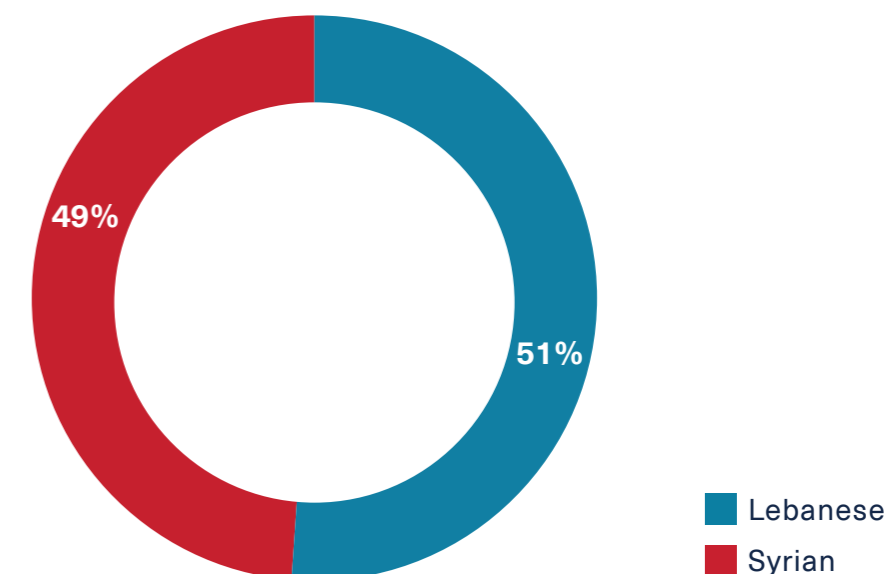
### THESE INITIATIVES WERE IMPLEMENTED IN VILLAGES DEEMED HAZARDOUS IN THE BEKAA, AKAR AND MOUNT LEBANON REGION.



The next charts are disaggregated by sex, age, and disability. A further disaggregation was made with reference to nationality (Syrian refugees).



Participant disaggregation by sex and disability



Participant disaggregation by nationality

Based on the occurrence of several accidents in new areas, the University of Balamand team executed door-to-door EORE awareness activities in the villages of Akkar. Following the report of civil defense, the University raised awareness of civil defense volunteers in villages in the southern borders.

It is important to note that all activities respected Covid-19 protective measures.

## 5. ACCESSION TO APMBC

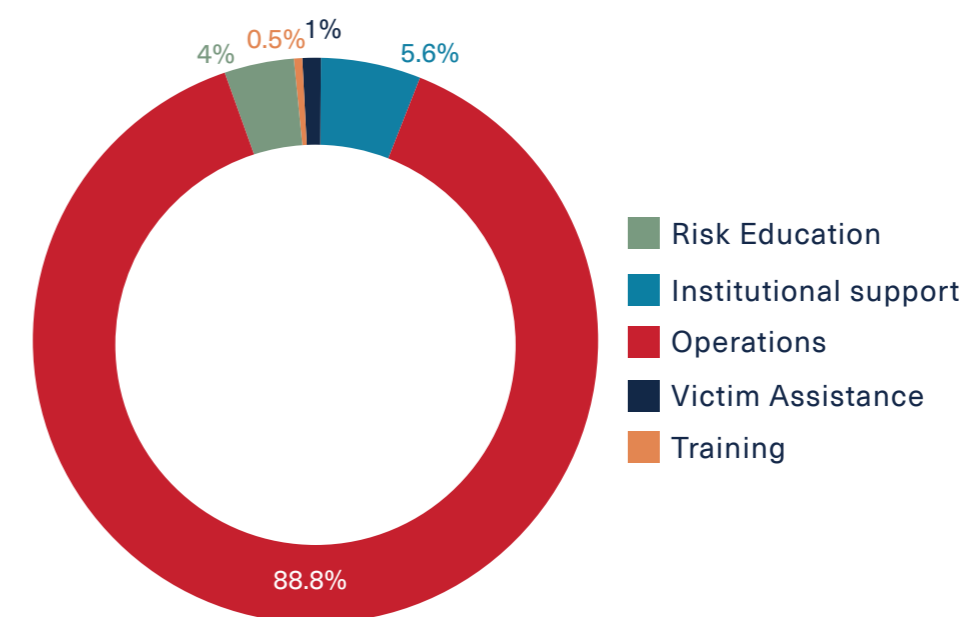
In 2020 the UNDP project with the support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy contracted an international expert to provide legal support if and when the government of Lebanon decides to accede to the Anti-Personal Mine Ban Treaty. For the past years, LMAC has been working in the spirit of the convention abiding by all its articles and following its action plans including the Oslo Action plan which LMAC will start reporting on in 2021. The legal support report is expected to articulate the process and the different corresponding procedures for accession to the APMBC. The report is also expected to elaborate the pros and cons in particular the benefits of international recognition and support.

## 6. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

This year was on an exceptional year that shifted focus on imminent humanitarian crisis: Covid19 response and most importantly Beirut Explosion immediate relief. Donors have been particularly generous with Lebanon. While the total fund for Mine Action reduced it was compensated by a shift to victim support through the financial aid provided by the Lebanese government.

Donors	DCA	Handicap	LAMINDA	LMAC	MAG	NPA	University of Balamand	RSHDL	Grand Total
DCA	70,294								70,294
EU				164,957	1,025,169	901,132			2,091,258
FRANCE		279,327						480,350	759,677
Japan	621,944	334,877	630,000						1,586,821
Netherland	596,198				1,633,047				2,229,245
Norway				375,623	1,421,494	842,000			2,639,117
UK					1,432,096	1,492,337			2,924,433
UNDP				39,200					39,200
UNICEF							150,089		150,089
UNMAS				22,673					22,673
Unniversity of Balamand							231,600		231,600
UNOPS	195,208								195,208
USA	352,901	830,231			1,744,533	1,337,690			4,265,355
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,836,545</b>	<b>1,444,435</b>	<b>630,000</b>	<b>602,453</b>	<b>7,256,339</b>	<b>4,573,159</b>	<b>381,689</b>	<b>480,350</b>	<b>17,204,969</b>
GoL monthly financial aid to all victims (COVID19- and economic crisis) <sup>1</sup>				4,955,733					4,955,733
<b>Grand Total</b>									<b>22,160,703</b>

Table 10  
Note: the government of Lebanon financial aid is based on the official rate.



## OBJECTIVE 2

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 AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

### 1. MINE ACTION FORUM

The First Mine Action Forum of 2020 was held on January 22. The Norwegian Ambassador Ms. Leni Stenseth, the LMAC Director B. General Jihad Bechelany and the Resident Representative of UNDP Ms. Celine Moyroud gave opening remarks underlining the importance of the Lebanon HMA program (LMAP), the value of the Mine Action Forum, and LMAC's inclusive and transparent approach. Lebanon MA program attention on capacity development continued focus on innovation and its collaborative approach was commended, which have resulted in making the program highly cost-efficient and ranking amongst the best managed Mine Action Centers in the world. The below paragraphs present a summary of the action points decided upon by the attendants of the January 22nd MAF. Despite the unprecedented health and socio-economic situation, LMAC achieved most of the actions while reshuffling priorities in the action points.

#### 1.1. MINE ACTION ADVOCACY

The action points in this section revolved around the need to operationalize the new strategy, finalize the media center and initiate the process for voluntary reporting to the APMBC.

The new LMAP strategy was officially adopted in 2020. LMAC has since started developing corresponding Strategic Implementation Plan. **LMAC established the media center with the support of Norway funded UNDP project as mentioned above.**

As mentioned before, priorities shifted with the new unexpected crisis and the duties they imposed. Nevertheless, LMAC continued to improve its record in preparing for the first APMBC voluntary report in 2021. As such an entire review of the data and meticulous adjustments of errors is being finalized to improve reporting including the APMBC voluntary report based on precisely accurate.

#### 1.2. LAND RELEASE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

Attendants agreed on the need to strengthen the use of technical survey and analyze existing methods and tools to identify areas of potential improvements in operational efficiency.

In 2020, LMAC increased its reliance on technical survey and revamped the methodology used. In addition, with the support of EU funding, the UNDP project recruited an international expert to support LMAC in operational efficiency assessment discussed further below.

#### 1.3. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Attendants of the MAF expressed the need to launch the LMAC dashboard to give donors and other stakeholders "live" update on progress on the LMAC webpage LMAC to ensure that IMSMA Core is used to its full potential.

#### 1.4. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

##### UNDP project

Partners agreed to the need to maintain institutional support through the UNDP project. A 3-year project was developed to support and strengthening the LMAC institution and provide needed capacity-building activities enabling the center to maintain continuous improvement in managing the Mine Action Program. The outputs of the project are discussed in page 30.

##### Regional School for Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon

The RSHDL role in the regional was deemed essential. It is therefore a must to ensure optimal and coordinated use of the Regional School for Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon (RSHDL) and promote the school as a regional training hub.

#### 1.5. FUNDING

The year started with the intention to engage and mobilize the private sector. As months went by, it was obvious the private sector was the hardest hit by the repetitive crisis with hundreds of businesses closing leading to thousands of unemployed residents. This year reshuffled roles whereas the private sector is in serious need of support from the government not only in Lebanon but in each country around the world.

**NEVERTHELESS, IN 2021, LMAC AIMS TO DEVELOP A FUNDRAISING STRATEGY TO ADDRESS ALL THE PATHS TO SECURE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON MINE ACTION PROGRAM.**

## 2. MINE ACTION REVIEW SCORE REVIEWED

#### Mine Cluster Review

The mine cluster review has improved its rating for the Lebanon mine action program from 7.1 to 7.5 overall program performance good. This improvement comes mainly from two categories; understanding of CMR contamination land release outputs and article 4 compliance.

The review commends LMAC for engaging in an accelerated manner in Non-technical survey as part of efforts to complete a re-survey of all CMR tasks by the end of 2020. Besides, Lebanon has submitted the extension request for a five-year extension to its Article 4 deadline to 1 May 2026.

#### Mine Action Review Clearing the Mine 2020

The Mine action review gave positive comments concerning the Lebanon program based on continued progress in mine clearance in 2019, both in the far south near the Blue Line and in small, scattered mined areas in Mount Lebanon, as well as addressing more recent contamination along the border with Syria in the north-east.

In addition, the review highlighted the agreement on 30 January 2020, with the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) based on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with LMAC on demining, with UNIFIL planning to start survey and clearance for humanitarian purposes. One of the main recommendations of the review is that **Lebanon should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority. Lebanon has been working in the spirit of the convention abiding by all its articles.**

## OBJECTIVE 3

THE LMAP CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, COOPERATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

### 1. LMAP CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PLANS

The Lebanon Mine Action Center has developed a capacity building plan that enables the center to progress, achieve continuous improvement, and enhance the capacities of its officers and improve the programs.

In 2020 this program was supported by Norway and the EU. With their support, LMAC was able to support the institution during a very difficult year.

The UNDP project in close coordination with LMAC developed a 3-year project for enhancing the capacity of the institution. During the upcoming phase (2021-2023), the overall objective of UNDP's support is: LMAC empowered and enabled to sustainably manage and address the humanitarian and development impact posed by mines, specifically in Lebanon and generally in the region, in line with its strategy 2020-2025.

#### RESULTS AREA 1:

Core national capacity strengthened to document and prioritize clearance operations

#### RESULTS AREA 2:

LMAC's meets its national, regional and international obligations and coordination functions

**RESULTS AREA 3:** LMAC is effective in communicating its results and establishing new partnerships

In 2020 LMAC finalized a comprehensive detailed SOP for the center enabling the insurance of business continuity and the establishment of Institutional memory. As such the rotation of the officers will have considerably less impact on the sustainability of progress.



### 2. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

#### RSHDL

The school is an essential element for building the capacity of a region increasingly devastated by Mines and ERW.

However, due to the covid19 crisis, the school as all educational institutions in the world experienced severe interruptions in 2020. Nevertheless, it succeeded in organizing a few trainings including a quality management training took place in cooperation with GICHD, and EORE training for hikers in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and an EORE training in cooperation with UNICEF.

In addition, the CBSD- RSHDL project, funded by the EU and piloted by the "French military

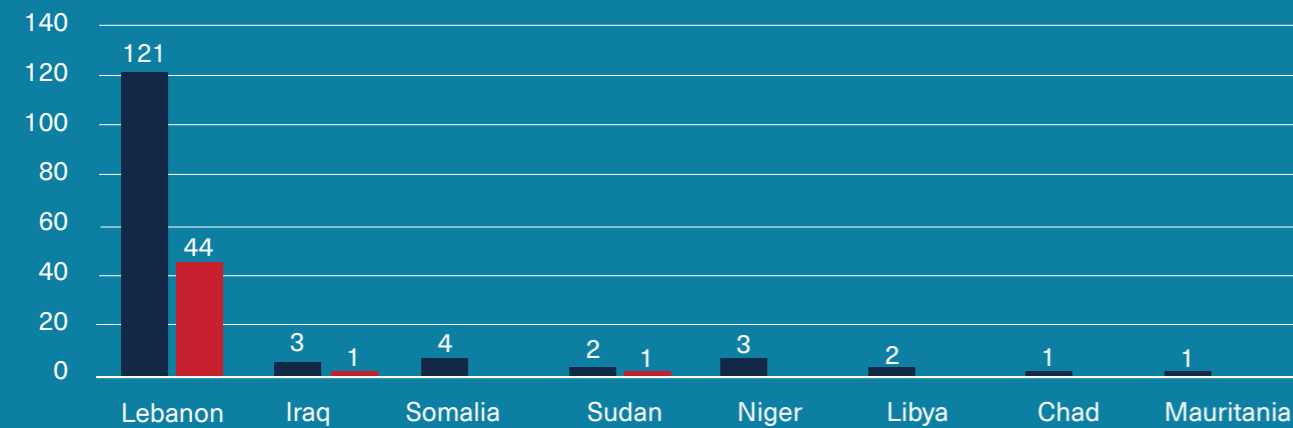
cooperation bureau for soldiers training", was the driving force of school's activities in 2020. This project represented more than 50% of activities in 2020. RSHDL qualified 60 trainees from 4 countries. RSHDL, within the framework of this project organized one IMAS EOD level 1 and two IMAS EOD level 2 courses and prepared its staff to start a "counter-IED risk education instructor" course in 2021.

Moreover, the school hosted two major events including the signature of MOU between LMAC the EU and French embassies to provide training for the Lebanese Armed forces and the MOU Signature Ceremony between the UNIFIL in Lebanon and the Lebanese government.

In addition, the school, benefited from the presence of the French technical adviser officer and fortified its relations with foreign sides especially the EU. Also the school continued to exchange expertise with the Center of excellence PIAM in France. The bilateral collaboration was enshrined in the letter of intent for bilateral cooperation signed by the heads of Lebanese and French armies in November 2020.

Due to its anticipated increasing role in the region, the school premises were expanded to include new classes and training rooms within the framework of cooperation between the Lebanese and French Armies.

In addition, the UNDP project proposal for the upcoming 3 years included a regional needs assessment to revamp and define the school's curriculum.



Participants' gender and nationality

### ARCP

In 2020, LMAC & GICHD signed a new MoU to facilitate their coordination in the implementation of joint activities, in the framework of the ARCP. The activities implemented under this MoU aim at enhancing and promoting regional cooperation among Arabic-speaking mine action countries/programs. Moreover, these activities shall serve the provision by the GICHD in coordination with LMAC of tailored training, and sustainable training capacities, including training of trainers, advisory services, and Arabic translations of mine action publications and material. In accordance with the MoU, LMAC & GICHD conducted a needs assessment in coordination with Arab partners. In addition, two courses on Quality Management course and gender focal point (GFP) were organized for participants from Arab Nationals Authorities.

## 3. EXIT STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT DEVELOPED

LMAC with the support of the UNDP project and the financial support of the EU developed a draft exit strategy in direct response to the newly developed Lebanon Mine Action Program Strategy 2020 –2025 where an exit strategy for international assistance has been identified as one of the core tasks/outputs.

It is evident that the closer Lebanon comes to achieving an Explosive Ordnance<sup>1</sup> (EO) free status, the more important it will be for international donors and the Government of Lebanon (GoL) to define and agree on an end state (end of international financial and technical support). While the end state for Mines is expected to take up to 10 years, **LMAC** requested an extension of 5 years to the CCM thereby setting a deadline for obligations to 2026.

The exit strategy, therefore, firstly suggests and formulates the desired end state: a desired situation or status of the HMA in Lebanon. This desired situation should be articulated with clear outputs and indicators, as the achievements of these agreed outputs will serve as preconditions for when international support should end. Accordingly, a joint exit strategy needs to be agreed upon to ensure a smooth transition to a fully sustainable and nationally owned, managed, and executed HMA program.

In addition, the recommendations and conclusions will address the issue of a “sustainable national HMA capacity”. This paper will discuss the different options that the Government of Lebanon has regarding developing a sustainable national capacity (and recommend a solution).

The following chart represents a suggestion for an exit strategy in reference solely to the CCM

Key activities and milestones	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
The Lebanon HMA strategy 2025 - 2020 approved	▼							
An end state and rough exit strategy for agreed upon by donors and LMAA/LMAC	■	■						
The GoL to revise its HMA policy paper with the aim to establish sustainable HMA structures capable to address the remaining EO problem (including the residual challenge)			▼					
A detailed transition plan developed			■					
National funding for the sustainable structures approved				▼				
If required, new structures established				▼				
New sustainable structures are operationalized					▼			
International actors provide capacity building to new structures					■	■		
Lebanon in compliance with CCM obligations							▼	
Int. donors and INGO's depart Lebanon								▼

<sup>1</sup> Explosive Ordnance (EO) refers to the list of explosive items which are defined under the key disarmament conventions: APMBC, CCM and CCW (protocol II and V)

In 2021, LMAC will share the draft exit strategy with partners. Based on the discussion conclusions and recommendation in a workshop, a plan will be developed in regards to the exit strategy process and the transition phase in a controlled manner enabling the program to smoothly move into this next phase of the program cycle (from internationally financed program to become a %100 sustainable and nationally owned and managed program).

**IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO KEEP IN MIND THAT THE EXIT STRATEGY IS A LIVING DOCUMENT THAT NEEDS TO BE REGULARLY DISCUSSED AND UPDATED, ALLOWING IT TO ADAPT TO THE CONTEXT (SITUATION) AND EVOLUTION OF THE PROGRAM.**

## **OBJECTIVE 4**

THE LMAP WILL STRIVE TO ACCELERATE LR TO COMPLETE THE RELEASE OF ALL CM CHAS BY 2025 AS OTHER PRIORITY AREAS AFFECTED BY MINES AND OTHER ERW

### **1. NEW STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

LMAC acknowledges that proper planning is key for effectiveness and efficiency.

The new strategic implementation plan was thus developed and is directly linked to the Lebanon Mine Action Program Strategy 2020 – 2025 and aims to operationalize the strategy and especially the LMAP mission statement:

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

This document therefore serves as a planning/ implementation tool for the LMAP partners to ensure that all actors contribute in the fulfilment of the ambitions outlined in the strategy. The purpose of the strategic implementation plan is to provide LMAA, LMAC, UN, Donors and IA with reliable evidence -based information about the priorities, approach and progress of the mine action program as a whole, in relation to strategic and operational objectives and outcomes articulated in the LMAP strategy 2020 - 2025. The Lebanon strategic implementation plan will be developed, managed and revised annually by LMAC and the Institutional Support Program (ISP), UNDP at present, in consultations with the HMA operators in Lebanon. The key target audience for this document is the LMAC management team (section heads) and senior managers of the LMAC partner organizations. The strategic implementation plan is a living document, updated and adjusted when appropriate.

## 2. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

With the support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the Lebanon Mine Action Center continued the migration to the New Information Management System IMSMA Core.

In preparation for a live status flowchart (Survey 123) for all HMA processes were developed specifying the role of actors in the Lebanon mine action program data collection in the new information management system (IMSMA Core).

- NTS – HA form
- TS activity form
- Clearance activity form
- Rapid response form
- Progress report form
- QM form
- Land release report form

- Post clearance assessment form
- EORE project form
- EORE activity form
- Accident form
- Victim form
- Victim assistance form
- Training course form

All new forms have been published on the demo portal for testing, and tutorial video have been recorded to developing a workflow for every form, starting from entering the data and ending with the IM validation. Accordingly, A new geo-database was created, and the LMAC IMSMA Core portal for EORE was launched in December 2020. Once prepared, all maps and web applications for different functionality supported by IMSMA Core will be posted and become operational on the portal.

## 3. PRIORITIZATION SYSTEM

LMAC considered reviewing the prioritization system in light of the several new developments in recent years including but not limited to, the high urbanization, the refugee crisis, and the war in the North Eastern Region. The previous system and its corresponding tasks were prioritized and entered into the IMSMA database largely based on data from the Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) conducted in the early 2000s. LMAC also included 'New' tasks which are those newly reported and were not already in the IMSMA database – usually by landowners. Obviously, a significant amount of new (i.e. post-LIS) contamination (largely from cluster munitions) was inflicted on Lebanon in 2006. In addition, there has also been a great deal of development and urbanization in Lebanon in what is nearly 20 years, thus potentially significantly changing the impact (and hence potential priority) of tasks since the LIS was done.

The new prioritization system (matrix below) adopts a strategic three-category approach methodology and a scoring system that weighs the different factors. The re-prioritization of clearance tasks is planned to be done in 2021 based on the new system and corresponding criteria. The district-by-district approach will take into consideration the new priorities for each site. Districts will be prioritized based on multiple weighted factors, mainly the number of casualties with the size of population and size of contamination. Large districts may also be subdivided into sub-districts (District-A, District-B ...) depending on size. This approach will be adopted to ensure efficient land release with maximum impact. This will be achieved through regularly updated data that is analyzed and presented in such a way that it eases decision making.

Strategic Perspective	Category	Operational Perspective	Remarks
1- Safety	A. Casualties within 5 years	A-1 Multiple Casualties in same area A-2 Most recent accident first A-3 other casualties	
	B. Proximity of households to mine fields	B-1 Closest first	If distance is > 500 m. then do not consider proximity
2- Economy	C. Funded infrastructure project	C-1 Higher value first	
	D. Funded development project	D-1 Higher value first	
	E. Agricultural use	E1 -2 Ha (20,000 m2) or less E2 -5 Ha (50,000 m2) or less"	Larger size of land for one household may fall under category "J"
	F. New housing	F-1 size of house is suitable for average income family F-2 family doesn't have other residence in Province"	Other housing projects may fall under categories "I" or "J"
	G. New small business	G-1 small project that supports the livelihood of a family	
	H. Non-funded infrastructure project	H-1 Potential value of project	Funds for HMA shall be spent on releasing lands that have direct impact first
	I. Non-funded development project	I-1 Potential value of project	
	J. Other private investments	J-1 high income beneficiaries	May choose to partially or fully fund land release
3- Treaty compliance	K. Oslo (CCM)	Logistic convenience (as resources allow)	Extension until 1st May 2026
	L. Ottawa (APMBC)	Logistic convenience (as resources allow)	Not a signatory

Prioritization Matrix

## 4. LMAP EFFICIENCY IMPROVED

LMAC with the support of the EU-funded project agreed to implement a project to identify potential areas of improvement in operational efficiency. The main recommendations for improvement include a comprehensive and in-depth harmonized understanding and training on land release process, and the emphasis that TS shall be given. It was thus recommended that LMAC initiate one or several facilitated land release workshops or facilitated training sessions intending to revise national land release standards where necessary to support the highest operational efficiency. Basic principles of land release would thus be universally understood and agreed upon by all stakeholders. a change into a concept of planning that starts with technical survey and move into clearance based on evidence should be clarified, and recommended use of assets in these two roles should be described in NMAS.

Another main recommendation is increasingly relying on Technical survey and revising the methodology. As such, the recommendation suggests changing the concept of working in fade-out from clearance to a search for evidences that affirm the need for full clearance. The current system stipulates clearance of vast areas that are highly probable of being free from contamination.

Operational efficiency could increase by 25% in certain areas by adapting to more dynamic and flexible ways of defining the requirement for fade-out. Accordingly, fadeout in several places should be viewed as technical survey and not clearance, which reflect search for evidence of big contamination rather than a unique found item. This concept will permit the use of much faster methods, including single search with animals and mechanical assets. By end of 2020 all CBU sites were visited and their NTS reports were updated. Nevertheless, the NTS will continue to be updated throughout the strategy time frame, and new priorities will be set.

Other recommendations include allowing a more flexible marking system based on the NMAS. Such flexibility could in some cases give 15% gain in of productivity this is related to the time it takes to mark up a small site where conventional marking could take as long as the search itself. The methodology used should be well agreed upon by all stakeholders. In addition, extending the time slot for demolitions, and Improving and expanding the role of ADS will significantly improve overall cost efficiency.

The role of machines, including strengths and limitations, has not been fully explored but there is evidence to suggest a 50% increase of efficiency when machines are deployed in fade out zone at the BlueLine area.

## OBJECTIVE 5

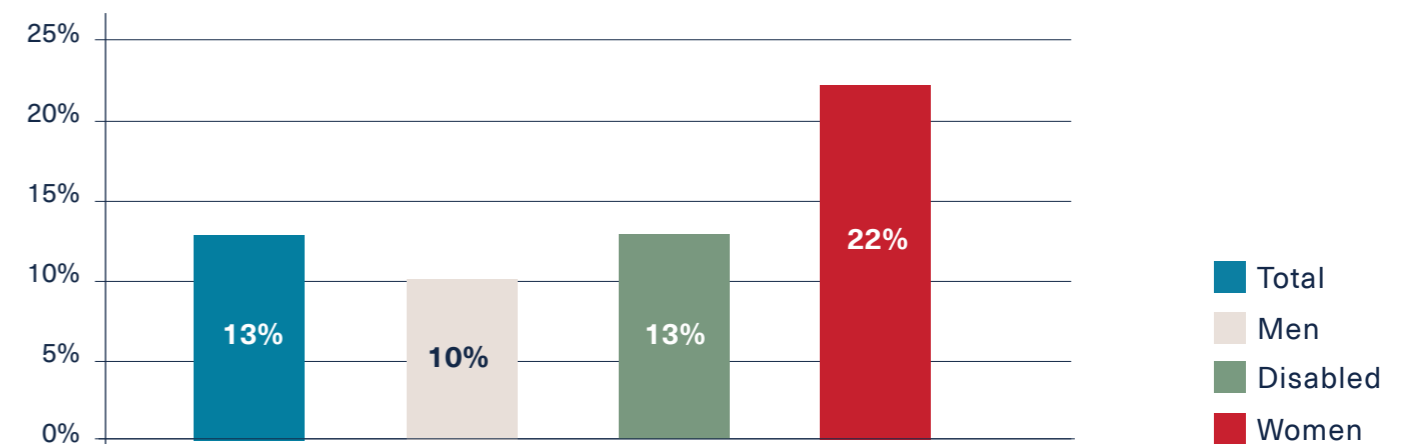
THE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND PERSPECTIVE OF WOMEN, GIRLS' MEN AND BOYS FROM ALL GROUPS OF SOCIETY ARE CONSIDERED, IN ORDER TO DELIVER AND INCLUSIVE HMA RESPONSE

LMAC places a high importance on gender and inclusion. The institution has benefited from several GICHD initiatives aimed at mainstreaming Gender and Diversity in all LMAC activities.

As such the institution has designated a focal point and advocates for improvements in this area with all partners in particular Implementation Agencies.

**AS OF END OF 2020, LMAC TOTAL STAFF IS 175, OF WHICH 19 ARE FEMALES INCLUDING 1 OFFICER, WHICH REPRESENTS 10.9%. WHILE THIS MAY SEEM AS A LOW RATE, CONSIDERING THAT ONLY 5% OF LEBANESE ARMED FORCES ARE WOMEN THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT PORTION THAT NEVERTHELESS NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED.**

As for the implementing agencies they have witnessed a 22% increase in women and 13% in persons with disability.



Gender and inclusion % changes implementation agencies

## LESSON LEARNED, PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

### 1. LESSON LEARNED

#### PROGRESS REMOTELY IS BETTER THAN NO PROGRESS

Although Mine Action is not a conceptual and theoretical subject but one that tackles a physical threat, the Covid19 crisis prevented the arrival of many international experts who were expected to have field visits.

LMAC with the support of the UNDP project accommodated to this obstacle by hiring national consultants with the support of the CLO to be the “eyes and ears” on the ground relating the reality to these international experts.

This initiative resulted in the finalization of two essential studies, the operational efficiency assessment and the review and renewal of the prioritization scheme.

#### ADAPTATION AND ACCOMMODATION IS ESSENTIAL IN TIME OF CRISIS

Following the unprecedented financial crisis, the government planned to support the most vulnerable with financial aid. In this respect, persons with disabilities and victims of explosives are particularly vulnerable. Accordingly, in April LMAC staff was mobilized to engage in distributing financial aid to more than 3800 recorded victims. LMAC took advantage of this opportunity to meet once again all the victims in person and assess their current needs. The IMSMA data was modified accordingly. Unfortunately, the crisis in Lebanon was not limited to Covid19 and financial breakdown but on August 4 Beirut was subject to one of the largest explosions in history. The government immediately assigned the LAF who took control to manage the disaster. LMAC officers contributed by assessing the damage of the blast and distributing financial aids.

### 2. PROSPECTS

On the policy level, LMAC plans to organize a Mine Action Forum in the first quarter of 2021, and finalize the strategic implementation plan for 2021-2026. LMAC will participate in the CCM 2RC - part 2 meeting where Member states are supposed to take a decision regarding the extension request. In view of that, the strategic implementation plan will be finalized, and an annual plan will be developed. On the operation level, LMAC will launch the operational efficiency pilot project and plans to automate the NMAS enabling easy access to all stakeholders. IMSMA CORE and its dashboard are expected to be fully operational enabling donors and partners to check in real-time progress. The EORE section will focus on social media. The regional school will undergo a regional assessment of needs to pinpoint the necessary courses and adapt the curriculum accordingly.

Finally, the Arab Regional Cooperation program will reignite cooperation and coordination between the national institutions in the region. The assessment of operational efficiency is a continuous process. As such in 2021, LMAC plans to have an assessment of assets and ultimately promote sector-wide use of the most efficient assets. The project is to develop methods of comparing operational

efficiency between using the various assets, split between CMR and landmines..

LMAC will continue to encourage operators to try out new methods and tools. In 2021, TS dogs and dual sensors will be formally introduced, and standards developed as concrete steps to speed up operations. The **RSHDL** and the **GICHD** and **UNDP** partnerships put Lebanon in a good position to act as an R&D hub for tools and methods designed for the unique EO threats of the Middle East.

In relation to responding to the donor's interest, In 2021 LMAC is seeking to develop a fundraising strategy that will be in line with both the Lebanon Mine Action Program and the Exit Strategies.

In addition, LMAC is planning to develop a communication strategy to highlight the achievements of the program and the contribution of the partners, and the different considerable contribution.

As for survivors' assistance, Strong cooperation is required among national and international partners to discuss the means and laws to grant mine victims' their rights in an optimistic and productive life.

### **3. CHALLENGES**

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#### **MAINTAINING DONOR TRUST**

One of the major challenges in sustaining donor trust and support. LMAC is constantly seeking to enhance the cooperation with IAs and donors not only by making sure the lands are cleared upon international standards but also that the funds spent are disbursed most effectively. As such the operational efficiency study was done to assess methods that are the most efficient. The recommendations will be tested in 2021 and applied to the entire sector. In addition, the prioritization study aims to ensure that clearance targets the areas taking into consideration priorities related to human safety, socio-economic development, and international commitments.

#### **MAINTAINING INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

LMAC considers that continuous change and progress is essential to maintain the quality of the management of the Mine Action Sector as a whole. This entails enhancing the capacity of the staff, coordinating with donors, and getting international expertise in specific essential topics as well as support in advocacy.

#### **MINE SURVIVOR SUPPORT**

Ensuring that all mine/ERW victims have access to programs that meet their specific needs, particularly in employment and livelihoods as well as psychological support. Ensuring that all victims, along with other people with similar needs, have equal access to age- and gender-appropriate services.

#### **BORDER ACCIDENTS**

Since 2019, Lebanon has witnessed an increasing number of accidents on the substantially long border with Syria from the north to the south border. Based on assessment, these accidents are for the time being too sporadic to engage in any land releases approach.

Nevertheless, the increasing number of victims is worrisome and needs to be monitored closely. In the absence of possible operational solution, the only way to prevent further accidents is through intensified Risk Education.



“*LEBANESE COMMUNITIES PROSPER,  
FREE FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE*”



LebMineAction



Lebanon Mine Action Center



info@lebmac.org



lebmac.org



+961 5 956 143 / +961 5 956 192