

DFID Programme Strategy 2010 - 2013

Creating a safer environment:
clearing landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions
CCW	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
CHASE	Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department
DFID	Department for International Development
EC	European Commission
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
HDI	Human Development Indicators
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
MASG	Mine Action Support Group
MBT	Mine Ban Treaty
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MRE	Mine Risk Education
NSA	Non-State Actor
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan
UN	United Nations
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

DEFINITIONS

Mine Action

International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) defines 'Mine Action' as:

“activities which aim to reduce the social economic and environmental impacts of mines and ERW”

The definition goes on to say that mine action¹:

“... is not just about demining; it also about people and societies, and how they are affected by landmine contamination. The objective of mine action is to reduce the risk from landmines to a level where people can live safely; in which social, economic and health development can occur free from the constraints imposed by landmine contamination ...”,

Mine

“A munition designed to be placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area and to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person or vehicle.”

Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)

“Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AXO).”

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

“Explosive ordnance that has been primed, fused, armed or otherwise prepared for use or used. It may have been fired, dropped, launched or projected yet remains unexploded either through malfunction or design or for any other reason.”

Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AXO)

“Explosive ordnance that has not been used during an armed conflict, that has been left behind or dumped by a party to an armed conflict, and which is no longer under the control of the party that left it behind or dumped it. Abandoned explosive ordnance may or may not have been primed, fused, armed or otherwise prepared for use.”

Explosive Sub-munition²

“A conventional munition that in order to perform its task is dispersed or released by a cluster munition and is designed to function by detonating an explosive charge prior to, on or after impact.”

¹ The activities typically contained within mine action are: mine risk education; humanitarian demining (mine and UXO survey, mapping, marking, and – if necessary – clearance); victim assistance; stockpile destruction; advocacy against the use of anti-personnel landmines.

² Convention on Cluster Munitions. Article 2, sub-section 3.

Demining (humanitarian demining)

“Activities which lead to the removal of mines and ERW hazards ... and the handover of cleared land. Demining may be carried out by ... NGOs, commercial companies, national mine action teams or military units.”

Mine and ERW clearance is considered to be just one part of the demining process.

Explosive ordnance disposal

“The detection, identification, evaluation, render safe, recovery and disposal of explosive ordnance.”

Land release

The meaning of this term has not been finally agreed but for the purpose of this strategy it is taken to include two activities:

- Releasing mine-affected land by clearance (demining).
- Releasing land once considered as a suspect hazardous area by means other than clearance. This may be termed ‘cancellation’ in the sense that the previous suspicion has been cancelled without the need to undertake demining processes.

Whichever activity is used, it should provide similar levels of confidence that the land is free from explosive hazards.

Partnership

This strategy focuses heavily on the need to deliver the outcomes required through partnerships. For the purpose of this strategy ‘partnership’ is defined as:

The pre-planned co-operation between two or more organisations who, through the appropriate and combined use of their separate skills, can deliver an outcome that is not possible by one partner alone.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This strategy covers the UK's commitment to spend £30 million on mine action over the financial years 2010 – 2013 announced by Secretary of State Douglas Alexander on 25 November 2008. Drawing upon lessons from the last fifteen years of support to mine action, it presents some changes to the way in which public funding for mine action is managed and delivered.

The global context of mine action has changed radically in the last decade for three key reasons: firstly, the number of conflicts has approximately halved since 1990³; secondly, the effectiveness of the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT)⁴; and thirdly, the impact of funding for humanitarian clearance efforts starting in 1987 and building up to a peak in 2002-2006.

The MBT has ostracised the manufacture, sale and transfer of landmines to the extent that fewer than thirteen countries now manufacture landmines and there is a near-global moratorium on sale and transfers.⁵ Global funding for mine action between 1996-2007 amounts to around £2.16 billion and this has enabled clearance of much of the most affected areas.

The mine action community is re-appraising its strategies and adapting to the future. Mine action organisations have also evolved significantly since the early 1990s and most now recognise that the environment in which mine action takes place has changed. Mine action is no longer perceived as a pioneer and single-issue activity that occurs in the context of post-conflict or emergency phases of development. Only a small number of those countries which are mine-affected are currently affected by conflict or in a post-conflict or emergency phase. Except in a few cases, the need to clear landmines just because they exist in the ground has now gone and the priority is to focus on removing those where there is a clear and measurable impact on development and human security. DFID's mine action funding will be increasingly focussed on building countries' own capacities to carry out demining, and maximising the impact of demining on the socio-economic development of targeted populations.

To draw best value from the current and future context of mine action DFID's new strategy is underpinned by these four core principles:

- A focus on priority countries where mine action will complement the UK's other development funding.
- Ensuring a well coordinated global programme through competitive tendering for an experienced implementing partner or consortium.
- Requiring implementing organisations to support DFID's development goals and aid effectiveness principles, including closer integration of mine action in development programmes and progress towards nationally owned strategies and defined end states.
- Monitoring the impact of mine action through 'before and after' evaluations of mine-affected communities.

³ Refer to data under <http://www.systemicpeace.org/conflict.htm>

⁴ 'Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction'. Known as the 'Mine Ban Treaty' or the 'Ottawa Convention'

⁵ Landmine Monitor report 2009.

1. THE CHALLENGE

During the 1990s, half of the countries where life expectancy, income and education levels declined had experienced violent conflict. Of the 34 countries furthest from reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), 22 are in the midst of, or emerging from, violent conflict. By 2010, half of the world's poorest people could be living in states that are experiencing, or are at risk of, violent conflict.⁶

The costs of violent conflict are enormous, not only the obvious and immediate toll on lives and property but the long-term effects that conflict has on development. Long after violent conflict has ended, the landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) left behind continue to hamper development in many ways. Landmines and ERW are distributed over 80 countries or territories, primarily in Africa, Asia, Central America, the Middle East and the Balkans. The humanitarian impact of landmines and ERW is significant: they continue to kill and maim between 5,000 - 6,000 people a year.⁷

Those countries emerging from conflict face huge challenges, both in terms of their capacity in financial and human terms to deal with landmines and ERW and their willingness to prioritise the problem in an environment where there can be any number of immediate post conflict challenges. The clearance of mines must compete for its share of Government funds and international development aid alongside other urgently needed development projects.

Landmines and ERW constrain development in the poorest countries in the world and can have devastating social and economic impacts. Importantly, the presence of landmines and ERW means that poverty stricken communities are barred from accessing or developing land resources which could be put into productive use to generate much-needed income for families and communities.

In many countries mines and ERW must be cleared to allow safe access to water and sanitation. Mines and ERW also block roads and reduce access to markets and other critical infrastructure.

Mines and ERW also contaminate agricultural land and renewable natural resources, all of which are fundamental to reducing poverty and hunger. Not only are 2.5 billion people in developing countries dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, but agriculture and broader natural resource use are at the core of the economies of many developing countries.

In this way, the presence of mines and ERW can block progress towards the MDGs, in particular those concerning health, education and reducing the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.

⁶ <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Global-Issues/How-we-fight-Poverty/Conflict-and-Security/Landmine-Monitor-2008>, page 51.

⁷

2. UK AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Having actively supported mine action since 1993, the United Kingdom was one of the first countries to sign the MBT in 1999 and thus pledged itself to work towards securing a world free from the use and manufacture of, and trade in, landmines.

Article 6 of the MBT states that:

“Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for mine clearance and related activities”.

To this end, the United Kingdom government has donated over £100 million to mine action and remains one of the largest donors in the world.

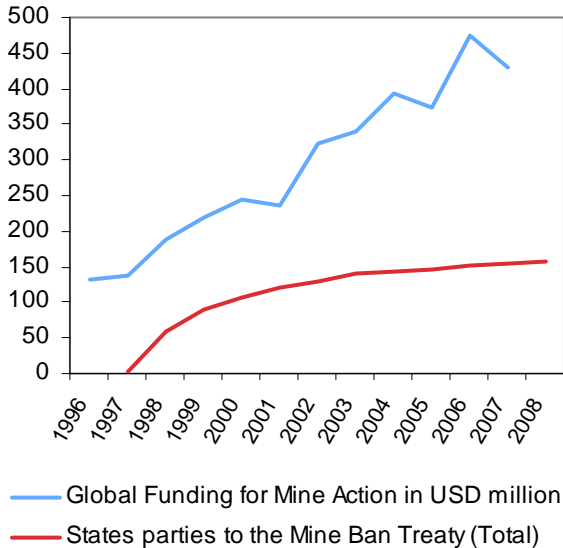
However, DFID recognises – as does the MBT– that clearing minefields and ERW is primarily the responsibility of the country on whose territory they lie. In most countries the problem of landmines and UXO will last for very many years and DFID is committed to help national governments put in place appropriate policies and capabilities so they can take over the management and actual clearance themselves.

In co-operation with United Nations and implementing partners (NGO and commercial) DFID has been able to play a leading role in emergency situations. For example, in Kosovo, Lebanon, Georgia and Gaza, DFID money allowed mine action work to start immediately.

The accumulated experience gained over the last 15 years, and the lessons learned, have been incorporated in this new strategy.

3. THE AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS STRATEGY

Donors provide around £230 million annually⁸ for mine action. Whilst much has been achieved, global funding has now reached a funding plateau⁹ and there is increasing pressure on donors to ensure that the resources they provide are used effectively and efficiently. Whilst the UK has contributed significantly to reducing the threat of landmines, there is now a requirement to clarify the objectives of our mine action programme.



The UK has pledged £30M over the financial years 2010 – 2013¹⁰ to create a safer environment that reduces suffering and promotes development and poverty reduction. This programme aims to focus DFID resources on three key objectives:

1. To release mine affected land which will make a measurable contribution to the socio-economic development of mine affected communities.
2. To help governments take over the management of their national mine action programmes as soon as practicable.
3. To improve value for money in mine action.

All implementing partner organisations will be expected to fulfil – or actively assist – all these key objectives to the extent possible in each country programme. Regular monitoring will confirm progress and identify areas. This will be undertaken through monitoring visits to country programmes to assess the demining and development outcomes actually achieved.

⁸ Landmine Monitor, 2008. See www.icbl.org/lm.
⁹ Landmine Monitor 2008 reports a 20% reduction in European Commission funding and a 35% reduction in United States funding. These are the two largest donors.
¹⁰ DFID Press release 25 November 2008: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/Press-releases/2008/UK-steps-up-landmine-fight/>

DFID will actively pursue joint donor monitoring and evaluation to ensure effective oversight of programmes without duplication of effort, and contribute to improved donor co-ordination.

Programmes will be monitored for effectiveness and efficiency through a broad range of variables which are mentioned under each objective. Although not all the variables are likely to be appropriate for every action supported, many of them will be. DFID wants maximum benefit to be gained as a result of its support and will expect partners to include as many of these issues as possible in the monitoring process.

3.1 Objective 1 - To release mine affected land to make a measurable contribution to the socio-economic development of mine affected communities.

Background

Landmines and ERW continue to impose significant negative impacts on people, on land use, and in the wider economies of many of the poorest countries in the world. The costs of violent conflict are enormous, not only the obvious and immediate toll on lives and property but the long-term effects that conflict has on development. Landmines and ERW constrain development in the poorest countries in the world and can have devastating social and economic impacts. The best practical solution to this problem is to clear mine and ERW contaminated land so that it may be put back into productive use.

In many countries mines and ERW must be cleared to allow safe access to water and sanitation and mines and ERW block roads and reduce access to markets, schools and other critical infrastructure. Mines and ERW also contaminate agricultural land and renewable natural resources, as well as areas where children play and communities meet, all of which are fundamental to reducing poverty and hunger and increasing the welfare of the population.

Mine action interventions can be effective in overcoming obstructions to social and economic development, particularly if interventions are closely linked with national and international development priorities. They have multiple positive spillover effects and can play an important role in movement toward the achievement of the MDGs.

The impact of mine action on development depends on how well mine action is coordinated with other development projects. The impact and effectiveness of clearance can be maximised through partnerships between clearance organisations, Governments and development NGOs to facilitate the delivery of clearly-defined development objectives. Therefore, because the best measure of success of mine action is based on the impact on the local population, mine action planners and managers must verify that what their projects are producing is reaching, and is useful to, intended beneficiaries.

DFID will support partners or consortia who offer a broad range of inter-related development outcomes rather than a narrow focus. We will ensure that the tendering process permits multi-disciplinary partnerships or consortia.

Priorities

All implementing partners will be expected to target real need, as demonstrated by three kinds of impacts:

- on land and assets - where clearance of contaminated land alleviates significant constraints to livelihoods and development, as indicated by the development of strategic resources and communal assets; and
- on people - where release of contaminated land has the maximum direct humanitarian impact, as indicated by victim numbers and livelihoods;
- on the economy - where clearance of specific sites will bring the greatest benefit to the local economy, as indicated by market development and investment in infrastructure.

The indicators by which the results will be measured

The benchmark for measuring the impacts of mines and ERW will be established by carrying out an appropriate baseline survey of mine-affected communities prior to mine action being carried out. By quantifying appropriate standard development indicators, this baseline will allow assessment of the benefits to the project-affected communities during and after clearance. The indicators broadly match the priority targets:

Reduction in mine-related casualties.

It is recognised that there remain challenges with gaining and interpreting data on victim numbers. However this will be measured as an absolute number and will be judged on the reduction of casualties over time.

Putting land back into productive use.

This will be measured through a basket of indicators which may include a mix of:

- Cleared land being used for habitation, agriculture or foraging for fuel supplies.
- Provision of access to critical resources to satisfy basic needs such as water supplies.
- Refugees and IDPs able to regain safe and secure access to their land.
- Partnerships with providers of social/economic infrastructure, such as schools, medical centres, roads, areas of production, power supply and distribution systems etc.
- Land cleared to facilitate the work of other humanitarian and development organisations.
- Impact on human security, implying both freedom from fear of contaminated land and freedom from want of access to cleared land.

Reduction of poverty and vulnerability.

This will be measured through:

- Standard human development indicators at regional and sub-regional / local level.
- Qualitative assessments undertaken through project evaluations.

Promotion of confidence.

Although this is rarely a justification in itself for funding mine action, where appropriate, it will be considered as a supplementary measure of success in cases when mine action can uniquely foster confidence in fragile communities and demonstrate international support for at least one of their concerns.

Effectiveness.

This will be primarily measured by examining impacts and outcomes in mine affected communities and the wider economy. Consideration will be given to greater effectiveness through better donor coordination and joined up prioritisation.

Gender.

Women, men, girls and boys are affected differently by the threat posed by the presence of landmines in their communities. Gender impacts the likelihood of becoming a victim of landmines, accessing medical care, reintegrating into society after being injured, and accessing mine risk education. There is growing awareness within the mine action sector that including a gender perspective will not only allow an inclusive approach to gender equality but also help mine action have greater and wider impact. DFID is committed to the inclusion of gender considerations in the planning and implementation of mine action projects that it funds.

3.2 Objective 2 - To help governments take full responsibility for their National Mine Action Programmes.

Background

Much of Western Europe still has an ERW problem ninety years after the First World War and over sixty years since the Second. It is very probable that most mine-affected countries (many poor and with poor governance) will face a similar problem. Even those countries who clear all their known anti-personnel minefields within ten years will most probably continue to find landmines and other ERW well into the future. For this reason DFID supports the requirement of some countries to prepare for residual response capacity.

The achievement of a country's MBT obligations is a shared goal between the mine affected country government, the donor, the UN and the implementing partner. DFID expects its implementing partners to think beyond the current DFID strategy period. Interventions should contribute to long-term national de-mining strategies. DFID 's ultimate aim is that governments of mine-affected countries should have in place the institutional mechanisms and operational capability to continue whatever mine action they consider necessary without recourse to outside assistance.

Effectiveness is best achieved through mine action entities working in partnership with the governments of the mine-affected country to develop sustainable national capacities to meet present and longer-term needs. This will only be possible in countries where the government in question shows the political will to properly address the elimination of the landmine and ERW development impacts. Mine action should not be carried out in isolation, but be integrated into development strategies and promote national ownership. National authorities must be supported to develop the capacity necessary to manage and coordinate all aspects of mine action and transition plans from assisted programmes to nationally managed ones need to be realistic and sustainable.

Where possible, DFID will fund mine action where it is prioritised within national development agendas such as the National Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan (PRSP). Mine action partners working under DFID funding will support a mine-affected country meet its development goals as laid out in these macro-development frameworks.

DFID recognises the unique role the United Nations Mine Action Team (UNMAT) plays in the development of national institutions and national development and reconstruction plans. The synergy between DFID and UNMAT strategic objectives is clear and DFID has enjoyed a productive relationship with UNMAT for many years. DFID is committed to supporting the UN throughout the period of this strategy to lead in the delivery of this objective.

The priorities

DFID wishes to help build, where appropriate:

- the capacity of efficient and appropriate national and local mine action structures;
- the development of effective and transparent strategies for the implementation of mine action and its integration into development plans;

- the creation of an appropriately-scaled supervisory body with an effective technical capacity;
- DFID will work in partnership with the recipient countries and help them meet their national priorities, where possible set out in the national MDGs or PRSP.

It is important that DFID's commitment is supported by the recipient government's commitment¹¹. A case-by-case assessment of countries with poor or emerging governance will be undertaken.

National capacity depends upon the technical and managerial skills at individual, team and institutional levels. DFID-funded organisations and implementing partners will be required to maintain this focus at all levels.

Support may be given to military mine action activities which achieve humanitarian or civil development objectives. In principle, DFID is content to fund mine action and ERW clearance undertaken by the military so long as:

- its co-ordination is transparent;
- it works to international humanitarian mine action standards;
- it is subject to independent monitoring.

The indicators by which the results will be measured

The development of national capacity will be measured against four expectations.

- The host government agreeing to and implementing measures to facilitate mine action activities in the country. This will include matters such as appropriate customs exemptions, prompt release of necessary equipment and the creation of the supervisory body mentioned below.
- The host government developing effective and transparent strategies to implement mine action and its integration into development plans, such as the PRSP.
- The creation of technical capabilities able to plan and manage mine action activities in their areas of responsibility. Initially such organisations might need to be trained, equipped and managed by implementing partners but it is intended that the supervisory management transfers to a national body as soon as practicable.
- The creation of a supervisory body which, on behalf of the national authority, can undertake the required co-ordination with other sectors and perform strategic planning, prioritisation, and supervisory management of all mine action actors in the country.

¹¹ This need not be funding but should include demonstrating political will by acknowledging the country's mine action obligations and creating strategies and procedures to meet those obligations.

3.3 Objective 3 – To improve value for money in mine action

Background

DFID is keen to maximise value for money in mine action by, amongst other measures, improving the effectiveness of mine action at both the strategic and technical levels. Ensuring value for money necessitates proper linking of the strategic, programmatic and technical level. Technical developments and the outcome of technical assessments feed should feed into future programming. The results of monitoring and evaluation of programmes feed should feed into not only the formulation of new programme objectives but also into assessments of future technical needs.

At the strategic level improved donor co-ordination is an essential part of improving impact and cost-efficiency by increasing the value of collective action. As set out in the 'Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness', and the 2006 DFID White Paper "*International partners must find ways of working together to make aid better*"¹².

At the technical level there is a constant need to reduce the cost of mine action relative to the value of the outcomes. This requires not only that best practice be followed but that the best practice itself continues to improve. DFID expects to see on-going innovation of both equipment capabilities and of the procedures applied to mine action. Quality management of the mine action programme is essential and DFID requires the implementing partner to apply quality assurance to the process of mine action and quality control to the outcome.

The priorities

Value for money is best achieved through an optimum balance of input costs, productivity and the value of the outcome¹³. A major theme throughout this strategy is that of maximising the measurable development outcome. Efficiency itself is important but of little value if it does not provide the outcome required. This will best be achieved through effective partnerships between the mine action provider and the development provider.

DFID will take a multi-layered approach to improving donor co-ordination through:

- engagement with multilateral agencies, such as the United Nations agencies dealing with mine action;
- participation and support for donor groups such as the Mine Action Support Group (MASG). DFID will continue to explore ways to make these groups more effective through its work with the UN Mine Action Team;
- bilateral arrangements with other donors, including actively encouraging and participating in joint donor evaluations.

¹² DFID White Paper on international development, 'Eliminating World Poverty: making governance work for the poor'. July 2006

¹³ The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) in its procurement guidance defines best value for money as the 'optimum combination of whole-life costs and benefits to meet the customer's requirement'

Donors in co-operation have a leading role to play in addressing strategic issues but can also have an important role at the programme level. In both cases the purpose will be to improve the outcomes of mine action by seeking a common approach to issues where possible but at least understanding each others' priorities and constraints.

The indicators by which the results will be measured

At the commencement of each country programme a baseline assessment will be made of the development situation. Subsequent progress will be measured against that baseline.

In some situations a net present value calculation may be made. This will usually be undertaken by measuring the change in development benefit (i.e., the present outcome value less the baseline value) against the cost of achieving that change.

DFID will expect all its partners to use current best practice and strive to improve it.

The best indicator is continual improvement to the international response to mine action. Mine action is best supported in conjunction and coordination with other stakeholders and can be judged at a variety of levels.

- Improving the efficiency of mine action to create better net present values.
- Support for, and improvements in the performance of the UN in meeting its stated responsibilities towards mine action.
- Engaging in and supporting co-ordination on the assessments of strategic issues, the needs of mine-affected countries and resource mobilisation.
- Mine action implementers wishing to work with DFID funding will be expected to be fully transparent about all their funding sources and to support donor coordination to the optimum host country interest.
- Pragmatic compliance of the MBT by States Parties and of the Deed of Commitment by armed Non-State Actors.

4. GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS - COUNTRIES OF INTEREST TO DFID

DFID will focus and target its support to mine action across a limited number of countries. Initially, DFID will prioritise those countries where there are synergies between mine action and DFID's development programmes. Only some DFID priority countries have a significant mine and ERW problem; therefore DFID will also support mine action in non-priority countries. Countries will be targeted on the basis of the following considerations:

- Landmine and ERW contamination should have a significant impact. The basic indicators are described in the annual Landmine Monitor data - on the basis of humanitarian impact and overall impact on development.
- DFID will target relatively poor countries, as indicated by the UN Human Development Index data. Despite problems with governance (see below), poorer countries will be targeted. DFID recognises that mine action is expensive but there are developing countries that have reached a level of development where the primary economic impacts of landmine or ERW contaminated land should now be covered by commercial investment.
- Mine action can make an effective contribution to economic and political development in the long term but its full potential is only reached under an enabling environment. DFID will make use of its country governance analyses to further refine the list of recipient countries.
- Mine action has greatest impact where the level of political will and application of government resources constructively addresses the problems. Therefore, within this group of countries, due consideration will be given to the existing inclusion of a credible mine action strategy in the national PRSP or MDGs, and the level of practicable integration of mine action into development structures.
- DFID will seek to retain continuity where it has previously funded mine action with positive results. DFID will include countries where continuity is both required and productive.
- Not being a signatory to the MBT will not automatically preclude a country from consideration for funding.

DFID recognises that decisions will often be finely balanced. No country will be excluded or included on the basis of a single consideration and the considerations above represent a guide and are not absolute. Using the criteria above, the following provides a shortlist of target countries and a starting point for analysis and decision-making. They include: Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Columbia, D R Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Laos, Mozambique, Nepal, Somaliland, Sudan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Countries may be added, or removed, where a change in circumstance justifies it.

DFID does not commit itself to undertake mine action in all the countries listed but will select those where the best outcomes can be achieved. Whether funding is allocated through a competitive tender or other process, we will give clear guidance to partners on countries of interest and how we will compare bids. All projects funded by DFID will start with a baseline assessment of relevant socio-economic indicators against which the outcome, and progress towards that outcome, will be measured.

Progress will be assessed on an annual basis and, if necessary, adjustments will be made to ensure the best outcome possible.

When and if required, emergency mine action funding in an immediate post conflict environment will be covered within overall funding for humanitarian crises. This will be managed separately within DFID and is not included in the scope of this strategy.

5. Pillars of Mine Action

5.1 Victim assistance

DFID does not support programmes that specifically target mine survivors because we believe that effective healthcare provision is best assisted through development of effective health services for all, rather than giving preferential treatment to particular groups.

5.2 Mine Risk Education

Mine risk education (MRE) seeks to help at-risk individuals to adopt safer behaviours. To be successful, MRE must take into account individual circumstances and offer realistic alternatives. MRE should be incorporated into mine clearance programme planning to ensure effectiveness. Incorporating MRE into the curricula at school has shown to be particularly powerful.

5.3 Advocacy

There are countries which have indicated that they are not in a position to sign the MBT and DFID recognises that this may not change. However, all non-signatory countries will be encouraged to voluntarily meet the principles of the Treaty.

Armed Non-State Actors (NSA) rarely consider themselves bound by treaty obligations made by the State and cannot become a Party to any treaty or convention in their own right. This poses a particular challenge as many of these groups are using, or have used, anti-personnel landmines. DFID supports efforts to work with NSA with the objective of them signing a Deed of Commitment which is very similar in its obligations to the MBT. Such work within the context of mine action can provide an entry point for the broader peace-building effort.

5.4 Stockpile destruction

Most stockpiles of anti-personnel landmines held by States Parties to the MBT have now been destroyed. Many countries not Parties to the Treaty are thought to still have stockpiles, some of them very large.

6. DFID/INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS/MINE ACTION MANAGEMENT

All projects will conform to the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), except where they have been amended by the relevant national authority and then formally adopted.

Health, Safety and Environmental issues will be expected to meet international or national mine action standards. An appropriate level of Environmental Impact Assessment will be undertaken when necessary and an environmental management plan will be written.

The research, testing and adoption of acceptable risk management techniques will be encouraged (including land release).

7. IMPLEMENTATION

DFID is committed to promoting maximum stability and predictability of funding.

Implementation of Objective 1 will be undertaken by a major delivery partner, or partners, selected by competitive tender. However the successful partner(s) will also be expected to support DFID and the UN to deliver Objectives 2 and 3. Partner(s) will be expected to cover as appropriate the full range of requirements, either within their own organisation or through creating appropriately skilled consortia or partnerships. Delivery partners will also be expected to support and work within nationally-owned processes and national responsible agencies.

Selection will be made against proposals submitted as part of the tender process which will be run in accordance with European Union legislation.

DFID recognises that the UN is uniquely placed to lead on the achievement of Objective 2 of this strategy and plays a pivotal role in the achievement of Objective 3. Therefore a three year UNMAT programme will be funded including projects with UNMAS, UNICEF and UNDP.