

MINE ACTION CO-ORDINATION CENTRE – SOUTH LEBANON



مركز التنسيق لنزع الألغام - جنوب لبنان

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REPORT OF THE MINE ACTION CO-ORDINATION CENTRE, **SOUTH LEBANON** **for the** **Month of November 2006**

GENERAL

1. As At November 29, 2006, **824** individual cluster bomb strike locations have been confirmed and recorded. The search for cluster strikes areas is still going on. The **824** individual Cluster strikes have been combined into 359 Areas, having a total of 33, 702, 990 sqm. The area of each buffer contamination is now included in the Task Dossiers.
2. An accident in 'Deir Mimas' reveals that the Israelis laid Anti-Personnel Landmines (No 4) during the war 2006. As these are now clearly newly laid Israeli AP mines the UN MACC made a request to the Israeli's, through UNIFIL, for immediate provision of any information pertaining to this and any other landmines laid during this recent conflict.
3. UN Finance & Administration Officer is leaving the UN MACC and Mr. Chris Rowe is his replacement. UN MACC wishes all the best for Mr. Lodhammar.

UNIFIL, Demining Co-ordination Cell, OGL

4. In accordance with UN Resolution 1701, UNIFIL continues with its expansion of troops. As part of this expansion UNIFIL has increased its Demining and EOD capacity and now consists of the following:
 - a. CHINBATT - 3 Demining/BAC Teams,
 - b. BELUBATT - 3 Demining/BAC Teams,
 - c. ITALBATT - 4 EOD Teams,
 - d. GHANBATT - 1 EOD Team,
 - e. SPANBATT - 1 EOD Team,
 - f. FRENCHBATT - 1 EOD Team,
 - g. FIN/IRISHBATT - 2 EOD Teams.
5. The MACC SL is tasking the above UNIFIL clearance teams for all tasks of a Humanitarian need, and UNIFIL operations are tasking these teams for UNIFIL operation requirements.

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6. CHINBATT have been conducting mine clearance along specific parts of the Blue Line minefields in order to support the UNIFIL Border Marking Teams.

CIVILIAN MINE INCIDENT

7. Since the cease-fire many people have been either injured or killed as a result of cluster munitions and the newly laid mines. See the following table for the summary of casualties as at 29 November 06:

	Civilian Accidents						Total (Injury/Death)
	Children (0 -12)		Youth (13 -18)		Adult (19 +)		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Injured	17	4	33	1	76	8	139
Killed	2	0	4	0	11	0	17
Total (Age/Gender)	19	4	37	1	87	8	156

8. One of the key aims of the MACC SL in the short term is to reduce the casualty rate, with a medium to long-term aim of preventing the casualty figures from increasing.

DEMINING/CBU ACCIDENTS

9. During this month of reporting there has been a series of unfortunate demining and CBU accidents involving three clearance organisations and four personnel. The investigations for these accidents are still ongoing and the findings and recommendations will be released once the reports have been finalised. Notwithstanding this the following is a summary of these accidents:
- Friday 24 Nov – Two international supervisors from Armor Group whilst attempting to rescue a shepherd in what was assumed to be a cluster munitions contaminated area, suffered traumatic amputations to each of their right feet as a result of stepping on what is believed to be Israeli No 4 AP mines near the village of Deir Mimas. A Lebanese Field Supervisor was slightly injured in the same accident.
 - Saturday 25 Nov – One international supervisor from BACTEC whilst clearing an access lane to the Armor Group accident site suffered a traumatic amputation of his right foot as a result of stepping on what is believed to be an Israeli No 4 AP mine.
 - Saturday 25 Nov – One national BAC searcher from MAG whilst working in a BAC site suffered injury to his foot as a result of stepping on a M77 cluster munition near the village of Asmayeh.

	Demining Accidents						Total (Injury/Death)
	LAF	Armor Group	BACTEC	MAG	NPA	SRSA	
Injured	10	3	1	1	0	0	15
Killed	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total (LAF/Company)	16	3	1	1	0	0	21

OPERATION EMIRATES SOLIDARITY (II)

10. Recognising the urgent humanitarian need for landmine and un-exploded ordnance (UXO) clearance in South Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to continue with the Project known as Operation Emirates Solidarity (OES). The UAE have generously provided the necessary funding to demine Area 6 as well as clear all the cluster bomb sites in Areas 1 – 5.

BACTEC

11. The two UAE funded demining teams continue with mine clearance in Area 6 with Mozambican deminers. The teams are at present focusing on the clearance of IF Booby Trap areas. The flail teams have conducted verification tasks near the village of Dellafe in suspected hazardous areas and have since moved to Arnoun. Additional demining teams from Zimbabwe are presently under training and will be operational within the first week of December.

Armor Group

12. Armor Group has continued with clearance of cluster munition sites in areas 1 – 4 with its ten BAC teams. Due to the two international supervisors suffering injuries as a result of the demining accidents in Deir Mimas, a number of teams are co-located on the same site pending replacement supervisors arriving in-country.

OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

13. The five bilateral funded MAG BAC teams continue to conduct clearance in Area 6 in and around the villages of Yohmor and Zawtar. Lebanese national supervisors supervise all these teams. MAG has recently expanded its BAC capacity with an additional four BAC teams that are also conducting clearance in Area 6.
14. The eight VTF funded BAC teams continue clearance in Area 7 in the fruit plantations near the village of Hosh. These teams are all managed by Kurdish team supervisors that have been transferred from the MAG Nth Iraq programme.

BACTEC

15. BACTEC have continued clearance with seven BAC teams working in Area 8 conducting cluster munitions clearance tasks. As this time of year is the olive harvesting time all BAC teams are conducting munitions clearance in olive orchards. The five EOD teams continue with Rapid Response EOD tasks in all areas except Area 6. These teams respond to urgent requests from the public and municipalities for clearance of spot items of UXO.

Swedish Rescue Service Agency (SRSA)

16. The three SRSA BAC teams continue with cluster munitions clearance in the fruit plantations near the village of Al Qulayleh. The SRSA EOD teams continue to conduct Rapid Response of spot EOD tasks within the AO.

17. The SRSA vehicles and two Armoured Front End Loaders remain held in customs at Beirut airport. Negotiations are ongoing between the Lebanese authorities and the Swedish Embassy. Pending the release of the Armoured machines the mechanical team are conducting search for deep buried aircraft bombs using the bomb locator.

Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA)

18. NPA have completed the training of its three BAC teams and have been issued BAC clearance tasks in Area 7 near the village of Al Malkiyah.

Summary of Clearance Capacity

19. The current and planned clearance capacity presently at the MACC SL is as follows:
- | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|
| a. | <u>MAG</u> | 17 BAC teams, 1 EOD team |
| b. | <u>BACTEC</u> | 7 BAC teams, 5 EOD teams, 4 Manual Demining teams, 1 Flail team |
| c. | <u>Armor Group</u> | 10 BAC teams |
| d. | <u>SRSA</u> | 3 BAC teams, 2 EOD teams, 1 Mechanical team |
| e. | <u>NPA</u> | 3 BAC teams and 1 EOD team. |

Quality Assurance

20. MACC SL has recruited five QA Officers and a Chief of QA Officer. The intention is to recruit an additional two QA Officers as well as a MDD QA Officer.
21. Desk Accreditations as well as Operational Accreditations have been conducted for all clearance organisations that intend to work in South Lebanon. This has required the review of all organisations SOP's in order to ensure compliance with TSG's as well as the field assessment of all clearance teams to ensure that clearance drills are conducted in accordance with approved SOP's. Currently 26 Full Operational Accreditations have been completed for the organisations currently conducting clearance in Southern Lebanon.
20. Daily routine QA monitoring has also been conducted for all operational teams. Once the MACC SL QA section is fully staffed the intention is that all clearance sites will be subjected to a QA visit a minimum of once per week and in most cases twice per week.

CBU/UXO Clearance Statistics

21. The clearance results for the period under report are as follows:

	CBU		UXO		UXB		FUZE	
	This Month	To Date	This Month	To Date	This Month	To Date	This Month	To Date
MACC SL Teams (BACTEC, MAG, SRSA, NPA, Armor group)	5,049	21,587	88	315	2	10	23	69
UNIFIL (Chinbatt, Frenchbatt, Italbatt, Spanbatt, Bulbatt, Turkbatt, Finn-Irishbatt)	4,444	10,807	230	580	15	39	87	91
LAF	11,195	46,344	487	1,897	17	270	1,252	1,252
Total	20,688	78,738	805	2,792	34	319	1,362	1,412

Mine Clearance Statistics

22. Mine Clearance operations have been suspended during this period and will start again in Area 6 once BACTEC five manual clearance teams are operational.

Public Information

23. The Media & Post Clearance officer briefed the UNMAS visitors, during their visit to South Lebanon, explaining the lessons learned from the experience gained by working with different media outlets in a post war phase.
24. The media attention on the effort of MACC-SL to clear cluster bombs in South Lebanon is still high and ongoing.
25. Preparations for the Beirut International Marathon are taking place. UNMACC did a presentation in the 'Marathon Village' about the situation of Cluster Bombs in South Lebanon and how it is been dealt with so far. Other activities will take place during the Marathon day as part of spreading awareness and raising the attention on the problem of Cluster Bombs.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE MONTH UNDER REPORT

26. The objectives for the month of November 2006 and the activities undertaken in respect of these objectives were as follows:

General:	Activities Undertaken:
Facilitate the arrival and operational readiness of all incoming EOD/BAC Teams	Ongoing
Liaise and provide briefings for interested Mine Action organisations	Ongoing
Continue to support all aspects of the UN Humanitarian Response and provide key support to UN Agencies and deployment of incoming UNIFIL troops	Ongoing
Support UAE in development and implementation of OES	Ongoing
UNMAS Director, Mr. Max Gaylard visit to Lebanon on the 8 th -11 th of October	Completed
UN PM visit to Denmark, to brief DCA NGO Ops Meeting, 1 to 5 th Nov	Completed

UN PM & John Flanagan visit to Sweden to plan 2007 Rapid Response Plan Exercise in “Sandland”, 12-14 th Nov	Completed
Operations:	
Desk Accreditation of clearance organisations	Ongoing
Operational Accreditation of clearance organisations	Ongoing
Monitoring of clearance in MACC SL AO	Ongoing
Prepare Task Dossiers for issue to clearance organisations	Ongoing
Conduct UXO safety Briefs for incoming UN organisations and NGO's	Ongoing
Conduct induction training for new MACC SL staff	Completed
Make arrangements for the visit of the British Ambassador to MACC SL and clearance teams	Completed
Identify new cluster munitions strike areas	Ongoing
UNMAS visit to MACC SL and clearance sites	Completed
Administration and Logistics	
Procurement of explosives	Completed
Local procurement of explosives	Ongoing
Assist SRSA with final deployment under the Memorandum of Agreement	Completed
Procurement of equipment locally	Completed
Take over the WFP compound	Completed
Procurement of vehicles through UNOPS	Ongoing
Hiring of new national staff	Ongoing
Prepare for the UNMAS visit	Completed
Prepare for receiving of new equipment from UNIFIL	Ongoing
Prepare for receiving of new vehicles from UNOPS	Ongoing
Prepare for arrival of Slovenian QA Officer	Ongoing
Request for additional SM EOD systems from the Swiss Government	Completed
Prepare for handover to the new Admin and Finance Officer	Completed
Request for procurement under the new assessed budget	Completed
Receive and introduce new international staff	Ongoing
Submission of imprest returns and request for replenishment	Completed
Request for increased imprest levels and petty cash levels	Completed and approved
Public Information:	
Participate in the Beirut International Marathon	Ongoing
Prepare Post Clearance studies	Ongoing
Plan & Liaise with NGOs for implementation of Post Clearance projects	Ongoing
Continue working with different Media outlets	Ongoing
Hand over IMSMA duties to UN Information Officer upon his arrival from Beirut	Completed
Continue the media coverage with focus on the OES 2 project	Ongoing
Start working on the Post Clearance Review with UNHCR	TBC
Continue updating the MACC SL website	Ongoing
Produce leaflet promoting the OES 2 project	Ongoing

Brief the New Programme Officer	Completed
Information Technology:	
Enter CBU information into IMSMA	Ongoing
Update of CBU Strike Location Map	Ongoing
Assist in the preparation of Task Dossiers for issue to clearance organisations	Ongoing
Perform database synchronization with the NDO	Completed
Close coordination with the Ops and Plans sections over the confirmation process for the Area 6 targets and the rationalization of the target list	Ongoing
Start Preparing Area 6 Task Dossiers	Ongoing
Entering QA Forms into the QA Database	Ongoing
Perform IMSMA update for DCC, BACTEC, MAG...	Completed
Set up IMSMA and GIS on the computers of all CLO, QA, Plans, and Operations staff members	Completed

OBJECTIVES FOR DECEMBER 2006

27. The following are the objectives for December 2006:

General:	Activities Undertaken:
Facilitate the arrival and operational readiness of all incoming EOD/BAC Teams	
Liaise and provide briefings for interested Mine Action organisations	
Continue to support all aspects of the UN Humanitarian Response and provide key support to UN Agencies and deployment of incoming UNIFIL troops	
Support UAE in development and implementation of OES	
Make arrangements for the visit of the British Minister of Foreign Affairs & UK Ambassador in Lebanon to UN MACC and clearance sites	
Make arrangements for the visit of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to UN MACC on 3 rd of December	
Prepare and conduct briefings for UNMACA – Afghanistan Visit	
Operations:	
Desk Accreditation of clearance organisations	
Operational Accreditation of clearance organisations	
Monitoring of clearance in MACC SL AO	
Prepare Task Dossiers for issue to clearance organisations	
Conduct UXO safety Briefs for incoming UN organisations and NGO's	
Conduct induction training for new MACC SL staff	
Identify new cluster munitions strike areas	
Administration and Logistics	
Procurement of explosives	
Local procurement of explosives	

Procurement of equipment locally including furniture	
Procurement of vehicles through UNOPS	
Prepare for receiving of new equipment from UNIFIL	
Prepare for receiving of new vehicles from UNOPS	
Prepare for arrival of Slovenian in kind QA Officer	
Prepare to receive additional SM EOD systems from the Swiss Government	
Request for procurement under the new assessed budget	
Purchase furniture	
Receive and introduce new international staff	
Submission of imprest returns and request for replenishment	
Prepare the formal budget submission for the VTF for 2007	
Prepare the formal budget submission for the AB for the period 1 April 2007 through 30 June 2007	
Hire new national staff as per the new staffing table	
Issue new contracts for national staff for the period January 2007 through June 2007	
Receive Right of Use Agreements from contractors and send the same to UNOPS	
Complete inventory of WFP purchased equipment	
Prepare for the arrival of the SRSA MDD QA Officer	
Support the QA section in the setting up of an MDD QA area	
Public Information:	
Participate in the Beirut International Marathon	
Prepare Post Clearance studies	
Plan & Liaise with NGOs for implementation of Post Clearance projects	
Continue working with different Media outlets	
Continue the media coverage with focus on the OES 2 project	
Continue updating the MACC SL website	
Produce leaflet promoting the OES 2 project	
Provide full media coverage for the British visit	
Information Technology:	
Train CLOs for Handicap International on field data collection mechanisms using IMSMA forms	
Enter CBU information into IMSMA	
Update of CBU Strike Location Map	
Entering QA Forms into the QA Database	
Updating the Plans Database with new task dossier information	
Perform IMSMA training for CLO and QA staff	
Perform training on the Plans and QA databases	
Update the GIS maps posted in the Operations/Plans room	
Perform database synchronization with the NDO	
Perform IMSMA update for DCC, BACTEC, MAG...	

Set up the Hand-held GPS/Palm computers with GIS software and Geographic/Mine action data	
Close coordination with the Ops and Plans sections over the confirmation process for the Area 6 targets and the rationalization of the target list	
Assist in the preparation of Task Dossiers for issue to clearance organisations	

Constraints

28. At present the following constraints are limiting the scale and effectiveness of the operation:
- a. The ever changing and potentially volatile security situation on the ground in South Lebanon increases the level/need for co-ordination with all parties.

Support Required From UNOPS/UNMAS

29. The following support is requested from UNOPS/UNMAS for December 2006:
- a. UNMAS to ensure that this Monthly Report is posted on E-mine and distributed at HQ as appropriate.
 - b. UNMAS to support the revision of the HSTF Project. (Amended Proposal is currently with Japanese Embassy and will be forwarded to UNMAS next week)
 - c. UNOPS and UNMAS to provide continuous updates on how donor allocations are spent/obligated.

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