

# MINE ACTION CO-ORDINATION CENTRE



## SOUTH LEBANON

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**QUARTERLY REPORT**  
**of the**  
**MINE ACTION CO-ORDINATION CENTRE,**  
**SOUTH LEBANON**  
**for the period**  
**JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2003**

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background**

1. Recognising the serious humanitarian nature of the problem posed by remaining landmines and unexploded ordnance in southern Lebanon following the Israeli occupation and previous periods of conflict, the Lebanese authorities asked the United Nations (UN) for support and following a request from UNIFIL, a UN Mine Action Coordination Centre was established to operate within the UNIFIL mandated area in July 2000.
2. Lebanon's longstanding problem with landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) was further compounded during the occupation by Israeli Forces (IF). The majority of parties that participated in the conflict used landmines to consolidate their defensive positions along the demarcation lines and routes leading to their positions; the Israeli/Lebanese border area was also mined extensively. There are also indications of mines and UXO left behind during periods of conflict involving other armed elements and from the time of the French Mandate.
3. In 2001, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced their assistance to mine clearing in the formerly occupied south. The project was named Operation Emirates Solidarity (OES) and is funded through the generosity of His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), for assistance to the Government of Lebanon for clearing landmines, unexploded ordnance, and booby-traps from the former occupied villages. The Operation is being conducted in partnership with the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon (GoL).
4. The final plan for the UAE support was concluded in October in 2001 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UAE and the Government of Lebanon. One of the key elements of the agreement was the expansion of the UN MACC to incorporate the establishment of the Mine Action

*PO Box 300, Avenue du Senegal, Tyre, Lebanon  
Tel: +961 7 349276 / 349456. Fax: +961 7 349459*

Coordination Centre Southern Lebanon (MACC SL), which would be responsible for the task planning, prioritization, monitoring, and coordination of clearance activities under the umbrella of the UAE Project. Significantly both parties sought the assistance of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in providing the core technical support to the project, and to this end the United Nations became a partner in the establishment of the MACC SL. UNMAS requested UNOPS' support in executing the new project "UN Support to Operation Emirates Solidarity in Southern Lebanon".

5. Consequently the UN MACC began to expand its infrastructure, its responsibilities and level of technical support in support of the UAE initiative, Operation Emirates Solidarity (OES). The MACC SL was established in January 2002 and operates as a tripartite structure comprising the UAE, the UN and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), and is mandated to coordinate mine action within the UNIFIL mission area, defined as the area south of the Litani River, (estimated 700 square kilometres). Day to day co-ordination is achieved through close cooperation of the UN and LAF components.
6. The role of the MACC SL is to provide a planning, coordination and Quality Assurance capability, that ensures landmine and unexploded ordnance clearance is done in the most effective, safe and time efficient manner, and in accordance with internationally recognised humanitarian mine action standards.

### **General**

7. The new UN Programme Manager, Mr Chris Clark, arrived in Lebanon on 3 July 2003 and following a two-week handover with the outgoing Mr Greg Lindstrom, formally assumed his duties on 15 July 2003. This period also coincided with the changeover of UAE Project Directors and Colonel Fahad Saeed Al Ketbi is now replaced with Colonel Jumaa Mubarak Al Junaibi. Colonel Junaibi visited the MACC on 16 July and was fully briefed on the current situation with OES Phase 2 and intent for Phase 3. A subsequent visit, on 22/23 September, included official completion of Phase 2, opening of Phase 3 and discussions on future requirements/intentions.
8. A prolonged exchange of fire, between Israeli and Lebanese "Armed Elements" along the "Blue Line" area on 8/9 Aug led to a temporary cessation of operations in adjacent areas but full work was resumed on 11 Aug.

### **Recent Mine Strikes**

9. Whilst landmine injuries are now well contained within the existing OES area of operations, mine strikes continue to occur in the vicinity of the Blue Line/border minefields. On 22 July a 43-year-old man lost his leg as a result of stepping on a landmine in the area of Meiss el Jebel. Restricted access to this area prevents a detailed incident investigation.
10. Regrettably the first mine clearance accident in Area 5 occurred on 8 Aug. A deminer detonated an AP mine whilst attempting to uncover it. An official Board of Inquiry (BOI) was convened and its initial conclusions find this an unfortunate yet

un-preventable accident

## **NATIONAL DEMINING OFFICE**

11. The National Demining Office (NDO) has now completed its move to new premises in Beirut and the Director; Brig Gen Massaad is currently working to develop a strategic plan based on the findings of the recently finalised Landmine Impact Survey.
12. LAF mine clearance activities continue outside OES area, with 4 x companies in the field along with MDD and mechanical support provided with assistance from US Dept of State through RONCO.
13. The US Dept of Defence military training programme is now complete with management training, MRE and EOD modules successfully completed. One of the LAF officers assigned to the MACC SL attended the management course and another is attended the EOD course.
14. Lt Col Jammoul, the LAF/NDO Representative for OES and NDO Operations Officer successfully attended the Cranfield University Mine Action Senior Management course in UK.

## **OPERATION EMIRATES SOLIDARITY,**

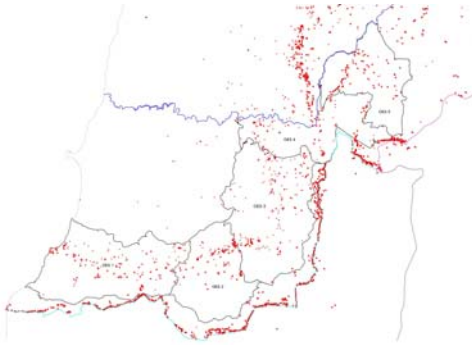
15. Although clearance of OES areas 1-4 (Phase 2) minefields was originally projected to be complete by May 2004 it was completed in August 2003, some 9 months ahead of schedule. This extraordinary achievement has been made possible by the clear and sustained commitment of the UAE to set and achieve realistic goals in a set timeframe, full co-operation and partnership of the host government and its armed forces and the quality assurance and technical monitoring of the United Nations to ensure that all work is completed to the internationally recognised standard.
16. BACTEC commenced mine/UXO clearance operations in OES Area 5 (Phase 3) on 28 June 03. They have initially concentrated their assets on the Marjayoun- Qlaiaz AP minefield belt and their operational HQ is now fully relocated from Tyre to Marjayoun and incorporates a training facility to facilitate ongoing training of UAE engineers.
17. As part of the ongoing OES arrangement, BACTEC continue to provide UAE personnel with mine/UXO clearance training, to International Mine Action Standard and a UAE Officer forms an integral component the MACC SL.

### **Phase 2, Areas 1-4**

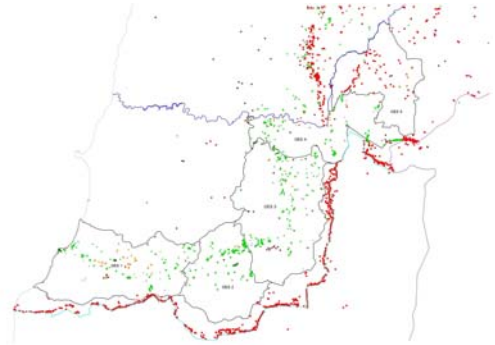
18. OES Areas 1-4 (Phase 2) is now complete. All mine/UXO clearance operations related to this Phase ceased on 22 Aug. All BACTEC clearance capability is now fully deployed to Area 5 and MineTech rear party departed Lebanon on 30 Aug.
19. The Final Completion Certificate for MineTech was prepared, finalised and signed on 29 August 2003 and states that MineTech located and destroyed 29,252

landmines resulting in 2.4 million square metres, of contaminated land being returned to the communities. The Final Completion Certificate for BACTEC was signed on 20 September 2003 and when combined with MineTech's shows a total number of 34,716 AP mines, 1,535 AT mines and 2,483 UXO located and destroyed from minefields in these areas. This remarkable accomplishment has resulted in over 4 million sq m of mine contaminated land being released back to the local communities during a 14-month clearance/operational period; thereby assisting a return to normalcy in these former occupied areas and supporting regional stability and ongoing peace processes.

*Map showing mine contamination in southern Lebanon as at May 2002*

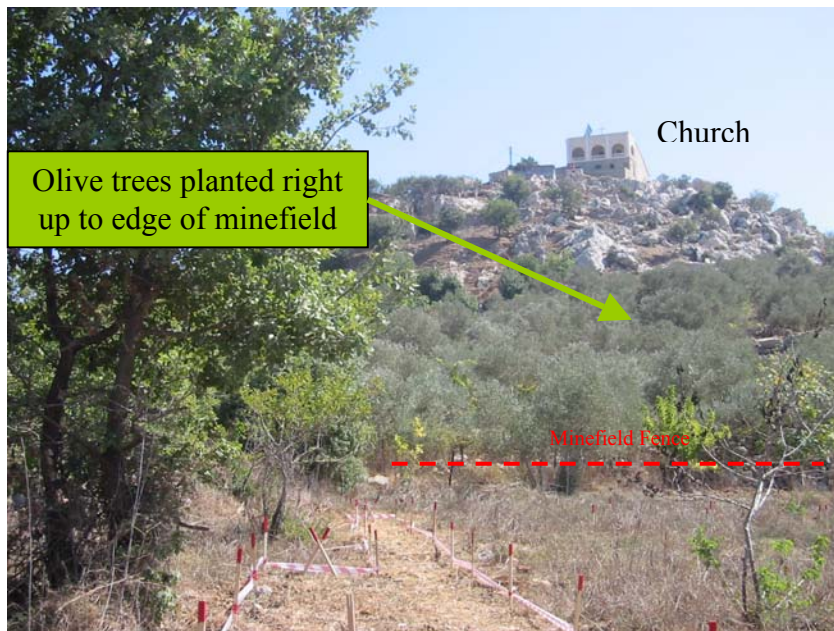


*Map showing results of OES clearance operations Aug 2003 (15 months)*



### **Phase 3, Area 5**

20. Mine/UXO clearance operations in OES Area 5 are progressing well and to date over 15,000 landmines have been located and destroyed resulting in some 300,000 square metres of contaminated land being released back to the local community.



*Photograph showing how the church community have planted olive trees right up to the edge of the minefield.*

*Clearance will allow this economy sustaining activity to expand and continue...without danger!*

21. As clearance into the known minefields of the Qlaiaz minefield belt has progressed it is now possible to see and walk much more of the ground than previously feasible. Recent investigations reveal that there are a number of individual minefields, within

the existing belt, that are not attributable to the original fixed target list. Some of these have been cleared and some remain identified but with no work yet carried out on them. Also as a result of increased access and detailed investigations it is now believed that there is a completely separate and additional inner minefield belt lying around the outside perimeter of Marjayoun town. This has been confirmed by the visual location of AP mines, location of past mine accidents/casualties and recently provided supplementary information from the LAF.

22. 24 x UAE engineer personnel successfully completed mine/UXO clearance training with BACTEC and were fully accredited on 13 Aug. They immediately took up work along an operational section of the Qlaiaz/Marjayoun minefield belt and continued mine clearance operations through to the first week in September. A second UAE team then underwent training in UAE, commencing on 15 Aug, and deployed to Lebanon for accreditation and operational deployment on 15 Sep.



*UAE Team 4  
Preparing for  
Operational  
Evaluation and  
Accreditation  
&  
Conducting casualty  
evacuation drill*



## **UNIFIL**

23. Liaison and co-ordination with UNIFIL Operations and UNTSO/UGL is being strengthened and this relationship was of particular importance during the exchange of fire across the Blue Line (8 Aug) and the subsequent need to facilitate the withdrawal of mine/UXO clearance personnel from key areas.
24. The current Memorandum of Agreement, detailing UNIFIL support to the UN component of MACC SL was finalised and signed on 28 Aug 03. The MOA covers the period 1 Jul 03 to 30 Jun 04. In accordance with DPKO Results Based Budget planning policy, discussions are also underway to address requirements for the period 2004/2005. As part of this process it has been agreed that previous reference to “mine/UXO clearance along the Blue Line” has been misleading, as the current political situation does not allow such activity. All future reference will refer to “mine/UXO clearance throughout the UNIFIL AO”.

## **Demining Co-ordination Cell**

25. The UNIFIL DCC, in conjunction with the Ukrainian Engineer Battalion have now completed their survey of the Blue Line/Border minefields and the corresponding data is subsequently being entered into IMSMA. A number of current and future meetings between the DCC and the MACC SL IT/IMSMA Department will ensure a complete reconciliation of all available data and a comprehensive, single, database shared between both units and available to all appropriate parties. A Read Only IMSMA terminal and relevant training is now provided to them. This has allowed the full rationalisation of all known data regarding the minefields located along Blue

Line and all new or subsequent information will be entered in IMSMA.

26. UKRBATT continue to conduct operational clearance under the direction of the DCC. Clearance of the former UNIFIL training range (SHA 3) is now complete and handed back to MACC SL.

## **UNDP**

27. Good cooperation with the mine action related elements of the UNDP Socio-Economic Programme in South Lebanon continue and their facilities within the MACC SL compound have now been enhanced and consolidated.
28. A joint post clearance review is currently underway to identify other development needs that may be necessary in order for the cleared land to be utilised. Data collection forms for IMSMA have been adapted and developed in co-operation with the UNDP socio economic project and will accommodate the necessary information for both pre and post clearance review information. Any identified needs to enable development of the cleared land areas will then be passed to UNDP, interested donors and NGO's for follow up action.
29. An IMSMA "read only" terminal is now installed within the UNDP Socio-Economic Development office and is greatly facilitating the joint UNDP/MACC SL post clearance review process.
30. MACC SL are currently hosting and facilitating a UNDP Mine Action Exchange (MAX) visit from the Azerbaijan National Mine Action Authority (ANAMA). The ANAMA Operations Officer, Mr Samir Polodov, will visit the mine action programme in Lebanon 28 Sep to 13 Oct; his visit includes time with the NDO and LAF Engineer Regiment as well as within the OES area.
31. The month of October encompasses UN day (24 Oct) and the MACC SL plan to participate actively in the celebrations that are planned over a three-day period from October 21 to October 23. The event is to be held at the Saint Josephs University in Beirut where students from this and many other universities will be invited to view a mine action display and have the possibility to discuss the UN involvement in mine action and the OES project details with MACC SL staff. Additionally an evening presentation with question and answer session will be chaired on 21 October, by UN PRSG, Mr Stefan de Mistura.

## **UN MINE ACTION PORTFOLIO**

32. The UN mine action partners in Lebanon have now completed the annual process for preparing the Mine Action Portfolio detailing funding requirements for 2004. The NDO presented their outline strategy on 7 Aug and the UNDP Chief Technical Advisor to NDO has fulfilled the role of co-coordinator. All final Project submissions are fully in accordance with the NDO strategy and an enhanced level of discussion and complimentary activity has been achieved in the short time available.



## OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

### MINE-TECH International

33. MineTech ceased all demining operations on the 8 Aug and reduced capacity to a ten-man rear party until they receive the final completion certificate from the NDO. This was signed on the 29 Aug and all rear party personnel departed Lebanon on the 30 Aug.



*MineTech deminers  
take a break in the  
minefield*



34. The results achieved by MineTech during their involvement in OES are outstanding and a credit to their organisation and staff; MACC SL wish them every success in future mine action operations.

### BACTEC International

35. BACTEC continue clearance operations for OES Phase 3/Area.5. Operations on the 75 targets areas are progressing well and BACTEC plan to complete all operations for this Phase before winter. MACC SL Operations conducted a detailed evaluation of the BACTEC cleared minefields on the area known as the Qlaiaz belt which contains twenty-six known Israeli minefields over a five kilometre stretch of land between El Qlaiaz and Marjayoun. It was found that eleven additional minefields had been cleared by BACTEC over and above the original issued target list.



*MACC SL Chief of Operations  
and BACTEC supervisor walk up  
a cleared area of the Qlaiaz  
Minefield*



*No 4 AP mine...each  
yellow stick  
represents one of  
these located and  
destroyed by  
BACTEC*

36. BACTEC have now trained another two UAE military demining teams consisting of three Officers and twenty-two men that were successfully accredited on the 25 Sep 03. These UAE teams commenced clearance operations on the Qlaiaz minefield belt

on 29 Sep 03.

37. Following the Israeli withdrawal from this area a number of mined areas were bulldozed to make way for various reconstruction projects and the result is a number of large piles of earth containing AP mines in varying states of sensitivity. To facilitate the necessary clearance of these obstacles, BACTEC have developed a “sifter” process whereby the contaminated spoil may be excavated by an appropriate plant machine and then trickled through a large steel mesh that allows the earth to pass through but not the landmines. This system is working well and will be continue to be utilised throughout the Programme.



*Locally manufactured “sifter” to assist with clearance of large piles of bulldozed spoil containing Anti Personnel mines*



#### Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

38. The UNOPS contract with MAG to supply 2 x Survey Teams expired on 15 July and unexpended funds were utilized to keep one of the teams through to 15 Aug. The remaining team continued surveying of UNIFIL/OGL patrol routes along or near the “Blue Line” and completed Survey of all thirty-two-patrol routes as requested from UNIFIL Ops. Additionally they conducted an extensive survey of a former Israeli position in OES Area 5, which has now been handed over to BACTEC for future clearance.
39. Subsequently, MAG handed back all remaining equipment from the UNOPS Survey Contract and are no longer conducting operations within the UNIFIL AO. They currently have two fifteen man Mine Action Teams, one MINECAT Flail and one MDD Team under operational control of the National Demining Office in Beirut. These teams are working North of the Litani River outside the MACC SL area of responsibility. The UN MDD QA Officer from the MACC SL has been providing technical advice on accreditation and training to the LAF in regards to the MAG MDD team.

#### LAF Sampling Team

40. The LAF Sampling Team completed all issued Sampling Tasks and then underwent training on technical survey operations. The Sampling Team commenced a three-week training course on Level 1 and Level 2 Survey accompanied with EOD training, conducted by one of the Armor Group QA Officers, and were successfully accredited on 18 Sep.



*LAF Sampling Team trained  
equipped and accredited to conduct  
technical survey operations.*



41. One of the ex MAG UNOPS contract vehicles has now been made available to the Sampling Team. This added asset will make them more independent and flexible.

Armor Group, Quality Assurance

42. Previously, QA monitoring had been conducted by Armor Group (AG) as a UN contractor to the MACC SL, under the guidance of the UN QA Officer and as a separate entity to MACC SL Operations Department. Whilst this process worked well throughout Operation Emirates Solidarity Phase 1 and 2 it was decided to continue this process with a few modifications for Phase 3. The UN QA Officer departed on 30 June 2003 and with effect from that date the AG contract is modified as follows:
- a. The AG QA Officer will be provided with office space and communications within the MACC and will assume the responsibilities of the outgoing UN QA Officer, on behalf of the UN Programme Manager. He will henceforth be titled the MACC SL QA Officer.
  - b. The existing QA monitoring teams will be reduced from five to two and will also operate directly from the MACC SL.
43. Whilst retaining their identity as an independent contractor, the AG QA team will now be more effectively integrated within the MACC SL structure and be able to carry out their duties and responsibilities as the “eyes, ears and conscience” of the MACC SL.
44. There has been some key amendments to National TSG’s regarding QA evaluation and monitoring forms; an amendment to the missing mine drill procedure has also been made. Previously QA monitoring evaluations resulted in a “*good, poor or unsatisfactory*” result that, in many instances, has led to discussion regarding the criteria applicable for each. The scope of this evaluation result has now been refined to either “*acceptable or unacceptable*” and a clear list of supporting criteria stated on the form itself. This shift in approach and criteria is already proving to provide a much more objective and transparent QA monitoring system.
45. The MACC SL QA Officer conducted full briefings to the BACTEC Site Supervisors and the UAE Team Leaders on these new amendments and they have generally been well received.

## MINE/UXO CLEARANCE STATISTICS

46. Summary of mine/UXO clearance conducted during OES Phase 2:

| Organisation                       | Total sq m       | Total AP      | Total AT     | Total UXO    | Total Items Destroyed |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| <b>BACTEC<br/>OES 1 &amp; 2</b>    | 1,545,782        | 7,025         | 118          | 1,752        | 8,895                 |
| <b>MINE-TECH<br/>OES 3 &amp; 4</b> | 2,769,348        | 27,837        | 1,415        | 1,509        | 30,761                |
| <b>MAG</b>                         | 9,858            | 327           | 3            | 11           | 330                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>4,324,988</b> | <b>35,189</b> | <b>1,536</b> | <b>3,272</b> | <b>39,656</b>         |

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

| Organisation                   | Area Cleared Square Meters |                  | Devices Found and Destroyed |               |           |               |            |               |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|------------|---------------|
|                                | This month                 | Total to date    | AP                          | Total to date | AT        | Total to date | UXO        | Total to date |
| <b>PHASE II Clearances</b>     | -                          | 4,324,988        | -                           | 35,189        | -         | 1,536         | -          | 3,272         |
| <b>BACTEC<br/>(OES Area 5)</b> | 157,463                    | 331,011          | 4,861                       | 16,510        | 19        | 28            | 218        | 281           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   | <b>157,463</b>             | <b>4,655,999</b> | <b>4,861</b>                | <b>51,699</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>1,564</b>  | <b>218</b> | <b>3,553</b>  |

Note: MineTech and MAG no longer operational in OES area.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION, COMMUNITY LIAISON

48. In order to properly capitalise on the achievements and successes of OES and to identify any follow on, non-mine related, requirements the MACC SL has been slightly restructured and strengthened. The existing UNOPS contract with the Landmine Resources Centre/Balamand University to provide Community Liaison Teams to support the mine clearance companies expired on 31 July and was not renewed. Instead two of the existing Community Liaison Officers will be taken on with a direct contract to MACC SL and augmented by the addition and re-rolling of an existing MACC SL driver from the Operations Section. This will ensure that the correct level of community liaison is implemented so that the mine clearance teams do not become distracted from their primary tasks. This is especially important at this time as a large portion of the Qlaiaz AP minefield belt runs very close/adjacent to dwelling houses and infrastructure.

49. Additionally a Public Information Officer (PIO) has been recruited and assumed her duties in mid August. The PIO will head the newly created Public Information, Community Liaison section and also implement an international public information campaign for the OES project.
50. The joint MACC SL and UNDP post clearance review in the Phase 2 area has started in OES 1 and OES 2. This review includes a retroactive pre clearance review enabling a comparison to be made of the land use prior to the conflict. OES 1 area should be completed during October enabling us to gain an appreciation of how much cleared land is being utilised and for what purpose, and to highlight any further development needs. The OES 2 area has experienced a slight delay due to permissions being required to visit some of the areas. However, work should continue in this area in the coming weeks. During this review process the Community Liaison Assistants are also checking with the local population for any information on possible additional areas or UXO sightings that have come to light since the completion of Phase 2.
51. Two of the Community Liaison Assistants have continued to support the mine action process in OES Area 5 during the month. They hold discussions with both the village Mukthars and the landowners at all stages of the clearance process and report that landowners are very happy with the work being undertaken.
52. Initial exchange of ideas have started regarding the development of a website for MACC SL. A 'home page' is currently being drafted as a word document and will then be discussed within the MACC management (LAF/UAE/UN)) before continuing with the input of links, text and photos. It is intended to develop and maintain the website internally with the assistance of UNMAS as required.
53. Logos for UN component of MACC SL have been printed and all vehicles are now displaying both this logo and a UNOPS logo.



*MACC SL Logo showing the UN partnership with UAE and GoL*



54. A strategy document for the public information process is in draft stage. This will be discussed and finalised with the Programme Manager during the next two months, and take into consideration the existing strategies of the UAE and NDO.

## **MINE RISK EDUCATION and VICTIM ASSISTANCE**

55. The MACC SL and the OES Project work within the overall framework of the Lebanese NDO and the two integral mine action components of mine risk education and victim assistance are provided, throughout the area, by NDO mandated elements.

All such activity in OES area of operations is co-ordinated between MACC SL and NDO.

## ADVOCACY

56. Whilst Lebanon has not yet signed the Anti Personnel Mine Ban Treaty it has indicated willingness to do so as soon as there is regional stability and compliance.
57. No AP mines have been laid in Lebanon since the Israeli withdrawal and the mine/UXO clearance success of OES demonstrates that it is more than possible to conduct effective and humanitarian mine clearance in such a “non signatory” environment.

## CURRENT FUNDING

58. Whilst funding for the operational clearance activities of OES is provided bilaterally between UAE and the mine/UXO clearance contractor, core costs for MACC SL to maintain a co-ordination, planning and Quality Assurance capability that ensures mine/UXO clearance is done in the most effective, safe and time efficient manner in accordance with International Standards are currently provided from diverse sources through the, UNMAS managed, Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF). The table below shows the current status of the VTF for southern Lebanon:

### Current status of VTF Funding for Southern Lebanon

| Donor              | Amount    | Usage   | Status                        |
|--------------------|-----------|---|-------------------------------|
|                    | USD\$     |   |                               |
| France             | 123,222   | Co-ordination                                     | Expended 2002                 |
| Germany            | 100,000   | Co-ordination                                     | Expended 2002                 |
| Japan              | 250,000   | Co-ordination                                     | Expended 2002                 |
| UK                 | 853,594   | Co-ordination                                     | Expended 2002                 |
| VTF (un-earmarked) | 584,041   | Co-ordination                                     | Expended 2002                 |
| UAE                | 548,631   | Co-ordination                                     | Expended 2002                 |
| UAE                | 1,197,800 | QA contract OES                                   | Expended 2002                 |
| UNIFIL/DPKO        | 480,168   | Co-ordination and mine/UXO information management | Expended Jun 2001 to Jul 2002 |
| Assessed Budget    |           |   |                               |

**Total  
Received/Expended  
2002**      **4,137,456**

|                    |         |   |                                |
|--------------------|---------|---|--------------------------------|
| Canada             | 248,389 | Technical Survey                                  | Expended 2003                  |
| Holy See           | 4,111   | Technical Survey                                  | Expended 2003                  |
| Japan              | 250,000 | Technical Survey                                  | Expended 2003                  |
| UNIFIL/DPKO        | 539,080 | Co-ordination and mine/UXO information management | Expended Jun 2002 to Jul 2003  |
| Assessed Budget    |         |   |                                |
| VTF (un-earmarked) | 133,046 | Co-ordination                                     | Allocated 2003                 |
| UAE                | 720,000 | Co-ordination and QA contract for OES             | Allocated Apr to Dec 2003      |
| UNIFIL/DPKO        | 507,600 | Co-ordination and mine/UXO information management | Allocated Jul 2003 to Jun 2004 |
| Assessed Budget    |         |   |                                |

**Total  
Received/Expended  
2003**      **2,402,226**

### **Future Funding Requirements**

59. To maintain a co-ordination, Quality Assurance and mine/UXO information management capability beyond 31 Dec 2003 through to year end 2004 and to continue support to OES, MACC SL requires the following support:

| Donor                          | Amount<br>USD\$ | Usage   | Status   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| UAE                            | 1,100,000       | Co-ordination and QA contract for OES             | Required Dec 2003 to Dec 2004                            |
| UNIFIL/DPKO<br>Assessed Budget | 507,600         | Co-ordination and mine/UXO information management | Requested for inclusion in budget 2004/2005 preparations |
| VTF / Other                    | 300,000         | Co-ordination                                     | To be requested and mobilised                            |

**Total Required for 2004                      1,907,600**

### **FUTURE INTENTIONS**

60. All mine/UXO clearance in OES Areas 1-4 is now ceased as a result of all contractual obligations having been completed. However, a number of hazardous areas, containing a mine/UXO threat, still remain. Mine/UXO clearance throughout OES Area 5 is progressing well yet the scope of the tasks has increased with additional areas, containing a mine/UXO threat, now identified. In particular, a second and additional minefield belt has been located within the existing Qlaiaz task area.
61. To enable the additional hazard areas throughout OES Areas 1-5 to be effectively addressed the following action is recommended:
- a. “Sweep Through”. A fixed mine/UXO clearance capability is made available for a limited and defined period of time. Such a capability would not be limited to a fixed target list, but would be under the direct tasking authority of MACC SL and deployed against these remaining targets in order of humanitarian impact priority. Thus any targets still remaining at the end of this fixed time period may be considered of a very low priority that do not require sustained clearance operations and can very well be catered for by the long-term capability of the LAF. MACC SL consider that with suitable reconnaissance and survey during the upcoming winter period, plus the availability of appropriate and effective clearance assets, that all of the identified additional areas, throughout OES Areas 1-5, may be cleared within 6 months of operations.
  - b. Survey Capacity. Previous experience shows that such clearance work as is necessary to ultimately clear these remaining targets may be better defined by an element of technical survey. It is therefore recommended that a compact and effective technical survey capacity is deployed during the winter period to determine the actual requirement and clearance capacity required to finalize these outstanding areas. Such a survey capacity should be under the direct



tasking authority of MACC SL and be organized in a flexible structure that is able to operate throughout the OES area of operations. Survey operations may commence as soon as possible to allow the anticipated 6-month of clearance operations to commence as soon as the winter weather breaks.

62. Such a survey element, under the direct tasking authority of MACC SL, would also be well placed to delineate possible future OES tasks.

## **SUMMARY**

63. Mine clearance operations throughout OES Phase 2/Areas 1-4 is now complete, some 9 months ahead of schedule. During 15 months of activity almost 40,000 landmines have been removed and destroyed, thus releasing over 4 million square metres of denied land back to the community and greatly contributing to a return to normalcy throughout the former occupied areas and supporting regional stability and ongoing peace processes.
64. Mine/UXO clearance throughout OES Phase 3/Area 5 is progressing well yet the scope of the tasks has increased with additional areas identified containing a mine/UXO threat. This Phase is now aimed to be complete by mid 2004.
65. Linkages with UNIFIL, UNDP and NDO have been strengthened and MACC SL is well placed to maintain a strong co-ordination, planning and Quality Assurance capability throughout southern Lebanon.
66. This Quarterly Report along with all previous reports and associated information may be found on the website [www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org).

C J Clark  
UN Programme Manager  
South Lebanon

Distribution:

Director NDO  
NDO Representative  
OPRSG  
HE Ambassador Embassy of UAE  
UAE Project Director (e-mail)  
UAE Representative  
UN CTA NDO  
UNIFIL  
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HE Ambassador, Embassy of the United States of America  
Head of the European Commission Delegation  
Holy See (Vatican)

***Cover Photograph:*** View of Marjayoun/Qlaiaz Minefield belt and the two most common anti personnel landmines.

