

UNMAS programme in Somalia

Youth and women in Mine Action

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Place:

Geneva, Switzerland

Case study – Somalia

Mine action enhancing the resilience of Somali communities that have been affected by conflict, explosive hazards, marginalization and poverty



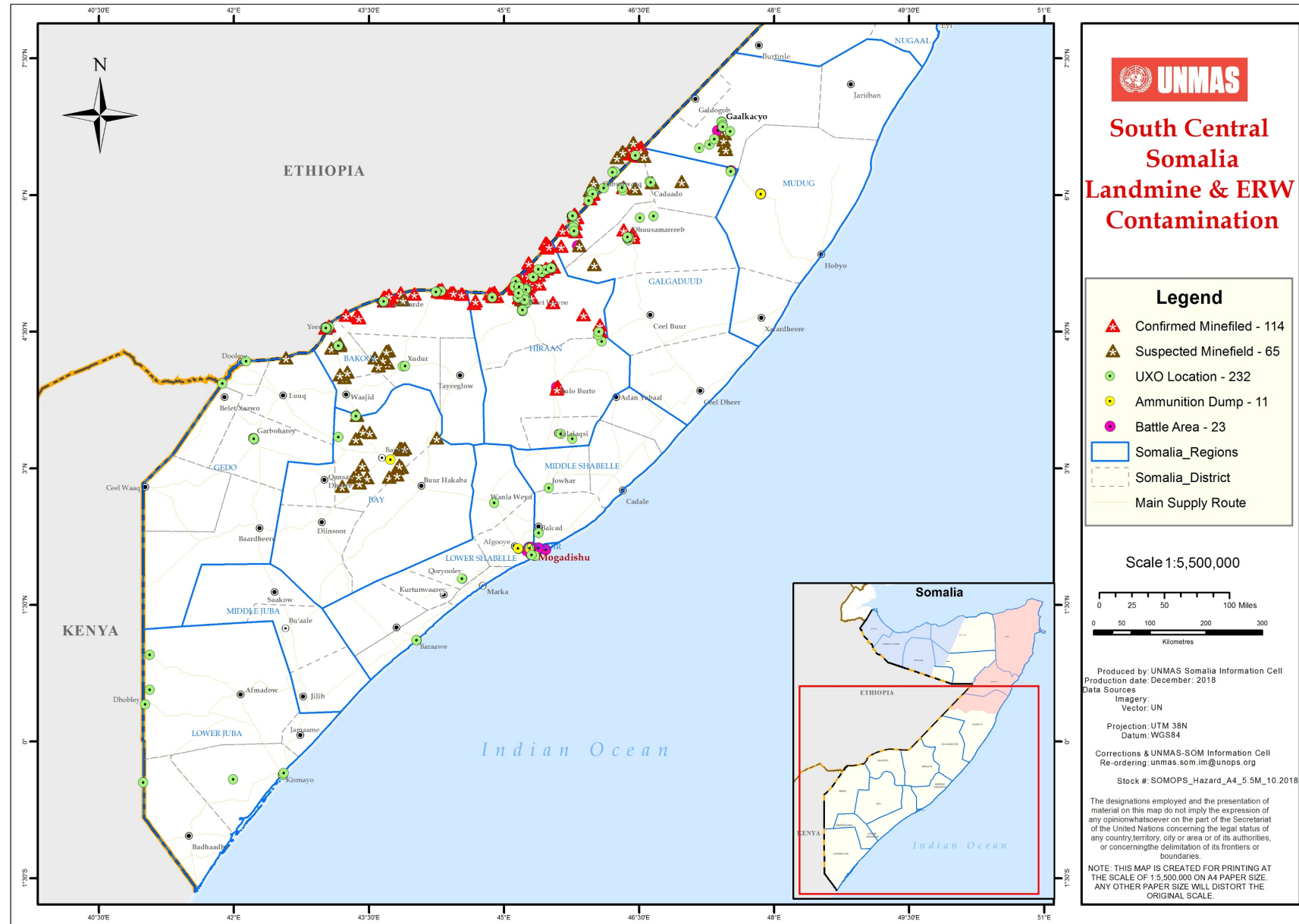
General Context

- With the armed conflict ongoing, the threat of explosive hazards is growing
- Prevalence of various explosive hazards - landmines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices
- Conflict and insecurity limits socio-economic development
- Economic deprivation causes the youth and women to leave their homeland – as IDPs or refugees



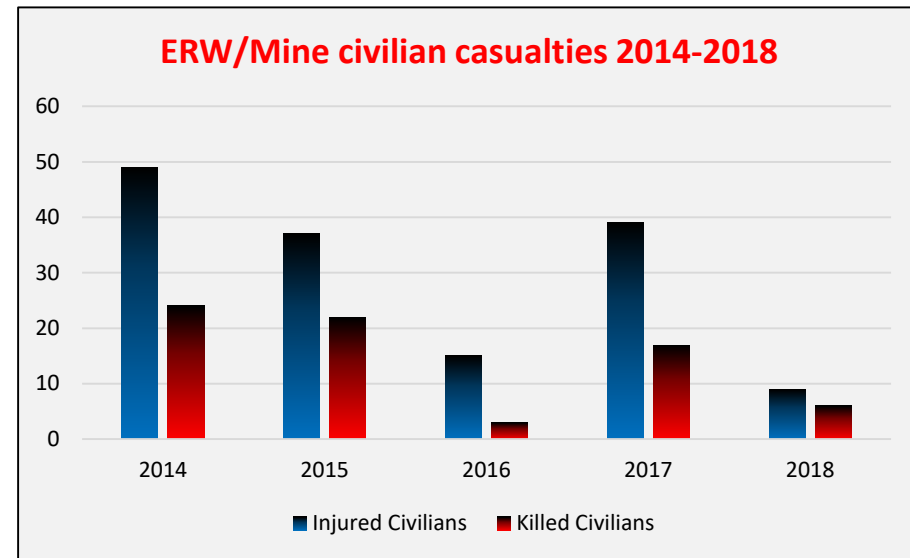
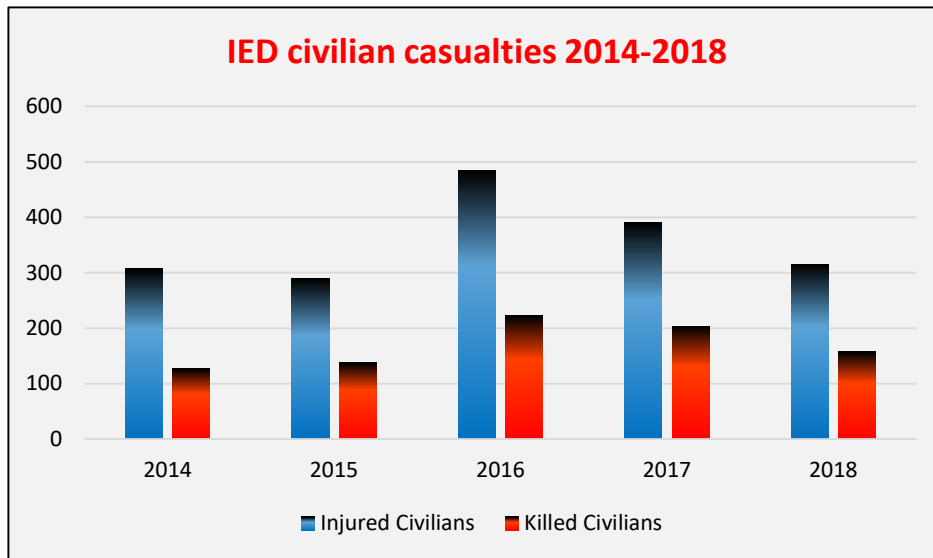
Contamination mapping

- Confirmed minefields: 114 (45 sq km) – 5 are ongoing
- Suspected minefields: 65 (68 sq km)
- Battle Area: 23 (47 sq km)
- Ammunition dumps: 11
- UXO locations: 232



Impact of explosive hazards on civilians

- Civilians (adults & children) remain the primary victims of explosive hazards
- Over the last 5 years, **2,638 civilian** victims of IEDs - (58% of the entire casualty)
- Over the last 5 years, **221 civilian** victims of ERW/mines - (73% of them children)



Risk-taking practices in the communities:

- Domestic stockpiling is common
- ERW for marking plots of land, fencing compounds
- The use of explosives for excavating rocks, drilling boreholes
- Former ammo storages are potential sources of energetic materials

Youth and Women

- Unemployment and social marginalization - key drivers of instability in Somalia.
- Over 50% of the population in Somalia is below the age of 15 years.
- Youth unemployment rate is among the highest in the world - two-thirds unemployed
- Youth need jobs to promote livelihood opportunities
- There is an urgent need for capacity building, vocational skills and education



Mine action empowers youth and women

- Mine Action is a job intensive sector, for young men and women
- Concept of Operations:
 - Focus on vulnerable and marginalized communities
 - Decentralized, bottom up community based approach
 - Job creation for youth and women – average family is at 6.5 members
 - Infuse resources into communities
 - Promote skills, contribute in enhancing local governance mechanism





NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.

Mine action efforts in Somalia - empowering youth and women

241 Locals

Clan diversified

Floating & better access

35% Youth

13% Female

Clearance of explosive hazards

Sustainable Development Goals

Risk education to vulnerable groups

Gender

Explosive hazard victim recording



Story from the field – Youth & Women Dealing with Domestic Stockpiles

Domestic stockpile – 7 Nov 2018

Communities and local police in South Galkayo handed over to UNMAS employed team 271 explosive devices, of which 43 AP mines. The team destroyed all devices the next three days using deflagration method. The police and community representatives attended the process.



Story from the field – Verification of Mogadishu stadium

National Stadium

Support to FGS Transition Plan-phase 1 by team composed of youth and women

Area Verification, 13 Sept – 30 Nov 2018 Mogadishu
Partnering with CRESTAA, BRA, MoIFAR, NIS Foundation



Story from the field—Clearance of Roadside Bushes

Purpose:

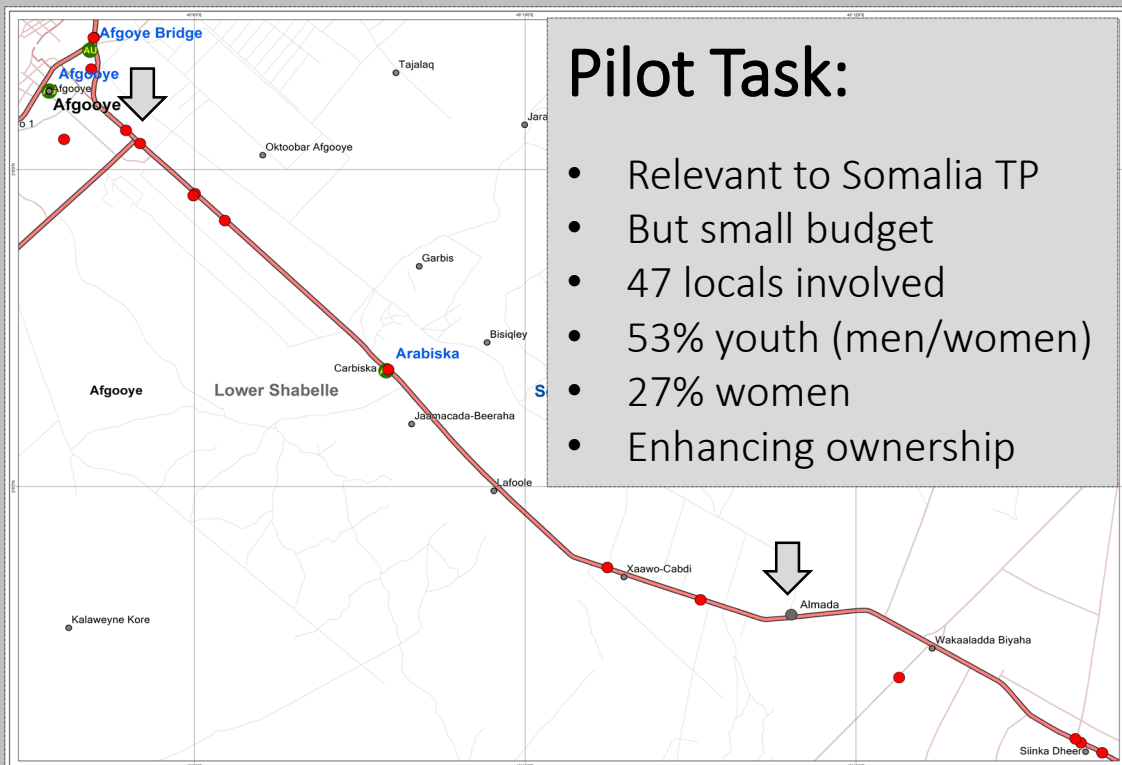
- Enhance roadside visibility,
- Discourage the emplacement of IEDs,
- Initiate **job opportunity** for the **youth & women**,
- Positive environmental impact – removal of bad tree,
- Include the civilian population into the Stabilisation,



Before



During



Pilot Task:

- Relevant to Somalia TP
- But small budget
- 47 locals involved
- 53% youth (men/women)
- 27% women
- Enhancing ownership



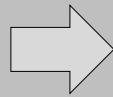
After

Story from the field : Youth-Woman Team Medic

Habiba Ahmed - IDP, Refugee & Returnee Medic

- 28 year-old, from Mataban, displaced in 1995, immigrated to Kenya in 2006
- joined mine action in July 2018

- Trained by UNMAS as a team medic and responsible for medical services to demining team in Matban
- Inspires other women in the community



Conclusion and the Way Forward

- Explosive hazard is life and livelihood threatening reality for many Somalis
- This reality can be transformed into unique opportunities, because mine action has remarkable potentials for Making marginalized communities including youth and women empowered and resilient by creating jobs and providing skills.

