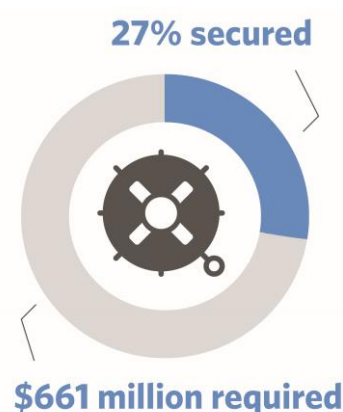




HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION NEEDS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

New York, 9 March 2018. Today, the United Nations launched the 2018 Portfolio for Mine Action Projects. The online appeal shows the dire need for humanitarian mine action funding worldwide: the required amount increased by 29 per cent compared to 2017, to \$661 million. With 27 per cent of the total secured, \$483 million more is needed for clearance of explosive hazards, risk education, and support to victims and their communities. This Portfolio identifies the specific resource requirements that would spare countries and populations decades of loss of life and human suffering. Every penny counts. Every penny makes their lives safer.

The Portfolio provides an overview of the strategies of countries and territories affected by landmines, explosive remnants of war, improvised explosive devices, and other explosive hazards worldwide, and highlights funding requirements for essential activities such as clearance, risk education, and victim assistance. The country appeals reflect national plans and priorities, and emphasize strategic and coordinated approaches based on the local context and the needs on the ground.



In Iraq, where large areas of the country are now back under government control but severely contaminated by explosive hazards, the funding need for 2018 is \$353 million, over half of the total Portfolio. Just over a third of that amount has been received. Afghanistan requires \$99 million in 2018 to keep up the pace to meet its clearance obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty by 2025. Syria (\$50 million), South Sudan (\$29 million), Cambodia (\$23 million) and Yemen (\$20 million) also have considerable funding needs. Thirteen countries report not having secured any of the funds required in 2018, including heavily affected countries like Libya and Somalia.

Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service, Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, stated: *“Enduring conflicts, as we see in the Middle East and Africa, continue to add to the volume of unexploded bombs, rockets and other ammunition that will injure civilians and force many to leave their homes. Mine action saves lives by clearing explosive hazards, enabling humanitarian assistance, and facilitating the safe movement and return of displaced persons.”*

The Portfolio is available at <http://www.mineaction.org/resources/portfolios> and includes graphs and charts summarising the needs according to country, region, and area of work.

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