

Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity

ABOUT UNMAS AND RAPID RESPONSE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT CAPACITY

UNMAS Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity (RRTSC) was established in 2011. It aims to carry out three main activities; 1) Rapid response deployments, 2) Technical assessment and evaluation missions, 3) Reinforcement and technical support to field operations. Rapid response capacity will maintain an ability to deploy to set up an emergency mine action coordination mechanism, and to deploy emergency mine action capability in cooperation with implementing partners, within 96 hours. Technical Support Capacity provides specific but temporary technical support to UNMAS programmes or countries that express this need. Technical support can cover the areas of explosive ordnance disposal, weapons and ammunition management, and programme management.



RAPID RESPONSE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORTS PROVIDED

UNMAS conducted a number of rapid response assessments and deployments over the last few years, including to Libya, Cote d'Ivoire, the Republic of Congo, Mali, Central African Republic (CAR), Iraq, Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger, as well as programme reinforcement activities in Gaza, Chad, Colombia and the Republic of the Sudan. UNMAS also conducted technical assessment or support missions to Guinea-Bissau, Ukraine, Armenia, the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the UN



Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). In 2015, RRTSC supported the opening of programmes in Iraq (Baghdad and Erbil) at the request of the national authorities and UNAMI, and in 2017 and 2018, it supported several assessment missions to Lake Chad Basin area as well as the opening of UNMAS office in Nigeria.

LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE OPERATIONS



One of the key lessons learned from the past deployments were that there is a critical need to establish a mine action coordination mechanism immediately after a humanitarian crisis occurs, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to ensure all the stakeholders provide necessary assistance towards a common goal and in a coordinated manner under complex and difficult circumstances. The other lessons learned was that certain financial commitment is

required in order to maintain the capacity and its preparedness of personnel including their skill levels and equipment, especially when deployment is expected under difficult security situation.

In order to incorporate these lessons into future effective operations, UNMAS continues to review the cost-effectiveness of RRTSC, including the staffing requirement and duty stations, as well as identification of appropriate balance between standing element and ad-hoc element that can be provided by the existing expertise within UNMAS programmes.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

In order to maintain the standing capacity and implement effective rapid response and technical support activities, USD 2,000,000 is requested annually. To date, RRTSC has been supported by generous contributions from Denmark, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

For more information:

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