



**Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism for
the United Nations Strategy for Mine Action 2013-2018:**

**Report from the 5th Round of Data Collection
*March 2017***

**Prepared by
the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action**

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Acronyms

APMBC: Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	M&E: Monitoring and evaluation
AU: African Union	MoU: Memorandum of understanding
BAC: Battle Area Clearance	MRE: Mine/ERW Risk Education
CCW: Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons	NGO: Non-governmental organization
CCM: Convention on Cluster Munitions	NTS: Non-technical survey
CHA: Confirmed Hazardous Area	OHCHR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
DMAC: Directorate for Mine Action Coordination (Afghanistan)	SHA: Suspected Hazardous Area
DPKO: Department for Peacekeeping Operations (United Nations)	UN VTF: United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action
EOD: Explosive ordnance disposal	UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
ERW: Explosive remnants of war	UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization	UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
GICHD: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining	UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
GMAP: Gender and Mine Action Programme	UNMAS: United Nations Mine Action Service
IACG-MA: Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (United Nations)	UNOAU: United Nations Office to the African Union
IASC: Inter-Agency Standing Committee (United Nations)	UNODA: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
IATG: International Ammunition Technical Guidelines	UNOPS: United Nations Office for Project Services
IDP: Internally displaced person	UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
IED: Improvised explosive device	WFP: World Food Programme
IMAS: International Mine Action Standards	WHO: World Health Organization
IMIS: Information Management Integrated System	
IMSMA: Information Management System for Mine Action.	

Executive Summary

The importance of both dealing with the threat of mines/ERW and ensuring mine action issues are integrated into broader frameworks is well understood. Peace and security, humanitarian and peacebuilding interventions, whilst operating in shorter time horizons, cannot be successful without the security afforded by a society free from the threat of mines and ERW. Similarly, there are clear and mutually reinforcing connections between the SDGs and the mine action sector.¹ The publication of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the end of 2015 has focused the broader development agenda on a range of themes including poverty eradication, energy, water and sanitation, health, and human settlement. Mine action is a catalyst, creating essential preconditions for the achievements of the SDGs. Conversely, the threat of mines and ERW can inhibit successfully reaching the desired outcomes.

The objectives of the United Nations (UN) to tackle this threat are outlined in the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2013-2018 (UN Strategy). This report assesses progress of this strategy using findings from the UN Mine Action Strategy's monitoring tool, the M&E Mechanism, for data up to 30 June 2016. Twenty-seven programmes that have a UN mine action presence have taken part in the M&E Mechanism, out of a total of thirty-eight countries and territories in which the UN has supported mine action in 2016.

The report findings reiterate that achieving the vision of a world free from the threat of mines/ERW remains an ambitious goal. Globally, contamination by mines and ERW, including but not limited to cluster munitions, has remained a significant threat throughout the course of UN Strategy implementation. This significance of the ongoing threat is particularly evident in the first six months of 2016, during which the estimated percentage of the population living in proximity to contaminated areas increased from 7% to 11% and mine/ERW casualty rose to the highest point ever recorded in the M&E Mechanism since it was established in 2014.

While challenges remain, measurable progress has been made in countries and contexts receiving support. The M&E Mechanism shows substantive achievements associated with each of the Strategic Objectives, demonstrating the impact towards which the United Nations contributes in partnership with national authorities, civil society, and other actors.

The UN Strategy's first three Strategic Objectives focus on in-country support to mine affected countries and territories. The first Strategic Objective focuses on the reduction of the risk and the socio-economic impact of mines and ERW. Work continues in identifying the threat: within participating countries, an average of 60% of land has been surveyed to identify contamination. Clear progress is being made in the clearance and release of contaminated land and infrastructure; 67% of contaminated lands have been

¹ Leaving No One Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals – preliminary findings. C. GICHD/UNDP, Geneva, February 2017. Available from: https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/GICHD-resources/rec-documents/UNDP_GICHD_Study-Linking_Mine_Action_and_SDGs-Preliminary_Findings_FINAL_formattedv2_full.pdf Accessed 16 February 2017.

released back to communities.² Work continues in the delivery of Mine/ERW risk education; cumulatively, nearly 40 million people have received MRE, and the proportion of at-risk populations that have received MRE has increased by three percentage points. It is worth noting, however, that despite the progress made, significant levels of unknown levels of mine contamination remain: mine and/or cluster munitions contamination levels remain unknown in 41 countries/territories globally, 20 of which have some kind of UN mine action presence or receiving UN mine action assistance.

The UN has also continued to support victim assistance through its second Strategic Objective. Relevant national frameworks are being adopted and implemented: the majority of countries and territories participating in the M&E Mechanism have established policy frameworks that structure assistance to victims of mines and ERW, either directly or within a broader framework of policy concerning people with disabilities. However, the provision of comprehensive victim assistance services appears to lag behind. There is limited availability of data on recipients of victim assistance, and based on what data is available, the number of people receiving victim assistance services is a small percentage of the number of recorded casualties.

Sustained support and investment over the long-term is critical to making progress under the UN Strategy's third Strategic Objective, which focuses on the development of an effective national capacity to manage the threat of mines and ERW. Encouragingly, trends show progress towards effective national mine action structures, including the existence of nationally owned mine action strategies, information management systems and national investment in mine action.

The UN's final Strategic Objective looks at the global picture for mine action, covering eighty-two countries and territories affected by mines, ERW, cluster munitions and IEDs. The status of ratifications of relevant international treaties has remained the same since the previous round of data collection. Thus, universalisation remains a key priority where continued efforts are needed. However, there is evidence that the issue of mines/ERW is being increasingly integrated within global frameworks: references to mine action are more often present across peace agreements and ceasefire agreements over the last four years. There is a similarly and slightly higher rate of increase for resolutions and reports considered by the United Nations in the Security Council and the General Assembly.

As noted, the UN uses the M&E Mechanism to strengthen its evidence-based management. Since this is the fifth round of data collection, trends as well as gaps are more clearly emerging. Accordingly, for the first time, this report includes elements for consideration by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) on possible actions to be taken to refocus research or specific activities or to clarify goals and targets. It is through continued coordination in tackling the threat from mines and other ERW that the UN can ensure the most effective response.

² “Contaminated land,” in the context of this report, includes battle area clearance and minefields, both suspected and confirmed hazardous areas (SHA and CHA).

1. Recommendations

The IACG-MA agreed to the following recommendations meant to support the United Nations strengthen its ability to be informed by the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the strategy.

1. Recommend to agree interim goals and/or milestones as steps towards achieving a world free from the threat of mines and ERW, working with the Mine Action Support Group and the Implementation Support Unit in support of treaty obligation compliance.
2. Recommend to consolidate common criteria that guide UN engagement with affected states/territories when requested or mandated to provide assistance and support, taking into account the comparative advantage offered by respective UN entities.
3. Recommend to further engage with Member States, including donors, to understand what support can be provided to enable assessment of the contamination levels in countries and territories in which it is unclear.
4. Recommend to develop a reporting system for tracking contamination by device, in particular ERW, cluster munitions, unexploded ordnance, and IEDs that are remote detonated, command detonated, or launched.
5. Recommend to develop enhanced reporting to track progress on UN outputs using UN-channelled funds and achievements using bilateral funding.
6. Recommend to discuss areas for further evaluations³ that could be conducted such as the linkage between national capacity and casualty rates, land release rates, and data availability or to assess how injury surveillance impacts the prioritisation of clearance and survey, mine/ERW risk education, and victim assistance activities.
7. Recommend to include mainstreaming of mine action in humanitarian and development policy frameworks using existing monitoring mechanisms used by UN entities (specifically, UNDAFs and PRSP);
8. Recommend to continue to encourage participation in the M&E Mechanism by all countries/territories where the UN supports mine action.

³ NOTE: This very likely would have resource implications unless existing capacities are identified that can carry these out.

2. Findings from the Fifth Round of Data Collection: Effective Mine Action amidst Increasing Conflict

2.1 SCOPE OF THE REPORT

The conclusions drawn in this report are based on data as of 30 June 2016, collected from field-based United Nations Survey Focal Points through five rounds⁴ of Survey implementation, and from the Strategic Objective 4 dataset⁵. Most findings include data from all 27 affected countries and territories that participated in the fifth round of data collection or, for trends analysis, from the subset of 25 countries and territories that participated in most recent two rounds.⁶ A few longer-term analyses draw from other groups of countries/territories; these cases are indicated in footnotes.⁷

Figure 1. Participation in the M&E Mechanism of the UN Strategy for Mine Action 2013-2018

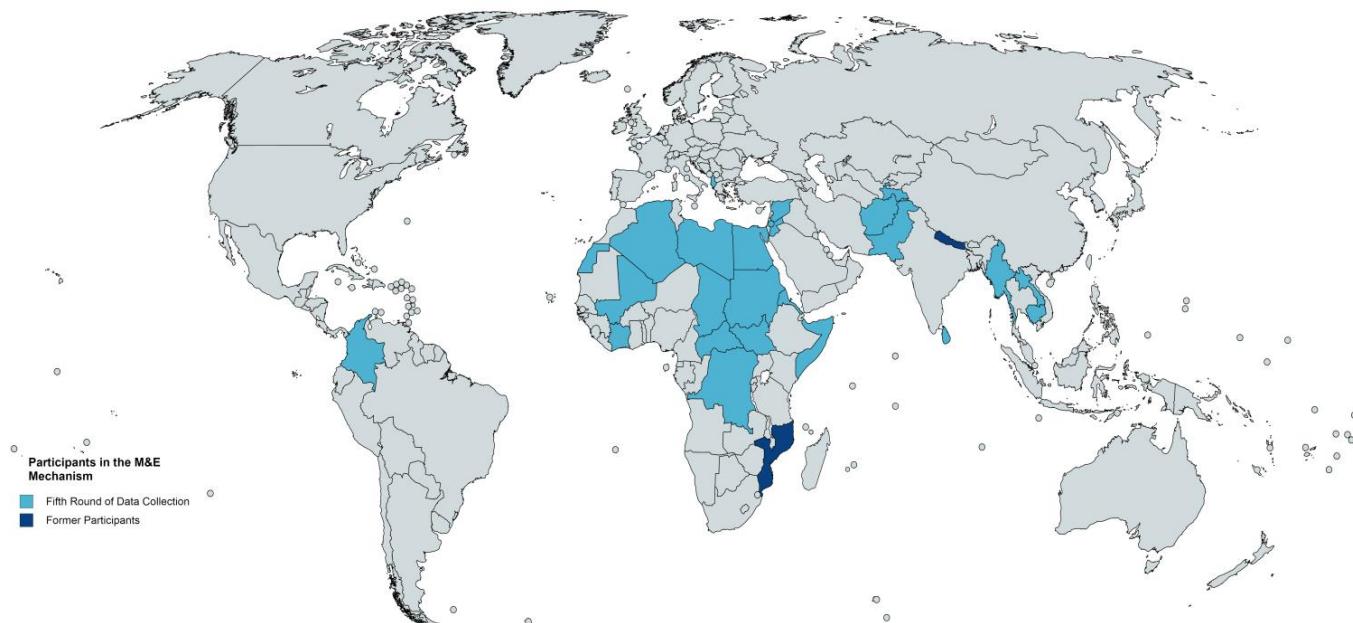


Figure 1 shows the countries participating in the M&E Mechanism; Mozambique and Nepal, in dark blue, participated in the M&E Mechanism through Round 3 of data collection, at which point United Nations support in mine action was no longer requested by the relevant national authorities. Nepal was declared minefield free in June of 2011, and Mozambique was declared mine-free in September 2015.

⁴ Round 1 (data as of 30 June 2014), Round 2 (data as of 31 December 2014), Round 3 (data as of 30 June 2015), Round 4 (data as of 31 December 2015), and Round 5 (data as of 30 June 2016).

⁵ The Strategic Objective 4 dataset comprises 82 mine-affected countries/territories (adjusted in 2016 to reflect new data). It examines treaty status, inter-governmental processes/frameworks, and country characteristics (GDP, population, regime type, etc.). The IACG-MA M&E Support team collects data from publicly sourced databases maintained by third parties and partners (the World Bank, the Uppsala Conflict Data Program, the Polity Project of the Center for Systemic Peace, the Landmine Monitor, the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly, and the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UN Peacemaker)).

⁶ Abyei, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, and Western Sahara.

⁷ The 18 participants in rounds 2 – 5 (Abyei, Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Western Sahara) or the 12 participants in all five rounds of data collection (Abyei, Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Mali, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Western Sahara).

2.2 UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT

*Vision: "...a world free of the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munitions, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development and where the human rights and the needs of mine and ERW victims are met and survivors are fully integrated as equal members of their societies."*⁸

2.2.1 Contamination

Achieving the vision of a world free from the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war remains an ambitious goal. There have been no major changes noted in globally-documented mine contamination levels since the last round of data collection, and there have are no registered changes in mine or cluster munition contamination levels since 2014. At present, 76 countries (nearly 40% of the 195 countries recognised by the UN) and 6 territories are affected by mines, cluster munitions, other ERW, and/or a combination thereof. The United Nations supports mine action in 43% of contaminated countries/territories, highlighting the challenges for UN mine action seeking to drive change in all contaminated countries.

Tracking Contamination

Globally, progress towards a world free of mines/ERW including cluster munitions is measured at the level of the country/territory: progress is demonstrated by increasing numbers of countries/territories become fully cleared of mines/ERW including cluster munitions. There are weaknesses to this approach, most notably the fact that tracking at the level of the country/territory overlooks important progress made within countries/territories and obscures differences in context among and between countries/territories. The approach is useful, however, because it is clear, global, and aligned with the geopolitical structure in which international treaties such as the APMBC are enacted: the United Nations exists as an organisation of Member States, nation states create and adopt international instruments, and thus progress towards global mine action goals is most commonly tracked by the country/territory.

Mine Contamination

Records of the levels of mine contamination have remained constant since the start of the current UN Mine Action Strategy in 2013. Since 2013, two countries – Bhutan and Mozambique – have become mine free.⁹ As referenced above, the United Nations supported mine action in Mozambique until the completion of clearance in September of 2015. As many as 69 countries and territories are currently contaminated by mines.¹⁰ Twelve of these (17%) are massively contaminated, meaning that their areas

⁸ United Nations, *The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018*. Available from: http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/mine_action_strategy_mar15.pdf (accessed 15 February 2016).

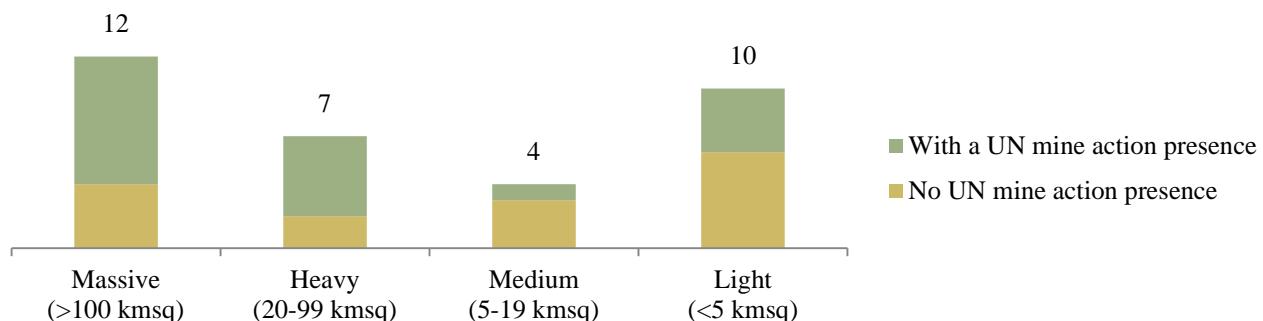
⁹ Other countries that have fully completed the clearance of mine (or minefield) contamination include Albania, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Montenegro, Nepal, Venezuela and Zambia; of these, the UN supports or has supported mine action in Albania and Nepal.

¹⁰ In 36 of these 69, mine contamination is “Unclear.” “Unclear” can include suspected contamination or an undetermined severity of confirmed contamination.

of mine contamination exceed 100 square kilometres. The United Nations supports mine action in 31 of these 69 countries/territories.

Looking at the numbers without context invites the question, “why have not more countries/territories in which the UN supports mine action been fully cleared?” The answer varies. First, the United Nations is invested in the most contaminated countries/territories, as well as those in which conflict is ongoing. These contexts are the most difficult in which to achieve full clearance. The United Nations supports mine action in eight out of the 12 massively contaminated countries/territories and five out of the seven heavily contaminated countries/territories (see Figure 2 below). For comparison, the United Nations supports mine action in one out of four countries/territories with medium contamination, and four out of ten lightly contaminated countries/territories. This is the context and evidence behind Recommendation 1.2.2 3a, that existing UN programmes in countries/territories with “light” mine contamination focus on supporting those countries/territories to become mine-free within five years.

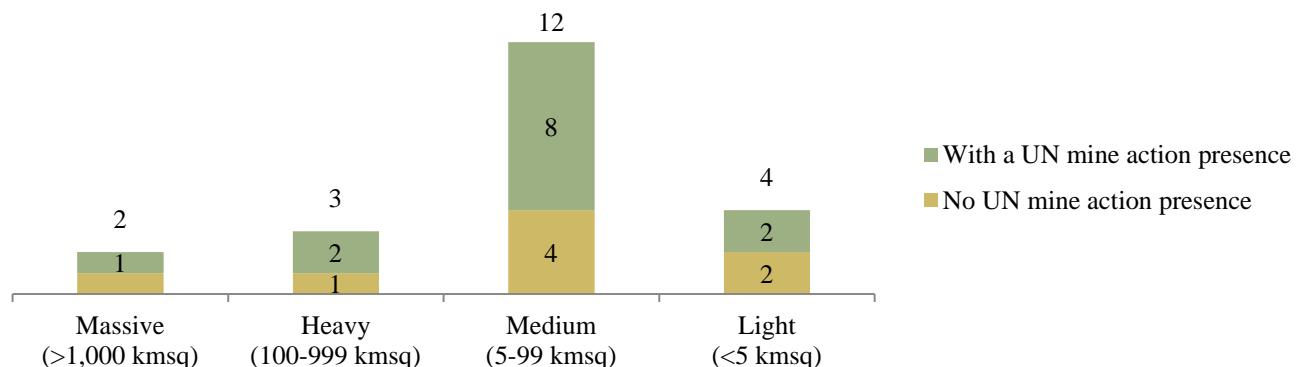
Figure 2. Number of countries/territories contaminated by mines



Contamination of Cluster Munitions

Thirty-three countries/territories are currently contaminated by cluster munitions, and no countries/territories have fully completed clearance of cluster munitions since the start of the UN Strategy. As is the case with mine contamination, the United Nations is most commonly invested in the most heavily contaminated countries/territories (see Figure 3 below).

Figure 3. Number of countries/territories contaminated by cluster munitions



The Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam continue to be the most massively contaminated by cluster munitions (cluster munition contamination in excess of 1,000 square kilometres) while Cambodia, Iraq and the Nagorno-Karabakh region bear a heavy level of contamination (between 100 and 999 square kilometres of cluster munition contamination).¹¹ The two lightly contaminated countries in which the UN supports mine action are Bosnia-Herzegovina and Sudan.

Contamination by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)

Fifty-two countries and five territories are currently contaminated by other types of explosive remnants of war (ERW), in addition to or independent from contamination by mines and/or cluster munitions. The United Nations supports mine action in 28 of identified ERW contaminated countries/territories.

Although current global tracking mechanisms do not register changes in the severity of ERW contamination ("Massive," "Heavy," etc.), it is strongly suspected based on the current geopolitical landscape (particularly in the Middle East) that ERW contamination is increasing in some countries and territories as a result of escalating conflict. Additionally, in the first six months of 2016, the estimated percentage of the population¹² living in proximity to contaminated areas increased from 7% to 11% and mine/ERW casualty rates rose to the highest point recorded in the M&E Mechanism since its establishment in 2014. As discussed in section 1.1.3 Number 2, it is recommended that a means of globally tracking ERW contamination be developed to facilitate more nuanced understandings of ERW contamination.

Contamination by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)

Sixteen countries/territories are currently confirmed to be contaminated by IEDs, increasing from 14 since 2014 due to IED incidents in India, Norway, and Russia. The United Nations is present in 11 of these 16 IED contaminated countries/territories. Historically the UN's humanitarian mine action programmes have not been engaged in IED interventions, however increasingly the UN is providing limited support in the areas of education and training in a select few countries, including Iraq, Libya, Mali, and Somalia.

Due to their improvised nature, it can be challenging to identify specific geographical areas affected by the threat of IEDs. As a result, it is challenging to comment on whether the level of contamination from IEDs within specific countries has changed significantly. Again, anecdotal evidence from third parties on the number of IED casualties and incidents would suggest an increase.¹³ As discussed in section 1.1.3 Number 2, it is recommended that a means of globally tracking the severity of IED contamination is investigated to facilitate more nuanced understandings of IED contamination.

¹¹ Seven countries – Albania, the Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Norway, Thailand, and Zambia – have completed all clearance of cluster munitions, with the most recent being the Republic of Congo in 2012. The UN supports or has supported mine action in four of these (Albania, Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, and Mauritania).

¹² Number of people living in proximity to mine/ERW contaminated areas as a percentage of the total population of countries and territories participating in Round 5 of data collection.

¹³ <https://aoav.org.uk/explosiveviolence/ieds/>

Unclear Contamination

Not only have there not been significant changes in globally-tracked levels of contamination across the various explosive hazard threats, the number of countries and territories in which the extent of contamination is unknown has remained constant or increased for both mines and cluster munitions.¹⁴ Mine and/or cluster munition contamination status is unclear in 40 countries and territories. Mine contamination levels are unclear in 36 countries/territories, representing more than half of the total mine-contaminated countries in the world. The United Nations supports mine action in 36% (13 countries/territories) of these countries; in one country (Algeria) mine contamination levels have become unclear during UN Strategy implementation. The presence or extent of cluster munitions contamination is unclear in twelve countries and territories, of which the United Nations supports mine action in eight. Contamination status for both mines and cluster munitions is unclear in eight countries/territories (Abyei, Colombia, Darfur, Georgia, Iran, Libya, Palau, and Somalia); the United Nations supports mine action in all of these except Georgia, Iran and Palau.

The continuing lack of clarity about the extent and type of mine and cluster munition contamination in many countries undermines national and international efforts to rid the world of these hazards. Further investment in identifying unknown contamination is also a valuable contribution in order to quantify effectively the effort remaining to achieve the UN's vision in mine action.

As a result of the scope and range of the challenges faced, there are opportunities to focus the UN's limited set of mine action resources on specific aspects of the threat. The UN in mine action can identify interim goals or milestones as a path towards achieving its overall vision. These could focus on addressing a certain type of contamination, or on a sub-set of mine action activities. Another option is that the UN could determine certain engagement criteria on which its work in mine action can focus, such as countries with a certain level of contamination severity, or economic need. Lastly, the UN can invest in understanding more fully the existing levels of contamination that exist today, in order to understand better the full extent of the contamination threat. Table 1 contains the list of countries in which mine and cluster munitions contamination remains unclear.¹⁵

Table 1. Contamination Type	Treaty Status	Country / Territory	
		With UN Mine action presence	No UN mine action presence
Mines	States Parties to APMBT	Cameroon, Colombia, Central African Republic, Cyprus, Darfur, Mali,	Algeria, Cuba, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Moldova, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman,

¹⁴ Algeria moved from “Medium (5 – 19 kmsq)” to “Unclear” levels of mine contamination from 2014 to 2015; cluster munition contamination has consistently been unclear in 12 countries and territories.

¹⁵ Per the Landmine Monitor 2016 and the Cluster Munitions Monitor 2016; drawn from the set of 82 affected countries/territories that are part of the Strategic Objective 4 dataset.

Table 1. Contamination Type	Treaty Status	Country / Territory	
		With UN Mine action presence	No UN mine action presence
	Not States Parties to APMBT	Mauritania, Somalia, Ukraine. ¹⁶	Philippines.
		Abyei, Egypt, Lao PDR, Libya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria.	China, Cuba, Georgia, India, Iran, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nagorno- Karabakh, Nigeria, North Korea, Palau, Russia, Viet Nam, and Uzbekistan.
Cluster Munitions	States Parties to the CCM	Chad, Colombia, Somalia	Palau
	Not States Parties to the CCM	Abyei, Azerbaijan, Darfur, Libya, Tajikistan, Yemen	Angola, Georgia, Iran

2.2.2 Casualties

People continue to be killed and injured as a result of ongoing contamination threats. The most significant finding from the fifth round of data collection is the **increase in mine/ERW casualty rates**. In all subsets, mine/ERW casualty rates increased from the end of 2015 to the beginning of 2016 by a factor of six at a minimum; and by as much as a factor of ten. Among the 25 countries and territories participating in Round 4 and Round 5 of data collection, an estimated 1.3 people per million per month are killed or injured by mines/ERW. This figure is 1.7 among the 18 countries and territories participating in the four most recent rounds, the highest mine/ERW casualty rate measured by the M&E Mechanism.

This increase is due to a steep increase in casualties reported in by Afghanistan and Libya from Round 4 to Round 5 of data collection. Steep increases in casualty rates were also recorded in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the Central African Republic. This sharp increase in casualty rates is consistent with the 75% increase in mine/ERW casualties noted in 2016 report of the Landmine Monitor.¹⁷ The Landmine Monitor attributes this increase to the continuation and escalation of armed conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen, together with increasing availability of data, which is broadly consistent with the findings of the M&E Mechanism considering the differing country foci of the data monitoring mechanisms.¹⁸

¹⁶ Mali reported full clearance of anti-personnel mines in 2005; more recent information indicates that contamination particularly of anti-vehicle mines remains a problem.

¹⁷ International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munitions Coalition (ICBL-CMC), Landmine Monitor 2016 (Geneva, 2016). Available from: <http://www.the-monitor.org/media/2386748/Landmine-Monitor-2016-web.pdf> (accessed 28 November 2016).

¹⁸ The M&E Mechanism focuses on countries with a UN mine action presence. The Landmine Monitor focuses on all countries and territories affected by mines/ERW.

The distribution of mine/ERW casualties by gender and age as of the first six months of 2016 remained consistent with previous rounds of data collection: mines and ERW kills and injures more men and boys relative to women and girls. This trend is consistent not only in the aggregate but in the majority of participating country/territory as well. Men and boys constitute the greatest proportion of mine/ERW victims in all participating countries and territories except Eritrea, Jordan, and the State of Palestine.

The casualty rates from IEDs also saw an increase in the fifth round of data collection, reaching 3.28 deaths and injuries per million people per month. This is based on data provided by UN programmes operating in Afghanistan, Mali and Somalia.¹⁹ Unlike mine/ERW casualties, however, the rate of increase has slowed dramatically (see Annex 1 Figure 6). After increasing 216% from the end of 2014 to the beginning of 2015 and 41% during 2015, the IED casualty rate increased by 5% in the first six months of 2016. Moreover, the rate at which civilians are killed and injured by IEDs has decreased by 50% in 2016. The greatest numbers of casualties at the aggregate level are among civilians,²⁰ as in the cases of IED casualties in Somalia and Afghanistan. In Mali, non-civilians constitute nearly three quarters of IED casualties. Looking at gender disaggregated IED casualty data made available from Afghanistan, half of IED casualties are men and an additional quarter are boys.

¹⁹ The UN also operates in, and collects data through the M&E Mechanism from, Libya and Syria, both of which are significantly impacted by improvised explosive devices (IEDs). However the operational contexts in these countries significantly impede the programmes' ability to monitor casualty information.

²⁰ In this Survey, victim-activated IEDs are considered to be mines/ERW, and so deaths and injuries from such devices are counted together with deaths and injuries from mines/ERW. Victims of remotely detonated, command detonated, or launched IEDs are counted separately.

2.3 RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY

While the challenges remain great, measurable progress has been made in countries and contexts receiving adequate support. Evidence from the M&E Mechanism demonstrates collective impact in mine action sector and achievements against each Strategic Objective.

2.3.1 Strategic Objective 1: Risk Reduction

Strategic Objective 1: Risks to individuals and the socio-economic impacts of mines and ERW, including cluster munitions, are reduced.⁵

For this Strategic Objective, it is observed that programmes are making measurable gains in the clearance of contaminated land and infrastructure and in the delivery of vital information to at-risk communities. Good progress is being made in the clearance of land and infrastructure, despite ongoing challenges in the understanding the extent and severity of contamination by mines, cluster munitions, and other ERW. Due to increases in contamination and to progress in identifying contamination, the percentage of identified contaminated land that has been released back to communities has decreased since the previous round of data collection. Affected infrastructure, in contrast, continues to be cleared at a faster rate than it is discovered.

Mine/ERW risk education continues to have a wide reach in vulnerable communities and amongst the general population, where factors such as population mobility may cause people and communities previously not at-risk to become vulnerable. Cumulatively, 39.6 million people have received direct MRE; 4.8 million since the start of UN Strategy implementation.²¹ Moreover, the proportion of people considered to be at risk who have received MRE increased by three percentage points (from 5% to 8%) in the first six months of 2016.

Initiatives aimed at increasing the security and safety of weapons and ammunition are also showing signs of success, though the difficulty of obtaining reliable information inhibits efforts to understand the scale of the threats posed by unsecure stockpiles. The data do show reason for cautious optimism, while indicating clearly that more work remains to be done.

Clearance and release of contaminated land²²

Positive progress is being made both in the identification of contaminated land, as well as its release back to communities: An average of 60% of land has been surveyed to identify contamination, increasing by four percentage points in the first six months of 2016. Among the 12 countries and territories that have participated in all five rounds of data collection, the data shows an annual increase of one to three percent in the average proportion of land that has been surveyed²³ to identify contamination, for a cumulative increase of five percentage points (from 66% at the end of 2014 to 71% as of July 2016).

²¹ A discussion of cumulative counts and start dates can be found in Annex 2: Data and Analysis.

²² “Contaminated land,” in the context of this report, includes battle area clearance and minefields, both suspected and confirmed hazardous areas (SHA and CHA).

²³ The Survey asks, “what percentage of the country has been surveyed?,” and the reported proportions are averaged.

Because contaminated land continues to be identified, the percentage of contaminated land released back to the community decreases from previous rounds of data collection by 21%: 67% of land identified as contaminated has been released back to communities, compared to 88% of contaminated land in the previous round of data collection.²⁴

Explosive threats are also removed by conducting EOD spot tasks. Over 9.7 million EOD spot tasks have been completed, 233,096 since the start of UN Strategy implementation.²⁵ Moreover, the average number of EOD spots tasks per programme nearly doubling from the second to the fifth rounds of data collection.

Clearance of contaminated infrastructure

The levels of affected infrastructure are monitored as part of assessing the socio-economic impact on communities of the threat of mines and ERW. Across the data collected from ten countries, 146 hospitals, 247 educational facilities, 489 markets, and 411 government buildings have been cleared as of July 2016. This rate means at least 22 pieces of vital infrastructure was cleared per month for the past 18 months. The rate of clearance of affected infrastructure consistently exceeds the rate at which new contamination is recorded, demonstrating that mine action programmes are clearing affected infrastructure at a faster rate than the rate at which new contamination is being discovered/recorded.

Mine/ERW Risk Education

Mine/ERW risk education delivered with UN-channelled, national and over bilateral sources of funds continues to have a wide reach in vulnerable communities and amongst the general population, where factors such as population mobility may cause people and communities previously not at-risk to become vulnerable. Cumulatively, 39.6 million people have received direct MRE.²⁶ In the first six months of 2016, MRE programmes directly reached 1.2 million people in 25 countries and territories. Over time, the absolute number of people receiving MRE during each round of data collection has increased. Despite the number of people who are considered at risk from mines/ERW having also increased, encouragingly the proportion of people considered to be at-risk who have received MRE increased by three percentage points (from 5% to 8%). This indicates that prioritization of MRE recipients according to their need is taking place to some extent.

Industry best practices concur that effective implementation and use of casualty surveillance systems are important in effective prioritization and delivery of MRE, in addition to mine action intervention as a whole. Future rounds of data collection and/or iterations of the M&E Mechanism will look into the scale

²⁴ I.e. The inclusion of new and newly-identified contamination increases the denominator at a faster rate than clearance increases the numerator, causing the overall percentage to decrease from 89% to 67% from the fourth to the fifth round of data collection.

²⁵ As with all cumulative counts in the survey, completed EOD spot tasks are reported cumulatively to the end of the reporting period as discussed in Annex 2: Data and Analysis.

²⁶ The M&E Mechanism defines a direct beneficiary as someone who attends an in-person MRE session of any kind (lesson, presentation, briefing, training, receive a door-to-door visit, attend a child friendly space, etc.) provided by an educator of any kind (teacher, member of an NGO, religious leader, community member/leader, police or military officer, etc.).

of implementation of such surveillance systems in order to understand their contribution to the successful delivery of MRE.

Weapons and Ammunition Management

The United Nations also invests in weapons and ammunition management as a risk reduction strategy. Unsecured stockpiles of weapons and ammunition can be a source of components for improvised explosive devices and booby traps, including IEDs that function as mines as defined in the APMBC under Article II and the CCW Amended Protocol II. Conversely, effective WAM helps to mitigate the threat of IEDs by removing the military grade UXO from the supply chain of IED facilitators. It is worth noting, however, that very few unsecure weapons and ammunition storage areas are known to have been intentionally destroyed through a managed process;²⁷ estimates of how many have been destroyed through looting or unintentional detonation are extremely difficult derive with any reliability, making it very challenging to measure the scale of the problem.

Over the five completed rounds of data collection, eleven countries and territories have been able to provide data on weapons and ammunition management.²⁸ The M&E Mechanism finds evidence of positive trend in countries/territories receiving consistent UN support in weapons and ammunition management, including evidence of increasing numbers of storage areas being brought into compliance with established standards. As numbers of confirmed storage areas have increased with each round of data collection, so have the numbers of storage areas that are managed in compliance with national standards, IMAS, and IATG. The percentage of confirmed storage areas that are managed in compliance with national standards has increased from 18% to 30% from the end of 2014 thorough the first six months of 2016.²⁹

It is clear, however, that this is an area of risk for countries, if only 30% of known sites are compliance with international standards. In addition to the 1,679 weapons and ammunition storage areas confirmed to exist, a further 996 are suspected to exist, further illustrating the extent of the risk.

2.3.2 Strategic Objective 2: Victim Assistance

Strategic Objective 2: Comprehensive support is provided by national and international actors to mine and ERW victims within a broader response to injury and disability.⁹

The data show positive progress on the development of policy frameworks, though challenges remain in the provision of victim assistance services. United Nations support for mine action will continue to work with affected states and other partners to reduce the impact of mines by providing support for survivors and victims. The extent and quality of the victim assistance services provided is assessed by whether disability policies are in place and make relevant reference to mine/ERW victims, and by the range of services that are available to mine/ERW victims.

²⁷ Indicates an organized decommissioning process whereby a facility ceases to be a storage facility for weapons and ammunition, and its contents are destroyed and/or dispersed to appropriate authorities.

²⁸ Abyei, Afghanistan, Albania, the Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Darfur, Egypt, Liberia, Libya, Mali, and Somalia.

²⁹ Restricted to countries and territories participating in all five rounds of data collection.

Trends in victim assistance policy frameworks and service provision have remained positive over the previous four rounds of data collection: The majority of countries/territories in which the UN has a mine action presence have put in place disability policies that either directly reference victims and mines and ERW, or that extend equal rights to all people with disabilities regardless of type of disability: 80% of countries that have taken place in at least four rounds of data collection have this in place. Countries in which there is an opportunity for further support for development of a disability policy are the Central African Republic, Libya and Mali.

Similarly, 86% of countries provide at least some form of victim assistance support. Only 55% of these countries provide a full range of victim assistance services covering care and protection for victims, psychosocial support as well as support for social inclusion and economic reintegration, highlighting opportunities for external support.

For actual implementation of victim assistance services, however, information is scarcer. Information on the number of recipients of victim assistance services is not readily available, having been provided only by Darfur, the DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan and Tajikistan. Furthermore, the percentage of victims recorded as having received support is relatively small in comparison to the overall number of victims in these countries. This suggests that more investment in both information-gathering and service provision is needed by affected states, the UN, civil society or other partners to ensure comprehensive level of victim assistance support can be provided.

In terms of UN support for victim assistance, 57% of UN mine action programmes support victim assistance through direct programming and/or funding and 1% of UN-channelled funds are invested in victim assistance. As noted in the previous report, engagement tends to focus on support for individual projects, such as the development of surveillance programmes or victim assistance service provision as opposed to long-term institution development of national health systems, which is not the typically domain of mine action interventions.

2.3.3 Strategic Objective 3: National Ownership and Capacity

Strategic Objective 3: The transfer of mine action functions to national actors is accelerated, with national capacity to fulfil mine action responsibilities increased.³⁰

The United Nations prioritizes capacity development to accelerate the development of national mine action programmes that are primarily owned and managed by national actors who have leadership and capacity to fulfil mine action obligations. An effective national mine action capacity is comprised of an effective operating framework to enable national governments take the lead to develop and maintain, with UN assistance where requested. Some of the more critical elements include a legislative framework, a set of national standards and a process of accreditation of mine/ERW clearance operators, a national strategy for mine action, and an empowered national body to coordinate and manage mine action personnel, budget, quality assurance and an information management system.

³⁰ United Nations, *The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018*. Available from: http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/mine_action_strategy_mar15.pdf (accessed 15 February 2016).

The M&E Mechanism monitors the presence of different components of an operating framework to assess the extent to which these components are in place within affected countries. Trends show conservative progress towards effective national mine action structures. Sixty-eight per cent of national authorities have adopted a plan or strategy on information management, and 71% collect and maintain mine/ERW injury surveillance data.³¹ Ninety per cent of national authorities invest in their own mine action programmes, most frequently in the areas of coordination, mine action planning, quality assurance, and information management. This trend has been consistent over multiple rounds of data collection. 54% of national authorities (13 countries) have a national action plan or national strategy for mine action, and strategies are in the drafting stages in a further five countries (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Libya, Somalia, and Tajikistan). Relevant legislation is also being drafted in Côte d'Ivoire, where the government is adopting national legal and regulatory frameworks to deal with the problems associated with arms proliferation and ammunition transfers. Additionally, two major laws on national security were promulgated in January 2016: the law related to the Programming of Internal Security Forces for the years 2016-2020 and the law related to Military Programming for 2016-2020.

In terms of the overall assessment of capacity levels, they too indicate moderate improvement: Aggregate capacity assessment scores have increased from 2014 through July 2016 by 0.23%. The greatest increases in average capacity occurred in the area of marking, fencing, survey, and clearance. Average capacities in resource mobilisation, coordination, quality assurance, and EOD have also increased.

In terms of UN assistance for the development of an effective national framework and supporting the emerging capacity of the countries in which it operates, the data demonstrates that UN-channelled funds correlate negatively with average capacity scores (i.e. more UN-channelled funds are spent in countries with lower average national capacity). This finding illustrates the United Nations commitment to direct support towards areas of greatest need.

Despite this generally encouraging news, challenges remain. The data demonstrate that capacity can deteriorate as well as increase; in many countries and territories capacity has fluctuated in certain areas over the course of programme implementation. Capacity can decline as a result of decreasing funding and support, sometimes as part of transitioning to full national ownership. Ongoing monitoring ensures a strong understanding of the national capacity trends in order to decide on where resources can be invested most effectively.

2.3.4 Strategic Objective 4: Policy

Strategic Objective 4: Mine action is promoted and integrated in multilateral instruments and frameworks as well as national plans and legislation.³²

³¹ The Survey asks if national authorities collect and maintain age and gender disaggregated data on deaths and injuries from mines and ERW; there is no universal definition of an injury surveillance system.

³² United Nations, *The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018*. Available from:

http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/mine_action_strategy_mar15.pdf (accessed 15 February 2016).

Universalisation of relevant international instruments still to be achieved while there has been an upward trend in the mainstreaming of mine action in resolutions and reports of the United Nations system.

International Policy

Progress towards the universalisation of international treaties, and particularly towards the APMBC, has slowed. Among states affected by mine/ERW including cluster munitions:³³

- 68% are States Parties to the APMBC; one new State Party since 2013.
- 38% are States Parties to the CCM; six new States Parties since 2013.
- 60% are States Parties to the CCW; four new States Parties since 2013.
- 87% are States Parties to the CRPD; ten new States Parties since 2013.

Work remains to ensure that States Parties to the CCW also ratify CCW Amended Protocol II and CCW Amended Protocol V; at present, ten States Parties to the CCW have yet to ratify CCW Amended Protocol II and 17 have yet to ratify CCW Amended Protocol V.

Peace Frameworks

Across peace agreements, ceasefire agreements, and related documents, the number of references to mine action issues has increased from 10% in 2011 to 25% in 2015. The number of ceasefire agreements has increased from 2013 to 2015 overall but has witnessed a drop from 2014 to 2015. Notable ceasefire agreements that contain references to mine action include that of Central African Republic in 2013 and that of Myanmar from 2015. The number of peace agreements for the identified countries has reduced by half over the past three years. There has been a reference to mine action in a Peace Agreement dealing with Philippines in 2014 and one agreement dealing with the Central African Republic in 2015. The trajectory of the identified relevant related documents has also been similar, with the number of relevant documents falling from 12 in 2013 to three in 2015. In the past three years, there has been no reference to mine action in a relevant related document.

Policy within the United Nations Bodies

Instruments, initiatives, and documents within the United Nations system present an opportunity to mainstream mine action across the work of the Organization. Efforts by the UN in cooperation with Member States to increase the profile of mine action issues within key UN documents, such as resolutions by the Security Council and the General Assembly, have been largely successful with the proportion of relevant documents that reference mine action increasing over time, from 39% in 2011 to 57% in 2015; this trend has continued in 2016, with preliminary findings indicating that at least half of relevant documents in 2016 will include references to mine action.³⁴ References have ranged from recognizing the humanitarian impact of landmines, explosive remnants of war, and/or improvised

³³ Drawn from the Strategic Objective 4 dataset of 82 affected countries and territories

³⁴ As of this writing (December 2016), 52 of the 104 relevant UN documents include a reference to mine action. The number of relevant documents is expected to double by the end of 2016, however, so findings remain preliminary.

explosive devices to calling for Member States and the United Nations to undertake activities to eliminate the threats posed by these explosive hazards.

Overall, the total number of relevant documents and references to mine action has increased from 2013 to 2015, indicating successful mainstreaming of mine action into reports and resolutions. An especially large increase was seen from 2013 to 2014 where the total number of relevant documents increased by approximately 38% and the total number of references to mine action increased by approximately 45%. While the total number of relevant documents and references has increased from 2013 to 2014, there has been a decrease in the number of relevant documents and references from 2014 to 2015. In 2015, the total number of relevant documents and the total number of references to mine action fell by 20%.

The sharpest rise has been in references to IEDs. Between 2011 and 2015, the proportion of relevant documents mentioning IEDs increased from 7% to nearly 23% of all UN documents, and the discussion of IEDs in the 2016 Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict was more thorough than ever before. This increase is due not only to the increased use of IEDs and their impact on UN staff and operations and to civilians but also on addressing ways to mitigate these threats.

The substance of the discussion of IEDs varies depending on whether the document pertains to a specific country, a region or group of countries, or to a particular theme. Documents that are specific to a country in which the UN has a minimal operational presence tend to mention IEDs only when reporting incidents and attacks. In contrast, documents discussing a theme (“Women, Peace, and Security,” or “Children and Armed Conflict,”), a group of countries or a country in which the UN is mandated to establish or maintain a peace operation are more likely to discuss IEDs in greater depth. IED threat mitigation tactics are discussed in these documents, as well as clearance and disposal, training, capacity development, and risk education in relation to IEDs.

2.4 UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT TO MINE ACTION

The UN works with affected states, civil society, the private sector and donors to reduce the threat and the impact of mines and ERW. United Nations support to mine action includes deployment of technical advisory staff, and in some cases, assets as well as the provision of financial support including channelling funds and assisting with resource mobilisation. In such circumstances, the United Nations can act as a funding channel for trust fund support to the national mine action programme. In these cases, the United Nations provides donors and national programmes with additional levels of financial oversight of contributions.

The scale of UN programmes in a country varies considerably according to the national context. Among UN programmes participating in the M&E Mechanism, five programmes have 26 or more UN mine action staff, and six programmes have 11-25 UN staff supporting mine action. The remaining 15 participating programs are supported by ten or fewer UN staff each.³⁵ Overall, UN advisors provide technical assistance, on-the-job training to strengthen national capacities, as well as assist with coordination and resource mobilization needs. In national mine action programmes in which there is

³⁵ Seven programmes have 3-10 UN mine action staff and eight programmes two or fewer UN mine action staff.

established national capacity, UN support may be limited to advising the national authority and liaising with the United Nations country office on mine action issues and other responsibilities.

Globally, the bulk of UN-channelled financial support in mine action supports the risk reduction activities covered under Strategic Objective 1. These initiatives receive nearly 70% of UN-channelled financial support. The bulk of this funding supports clearance (35%), route clearance, patrol support, and explosive ordnance disposal to facilitate the mobility and operations of deployed United Nations missions (29%), and coordination (11%). Additional areas of United Nations support under Strategic Objective 1 include MRE (4%), explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks (3%), and combined technical and non-technical survey (2%).³⁶

United Nations financial support for national mine action programmes also varies considerably, once again illustrating the degree to which such support is tailored to the scale of the problem or need and to national capacity. Roughly 40% of programmes have budgets between \$40,000 and \$800,000 USD annually, and another 40% have budgets that are \$900,000 and \$6 million; the remaining programmes budgets are larger, with the largest being, as high as \$52 million USD; this includes peacekeeping funds allocated to mine action. There are eighteen programmes that have shared budget information between the end of 2014 and 2015, and over this time there has been an overall reduction in programme budgets by as much as 12%.

To ensure the risk reduction strategies implemented by the United Nations and partners proportionally reach all community members in which mine action is being conducted, the M&E Mechanism monitors the implementation of the UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes³⁷ (hereafter Gender Guidelines).³⁸ The findings emphasize where programmes reported consistent implementation of the best practices, recommendations, and guidelines outlined in the Gender Guidelines.³⁹ Since the previous round of data collection, the consistency of the integration of gender-sensitive approaches when conducting assessments rose from 72% to 77%; in particular, the proportion of programmes that consistently ensure gender balance among interviewers conducting surveys and data collection activities increased from 27% to 47% per cent.

Programmes most consistently implement the guidelines intended to ensure that men and women are equally able to access and benefit from professional opportunities in the mine action sector (the Employment Opportunities domain (see Annex 1 Figure 14). Since the last round of data collection, mine action programmes increased the accessibility (87% to 92% per cent) and relevance (57% to 62% percent) of mine action employment information to men and women; indeed, the recommendation that vacancy announcements be accessible to both women and men is the most frequently followed best

³⁶ For additional information, including other areas of UN support, see Annex 1 Figure 18.

³⁷ UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, *Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes*, (New York, New York, United Nations, 2010). Available from: <http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/MA-Guidelines-WEB.pdf> (accessed 15 February 2016).

³⁸ Where possible, the assessment reflects all UN-supported mine action work across a country or territory.

³⁹ “Consistent implementation” means that a programme reported following the guidelines associated with each theme at least half of the time in which it would be relevant to do so.

practice in the Gender Guidelines. It is also one of the most concrete and actionable recommendations. Other aspects of the guidelines have proved more difficult to consistently implement. Programmes struggle with guidelines concerning gender sensitive research and assessment (assembling survey and interview teams, some aspects of information management and data analysis) though 70% of programmes report that they always or almost always disaggregate survey data by sex and age. Guidelines concerning cultural norms and gender roles and/or touching on topics that culturally taboo (such as STI prevention) have also proven challenging to implement consistently.

Programmes take a variety of approaches to ensure gender sensitivity in their mine action activities. Many programmes note that implementation of the Gender Guidelines is required of UN implementing partners, and that such partners are asked to report on their performance in this area.

2.5 CONCLUSION

Mine action is multidimensional in nature, facilitating the achievement of peace and security, human rights, peacebuilding, protection, humanitarian and development outcomes. Mine action contributes towards stabilization within peacekeeping and peacebuilding, small arms and light weapons programmes (in relation to weapons and ammunition management) and through the assessment of asymmetric threats/warfare.

Mine action enables the creation of viable opportunities for recovery from disasters or conflicts by allowing landmine, cluster munition and other ERW-affected communities to take steps towards sustainable development. Indeed, mine action programmes catalyse development outcomes, creating essential preconditions for the achievement of the SDGs. Surveying and clearing hazardous areas allows the release of previously contaminated land for productive use for the benefit of local communities. This enables the construction of infrastructure, schools, dams and roads and market places but also safe access to land for cultivation, gathering of natural resources and water sources.⁴⁰ Clearance activities often occur in tandem with other financial and livelihood support, including small business loans, vocational training and technical help with transport, food storage and livestock handling. MRE complements clearance activities (particularly in areas where clearance is not yet possible); through MRE and vocational training for victims and survivors in what are often marginalized communities, mine action programmes can contribute to economic security. Employment in mine action projects often helps crisis-affected communities to earn an income and contributes to rebuilding their livelihoods, enhancing social stability and promoting reconciliation and reintegration. By operating in conflict and post-conflict environments, mine action contributes to the achievement of the SDGs in the most challenging of development contexts; creating positive changes in the lives of the world's most vulnerable people.

⁴⁰ Leaving No One Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals – preliminary findings. C. GICHD/UNDP, Geneva, February 2017. Available from: https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/GICHD-resources/rec-documents/UNDP_GICHD_Study-Linking_Mine_Action_and_SDGs-Preliminary_Findings_FINAL_formattedv2_full.pdf Accessed 16 February 2017.

3. Annex 1: Tables and Charts

As discussed in the Annex 2 Section 7.2, cumulative totals run from the start date identified by each participating country/territory to the end of the relevant reporting period.⁴¹

3.1 VISION OF THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGY FOR MINE ACTION 2013-2018

“...a world free of the threat of mines and ERW, including cluster munitions, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development and where the human rights and the needs of mine and ERW victims are met and survivors are fully integrated and equal members of their societies.”⁴²

Table 1: Restricted to the twelve countries/territories participating in all five rounds of data collection: Abyei, Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Mali, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Western Sahara.

Table 2. Mine/ERW Casualties Rate (Restricted)	2014 (2 nd half-year)	2015 (1 st half-year)	2015 (2 nd half-year)	2016 (1 st half-year)
Casualties (deaths and injuries) due to mines/ERW per million people per month.	0.32	0.40	0.17	1.64
Civilian deaths and injuries due to mines/ERW per million people per month.	0.30	1.88 ^{43, 44}	0.11	1.60

Table 2: Restricted to the 18 countries /territories participating in rounds two, three, and four of data collection: Abyei, Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Tajikistan, and Western Sahara.

Table 3. Mine/ERW Casualties Rate (Restricted)	2015 (1 st half-year)	2015 (2 nd half-year)	2016 (1 st half-year)
Casualties (deaths and injuries) due to mines/ERW per million people per month.	0.28	0.29	1.66
Civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) due to mines/ERW per million people per month.	1.04 ²⁸	0.19	0.96

Table 3: Restricted to the 23 countries /territories participating in data collection rounds three through five: Abyei, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Western Sahara.

⁴¹ 30 June 2016 for the fifth round of data collection.

⁴² United Nations, *The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018*. Available from:

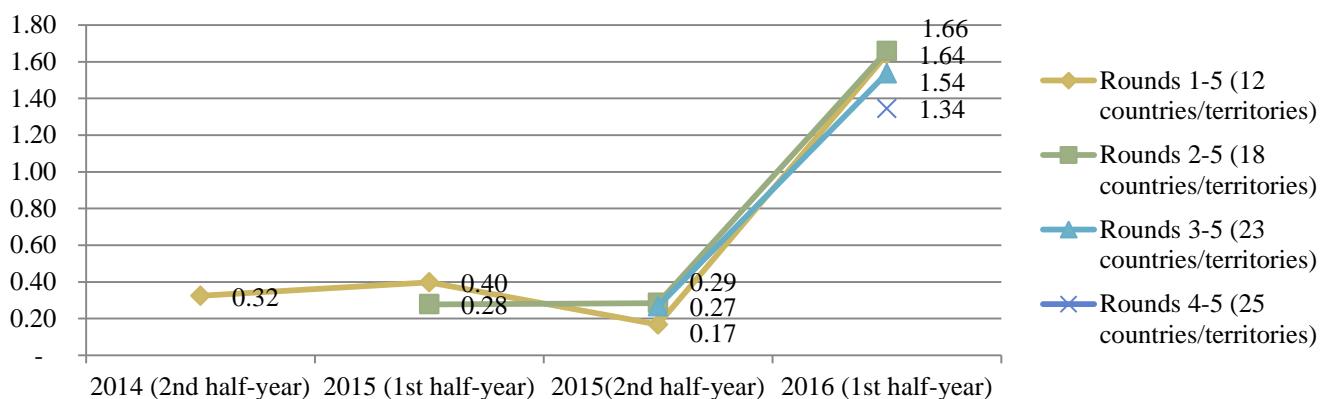
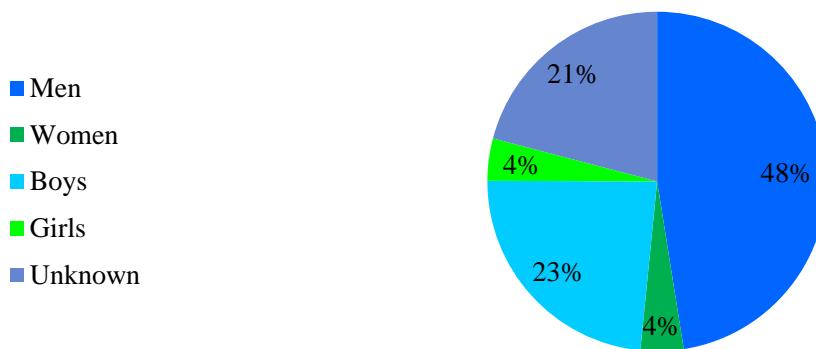
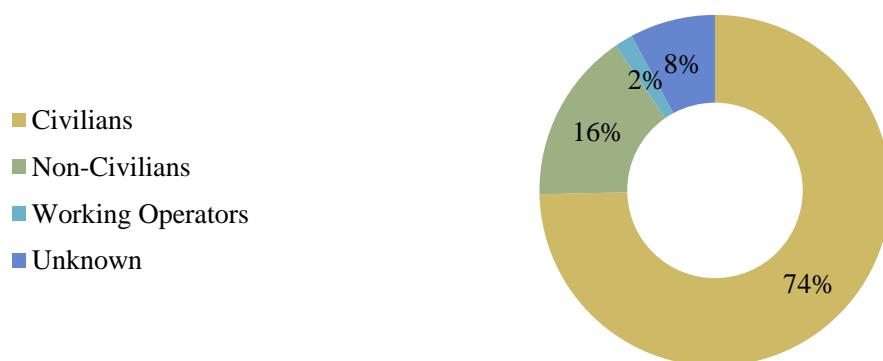
http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/mine_action_strategy_mar15.pdf (accessed 15 February 2016).

⁴³ The spike in civilian casualties of mines/ERW is not currently explicable; further investigation will be undertaken in future rounds of data collection. Annex 2 (Data and Analysis) includes additional discussion of the treatment of casualty rates in the M&E Mechanism.

⁴⁴ The civilian casualty rate exceeds the overall casualty rate due to issues of data availability (some programmes are not able to provide civilian/non-civilian disaggregation, therefore cannot be included in the calculation of civilian casualty rates).

Table 4. Mine/ERW Casualties Rate (Restricted)

	2015 (2 nd half-year)	2016 (1 st half-year)
Casualties (deaths and injuries) due to mines/ERW per million people per month.	0.27	1.54
Civilian deaths and injuries due to mines/ERW per million people per month.	0.18	0.89

Figure 4. Mine/ERW Casualty Rates**Figure 5. Mine/ERW Casualties in 2016 (Age and Gender)****Figure 6. Mine/ERW Casualties in 2016 (Victim Type)**

Wherever possible, participating programmes track and provide casualty data disaggregated by age and gender and by civilian and non-civilian status. In certain contexts this data is not available because it does not exist or because it is not accessible. Efforts to increase the availability of disaggregated data are ongoing. Further discussion of data availability is included in Annex 2 (Data and Analysis).

Figure 7. Mine/ERW Casualties in the 1st half-year of 2016 (Age and Gender) by Country/Territory

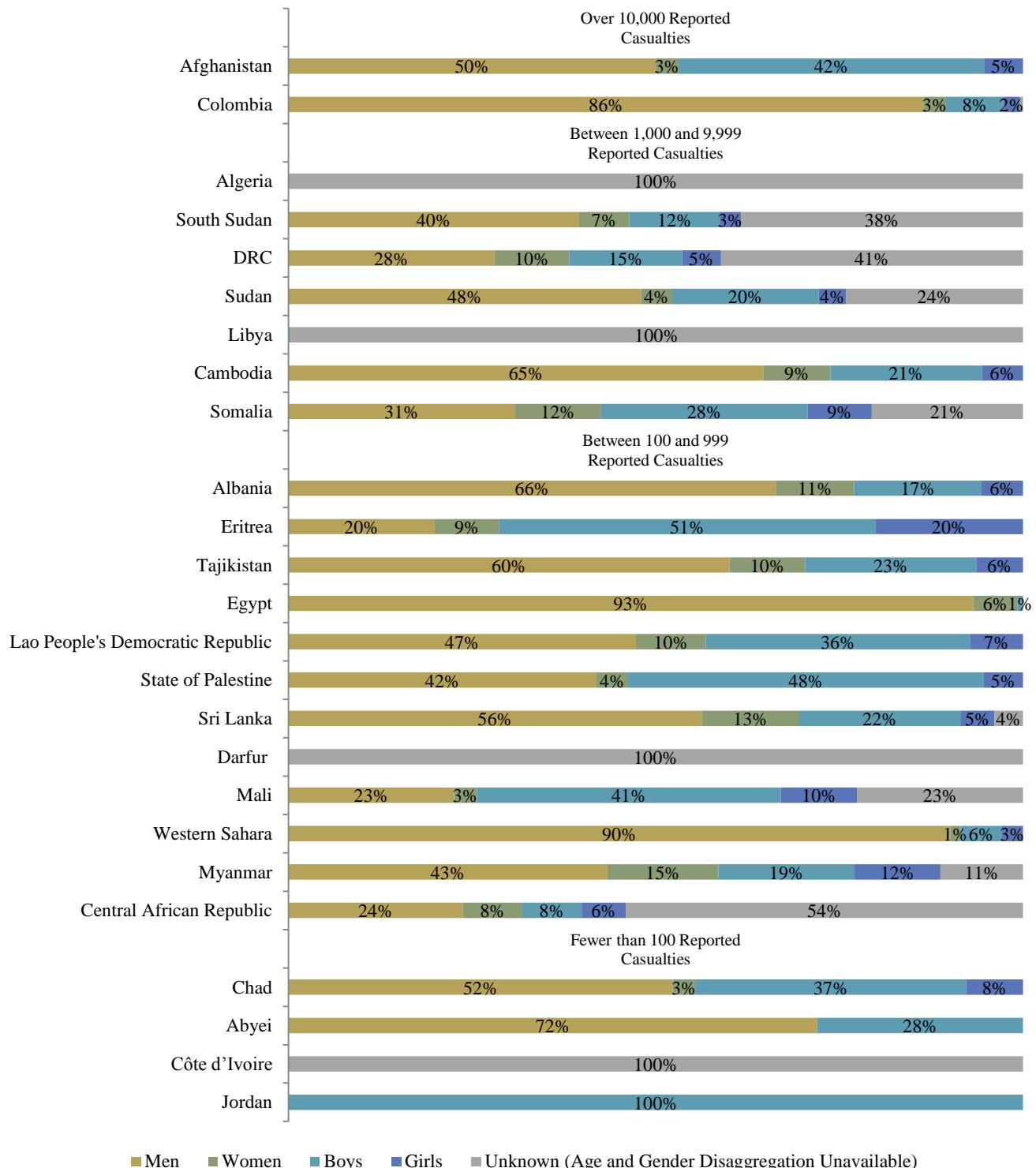
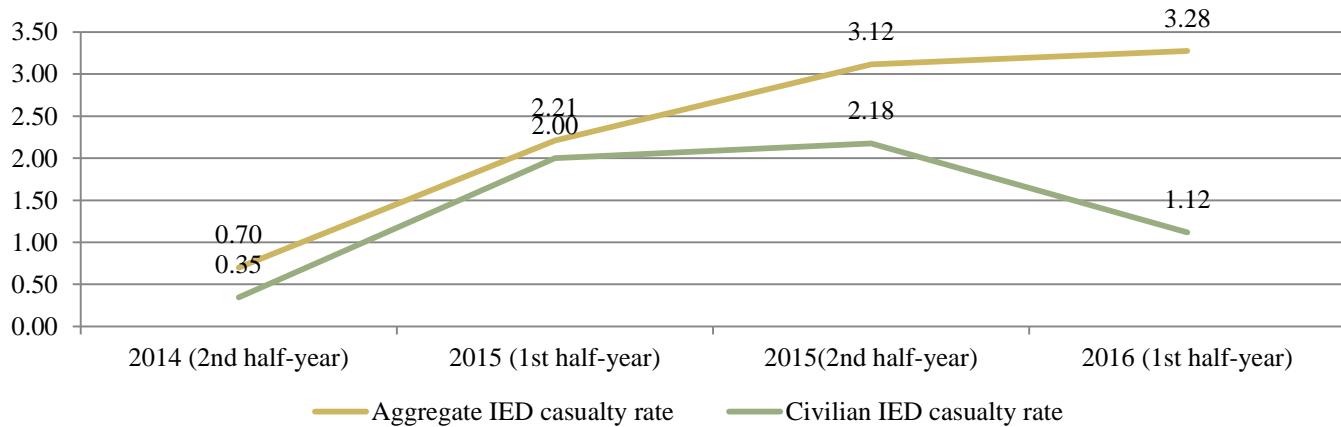


Table 5. Cumulative Mine/ERW Casualties in countries and territories in which children are proportionally the most impacted.⁴⁵	2015 (2nd half-year)						2016 (1st half-year)					
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	(Age & gender unknown)	Total	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	(Age & gender unknown)	Total
Eritrea	178	79	453	180	0	884	178	79	458	180	0	895
Jordan	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	4	0	0	4
Mali	58	9	93	23	34	217	80	11	147	37	80	355
Myanmar	13	12	21	22	27	97	89	31	38	24	23	205
The State of Palestine	291	30	336	37	0	694	291	30	336	37	0	694

Table 6: Restricted to the three participating countries that are significantly affected by IEDs and able to provide updated IED casualty data in Round 5: Afghanistan, Mali, and Somalia.⁴⁶

Table 6. Improvised Explosive Devices Casualties Rate (Restricted)	2014 (2nd half-year)	2015 (1st half-year)	2015 (2nd half-year)	2016 (1st half-year)
Casualties (deaths and injuries) due to IEDs per million people per month.	0.70	2.21	3.12	3.28
Civilian deaths and injuries due to IEDs per million people per month.	0.35	2.00	2.18	1.12

Figure 8. IED Casualty Rates in Afghanistan, Mali, and Somalia



⁴⁵ As discussed in the Annex 2 Section 7.2, the timeframe for cumulative totals runs from the start date identified by each participating country/territory to the end of the relevant reporting period.

⁴⁶ In this Survey, victim-activated IEDs are considered to be mines/ERW, and so deaths and injuries from such devices are counted together with deaths and injuries from mines/ERW. Victims of remotely detonated, command detonated, or launched IEDs are counted separately.

3.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1 OF THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGY FOR MINE ACTION 2013-2018

Strategic Objective 1: Risks to individuals and the socio-economic impacts of mines and ERW, including cluster munitions, are reduced.⁴⁷

Table 6 tracks the identification and clearance of affected infrastructure. The two counts (being “known and identified” and “cleared” are cumulative totals from the start date identified by each participating country/territory to the end of the relevant reporting period (see Annex 2 Section 7.2). “Percent cleared of total identified” is calculated using these cumulative totals (115 of 137 hospitals cleared is 84% for the second half-year of 2015). The biannual clearance rate, in contrast, is the ratio of newly cleared to newly identified affected infrastructure, expressed as a percentage $((115 - 73)/(137 - 98) = 1.10$, or 110% for the second half-year of 2015).

Table 7. Affected Infrastructure⁴⁸		2015 (1st half-year)	2015 (2nd half-year)	2016 (1st half-year)
Hospitals	Known and Identified	98	137	159
	Cleared	73	115	146
	Biannual clearance rate	77%	110%	141%
	Percent cleared of total identified (cumulative)	73%	84%	92%
Educational Facilities	Known and Identified	217	246	277
	Cleared	182	212	247
	Biannual clearance rate	88%	103%	113%
	Percent cleared of total identified (cumulative)	84%	86%	89%
Markets	Known and Identified	519	589	632
	Cleared	363	438	489
	Biannual clearance rate	69%	107%	119%
	Percent cleared of total identified (cumulative)	70%	74%	77%
Religious Facilities⁴⁹	Known and Identified	5	6	6
	Cleared	5	5	5
	Biannual clearance rate	100%	0%	—
	Percent cleared of total identified (cumulative)	100%	83%	83%
Government Buildings	Known and Identified	283	388	432
	Cleared	238	360	411
	Biannual clearance rate	75%	116%	116%

⁴⁷ United Nations, *The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018*. Available from:

http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/mine_action_strategy_mar15.pdf (accessed 15 February 2016).

⁴⁸ Restricted to the 23 countries and territories participating in Round 3, Round 4, and Round 5 of data collection (which includes all countries and territories able to provide data on affected infrastructure).

⁴⁹ Data on the identification and clearance of contaminated religious facilities comes from the Central African Republic and from Mali, both of whom started this reporting in the third round of data collection.

Table 7. Affected Infrastructure⁴⁸		2015 (1st half-year)	2015 (2nd half-year)	2016 (1st half-year)
	Percent cleared of total identified (cumulative)	84%	93%	95%

Table 8. People in close proximity to affected areas	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	(Age & gender unknown)	Total
Estimated number of people known to be living in close proximity to mine/ERW affected areas. ⁵⁰	937,930	915,174	711,491	662,876	5,327,000	26,067,615 (11% of population)
Estimated number of people who seasonally migrate to mine/ERW affected corridors (in addition to above). ⁵¹	30,000	9,000	25,000	15,000	54,323	133,323 (0% of population) ⁵²

Table 9. Mine/ERW Risk Education (MRE) Programmes	
Number of programmes funded.	136
Number of sessions conducted.	10,219,428
Cumulative number of direct beneficiaries. ⁵³	39,646,446
Number of direct beneficiaries since the start of UN Strategy Implementation	4,810,472
Number of direct beneficiaries who are also considered to be at risk. ⁵⁴	2,023,901

In countries/territories providing data on the number of people living in close proximity to affected areas and the number of people receiving MRE, an estimated 11% of the population (i.e. 26 million people) live in close proximity to mines/ERW, and 3% of the population (i.e. 6.5 million people) have received MRE.^{55, 56, 57} Across all participating countries/territories that provided MRE data, 6% of the population (i.e. 39 million people) has received MRE directly.⁵⁸ Among participating countries/territories providing information on both the number of people receiving MRE and the number of those beneficiaries who are also considered to be at risk, 8% of people receiving MRE are considered to be at risk (2 million out of 25 million people).

⁵⁰ Data from Albania, Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine, South Sudan, Syria, and Tajikistan.

⁵¹ Data from two countries and territories: Afghanistan and Eritrea.

⁵² Estimates are significantly lower than in previous reports because the escalation of conflict in the relevant regions of Afghanistan has prevented the government from obtaining updated figures.

⁵³ The M&E Mechanism defines a direct beneficiary as someone who attends a MRE session of any kind (lesson, presentation, briefing, training, receive a door-to-door visit, attend a child friendly space, etc.) provided by an educator of any kind (teacher, member of an NGO, religious leader, community member/leader, police or military officer, etc.).

⁵⁴ Data from nine countries and territories: Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Pakistan, the State of Palestine, and Sri Lanka.

⁵⁵ “Close proximity” has yet to be defined at the global level and has instead been determined at the country and territory level based on local context and risk factors. In Afghanistan, for example, “close proximity” is defined as within living 500 meters of a hazardous area. In Mali, the team considers all residents of districts that contain contaminated areas to be living in close proximity to affected areas.

⁵⁶ The extent to which UN-supported MRE programmes successfully reach people identified as living in close proximity to mines/ERW is not tracked at the international level through the M&E Mechanism; however, such programmes are designed to reach at-risk populations.

⁵⁷ Data from Albania, Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine, South Sudan, Syria, and Tajikistan.

⁵⁸ Data from 24 countries and territories: Abyei, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Pakistan, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan and Western Sahara.

3.3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 OF THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGY FOR MINE ACTION 2013-2018

Strategic Objective 2: Comprehensive support is provided by national and international actors to mine and ERW victims within a broader response to injury and disability.⁵⁹ ⁶⁰

Figure 9. Percent of Countries and Territories in which the UN Supports Service Provision (Percentage and Number)

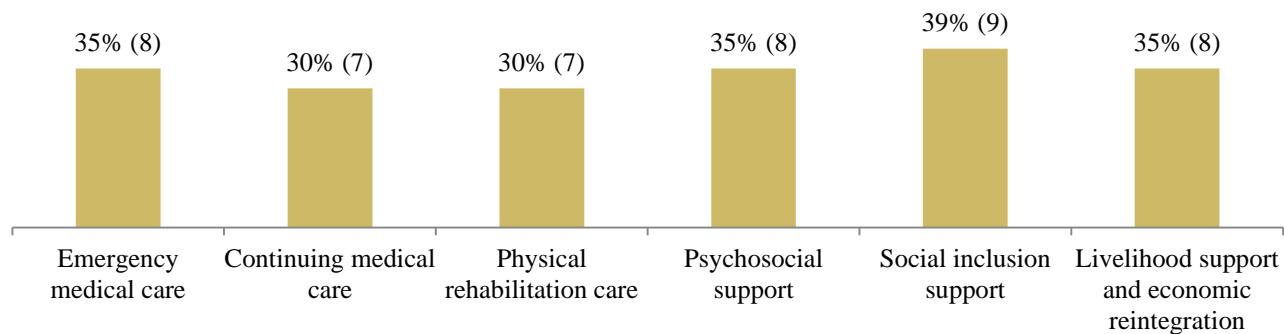
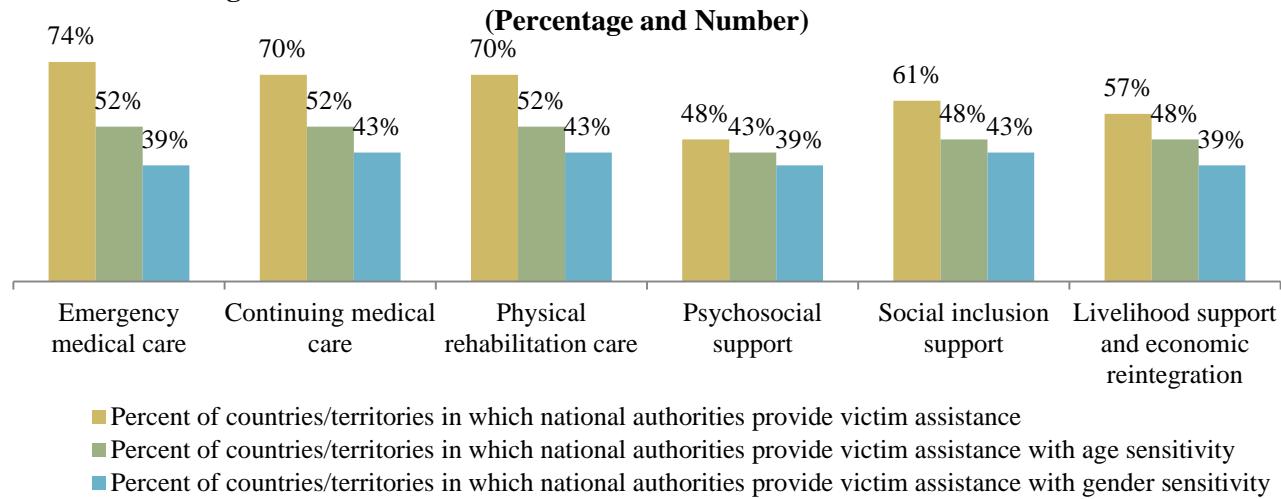


Figure 10. National Authorities that Provide Victim Assistance Services (Percentage and Number)



⁵⁹ United Nations, *The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018*. Available from:

http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/mine_action_strategy_mar15.pdf (accessed 15 February 2016)

⁶⁰ Twenty-one countries and territories provided data to generate Figures 3 and 4.

3.4 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3 OF THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGY FOR MINE ACTION 2013-2018

Strategic Objective 3: The transfer of mine action functions to national actors is accelerated, with national capacity to fulfil mine action responsibilities increased.⁶¹

Figure 6 and Figure 7 summarize the complete findings from the Capacity Assessment discussed in Section 4.5 (National Ownership and National Policy). The Capacity Assessment is completed by Survey Focal Points in collaboration with National Authorities where possible. Where such collaboration is not possible, assessments are made by the United Nations on behalf of the National Authority. To complete the Capacity Assessment, programmes consider a series of “core” mine action activity areas (listed below) and assess national capacity in each area:

- Coordination of mine action actors
- Injury surveillance
- Quality assurance (including accreditation)
- Mine action planning
- Marking, fencing, survey and clearance
- Information management
- Explosive ordnance disposal
- Stockpile management
- Mine/ERW risk education (MRE) (including MRE related surveys)
- Victim assistance
- Resource mobilization
- Procurement of mine action services
- Advocacy for mine action in national legislation

The assessment of capacity is based on five dimensions: i) resource allocation, ii) activity management, iii) policies and framework development, iv) knowledge of relevant issues, and v) planning. Capacity is assessed according to the following scale:

- **Need for increased capacity:** National authorities do not allocate resources or work on this activity; have not developed frameworks or policies in place for this activity; have little to no institutional knowledge on this issue; do not engage in planning for this activity.
- **Basic capacity in place:** National authorities have allocated some resources to this area; manage activities from time to time; have no policies or frameworks in place for this activity; have some knowledge of the relevant issues; engage in little to no planning for this activity.
- **Moderate capacity in place:** National authorities are adequately resourced in this area; actively manage activities in this area; have or are in the process of developing relevant policies and frameworks; have sufficient knowledge of this issue; and engage in planning for this activity.
- **Good capacity in place:** National authorities have expert knowledge in this activity and are resourced in this area; actively manage activities; have developed relevant policies and frameworks;

⁶¹ United Nations, *The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018*. Available from: http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/mine_action_strategy_mar15.pdf (accessed 15 February 2016).

engage in both short- and long-term planning; adaptively respond to new challenges and issues; effectively mitigate risk in this area.

- **Independent capacity in place:** National authorities manage this activity independently from external support.

The top line of Figure 11 below is read as follows: in the area of victim assistance, eight countries/territories expressed a need for increased capacity. Three countries/territories reported basic capacity in place and four reported moderate capacity in place. Three countries/territories each reported good and independent capacity in place. Three countries/territories reported that victim assistance was inapplicable in their context, and data were unavailable for the remaining country/territory.

Figure 11: Capacity Assessment for 2016

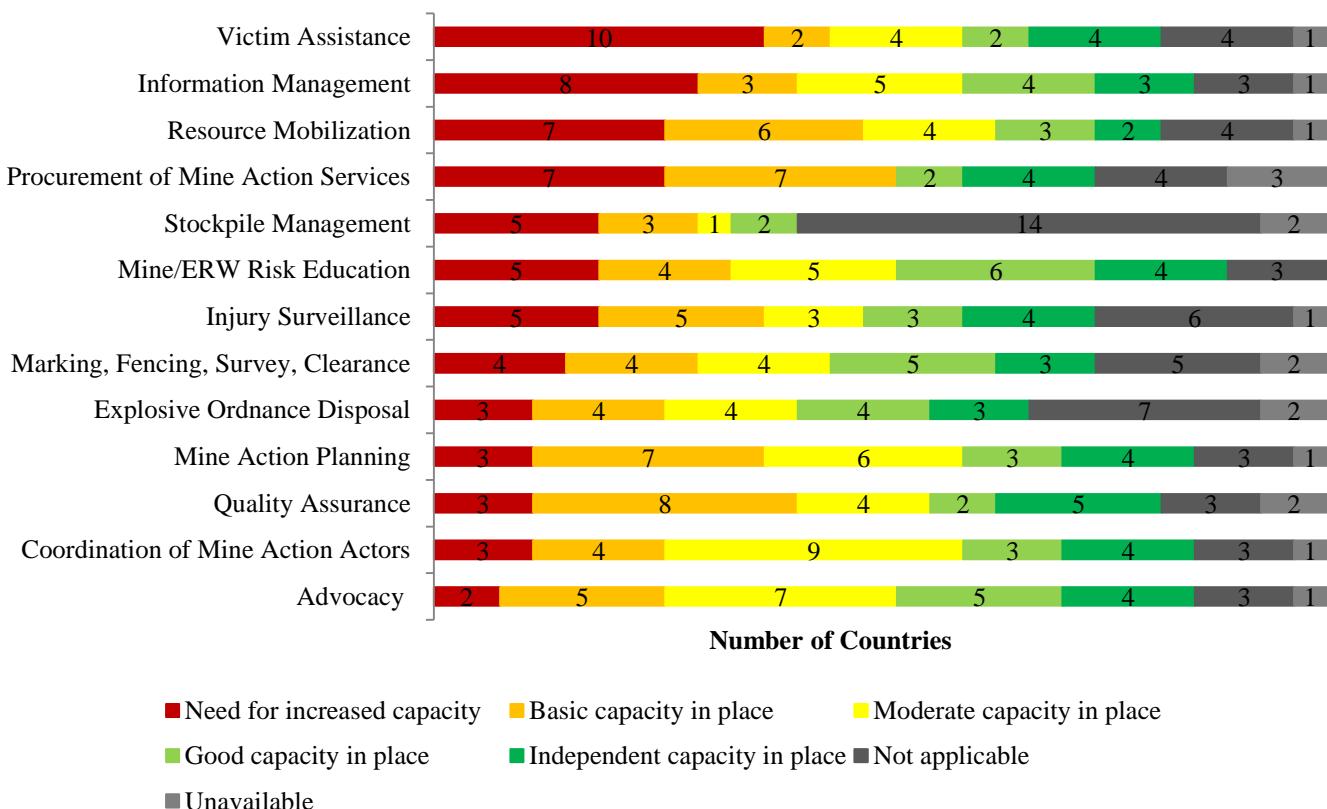


Figure 12 presents the same information in a different and more visual style of chart. The area chart facilitates understanding of overlapping and complementary areas of capacity.

Figure 12: Capacity Assessment Area Chart for 2016

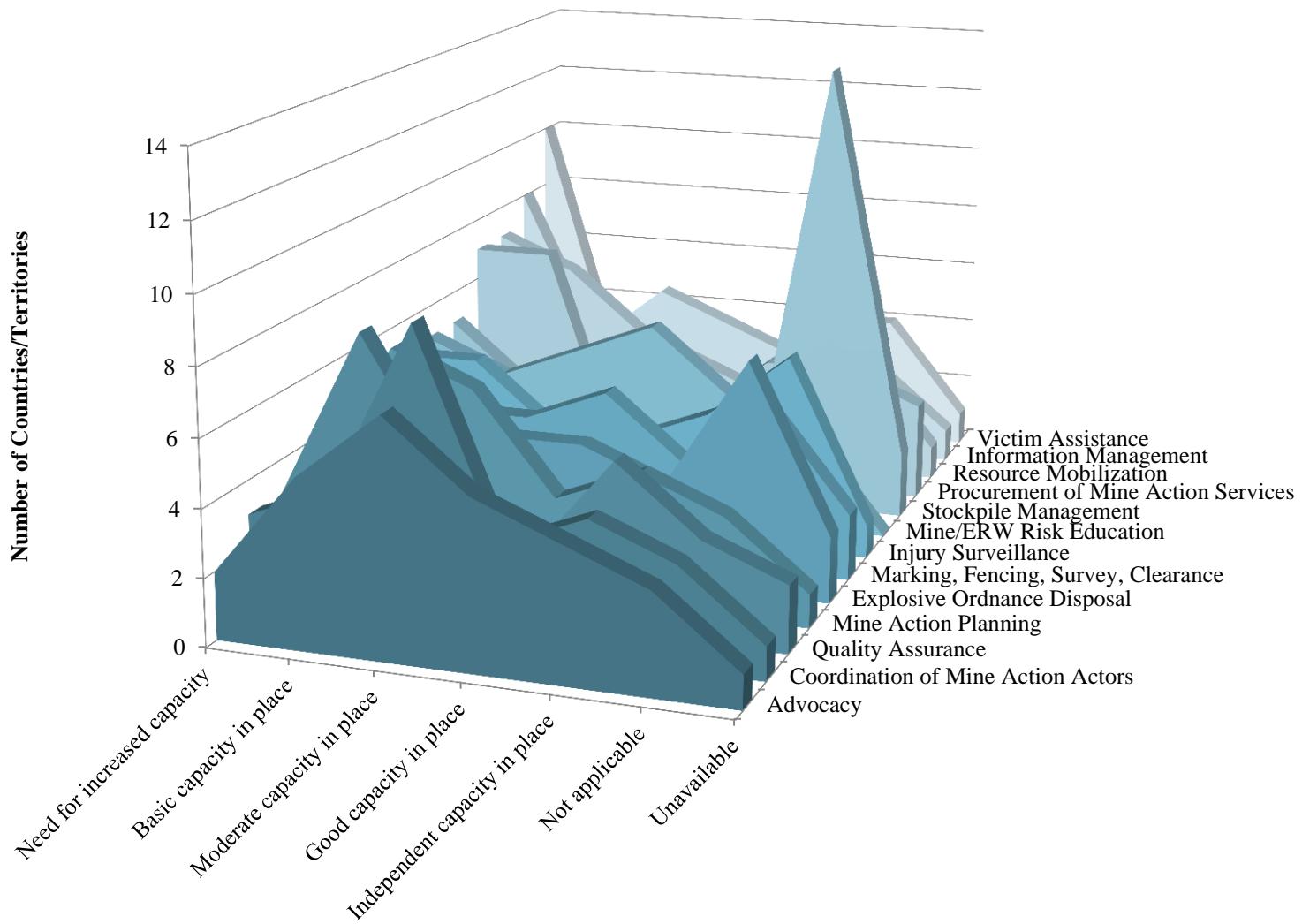


Table 10. Transition Status		2016 (1st half-year)
Transitioned.		43% (9)
In the process of transitioning.		24% (5)
Not transitioned at all.		29% (6)
Not applicable.		9% (5)

Table 11. Indicators of National Ownership and Transition		2016 (1st half-year)
Percent of national authorities who have adopted a national strategy for mine action.		54%
Percent of national authorities with plan in place for the transfer of mine action responsibilities to national authorities (i.e. a transition plan).		53%
Percent of transition plans that are regularly monitored.		89%

Table 12. Information Management Indicators		2016 (1st half-year)
Percent of national authorities who have adopted a plan or strategy on information management.		68%
Percent of national authorities who collect and maintain data on civilian and non-civilian deaths and injuries resulting from landmines, ERW including cluster munitions, in a database (IMSMA or other).		71%
Percent of national authorities who collect age and gender disaggregated data.		67%
Percent of national authorities who collect and maintain data on civilian and non-civilian deaths and injuries resulting from IEDs in a database (IMSMA or other).		54%

3.5 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4 OF THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGY FOR MINE ACTION 2013-2018

Strategic Objective 4: Mine action is promoted and integrated in multilateral instruments and frameworks as well as national plans and legislation.⁶²

Table 13. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Instrument	All Mine-Affected Countries				Mine-affected countries with a UN mine action presence			
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016
Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention	67%	68%	68%	68%	73%	73%	73%	68% ⁶³
Convention on Cluster Munitions	30%	32%	35%	38%	36%	39%	45%	38%
Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) ⁶⁴	55%	55%	59%	60%	44%	45%	50%	52%
CCW Amended Protocol II	84%	87%	81%	80%	85%	85%	77%	82%
CCW Amended Protocol V	64%	67%	63%	65%	65%	65%	59%	53%
Convention on the Rights of	74%	82%	84%	87%	64%	75%	80%	82%

⁶² United Nations, *The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018*. Available from:

http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/mine_action_strategy_mar15.pdf (accessed 15 February 2016).

⁶³ Decreases observed in 2016 regarding States Parties to the APMBC and the CCM among countries with a UN mine action presence are due to a change in the denominator.

⁶⁴ Algeria and the State of Palestine both ratified the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in 2015, as reflected in the increase from 2014 to 2015 in Table 13. As neither acceded to CCW Amended Protocol II or CCW Amended Protocol V, however, the percentages related to these decreased from 2014 to 2015 (i.e. the denominator increased by two while the numerator remained constant).

Table 13. International Humanitarian Law (IHL)	All Mine-Affected Countries				Mine-affected countries with a UN mine action presence		
Persons with Disabilities							

Table 14. International Humanitarian Law among Participants of the M&E Mechanism	Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention	Convention on Cluster Munitions	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)	CCW Amended Protocol II	CCW Amended Protocol V	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Afghanistan	✓	✓	✓			✓
Albania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Algeria	✓		✓			✓
Cambodia	✓		✓	✓		✓
The Central African Republic	✓	✓				✓
Chad	✓	✓				✓
Colombia	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Côte d'Ivoire	✓	✓				✓
The Democratic Republic of the Congo	✓	✓				✓
Egypt			✓			✓
Eritrea	✓					
Jordan	✓		✓	✓		✓
The Lao People's Democratic Republic		✓	✓		✓	✓
Libya					✓	✓
Mali	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mozambique	✓	✓				✓
Myanmar						✓
Nepal						✓
Pakistan			✓	✓	✓	✓
The State of Palestine		✓	✓			✓
Somalia	✓	✓				
South Sudan	✓					
Sri Lanka			✓	✓		✓
Sudan	✓		✓			✓
Syria						✓
Tajikistan	✓		✓	✓	✓	

3.6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENDER GUIDELINES FOR MINE ACTION PROGRAMMES

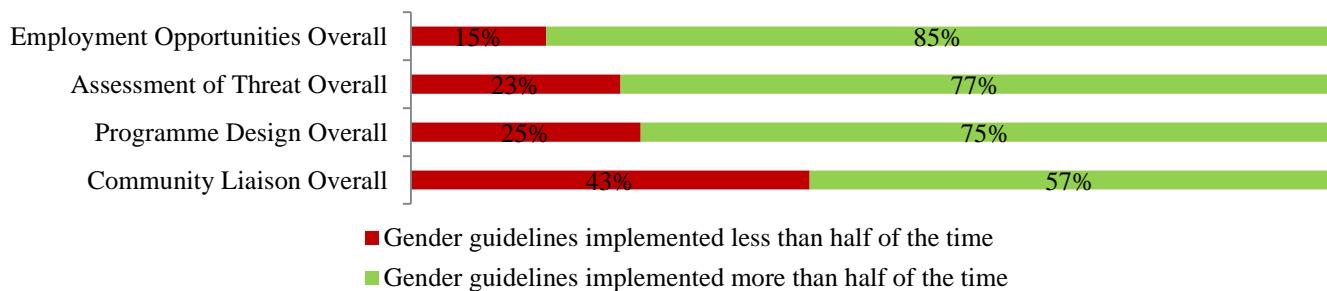
Programmes were asked to report on the extent to which the UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes were applied by selecting, within each assessed activity area, if the specific activity area within the Guidelines was implemented ‘Almost Always’, ‘Often’, ‘Sometimes’, or ‘Rarely’.⁶⁵ Where possible, the assessment reflects all UN mine action work across a country or territory.

The fourteen activity areas in the Gender Guidelines are grouped according to four key themes:

- **Employment Opportunities in the Mine Action Sector:** These guidelines aim to ensure that men and women enjoy the same level of access to, and equally benefit from, mine action programmes (including training and employment opportunities).
- **Assessment of Threat:** These guidelines aim to ensure that information on the threat of mines and ERW is comprehensive, gender sensitive, representative, and collected from adults and children of both sexes.
- **Programme Design:** These guidelines aim to ensure that the rights and needs of adults and children of both sexes are considered, and that gender is overtly considered, especially when prioritizing areas for clearance, MRE, and Victim Assistance.
- **Community Liaison:** These guidelines aim to ensure that mine action teams do not adversely affect local populations by ensuring that engagement with community members respects local norms and customs.

Figure 13 shows the percent of UN-supported mine action programmes that consistently implement the UN gender guidelines in each of the four thematic areas. “Consistent implementation” means that a programme reported following the guidelines associated with each theme (employment opportunities, assessment of threat, programme design, and community liaison) at least half of the time; many report doing so at least 75% of the time.

Figure 13. Consistent Implementation of the UN Gender Guidelines



Detailed findings are presented by theme. Each chart uses the legend below. The colour blocks represent the frequency programmes report implementing each activity area in the Gender Guidelines.

Legend: ■ **Rarely** ■ **Sometimes** ■ **Often** ■ **Almost always**

⁶⁵ A scale of “Almost Always” (76-100% of the time), “Often” (51-75% of the time), “Sometimes” (26-50% of the time), or “Rarely” (0-25% of the time) is used to indicate frequency of implementation.

Legend: **Rarely** **Sometimes** **Often** **Almost always**

Figure 14: Employment Opportunities

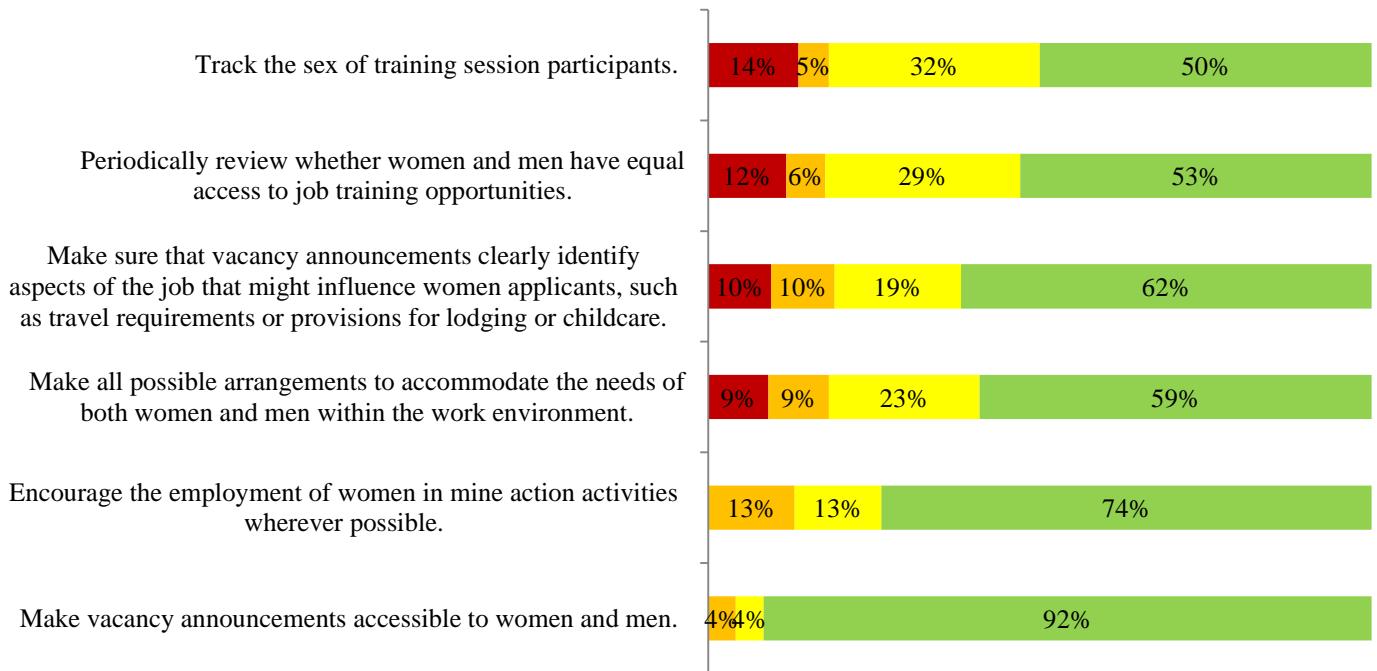
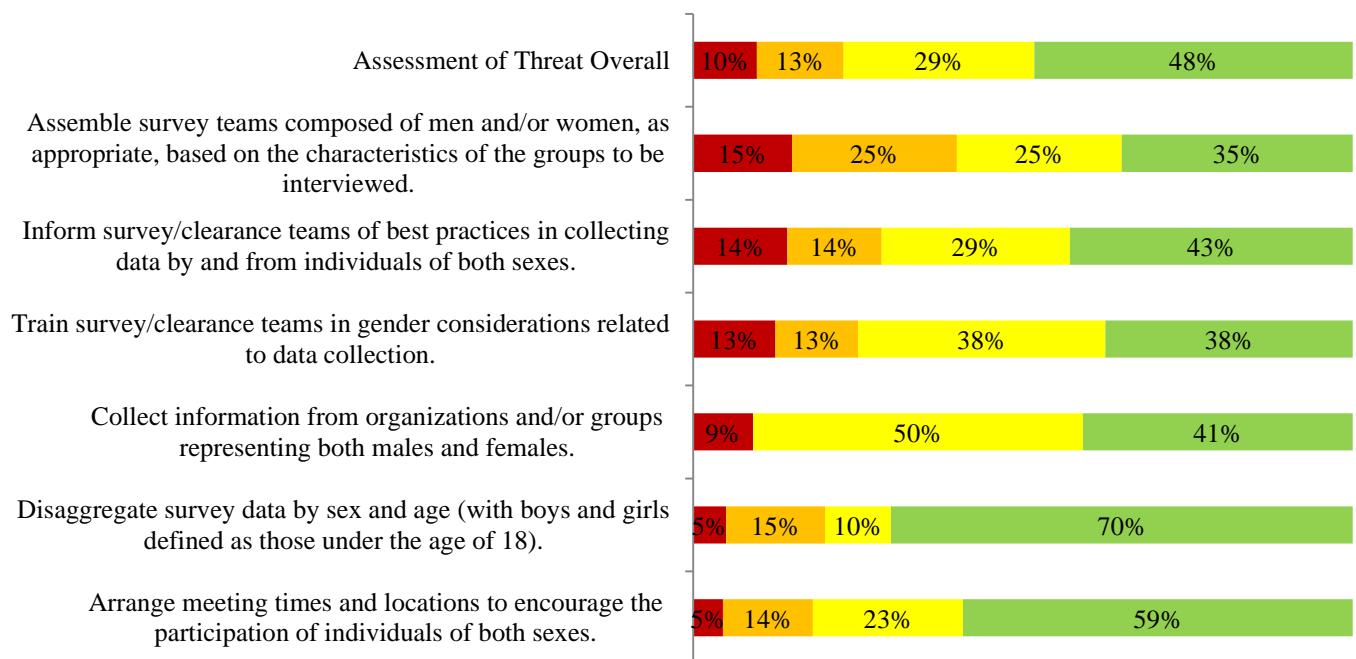


Figure 15: Assessment of Threat



Legend: **Rarely** **Sometimes** **Often** **Almost always**

Figure 16: Programme Design

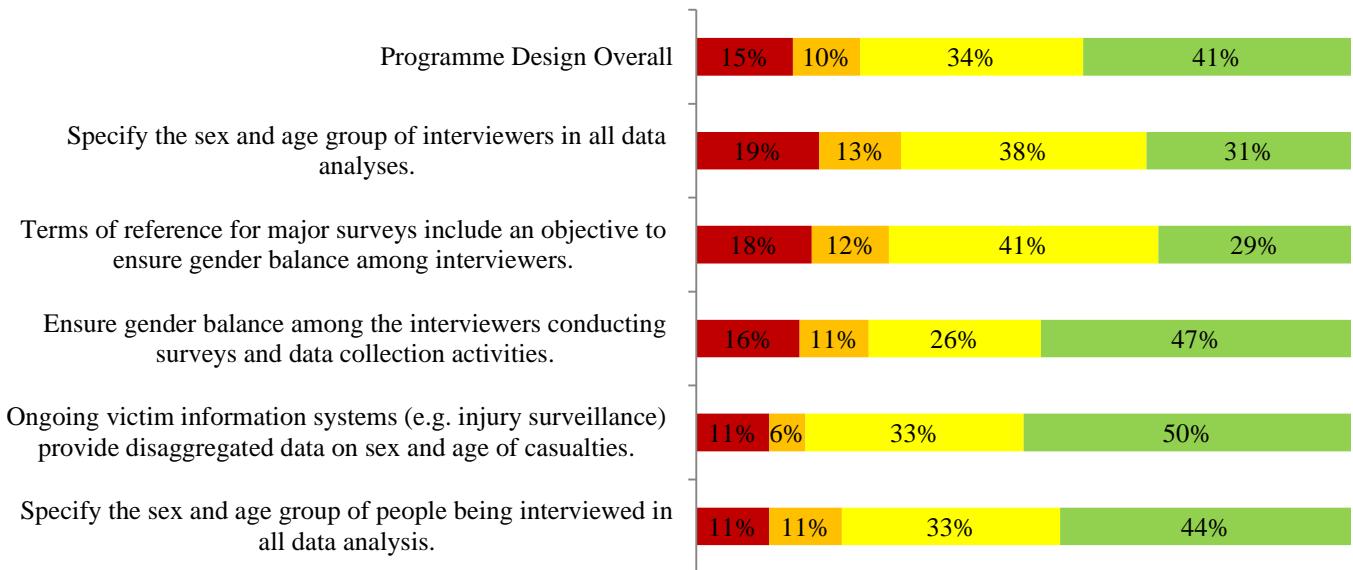
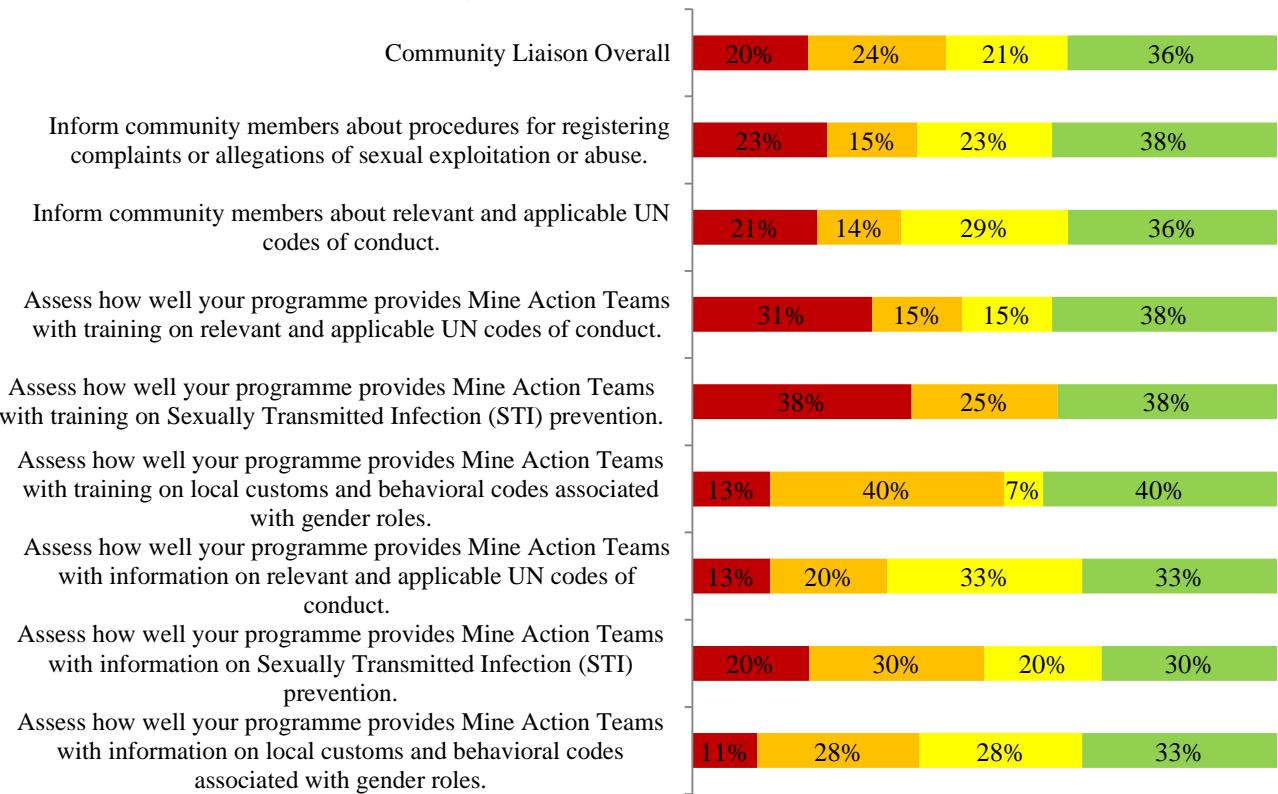
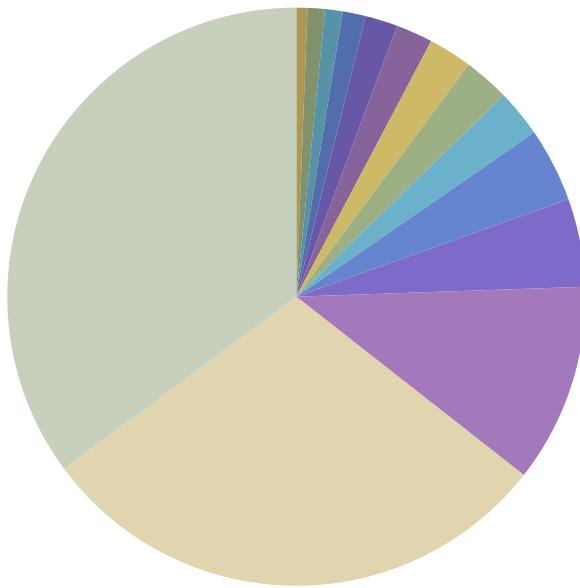


Figure 17: Community Liaison



3.7 UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT FOR MINE ACTION

Figure 18. Distribution of UN-Channelled Funds by Activity Area



- Gender in Mine Action, Peace Building, Information Management, Stockpile Destruction, Administration, and Verification (1%)
- Advocacy, and Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) (1%)
- Victim Assistance (1%)
- Security Sector Reform (SSR) (1%)
- Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) (2%)
- Capacity Building (2%)
- Survey (Technical and Non-Technical) (2%)
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Spot Tasks (3%)
- Personnel, Travel, Equipment, Operating Expenses (3%)
- Mine/ERW Risk Education (4%)
- Programming (5%)
- Coordination (11%)
- Route clearance, patrol support, and explosive ordnance disposal to facilitate the mobility and operations of deployed United Nations missions (29%)
- Clearance (35%)

4. Annex 2: Data and Analysis

4.1 OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT

Members of the IACG-MA are responsible for the M&E Mechanism and have established the inter-agency Consultative Working Group (CWG) to regularly review progress, manage implementation and contribute to the development of the Survey instrument and related guidance documents for the M&E Mechanism. UNDP, UNICEF, UNOPS, and UNMAS are represented at the CWG, as well as a Headquarters M&E Support Team comprised of two staff members dedicated full-time to the M&E Mechanism.

In each country or territory that participates in the M&E Mechanism, UNDP, UNICEF, or UNMAS takes responsibility for coordinating data collection (i.e. Survey Focal Point). The entities not serving as the Survey Focal Point contribute data to the Survey by collaborating in the data collection process.⁶⁶ Survey Focal Points work with national authorities as well as implementing partners to collect data. The most recent round of data collection included 27 countries and territories in which the United Nations has a mine action presence. Many other UN entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also engaged in contributing to the survey through coordination with the designated Survey Focal Point.

4.2 DATA

Data used to develop these findings comes from completed rounds of data collection for the Survey and from the Strategic Objective 4 dataset.⁶⁷ In total, five rounds of Survey data collection are complete.⁶⁸ The majority of the analyses presented include data from all 27 countries and territories participating in the fifth round of data collection or, for trends analysis, from the subset of 25 countries and territories that participated in both the fourth and fifth rounds of data collection.⁶⁹ A few longer-term analyses draw from other sub-sets; these cases are indicated in footnotes.⁷⁰

⁶⁶ Across the 27 countries and territories participating in the fifth round of data collection, UN staff from 12 UNDP country offices, 16 mine action programmes supported by UNICEF, and 15 UNMAS programmes participated in data collection either by serving as Survey Focal Points or by working with the designated Survey Focal Point entity.

⁶⁷ The Strategic Objective 4 dataset includes 82 affected countries and territories (adjusted in 2016 to reflect new information) and examines treaty status, inter-governmental processes/frameworks, and country-level characteristics (GDP, population, regime type, etc.). Data collection for Strategic Objective 4 is undertaken by the IACG-MA M&E Support team based at UN Headquarters in New York, and the data comes from publicly sourced databases maintained by third parties and partner organizations including the World Bank, the Uppsala Conflict Data Program, the Polity Project of the Center for Systemic Peace, the Landmine Monitor, the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly, and the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UN Peacemaker), amongst others.

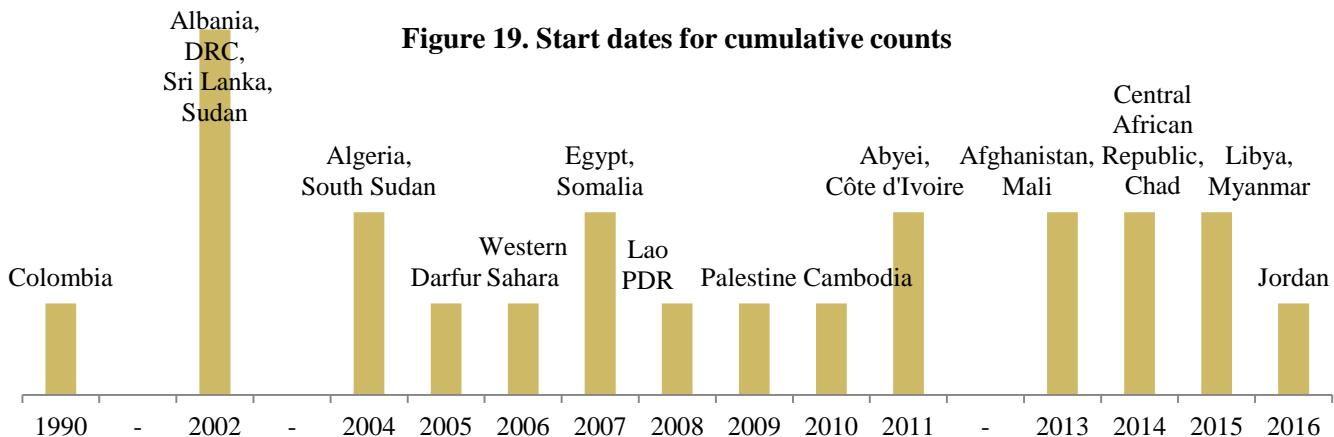
⁶⁸ Round 1 (with data as of 30 June 2014), Round 2 (with data as of 31 December 2014), Round 3 (with data as of 30 June 2015), Round 4 (with data as of 31 December 2015), and Round 5 (with data as of 30 June 2016).

⁶⁹ Abyei, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Western Sahara.

⁷⁰ A few analyses of longer-term trends draw from the 18 countries and territories that participated in the second, third, and fourth rounds (Abyei, Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Western Sahara) or from the 12 countries and territories that have participated in all four rounds of data collection (Abyei, Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Mali, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Western Sahara).

Survey Focal Points consult a variety of data sources when completing the Survey. To facilitate complete documentation for consistency, comparability, and replicability of data, each question in the Survey includes space for programmes to cite and describe data sources as well as document any challenges faced and methodological decisions made in the course of data collection, aggregation, and survey completion. Survey Focal Points indicate that Survey data usually comes from several different organizations (UN entities, national mine action authorities, implementing partners, and other stakeholders) and from a variety of documents and types of data sources including IMSMA reports, internal programme implementation data, monthly reports from implementing partners, plans and documents published by the national mine action authority, etc. The Headquarters M&E Support Team and the CWG work closely with Survey Focal Points to support the careful documentation and tracking of data sources and data collection methodologies.

The Survey records a series of totals including number of casualties, number of EOD spot tasks completed, and number of square meters of contaminated land identified. Unless otherwise specified, the timeframe for these totals are the totals-to-date, being the cumulative total from a specified start date to the end of the relevant reporting period.⁷¹ Different countries select different start dates according to their context. The first time a country/territory completes the survey, the Survey Focal Point is asked to select and document a practical starting point that makes sense given local context and the availability of data. Most programmes choose to count from the start of UN mine action programming in country or from the start of formal information management (IMSMA or equivalent) in country. Aside from Colombia, which began its cumulative counts in 1990, the starting points that programmes selected are distributed between 2002 and 2014.



4.3 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The variation in start dates for the cumulative counts has important implications for data aggregation and analyses. For example, the cumulative total number of mine/ERW victims in different countries/territories cannot be compared. Instead, analysis must use the raw totals to generate other points that can be compared, such as the casualty rate per million people per month, or the number of

⁷¹ 30 June 2016 is the end date for the fifth round of data collection.

new casualties reported from one year to the next. Similar care must be taken when aggregating data from different countries and territories.

Data collected through the Survey is analysed to identify progress made towards achieving the Strategic Objectives articulated in the UN Mine Action Strategy 2013-2018. Progress against the outcome indicators are analysed in relation to concurrent changes in UN inputs and activities in the mine action sector. The approach is intended to provide a thorough analysis of progress, including a final investigation into the UN's contribution towards this progress (where possible). The analysis includes descriptive statistics and cross-sectional analysis to illustrate trends and commonalities. Future analyses will also control for country-level characteristics and, where possible, illustrate trends and underlying relationships between UN inputs and outcomes that may be useful for programming and evaluation.

Mine action programmes – and particularly those including clearance, risk education and land release activities – are typically undertaken in order to enable and support humanitarian and development outcomes. Specific development outcomes in the mine action sector vary by country and context, however, making it essential for evaluators of mine action programmes to understand and articulate the context and prioritisation processes involved in programme implementation. In the language of results-based management, the same outputs of survey and clearance work could have a multiplier effect by supporting outcome and impact objectives in other sectors, such as education, livelihoods, or humanitarian work, depending on whether the activities are targeted at schools, markets and agricultural land, or the communities of displaced people. The United Nations Strategy for Mine Action 2013-2018 covers humanitarian mine action, and the development objectives articulated in the Vision and Strategic Objectives are concerned with reducing physical risk and enhancing socio-economic recovery. Consequently, the key outcomes monitored through the M&E Mechanism include casualties, clearance of contaminated land and infrastructure critical to socio-economic development, and the other indicators discussed in this report.

Data reporting has improved with each round of data collection as programmes become more familiar with the tool and as the M&E Support Team improves both the tool and the support available to complete it. As a consequence of these improvements, the most recent round of data collection is more complete than the preceding rounds.

Casualty rates represent an important tool for understanding the threat of mines/ERW and IEDs, and thus are tracked carefully in the M&E Mechanism. Because casualty rates fluctuate in response to many factors, however, it is important to take care when drawing conclusions.⁷² With the completion of the fifth round of data collection, the M&E Mechanism can generate four casualty rate estimations over a period of 24 months and thus track initial trends. As regular data collection and analysis continue, it will be possible to clarify the trends, better isolate the influence of external factors on casualty rates and draw more specific conclusions.

⁷² Casualty rates have been shown to be affected by external factors including season (summer vs. winter, school in or out of session, harvesting, etc.), escalations (and de-escalations) of conflict, population movements, and economic factors including changes in the price of scrap metal, etc.

5. Annex 3. United Nations Strategy Targets

The United Nations Mine Action Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018 specifies that, after one year of data collection and analysis through the M&E Mechanism, the IACG-MA will "revisit the [Strategic] Objectives to define appropriate targets to apply for the remainder of the Strategy."⁷³ Accordingly, after the completion of the third round of data collection and analysis in May 2016, the IACG-MA developed and approved a set of indicators associated with UN Strategy Strategic Objectives and proposed targets against which progress can be monitored. The tool is intended to be simple and straightforward, containing a small number of indicators selected from the much longer and more comprehensive list of indicators that are biannually calculated, analysed, explored, contextualized, and defined in much greater detail through written reports (including this one) and presentations of findings. The targets are intended for primarily internal use by the IACG-MA to gauge progress and performance supporting the implementation of the UN Strategy and the achievement of the objectives it lays out.

The UN Strategy includes indicators with each Strategic Objective. In most cases, the indicator as specified in the Strategy is not sufficiently defined or measurable, and/or requires a composite or indexed approach. An extensive list of over 125 proxy and component indicators has been developed (and continues to be refined based on lessons learned from completed rounds of data collection) as part of the analysis and reporting process, and are tracked biannually as part of the Survey analysis and reporting cycle.

From this full list, a small set of indicators have been identified for targeting. Targeting indicators have been selected based on their relevance, measurability, clarity, methodological soundness, and the availability of data.

Table 15 below lists the UN Strategy indicator with which each targeting indicator is associated, and defines the targeting indicators. Additional explanation, definition, and context for selected indicators are provided in notes below the table.

Table 15. UN Strategy Targeting Indicators

Strategic Objective	Indicator as Specified in the UN Strategy	Targeting Indicator
1) Risks to individuals and the socio-economic	% of previously affected land cleared and being used for socio-economic purposes.	Infrastructure Index Indicator (average of the % cleared of different types of infrastructure including roads, hospitals, educational facilities, markets etc.) ⁷⁴

⁷³ The United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action, "Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018." November 2013.

⁷⁴ The M&E Mechanism of the UN Strategy for Mine Action 2013-2018 tracks the extent to which identified contaminated infrastructure has been cleared. Hospitals, educational facilities, markets, water points, religious facilities, refugee/IDP camps, government buildings, and other (bridges, cultural, recreational facilities) are tracked as units (i.e. 7 out of 10 hospitals cleared). Affected roads are tracked in linear square kilometres, and affected agricultural land is tracked in square hectares. The Infrastructure Index Indicator is an average of two of these three percentages (hospitals etc., and roads: agricultural land is currently excluded due to concerns about differences in context and methodology). The CWG is continuing efforts to increase the methodological rigor of this indicator. Note that due to data quality concerns with the data on affected infrastructure in the first two rounds of data collection, trend analysis is not available for this indicator at this time,

Table 15. UN Strategy Targeting Indicators

Strategic Objective	Indicator as Specified in the UN Strategy	Targeting Indicator
impacts of mines and ERW, including cluster munitions, are reduced.		# of EOD spot tasks completed. ⁷⁵
	% of affected individuals and communities with the information needed to reduce personal risks.	% of the total country/territory population that has received Mine/ERW Risk Education (direct beneficiaries only). ⁷⁶
2) Comprehensive support is provided by national and international actors to mine and ERW victims within broader responses to injury and disability.	% of affected states that have adopted and implemented a disability policy and plan of action that incorporate all aspects of victim assistance.	% of states that have a disability policy or plan of action that includes a reference to mine/ERW victims and survivors.
	% of affected states provide age and gender sensitive services to ensure psychosocial support, social inclusion, economic reintegration, care and protection for victims.	% of countries/territories that provide a full range of victim assistance services. ⁷⁷
3) The transfer of mine action functions to national actors is accelerated, with national capacity to fulfil mine action responsibilities increased.	% of affected states with national strategies and completion plans that articulate milestones.	% of affected states with a national strategy for mine action (or that incorporate mine action into existing national strategies)
	% of affected states with surveillance and information management systems managed by national authorities.	% of national authorities who collect and maintain data on deaths and injuries resulting from landmines, ERW including cluster munitions, in a database.
		% of national authorities who report at least moderate capacity in information management through the Capacity Assessment Tool.
4) Mine action is promoted and integrated in multilateral instruments and frameworks as well as national plans and legislation.	% of States Parties to mine action treaties and conventions, including the APMBC, the CCM, the CCW (Amended Protocol II and Protocol V), and the CRPD	% of countries in which the UN supports mine action that are States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.
		% of countries in which the UN supports mine action that are States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
		% of countries in which the UN supports mine action that are States Parties to the Convention on Certain

thus a specific numeric target has yet to be determined. Despite weaknesses in this indicator, the CWG recommends its use because of the critical relevance of infrastructure clearance to enabling emergency assistance and to socio-economic recovery and development.

⁷⁵ Having a raw number as a target is unusual at this level (strategic objective) in a hierarchy of objectives. The CWG recommends using a count of EOD spot tasks completed as a targeting indicator because of the importance of EOD in the reduction of physical risks to children and civilians.

⁷⁶ Ideally, this indicator would read "% of at-risk population that has received MRE (direct beneficiaries only)." At the moment, however, these data are unavailable, and thus the indicator as written will be used as a proxy. The CWG is exploring ways to collect the necessary data, some of which may become available in Round 4 of data collection due to recent revisions to the Survey Instrument.

⁷⁷ Composite indicator. The Survey asks, for each specific type of VA service listed in the UN Strategy (psychosocial, social inclusion, economic reintegration, etc.) whether the national authority provides it. This indicator shows the proportion of countries/territories that respond "yes" to this question for each type of VA service.

Table 15. UN Strategy Targeting Indicators

Strategic Objective	Indicator as Specified in the UN Strategy	Targeting Indicator
		Conventional Weapons.
		% of countries in which the UN supports mine action that are States Parties to Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.
		% of countries in which the UN supports mine action that are States Parties to Amended Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.
		% of countries in which the UN supports mine action that are States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Participation in the Survey has grown with each round of data collection, from 14 countries and territories in round one to 27 in Round 5. In order for results to be comparable, however, they must be based on the same set of countries. Initial trends analysis used to develop and establish the targeting indicators after Round 3 was therefore limited to the 14 countries and territories that participated in all of the first three rounds of data collection. Looking at the results from the first three rounds of data collection in the restricted dataset gave an indication of the progress the might be expected for each indicator. Targets were then set based on the findings from the full dataset of 25 countries and territories that participated in Round 3 of data collection.

Progress towards UN Strategy Targets

Strategic Objective 1:

Recent results show encouraging progress towards meeting relevant targets by the end of the UN Strategy; indeed, the established target of 10 million EOD Spot Tasks completed is close to being achieved already (9.7 million). The Infrastructure Index Indicator⁷⁸ (target of 90%) is at 70% as of Round 5, but has been trending upward steeply and thus the outlook remains positive.

Strategic Objective 2:

Progress towards one of the two targeting indicators under Strategic Objective 2 remains positive, with the percent of countries/territories that provide a full range of victim assistance services continuing to increase steeply. The current value is 55%; the established target of 65% is on track to be achieved. Progress towards the second targeting indicator – being the proportion of states that have established a

⁷⁸ The M&E Mechanism of the UN Strategy for Mine Action 2013-2018 tracks the extent to which identified contaminated infrastructure has been cleared. Hospitals, educational facilities, markets, water points, religious facilities, refugee/IDP camps, government buildings, and other (bridges, cultural, recreational facilities) are tracked as units (i.e. 7 out of 10 hospitals cleared). Affected roads are tracked in linear square kilometres, and affected agricultural land is tracked in square hectares. The Infrastructure Index Indicator is an average of two of these three percentages (hospitals etc., and roads: agricultural land is currently excluded due to concerns about differences in context and methodology). The CWG is continuing efforts to increase the methodological rigor of this indicator. Note that due to data quality concerns with the data on affected infrastructure in the first two rounds of data collection, trend analysis is not available for this indicator at this time, thus a specific numeric target has yet to be determined. Despite weaknesses in this indicator, the CWG recommends its use because of the critical relevance of infrastructure clearance to enabling emergency assistance and to socio-economic recovery and development.

disability policy or plan of action that includes a reference to mine/ERW victims and survivors – is more conservative. Progress has plateaued among the restricted dataset (used to establish the trend line); Round 5 results for the full dataset – 54% – remain well below the established target of 90%.

Strategic Objective 3:

Progress is similarly mixed for the targeting indicators associated with Strategic Objective 3. Progress towards these indicators has plateaued or fallen slightly, indicating ongoing and/or re-emerging challenges in national capacity. The targets for these indicators are set ambitiously high, and achieving them may prove challenging by the end of the current Strategy. Such results are not entirely unexpected, disheartening as they are. As has been previously discussed in this report and others, changes in national capacity occur slowly, and may be reversed. Investments must be made in sustaining national capacity once it is established. Further research into which strategies and tactics have effectively done so in different contexts is recommended.

Strategic Objective 4:

The targets set for Strategic Objective 4 concerned treaty universalisation in countries in which the UN supports mine action: namely, that 100% of the countries in which the UN supports mine action would be States Parties to the identified treaties (APMBC, CCM, CCW AP II, CCW AP IV, and CRPD). Unfortunately, this target may be difficult to achieve due to factors unrelated to the efficacy of UN advocacy for universalisation. Specifically, because the UN responds to need and to requests from Member States, the denominator in this equation – being the number of countries in which the UN supports mine action – is not constant, and the overall percentage can change due to these fluctuations. From 2015 to 2016, the percentage of countries in which the UN supports mine action who are States Parties to the APMBT and to the APMBC both decreased as a result of changes in where the UN supports mine action. Additional consideration into appropriate indicators and targets to capture the UN contribution to universalisation is recommended.

6. Annex 3: Glossary of Selected Mine Action Terms

The following definitions have been copied from the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) 04.10, Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations; Second Edition, 1 January 2003, Amendment 7, August 2014. The complete glossary is available [on the IMAS website](#).

3.20. Battle Area Clearance (BAC): (2005) The systematic and controlled clearance of hazardous areas where the hazards are known not to include mines.

3.29. Cancelled area or cancelled land (m2): (2013) A defined area concluded not to contain evidence of mine/ERW contamination following the non-technical survey of a SHA/CHA.

3.35. Clearance: (2013) In the context of mine action, the term refers to tasks or actions to ensure the removal and/or the destruction of all mine and ERW hazards from a specified area to a specified depth.

3.39. Cluster munition:⁷⁹ (2009) Cluster munition refers to a conventional munition that is designed to disperse or release explosive sub-munitions each weighing less than 20 kilograms, and includes those explosive submunitions. (Convention on Cluster Munitions)

3.48. Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA): (2013) Refers to an area where the presence of mine/ERW contamination has been confirmed on the basis of direct evidence of the presence of mines/ERW.

3.61. Demining or humanitarian demining:⁸⁰ Activities which lead to the removal of mine and ERW hazards, including technical survey, mapping, clearance, marking, post-clearance documentation, community mine action liaison and the handover of cleared land. Demining may be carried out by different types of organizations, such as NGOs, commercial companies, national mine action teams or military units. Demining may be emergency-based or developmental.

3.98. Explosive Ordnance (EO): All munitions containing explosives, nuclear fission or fusion materials and biological and chemical agents. This includes bombs and warheads; guided and ballistic missiles; artillery, mortar, rocket and small arms ammunition; all mines, torpedoes and depth charges; pyrotechnics; clusters and dispensers; cartridge and propellant actuated devices; electroexplosive devices; clandestine and improvised explosive devices; and all similar or related items or components explosive in nature. [AAP-6]

3.99. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD): (2005) The detection, identification, evaluation, render safe, recovery and disposal of explosive ordnance (EO). EOD may be undertaken: a) as a routine part of mine clearance operations, upon discovery of ERW; b) to dispose of ERW discovered outside hazardous areas, (this may be a single item of ERW, or a larger number inside a specific area); or c) to dispose of EO which has become hazardous by deterioration, damage or attempted destruction.

3.100. Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) (2005) Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AXO). (Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Protocol V).

⁷⁹ The following definition of cluster munition is for political purposes as defined in the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). From a technical point of view cluster munitions are included in the overall definition of Explosive Remnants of War.

⁸⁰ In IMAS standards and guides, the terms demining and humanitarian demining are interchangeable.

3.111. Gender analysis: (2009) The study of the differences in men's and women's roles as well as their different access to and control over resources. It is a tool for improving the understanding of how the differences between men and women influence their opportunities and problems and can identify the challenges to participation in development.

3.121. Handover: (2009) The process by which the beneficiary (for example, the NMAA on behalf of the local community or land user) receives and accepts land which was previously suspected of containing an explosive hazard but which has subsequently had this suspicion removed, or reduced to a tolerable level, either through non-technical survey, technical survey or clearance.

3.137. Improvised Explosive Device (IED): (2013) A device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating explosive material, destructive, lethal, noxious, incendiary, pyrotechnic materials or chemicals designed to destroy, disfigure, distract or harass. They may incorporate military stores, but are normally devised from non-military components (IATG 01.40:2011).

3.142. IMSMA (Information Management System for Mine Action): (2007) IMSMA provides users with support for data collection, data storage, reporting, information analysis, and project management activities. Its primary use is by the staffs of MACs at national and regional level, however the system is also deployed in support of the implementers of mine action projects and demining organizations at all levels.

3.153. International Mine Action Standards (IMAS): (2009) Documents developed by the UN on behalf of the international community, which aim to improve safety, quality and efficiency in mine action by providing guidance, by establishing principles and, in some cases, by defining international requirements and specifications.

3.159. Land release: (2013) In the context of mine action, the term describes the process of applying all reasonable effort to identify, define, and remove all presence and suspicion of mines/ERW through non-technical survey, technical survey and/or clearance. The criteria for "all reasonable effort" shall be defined by the NMAA.

3.168. Marking: Emplacement of a measure or combination of measures to identify the position of a hazard or the boundary of a hazardous area. This may include the use of signs, paint marks etc., or the erection of physical barriers.

3.174. Mine: Munition designed to be placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area and to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person or a vehicle. [Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention]

3.176. Mine action: (2009) Activities which aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of mines, and ERW including unexploded sub-munitions.

- Note: Mine action is not just about demining; it is also about people and societies, and how they are affected by landmine and ERW contamination. The objective of mine action is to reduce the risk from landmines and ERW to a level where people can live safely; in which economic, social and health development can occur free from the constraints imposed by landmine and ERW contamination, and in which the victims' different needs can be addressed.
- Mine action comprises five complementary groups of activities a) Mine Risk Education; b) humanitarian demining, i.e. mine and ERW survey, mapping, marking and clearance; c) victim assistance, including rehabilitation and reintegration; d) stockpile destruction; and e) advocacy against the use of APM.
- Note: A number of other enabling activities are required to support these five components of mine action, including: assessment and planning, the mobilisation and prioritisation of resources, information

management, human skills development and management training, quality management and the application of effective, appropriate and safe equipment.

3.177. Mine Action Centre (MAC) or Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC): (2009) An organization that, on behalf of the National Mine Action Authority where it exists, typically is responsible for planning, coordination, overseeing and in some cases implementation of mine action projects. For national mine action programmes, the MAC/MACC usually acts as the operational office of the NMAA.

3.186. Mine Risk Education (MRE): (2009) Activities which seek to reduce the risk of injury from mines/ERW by raising awareness of men, women, and children in accordance with their different vulnerabilities, roles and needs, and promoting behavioural change including public information dissemination, education and training, and community mine action liaison.

3.197. National Mine Action Authority (NMAA): (2009) The government entity, often an inter-ministerial committee, in a mine-affected country charged with the responsibility for the regulation, management and coordination of mine action.

3.200. Non-Technical Survey: (2013) Refers to the collection and analysis of data, without the use of technical interventions, about the presence, type, distribution and surrounding environment of mine/ERW contamination, in order to define better where mine/ERW contamination is present, and where it is not, and to support land release prioritisation and decision-making processes through the provision of evidence.

3.210. Post clearance assessment: (2009) Surveys to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of mine action planning, priority setting, and implementation processes, aiming to enhance the productivity and effectiveness of mine action, monitor post-clearance land use, ensure priority-setting processes are clear, transparent and carried out correctly, and help identify problems faced by communities in transforming the outputs of mine action (e.g. cleared land) into sustainable developmental outcomes.

3.242. Reduced land (m2): (2013) A defined area concluded not to contain evidence of mine/ERW contamination following the technical survey of a SHA/CHA.

3.250. Risk: Combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm. [ISO Guide 51:1999(E)]

3.282. Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA): (2013) An area where there is reasonable suspicion of mine/ERW contamination on the basis of indirect evidence of the presence of mines/ERW.

3.287. Technical survey: (2013) Refers to the collection and analysis of data, using appropriate technical interventions, about the presence, type, distribution and surrounding environment of mine/ERW contamination, in order to define better where mine/ERW contamination is present, and where it is not, and to support land release prioritisation and decision making processes through the provision of evidence.

3.299. Unexploded Ordnance (UXO): Explosive Ordnance (EO) that has been primed, fused, armed or otherwise prepared for use or used. It may have been fired, dropped, launched or projected yet remains unexploded either through malfunction or design or for any other reason.