

**UNCLASSIFIED**

UK Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance - Oslo  
September 2012

The UK welcomes the updates provided today from states working hard to clear their lands of cluster munitions, mines and other explosive remnants of war. The UK remains firmly committed to supporting this work.

International cooperation and assistance are core obligations of this Convention and contribute to humanitarian and developmental aims. The UK puts great onus on, and prioritises the provision of, international cooperation and assistance that saves lives and promotes development. Like many donors, the UK takes a comprehensive approach to mine action and does not differentiate between action on mines, explosive remnants of war and cluster munitions.

The UK's Mine action programme of assistance forms an important element of our broader commitment to reach the target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) by 2013. Despite the difficult global economic climate, the UK remains firmly on track to meet this target.

The UK allocates more than £30 million, approximately \$45 million, to its three-year international mine action programme (2010-2013) - working with MAG, the HALO Trust and their partners in eight countries. The programme also includes support to the UN

**UNCLASSIFIED**

## UNCLASSIFIED

Voluntary Trust Fund to support mine action in ten countries worldwide.

The programme is underpinned by the aims and direction set out in our strategy: *Creating a safer environment: clearing landmines and other explosive remnants of war.* The aim of the Strategy is to link mine action with wider development initiatives - increasing the positive socio-economic and developmental impacts. The strategy also focuses on the need to assist governments in taking full responsibility for their National Mine Action Programmes and to improve value for money in mine action.

Additional to this programme, we are providing £10 million or \$15 million, over 5 years to mine action in Afghanistan.

The UK is also able to respond to emerging concerns and is currently supporting mine action in Libya. Over £2million of funding has been provided to UNMAS and the Mine Action Group. The UK has provided an expert to the nascent Libyan Mine Action Centre to assist it in establishing and articulating its requirements and take on the significant challenge of clearance work and establishing the management of weapons stockpiles.

The UK is fully committed to improving the quality of life for people affected by landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. The UK believes that the needs of cluster munition and landmine victims are best met through increasing the coverage, equity, access and quality of health systems that support people with disabilities. We believe that this support should

UNCLASSIFIED

**UNCLASSIFIED**

be non-discriminatory and should aim to improve capacity in a sustainable manner.

Recipients of the UK's health and disability support include many of the countries worst affected by landmine contamination. During 2010/11 the bilateral expenditure on health care to the landmine contaminated countries of: Cambodia, DRC, Mozambique, Sudan, Ethiopia, Nepal and Vietnam totalled £118.8 million or \$185.4 million.

The UK is fully committed to its duties of international cooperation and assistance and believes that through our mine action strategy we will be able to contribute to alleviating the appalling consequences of cluster munitions, EOD and landmines. The UK's mine action strategy prioritises work where it will have the greatest positive impact on communities' livelihoods and where it complements other development programmes.

We are currently undertaking an evaluation of our mine action strategy as we near the end of the current programming in 2013.

The aim will be to ensure that the UK's mine action work is achieving maximum impact on improving livelihoods. The evaluation is due to conclude in March 2013 and will inform our future strategy and funding on mine action.

As we go forward, we will continue to work with state parties, UN agencies and implementing partners towards achieving the aims of this Convention.

**UNCLASSIFIED**