



**FIFTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES  
TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Costa Rica, 2-5 September 2014

**Statement by Lebanon on Clearance and Risk Education**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start my speech, thanking the State of Costa Rica for hosting the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

As we all know, Lebanon is still suffering from mines/ERW and their socio-economic and environmental impact. In this regard, Lebanon, and more precisely, the Lebanon Mine Action Center, values and appreciates the concerted efforts of the donors as well as their support that enabled it to implement the CCM, in particular its fourth and sixth articles.

The LMAC's main achievements for this year are the following:

1-The resumption of the CBU strike areas' survey that resulted in defining around 1707 locations covering a surface area of 57 million square meters as a serious threat to over 1 million civilian. In addition, the IMSMA database was updated and according to which, warning signs were installed and contaminated lands were fenced in order to prevent more injuries.

2-At the beginning of the current year, the LMAC assigned the Mine Advisory Group (MAG) to conduct a Pre-Clearance survey covering 443 locations which is funded by United Kingdom. As a result of this survey, a total of 1,480,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land out of 14,500,000 was released and returned back to their owners.

3-A surface area of approximately 42 million m<sup>2</sup> was cleared by the end of August 2014 and clearance operations are currently conducted on the remaining contaminated areas. The clearance of the remaining lands was expected to finish by the end of the year 2016 pursuant to the 2011-2020 National Strategy, however, the revision of the 2013 milestones showed that it was impossible to fulfill the commitment before the year 2020 due to deficiency in funding and shortage in the number of teams in addition to the emergence of new contaminated lands. Moreover, the LMAC, in cooperation with all national and international demining organizations, conducted post-clearance surveys concerning CBU strike areas and the following results show the number of lands that were put into use:

78% for agriculture

5% for residential areas

2% for infrastructure

15% for pasture

Today, we take this opportunity to call upon the donors for additional support to the affected states parties and to Lebanon in particular, enabling it to meet the obligations of the Convention.

As for mine risk education, the LMAC has been working closely with 12 NGOs within the national steering committee on MRE to reduce the casualties by disseminating the knowledge among the citizens of the risks posed by mines/ERW according to the NMAS and in line with the IMAS.

The MRE department at the LMAC, in cooperation with the Balamand University and with the support of the UNICEF, conducted the following activities during the year 2014:

- Launching a national MRE campaign that reached school students and sending awareness text messages to civilians.

- Conducting a MRE knowledge, awareness and practices (KAP) survey
- Delivering of 18 refresher training courses for 450 MRE activists from the MRE Steering Committee members and teachers from the public schools.
- Providing MRE training courses to activists from official schools and delivering lectures reaching over 450,000 school students.

Furthermore, the MRE department, in cooperation with the UK charity and spirit of soccer organized training sessions to activists on the means of delivering MRE clinics through soccer games.

And finally, it is to note that the LMAC has received a 3- year financial aid from the European Union to pursue mine awareness activities and disseminate the knowledge among the affected communities of the risks posed by mines/ERW.

Thank you for your attention.