ARTICLE 4 LEBANON EXTENSION REQUEST

Lebanon Mine Action Center
Beirut, Lebanon, 2024

Contents

Article 4 CCM Extension Request

LEBANON

A. Executive Summary

1. **Duration of the proposed extension:**

   a. The proposed extension period is 4 years from 1st of May 2026 till 1st of May 2030.
   b. It's the **second** extension requested.

2. **Rational and resource mobilization:**

   a. The proposed extension is necessary for the following main reasons:
   - Compliance and Enforcement: With the aim of giving Lebanon an additional period to be able to meet its obligations, this extension also reinforces the commitment of the international community to support the objectives of the Treaty.
   - Humanitarian impact: the extension helps protect civilians from harm caused by cluster bombs.
   - Victim support: The extension ensures continued support to affected individuals and communities.
   - International security: by preventing the use of cluster munitions in future conflicts.

   These reasons highlight the importance of this extension of the CCM to continue addressing the humanitarian, legal, and security challenges posed by cluster munitions.

   b. LEBANON has the following financial and technical means available for the clearance and destruction of all cluster munition remnants during the proposed extension:

Financial Means:

- National Budget Allocation: Part of the government's general budget has been allocated to the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants (28 billion LBP approximately 310,000 $ for the years 2023-2024).
- International Funding: Lebanon received financial assistance from international donors committed to supporting mine action activities.
- Contribution of the Ministry of Defense: Officers and personnel of LMAC are part of the LAF and therefore their salaries and all LMAC expenses in terms of fuel and maintenance are funded by the Ministry of National Defense.

Technical Means:

- Specialized Clearance Teams: Deployment of highly trained and equipped clearance teams specialized in detection and disposal of Cluster Munitions. These teams are accredited by LMAC.
- Advanced Equipment (Mechanical and Manual): Utilization of relevant and effective equipment, including both mechanical tools (flails, tillers…) and manual demining tools (detectors, locators…), to enhance the efficiency and safety of clearance operations.
- Continued Training and Improvement: Ongoing training programs and capacity-building initiatives aimed at improving the skills of demining personnel, ensuring they are up-to-date with the latest techniques and best practices.
- International Expertise: Collaboration with international experts and organizations to ensure best practices and adherence to international standards.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Implementation of robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress and ensure effective clearance efforts.

c. Lebanon is requesting assistance for the following financial, technical and materials resources:

Financial Resources:

- Additional Funding: Support for the expansion of clearance operations and to cover the costs of extended clearance efforts.
- Grants for Capacity Building: Financial assistance to train and equip additional clearance teams.
- Emergency Funds: Access to emergency financial resources to address unexpected challenges during the clearance operations.

Technical Resources:

- Expert Consultation: Assistance from international experts to enhance technical expertise and operational efficiency.
- Technical Training Programs: Support for specialized training programs to improve the skills of mine action personnel.
- Innovative demining and mine-clearance technology: State-of-the-art equipment, including innovative tools such as mine detection and robotic demining systems, to enhance the effectiveness of clearance operations.
- Technical Assistance for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education: Provision of expertise and resources to support EORE programs, aimed at raising awareness and reducing the risks posed by unexploded ordnance among affected communities.

Material Resources:

- Protective Gear: Supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for clearance teams.
- Clearance Equipment: Provision of specialized vehicles and machinery for the safe and effective removal and disposal of cluster munition remnants.

3. Preparation of future work and the status of work already conducted under national clearance and demining programmes during the initial 10-year period and any subsequent extensions:

a. LMAP has developed a comprehensive plan for the clearance and destruction of all cluster munition remnants during the proposed extension period.
b. LEBANON has completed 91.93 % (mid of 2024) of the clearance and destruction of all cluster munition remnants in areas under its jurisdiction or control and registered in the LMAC database since the entry into force of the Convention.

4. Total area containing cluster munition remnants at the time of entry into force of the Convention for LEBANON and any additional areas containing cluster munition remnants discovered after such entry into force:

a. At the time of entry into force of the Convention, the total area containing cluster munition remnants in areas under the jurisdiction or control of Lebanon was 55.37 Km². It has a continuous increase in the baseline, in 2017 the baseline was 63.272 Km². In 2018 it was corrected to be 54.78 Km². by the beginning of 2024 the baseline was 55.57 Km².

During the first half of 2025, we will be revising the baseline for greater accuracy.

b. Since entry into force of the Convention in May 2011, and after the correction of the baseline by the beginning of 2019 Lebanon, has discovered additional areas containing cluster munition remnants of 2.11 Km². (0.93 Km² from 2021 after the 1st extension).

5. **Total area containing cluster munition remnants cleared since entry into force of the Convention (land release methodologies applied):**

   Since entry into force of the Convention, Lebanon has cleared/released (end of 2023) a total of 51.63 Km² containing cluster munition remnants.

6. **Total area containing cluster munition remnants remaining to be cleared during the proposed extension:**

   a. The total area containing cluster munition remnants remaining to be cleared by mid-2024 is 4.48 km², while the estimated area to be cleared for the proposed extension period until May 2026 will be around 3.78 km².

7. **Circumstances that have impeded the ability of LEBANON to destroy all cluster munition remnants located in areas under its jurisdiction or control during the initial 10-year period, and those that may impede its ability during the proposed extension:**

   a. Lebanon has faced a number of challenges in clearing and destroying cluster munition remnants, including:

   - **COVID-19 Pandemic:** at the beginning of the extension period the global pandemic has had a profound impact on our operations. It has necessitated significant changes in our workflow, including remote work arrangements, prioritization of health and safety protocols. These challenges have inevitably affected our ability to execute the planned strategy efficiently.
   - **Lebanon's Economic Crisis:** Over the past few years, Lebanon has faced severe economic challenges, including currency depreciation and inflation. This has been directly reflected in the value of government support for clearance.
   - **Decrease of funding:** Despite our best efforts, securing adequate funding for the proposed plan was a challenge. The economic downturn, coupled with political instability and shifting priorities, has reduced and limited access to the support required to implement the plan. This is **major reason** for not being able to meet our objectives of extension. (From the first year of the extension)
   - **Recent Situation**: The recent situation after the 7th of October 2023 has had a negative impact on the clearance operations, this has led to a decrease in productivity and affected LMAP plans for the first extension.
   - **Difficult Terrain:** joint study by LMAC & GICHD completed. A workshop with all IA's was organized to discuss results. The estimated cost to address these challenges is approximately **$1 million**, with an estimated time frame of around **one year**.

b. Lebanon is planning to overcome these challenges and continue its efforts to clear and destroy all cluster munition remnants by implementing the following solutions:

- **Adapting to Pandemic-Related Challenges:**
  - Enhanced Health and Safety Measures: Implementing strict health and safety guidelines for on-site teams, including regular testing, provision of personal protective equipment (PPE), and vaccination drives to minimize disruptions caused by health concerns.

- **Mitigating the Impact of Decreased Funding:**
  - Diversifying Funding Sources: Proactively seeking out diverse funding opportunities, such as international grants, donor contributions, and collaborations with global demining organizations.
  - Cost-Effective Operations: Streamlining operations to reduce costs, including optimizing fuel consumption, prioritizing essential vehicle maintenance, and negotiating better rates for medical insurance and spare parts.
  - Revised Budget Allocation: Reallocating resources within the existing budget to prioritize critical demining/clearance activities, ensuring the most urgent areas are addressed first.

- **Responding to the Recent Security Situation:**
  - Phased Resumption of Operations: Developing a phased plan to resume clearance operations as security conditions improve, with a focus on high-priority areas that pose the greatest risk.
  - Continuous Risk Assessment: Conducting ongoing risk assessments to adapt operational plans to the evolving security landscape, ensuring the safety of personnel and the effectiveness of demining efforts.

- **Tackling Difficult Terrain:**
  - Targeted Resource Allocation: Allocating resources specifically for the clearance of difficult terrain as identified by the joint study conducted by LMAC and GICHD, with an estimated budget of $1 million and a timeline of one year.
  - Specialized Equipment and Techniques: Utilizing specialized equipment and techniques tailored to the challenging terrain.

- **Strengthening Mine Risk Education and Awareness:**
  - Expanding Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Programs: Enhancing EORE initiatives in affected communities to mitigate risks, especially in areas where clearance is delayed due to the aforementioned challenges.

- Community Engagement: Involving local communities in awareness campaigns and clearance efforts, ensuring they are informed and empowered to protect themselves from the dangers of unexploded ordnance.

By implementing these solutions, Lebanon remains committed to overcoming the current challenges and fulfilling its obligations to clear and destroy all cluster munition remnants within the extended timeframe.

8. The humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the proposed extension:

The proposed extension will have a number of positive humanitarian, social, economic and environmental implications for Lebanon:

- **Humanitarian benefits:**

Clearing cluster munitions significantly reduces the risk of civilian casualties. Unexploded bomblets can remain dangerous for years or even decades, often injuring or killing civilians, including children, who come into contact with them after a conflict has ended.
In addition, clearance efforts allow for the safe return of displaced populations to their homes. People are often forced to flee areas contaminated with unexploded ordnance, and their clearance facilitates the safe resettlement and reconstruction of communities.

- **Socio-Economic benefits:**

The socio-economic benefits of CM clearing are profound and multifaceted. The combined impact on agricultural revitalization, tourism growth, foreign investment, and healthcare savings provides a comprehensive picture of the long-term economic and social gains.

LMAC with the support of the UNDP has developed a comprehensive analysis study of the major potential benefits of mine action over time which reflects the implications of contamination and ultimately the cost of conflicts.

The main result stemming from this study has been the conclusion that each $1 spent on demining in Lebanon has been found to generate $4.15 in socio-economic benefits, ranging from protecting lives and creating jobs to preserving natural landscapes.

By restoring safety and boosting local economies, these efforts contribute to both social stability and economic growth, enabling communities to rebuild and progress in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **Environmental benefits:**

The clearance of cluster-munitions in many forests would enable the government, municipalities and NGOs to launch several eco-tourism initiatives in the protected areas currently contaminated by cluster-munitions. This will contribute to the Lebanon's greater involvement in ecotourism based on its large forests, protected areas and mountain trails.

In addition, the clearance of many protected forest areas from cluster munitions will trigger the launching of forest management initiatives that enable the sustainable management of forest and the protection from several hazards including forest fire that occur in Lebanon in the summer months and have often burned many acres of land, created significant air pollution, and destroyed biodiversity.

9. **The national focal person** with whom follow-up will be conducted:

a. Name: **LTC. CHARBEL NJEIM**
b. Title: Operations Section Head
c. Email: ops@lebmac.org
d. Phone Numbers: Tel: 00961 5 956 191
Cell: 00961 70 581 780
Fax: 00961 5 956 192

B. Detailed Narrative

Lebanon signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) o**n December 3rd 2008**, ratified it on **November 5th 2010**, and the Convention entered into force for it on **May 1st 2011.**
The first extension was approved for the period from May 1st 2021 to May 1st 2026.

1. **The total area addressed** at entry into force, (as defined in Article 2, paragraph 11, and Article 4, paragraph 6.e) was 55.37 Km². It has a continuous increase in the base line, in 2017 the Baseline was 63.272 Km². In 2018 the baseline was corrected to be 54.78 Km².
By the beginning of 2024 the baseline was 55.57 Km².
An accurate revision of the baseline will be conducted during the first half of 2025.

2. **Total area discovered** since the entry into force in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.d and after the correction of the baseline by the beginning of 2019 Lebanon, has discovered additional areas containing cluster munition remnants of 2,116,396 Km². (933,461 m² from 2021 after the 1st extension).

3. **New contamination recorded** since May 2021 (first extension):
   LMAC has received information from several of our partners, indicating the potential use of cluster munitions during the ongoing war. However, due to the current situation, the Centre is unable to deploy teams to verify this information. Therefore, we will wait until the war ends to initiate survey operations. Once any new contamination is confirmed, the documented information will be shared with stakeholders, and a formal report will be submitted to the Presidency of the CCM according to the official procedures outlined in the Convention.

4. **Area addressed since the first extension disaggregated by cancellation through NTS, reduction through TS or cleared.**

Methods of land release	Year(s)	Area (sqm)
Non-technical survey	2020-2021-2022-2023	722,463
Technical survey	2020-2021-2022-2023	354,219
Clearance	2020-2021-2022-2023	4,089,234
Total Released	2020-2021-2022-2023	**5,165,916**

5. **Quantity and type of cluster munitions destroyed.**

Table 1: Quantity and type of cluster munitions destroyed (per year)

TYPE	till 2019	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
M42	161,625	363	364	332	262	220	163,166
M43	5,141	18	146	483	174	55	6,017
M46	5,104	19	0	110	169	13	5,415
M77	207,674	2,645	992	1,124	1,231	424	214,090
M85	19,749	68	19	10	35	1	19,882
MZD 2	3,550	0	0	0	0	0	3,550
BLU18	5	1	0	0	0	2	8
BLU26	101	0	0	0	29	0	130
BLU61	40	17	0	0	8	13	78
BLU63	126,668	861	346	327	635	1,145	129,982
BLU 77	0	0	0	0	0	42	42
MK 118	3,964	32	226	19		32	4,273
AO 2.5 RT	12	13	5	13	13	0	56
UNKNOWN	3,522	0	0	0	0	9	3,531
TOTAL	537,155	4,037	2,098	2,418	2,556	1,956	**550,220**

6. **Estimated area remaining to be addressed,** in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.f

Location	Hazardous Area (sqm)	Comments
South of Lebanon	4,376,291	As per mid 2024
Mount Lebanon	45,304	
Beqaa	60,546	
Total	**4,482,141**	

The area mentioned is theoretically what remains based on the baseline (by mid-2024).
The maximum area Lebanon expects to clear from mid-2024 until the end of the first extension period is no more than **0.7** square kilometres. This suggests that the projected remaining area by May 2026 (deadline of the first extension) will be approximately **3.78** square kilometres.
However, based on the experience of previous years, the actual area tends to be **greater than the baseline** estimate. Therefore, there is a strong likelihood that the remaining areas are larger than this figure, and this matter will be detailed further later.

7. **Amount of time requested,** in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.a

4 years from 1st of May 2026 till 1st of May 2030.

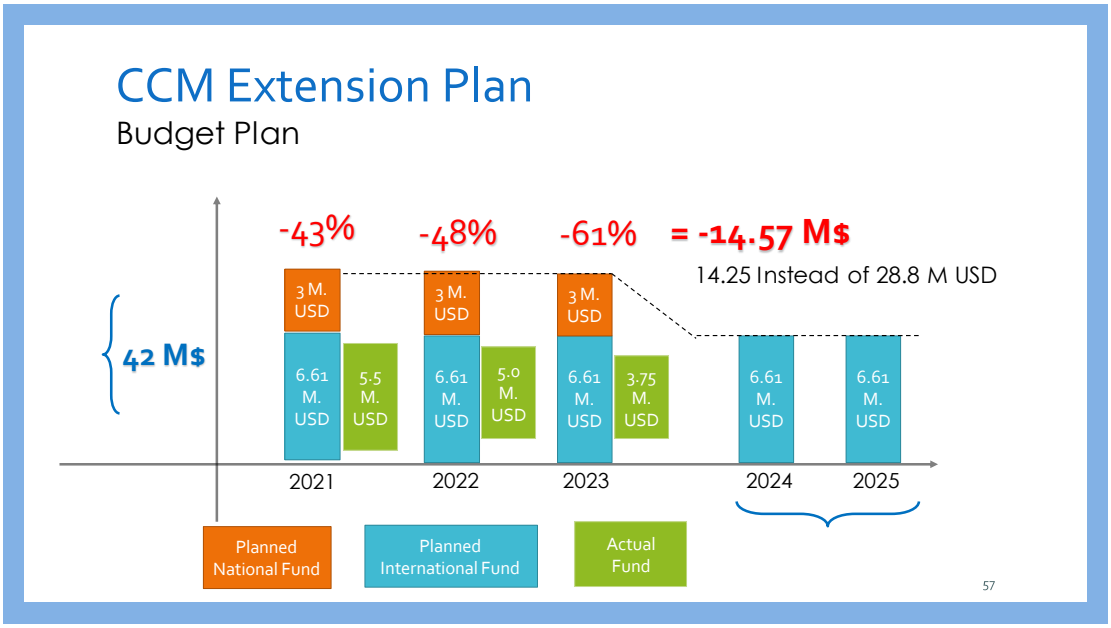
8. **Circumstances which impeded the ability to fulfil the obligations,** in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.g

Lebanon encountered several circumstances that impeded its ability to fulfill its obligations under Article 4, paragraph 6.g. These challenges included:

a. **<u>Financial Challenges:</u>**

- **Insufficient Funding:** Despite efforts to allocate resources, securing adequate funding for our proposed plan has become increasingly difficult. Over the past five years, funding has decreased progressively, from $19.2 million to $10.62 million in 2023. This decline is attributed to a combination of economic downturn, political instability, and shifting priorities, which have led to reduced and limited access to the necessary financial support. This substantial reduction in funding has been a major factor in our inability to meet the objectives of the extension plan, particularly impacting our efforts during the years of the extension. (see figure 1).
- **Economic Instability:** Lebanon has been grappling with severe economic challenges in recent years, including substantial currency depreciation and inflation. These economic issues have directly impacted the value of government support for clearance efforts, in addition it is affecting the costs of fuel, vehicle maintenance, medical insurance, and spare parts. Additionally, the economic downturn has indirectly limited the private sector's capacity to commit to new initiatives that could support the LMAP in implementing its plan.

Figure 1: Budget Plan for the first extension request.



b. <u>Security Challenges:</u>

- The recent situation following October 7, 2023, have had a detrimental impact on our clearance operations. Operations were completely halted in south Lebanon during the last quarter of the year 2023 and remain suspended with no clear timeline for resumption. This halt has led to a significant decrease in productivity and poses serious concerns for the future of the extension plan, compounded by the ongoing lack of funding.
- Following September 18, 2024, clearance operations were completely suspended across all areas due to the expansion of the conflict and intensified Israeli attacks. This escalation has caused massive destruction and introduced new contamination with unexploded ordnance, posing a serious new challenge.
- The focus is now increasingly shifting toward clearing these severely impacted areas to facilitate the return of displaced peoples to their homes. Consequently, this prioritization may impact the planned efforts for cluster munition clearance, as resources will likely need to be directed toward urgent recovery operations in these vast contaminated zones.

c. <u>Operational Challenges:</u>

- **Difficult Terrain and Accessibility:** A joint study conducted by the Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) has highlighted the challenges posed by difficult terrain. A workshop was held with all implementing agencies to discuss the results of this study. The estimated cost to address these challenges is approximately 1 million $, with an estimated time frame of one year to overcome the difficulties associated with the terrain.

- **another reason** for the operational challenges is the expansion of certain fields due to the fade-out effect, which results in a significant increase in the area of the field compared to its actual size in the IMSMA. Consequently, not all of the area cleaned can be definitively released from the baseline, even though it is included in the reported productivity.

d. <u>Health and Safety Challenges:</u>

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** At the onset of the extension period, the global pandemic had a profound impact on our operations. The pandemic necessitated major adjustments to our workflow, such as implementing remote work arrangements and prioritizing stringent health and safety protocols. These adaptations, while essential for health and safety, inevitably disrupted our ability to execute the planned strategy as efficiently as intended.

These circumstances collectively contributed to Lebanon's inability to fully meet its obligations within the initially agreed timeline.

9. National laws and standards in place Info on national demining structure.

a. **National laws:** Lebanon Mine Action National Policy 2007 (*view Annex "c"*)
b. **National Mine Action Standards (NMAS):** established in 2011 end reviewed on 2018, the last amendments done by the beginning of 2024; **they are based on the International Mine Actions Standards (IMAS);** (*view Annex "a"*)
c. **National Demining Structure** (*view Annex "d"*)

- The Lebanon Mine Action Authority (LMAA) is the legislative body assigned by the Lebanese Government to support efforts to address the mine and ERW problem in the country. It is chaired by the Minister of Defense and it coordinates any cooperation process with national authorities and between the State, civil society, and the international community aimed at Humanitarian Demining, victim assistance and mine risk education. The Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC) executes and coordinates the Lebanese Mine Action Program (LMAP) on behalf of the LMAA. LMAC is staffed with army personnel, and supported by UNDP.

- **LMAC structure includes the following sections:**

- Operations (OPS)
- Risk Education (RE)
- Victim Assistance (VA)
- Quality Assurance/Control (QA/QC)
- Information Management (IM)
- Administrative (Admin)
- Regional centre - Nabatiyeh (RMAC-N)
- Regional School (RSHDL)

10. Methodologies utilized are in compliance with international standards including IMAS, in accordance with Article 4.3.

- Land Release activities to be used are the non-technical survey (NTS), the technical survey (TS) and full clearance (CL). All methodologies utilized are in compliance with International and National Mine Action Standards (IMAS/NMAS), in addition to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the implementing agencies, which have been approved by LMAC.
- (More details in paragraph 12.).

11. Annual projections of CMR contaminated areas to be addressed and by what method (NTS, TS, clearance), in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.b

- **<u>NTS Teams:</u>**
  Currently, there are **9** Non-Technical Survey (NTS) teams working daily, operated by various organizations.

- **<u>Manual TS Teams:</u>**
  Manual Technical Survey (TS) teams are integrated within clearance teams. The process begins with TS and then transitions to full clearance if direct evidence is found.

- **<u>Mechanical Clearance Teams:</u>**
  There are **six** mechanical teams operating between MF and cluster munitions fields.

- **<u>Cluster Munitions Clearance Teams:</u>**
  In 2023, the number of cluster munitions clearance teams was **19**.
  Most of these teams are accredited as multi-task team (to work across minefields and cluster munitions sites).

- **Team Composition:**
  A typical team consists of a field/site supervisor, a team leader, a medic, an ambulance driver, and between **6 to 8** searchers/deminers.

- **Average Daily Productivity:**
  The average daily productivity of each team is around **200 square meters**, although this can vary depending on the nature of the field and the clearance methods used.
  The average annual working days are estimated at about **210 working days**.

12. Methods to be used to render CMR contaminated areas no longer dangerous, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.b

The methods used to render areas contaminated by Cluster Munitions Remnants no longer dangerous follow a specific sequence:

- **Non-Technical Survey (NTS):** This initial step involves gathering information to identify and define the extent and nature of contamination. During this phase, marking and fencing of the hazardous area are conducted as needed to ensure safety. The NTS report includes details about the location, size and type of the contaminated area and recommends the appropriate land release method: either a Technical Survey (TS) or full clearance (CL).
  The gathered information is then entered into the LMAC's database (IMSMA Core).

- **Technical Survey (TS):** This method adopted in case of indirect evidence of contamination. In this phase, a proportion of the identified area is cleared to determine the contamination level. The extent of this partial clearance is decided by the demining organization in coordination and with the approval of the operations officer from LMAC. This step helps to find out if there is direct evidence of contamination and outlines the next steps in the Land Release process.
- **Full Clearance (CL):** This step involves using the most effective tools and techniques (manual, mechanical, …) to completely clear the contaminated area. The choice off the assets to be used is based on achieving the highest operational efficiency.

- Throughout all stages of land release, **Quality Assurance** (Q/A) activities are carried out to ensure that all procedures are applied according to approved standards. Upon completion, the **Quality Control** Team (Q/C) from LMAC takes samples to ensure that the area is safe and clean.

- **EORE** campaigns are conducted simultaneously with land release operations to reach as many people as possible in the affected areas. The number and type of these campaigns vary depending on the size, risk level of the contamination, and targeted groups.

13. Financial, technical, material, personnel needs per year

- **Financial requirements**

  The overall budget required for cluster munition clearance activities is estimated at approximately **$25.6 million**. with the remaining contaminated area (detailed tables attached). This includes a baseline cost of **$24.6 million**, with an additional **$1 million** allocated specifically for clearing areas with difficult terrain **(see Table 4).**

- **Technical needs:**

  The increase in team numbers necessitates additional technical resources, such as equipment, personal protective clothing, and communication devices. These are estimated to cost approximately $5 million, which would be used over the four-year extension period, with the possibility of a one-time purchase and usage over four years.

- **Material requirements:**

  An additional $1 million may be allocated for the maintenance and updating of existing equipment. Another $1 million is suggested for training/refresh training programs and the development of team qualifications for a period of four years.

- **Personnel needs:**

  - Assuming each team can clear 200 square meters per day and operates 210 days a year, the annual productivity per team is around 42,000 square meters. Based on the remaining contaminated area, approximately 90 teams will be required if the current rate continues until the end of the first extension period.
  - This effort would involve 25 teams operating each year for the first two years, followed by 20 teams per year during the third and fourth years, assuming normal conditions and uninterrupted operations. These numbers represent the minimum requirement, without considering the possibility of expanding CHA's due to new discoveries or "fadeout".
  - However, given the current unstable situation, including halted operations in southern Lebanon and reduced working hours and the ongoing shelling affecting many Lebanese territories, including potentially CM contaminated areas, might necessitate redoing Non-Technical Survey (NTS) in certain areas.
  - these numbers may need adjustment. For instance, additionally, due to limited funding, teams under Norwegian People's Aid are only working three days a week instead of five.

  This reality means that the need for teams is not just a matter of calculation but must take into account the actual conditions on the ground.

- **Other Considerations:**
  All the above estimates pertain solely to clearance operations. Additional requirements include those for awareness campaigns and assistance to cluster munition victims.

Table 2: Total Area Released (by Method) for the last 4 years.

Year	NTS	TS	CL	TOTAL	Added Area	CM Founds
2020	286,443	35,209	1,277,763	1,599,415	915,691	2,098
2021	96,602	140,392	1,001,591	1,238,585	222,522	2,418
2022	209,593	115,836	1,153,576	1,479,005	442,600	2,556
2023	129,825	62,782	656,304	848,911	268,339	1,956

14. National financial resources required, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.b

- The Government of Lebanon contributed approximately 7.5 million $ annually to mine action in Lebanon to support the costs associated with operating LMAC (facilities, personnel, equipment and maintenance).
- Moreover, government support for the years 2023 and 2024 amounted to a total of 28 billion Lebanese pounds from the general national budget, equivalent to approximately $311,000, which is roughly the annual cost of one clearance team.
- In addition, two BAC teams from the LAF Engineering Regiment and three companies from the Engineering Regiment to cover rapid response across Lebanon.
- However, the impact of the economic crisis on the work of the humanitarian demining teams of the Engineering Regiment remains. In particular, support and maintenance costs, fuel price and other operating expenses. In addition to the continued impact of this crisis on the morale of LMAC employees, whose income has dropped significantly.

a. Financial planning:

The strategy for determining the required financial resources is rooted in the analysis of accurate statistics from previous years. This approach involves:

- **Cost Estimation Based on Historical Data:** LMAP relies on detailed historical data to calculate the average cost of clearance operations. By analyzing past expenses, LMAP can project future financial needs with greater accuracy. This method ensures that cost estimates are based on actual operational experiences and adjusted for any changes in cost drivers over time.

Table 3: Approximate cost to release one square meter of CM (for the last four years).

	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Amount (USD)	6,962,978	5,440,787	5,369,438	3,750,129	21,523,332
SQM	1,599,415	1,238,585	1,479,005	848,911	5,165,916
Average	4.353	4.393	3.630	4.418	4.166

- **Budget Forecasting:** Using the historical cost data as a baseline, LMAP forecasts both short-term and long-term financial requirements. This includes factoring in inflation, changes in operational scope, and any anticipated changes in clearance technology or methods.
- **Determining Available Funding:** Identifying the confirmed financial resources available from the government's general budget as well as guaranteed external fund is a critical step in the process. This allows us to assess the funding gap and request the necessary additional funds to cover the costs of clearing the remaining contaminated areas.
- **Prioritization Criteria:** Funding is prioritized based on the urgency and impact of various activities. High-risk areas and regions with significant civilian populations are given precedence. Additionally, priority is accorded to initiatives that align with broader national development goals, such as infrastructure projects and community rehabilitation.

b. <u>Sustainability measures:</u>

To ensure the long-term sustainability of funding for the implementation of the Convention, LMAP has established several key initiatives:

- **International Assistance:** Lebanon actively seeks to secure international funds to compensate for the weakness of national resources. Partnerships are being sought with donor countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to secure additional funding and technical support on an ongoing basis.

- **Dedicated National Fund:** Within the framework of the national budget for the year 2019, an amount of about **$ 30 million** has been allocated, but due to the economic conditions that have passed through Lebanon and the collapse of the currency exchange rate, the LMAP did not receive any of this amount, knowing that in the last two years (2023-2024), a total of about **$ 310,000** (28 Billion LBP) has been allocated from the general budget of the Lebanese state to support the cluster munitions cleanup project.

- **Capacity Building for Local Communities:** Efforts are made to build the capacity of local NGOs to manage and sustain clearance operations independently, reducing financial burdens.

c. **Financial accountability:**

To ensure transparency and accountability in the utilization of national financial resources, several mechanisms are in place:

- **Supervision by the Lebanese Centre:** All Implementing Agencies operating under the authority of the Lebanon mine action Centre are subject to oversight. The LMAC closely monitors the projects executed by implementing agencies, ensuring that the work carried out aligns with the financial resources provided by donor entities.

- **Comparison and Verification:** The LMAC compares the progress and outcomes of projects against the amounts disbursed by donors. This comparison helps to verify that funds are being used efficiently and that project objectives are being met within the allocated budget.

- **Reporting and Auditing Procedures:** Regular reports are submitted to LMAC and the donors and independent audits are conducted to review the effectiveness and efficiency of fund utilization. These audits provide an additional layer of accountability, ensuring that financial resources are used appropriately and transparently.

15. **Assistance needs including financial resources required,** in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.b

Lebanon needs international assistance of **25.6 million USD**.

The cost of running a cluster munitions clearance team is about $300,000 a year.

- The table 4 below shows the international assistance required for the extension.
- The figure 2 show the budget plan for this extension.

Table 4: Approximate international assistance required (for the 2ND extension).

Needs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Amount
Human resources	25 teams	25 teams	20 teams	20 teams	90 teams
Existing LAF Teams	2	2	2	2	8
Operation Support and admin costs	300.000/team	300.000/team	300.000/team	300.000/team	300.000/team
Difficult Terrain ($)	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,000,000
Total required ($)	6,900,000	6,900,000	5,400,000	5,400,000	24,600,000
Total international assistance required	**7,150,000**	**7,150,000**	**5,650,000**	**5,650,000**	**25,600,000**

Figure 2: Budget Plan for the 2nd extension request.

16. Resource mobilization plan

A draft resource mobilization plan has been developed to secure and manage the necessary resources, including financial, technical, and human resources, to effectively implement the goals of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in Lebanon. It seeks to establish a sustainable, diversified, and flexible financial foundation to support ongoing and future mine action efforts.

- **Strategic Framework**

The framework focuses on **three** key strategic objectives:

1) Strategic Objective 01: Foster new partnerships in support of mine action in Lebanon.
2) Strategic Objective 02: Design a centralized and deepened resource mobilization system.
3) Strategic Objective 03: Create an enabling environment for effective resource mobilization.

- **Coordination and Communication:**

Coordination:

Coordination among relevant government agencies, international partners, and other stakeholders will be managed through the following mechanisms:

- Monthly Meetings: Regular discussions with partners to share knowledge and ideas on resource mobilization possibilities.
- Stakeholder Engagement: LMAC will facilitate resources for its partner organizations, engaging international agencies and domestic actors for funding.
- UN Agency Collaboration: Enhancing Mine Action through UNDP in UN-led inter-agency programs to support Mine Action activities in Lebanon and ensure alignment with global mine action efforts.
- Bilateral Discussions: Focused dialogue with emerging donors and new bilateral donors to diversify the funding base.

Communication Strategy:

A communication strategy will raise awareness of the resource mobilization plan and its importance through the following actions:

- Field Visits: Invite international representatives for field visits to released areas to demonstrate the impact of mine clearance operations.
- Targeted Campaigns: Launch campaigns to showcase LMAC's achievements through social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Campaigns will be targeted at both donor countries and Lebanon.
- Webinar Series: A quarterly webinar series will engage external audiences, including donors and stakeholders, to discuss resource mobilization and Lebanon's progress toward mine-free status.
- Local Engagement: Dialogue with local corporations and embassies to explore potential funding from corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives and country-specific budgets.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system will be established to ensure the effective implementation of the resource mobilization plan. This will include:

- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** Define KPIs to measure progress, such as the number of new partnerships formed, funds secured, and projects successfully completed.
- **Milestone Tracking:** Each strategic objective will have associated milestones, such as diversifying the donor base (other countries involvement) and launching at least two inter-agency UN-led projects.
- **Reporting:** Regular reporting and feedback mechanisms will be implemented to adjust strategies and enhance performance where necessary. Stakeholder feedback will be gathered to assess the impact of resource mobilization efforts.

17. Humanitarian, social, economic and environmental implications of the extension, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.h

a. Humanitarian implications:

- **Civilian Safety:**

The presence of unexploded CM continues to pose a threat to civilians, particularly in post-conflict regions. This risk can lead to casualties, injuries, and fatalities, especially among children and other vulnerable populations.

The fear of encountering unexploded ordnance can limit the movement of civilians, affecting daily activities and access to essential resources like food, water, and healthcare.

Clearing cluster munitions significantly reduces the risk of civilian casualties. In addition, clearance efforts allow for the safe return of displaced populations to their homes.

- **Victim Assistance Programs:**

  The increased demand for medical services and rehabilitation adds pressure to already strained healthcare systems. Prolonged delays in clearance can exacerbate these challenges, extending the period during which victims require care and support.

  Survivors and their families often need long-term psychological assistance to manage trauma and reintegrate into society. The emotional and mental health impacts can be profound, necessitating sustained and specialized support services.

  Furthermore, victims frequently require financial aid and livelihood support, mostly when injuries lead to long-term disabilities that impair their ability to work.

  Clearing these lands of CM will have a significantly positive impact. It will alleviate the burden on healthcare systems by reducing the number of new victims requiring medical services, and rehabilitation. Additionally, the removal of these dangers will lower the long-term need for psychological support and financial assistance for survivors, enabling them and their families to rebuild their lives with greater security and stability.

b. <u>Social implications:</u>

Fear and insecurity can lead to fragmentation within societies. Displacement and the long-term presence of cluster munitions can disrupt traditional social networks and support systems.

Clearing these lands of cluster munitions will have a profoundly positive impact by restoring a sense of safety and security within communities. It will help rebuild and strengthen traditional social networks and support systems that may have been disrupted by fear, insecurity, and displacement.

Furthermore, it will improve access to relief and rehabilitation services, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. This, in turn, will enhance the overall well-being and economic stability of societies, allowing them to recover and thrive.

c. <u>Economic implications:</u>

- **Effects on Agriculture, Tourism, and National Budgets:**

  The economic impact of CM contamination is far-reaching, affecting various sectors. In agricultural regions, contaminated land reduces productivity by limiting access to arable land, thus threatening food security and rural livelihoods. Studies show that agricultural benefits account for 22% of the total economic gains resulting from demining efforts.

Moreover, the presence of cluster munitions also deters tourism and foreign investment, further hampering economic growth. National budgets suffer from extended clearance deadlines, leading to rising operational costs. This diversion of resources strains essential public services, including healthcare, where the treatment of victims and long-term rehabilitation further burden the system.

- **Enhancing Productivity and Reducing Costs:**
  Clearing these areas has the potential to unlock significant economic benefits. Besides increasing agricultural productivity, demining will help restore 17% of the economic benefits tied to lifesaving activities, which translate into continued economic productivity and improved welfare for individuals.
  On a national scale, the timely removal of these munitions can reduce clearance costs and decrease the financial strain on healthcare and social services, allowing governments to redirect funds towards essential developmental priorities. Additionally, forest conservation and environmental rehabilitation from demining activities have shown to contribute 10.7% to the total benefits, enhancing the overall economic recovery and sustainability.

d. <u>Environmental implications:</u>

- **Ecosystems and Biodiversity:**
  the clearance of many protected forest areas from cluster munitions will trigger the launching of forest management initiatives that enable the sustainable management of forest and the protection from several hazards including forest fire that occur in Lebanon in the summer months and have often burned many acres of land, created significant air pollution, and destroyed biodiversity
  In addition, unexploded cluster munitions pose a danger to wildlife, leading to injuries or fatalities among animals and altering the balance of local ecosystems.

- **Soil Quality:**
  Hazardous materials from unexploded cluster munitions can contaminate soil, affecting its fertility and the health of plants and animals, further degrading land quality and impacting agriculture.
  Clearing these lands of cluster munitions will have a profoundly positive impact. It will restore soil fertility and promote healthier plant growth, leading to improved land quality and enhanced agricultural productivity.

e. <u>Cross-cutting considerations:</u>

- **Gender Responsiveness:**

o **Differentiated Impact:** Women and men may face different challenges due to cluster munitions. Women often bear additional burdens, such as caregiving for injured family members and managing household responsibilities amidst the loss of loved ones. Clearing these munitions will help alleviate some of these gender-specific challenges by creating safer environments and enabling more equitable access to resources.

o **Inclusion in Decision-Making:** Including women in clearance operations, policy-making, and victim assistance programs is crucial for achieving gender equity. By ensuring that women have a voice in these processes, the effectiveness and inclusivity of the response to cluster munitions are enhanced, leading to better outcomes for all affected individuals.

- **Human Rights Standards:**

o **Right to Life and Security**: Delays in clearing cluster munitions can expose civilians to ongoing hazards, potentially violating their right to life and security. Timely clearance is essential for protecting civilians from these dangers and ensuring their safety.

o **Non-Discrimination**: Clearing cluster munitions supports the principle of non-discrimination by ensuring that all affected populations, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, receive equal access to assistance and support. It promotes fairness and equality in addressing the needs of different groups impacted by the presence of these cluster munitions.

Overall, clearing cluster munitions contributes to upholding human rights and gender equity, leading to safer and more inclusive communities.

f. <u>Monitoring and mitigation:</u>

- **Impact Monitoring:**

  To effectively monitor the impact of cluster munitions, it is essential to establish robust systems for data collection and analysis, encompassing casualty reports, socio-economic effects, and environmental damage.

  Additionally, involving local communities in these monitoring efforts ensures that their experiences and needs are accurately represented and addressed.

  The LMAP integrates these aspects by implementing comprehensive pre-, during-, and post-clearance procedures. This approach ensures thorough impact monitoring and community involvement throughout the clearance process, enhancing the overall effectiveness and responsiveness of the program.

- **Proactive Mitigation Strategies:**

o **Risk Education:** Implementing comprehensive risk education programs helps communities understand the dangers of cluster munitions and promotes safe behaviour. This awareness reduces the risk of accidents and injuries, facilitating a safer environment as clearance efforts progress and ensuring that people are better prepared to avoid hazard.

o **Victim Assistance:** Strengthening local capacity for victim assistance and rehabilitation enhances community resilience and reduces dependence on external aid. By building local skills and resources, communities can more effectively support survivors and manage the long-term impacts of cluster munitions, leading to greater self-sufficiency and improved recovery outcomes**.**

o **International Cooperation:** Continued collaboration with INGO's and other states facilitates the exchange of best practices, resources, and expertise. This cooperation enhances the effectiveness of clearance operations, provides access to advanced technologies and methodologies, and supports comprehensive and coordinated efforts to address the challenges posed by cluster munitions.

g. <u>Research Studies Conducted:</u>

LMAP has developed several relevant researches in collaboration with the implementing agencies and stakeholders:

o **Liability in Mine Action:** Liability assessment is critical to defining liability and ensuring adequate remediation in the event of accidents and victim support. This joint initiative by **LMAC** and **GICHD** will help define a clear course of action when such questions arise.

o **Difficult Terrain Study:** The aim of this joint study between **LMAC** and **GICHD** is to help LMAC visualize and find reasonable solutions when planning and working where Difficult terrain is challenging.

o **The Contribution of Humanitarian Mine Action to Food Security (by Mine Advisory Group):** an initial contribution to **MAG's** objective to demonstrate how humanitarian mine action has a series of cumulative effects that strengthen local and regional food systems and reinforce community resilience, supporting progress towards the zero hunger **Sustainable Development Goal**.

o **Study on HMA activities and environmental impact:** ongoing by DCA.

18. Any other information relevant to the request, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.i

a. <u>Inaccessible areas:</u>

A joint study conducted by the Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) has highlighted the challenges posed by difficult terrain. While the reference paper has not yet been finalized by GICHD, the findings indicate that the estimated cost to address these challenges is approximately **$1 million**, with an estimated time frame of around **one year** to clear **19 sites** with difficult geographical characteristics.

b. <u>Gender and diversity considerations:</u>

Recognizing the role LMAC plays in developing an inclusive mine action programme in Lebanon, LMAC prioritized mainstreaming gender in all activities. Several important achievements have been made in promoting gender equity and inclusion throughout mine action efforts, in addition more gender considerations were included throughout the different chapters during the revision of the NMAS.

Lebanon's National Mine Action Strategy for 2020–2025 prioritizes gender and diversity. Among its five main objectives, the fifth emphasizes the importance of considering "The specific needs and perspective of women, girls, men and boys from all groups of society, in order to deliver an inclusive HMA response" LMAC also recognizes that mine action is a traditionally male-dominated field, which brings a specific responsibility to empower women and adopt a gender-sensitive approach in all aspects of our work.

In Lebanon, women actively contribute to mine action efforts, showcasing a commendable representation across various domains:

- **Operational Staff:** Women constitute **15%** of the workforce involved in field operations.
- **Non-Technical Survey (NTS) Teams:** Women make up **33%** of NTS teams, playing a pivotal role in identifying and assessing contaminated areas.
- **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE):** Women represent a majority—**51%**—of EORE teams, leading awareness campaigns to educate communities on the dangers of explosive ordnance.

Notably, Lebanon engaged (during the 12th MSP of the Convention on Cluster Munitions) in the side event titled "**Gender Matters in the Convention on Cluster Munitions**" highlighting its achievements and commitment to gender inclusivity within mine action.

c. National Mine Action Strategy Plan:

The Lebanon humanitarian mine action strategy 2020 – 2025 document is the result of the collective effort of the Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) community in Lebanon, it sets clear priorities and a firm direction towards a common goal of a *LEBANON FREE OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACT CAUSED BY EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE.*

The strategy was developed under the leadership of the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC), in its capacity as **the organization tasked with implementing the Lebanon National Mine Action Program** *(LMAP Policy 2007)*, with support from the EU/Norway funded UNDP project.

LMAC in cooperation with all stakeholders have conducted a mid-term review of the strategy end of 2023. Based on annual reports, field expertise, and other reports from relevant international monitoring agencies, the result formulate a refined implementation plan for the second term.

d. Residual contamination management:

The Lebanon Mine Action Program (LMAP) recognizes the need to plan by initiating a process of building sustainable national mine action capacity capable of addressing residual contamination (after compliance with the CCM). In this regard, LMAC will develop an exit strategy to inform partners of the decisions and action plan of LMAC, as well as promote localization to ensure the sustainability of the mine action sector in Lebanon.

Currently, LMAC will manage residual risks by continuously encouraging implementing partners to hold Explosive Ordnance Risk Education sessions to explain the concept of residual contamination and how to take action.

e. Risk education:

LMAC mange a national campaign implemented by International and national NGOs in addition to different activities related to the risk education by designing materials for different target audience, publishing videos, using the mass media and social media, in addition to in person awareness campaign where we promote the safety message, and safe behaviour around all type of contamination and especially the cluster munition.

All the activities are recorded in the Information Management System for Mine Action IMSMA for better reporting and to help the decision makers and to share this information with all stakeholders.

the scheduled activities in this regard for the next extension phase:
(view Annexe "e")

- Training Instructors in Explosive Ordnance Risk Education.
- Preparing Activists in Explosive Ordnance Risk Education.
- Implementing Awareness Activities.
- Developing and Producing Awareness Materials.
- Distributing Awareness Brochures.
- Broadcasting Awareness Messages on Social Media.
- Utilizing National Events for EORE Campaigns.
- Targeting Construction Contractors and Heavy Equipment Operators.
- Targeting Civil Defense, Lebanese Red Cross, and Municipal Police.
- Erecting Warning Signs in Destroyed Villages.
- Targeting Farmers and Shepherds During Agricultural Seasons.

f. Victim Assistance (VA):

The Mine Victim Assistance (MVA) section at LMAC focuses on victims injured by explosive hazards from legacy mines or sub-munition accidents in Lebanon. In 2020, LMAC initiated a countrywide effort to visit victims, provide financial aid, and reassess their needs. In 2024, LMAC is updating the victim data through a national survey.
Key findings include:

- 542 victims require close follow-up.
- 375 deceased victims have families eligible for support.
- 1479 victims, either have mild injuries or no surviving family for support.

- **Medical assistance**
  - In 2022, medicines were distributed to 10 victims, and 20 survivors received medical care.
  - In 2023, 15 victims received medicine, funded by the Government of Slovenia and supported by ITF and University of Balamand.
  - In 2024, 16 beneficiaries received medical assistance, supported by ITF and University of Balamand.

- **Physical rehabilitation**
    - In 2020, we follow up the 20 mine victims who selected to have their tuition fees partially funded by DCA. 4 new prosthetics with the support from the ministry of Social Affairs.
    - In 2021, 15 new prosthetics, 10 orthotic services, 15 assistance devices started submitted by ITF in cooperation with the University of Balamand.
    - In 2022, Physical Rehabilitation (Prosthetic, Orthotics, Assistive Devices): 20 survivors.
    - In 2023, 25 new prosthetics and orthotic services supported by UNDP funded by Netherlands and ITF in cooperation with the University of Balamand.
    - In 2024, Physical Rehabilitation (Prosthetic, Orthotics for 6 targeted beneficiaries submitted by ITF in cooperation with the University of Balamand.

- **Psychological and psychosocial care**
    - In 2022, psychological support was provided to 40 mine victims, funded by Slovenia and supported by ITF and University of Balamand.
    - In 2023, 63 victims received psychological support, funded by Slovenia, ITF, UOB, and UNDP.
    - In 2024, psychological care provided to 30 new beneficiaries, with continued support for 20 previous victims, through ITF and University of Balamand.

- **Economic reintegration**
    - In 2022, beekeeping and goat distribution were funded by South Korea, and training on liquid detergent making and esthetical care was supported by the Netherlands and UNDP.
    - In 2023, beekeeping, beauty makeup, and detergent making courses were funded by the Netherlands and supported by UNDP.
    - In 2024, training on printing on glass and fabric will be offered, along with beekeeping, funded by ITF and supported by UNDP.

- **Improving laws, regulations, and policies**
    - most victims of legacy mines and ERW are covered under the Law 220/2000. Accordingly, the LMAC, in coordination with the MVA Steering Committee, should seek to raise victims' awareness of their rights and actively support implementation mechanisms for Law 220/2000.

  LMAC has already prepared the content of booklet about awareness of their rights.

- **Advocacy:**
    - From 2020 to 2023, LMAC commemorated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) on December 3rd, launching multiple activities to support mine victims.

- **Implementation Agencies** that are supporting Lebanon to meet its obligations under Article 4 of the CCM:

    - **Engineering Regiment + Engineering units (LAF)**
    - **National NGO:** Peace Generations Organization for Demining (POD),
    - **International NGO's:** Mine Advisory Group (MAG), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Dan Church Aid (DCA), Humanity & Inclusion (HI).

- **Donors:**

Table 5: Main past and present Donors.

Donor	Activities
USA	Cluster Munitions clearance + EORE
NORWAY	Cluster Munitions clearance + EORE
GERMANY	Cluster Munitions clearance + EORE
NETHERLAND	Cluster Munitions clearance + EORE
LUXEMBOURG	Cluster Munitions clearance + EORE
SOUTH KOREA	Cluster Munitions clearance
JAPAN	Cluster Munitions clearance + EORE
European Union (EU)	Cluster Munitions clearance + EORE
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA)	Cluster Munitions clearance
Telethon Norwegian TV)	Cluster Munitions clearance
PM/WRA (Weapons Removal and Abatement)	Cluster Munitions clearance
Trust Foundation	Cluster Munitions clearance
Japan	Equipment's and Cluster Munitions clearance
Dutch Fund	Cluster Munitions clearance
EU Fund managed by UNDP	Capacity Building
UNICEF	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
Marshall Legacy Institute	Mine Victim Assistance
EU Fund managed by the University of Balamand	Mine Risk Education and Mine Victim Assistance

19. Annexes:

a. National Mine Action Standards
b. Quality control methods
c. National Mine Action Strategy/Policy
d. Mine Action Structure
e. Survey, clearance and risk education work plans in detail
f. Maps