



HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION NEEDS RISING

Geneva, 19 February 2015. Today, the United Nations will launch the Portfolio for Mine Action Projects for 2016. The online portfolio presents a consolidated picture of the needs and priorities for 23 countries and territories affected by landmines and other explosive hazards.

This year's Portfolio delivers a sobering message. Affected populations in need of assistance cannot wait for elusive political solutions. The needs are rising dramatically, but the support being provided is woefully inadequate. Resources required for mine action in 2016 are over \$357m, only \$59m has been secured to date, just 17% of the total.

Agnès Marcaillou, Director of United Nations Mine Action Service, Chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, stated: *"Mine action is critical to humanitarian responses; it saves lives and enables access for other humanitarian assistance. In facilitating access and safe movements of internally displaced persons, refugees and humanitarian workers, it is an essential enabler to the effectiveness of protection and stabilization efforts. Progress and success are tangible and measurable. The words of the Secretary-General must be remembered; 'the global humanitarian system is not broken; it is broke. We are not receiving enough money to save enough lives'."*

Consistent with the Portfolio for 2015, Afghanistan has the highest funding needs, with an estimated \$96m required to meet its obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty. Moreover, Iraq and Syria's portfolios total \$40m and \$33m respectively, with only \$8m received collectively. Equally importantly, nine countries report not having secured any of the funds they requested in 2016, including heavily impacted countries such as Myanmar.

The Portfolio is available at <http://www.mineaction.org/resources/portfolios> and includes interactive options, such as graphs and charts summarising the needs according to country, region and area of work.

ENDS

For further information, please contact:

Flora Sutherland, UNMAS New York:

Email: sutherlandf@un.org

Francesca CHIAUDANI, UNMAS Geneva:

Email: chiaudani@un.org

Tel +41 22 917 4741