



UNDP

Similar to Norway, UNDP has supported Mozambique and its mine action activities for a long time, way beyond—and in many different ways) the current programme support. UNDP's mine action support activities followed on from the demining activities during the peacekeeping mission in the early 90s as mentioned by Ambassador Commisario, and thereafter, with humanitarian mine action activities under the coordination of the then DHA, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, which later became what we now know as OCHA.

The first instance of direct UNDP project support was the Accelerated Demining Programme, which ran for 11 years in two phases:

- 1994-2000 (with operational activities)
- 2000-2005 (with continued operational activities, and an attempt to follow a gradual phase out of international assistance to the ADP seeing it transformed into a sustainable national demining organization but which was discontinued due to the lack of financial resources from the government's own budget)

The Comissão Nacional de Desminagem, or the national demining commission, the CND, also saw a few capacity-building initiatives, including a UNDP project between 1996 and 1998 but which lacked the necessary focus and came to suffer from poor guidance generated by the Landmine Impact Survey which only gradually came to be understood from its intended output and which never generated the hard sought contamination data required to effectively plan and prioritize mine clearance. Thinking of the early start of the programme in Mozambique, mentioned by the Ambassador, it is also worth recalling our collective responsibility for some of the developments in their efforts to achieve a mine free Mozambique. Mozambique has seen its fair share of mine action experiments and functioned as a clearing house for many of the methodologies and technologies developed by the international mine action community and not all of these have proved fit for purpose...

In May 1999, a programme review mission looked into transforming CND into an institute that would focus more on capacity-building of the national demining institute for the planning, management and coordination of mine action activities in Mozambique. To begin with UN-donor relationship remained fragile and donors were unwilling to provide the necessary financial means necessary as they remained concerned of the political will established to take ownership of the programme.

As alluded to by the Ambassador, when the government went ahead and created the IND in June 1999 and, in particular, when it appointed a new director, donor interest was rekindled and activities coincided with the hosting of the 1st Meeting of States parties at the back lawn of Polana Hotel in Maputo. Mozambique committed to the objectives of the convention and started off addressing the mine contamination albeit from a somewhat imperfect roadmap



generated by the impact survey. Poor coordination and a general lack of trust among implementing partners did also not help.

The UNDP project started in March 2000 with a preparatory assistance phase funded by the government of Denmark. The project document "Capacity Building for the National Demining Institute" was signed in August 2000. The project also served to channel bilateral donor funds for demining activities.

Although the capacity-building project ended in 2005, there was some continuity in the form of a UNDP-funded technical advisor post that remained with the aim of providing the overall strategic and management support in the coordination of mine action activities. During this 8 year period, the post was held by 3 different advisers and at times the post also stood empty due to interruptions in funding flows as well as cumbersome recruitment processes and clearances on our part.

Starting 2008, the further capacity support to IND has been provided under the project, "Weapons Risk Mitigation and Mainstreaming Mine Action, Small Arms and Light Weapons Controls 2008-2011". Which saw activities expand to address further areas of weapons control identified and among other saw a civilian small arms registry established together with support for a weapons collection campaign as well as support for the bilateral cooperation with Brazil on the development of a Mozambican forensics capability. This followed the work on the full integration of mine action and arms control into the Government Poverty Reduction Action Plan, the PARPA and the UNDAF with the aim to contribute to the wider UN assistance to better prevent and respond to both natural and man-made disasters, thereby reducing risk of disasters for the benefit all people in Mozambique, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable. A new mine action strategy was developed and the national programme was reenergized by a resolve to address the problems faced by landmine contamination rather than blindly doing mine action.

Today, the UNDP support has developed further under the rubric of "Support to the National Demining Project" that will run from 2012 to 2015 and is integrated into the 2012 to 2015 UNDAF. The partners of the UNDP supported national programme on Mine Action are the National Institute for Demining (*Instituto Nacional de Desminagem* – IND) and the Humanitarian Demining Operators (i.e. Norwegian People's Aid, Apopo, Handicap International and the HALO Trust) responsible for undertaking mine action activities in Mozambique. The project beneficiaries include all citizens of the affected areas whose livelihood and human security is affected by the impact of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). And UNDPs role is to function as a catalyst for the sum of the achievements of all its parts.

The focus of the project is on 3 outputs which all have its various contributors and supporters and include:



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- 1) the further strengthening the capacity of the IND to manage and coordinate mine action in Mozambique,
- 2) support to humanitarian demining and Quality Assurance in the field, and
- 3) the establishment of a national capacity to address the residual ERW threat that will remain after Article 5 completion.

The success of each of these components is of equal importance for an overall effective programme as the first component provides the framework to ensure that the activities undertaken in the second component are performed in a cost-effective and targeted manner, and can be sustained by national authorities. The third component ensures sustainability of an integrated national capacity to address the residual threat from other explosive remnants of war that will remain after the 2014 deadline to clear all known anti-personnel landmines. Ultimately, this programme will release contaminated land to affected communities for agricultural activities and infrastructural development resulting in increased livelihoods.

This story was a slightly long and winding road leading to the description of today's quite transformed and jointly implemented effort of Mozambique's own mine action programme

From the side of UNDP, lessons have taught us that there is little the UN can do to ensure a sustainable and successful national mine action programme unless itself has institutional capacity in-country as well as dedicated and competent technical skills and that the host governments themselves identify the need and prioritize the effort to address the problem in a rational way and that partners in a position to do so, can provide the additional resources needed under a common vision. A productive partnership is when it builds on a common vision established among states, with a strong ownership, agreed milestones and clear deadlines and division of work but with the same aim of implementing our commonly owned convention. In such instances, in a constellation of the willing and able states, UNDP can provide the necessary technical and programmatic support that can facilitate these partnerships and enable the outputs and outcomes desired.

In this instance the full partnership consists of Mozambique as the willing and capable on the one hand assisted by committed states like Norway with their bilateral MoU presented by the ambassador of Norway, but also Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, Sweden and the U.K. and other bilateral donors including Belgium, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, U.K. and the U.S supporting operators in the field directly.