

National Mine Action Policy

I. Basic Provisions

Article 1.

1. The Government of Lebanon, conscious of the damage and suffering caused by landmine and explosive remnants of war, shall take full responsibility for the humanitarian, socio-economic and environmental impact caused by these devices and shall rid Lebanon from the impact associated with these devices in an expeditious and efficient manner in line with international standards and mine action best practices.
2. This policy regulates organisational structure for mine clearance, survey and removal of explosive remnants of war in Lebanon as well as mine risk education and the coordination of assistance to victims of mine/explosive remnants of war (hereinafter: mine action). It determines the bodies authorised for the conduct of demining, rights and obligations of persons carrying out demining, as well as monitoring over the implementation of this policy.
3. Mine action under this policy does not include the removal of unexploded improvised explosive devices (IED) (refer to “A guide to Mine Action” book – (GICHD) February 2005 Website: www.gichd.ch and International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Issue 3 dated July 2005).

Article 2.

Lebanon aspires to become a state party to the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), known forthwith as the (CCW) Amended Protocol II, and aspires also to become a state party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, known forthwith as the Ottawa Convention.

II. Mine Action Structure in Lebanon

Article 3.

1. Lebanon Mine Action Authority (LMAA):
The Minister of Defence is the chair person of Lebanon Mine Action Authority (LMAA) and shall be the responsible to the Government of Lebanon for the Lebanese National Mine Action Programme (LNMAP).
2. Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC):
The Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC), known until now as the National Demining Office (NDO) Lebanon, shall execute and coordinate the Lebanese National Mine Action Program (LNMAP) on behalf of Lebanon Mine Action Authority (LMAA).

3. The Lebanon Mine Action Centre shall be under the command of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations of the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Article 4.

The LMAA shall:

1. Promote and coordinate any cooperation process with national authorities, and between the State, the civil society and the international community, aimed at Humanitarian Demining Actions, Victims Assistance and Mine Risk Education.
2. Approve any reports submitted by the LMAC and disseminate the country's official information concerning mine action to be disclosed to the national and international community, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
3. Chair the Inter-ministerial Advisory Committee for mine action and the International Support Group (refer to article 5-2).
4. Invite national or international guests or organizations as deemed appropriate for the fulfilment of its functions.

Article 5.

1. Under the provision of Article 4, an Inter-ministerial Advisory Committee for mine action shall be established to create a participatory and transparent method of providing strategic priorities and overview of mine action in Lebanon.
2. The Inter-ministerial Advisory Committee for mine action shall be made up as follows:
 - a. The Minister of Defence (chair).
 - b. The Minister of the Interior and Municipalities or any appointed General Director belonging to this ministry.(the same appointed general director must attend all meetings of the year)
 - c. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants or the Ministry Director General.
 - d. The Minister of Education or any appointed General Director belonging to this ministry. (the same appointed general director must attend all meetings of the year)
 - e. The Minister of Public Works and Transport or any appointed General Director belonging to this ministry. (the same appointed general director must attend all meetings of the year)
 - f. The Director of the Council for Development and Reconstruction or any appointed manager belonging to this council. (the same appointed manager must attend all meetings of the year)
 - g. The Director of the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (secretary)

3. The Inter-ministerial Advisory Committee shall provide guidance and priorities on government strategic plans that will affect mine action priorities.
4. The Inter-ministerial Advisory Committee shall meet semi-annually.

Article 6.

The LMAC shall be the organization tasked with implementing the LNMAP in accordance with the strategic national priorities set by the Inter-ministerial committee.

Article 7.

The LMAC shall perform the following activities:

1. The LMAC will manage mine action activities in Lebanon and will help ensure the provision of administrative and logistical support to facilitate the work of all mine action organisations working in Lebanon in accordance with the National Mine Action End-state Strategies and standards.
2. The LMAC shall task, coordinate and authorize all humanitarian demining related activities including landmine and ERW survey, mapping, marking, clearance and land recovery.
3. Preparation of Mine Risk Education priorities upon which MRE will proceed in order to limit the risk of injuries through the dissemination of effective prevention measures.
4. The LMAC will be responsible for the national mine action information management system.
5. The LMAC will be responsible for the accreditation of all mine action organizations in accordance with National Standards before any mine action activity is authorized.
6. Quality control and quality assurance of all mine action activities.
7. The LMAC shall present semi-annual reports including implementation status, performance level in comparison to set priorities and indicators to the Ministry of Defence.
8. The LMAC shall prepare and update national accreditation and certification standards. Once these accreditation and certification standards are published, all concerned are obliged to adhere to them.
9. The LMAC will establish regional mine action centres as necessary.
10. The LMAC is free to ask support, information and collaboration from government agencies, international and national organisations and non-governmental organisations involved with mine action in accordance with Lebanese Armed Forces regulations.

Article 8.

1. The LMAC shall manage and coordinate the implementation of mine risk education (MRE) activities in Lebanon through the National Mine Risk Education Steering Committee.
2. The National Mine Risk Education Steering Committee will consist of the following:
 - a. LMAC Mine Risk Education Department Head (Chair).
 - b. Representative of the Ministry of Education.
 - c. Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
 - d. International and National organisations and non-governmental organisations with a concerned interest in mine risk education.
3. Members of the National Mine Risk Education Committee shall:
 - a. Enter a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the LMAC outlining the terms of agreement and responsibilities of each party.
 - b. Abide by the National Mine Risk Education Committee code of conduct.

Article 9.

1. The LMAC shall manage and coordinate the implementation of mine victims assistance (MVA) activities in Lebanon through the National Mine Victims Assistance Steering Committee.
2. National Mine Victims Assistance Steering Committee will consist of the following:
 - a. LMAC Mine Victims Assistance Department Head (Chair).
 - b. Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
 - c. Representative of the Ministry of Health.
 - d. International and National organisations and non-governmental organisations with a concerned interest in mine victims assistance.
3. Members of the National Mine Victims Assistance Steering Committee shall:
 - a. Enter a memorandum of understanding with the LMAC outlining the terms of agreement and responsibilities of each party.
 - b. Abide by the National Landmine Victim Assistance Committee code of conduct.

III. International Bodies

Article 10.

1. International Support Group (ISG) shall support the work of the LMAA, and shall consist of senior representation from UNDP, Office of the PRSG, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and concerned donor country representation at the Ambassadorial level.
2. The representatives of the international organisations and governments supporting demining programmes shall be invited to act as members of the ISG.
3. International and national non-governmental organisations with a concern for mine action activities shall be invited to observe ISG proceedings.
4. The ISG shall meet yearly, and shall exist as long as the members find it necessary.
5. Secretarial services for the ISG will be provided by UNDP.
6. Working level mine action updates shall be chaired by the Director LMAC and will provide donors a technical update on the progress of mine action activities.
7. Working level mine action updates shall be held on a quarterly basis.

IV. Implementation of Mine Action

Article 11.

1. All humanitarian demining in Lebanon shall be conducted according to the National Standards sanctioned by the LMAA. The National Standards will be prepared in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
2. National standards shall be monitored by the LMAC. The Director LMAC has the authority to make operational changes to National Standards and shall refer substantive amendments to the LMAA for approval.
3. Work will be done towards efficiently and effectively concluding the demining operations through setting priorities, monitoring and evaluation criteria, and accreditation and licensing. The LMAC will be responsible for the annual licensing of all mine clearance organizations/procedures before any clearance is authorized.
4. The Lebanese Armed Forces is authorised to conduct humanitarian mine action operations. Paragraphs 1 and 3 of this Article applies.

Article 12.

1. Mine Risk Education shall work towards the reduction in the rate of accidents and injuries through the dissemination of mine risk education information to the public.
2. Mine Risk Education shall be executed according to the National Standards and priorities prepared by the LMAC in coordination with the National Mine Risk Education Steering Committee and according to internationally accepted standards.

Article 13.

1. Mine Victim Assistance (MVA) will work towards ensuring support for landmine/ERW victims in all medical, psychological, and economical aspects and support activities to help ensure that victims re-gain their full legal rights, and can smoothly reintegrate within the society.
2. Mine Victim Assistance will be executed according to the National Standards prepared by the LMAC in coordination with the National Mine Victim Steering Committee and according to internationally accepted standards.
3. The LMAC shall, with the support of members of the National Mine Victims Steering Committee maintain a database of all mine victims.

Article 14.

1. An Information Management (IM) system that improves capabilities for decision-making, coordination, and information policy related to Mine Action will be endorsed. The IMSMA database system, as produced by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, is the current system being utilized for this purpose.
2. The IM will be managed by the LMAC according to the National Standards and internationally accepted standards.
3. All mine action data will remain the property of the LMAC.
4. Administrator privileges will be strictly controlled by the LMAC and information management functionalities will be issued to mine action practitioners for a specific task of limited duration only.
5. The IM shall support all activities integral to effective mine action including mine risk education, mine victim assistance, minefield survey, mapping, marking and clearance.

Article 15.

1. Quality Assurance and Control Officers (QA/QC Officers) shall carry out the supervision and inspection of all mine action activities according to National Standards.
2. The QA/QC officers shall be a separate section of the LMAC and shall report to the Director in order to provide independent quality control and assurance of mine action activities and to avoid any potential conflicts of interest.
3. The LMAC authorises the QA/QC officer for the fulfilment of their duties.

Article 16.

1. During the conduct of demining activities, the QA/QC officer shall ensure compliance with National Standards and Procedures.
2. Upon the completion of clearance activities, the QA/QC officers shall ensure that a quality assurance evaluation of the clearance task has been completed in accordance with National Standards.

Article 17.

In case of major irregularities or severe violations of national mine action standards the mine action operator may lose either individual or organisational accreditation.

Article 18.

1. Mine action implementation agencies shall have the right to appeal the decisions made by the QA/QC officer.
2. First level appeals shall be made no later than three days after QA/QC officer's decision to the Director LMAC. The Director LMAC shall respond to appeals within eight days of receipt.
3. Second level appeals shall be made to the LMAA no later than 7 days after receipt of the response to the First Level appeal. The LMAA shall make a decision no later than 14 days after receipt of the Second Level appeal.

Article 19.

Resource Mobilization for the implementation of Mine Action activities will be based on transparency, timeliness, accountability and cost effectiveness. Resource formats could include:

1. Government financing.
2. Grants, including monetary and in-kind donations.
3. Loans.
4. National Mine Action Trust Fund.

Article 20.

1. The purpose of the National Mine Action Trust Fund is to provide special resources for a coherent mine action. The Trust Fund shall ensure a flexible framework for donor coordination exists while promoting strong government leadership of the overall programme.
2. The management of the National Mine Action Trust Fund will be through an instrument specifically created by for this purpose according to procedures to be established with the participation of Government, non-Governmental and International Organisations. The procedures will be enacted to:
 - a. Maximizing the usefulness of the resources available for mine action activities.
 - b. Ensuring transparency of the National Mine Action Trust Fund.
 - c. Encourage a greater involvement of the donor community and Lebanese worldwide in the financing of demining.
 - d. Ensuring tendering procedures are regulated and transparent.

Article 21.

1. All entities working in Mine clearance, which are registered with the LMAC, should carry insurance for health, disability, and life in accordance with National Standards and Lebanese Labour Law.
2. Work should be done towards making available adequate coverage systems by the:
 - a. Ministry of Public Health for health needs coverage
 - b. Ministry of Social Affairs for disability treatment/ rehabilitation
 - c. National Social Security Fund for disability compensation
 - d. Lebanese Armed Forces, covering their own personnel according to Lebanese Armed Forces regulations
 - e. Liability of mine action related impact would only be transferred onto government once land has been:
 - i) Surveyed and marked according to standing operating procedures.
 - ii) Certified as safe following clearance.
 - iii) Terms of any MOU and/or contract has expired.

V. Final Provisions

Article 22.

This policy enters into force on publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Lebanon.

Acronyms used in this policy:

GICHD: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.
IMAS: International Mine Action Standards.
CCW: Certain Conventional Weapons.
LMAA: Lebanon Mine Action Authority.
LNMAP: Lebanese National Mine Action Program.
LMAC: Lebanon Mine Action Centre.
NDO: National Demining Office.
ERW: Explosive Remnants of War.
MRE: Mine Risk Education.
ISG: International Support Group.
UNDP: United Nations Development Program.
PRSG: Personal Representative of the Secretary General.
MVA: Mine Victim Assistance.
IM: Information Management.
QA: Quality Assurance.
QC: Quality Control.
MOU: Memorandum of Understanding.
IMSMA: Information Management System For Mine Action.
IED: Improvised Explosive Device.