



Lebanon



The Landmine Problem

Lebanon is contaminated with mines and UXO, to include cluster munitions, as a result of civil war and Israeli occupation. The July – August 2006 war between Israel and Lebanon added considerable contamination to Southern Lebanon as in the last days of the war, hundreds of thousands of cluster munitions and thousands of other pieces of UXO were dropped in Southern Lebanon. An area of 37 km² contaminated by cluster strikes has been identified by clearing entities; affecting agricultural land, homes and commercial businesses. An estimated 35,000 people remain displaced by the war. A study of the economic impact of cluster munitions contamination in Lebanon found that two-thirds of the land originally affected was agricultural, representing close to 5% of all agricultural land in southern Lebanon. It estimated current and projected losses of agricultural production would total between US\$22.6 million and \$26.8 million. In 2007, Landmine Monitor identified at least 130 new mine/ERW casualties in Lebanon.

Humanitarian Demining Programs

The Lebanese National Mine Action Authority lies within the Lebanese Armed Forces and is responsible for mine action planning implementation. The Mine Action Coordination Center for South Lebanon, a joint operation between the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), LMAC, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is responsible for coordinating clearance in the south. The LAF maintains control of the MDD capacity in-country.

The Marshall Legacy Institute's Program

MLI provided an initial six-pack of MDDs to Lebanon in 2001 with sponsorship from individual donors. Additional MDD capacity was subsequently established within the LAF. As these dogs have approached retirement age, MLI, with funding from private donors and in collaboration with the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement at the US Department of State, sent 12 replacement MDDs to Lebanon in 2008. MLI also launched CHAMPS International Lebanon in 2008. This program will link schools in the United States with schools in Lebanon to promote good will, foster global citizenship, raise awareness about the landmine problem in Lebanon, and to raise money to provide rehabilitation to young Lebanese landmine survivors.

Sources of Additional Information

- *Landmine Monitor Report 2008*, Human Rights Watch/International Campaign to Ban Landmines