

Extraordinary Pledges to Support Mine Action in 2016

Funding for mine action is traditionally provided mainly through a range of bilateral agreements and through trust funds. In 2016, donors also reiterated their commitment to provide resources to support mine action in the coming years through three extraordinary pledging conferences.

- The International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, hosted by Chile in Geneva in March;
- The Pledging Conference in Support of Iraq, co-hosted by Canada, Japan, Germany, Kuwait, the Netherlands, and the United States (US) in Washington, DC in July; and
- The Global Demining Initiative for Colombia ministerial-level meeting, co-hosted by Norway and the US in New York City in September.

In addition to these pledging conferences, New Zealand and the US both announced significant increases in their funding for clearance and survey efforts in Lao PDR.

While international contributions for mine action have decreased for three consecutive years (2013–2015), falling from US\$498.9 million in 2012 to \$340.1 million in 2015, these pledging conferences and announcements seem to indicate a political commitment from some donors to secure future funding for mine action in some heavily affected countries. However, given the prospective nature of pledges, it is too early to determine what their impact on overall mine action support in 2016 and future years would be.

Pledges to the Mine Ban Treaty – March 2016

- Twenty States Parties made pledges to the treaty’s Implementation Support Unit (ISU).
- Three States Parties pledged a combined total of \$80.2 million to mine action activities.

Most of the funding announcements made during the Pledging Conference were directed toward the ISU, with 20 States Parties¹ pledging approximately \$607,000 for 2016, exceeding the ISU’s foreseen annual base budget for 2016, estimated at CHF540,613 (\$547,401).² In addition, three States Parties announced future mine action support for the coming years, as shown in the table below.

Pledges made in March 2016³

States	Pledges (US\$ million)	Period
Netherlands	50.1	2016–2020
Germany	16.7	2016
Finland	13.4	2016–2020

¹ Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom (UK), and Zambia.

² In addition to its core budget, the ISU projected that a further CHF136,515 (\$138,229) would be required in 2016 to establish a “financial security buffer” aiming at strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU. Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties, Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2016–2019, p. 2. Average exchange rate for October 2016: CHF0.9876=US\$1. US Federal Reserve, “List of Exchange Rates (Annual),” 1 November 2016.

³ Statement of Finland, International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, Geneva, 2 March 2016; statement of Germany, International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, Geneva, 2 March 2016; and statement of the Netherlands, International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, Geneva, 2 March 2016. Exchange rate for March 2016: ²⁴ 1=US\$1.1134. US Federal Reserve, “Foreign Exchange Rates (monthly),” 1 April 2016, www.federalreserve.gov/releases/g5/20160401/.

Pledges to Iraq – July 2016

Background

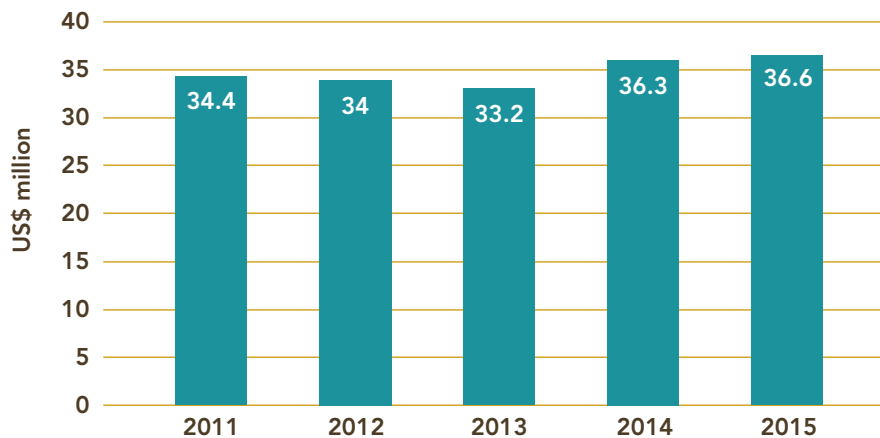
- Mine Ban Treaty Article 5 deadline: 1 February 2018

Iraq is believed to be one of the world's most heavily mined countries, but is still working to produce a complete estimate of the extent of the problem. The most recently reported estimates put the total confirmed and suspected mine contamination areas in Iraq at 1,573.⁴

From 2011–2015, international support to mine action activities in Iraq totaled US\$174.5 million and averaged approximately \$34.9 million per year, making Iraq the second largest recipient of international support.

The largest contributions were provided by the US (\$112.1 million, 64% of all support for Iraq), the Netherlands (\$11.2 million, 6%), and Sweden (\$11.1 million, 6%), which accounted for 76% of all international assistance to Iraq over the period.

Mine action support to Iraq 2011–2015



Pledging Conference in Support of Iraq, July 2016, Washington, DC

- In total, six states pledged almost \$85 million in new support for mine action activities in Iraq.
- Two states committed technical assistance.

In July 2016, Canada, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, and the US co-hosted a pledging conference in support of Iraq; funding for demining was among the four issues addressed during the conference.

A total of \$84.9 million in funding was pledged by six states over the next five years, as shown in the table below. Pledges from at least two states—Australia and Finland—included funding levels higher than commitments made in recent years.

⁴ ICBL-CMC, "Country Profile: Iraq," the-monitor.org/cp.

Pledges made in July 2016⁵

States	Pledges (US\$ million)	Period	Mine Action Sector	Comments
US	45.0	2016–2017	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major donor to mine action activities in Iraq, with \$112.1 million provided in 2011–2015 Pledge is similar to recent funding to the country (\$41.4 million provided in 2014–2015)
Germany	16.5	Not Specified	Clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 2011–2015, Germany provided a total of \$3.6 million in support to Iraq; pledge is four-times higher than funding provided over that period In 2015, Germany explained it was seeking to reduce the number of countries benefiting from its assistance and strengthen its support for mine action projects in 10 partner countries (including Iraq)⁶ On 24 October 2016, Germany announced a € million (\$5.5 million) contribution to support UNMAS emergency response in Iraq⁷
Netherlands	11.1	2016–2020	Clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second major donor to mine action in Iraq from 2011–2015, with \$11.2 million total provided over that period Pledge is similar to recent funding to the country
Finland	5.5	2016–2020	Clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not reported any new support to Iraq since 2011
Australia	3.8	Not Specified	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not reported any new support to Iraq since 2013
Canada	3.1	2016–2018	Clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided \$3 million in support of mine action effort in Iraq between 2014–2015 Pledge is similar to recent funding to the country

⁵ Government of Canada, “Canada pledges humanitarian and stabilization support for Iraq,” 19 July 2016; statement by John Kerry, US Secretary of State, Pledging Conference in Support of Iraq, Washington, DC, 20 July 2016, news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1101179; Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, “Finland grants additional support to Iraq,” 20 July 2016, formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?contentid=349094&contentlan=2&culture=en; statement of Australia, Pledging Conference in Support of Iraq, Washington, DC, 20 July 2016; statement by Frank-Walter Steinmeier, German Foreign Minister, Pledging Conference in Support of Iraq, Washington, DC, 20 July 2016; statement of the Netherlands, Pledging Conference in Support of Iraq, Washington, DC, 20 July 2016; statement of Egypt, Pledging Conference in Support of Iraq, Washington, DC, 20 July 2016; and statement of Spain, Pledging Conference in Support of Iraq, Washington, DC, 20 July 2016.

⁶ Statement of Germany, 18th International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and UN Advisors, Geneva, 19 February 2015.

⁷ UNMAS, “Germany contributes EUR5 million to support the United Nations Mine Action Service Emergency Response in Iraq,” 24 October 2016. Average exchange rate for October 2016: €=US\$1.1014. US Federal Reserve, “List of Exchange Rates (Annual),” 1 November 2016.

Pledges to Colombia – September 2016

Background

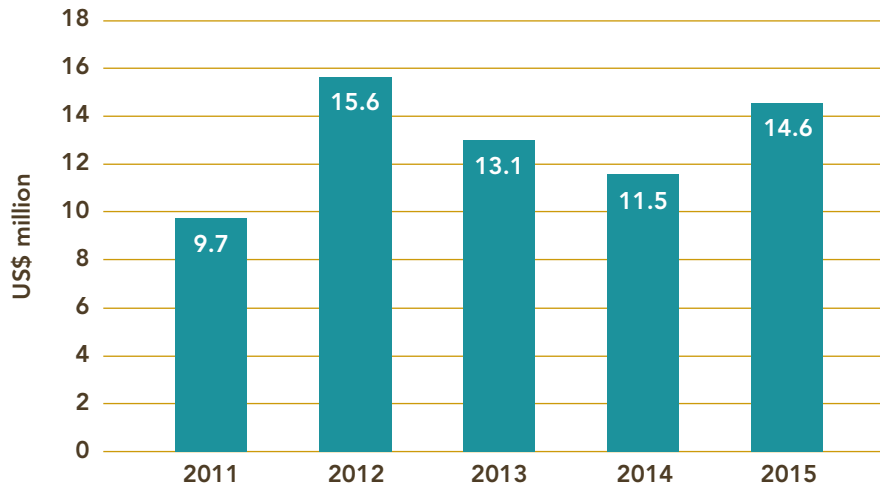
- Mine Ban Treaty Article 5 deadline: 1 March 2021

Colombia's mine contamination is the result of decades of conflict with non-state armed groups. The precise extent of contamination in Colombia is unclear at the moment, though the national database indicates that at least 31 of the 32 departments may have a mine threat.⁸

From 2011–2015, international support to mine action activities in Colombia totaled US\$64.5 million and averaged approximately \$12.9 million per year, making Colombia the eighth largest recipient of international support.

The largest contributions were provided by the US (\$26.6 million, 41% of all support for Colombia), the EU (\$14.8 million, 23%), and Spain (\$5 million, 8%), which accounted for 72% of all international assistance to Colombia over the period.

Summary of mine action contributions to Colombia: 2011–2015



While Colombia has not provided details of its exact needs for assistance and resources for its mine action program for 2016–2021, media reported in 2015 that the government estimated that clearing landmines would cost at least \$200 million over 10 years.⁹ Identifying additional resources for implementing its obligations under the treaty has become even more critical as Colombia has been cutting its overall budget as a result of recent austerity measures. Consequently, Colombia's support to its mine action program has declined from \$9.5 million in 2011 to \$0.7 million in 2015.

Global Demining Initiative for Colombia

- As of November 2016, 10 states and the EU have already pledged a combined total of more than \$80 million to mine action activities in Colombia as part of the Global Demining Initiative.
- Four states announced future technical assistance.

In February 2016, Norway and the US launched the Global Demining Initiative for Colombia to mobilize additional resources to support Colombia's mine action activities, notably its demining efforts initiated in the context of the peace process between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

As part of the initiative, a ministerial level meeting was organized in September 2016 in New York City. During the meeting, an estimated \$81.5 million over the next five years was pledged, as shown in the following table.

⁸ ICBL-CMC, "Country Profile: Colombia," the-monitor.org/cp.

⁹ Alice Bradshaw-Smith, "Demining Colombia will take 10 years and cost \$200M," Colombia Reports, 9 March 2015, colombiareports.com/demining-colombia-will-take-10-years-and-cost-200m/.

Pledges to mine action in Colombia¹⁰

States	Pledges (US\$ million)	Period	Comments
US	36.0	2016–2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major donor to mine action activities in Colombia, with \$26.6 million provided in 2011–2015 Pledge would constitute a 107% increase compared to the \$17.4 million provided from the previous three-year period from 2013–2015
Norway	22.0	2017–2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant increase in support to Colombia recorded in 2015 with \$1.6 million provided (in comparison, Norway provided a total of \$1.4 from 2011–2014) Norway stated in September 2016 that Colombia “will be the country where we are investing the largest sums over the next three years”¹¹ Pledge would constitute an 817% increase compared to the \$2.4 million provided in the previous 3-year period from 2013–2015
Canada	10.6	2016–2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pledge would constitute a 116% increase compared to the \$4.9 million provided from 2010–2015
EU	3.0	2017–2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second major donor to mine action in Colombia in 2011–2015, with almost \$15 million provided Pledge would constitute a 33% decrease compared to the \$4.5 million provided during the past two years (2014–2015)
Switzerland	4.1	2016–2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pledge would constitute a 173% increase compared to the \$1.5 million provided from 2011–2015
Japan	1.5	Not Specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided a total of \$1.8 million in 2011–2015, annual contributions were below \$1 million over the period On 18 October 2016, Japan donated some \$550,000 in support of Norwegian People’s Aid’s demining project in Colombia¹²
Netherlands	1.4	2016–2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to this pledge, had not reported any support to Colombia since 2013
Italy	1.1	2017–2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided about \$580,000 in support of mine action efforts in Colombia between 2014–2015
Mexico	1.0	Not Specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did not report any contribution to mine action in Colombia in 2011–2015
New Zealand	0.7	Not Specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did not report any contribution to mine action in Colombia in 2011–2015
Slovenia	0.03	Not Specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did not report any contribution to mine action in Colombia in 2011–2015

¹⁰ Global Demining Initiative for Colombia Ministerial meeting, New York City, 18 September 2016. Notes by the ICBL.

¹¹ Statement by Borge Brende, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Global Demining Initiative for Colombia Ministerial Meeting, 18 September 2016.

¹² Norwegian People’s Aid, “Japanese embassy funds vital humanitarian demining in Colombia,” 27 October 2016.

In addition to financial pledges, four states—Argentina, Chile, Israel, and Uruguay—committed to provide technical assistance to Colombia through humanitarian demining training.

Other states have joined the initiative, although details regarding future contributions were not available as of November 2016.¹³

The peace process between the government and the FARC has been a strong incentive for donors to contribute to mine action efforts in Colombia. With Colombian voters voting against the peace agreement in a plebiscite held in October 2016 (with 50.2% against), it is unclear how this would impact donors' recent funding announcements.

Pledges to Lao PDR – September 2016

Background

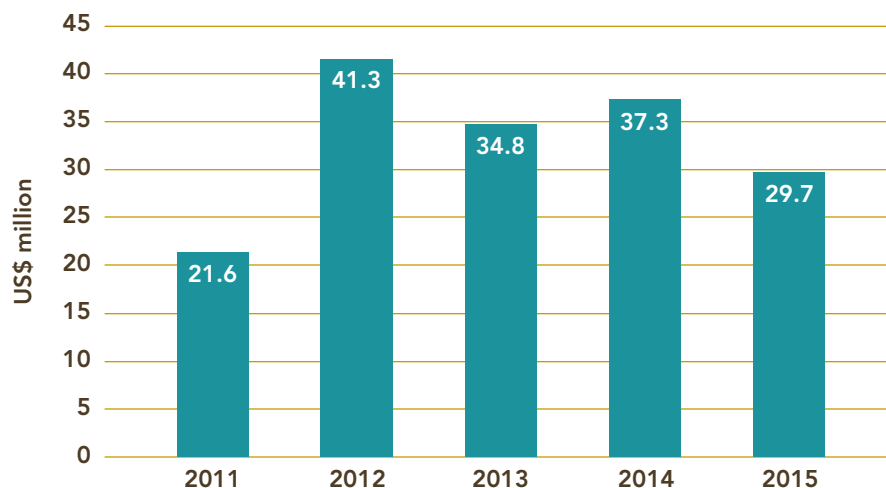
- State not party to the Mine Ban Treaty

As a result of the Indochina War of the 1960s and 1970s, Lao PDR is heavily contaminated with cluster munition remnants and other explosive remnants of war (ERW), as well as landmines, to a lesser extent.¹⁴

From 2011–2015, international support for mine action activities in Lao PDR totaled US\$164.7 million and averaged approximately \$32.9 million per year, making Lao PDR the third largest recipient of international support.

The largest contributions were provided by Japan (\$49.9 million, 30% of all support), the US (\$49.2 million, 30%), and Norway (\$12.1 million, 7%), which accounted for 67% of all international assistance over the period.

Mine action support to Lao PDR: 2011–2015



Lao PDR has not provided detailed information on its exact needs for assistance and resources, but has indicated that it could use \$50 million per year for demining activities.¹⁵

Funding Announcements

In September 2016, both New Zealand and the US announced significant increases in their support of Lao PDR's clearance efforts, as shown in the following table.

¹³ Lithuania, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.

¹⁴ ICBL-CMC, "Country Profile: Lao PDR," the-monitor.org/cp.

¹⁵ Lao PDR, Convention on Cluster Munitions Article 7 Report, Form I, 5 May 2016.

Funding announcements¹⁶

States	Amount (US\$ million)	Period	Sector	Comments
US	90.0	2017–2019	Unexploded ordnance (UXO) survey and clearance operations and victim assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second major donor to mine action in Lao PDR with nearly \$50 million provided between 2011–2015 • Since 2011, US contributions have tripled (from \$5 million in 2011 to \$14 million in 2015), and made up for about half of all support in 2015 • Pledge would constitute a 114% increase compared to the 2015 level of \$14 million • Priorities for US humanitarian mine action assistance include increased support to clear US-origin unexploded ordnance in Southeast
New Zealand	7.3	2017–2020	UXO survey and clearance operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 2011–2015, New Zealand provided a total of \$2.9 million in support to Lao PDR • Pledge would constitute a 265% increase compared to the \$2 million provided during the past four years (2012–2015)

¹⁶ The White House, "Fact sheet: US-Laos relations," 6 September 2016, www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/06/fact-sheet-us-laos-relations; and UNDP, "Unexploded ordnance clearance in Xieng Khouang receives a boost," 8 September 2016, bit.ly/UNDP_Lao_Sept2016.

¹⁷ US Department of State, "Executive Budget Summary - Function 150 and Other International Programs," 10 April 2013, p. 117, www.state.gov/documents/organization/207305.pdf; and Catherine Ramsey, "Lingering Legacies: U.S. Conventional Weapons Destruction Efforts and the Battle of Guadalcanal," US Department of State Official Blog, 12 November 2014, bit.ly/DipNote12-Nov2014.