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 US$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 Parties’ pledging approximately $607,000 for 2016, exceeding the ISU’s foreseen annual base budget for 2016, estimated at CHF540,613 ($547,401). In addition, three States Parties announced future mine action support for the coming years, as shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Pledges (US$ million)</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>2016–2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>2016–2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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.

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.

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### Pledges made in July 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Pledges (US$ million)</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Mine Action Sector</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>2016–2017</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>• Major donor to mine action activities in Iraq, with $112.1 million provided in 2011–2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pledge is similar to recent funding to the country ($41.4 million provided in 2014–2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
<td>Clearance</td>
<td>• 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 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)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• On 24 October 2016, Germany announced a €5 million ($5.5 million) contribution to support UNMAS emergency response in Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>2016–2020</td>
<td>Clearance</td>
<td>• Second major donor to mine action in Iraq from 2011–2015, with $11.2 million total provided over that period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pledge is similar to recent funding to the country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>2016–2020</td>
<td>Clearance</td>
<td>• Has not reported any new support to Iraq since 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>• Has not reported any new support to Iraq since 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2016–2018</td>
<td>Clearance</td>
<td>• Provided $3 million in support of mine action effort in Iraq between 2014–2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pledge is similar to recent funding to the country</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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

**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.  

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Support (US$ million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. 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.

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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 Colombia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Pledges (US$ million)</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| US         | 36.0                  | 2016–2018  | • 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  | • 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”  
• 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  | • Pledge would constitute a 116% increase compared to the $4.9 million provided from 2010–2015 |
| EU         | 3.0                   | 2017–2018  | • 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  | • Pledge would constitute a 173% increase compared to the $1.5 million provided from 2011–2015 |
| Japan      | 1.5                   | Not Specified | • 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 Colombia |
| Netherlands| 1.4                   | 2016–2020  | • Prior to this pledge, had not reported any support to Colombia since 2013 |
| Italy      | 1.1                   | 2017–2018  | • Provided about $580,000 in support of mine action efforts in Colombia between 2014–2015 |
| Mexico     | 1.0                   | Not Specified | • Did not report any contribution to mine action in Colombia in 2011–2015 |
| New Zealand| 0.7                   | Not Specified | • Did not report any contribution to mine action in Colombia in 2011–2015 |
| Slovenia   | 0.03                  | Not Specified | • Did not report any contribution to mine action in Colombia in 2011–2015 |

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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.
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](image)

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.

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13 Lithuania, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.
### Funding announcements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Amount (US$ million)</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| US           | 90.0                 | 2017–2019| Unexploded ordnance (UXO) survey and clearance operations and victim assistance | • 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                                     | • 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) |

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