



Somalia Explosive Hazard Sub-Cluster

BACKGROUND

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) was established in September 2005 as part of the humanitarian reform. To ensure comprehensive attention to the range of specific protection concerns, the GPC agreed that the protection response would benefit from being divided into overarching and generally applicable “functional components” or “areas of responsibility” under the Cluster Lead Agency. Focal point entities were designated for recognized areas of protection expertise and tasked with ensuring an effective response in its specialized protection sector in collaboration with other participating agencies. Under the unique protection cluster architecture, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) was designated as the Focal point entity for the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AOR).

In line with the terms of reference (ToR) for the Somalia Protection Cluster, the MA AOR will be established for Somalia. However the threat in Somalia being quite specific, necessitates the AOR to be renamed the *‘Explosive Hazard’ Sub-Cluster (EH SC)* to encompass the most significant threat to civilian life, improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Chaired by UNMAS Somalia, headquartered in Mogadishu, the EH SC shall seek to involve relevant agencies and existing coordination mechanisms in Somalia.

DEFINITION OF EXPLOSIVE HAZARD MANAGEMENT / “MINE ACTION”

Mine action refers to activities which aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of landmines, ERW and other explosive hazards that threaten the lives of civilians, such as IEDs. Mine action is not just about removing landmines; it is also about assisting people and societies and looking at ways in which the victims’ different needs can be addressed in an age and gender sensitive manner. Mine action comprises five complementary groups of activities: a) Risk Education (RE); b) humanitarian explosive hazard clearance, i.e. mine and ERW survey, mapping, marking and clearance; c) victim assistance, including rehabilitation and reintegration; d) stockpile destruction; and e) advocacy for the full implementation and universalization of international frameworks and instruments. A number of other enabling activities are required to support these five components of mine action, including: national capacity building, information management, human skills development and management training, quality management and the application of effective and appropriate safety standards.

Not all the elements and components of mine action, as defined in the previous paragraph, may be applicable to Somalia.

LINKAGES WITH OTHER PC AOR

The EH SC will establish and maintain close links with other working groups within the Protection cluster such as Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, and Land, Housing and Property. The EH SC will also support other clusters and the inter-cluster working groups in line with Protection Cluster priorities and provide information to all clusters through OCHA in regards to the explosive hazard threat in Somalia.



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OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the Somalia EH SC is to ensure coordination of operational activities in support of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) aimed at reducing and if possible eliminating the threats posed by the use and presence of explosive hazards to civilians, including displaced persons, humanitarian workers and other relevant aid and development partners, through the conduct of explosive hazard management activities.

The EH SC will work under the Somalia Protection Cluster, and shall be a forum through which agencies with explosive hazard programmes in Somalia coordinate interventions, seek consensus on issues, create partnerships and linkages for better prioritization of available resources and commitment to minimum standards of response with an overall goal of reducing the risk of explosive hazards to civilians. The EH SC will seek to facilitate a more predictable, inclusive, accountable and effective mine action and broader explosive hazards response; and will support cohesive, inter-agency and inter-organization mine action responses.

EH SC SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- i) To support effective **coordination** of mine action activities responding to the identified key concerns in the Somalia context, and strive to reduce duplication of humanitarian action by partners;
- ii) To ensure inclusive **planning and strategy development** to identify priority explosive hazard concerns and design programmes to meet the most pressing needs based on historical data; develop appropriate protection sensitive **response strategies** and plans of action that are current and relevant, taking into consideration new technology and methodology and the priorities of the Protection Cluster;
- iii) To support **policy and advocacy** initiatives to **enhance protection of civilians** initiatives within the context of mine action;
- iv) To facilitate **monitoring and reporting** to show progress towards national and international goals as well as share information with relevant stakeholders;
- v) To undertake **advocacy** efforts to support reporting obligations by the relevant authorities in accordance with their international treaty obligations;
- vi) To support **resource mobilisation** initiatives for the EH SC in order to secure resource and international support required to implement activities efficiently and effectively; and
- vii) To undertake **training and capacity building** and of partners and relevant government counterparts such as the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA).

THEMATIC AREAS OF FOCUS

The EH SC will focus operational implementation on two main thematic areas in 2015 and then re-evaluate in 2016 to ensure alignment with the overall OCHA Humanitarian Programme Cycle including the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and FGS strategies.

1. Risk Education (relating to all explosive hazards)
2. Clearance (relating to survey, mapping, marking and clearance of explosive hazards)

The EH SC will also support advocacy at the strategic and political level in regards to victim assistance.



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CORE FUNCTIONS

As part of the Somalia Protection Cluster, and in line with the objectives above, the Somalia EH SC serves as the responsibly body for humanitarian coordination, provision of explosive hazard-related technical advice and oversight of EH response activities in Somalia. The purpose of coordination is to reduce duplication, address gaps and solve problems. The EH SC shall:

Coordination

- Support effective coordination and collaboration of explosive hazard-related activities among humanitarian and other relevant partners. This includes among others, securing commitment of humanitarian partners to respond to identified needs, fill gaps, ensure an appropriate distribution of responsibilities and complementarities of different actors actions, and promote responses to urgent protection concerns.
- Provide technical guidance and information to Protection cluster members and other cluster members as needed regarding the explosive hazard threat in Somalia and options for awareness training.
- Through close liaison with UNMAS and partner networks and regular communication with field based offices, maintain an overview of the explosive hazard situation as well as issues that require attention at federal levels in Somalia.
- Share information on EH programmatic responses with particular focus on issues that will affect Protection cluster members
- Maintain the profile of explosive hazard management within the broader protection structure
- Ensure all EH SC members are coordinating with the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) and following SEMA processes for registration and accreditation.
- Maintain a close link with the GPC Mine Action AoR through its Coordinator (UNMAS Geneva office), including for seeking technical and political advice when appropriate

Planning and Strategy Development

- Coordinate the inclusion of Mine Action aspects in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, which includes the Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan.
- To assist in building an effective and comprehensive protection response, the EH SC will develop and implement an annual work plan which will be incorporated into the overall Somalia PC work plan and overarching thematic strategy.
- The work plan will include prioritized activities and outputs in line with the EH SC thematic focus areas and specific timeframes and responsibilities of collaborating organizations.
- Ensuring community-based approaches, including capacity development and livelihood opportunities related to EH mitigation.

Policy and Advocacy

- Support the FGS to fulfil its obligations under the [Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention](#) to which Somalia acceded in October 2012.
- 1. Advocate for adherence to the [Convention on Cluster Munitions \(CCM\)](#) and to the [Convention on certain conventional weapons \(CCW\)](#), in particular to CCW Protocol V on ERW.
- Advocate for support to victim assistance as a pillar of Mine Action and adherence of the FGS to the [Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#).
- Ensure all EH SC members adhere to [International Mine Action Standards \(IMAS\)](#), [International Ammunition Technical Guidelines \(IATGs\)](#) and most recent National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) for Somalia.



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- Expand the socio-economic impact of explosive hazard management by promoting the employment of Somali men and women, particularly youth, in line with the Somali Compact and FGS stabilization goals.
- EH SC will strive to follow the [Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes](#) to mainstream gender considerations and strive for gender balance in the planning, implementation and evaluation of UN mine action programmes.

Monitoring and Reporting

- Establish and maintain monitoring and reporting mechanisms on explosive hazard threats
- Prepare and distribute regular and consistent reports about the nature and extent of explosive threats and casualties in Somalia.
- Provide data towards the strategic objectives of the [Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-18](#) and into the UNMAS managed Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).
- Establish a clear system/mechanism of documenting and communicating key decisions made during national or state level FGS meetings and other information on political, military or UN decisions that impact on explosive hazard management.
- Monitor trends of newly emerging technology (such as IEDs) and ensure cluster members are aware.

Resource Mobilization

- Advocate to donors through the [2015 Mine Action Portfolio](#) which encompasses all explosive hazard management programmes in Somalia. The Portfolio of Mine Action Projects is a resource tool and reference document for donors, policy-makers, advocates, and national and international mine action implementers.
- Advocate to donors to provide funding to the [Voluntary Trust Fund](#) for Assistance in Mine Action. This trust fund was established by the Secretary-General on 30 November 1994 to provide special resources for mine-action programmes and projects, including surveys, mine-clearance, mine-risk education, victim assistance and advocacy activities, in situations where other funding is not immediately available.
- Coordinate with the Protection cluster to ensure explosive hazard management is included and appropriately reflected in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle processes and within the HNO and HRP.
- All EH SC members will be encouraged to mobilize their own resources in addition to the above.
- Provide information to EH SC members about funding opportunities, requirements and processes and actively build relationships with donors to cover gaps.

Training and Capacity Building

- The EH SC will promote and support training to cluster members and all INGO and LNGO partners working in Somalia on the topic of [landmine and ERW awareness](#) and limited IED awareness as necessary. Smart phone applications are also available.
- EH SC members will support efforts to enable the development of the relevant national authorities and civil society.
- Ensure that humanitarian actors working in explosive hazard management in Somalia build on and support relevant local capacities and develop and maintain appropriate links with national and local authorities, state institutions, civil society organizations and other stakeholders that are involved in explosive hazard management.



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PARTICIPATION

The EH SC will aim to bring together NGOs, UN agencies and International Organizations and other relevant and interested mine action actors in line with the Principles of Partnership endorsed by the Global Humanitarian Platform. Representatives of the local and national authorities as well as other international actors, such as donors may be invited to participate in specific meetings.

Current members of the GLOBAL Mine Action AOR can be viewed [here](#).

Membership in the EH SC under the umbrella of the Protection Cluster will be determined first by membership within the Somalia Protection Cluster. Those organizations seeking to be a member of the EH SC must be a member of the Somalia Protection Cluster, fulfilling all criteria outlined in the PC TOR. Organizations who are not member of the Somalia PC cannot become members of this SC, but can be considered affiliates. **In addition, the following membership criteria could apply:**

- Implement or fund a current explosive hazard management programme in the area governed by the FGS and Somaliland;
- Have proven capacity to contribute to EH SC activities, including taking responsibility and completing at least one action point of the annual work plan/operational plan;
- Capability to send a representative to regularly participate in EH SC meetings and Protection Cluster meetings;
- Adherence to IMAS and IATGs as applicable to programme activities;
- Provide information as required to the Somalia IMSMA currently held with UNMAS Mogadishu office;
- Coordinate with the SEMA for purposes of legitimacy, accountability and national capacity building; and
- Provide information/data to the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action Global Monitoring database twice per year.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The EH SC will determine the frequency of the meetings based on the need for coordination and implementation. Meetings will be organized with sufficient time for partners to make travel arrangements from various regions. Meetings will take place in Mogadishu unless the security situation necessitates alternative arrangements.

FOLLOW-UP

These Terms of Reference for the EH SC should be regarded as a living document and should be regularly reviewed and if required revised in order to be responsive to the needs of the Somalia PC. Nothing in these Terms of Reference should be interpreted in any way to limit the actions of the SC in a particular context where the need to fill gaps in mine action have been identified or requested.