

Support to Mine Action in Nepal



Operational excellence for results that matter

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Best in category

A small and dynamic project in Nepal to develop national capacity is a standout example of successful support to mine action, collaboration with partners and delivering 'more for less'.

Since 2007, UNOPS has provided technical support to the Nepalese government to sustainably deal with the problem of land mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW), following an end to the armed conflict in 2006. This has included recruiting mine action consultants and trainers, procuring machinery and equipment and administering contracts to support the mine action goals of Nepal's Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, and the Nepal Army Mine Action Coordination Centre (NAMACC) within the UN Mine Action Team (UNMAT).



Staff from the UN Mine Action Team in Nepal undertake a review of ordnance before disposal. **Photo:** UNMAT

The project is unique amongst other UNOPS-supported mine action projects due to its advisory rather than direct implementation role. In 2010, the project worked on a Capacity Development Plan for achieving measurable results and support to the newly established Mine Action Section within the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction.

The project also successfully supported UNMAT's awareness raising goals through the production of reports, newsletters and press releases. This led

to positive local media with The Kathmandu Post describing the mine clearance work as a "successful story for the world to replicate".

"The UNOPS-implemented UN Mine Action Team in Nepal have been instrumental in supporting the clearance of more minefields in 2010 than any other year by providing consistent, timely and appropriate support to the Government of Nepal and the mine action community as a whole."

*- Office of the Joint Secretary,
Government of Nepal Ministry of Peace and
Reconstruction*

UNOPS added value by responding quickly to the changing needs of partners to ensure that appropriate resources were available as required. For example, following the achievement of its 2010 capacity development goals, the project steadily reduced its number of personnel, creating a return on investment acknowledged and appreciated by all partners.

By involving NAMACC in every stage, UNOPS helped support national ownership of the capacity development goals. The result is that NAMACC can now conduct most of its own mine clearance training and plan, implement and manage mine clearance operations according to International Mine Action Standards. This will eventually give Nepal the capability to deploy platoons for international UN Peacekeeping missions. NAMACC has also increased its capacity in financial management, logistics, external relations and quality management.

With the support of UNMAT, the Nepal Army has cleared over 224,924 square metres of mines and other ERW, releasing more than 5,300,000 square metres for the benefit of the local communities. This project is funded by the UN Peace Fund for Nepal and United Nations Mine Action Service.

In June 2011, Nepal was officially declared free of existing landmines.