

# **Project Proposal**

**For**

**Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID)**

**"Continuation of Humanitarian Mine Action in Support for an Iraqi humanitarian mine action NGO in southern Iraq"**

Executing agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Iraq

Implementing agency: Rafidain Demining Organization (RDO)

Field monitoring agency: Danish Demining Group (DDG)

Funding agency: Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID)

Project period: October 2007 – September 2008

Budget: AUD 2 million

Location: Southern Iraq

## **Background**

### *Scale of the problem: Socioeconomic impact*

Decades of wars and conflicts have left Iraq with contaminations of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) such as landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and explosive ordnance (EO), and in some parts of the country especially in the south, of depleted uranium munitions (DU). The Iraq Landmine Impact Survey (ILIS) documented over 1,777 sq km of land contaminated with mines and UXO in Basra Governorate alone. Moreover, mines and UXO are prevalent along the borders with Iran and Kuwait as a result of military positions abandoned after the Iran-Iraq and Gulf wars. They have also been identified at Al-Zubayr, Burjesia, and Shaiba. Out of the total contamination reported, more than 1,580 km<sup>2</sup> is considered to be agricultural land. Furthermore 112 of the 622 communities reported high impact from ERW contamination, 174 medium and 336 low contamination.

The ERW contamination poses a serious threat to the reconstruction efforts as well as to the daily lives of the millions of Iraqi people. The threat also denies the access to agricultural and grazing land, roads, water sources and residential areas. It hampers the repatriation of internally displaced persons and refugees. It also halts the implementation of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development projects.

### Governmental structure

Since January 2004, UNDP has been providing technical, management, operational and resource mobilization support to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), the Regional Mine Action Centre South (RMAC), and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Centre (IKMAC based in Erbil) as well as the General Directorate for Mine Action (GDMA based in Sulaymania). Currently, both IKMAC and GDMA are at the final stage of the merger as the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) that will serve for three northern governorates (Erbil, Sulaymania and Dahuk) in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

### Political challenges

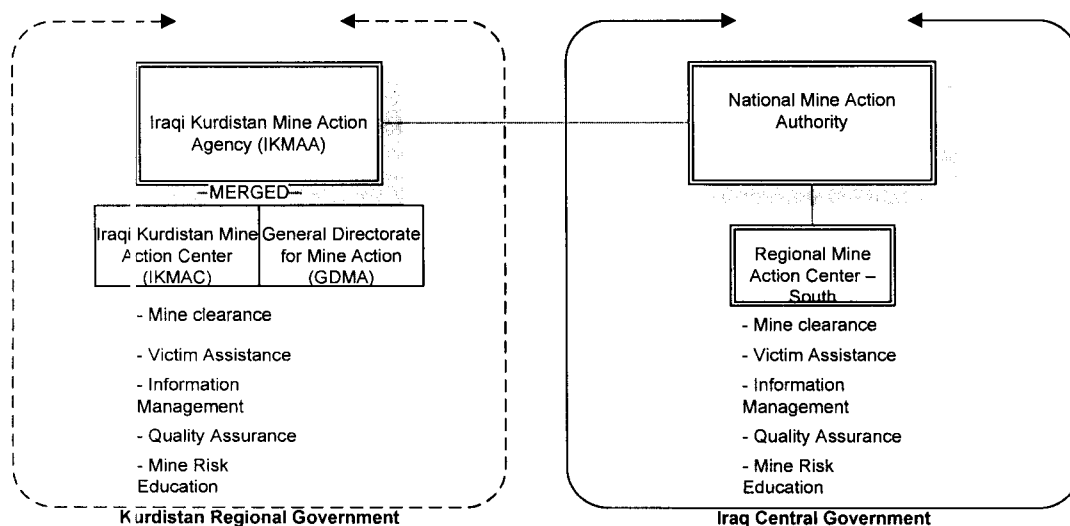
The NMAA functions under the aegis of the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC). There is a growing perception that MoPDC is reluctant to support NMAA. MoPDC tends to regard that NMAA should not belong to the Ministry but other governmental bodies. The lack of political buy-in from the Ministry has been creating a serious bottle neck for most of the strategic and managerial decisions put forward by NMAA. Within this context, UNDP has been trying to mobilize international political support with the donor community, along with the Government of Iraq, with a view to positioning NMAA in the best possible governmental structure.

### Mine Action structure Southern Iraq

The Regional Mine Action Centre South (RMAC-S) is based in Basra governorate and serves as an operational arm of NMAA.

As in the case of IKMAA, RMAC-S consists of mine clearance, victim assistance, information management quality assurance and mine risk education. Whilst in the Kurdistan region, the IKMAA is equipped with clearance teams, RMAC-S serves only as a regulatory body that ensures the International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) of mine clearance and destruction, and mine risk education conducted by contractors or NGOs.

### Government of Iraq Mine Action Structure



## Objective of the proposed project

This project aims at sustaining humanitarian mine action capacity in southern Iraq through the direct financial support to RDO. This support to RDO is a continuation of UNDP effort that commenced in October 2004 to establish a national NGO. This compliments the need in the southern Iraq where considerable mine clearance and mine risk education capacity is needed to address the problem.

The NGO has been recently nationalized with its legal registration, a fully functional national director and built capacity supported by DDG on the ground, there remain resource mobilization and political challenges for RDO to have an optimal capacity and become sustainable.

### **Rationale:** *Why an Iraqi humanitarian mine action NGO?*

Comparative advantages of establishing and supporting a national "humanitarian mine action NGO" that implements mine clearance, destruction and mine risk education are the following:

- Communication with communities and tribes: National NGO can reach out more effectively with local communities than expatriates due to a language problem and knowledge of tribal systems. They have a potential to facilitate institutional participation of wide-range of "local" stakeholders (local communities and tribes) in prioritisation of clearance. This also applies to mine risk education (MRE).
- Coordination with RMAC: National NGO can coordinate with the Regional Mine Action Centre (RMAC) as equal partners to avoid duplications and compliment their operational works each other.
- Financial efficiency: National NGO can be more efficient financially, hence allocate more financial resources to clearance and MRE than to expend funds to a compound, security, insurance and international travel costs.
- Job creation: National NGO is better positioned to employ more Iraqis for various positions, ranging from de-miners and medics to administrative managers.
- Security: National NGO is lower-profile than international organizations. This would allow their work to be more mobile and effective.
- Sustainability: National NGO can remain committed to long-term engagement on the ground. There is no "dependency" risk that is sometimes a by-product when having international entities to provide services in place of local duty bearers.

### *Achievement to date*

Based on the above premise, UNDP contracted the Danish Demining Group (DDG) in October 2004 to establish a local mine action NGO in Basra capable of undertaking mine action operation in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). DDG provided day-to-day technical guidance and management training to local operators and administrative managers to create solid nationally managed clearance teams.<sup>1</sup>

Concurrently, DDG and UNDP supported for the process of registration of the national NGO. As a result on May 2007, it has been registered as the "Rafidain Demining Organization (RDO)" at the NGO Assistance Office, General Secretariat of the Cabinet.

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<sup>1</sup> One team consists of five staff, one team leader, one medic and three EOD operators. The whole organization consists of 60 field staff and 23 support/management staff for a total of 83 national staff.

## **Expected outcome**

- RDO fully operational in accordance with the International Mine Action System (IMAS), with 60 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) operators.
- Minimum of 2 million square meters or 200 Ha of agricultural lands and areas for socioeconomic development will be cleared/month of the project.
- At least 80 people directly employed by RDO and additional jobs would be created indirectly as a result of clearance.
- Increased capacity to properly prioritize mine clearance activities through better coordination between RDO on the one hand and RMAC-S and local governments on the other.

## **Methodology**

The project envisages parallel support to two implementing partners directly.

### *RDO – implementing partner*

The large amount of the project fund will be provided to RDO directly. RDO requires financial resources from the international community, as the Iraqi government is not yet ready to provide funds to NGOs. There is a possibility that the private sector in the region, such as oil companies, may request for mine clearance to RDO in the future. However, in the meantime, in order to establish solid management base as non-profit oriented 'humanitarian mine action' NGO, RDO needs independent operational funds to keep their capacity stable and improve.

### *DDG – monitoring partner*

Whilst RDO has the basic administrative and operational capacity, it is crucial to set up an independent monitoring body in the field to ensure the full functioning of NGO. This monitoring body is expected to perform the following functions.

- Oversight of financial transactions and documentations (full time expatriate for the first 6 months followed by the part-time supervision for the rest of 6 months).
- Supervision of operational management (full time for the first 6 months followed by the part-time supervision for the rest of 6 months).
- Prevention or/and mediation of frictions between people with different ethnic background (full time expatriate).

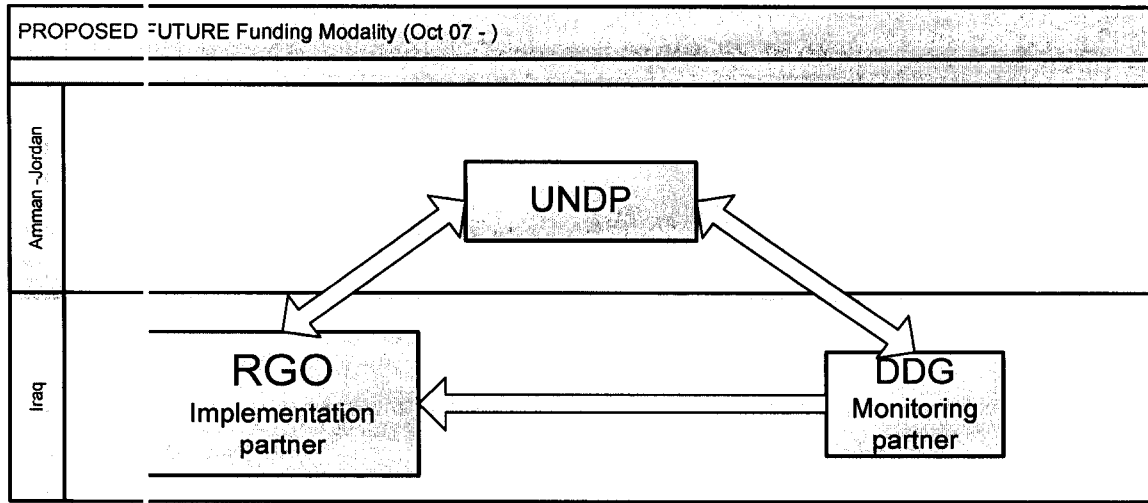
With a view to streamlining the intervention of international monitoring staff, it is assessed that 3 international staff can carry out the above functions.

Under the new funding modality, most of the funds will be directed to RGO, which in turn will be obliged to report to UNDP through monthly reporting along with invoices.

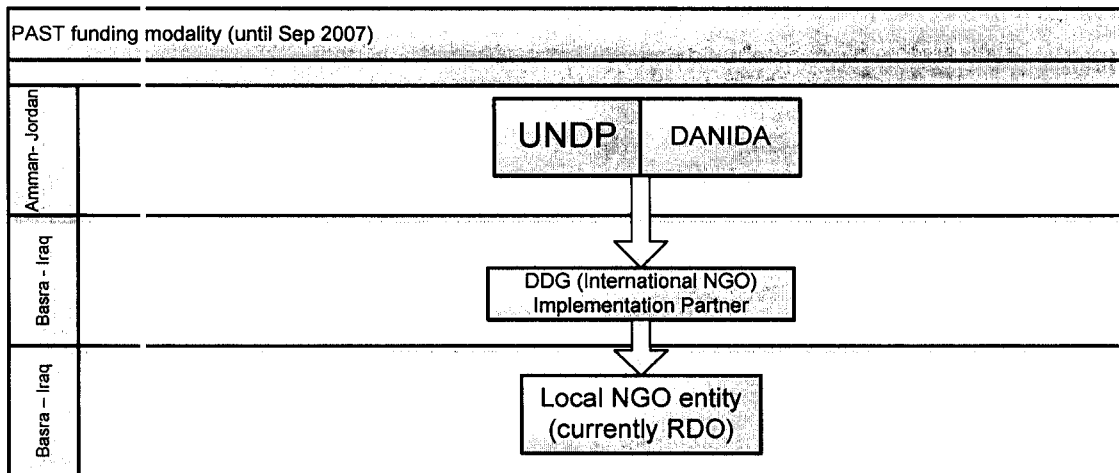
The monitoring partners will safeguard and provide an oversight to ensure fairness, transparency and accountability of RGO operation and management in accordance with the

annual work plan to be developed by RGO. The monitoring partner is obliged to provide monitoring reports UNDP in parallel.

In case RGO faces imminent problems that cannot be solved by itself, the monitoring body will also extend technical guidance to rectify the problems.



The new funding modality (above) is a significant departure from the ongoing funding arrangement described below.



UNDP will play the overall management roles through UNDP office based in Amman, as well as field coordination roles through the provision of an Iraqi liaison officer based in NMAA and an Iraqi Technical Advisor based in RMAC, Basra.

**Budget breakdown (Indicative: to be further discussed with RDO and DDG during a meeting from June 4 – 7, 2007)**

Items	Total US\$	Remarks
Contractual services RDO	1,078,000	National NGO
Contractual services. UNDP Technical Advisor/National Liaison Officer	32,900	NMAA advisor is essential for the coordination and accreditation of RDO.
Contractual services. UNDP Technical Advisor/National Liaison Officer	32,900	RMAC advisor is essential for the coordination and practical accreditation of RDO.
Contractual services. Monitoring (3 persons)	300,000	3 international full time for the first 6 months. 1 full time from month 7 and 2 part time (50%).
International Project Manager	70,000	UNDP Project management
UNDP Monitoring missions to Basra	20,000	Estimated including Field security and Helo support.
Contingency	19,600	Unforeseen costs.
Security Cost (2%)	32,680	Iraq specific as agreed with donors.
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,586,080</b>	
BCPR Thematic Trust Fund Programme Support Cost (5 %)	79,365	Off the top 5%.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,665,445</b>	