



**DEMINE AND INCREASING THE BORDER SURVEILLANCE CAPACITY AT THE EASTERN BORDERS OF  
TURKEY - PHASE 3**

**1<sup>st</sup> STEERING COMMITTEE (KICK-OFF) MEETING**

**10<sup>TH</sup> February 2021 at 10:30**

**Videoconference**

<b>Participants*</b>	<p><b>European Union Delegation (EUD)</b> Ulrich RAINER, Programme Officer Esther Bouma, Deputy Head of Section</p> <p><b>Strategy and Budget Office (SBO)</b> Gülüzar Güleç, Assistant Expert E. Canan Sarıtaş, Expert</p> <p><b>Turkish Mine Action Center (TURMAC)</b> Colonel Hasan Soydaş, TURMAC Director Major Şamil Koptekin, Chief of Accreditation and Quality Management Branch Captain Mustafa Torun, Chief of Operations Branch</p> <p><b>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</b> Seher Arıner, Assistant Resident Representative (Programme) Alisher Karimov, Portfolio Manager Sedat Has, Field Coordinator Ahmet Doğanay, Field Coordinator Seyyid Özdemir, Administration Assistant/Interpreter</p> <p><b>Interpreter</b> Gökçe Şengün</p>
<b>Note taker</b>	Seyyid Özdemir, Project Associate, UNDP

\* Listed in alphabetic order of organizations' name.

Meeting commenced at 10.30 with opening remarks and introduction by UNDP and TURMAC.

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## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

### 1- Opening Addresses by TURMAC and UNDP

Ms. Seher Ariner, on behalf of UNDP, welcomed the participants thanking to the members for their efforts and cooperation during the project preparation phase and indicated that the project has officially started with this meeting. She gave some brief information stating that “The project manager will be in Turkey within 1 months depending on the travel restrictions due to Covid-19. As deduced from Phase I and Phase II, contracting and mobilization process of the contractors can be long and complicated, and the contracting process was initiated last year by UNDP to overcome this long period. Compared to Phase I and Phase II, this phase will have some different activities, which will be raising awareness of mine action and cooperation with the Civil Society, directly accessing the public. Another difference will be the Non-Technical Survey (NTS) which will contribute to the sustainability”. Ms. Ariner also expressed her ambition for a smooth project implementation without problems and accidents.

Colonel Hasan Soydaş, on behalf of TURMAC, expressed their gratitude for the supports of the EU and UNDP since 2016 when TURMAC was found. He added saying “Continuation of this project was very critical for the TURMAC and we would like to thank to the EUD, UNDP and other partners of the government for their support and collaboration. We are behind the calendar but with the new companies and contracts to be signed in March, TURMAC believes the operations will be conducted without problems in close cooperation of the parties. The most important part of the project, which is NTS, would have been much better for Turkey if it had been conducted in 2016 when TURMAC was found. The extension period of Turkey for Ottawa Convention will expire on 1 March 2022 and another extension will be requested as there is a contaminated area of 150 million square metres, which will be reduced by NTS, and the extension to be requested will be determined basing on the results of the NTS. We are experienced about clearance now and clearance of 96 minefields will be a routine for us”.

### 2- Discussions and Recommendations of the Steering Committee Members

#### **UNDP PRESENTATION**

##### **Scope**

##### **UNDP**

- An amount of approximately 20.6 million € has been allocated for Phase 3 of the Project and UNDP is grateful for the first transfers. The project has been planned for 2 years and it is planned to complete the project in December 2022. Unlike the other 2 phases of the project, in addition to the clearance and quality management services, this phase will cover two more components, which are Non-Technical Survey and Mine Risk Education. The project has been designed to cover clearance and quality management of up to 4.2 square metres in four provinces and a total of 96 minefields is planned to be cleared of mines and handed over to TURMAC until the end of the project in Ardahan, Ağrı, Iğdır and Kars. Through NTS of 3502 minefields, a better picture of these minefields will be created. In addition, Mine Risk Education sessions will be held with the support of TURMAC, Gendarmerie and selected CSOs in 900 villages in 17 provinces.

- The minefields in Phase III spread from the north in Ardahan to the south in Ağrı. The stretch is around 350 kilometres. Most of the minefields are in Ağrı/Doğubeyazıt, while there are 8 minefields in Iğdır, where TIGEM camp area is located.

#### ***Procurement of Services***

- Procurement process of the Clearance, Quality Management and NTS services was initiated as soon as Phase II was completed and Market Research, EOI, RFP and tender processes of three services were completed in 2020. Evaluation of the tenders was completed as of 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2021 and the approval of ACP, which is the decision-making authority of UNDP for the tenders, was received on the third of February for the negotiations. Since the contracts had been planned to be signed at the end of November 2022 and due to signature of the Contribution Agreements at the end of the year, the signature of the contracts with the companies were postponed and there will be a negotiation with the contractors who were selected for the three services. With the Procurement Unit of UNDP Country Office, it is planned to complete the negotiations by the end of February and sign three contracts on the first week of March 2021 with the best possibility.
- The mobilization stage will start as soon as the contracts are signed. NTS, Clearance and QMC contractors will carry out their trainings as they complete their mobilization and then they will be ready for accreditation. The demining operations will start when all accreditations are completed.
- The calendars of Clearance and QMC contractors are parallel and their mobilization will be completed within two months after contract signature, while NTS contractor will complete the mobilization in one month. Within three months after contract signature, Clearance and QMC will complete training and obtain accreditation certificates and demining will start as soon as clearance contractor get accredited. NTS will start within two months after the contract signature. All planning is made according to the contract signature.

#### ***Establishment of UNDP Technical Assistance Team***

- The Technical Assistance Team is under establishment process and the Project Associate and two Mine Action Field Coordinators are currently employed and the hiring process for the remaining members of the project team is ongoing. Selection process of the Project Manager has been completed and the contracting process is ongoing. For the NTS Field Coordinator position, longlisting and written test have been completed and the interviews will be held with the successful candidates, and the hiring is planned to be finalized until mid-March. For the Administrative Assistant / Interpreter position, longlisting has been completed and the next step will be the written test and then the interviews. Similar to the NTS Field Coordinator position, hiring is planned to be finalized until mid-March.

#### ***Procurement of Materials***

- For the procurement of the project vehicle, the approval of the diplomatic plate allocation is under the review of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). UNDP will go out for a tender once the allocation

is approved by the MFA. It is expected that the procurement will be completed until the end of March, before the operations start.

Procurement of the office materials have been initiated and will be completed soon with the coordination UNDP CO Procurement Unit.

On the other hand, procurement of the operational materials is planned after the establishment of the project team to ensure that the relevant persons get the training.

For MRE materials, discussions are ongoing between TURMAC and UNDP and a brainstorming meeting is planned for this week to produce creative items and designs. Production will be started once the designs are decided by TURMAC and UNDP and cleared by the European Union.

### ***Launch Event***

For the 4<sup>th</sup> April Mine Awareness Day and Launch Event, it is not possible to hold physical events due to Covid-19 restrictions and for this reason, it is planned to organize an online event to cover the Launch and Mine Action Day events.

### ***Challenges***

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there could be some challenges during mobilization, recruitment, employment and transportation of the contractors. In Phase 1 and Phase 2, we had the support of the ministries and the Directorate General of Customs Enforcement, and we hope that we will overcome these challenges with the support of the parties.

## **3- Questions and Answers**

### **Question 1**

*TURMAC*

The calendar shows that the Clearance and QMC operations will start in the first week of June 2021 and NTS operations will start in 1<sup>st</sup> week of May 2021. Is this correct?

*UNDP*

It is correct. As the contracts are big, all 3 tenders underwent the approval of the ACP, which took long time. Everything is clear now and it is planned to sign the contracts until mid-March at the latest, if no challenges are faced.

### **Question 2**

*TURMAC*

A few minefields in Tendürek have been cleared by JÖMAT (Gendarmerie Special Mine Clearance Teams) and ÖMAT (Special Mine Clearance Teams) teams due to the arising needs. Will it be possible to substitute these minefields with the addenda during the implementation period?

*UNDP*

During the Operational Work Group meetings after signing the contract, it will be possible to evaluate and substitute the minefields as it was the case in Phase 1 and Phase 2.

### **Question 3**

*EUD*

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Is it possible to organize a visit to the site at the beginning of the operations in June with participation of the Head of the European Union Delegation?

*UNDP*

UNDP will organize the event.

**Question 4**

*EUD*

Is there any reason for not mentioning about Component 2 - Capacity Building of TURMAC in the presentation?

*UNDP*

There is an ongoing planning now for the capacity building activities yet. The related activities are planned to be designed and delivered in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2022. The discussion with the TURMAC will be started soon for this planning.

*EUD*

As the project period is short, this activity should be planned as soon as possible.

**Question 5**

*EUD*

For Component 3 – Mine Risk Education, 900 villages were referred in the presentation. This number is not compliant with the Description of Action.

*UNDP*

The total number of the villages where MRE sessions will be delivered is 900 and 14 sessions will be held under the scope of the project. Other sessions will be delivered by the Gendarmerie teams and TURMAC staff and these sessions will not be conducted by the EU or Government funds through UNDP, however MRE materials will be provided for those sessions in the scope of this project.

*EUD*

We propose following the Description of Action and Action Document in forming the structure of next Steering Committee meetings.

**Question 6**

*EUD*

We propose including the statistics on gender disaggregation of the participants of the trainings, workshops and other activities when organizing and implementing the related activities.

*UNDP*

Gender disaggregation is UNDP's corporate strategy and we always try to be gender sensitive for the participants of the events. In addition, we will measure the impact of the work on men and women. The impact of the work will be measured with gender disaggregated data and during the impact assessment we will ensure to include especially the vulnerable groups of women. The impact created, which is more important than the numbers, will be covered and this will be included in the inception report to indicate the strategy of the project. Along with the gender aggregated data, age aggregated data will also be reported.

*EUD*



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Regarding the extension of Ottawa Convention, TURMAC mentioned about the request to be made according to the results of the NTS. What is the approximate idea of the years for the extension?

TURMAC

Discussion have been made with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on this subject. An extension of 3 years will be requested and, as the NTS will be completed within 24 months, another extension with exact years will be in question after the 3 years depending on the NTS results and this will be the last extension request.

#### **4- Closing**

UNDP closed the meeting emphasising the importance of close cooperation and negotiations and proposed monthly or bimonthly management or coordination meetings.