

Mine Action Area of Responsibility Ethiopia



Newsletter October 2024

Mine Action in Ethiopia in 2024

Equipped for a better future

Training Ethiopian Mine Action staff on Information Management applications as part of capacity building of the national Mine Action Authorities - Sena Getahun (iMMAP Inc Ethiopia)

In a collaborative effort to strengthen Information Management capabilities of the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO), iMMAP Inc. partnered with UNMAS to train staff of the national authority on basic computer skills and on advanced Excel, aiming to provide participants with essential knowledge and skills in computer literacy and in advanced data management.

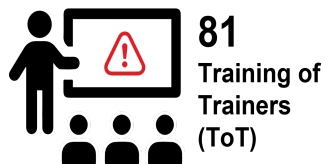
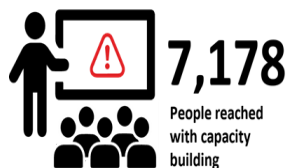
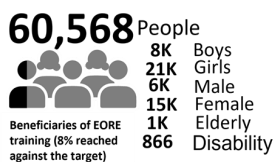


An EMAO course participant during one of the joint UNMAS - iMMAP IM training sessions, Addis Ababa, July 2024.

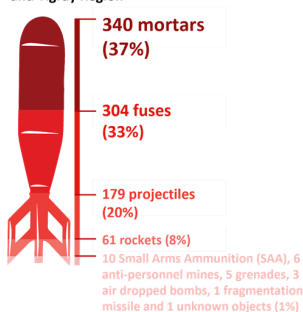
During the first training, held from 5 to 7 August 2024, and focusing on basic computer skills, 15 EMAO staff members got to better understand key MS Office applications such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Participants engaged in practical exercises to enhance their abilities to create documents, manage presentations, and perform essential data operations, setting the stage for improved productivity and efficiency within EMAO.

The second training on Advanced Excel took place from 17 to 19 September 2024, offering senior and technical personnel the opportunity to familiarize with advanced data analysis techniques, while exploring Excel functionalities such as pivot tables, conditional formatting, and dashboard creation.

Capacity building of the EMAO is essential to improve data and information management while facilitating a better coordination of mine action interventions in the country. Thanks to the training sessions, EMAO staff are now better equipped to tackle data management challenges, leading to an improved operational efficiency, ensuring a lasting positive impact on overall effectiveness.



Type of explosive ordnance found in Afar and Tigray Region



In the picture



Survivors of Explosive Ordnance, supported by SRaRO, purchasing teff grain for preparation of injera to sell to provide income, SRaRO, Bishoftu - Ethiopia, August 2024.

Based on data from UNICEF's 2018 survey, it is estimated that 7.8 million people in Ethiopia are living with some form of disability, which is approximately 9.3 % of the country's total population. **Survivors Recovery and Rehabilitation Organization (SRaRO)** is a national member of the Mine Action AoR in Ethiopia that emerged after the US based Landmine Survivors Network (LSN) stopped operations in Ethiopia. SRaRO provides support to victims of, among other, Explosive Ordnance and Landmines, and partners with national institutions and international organizations such as the International Campaign to Ban Landmines & Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC) to advocate for the rights of victims affected by EO in Ethiopia. In November, SRaRO will also launch the landmine monitor regarding the reports on Ethiopia in November 2024.

Concerns on land contamination in potential areas of return

Key findings from a Durable Solutions assessment - Laura Kivelä (DRC)

In May 2024, Danish Refugee Council consulted displacement affected populations to understand their perceptions and priorities related to durable solutions in the Northwestern and Central zones of Tigray (Shire, Sheraro, Selekleka, and Adiet). The study shows that safety remains a major concern for a vast majority of IDPs who fear the presence of armed groups and contamination with explosive ordnance in their areas of origin. Unless those prerequisites are addressed, IDPs expressed being unable to make concrete plans for viable return.

Humanitarian and development agencies, along with government authorities, must ensure that mine action is meaningfully integrated into durable solutions plans. Areas with a high number of potential returnees, such as North West zone and Adiet area, should be prioritized for mine clearance, ensuring these locations are free from unexploded devices before returns are facilitated. Risk education, comprehensive mapping of contaminated areas, and subsequent land release, will minimize risks to the well-being and physical integrity of returnees and host communities, and ensure safe access to community infrastructure and basic services, including schools, homes, farms, and roads.

Unless those prerequisites are addressed, and returnees and host communities have access to essential services such as protection, shelter, food, and healthcare, any durable solutions plan will fail to meet international standards. Close coordination between local authorities, humanitarian organizations, and mine action actors is key to ensuring long-term peace and security for communities affected by conflict.

"I am eager to return to my place of origin. But, if the security situation does not improve to what it was before the war, I don't want to return. Because I do not want to see myself living in a conflict area."

Woman IDP - Shire

Scan the QR-code and become a member of the MA AoR in Ethiopia



Contributing to the next edition?
Contact the MA AoR coordinator.

