

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (UN VTF) is an inter-agency mechanism established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1994 (A/RES/49/215).

The purpose of the UN VTF is to support a coherent multilateral humanitarian response to risks posed by mines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions as well as by other conventional explosive hazards, such as unsafe munition stockpiles and improvised explosive devices. The UN VTF is also intended to be used as the United Nations “one stop shop” to support emergencies and other activities in situations where funding is not immediately available. As such, the UN VTF complements other funding mechanisms.

Management and Governance of the UN VTF

Under the authority and with overall oversight of the United Nations Secretariat Controller, the Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has been entrusted with the management of the UN VTF on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General. The United Nations Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts is also mandated to provide UNMAS with relevant advisory support.

The UN VTF is governed by the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules, as promulgated by Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2013/4 dated 1 July 2013, as well as by ST/SGB/188 on the “Establishment and Management of Trust Funds” and ST/AI/284 on “General Trust Funds”.

Programme support costs amount to three percent. Should recipients of UN VTF funds, including implementing partners, decide to charge associated programme support costs the total costs shall not exceed the thirteen percent ceiling established by the United Nations General Assembly.

Transparency and Accountability

Donor contributions are formalized through agreements signed by the United Nations Secretariat Controller and recorded in the United Nations Integrated Management Information System. Income and expenditure are subject to United Nations financial reports, certified by the United Nations Secretariat Accounts Division and sent to donors. Starting in 2014, the Division will publish



Disposing of unexploded ordnance in Somalia.
UN Photo/Tobin Jones

annually, instead of biennially, audited financial statements of UN VTF income and expenditures. This information is also reflected in UNMAS Annual Reports together with programmatic achievements. Interim reports as well as additional reports may be submitted as specified in contribution agreements. UNMAS is a member of the International Aid Transparency Initiative through the United Nations Office for Project Services.

Donors can contribute earmarked and/or un-earmarked funding to the UN VTF. Such contributions shall comply with the UN VTF Terms of Reference and correspond to mandated activities.

Un-earmarked contributions are essential to ensure effective responses to emergencies as well as to the overall support of UNMAS in its mandated coordinating role. As in the case of earmarked contributions, the allocation of such contributions is subject to a rigorous consultation process with donors.

The UN VTF is subject to United Nations internal and external audit and oversight mechanisms through the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services and the United Nations Board of External Auditors elected by Member States.

Contributors

The UN VTF is open to voluntary contributions of Governments, organizations and individuals.

Trust in the Fund

More than sixty United Nations Member States and observers together with other public and private donors have contributed to the UN VTF to support assistance in mine action in dozens of countries and territories. Year after year, in resolutions adopted by consensus, the United Nations General Assembly has encouraged the use of the UN VTF.