



## The Executive Secretariat for the Demining and Development of the North West Coast

### Workshop on: “The Role of Female in Mine Action”

18 May 2016

Matrouh City

#### OBJECTIVES OF WORKSHOP

The significant role of women in the society is undeniable as they are key players in the growth and development of communities and they play a huge role in the field of mine action. Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs) are deadly weapons which kill and injure anyone who approaches them. These weapons pose a threat to the local community in Marsa Matruh and act as obstacles to the growth and development of the region. The role of women comes into place as they not only educate their family and protect them from the grave danger of these weapons, but they also help the community in the fight against them through their active participation in efforts to confront this danger. In this sense, the Executive Secretariat, with the support of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), conducted a workshop in order to discuss the role of women in the field of mine action and the contribution of the Executive Secretariat in this role. The Objectives of the workshop were:

- Definition of the functions and activities of the Executive Secretariat;
- Awareness of the dangers of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs);
- Round table discussion on the role of women in the field of Mine Action; and
- Round table discussion of the Executive Secretariat in promoting this role.

#### BRIEF SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP

The workshop was conducted over a time span of one day. It consisted of a number of sessions aiming at raising the attendees' awareness on the mine problem in the North West Coast and the mine action measures taken and needed to counter this problem. The participants were formed of 31 females from different community sects in Matrouh including teachers, nurses, radio broadcasters and specialists from the ministry of social solidarity, ministry of agriculture and ministry of youth and sports. The workshop also include female mine victims and females in the families of mine victims.

The sessions comprised of a number of interactive activities and discussions to raise the awareness of the participants and engage them in drafting policies and practices for better integration of local communities,



and women in particular, in the strategies put forward to solve the mine problem in their surroundings. The sessions went as follows:

### Session 1:

The day began with opening remarks provided by the Executive Secretariat's director emphasizing the significant role of women in general, and in the mine action activities in specific. He also elaborated the significance of this role in the different sectors of the community and thanked the participants for their willingness to transfer their engagement into new domains such as mine action. He then asked the participants to stand for a minute to the deminers who have lost their lives for the greater cause of clearing the Egyptian lands of the deadly landmines and ERWs.

### Session 2

The opening session was followed by an introductory session given by the Mine Risk Education (MRE) field officer explaining the mine problem in the NWC, the measures taken to counter the problem, the mine action activities including; demining, development, MRE, Victim Assistance (VA) and Advocacy, and how each of them is carried out.

### Session 3

This session included a number of presentations conducted by the participants themselves to demonstrate their role in mine action thus far and how to further enrich this role. Three presentations were carried out by a representative from the Rural Female Leaders, teachers and civil society member who is also a poet.

The Rural Female Leader representative gave a presentation on their participation in the MRE activities to deliver session for raising awareness of local communities in villages, small towns and households where only women can have access to these places due to tribal limitations.

A teacher gave a presentation on the spreading of awareness through the educational system, this was done through the provision of TOT sessions that fully acquainted teachers with MRE knowledge to pass it on to school pupils.

Among the distinguished guests was a prominent graduate who had won a number of prizes and has won first place in the national scientific research award. She performed a poem she had written about living in a community affected by landmines and ERWs. The poem showed the gravity of the problem and comprehensively touched the audience.

### Session 4

The participants were divided into groups of five or six participants, where they had to discuss the following questions and present the answers to the whole audience:

1. How do you find the current mine action activities?
2. How do you find the MRE material?
3. What are your suggestions to improve mine victim assistance?
4. Are you affected by the awareness messages transmitted through different media channels?



5. What are your suggestions with regards to the required activities (workshops, sessions...etc) for the most in need for mine awareness?
6. What are your suggestions for development projects in the region and how to link them with mine action?
7. What are the challenges you are facing in mine action?

The discussions were quite vibrant and engaged the whole audience. The exercise deemed very successful and the participants were able to share their thoughts effectively and benefit from each other's experiences. The Executive Secretariat's team got the chance to respond to all the queries, discussion points and misconceptions of the audience in their domains respectively. A number of recommendations and suggestions resulted from this activity as presented in the following section.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKSHOP

1. To create a Facebook page with all the participants to the workshop to follow up on the mine action activities and ensure the inclusion of females in them.
2. Help with the marketing of products developed by females of mine victims.
3. Provide mine victims with regular membership to hospitals, clinics and laboratories.
4. MRE Material should represent the environment and traditions of Marsa Matrouh.
5. The provision of Psychological rehabilitation to mine victims and their families
6. Looking into the cases of mine victims distinctively and providing assistance according to the needs of each case and not as collective assistance.
7. Assuring that MRE material do not have a reverse effect on children by motivating them to further explore the desert and its mysteries.
8. The provision of a healthcare unit specialized for mine victim needs.
9. The provision of MRE sessions to the officials of the government and seeking their assistance in spreading awareness.
10. Focus on statistics and field surveys that reflect the real scale of the mine problem in Matrouh and its impact.
11. Spreading the issue through different media channels with different languages. This will create awareness not only on the local level, but also internationally.
12. Seeking the assistance of science graduates, geologists and chemists...etc. to conduct field surveys for the Executive Secretariat
13. The engagement of females from the civil society and charity providers in the activities of mine action by offering them programs where they can help.
14. Having similar workshops at least twice per year.
15. Assisting mine victims in producing their official papers to be able to get benefits.



## PARTICIPANTS LIST

| No. | Name                       | Position   | Organisation                               |
|-----|----------------------------|--|--|
| 1   | Fatma Abdel Hakem          | Head of Specialists                                    | Agriculture Directorate                    |
| 2   | Hala Mohamed ElSayed       | Head of Specialists                                    | Agriculture Directorate                    |
| 3   | Ghada Abdullah Ragheb      | Journalist   | Al Wafd – Matrouh Lana                     |
| 4   | Soad Salama Mahmoud        | Social Upbringing Officer                              | Education Directorate                      |
| 5   | Samira Mostafa Salem       | House Wife   | Female Affairs Officer in Youth Localities |
| 6   | Hanan El Sayed Hasan       | Head of Health Specialists                             | Health Affairs Directorate                 |
| 7   | Iman Ibrahim Abdullah      | Nursing Auditor  | Health Affairs Directorate                 |
| 8   | Shahinaz Farouk Ahmed      | Head of Rural Female Leaders                           | Health Sector                              |
| 9   | Najia Saad Mohamed         | Wife of Mine Victim                                    | Kiosk Owner                                |
| 10  | Mervat Fathi Ibrahim       | Development Specialist                                 | Matrouh Governorate                        |
| 11  | Amira AboulHaggag Hasan    | Researcher   | Matrouh Governorate                        |
| 12  | Iman Lamloom Hassan        | Media Officer  | Matrouh Media Center                       |
| 13  | Nariman Borek Saa          | Anchor   | Matrouh Radio Broadcast                    |
| 14  | Wafaa Mohamed Aly          | Officer  | Matrouh Radio Broadcast                    |
| 15  | Manam Saad Nayrouz         | Radio Broadcast Program Officer                        | Matrouh Radio Broadcast                    |
| 16  | Tahany Hasan Aly           | Supervisor of Radio Officers                           | Matrouh Radio Broadcast                    |
| 17  | Nagah Abdel Saleeb         | Supervisor of Radio Presenters                         | Matrouh Radio Broadcast                    |
| 18  | Dawlat Saad Kamal          | Head of Compensation Division                          | Matrouh Social Department                  |
| 19  | Salama Abdel Rahman        | Head of Matrouh Unit                                   | Matrouh Social Department                  |
| 20  | Zainab Ismail El-Sherif    | Member   | Muslim Girls Association                   |
| 21  | Safinaz Anwar Ibrahim      | Head   | Nile Media Center                          |
| 22  | Kholoud Refaat Hamed       | Member of Muslim Girls Association                     | Nile Media Center                          |
| 23  | Fatma Aly                  | Daughter of Mine Victim                                | Sewing Machine Owner                       |
| 24  | El Sayeda Abdel Hameed     | Officer of Female Affairs                              | Social Affairs Directorate                 |
| 25  | Entesar Raf-Allah Abdullah | Female Development Officer in Ras El Hekma and Matrouh | Sustainable Resource Development Org.      |
| 26  | Awatef Raf-Allah           | Illiteracy Teacher                                     | Sustainable Resource Development Org.      |
| 27  | Amira Mounir Zaki          | Legal Specialist                                       | Youth and Sports Directorate               |
| 28  | Salwa Fawzy Reyada         | Officer  | Youth and Sports Directorate               |
| 29  | Iman Nasr ElDeen           | Ambassador of Matrouh for Scientific Research          |  |
| 30  | Atared Mohamed Zayed       | Business Owner   |  |
| 31  | Ghalia Mohamed AbdelMawla  | Mine Victim  |  |