



Croatia
2nd April 2025

Clearing the Path: Mine Action Challenges in Ukraine

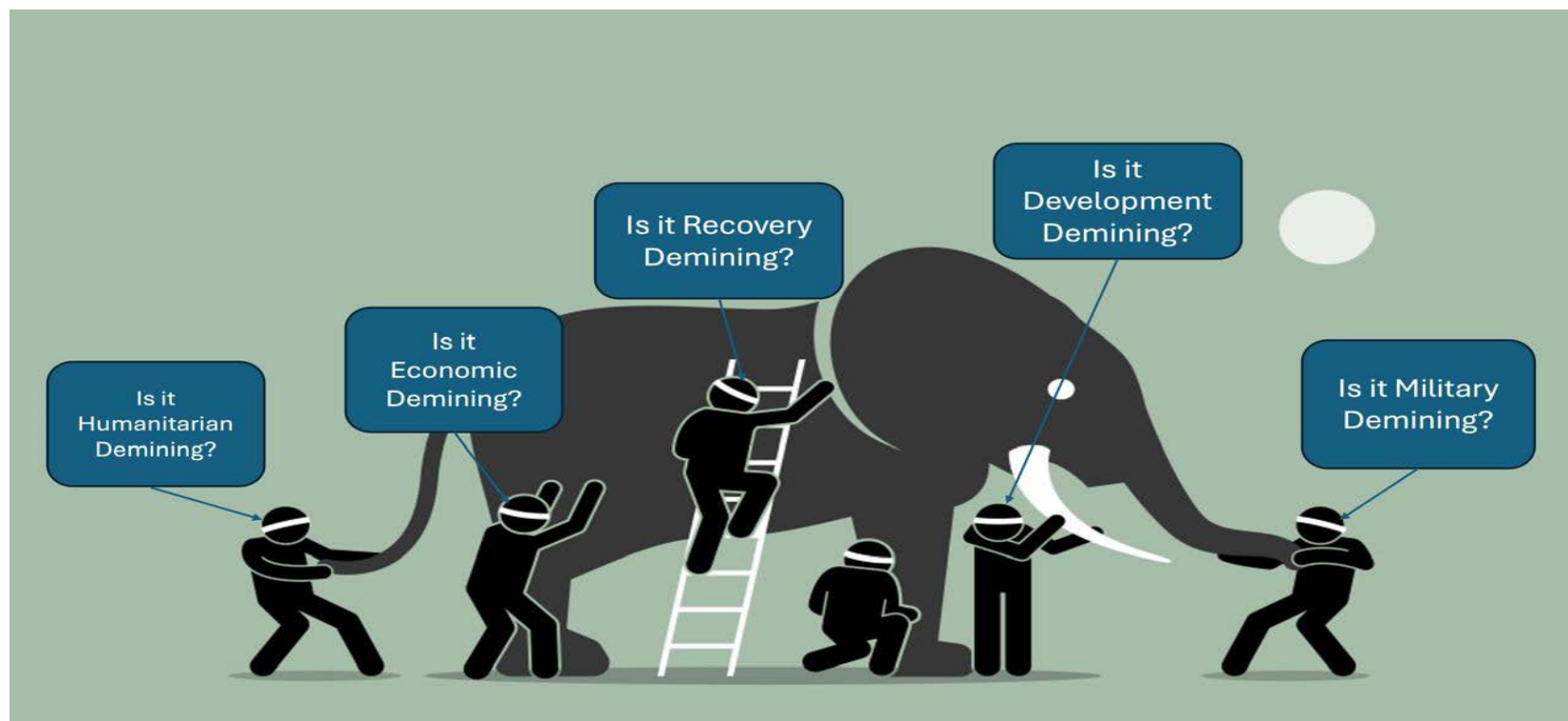
Paul Heslop
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“Contaminated land is not just dangerous—it’s land lost to hope, recovery, and livelihood.”

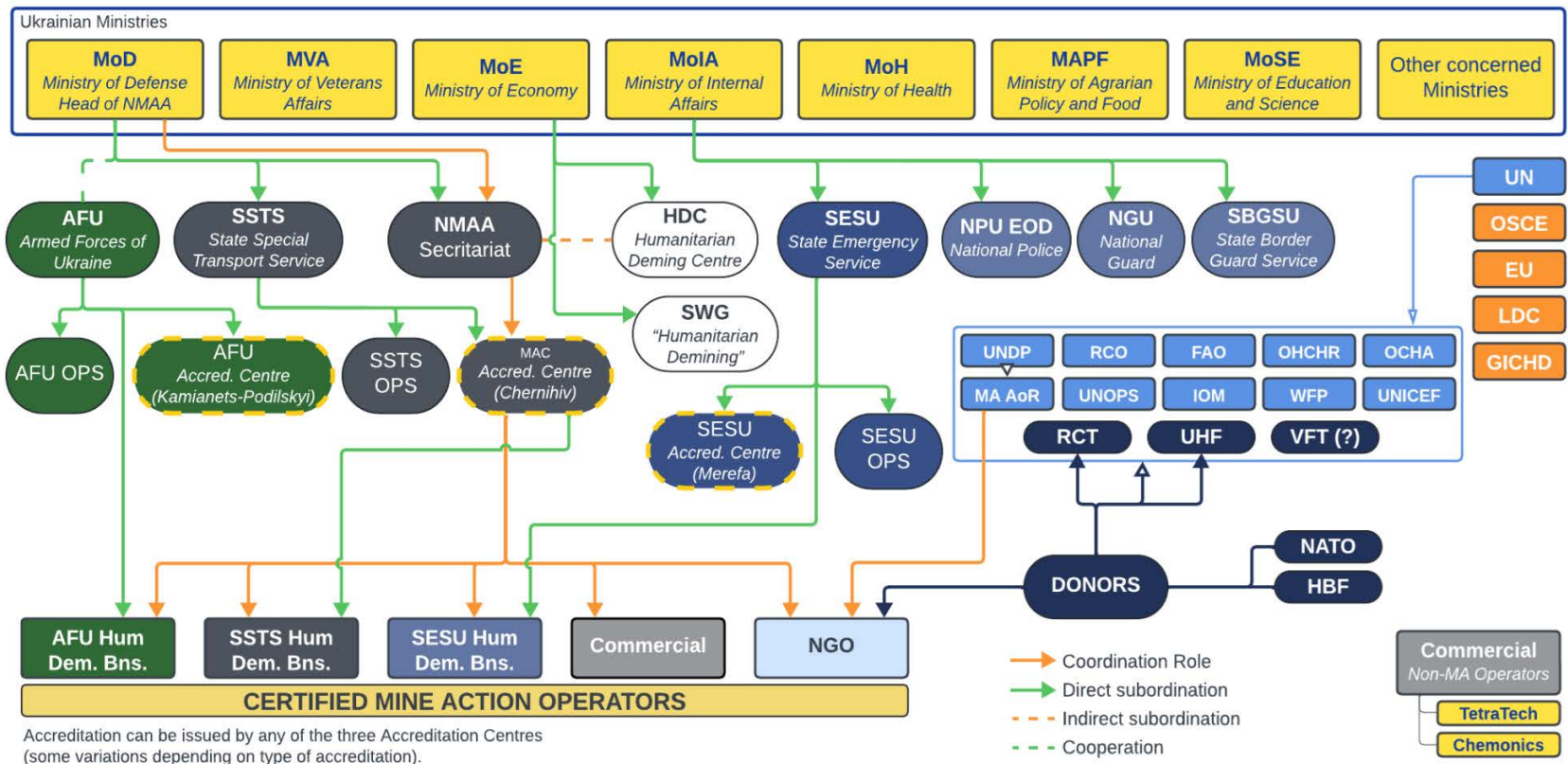
Crux of the problem!

How do we solve a humanitarian and economic problem created by mines and UXO in an environment where traditional donor funding is decreasing without creating crippling or unnecessary national debt for this and current future generations of Ukraine?

What is Demining in Ukraine



Mapping Mine Action Stakeholders in Ukraine

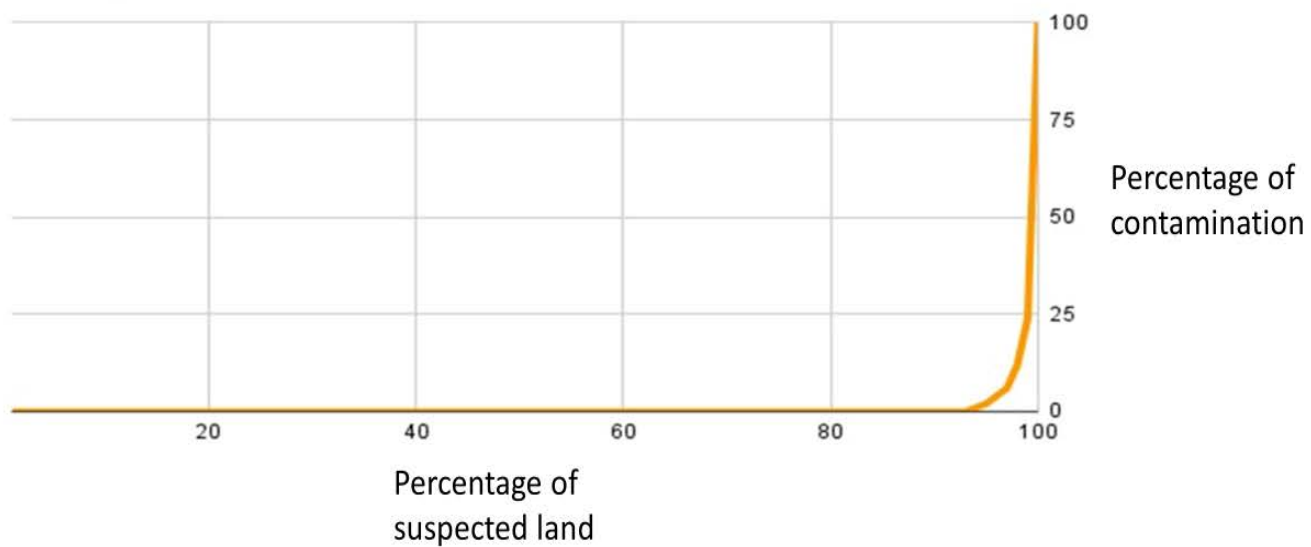


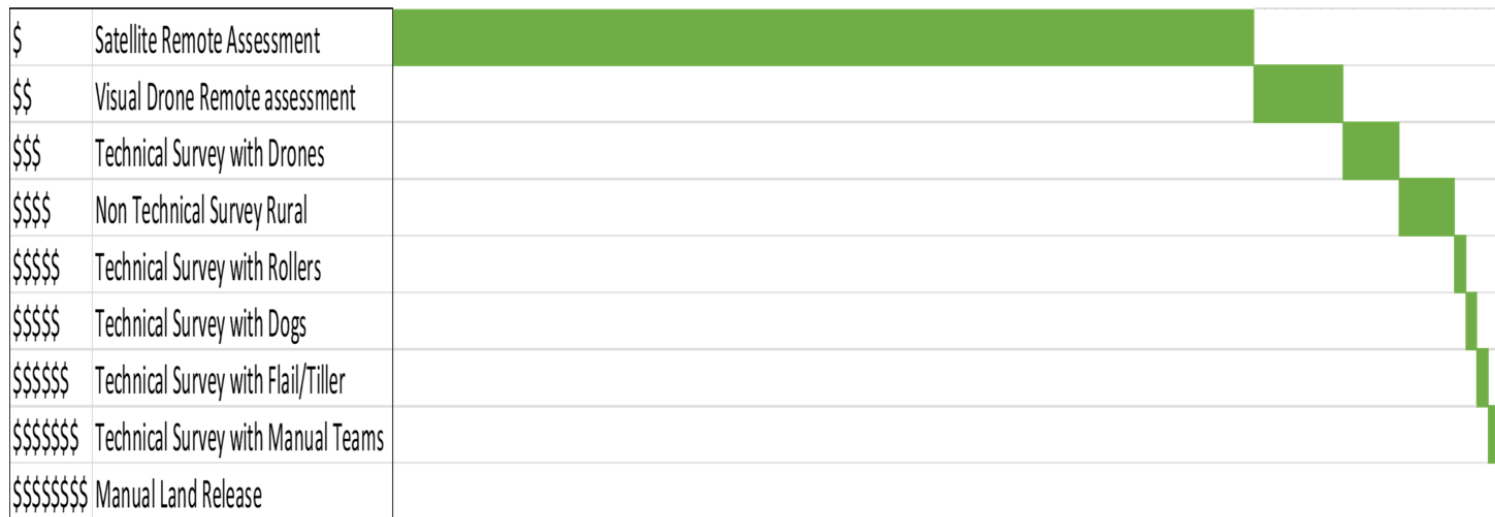


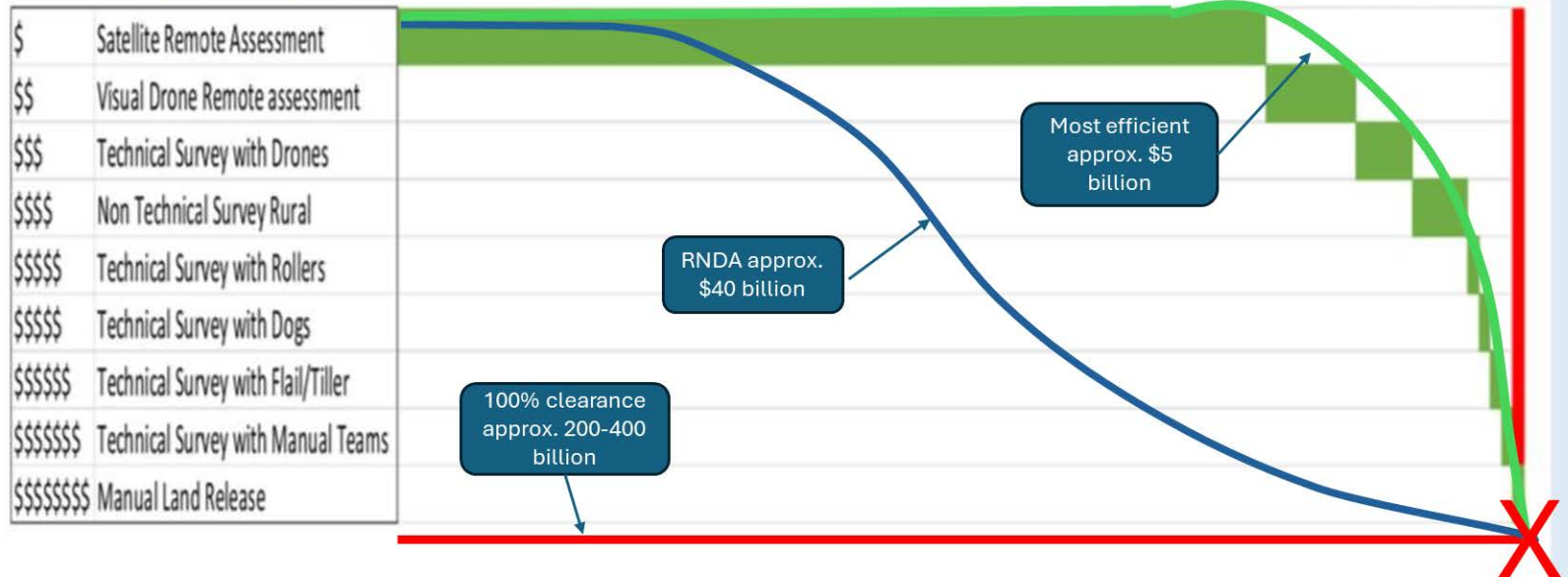
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Density of Contamination







Summary of Challenges

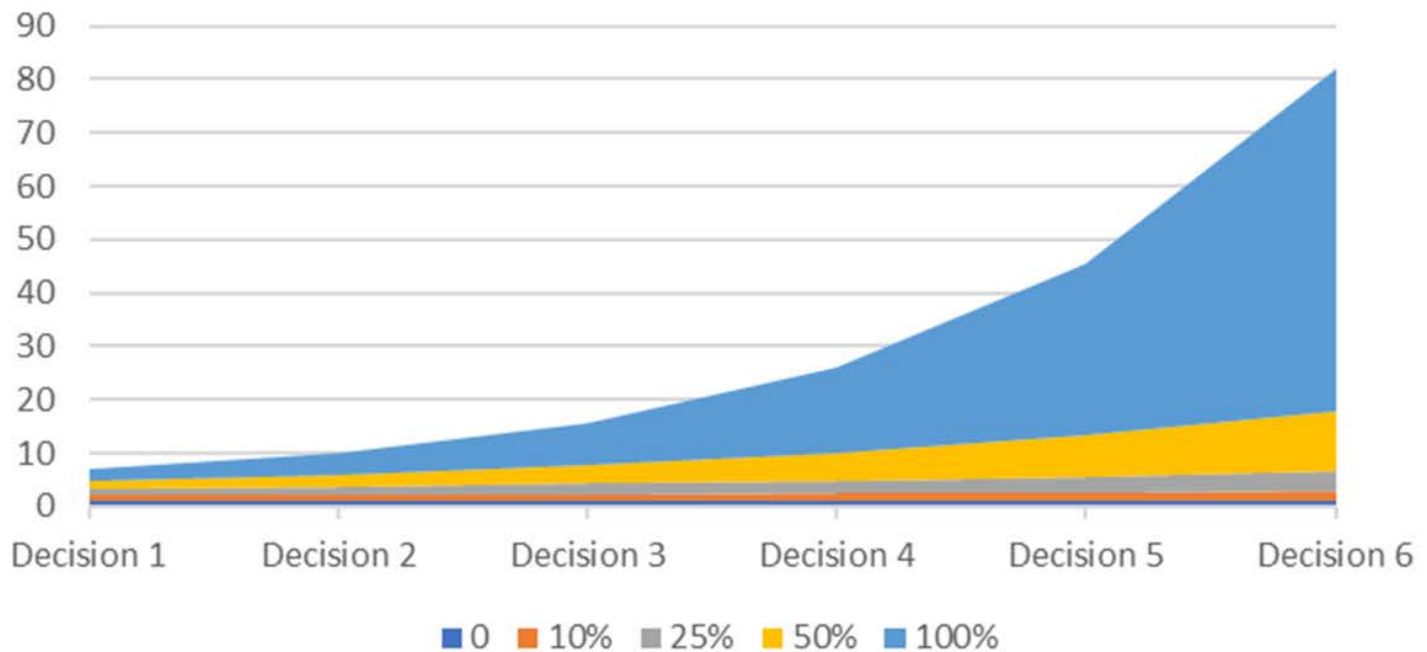
1. Massive contamination both real and perceived
2. Incomplete data (more NTS needed)
3. Duplicating and Conflicting systems
4. Human Capacity shortages
5. Differences between national and international norms, standards, & best practices!
6. Coordination issues
7. Weak QA/M&E
8. Funding gaps
9. Adoption & deployment of New Technology
10. Donor Fragmentation, gaps, duplication

Why It Matters

- One of the most mine-contaminated countries
- Over 130,000 km² suspected contamination
- Affects communities, agriculture, economy, safety across Ukraine

How do we ensure the investment made to date continues to deliver results and can it be further enhanced?

Cumulative deterioration with cascaded poor decisions
Each layer does not Add, but Multiplies the inefficiency



What has gone well in past 12 months:

- Government Ownership
- SWG leads the sector
- National Strategy adopted
- Huge Resources provided by donors
- Increased national capacities of SESU, SSTS, Police EOD
- More coherence in the sector
- Adoption of “no evidence of mines” leading to 30,000+ sq km no longer being suspected
- Adoption of new technologies
- “built in Ukraine” initiative
- Close to achieving data integration
- Increased use of NTS
- Dog for land release and machines being accredited
- National budget allocated for mine action
- Compensation schemes being explored
- Exploring innovative financing options
- Development of Concept notes to fill capacity gaps – funding is still required!

Where there are still challenges

- National standards still need to be updated and adopted
- Lack of scale of capacity to meet the needs of the sector, particularly for QM, QC and tasking (most programmes QA 5-10% of budget in Ukraine under 1% currently spent on QA/QM)
- NMAC need more support
- Backlog of requests to be proceeded
- Data still not fully integrated
- More support to national and regional coordination needed
- Flexibility on tasking and task amendments
- Lack of transparency over allocation of donated equipment
- Lack of logistics capacity to support equipment donations and keep them operational
- Coherence across the sector
- Shortage of human capital
- Terminology and differences between operational demining and demining to international standards. And a understanding of military demining, non military demining, economic demining, humanitarian demining, recovery demining and development demining

How can the UN assist Ukraine in Mine Action:

- Supporting implementation of National Strategy
- Support cohesion across the sector
- Revision of National Standards
- Development and Provision of Technical expertise particularly on Skills and Equipment needed
- Development of Train the Trainer training packages
- Development of Risk management approach with regard to the management and mitigation of explosive hazards
- Support effective Quality Management Processes
- Improve quality and relevance of requests for support – context driven concept notes
- Improved Information management and data integration for allocation of resources, prioritization and measurement of impact.
- Reduce bureaucracy and identify conflicting legislation
- Make recommendations to increase efficiency across the sector
- Support logistics for mine action capacity in country
- Support the creation of mine action service market place
- Support the development of innovative finance mechanisms

Coherence/Prioritization/Improved Efficiencies/Resource Management



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