**EXPERIENCE OF POST-WAR ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF THE TERRITORIES IN TERMS OF DEMINING:**

**ABYEI AND AFGHANISTAN CASES**

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In the context of globalization challenges, which are further exacerbated by the negative impact of armed conflicts worldwide, several dozen international organizations and foundations are engaged in mine action and assistance. Among these, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), The HALO TRUST International Trust Fund and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) are among the largest and most influential in the world. The implementation of their projects and programs in the field of mine action makes a significant contribution to the security foundation of the respective countries and the world. However, the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine for the third year in a row demonstrates the necessity to shift the focus to the restoration of the socio-economic potential of the affected territories, which should be combined with mine action.

It is evident that the representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine are correct in their assertion that demining, particularly the humanitarian demining of territories, represents the initial phase of the restoration process from a social and economic perspective. Indeed, the clearance of de-occupied territories of mines and other explosive devices, coupled with the provision of appropriate security guarantees, facilitates the planning of targeted actions and measures aimed at reviving the territories and the country as a whole.

In this context, scientific research related to the analysis of cases of demining in different countries of the world is becoming increasingly important. It is crucial to highlight the role of this process in restoring the economy of the territory, which serves as the foundation for ensuring the well-being of the population. To illustrate, in 2022, UNMAS financed 21 demining projects, which resulted in the destruction or deactivation of 109,976 explosive devices, including 5,970 landmines; confirmed the safety of 159 km² of land and 8,468 km of roads; and constructed one storage facility for weapons and ammunition [1]. Furthermore, the service provided operational technical assistance to Ukraine in 2022 as part of a comprehensive Russian military incursion. One of the principal cases implemented with the assistance of this donor in 2022 was the promotion of economic recovery, exemplified by the cases of Abyei and Afghanistan.

Abyei (10,460 km²) is an oil-rich territory that is jointly administered by South Sudan and Sudan, which have competing claims to it. The area was accorded "special administrative status" under the Protocol on the Settlement of the Conflict (Abyei Protocol, January 2005) as part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that brought an end to the Second Sudanese Civil War. The demining of the Abyei area in 2022 enabled the voluntary return of over 1,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their communities and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The provision of explosive ordnance awareness training to civilian personnel, UN police and liaison officers contributed to the fulfilment of the mission's mandate to protect civilians. The late 2022 rainy season resulted in significant flooding in the Abyei area, which had a detrimental impact on demining operations and the restoration of normalcy in the region. The primary logistical routes were rendered inaccessible for a period exceeding five months, IDPs encountered difficulties in locating dry locations for settlement, and livestock farmers were compelled to seek out dry pastures and clean water sources [1]. Considering these circumstances, UNMAS established new sites in arid regions and conducted mine clearance operations in six areas that remained unaffected by the flooding. This enabled the advancement of plans to utilize these areas for agricultural activities, thereby reinforcing Abyei's capacity to ensure food security.

Since 1978, Afghanistan has been engaged in a series of active armed conflicts, with one of the most protracted and challenging periods occurring between 2001 and 2021, known as the "War in Afghanistan." However, following the conclusion of hostilities on 15 August 2021, the Taliban proceeded to assume control of the Afghan government, marking the resumption of military operations. The continued presence of explosive remnants of war has resulted in the maiming and killing of innocent civilians, the impeding of humanitarian response, and the blocking of Afghans' access to basic services and livelihoods. It would be premature to consider the restoration of this territory's potential until active hostilities have ceased in all areas. The ongoing conflict is accompanied by significant political, economic and humanitarian challenges. Political changes in the country have resulted in increased food insecurity and unemployment, the destruction of the healthcare and education systems, and a crisis of women's and girls' rights. Conversely, despite the challenging circumstances, several developments occurred in 2022 that have contributed to the fragmentation of support for socio-economic processes within the country. One particularly noteworthy example is the discovery of a minefield on a plot of land in Kandahar, where a warehouse was scheduled to be constructed. The UNMAS demining team conducted ground and underground demining operations, including mechanical demining, and subsequently provided confirmation of the safety of the territory. Consequently, the UN World Food Program was able to extend its operations in Kandahar, augmenting the quantity of food and agricultural assistance in response to the intensifying humanitarian crisis.

The results of the analysis of these cases in the field of demining and restoration of the socio-economic potential of territories in the post-conflict period demonstrated that the provisions were successfully implemented. This was due to the relevance of the objectives of the documents for the stakeholders of this process. The implementation of such instruments has the potential to facilitate positive changes within the country, even in challenging circumstances where active hostilities are ongoing. This is demonstrated by the case of Afghanistan, where the emphasis on ensuring physical safety for users and restoring the economic and social potential of cleared land plots has been crucial in enhancing positive changes within the country. Further argumentation is required in the future to support the study of data and other cases, as this can inform the development of proposals and recommendations for Ukrainian regions and territorial communities to restore their potential in the post-war economic transformation.

**References**

1. UNMAS Annual Report 2022. UNMAS. URL: <https://www.unmas.org/en/unmas-annual-report-2022-1> (дата звернення 07.09.2024)