



## **Landmines & Livelihoods in Yemen**

Yemen has undertaken a number of ‘firsts’ in mine action, including the first Landmine Impact Survey and, now, the first survey to provide a more detailed understanding of both the harm done by landmines and the benefits of demining for the livelihoods of people in mine affected communities.

With funding from the UK Department for International Development (DfID), the GICHD and the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) recruited livelihoods consultants from the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) of Greenwich University to lead a survey of 25 communities that have been cleared of landmines. The objectives of the study were to:

1. Assess the overall socio-economic returns from mine clearance investments
2. Make a preliminary assessment of complementary development initiatives for mine-affected communities.
3. Enhance the capacity of YEMAC to:
  - a. Conduct future assessments of socio-economic benefits from mine action
  - b. Assess the community Landmine Impact Scores as a tool for identifying impact and determining priorities for action
  - c. Advise on how to design and conduct on-going socio-economic surveys
  - d. Advise on integrating social differentiation (e.g. men/women, poor/non-poor) within Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) survey protocols
  - e. Advise on enhancements to YEMAC’s Monitoring and Evaluation system

The survey was completed in early June and the report is now being finalised. Among the findings were:

- demining has greatly enhanced security – no landmine accidents have occurred in any of the communities since demining, compared to 27 recent victims reported in the LIS for those communities, but...
- some members in a number of communities remain concerned about the safety of the previously mined areas – in many cases, this is because of blocks to communication within the communities (e.g. women may not be informed by village leaders)

- even in narrow economic terms, demining has paid substantial dividends – the economic benefits almost certainly exceed the costs of demining by a wide margin, but...
- in many cases, best use is not being made of the land released by demining because of uncertainty over land rights and ownership or the absence of complementary development investments (e.g. to restore water management systems).

The findings and recommendations from the report will be discussed at a Stakeholders Workshop in November. At that workshop, YEMAC, GICHD, and NRI will try to secure the commitment of development agencies to assist with the complementary investments needed to fully capitalise on the opportunities created by demining.

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