



ENSURING MINE ACTION PROMOTES DEVELOPMENT: RECENT GICHD WORKSHOPS

The Evaluation and Policy Research Section of the GICHD experienced a busy start to 2009, with two workshops in South East Asia:

- > Evaluating Mine Action, was organised in collaboration with the International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET)¹ in Bangkok from 2-6 March
- > Ensuring Mine Action Promotes Development: Priority-Setting and Pre/Post-Clearance Assessment, co-organised with the Lao National Regulatory Authority (NRA) and the UNDP in Vientiane from the 11-13 March.

Both workshops shared a common theme – the importance of ensuring mine action results in developmental outcomes.

Evaluating Mine Action Workshop: Improving the quality of mine action evaluations

The GICHD's evaluation Program section has two main goals. Firstly, to improve the quality of mine action evaluations. One way to achieve this goal is to improve the design of projects and incorporate a developmental perspective. Secondly, to promote recipient ownership of evaluations by having, for example, national authorities commission evaluations on their own or in conjunction with key donors.



One of the sessions of the evaluating Mine Action workshop

The purpose of this workshop was to:

- > Develop basic knowledge of evaluation concepts, processes and methods;
- > Assist mine action officials and practitioners in assuming enhanced roles in the evaluation function (e.g. commissioning, designing and/or conducting evaluations).

The workshop was part of an EC evaluation project intended for national mine action officials, representatives from local and international mine/ERW operators, as well as technical advisors/programme officers nominated by UN agencies. Approximately 25 people participated. Two IPDET trainers, Linda Imas-Morra and Ray Rist, delivered the training. Both have extensive experience as evaluators for the World Bank Group.

The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- > Enhance the capacity and confidence of national mine action officials to influence the mine action evaluation agenda in their countries
- > Equip managers with the skills required to design and implement monitoring and evaluation frameworks for mine action programmes
- > Enhance capacities of practitioners to serve as members of mine action evaluation teams
- > Develop a practitioners network for those involved in evaluating mine action.

¹ For more information on IPDET, see www.ipdet.org

The presentations, discussions and group work focused on the following issues:

- > Evaluating development programmes and special issues when evaluating mine action
- > Building a results-based monitoring and evaluation system
- > Understanding the evaluation context
- > Designing an evaluation (for commissioning organisations)
- > Implementation planning for an evaluation (evaluation teams)
- > Presenting results
- > Managing the evaluation function for quality & results.

The content of the workshop was comprehensive and for some topics, fairly academic. Participants appreciated that through IPDET they benefited from an internationally acknowledged non-mine-action actor feeding relevant information and general development aid practice into the mine action sector.

The workshop content will be revised in light of participants' feedback and replicated in other regions to develop local evaluation capacity. The next workshop will take place at the end of July in Central Asia and will be co-organised with the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance² (ITF). An African Regional workshop is planned for 2010.

Presentations from the Bangkok workshop are available on following [link](#):

Ensuring Mine Action Promotes Development: Priority Setting and Pre/Post Clearance Assessments

The main goal of GICHD's Linking Mine Action and Development (LMAD) programme is to ensure mine action promotes development in areas and communities contaminated by mines/ERW. Approximately 45 people participated representing national mine action authorities, national mine action centers, mine/ERW operators and development NGOs based in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Yemen.

The purpose of the workshop was to:

- > Discuss key issues and challenges in relation to setting priorities and conducting pre/post-clearance assessments
- > Share experiences and lessons learned, and agree good practice
- > Inform the development of short guides on these topics

Discussions focused on a wide range of issues. For example:

- > Agreeing common definitions and clarifying the relationships and differences between pre-clearance assessment, post-clearance assessment, project cycle management, quality management and results-based management

² For more information see <http://www.itf-fund.si/dokumenti/dokument.asp?id=2>

- > Priority-setting and resource allocation, preferences vs. priorities, criteria and indicators, role of key actors
- > Features of priority-setting systems in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Afghanistan and Vietnam and analysis of the key gaps
- > Key approaches and common challenges for pre-clearance assessment
- > How to connect pre and post clearance assessments + different PCA methodologies
- > How to present the developmental outcomes of mine action (demining/clearance, victim assistance, MRE), challenges and gaps



Lao Farmer victim of a landmine

Although the content of the workshop was comprehensive, participation remained high throughout and participant feedback was positive. It was clear that there is still some way to go in terms of strengthening capacity in these areas. The final session of the workshop looked at next steps, in particular GICHD's development of two practical guides on priority-setting and socio-economic survey. Participants welcomed the proposal to develop guides, although many suggested waiting until the guides were completed (to be published in 2010) before deciding whether new IMAS are needed.

For an in-depth summary of discussions and links to all presentations, please see the workshop report, available on following [link](#).

For more information on GICHD activities related to evaluations and LMAD, please contact Ginevra Cucinotta - Programme Officer, Development and Evaluation – at g.cucinotta@gichd.org.