



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Linking Mine Action and Development

Q. What does linking mine action and development (LMAD) mean?

A. Linking mine action and development simply means that mine action is aligned with broader development priorities and programmes at all levels – by official development cooperation agencies, UN agencies and development banks; by national and local governments in mine-affected states; by operators; and at the level of mine-affected countries. It is based on the recognition that landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) constrain post-conflict reconstruction and development.

Q. Why link mine action with development?

A. Landmine and ERW contamination are not just humanitarian concerns. Once a country emerges from conflict, the presence of landmines and UXO often continue to constrain post-conflict reconstruction and development. This makes it essential that mine action interventions are linked to longer term development planning and funding. Better coordination and linkages would result in:

- Greater benefits from mine action expenditures
- Lower costs for reconstruction and development projects in areas affected by contamination
- Avoiding 'doubly-damned' communities, as development agencies stop bypassing communities that are affected by contamination
- Enhanced capacities in mine-affected states to assume responsibility for their contamination problems
- Greater stability for mine action funding during in the peacebuilding, reconstruction and development phases in post-conflict countries

Q. Why isn't mine action already linked to development?

A. The tendency in the past has been for the mine action sector to operate in a stand alone manner because:

- Mine action has been focused more on clearing landmines and UXO safely and efficiently, as part of short-term emergency assistance. Responding to the needs and priorities of mine-affected communities started later;
- Mine action practitioners often have significant technical expertise but limited development knowledge and experience;
- Generous donor funding, earmarked for mine action, has inhibited mine-affected countries from integrating mine action into national development plans and budgets;
- Donors, multilateral agencies and development banks often lack the mechanisms to effectively coordinate mine action with their own development assistance programmes;
- There is a lack of practical recommendations and tools to guide mine action and development practitioners, governments, and donors on how to establish better linkages.

Q. But isn't the problem of landmine contamination mainly a short-term humanitarian issue?

A. While landmine and UXO contamination often result during conflict, the legacy remains long after, impeding post-conflict reconstruction and development – hence the need for better coordination and linkages with development cooperation. Clearance during or right after conflict tends to focus on clearing roads to facilitate access to different regions and to transport relief supplies. However, as the country moves towards greater stability, mine action needs to be coordinated with broader reconstruction and development interventions.

Q. So who needs to do what? And what should development cooperation agencies be doing?

A. Mine action needs to be linked to development at several levels and by different actors. Some specific recommendations include:

For donors / development cooperation agencies:

- Ensure personnel possess sufficient knowledge of the links between mine action and development and how to integrate the two;
- Ensure mine action is integrated in country strategies and bilateral development programmes
- Include mine action in consultations with governments and development actors in mine-affected states
- Allocate funding from development budgets
- Encourage multilateral agencies to include mine action in key development assistance frameworks, e.g. UN Development Assistance Frameworks and World Bank Country Assistance Strategies

For government officials from mine-affected states:

- Ensure mine action is incorporated into national development frameworks (e.g. Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers) and sector development plans and into national development and reconstruction budgets
- Allocate national reconstruction and development funding where necessary to support all elements of mine action
- Promote greater consultation, coordination and interaction between the mine action and national development sector by establishing inter-ministerial regulatory and oversight bodies, and formal and informal coordination mechanisms at the national, district and local levels
- Flag the issue of mine action as a development issue in consultations with donors and the broader international community

For international and national mine action operators and officials:

- Coordinate mine action interventions with key development actors by
 - Meeting with Ministries of Finance and Planning, and with key sector ministries, to ensure that mine action is integrated in national and sector development plans and budgets
 - Meeting with provincial, district, and community officials in mine affected areas to ensure they incorporate mine action into their development plans and budgets
 - Meeting with other development actors to share information and promote partnerships for promoting development in mine-affected communities
- Flag the issue of mine action as a development issue in consultations with donors and the broader international community

Q. If a mine-affected country doesn't prioritise mine action or include it in their national development plan (or Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper – PRSP), then why should donors/development agencies support it?

A. As yet, few mine-affected countries have highlighted mine action as a national development priority and have failed to integrate it in national development plans or budgets, in part because mine action has been generously funded as a separate activity by many donors. As well, in many countries landmine and ERW contamination is not a nation-wide problem (and rarely a problem for officials in capital cities), but is still an intense problem in certain areas and for certain sector development programmes. Mine action officials and practitioners have not always built the case for mine action with local officials and sector ministries so that the national planning and budgeting units understand why mine action should be incorporated into their plans and budgets. Donors should assist mine-affected countries in this regard by encouraging their officials to engage with local administrators and sector ministries, as well as national planning and budgeting units, to document the need for mine action in support of development.

Q. What about countries that have not adopted the Mine Ban Treaty?

Linking mine action and development is relevant for all countries in which conflicts have resulted in landmine and ERW contamination that constrains development programmes. The development prospects of innocent people in mine-affected communities cannot be fully achieved unless the contamination is addressed.

Q. What about article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty that requires the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas?

Linking mine action with development is largely a question of prioritisation. It only makes sense that, when planning the clearance of all mined areas, we start with those areas that will provide the greatest benefits to people in mine-affected communities.

Q. We already allocate earmarked funds for mine action. Isn't this enough?

A. No – LMAD is less a question of the amount of money available for mine action that ensuring that the funds which are available are used to deliver the greatest possible benefits to people in mine-affected areas.

Q. What is GICHD doing about this?

A. GICHD initiated a two-year project to examine and strengthen the linkages between mine action and development. This project is aimed at supporting donors, development and mine action practitioners, and officials from mine-affected states to better align mine action with development priorities. Key activities and outputs will include the following:

- Producing case studies, lessons learnt, good practice and programming guidelines
- Sharing and disseminating information via both the GICHD website and a virtual practitioners' network, and through training to key stakeholders, including development cooperation agencies
- Feeding into the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) work on armed violence and poverty reduction, undertaken as part of the DAC Conflict, Peace and Development Cooperation (CPDC) network
- Supporting the LMAD Contact Group