



## TACKLING POVERTY IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES: LINKING DEVELOPMENT, SECURITY AND THE REMNANTS OF CONFLICT

From 3-6 November 2008, GICHD co-organised an international workshop in Hue, Vietnam with MAG, Austcare, Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR), Project Renew and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The workshop was aimed primarily at humanitarian and development NGOs working in conflict/mine-affected countries, but not necessarily in mine-affected communities. The purpose of the workshop was to encourage humanitarian and development NGOs to assist communities contaminated by mines/ERW, integrate mine action activities in their humanitarian and development programming and draw upon the services of mine action organisations.



A total of 60 organisations participated, more than half being leading humanitarian and development NGOs (eg CARE, Austcare, ActionAid, Islamic Relief, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, ICRC), with a mix of headquarters and field-based staff. Several mine action organisations (MAG, VVMF, FSD, DDG, HI) also participated. Countries represented included Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Laos, Pakistan, Sudan, Uganda, Vietnam and Yemen.

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

- Guidance and lessons learned on how to integrate mine action activities into humanitarian and development programmes (eg emergency response, food security, livelihoods, child protection, health and nutrition, water/sanitation, infrastructure)
- The specific services that mine action organisations can offer humanitarian and development NGOs (eg surveys, maps, victim data, MRE for staff and partners, security advice, clearance, survivor assistance, facilitating access for humanitarian relief)
- Practical tips for ensuring integrated mine action and development programmes are gender-sensitive
- Issues to consider when replicating (implementing same or similar programme in another area – eg community) or scaling up (expanding current programme to higher level to reach more beneficiaries, eg from community to district level) integrated mine action and development programmes, and examples
- Introduction to the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework and how to apply it to the design of humanitarian and development programmes in conflict-affected contexts
- Different approaches and lessons learned from partnerships between development and mine action organisations
- Funding implications of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) for integrated programmes in contaminated communities

For an in-depth summary of discussions and links to all presentations, please see the workshop report, available on [www.gichd.org/lmad](http://www.gichd.org/lmad) from mid-December.

Participants' feedback (verbal and workshop evaluation forms) was largely positive – particularly from organisations completely new to mine action. Several noted specific follow-up actions. For example:

- Review how to integrate mine action activities in their current and future programmes
- Contact mine action organisations in the countries where they work to ensure staff and partners receive MRE
- Write an organisational policy requiring staff not to ignore contaminated communities
- Brief colleagues working in countries contaminated by mines/ERW

For more information on how humanitarian and development NGOs can integrate mine action activities into their programmes, please see GICHD's Linking Mine Action and Development Guidelines for Policy and Programme Development: Humanitarian and Development NGOs

([http://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma\\_development/contact\\_group/Guidelines-LMAD-NGOs-280ct08.pdf](http://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/contact_group/Guidelines-LMAD-NGOs-280ct08.pdf))