



## CONFERENCE “INTEGRATING MINE ACTION INTO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING”

*28<sup>th</sup> November 2007  
Hotel Hollywood, Sarajevo*

### Extracts from the Introduction Speeches

**Mr. Senad Šepić - Deputy minister, Ministry of Civil Affairs**

*Extract from the speech*

*Topic: Mine Problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

*“The cruel reality is that, even with a lot of financial resources invested, Bosnia and Herzegovina will not be a mine free country, even not in the following ten years. It means that some of the citizens in this country would have waited for 20 years in order to cultivate on their own land. Because of that fact, we have to make qualitative decisions and integrate development activities so we can better address the needs of the people living in communities.*

*It is very important to involve people and to link development activities with mine action so it would have affect on the security, as well as on the development of the people living in mine affected local communities.”*

**H.E. Rolf Lenz, Swiss Ambassador in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

*Extract from the speech:*

*„Mines are not only posing a great danger to the people, as mines and unexploded devices pose as serious obstacles to the development of the country. Mine contamination obstructs numerous economic activities and the reasonable exploitation of natural resources. It has a devastating impact on human security and on the quality of life for the citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well.*

*Bosnia and Herzegovina still needs international assistance and cooperation in reaching its long-term goals for poverty reduction. In this context, the new strategy of Switzerland is to connect and integrate mine action into development and cooperation programs. Direct action is now being taken by launching the project "Participatory Mine Action and Development in Mine Impacted Communities in the Municipalities and Communities of Stolac and Berkovići", together with Handicap International."*

## Conclusions from the Conference

### Session 1: The impact of landmines / UXO on Bosnia and Herzegovina's Development

#### **Topic:** *Mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

*Mr. Mustafa Alikadić, Demining Commission, Ministry of Civil Affairs*

- Demining should be one of the priorities in the medium-term development strategy of the country.
- Demining needs to be linked with overall development of the country. It is necessary to adjust strategies of the demining with the return of the internally Displaced Persons and Refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- To locate more resources for the humanitarian demining, it is necessary to put pressure on the public and on the authorities. Only 1/3 of the demining capacity was used because of the quantity of the available resources.

#### **Topic:** *The impact of mines on rural economy*

*Prof. dr. Hamid Čustović, Faculty of Agriculture, Sarajevo University*

- Reconstruction of the infrastructure and properties were not coordinated, i.e. they were not following demining activities. It is necessary to coordinate demining activities with reconstruction of the infrastructure. This is very important for the return of the younger populations in rural areas.
- After the mine clearance, assistance should not only be delivered to the returnees, but also to all local inhabitant which didn't change their place of living. In this way, integration of the returnees will be improved.
- Mine clearance should not be reconsidered only because of the risk, but also as an opportunity to improve our knowledge through mine clearance activities.
- Mine action is an opportunity for the rural development and the development of all country.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the overall process are essential.
- Choice of territory should be adjusted with the benefits which should be accomplished after the mine clearance.

*Broadcast of the short movie “Project Participatory Mine Action and the Development”, by Handicap International*

- The 11.min movie is the reflection of the conditions in communities and the current reality of the mine affected population in Stolac and Berkovići municipalities.  
*Production: Foundation for Creative Work (FKR), Sarajevo.*

## **Session 2: Integrating Mine Action into Development Programming - international point of view**

**Topic:** *Transition to integrating Mine Action into development. The role of GICHD and guidelines*

*Ms. Sharmala Nadoo, Project Manager Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)*

- It is necessary to plan budget for Mine Action on all levels of authorities, local and higher levels.
- All ministries, which are directly or indirectly affected with the issue of the Mine Action, should be included in the process, for example: water management, tourism and other government bodies.
- Improve the coordination between centres and other organizations which are dealing with the mine clearance.
- Priority settings model for the mine clearance should be adjusted with development programmes.

**Topic:** *Socio-economic approaches to Mine Action - UN mandate*

*Mr. David Rowe, Mine Action Senior Technical Advisor UNDP*

- Nothing can be implemented without cooperation with the authorities and their support. The need for Linking Mine Action and Development should come from the authorities.
- It is necessary that the state economic development strategy includes Mine Action, as one of it's very important segments.
- The state must include Mine Action in it's budget.
- It is very important to have humanitarian activities which are connected with development. Although, development doesn't have to be the controlling factor to invest into the Mine Action.

**Topic: *The interest of linking Mine Action and Development***

*Mr. Thomas Rüegg, SDC Country Director*

- The Conference is a good way to show how Mine Action, as an important issue might remain in appropriate attention of the state, of the international donor community and of humanitarian and development organizations.
- Mines persist to inflict harm in this country to innocent, to the post-war generations to those who now build the country and the country's future.
- Mine clearance, beside other, is very important for the security also, because without security there is no development, none of the investment of the communities and municipalities will be made.
- Mine clearance has been and it is still regarded as humanitarian task. But it is very important to keep in mind that humanitarian funds are channelled to other countries. It is very important to find new ways how to finance pending issues which are bringing the country forward.
- 85% of the mine affected territory is in rural communities, where population didn't suffer only from the exposure of the front lines, but not continue to suffer from mines and UXOs.
- People cannot exploit their potentials and they are bounded to be, or to become applicants for welfare.
- The difficulties for the handicap person to open the doors to the market excess and to banking are huge.
- The overall goal of the project is to improve the local capacities in order to develop favourable conditions for economic development through shared, systematic and participatory process linking the demining with economic and sustainable development.
- Great help will be expected from the local authorities, communities and the local population.

**Session 3: The role of governmental and non-governmental institutions in integrating Mine Action into Development Programming**

**Topic: *Strategic programming of mine action and development***

*Ms. Azemina Vuković, Assistant Director, Directorate for the economic planning*

- Mid-term development strategy BiH for the period 2004 - 2007 was the first development document of the country.
- It is required to work on the new development documents which will accept :
  1. the reality of the country,
  2. development documents which are already prepared and accomplished
  3. development movements in different domains of life and work.

- It is important to take care of the process of the poverty reduction in BiH, which was not implemented according to the last year's plan.
- BiH determined to make two development documents in the following period: Development Strategy 2008- 2013 and Strategy for the Social Inclusion.
- Goal of Strategies - to ensure development frame for the allocation of the limited government and other resources, so it could address the needs of the defined priorities.
- The documents are harmonised with the documents from the EU and they will be the foundation of the National Development plan.
- The process of the preparing of the new development documents must use the heretofore experiences and on their bases build advanced process. This process must be led by the Council of Ministers and they will have the leader position of the overall process.
- Directorate for the Economic planning will coordinate the whole process of the preparation and it will also work on the monitoring and evaluation of the development documents and analyses of the social inclusion.
- For the preparation of the Mid-term Development Strategy, working groups will be established. Working groups will be consisted of representatives from all institutions, as well as institutions in charge of the Mine Action.
- Working groups will be inter-sectoral and inter-entity and they will recommend key activities in the concerned domains.
- Mine Action is a key for the development programmes because development is conditioned by the Mine Action.
- Demining is important for the social inclusion.
- Conclusions from this conference will be important for the development of the strategy.

**Topic:** *Focus on Victim Assistance as a Development and Human Rights Issue*

*Ms. Amira Hodžić, Landmines survivors Network*

- Laws related to the mine victims are not coherent - it is very important to make them coherent.
- Approach to the labour market is not possible for mine victims. Improvements are required.
- There is no support to the employers who are employing people with invalidity - project for stimulations to the employers who are employing people with invalidity are required.
- Improvement of the legal aspects for mine victims.
- Lobby and plan programme education necessary for mine victims.
- Initiate formal cooperation between government institutions and non - government organizations which are working with mine victims.
- Economic integration of mine victims will contribute to the overall economic development in the country.

**Topic: *An example of coordination of efforts at micro-level***

*Mr. Zdravko Previšić, Mayer's Assistant, Stolac Municipality*

*Mr. Lučić, Mayer, Berkovići Municipality*

- Stolac and Berkovići are neighbour municipalities, with already good relationships. Implementation of this project will only improve their relationships and facilitate the communication between these two municipalities.
- Invite all levels of authorities to invest more in order to clear as much land as possible
- Initiate programmes of education for local population

**Session 4: Lessons learned from practitioners**

**Topic: *Economy based decision making for mine action - Afghanistan - Angola***

*Mr. Bob Eaton, Director, Survey Action Center Takoma Park, Washington DC*

- We cannot count on long term humanitarian resources for demining, it is required to find new models for financing.
- It is necessary to form a multilateral consortium in which donors can be involved.
- Required additional engagements in the creation of various strategies with relevant ministries and administrations in the country.
- Every country depends on its agriculture. For the priority settings, we could get maps where we could know where are the fruitful areas, as well as areas to be cleared and identify the overlapping territories.
- Loans should be given to farmers so they can organize the demining by themselves. This way is cost effective.
- Microfinance could be one of the best solutions.

**Topic: *Mine Risk Management. Priority settings model***

*Mr. Darvin Lisica, Programme Manager, Norwegian People's Aid*

- There is no structure at the national level to link mine action with development interventions. In Bosnia and Herzegovina mine action is not integrated into development strategies.
- It is necessary to balance hazard assessment and expected impact of mine action interventions for development purpose.
- It is required to improve communication between the donors and institutions

- which delineate the problem for the demining.
- Need for monitoring and evaluation of mine action intervention. There is a lack of the organizations skilled to evaluate Mine Action interventions.
  - Ability to adapt priority setting process to the country needs. A more flexible priority settings model is required in BiH.
  - Current system for the evaluation of the priorities doesn't contain the data about time frames and about the future need of the cleared land. These changes are necessary to be made.
  - It is necessary to improve capacity of national mine action authorities for coordination and communication with other interested parties.
  - Develop direct cooperation between mine action organizations and development agencies, private sector and other investors.
  - Municipality coordinators are not enough engaged - it is necessary train them.
  - Active role of all Mine Action and mine victims organizations in the designing of the Development Programmes.

**Topic: *Mine clearance for commercial purposes***

Mr. Radoslav Živković, Director, Stop Mine and Edvard Banks, Mine Action International

- Production of the ethanol will be the first significant green product
- 5 000 ha in the first phase and 50 000 ha in the next phase
- Opportunity for the employment.
- Example of the cooperation between local authorities facilitating the implantation of companies. Company will provide mine clearance and mine risk education in exchange.
- Offering new opportunities of funding Mine Action.

**Session 5: Steps toward the integration of Mine Action into  
Development Programming**

**Topic: *Participatory Mine Action and Development in mine-affected communities: A project being implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina***

*Ms. Patricia Toelen, Project Manager, Handicap International*

- The Participatory Mine Action and Development project in Stolac and Berkovići Municipalities have both components within project: mine action (demining and community liaison) and rural development.
- The Project considers the rural development of the entire community
- Participatory approach at both community and municipality levels as HI believes that the aspirations of communities remain the solid guarantee of the project's sustainability.

- Partnership and joint efforts at local and national level to contribute to the establishment of technical and legal frameworks if required.
- Project duration - three years (2007 - 2010), co-funded by Swiss Development Cooperation and Handicap International.

**Topic: *The future steps for the integration of Mine Action into Development Programming***

*Mr. Emmanuel Sauvage, Programme Director. Handicap International*

- Despite the Landmine Impact Survey results and the opening of new perspectives offered by the revision of the national strategy in 2004, very few real community based mine action projects are taking place in the country.
- Current Mine Action fails to capture the impact of clearance operations on affected communities.
- The focus on high productivity does not encourage efforts to try alternative and more community based integrated approaches.
- The integration and the participation of mine-affected communities in the development dynamic process still needs to be reinforced and the role of local government and Civil Society in addressing specific and complex answers to the aspirations of those communities could be improved.
- Endangered populations are balancing the deadly risk against their economic needs.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in Mine Action should play a major role in pushing for sustainable development of mine-affected communities.
- NGOs should closely work in partnership with institutions to develop guidelines, standards, technical and, if necessary, legal frameworks to better integrate Mine Action into development.
- It appears to be a necessity for the Mine Action Organizations to better understand new funding mechanisms and evaluate how to channel funds to assist mine-affected communities.
- Donors expect that their contributions to mine action programmes will result in measurable social and economic returns.
- Handicap International stands ready to play an active role in assisting mine-affected communities, institutions and partners to develop technical and legal instruments that could support the completion of a mine action strategy that address needs, in a more multi-sectorial and transversal manner.
- Handicap International and the Swiss Development and Cooperation, with the support of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, invite all (institutions, NGOs, national and international) to join beginning 2008 for a brainstorming sessions on how to address the future evolution of Mine Action.

\*\*\*