

# Linking Mine Action and Development Contact Group Meeting

Second Review Conference of the APMBC  
Cartagena/Colombia, Tuesday, 1 December 2009

## Summary of Discussions

**Chair:** Anne Woodbridge (*Canadian International Development Agency*)

### **Linking Mine Action and Development in Cambodia - a governmental perspective**

*H.E. Prom Sophakmonkol (Cambodian Mine Action Authority)* discussed the impact of landmines/ERW on private investment, tourism, environment, post-conflict reconstruction and development. Cambodia relies on several tools to promote the inclusion of mine action in broader development programmes such as a Decree on the Socio-Economic Management of Mine Clearance Operations adopted in 2004, a specific Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on mine action, and a comprehensive national strategy. In addition, Mine Action Planning Units (MAPU) have been established in the most mine-affected provinces to identify community priorities for demining and a number of integrated rural development (ADMAC; ECOSORN) or community development projects (by AustCare; CARE; World Vision International) have been established to promote development in mine-affected areas.

[https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma\\_development/contact\\_group/Slides-LMADCG-Cambodia-Sophakmonkol-Dec2009.pdf](https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/contact_group/Slides-LMADCG-Cambodia-Sophakmonkol-Dec2009.pdf)

### **MAG's approach to integrating mine action and development in Cambodia**

*Rob White (Mines Advisory Group)* explained that MAG has continued to focus on clearing prioritised land for productive and safe community use. Community liaison and partnerships with development actors, both formal and informal, to maximize the use of cleared land is vital. Rob White also emphasised the need to align with government development objectives. He concluded by stressing that further study is needed to precisely measure the economic effects of mine action.

[https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma\\_development/contact\\_group/Slides-LMADCG-MAG-White-Dec2009.pdf](https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/contact_group/Slides-LMADCG-MAG-White-Dec2009.pdf)

### **AUSAID's experience in reflecting support for mine action in development assistance strategies**

*Caroline Mulas, (AusAID)* explained that AusAID's mine action strategy in Cambodia takes into account both development and disability needs. Mine action is an element of the first pillar of the Australia-Cambodia Development Cooperation Strategy, which is to reduce rural poverty through agricultural development. Development will remain a fundamental element of the new AusAID mine action strategy, which is linked to the MDGs.

[https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma\\_development/contact\\_group/Slides-LMADCG-Ausaid-Mulas-Dec2009.pdf](https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/contact_group/Slides-LMADCG-Ausaid-Mulas-Dec2009.pdf)

### **Key lessons from the Linking Mine Action and Development Guidelines for States affected by Mines/ERW and for Mine/ERW Operators**

*Amb. Stephan Husy, (GICHD)* introduced the two new sets of LMAD guidelines which complement the guidelines for national mine action centres, humanitarian and development NGOs and official development cooperation agencies. The series of these five guidelines is available via the GICHD website and CD. The importance of maximising the ratio of benefits to costs and cooperation between the various types of mine action actors was discussed. The changing environment in which mine action takes place also needs to be taken into account.

[https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma\\_development/contact\\_group/Slides-LMADCG-GICHD-Husy-Dec2009.pdf](https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/contact_group/Slides-LMADCG-GICHD-Husy-Dec2009.pdf)

## **Landmine Contamination, Casualties and Clearance Database (LC3D): LC3D World Bank Landmine Database Initiative Next Steps**

*Kenneth Anye, (Independent consultant)* introduced the database and explained that a lack of data is the main challenge. An advisory group will be established to certify data which will be expanded beyond purely demining figures. The database will be accessible via the web in the near future. The World Bank has planned a two-year involvement in terms of financing.

### **Supporting economic development clients of mine action**

*Charles Downs, (Independent consultant)* presented a client-based approach to include mine action in development programmes. To promote development, mine action should support specific public or private actors ready to take advantage of the removal of obstacles and treat them as clients, not just stakeholders. He listed the priority actors/clients and their needs in terms of information. For such an approach to be implemented, the institutional framework as well as National Mine Action Standards and Standard Operating Procedures shall be adjusted, and the policy framework needs to be strengthened.

[https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma\\_development/contact\\_group/Slides-LMADCG-Downs-Dec2009.pdf](https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/contact_group/Slides-LMADCG-Downs-Dec2009.pdf)

### **Plenary Discussion and Conclusions**

The challenge of measuring the impact of mine action on development was discussed and the Chair suggested that the next session of the Contact Group (June 2010) focus on this issue. One participant stressed that the first aim of clearance is to reduce casualties. Participants agreed that saving lives remains a priority. However, LMAD comes as an additional point of view on mine action. Questions were raised on the LMAD efforts in time of conflict. A close look at the local situation is needed and a stronger focus shall be put on the socio-economic dimension of mine action.