

Linking Mine Action and Development (LMAD) Practitioners' Network Meeting



26 and 27 April, 2007, Geneva

Summary report

The following is a brief summary of this two day meeting. Powerpoint presentations will be made available through the Research and Evaluations database (<http://www.gichd.org/links-information-database/research-and-evaluation-reports/>) and GICHD website.

Meeting objectives

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Strengthen the evidence base on the need for and benefits of linking mine action and development
- Identify opportunities for improving the linkages between these two sectors
- Identify how best to harness the potential of the virtual LMAD practitioners' network

Strengthening the evidence base

The discussion emphasised the need to ensure that there is a strong, credible evidence base in place in order to demonstrate and advocate for greater linkages between mine action and development to key target audiences. It was agreed that where relevant, practitioners could refer to: mine action programme life cycle, architecture of mine action, LMAD framework.

(http://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/database/Presentation-GICHD-Frameworks-April2007.pdf).

Sharing experiences

A critical element of the meeting involved presentations from participants on their experiences of linking mine action and development at community, national and international levels. Presentations on the following initiatives highlighted achievements, lessons learnt and key gaps, as well as opportunities for replication and/or scaling up:

- Austcare's integrated mine action and development programme (Sam Oum)
http://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/database/Presentation-Austcare-Cambodia-April2007.pdf
- Different perspectives of risk (Krisna Uk)
http://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/database/Presentation-Risk-Uk-April2007.pdf
- Project Renew's mine action work in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam (Duong Trong Hue)
http://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/database/Presentation-Renew-Vietnam-April2007.pdf
- NPA's support for Task Impact Assessment in Sri Lanka (Tom Gillhespy)
http://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/database/Presentation-NPA-April2007.pdf
- MAG's support for LMAD through community liaison and partnerships (Alison Chandler)
http://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/database/Presentation-MAG-April2007.pdf
- Livelihoods analysis of mine-affected communities in Yemen (Abdul Wahed Mukred)
http://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/database/Presentation-Livelihood-Yemen-April2007.pdf
- Handicap International's mine action and development project in Mozambique (Vianney Briand)
http://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/database/Presentation-HI-April2007.pdf
- Croatia's priority setting process (Miljenko Vahtaric)
http://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/pdf/ma_development/database/Croatia-Criteria-April2007.pdf

Identifying opportunities for strengthening the linkages between mine action and development

Based on participants' experiences, the following issues were flagged where additional work is required to further strengthen linkages between the mine action and development sectors:

Level	Issue	Challenge / Opportunity
Community	Pre-clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village demining
	Post-clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land clearance for development purposes Land titling/ownership Provision of training, etc to enable productive land use
	Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local mine action and development coordination mechanisms, both formal and informal Links between community-level initiatives and national and international levels
	Capacity development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community capacity to respond to mine action and other issues
	Strengthening the evidence base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of lessons learnt and good practice
National	Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-ministerial coordination within mine-affected countries National mine action coordination body Coordination mechanisms between mine action and development organisations, and donors Linkages between national-level initiatives and community and international levels
	Capacity development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding and capacity of mine action and development organisations, and government officials to align mine action with development priorities
	Strengthening the evidence base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits/impact of linking mine action with development at the national level Documentation of lessons learnt and good practice Communicating research findings to communities for validation
	Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alignment of mine action with key national, local and sector development frameworks, plans and budgets, e.g. Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs)
International	Sustainable funding for mine action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of mine action in bilateral development programming Perception of mine action as development issue in addition to humanitarian issue Provision of longer term funding to facilitate better planning and build local capacities National ownership and prioritisation of landmine issue, and reduced donor dependency
	Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination between international mine action and development organisations, UN agencies and donors Linkages between international-level initiatives and national and community levels
	Strengthening the evidence base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking evidence with policy, and communicating findings to key decision-makers Documentation of lessons learnt and good practice

Clarifying target audiences and key messages

Based on the key issues identified in the previous session, the following questions were discussed:

- Who are we seeking to influence (in order to achieve LMAD-related changes)?
- What are our key messages to them?
- How should these messages be packaged?

Key point: the clearer we are about the type of change we are seeking to achieve in relation to LMAD, and who specifically it is we are seeking to change, the easier it will be to develop a clear plan for achieving that change.

Harnessing the potential of the virtual LMAD practitioners' network

The purpose of this session was to discuss various options for harnessing the wide range of thematic expertise and geographic knowledge of the members of the network in order to further strengthen links between the mine action and development sectors in future. The following were suggested:

- Continue sharing information and experiences (and widen representation to include mainstream development agencies, as well as representatives of the Francophonie and Latin America)
- Organise similar meetings which bring practitioners together, particularly for those within the same region, to share experiences and improve links
- Workshops on specific issues, e.g. national development planning
- Specific tools: GICHD website, LMAD databank, E-discussion forum

Recap and next steps

The following were some of the upcoming events which were flagged:

- June: Regional LMAD practitioners workshop, Cambodia
- September/October (tbc): Workshop on national development planning
- November: LMAD Contact Group meeting during 8th Meeting of States Parties

Participants

Vianney Briand, Rural Economy Sector Manager, Handicap-International France

Alison Chandler, Community Liaison Advisor, MAG

Jean Devlin, Manager, Peace, Security and Mine Action, CIDA

Tom Gillhespy, University of Sussex

Elke Hottentot, Training Coordinator, GICHD

Duong Trong Hue, Project Officer, Project Renew, Vietnam

Gustavo Laurie, Liaison Officer, UNMAS

Dr. Abdul Wahed Mukred, Vice Chairman, Agricultural Research and Extension Authority, Yemen

Oum Sang Onn (Sam), Country Director, Austcare Cambodia

Faiz Paktian, Head of Standards and Stockpiles Destruction, GICHD

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