

GICHD Insights

MINE ACTION AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Minefield in Ukraine © GICHD

SUMMARY

This policy brief by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) explores the evolving position of mine action, repositioning it from a primarily humanitarian activity to a critical enabler of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹ While the lifesaving aspect of mine action remains vital, mine action also contributes to broader development outcomes. The present policy brief highlights the linkages between mine action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showcasing how mine action contributes to the five thematic pillars of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships. The brief draws on case studies and research to demonstrate how activities such as land release, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), and victim assistance create the safe environment and access needed for progress in areas such as poverty reduction, environmental preservation, economic growth, and peacebuilding. The brief concludes with recommendations for enhancing the integration of mine action and sustainable development objectives. These recommendations include demonstrating the impact of mine action with measurable outcomes, investing in multistakeholder and cross-sectoral partnerships, securing diversified and sustainable funding, and integrating mine action into national development frameworks aligned with the SDGs.

INTRODUCTION

Mine action has traditionally been seen as a humanitarian endeavour that focuses on releasing land to save life and limb.² Although this remains the primary goal, broader positive impacts, such as social or economic dividends, have been increasingly acknowledged as an important result of mine action activities.³ Over the past decade, the sector has begun to recognize the potential of mine action to foster the conditions needed for sustainable development.

The present policy brief explores mine action through the lens of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Using a series of studies conducted by the GICHD, with key partners, in Angola,⁴ Bosnia and Herzegovina,⁵ the Lao People's Democratic Republic,⁶ Cambodia,⁷ Colombia,⁸ Iraq,⁹ Jordan,¹⁰ Somalia,¹¹ and South Sudan,¹² it demonstrates how reducing the threat of explosive ordnance (EO) creates the conditions essential for progress across many sectors. The policy brief gives concrete examples of such progress, underscores the importance of partnerships and innovation, and calls for a more integrated approach to mine action and sustainability to ensure the long-term relevance of mine action within the sustainable development framework. The unique position of mine action within the humanitarian-development-peace nexus enables it to play a catalytic role, fostering safer communities, enabling access to land and resources, facilitating reconstruction and development, and promoting social cohesion in post-conflict settings. Through these efforts, mine action contributes directly to progress in achieving the SDGs.

However, to maximize these contributions, the sector must assess its broader effectiveness in addressing the long-term needs of affected communities, in addition to its focus on operational efficiency. The SDGs provide a results framework that enables the measurement of progress in social, economic, and environmental development. By aligning with this globally recognized framework, it is possible to demonstrate the relevance of mine action across multiple sectors and create a stronger case for sustained resources and broader cross-sectoral cooperation.

THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, is a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and improve the lives of everyone, everywhere, with a commitment to leave no one behind as its overarching principle. It aims to guide countries and territories towards better lives and a better planet, outlining 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030.¹³

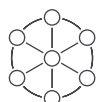
IN BRIEF



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global commitment, adopted in 2015 by all UN Member States: States and territories design national sustainable development plans and monitor and report, through the voluntary national review process, at the annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, on their progress towards achieving the SDGs.



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals: The SDGs are the results framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with specific targets and indicators that go beyond poverty eradication to include peace, environmental conservation, and partnerships.



Collaboration is key: While States lead sustainable development efforts, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also emphasizes the importance of collaboration with actors from the private sector, civil society, and the UN system in achieving the goals.¹⁴

THE FIVE PS: THEMATIC PILLARS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 17 SDGs are grouped under five thematic pillars: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. Taken together, these pillars offer a holistic vision of sustainable development, covering areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that the SDGs are “integrated and indivisible”,¹⁵ and that progress in one pillar can affect progress in others.



People: This pillar aspires to equal and just living conditions for all, addressing poverty (SDG 1), hunger (SDG 2), health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), and gender equality (SDG 5).



Planet: This pillar calls for the protection of the planet and its wildlife from degradation to ensure the wellbeing of present and future generations through clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), and climate action (SDG 13), and by addressing life below water (SDG 14) and life on land (SDG 15).



Prosperity: This pillar aims for a thriving and prosperous life for every individual and for economic, social, and technological progress to occur in harmony with nature, addressing energy (SDG 7), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), inequality (SDG 10), and the sustainability of cities and communities (SDG 11).



Peace: This pillar aims to foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, free from fear and violence (SDG 16). In addition to being a goal, it is acknowledged that peace is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development overall.



Partnership: This pillar focuses on strengthening means of implementation and revitalizing global partnerships (SDG 17).¹⁶



Explosive ordnance risk education in Thailand © TMAC

LINKAGES BETWEEN MINE ACTION AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

While the 2030 Agenda does not refer to mine action explicitly, the mine action sector plays a vital role in enabling progress towards achievement of many of the SDGs. By reducing risks stemming from EO contamination, activities like land release, EORE, and victim assistance help create a safer environment for affected communities. Mine action removes physical barriers to the enjoyment of rights and services and creates the conditions necessary for communities to rebuild and to thrive. From ensuring safe access to land for agriculture and infrastructure to facilitating mobility to essential services like schools and hospitals, mine action fosters sustainable development across multiple sectors.

References to the multidimensional impact of mine action are included in the latest action plans under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention), including in the recently adopted Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025–2029,¹⁷ and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Under the 2019 Oslo Action Plan of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, mine action is recognized as a “key enabler for development, humanitarian action, peace and security”,¹⁸ while the 2021 Lausanne Action Plan of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

notes its contribution “in a number of other areas, including advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the promotion of international peace and security, human rights and international humanitarian law”.¹⁹

The Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan builds on the Oslo Action Plan, adopting a broader understanding of mine action as a crucial element in addressing overlapping vulnerabilities in mine-affected communities. The new plan extends the scope of integration of mine action with other global efforts, advocating its alignment not only with humanitarian, development, and protection efforts but also with those related to health, climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and disaster risk reduction.

The integration of mine action into broader development frameworks is also reflected in the way in which some national mine action authorities operate. Although national mine action authorities are often located within ministries that focus primarily on defence or interior affairs, some countries have embedded their mine action authorities within ministries dealing with social or economic development. In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, for example, the National Regulatory Authority for the Unexploded Ordnance

(UXO)/Mine Action Sector falls under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, reflecting the country's approach to addressing social and economic challenges through mine action.²⁰ During the 2016 Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Lao People's Democratic Republic adopted a unique, national SDG 18 (Lives safe from UXO), underscoring the country's recognition of mine action as an integral component of its sustainable development agenda.²¹ This SDG aims, by 2030, to eliminate UXO casualties, clear contamination in areas that are the focus of development, and provide healthcare treatment and livelihood support to UXO survivors. Moreover, the strategy entitled "Safe Path Forward III" of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector integrates mine action and national development planning, aligning clearance activities with broader socioeconomic and environmental priorities, such as the enhancement of agricultural productivity and the improvement of community safety.²²

Over the past five years, of the 55 countries that have submitted voluntary national reviews on progress in achieving the SDGs, a total of 13 countries have referred to mine action, with 6 of them explicitly highlighting its contributions to sustainable development. Like the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Cambodia has added an eighteenth goal specifically dedicated to mine action and explosive remnants of war, thereby localizing the SDGs. This has driven significant progress, with annual clearance targets surpassed, the number of casualties reduced, and a programme called Mine-Free Village implemented to improve livelihoods and support local economic development.²³

CONTRIBUTION OF MINE ACTION TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Pillar: People



Mine action is a people-centred endeavour. While the objective of mine action is to protect human life and dignity, the reduction of EO risks can also support social development and the enjoyment of basic human rights. In many contexts, the presence of EO is an inhibiting factor, restricting access to essential resources, limiting mobility, and constraining economic opportunities. Just the fear of EO contamination can prevent individuals from using land, engaging in income-generating activities, or accessing vital services, significantly affecting their ability to sustain livelihoods and improve their well-being. There is growing evidence of the enabling role that mine action can play in addressing challenges to income- and food-generating activities. For example, land release can open access to economic activities or natural resources (SDG 2, Zero hunger) and victim assistance can enable EO victims/survivors²⁴ to return to gainful employment (SDG 1, No poverty).

Similarly, mine action, particularly land release, restores access to essential services such as healthcare (SDG 3, Good health and wellbeing) and education (SDG 4, Quality education) that were previously inaccessible owing to EO contamination. Victim assistance also plays a crucial role in ensuring that survivors can benefit from these services through the provision of emergency and rehabilitative support, and educational or vocational training to support the reintegration of EO victims, both survivors and their families. When gender considerations are integrated into victim assistance programmes, mine action can also help reduce gender-related disparities (SDG 5, Gender equality) by ensuring equitable access to medical treatment, psychological support, and socioeconomic reintegration services.²⁵

Pillar: Planet



The interplay between EO contamination, land release, and the environment is complex. EO contamination presents a dual threat to the environment. It is a direct source of chemical pollution and the explosions can affect ecosystems and lead to biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and habitat disruption.²⁶ In addition, EO can indirectly contribute to environmental damage, as communities unable to access resources owing to the presence of EO may turn to unsustainable practices, including harmful EO removal methods like the burning of the undergrowth.²⁷ At the same time, the process of EO removal can also have a negative environmental impact. Mechanical methods of detecting or detonating explosives, such as flails and tillers, may damage topsoil, particularly in sensitive habitats.²⁸

To mitigate any negative impact, environmental assessments should be integrated into mine action operations. As emphasized in International Mine Action Standard IMAS 07.13 on environmental management and climate change in mine action, mine action actors are responsible for carrying out activities, including stockpile destruction, in ways that "mitigate adverse impacts on people, wildlife, vegetation and other aspects of the environment".²⁹ Indeed, the clearance of EO that is done in a way which minimizes the negative impact on the environment allows a return to sustainable livelihoods activities (SDG 12, Responsible consumption and production; SDG 13, Climate action).³⁰ Recent GICHD studies, such as the above-mentioned studies in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Somalia, and South Sudan,³¹ as well as the study *Mine Action and the Resilience of Communities to Climate Change*,³² have highlighted the role of mine action in environmental restoration and climate resilience, facilitating projects related water infrastructure (SDG 6, Clean water and sanitation; SDG 14, Life below water)³³ and post-clearance reforestation (SDG 15, Life on land).³⁴

For example, the Government of Angola has been supporting the removal of landmines in protected areas around the Okavango Delta, a World Heritage Site of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This project aligns with national efforts to protect biodiversity and promote conservation in the Okavango Basin. The clearance of minefields has enabled access to large fertile areas and critical watersheds, supporting both the restoration of ecosystems and sustainable land use.³⁵ Through similar efforts in other contexts, mine action has fostered sustainable land-use practices, supporting climate adaptation and socioeconomic resilience (SDG 12, Responsible consumption and production; SDG 13, Climate action).³⁶ In addition, in Colombia, increased rates of deforestation, improvised road reconstruction, livestock farming, and the seizure of land, often through illegal or coercive means, posed serious threats to biodiversity and to stability and security. In response, mine action operators took action to link their clearance operations with efforts to protect and rehabilitate forest areas. The *Brigada de Ingenieros de Desminado Humanitario* undertook an initiative known as “Clearing the present, planting the future” (*Desminando el Presente, Sembrando el Futuro*) in the department of Antioquia. It aimed to rehabilitate land after clearance and release. Land release was therefore followed by the cleaning of water sources, the transformation of organic wastes into fertilizers, and the creation of forest nurseries that comprised 113,000 new trees, roughly equivalent to 204 hectares of natural forest. According to stakeholder interviews in the Antioquia municipalities of Granada, San Carlos, and San Luis, the initiative contributed to the department’s environmental goals and enhanced the capacity of local populations to preserve their natural resources. The success of the project led to the creation of other nurseries known as “forests of peace” in surrounding municipalities.³⁷

Pillar: Prosperity



Studies have highlighted a link between poverty and increased vulnerability to EO, with poorer communities often facing greater economic incentive to engage in risky behaviour.³⁸ In Cambodia,³⁹ for instance, the existence of a scrap metal trade increases the likelihood that poorer communities will forage for scrap metal from EO as a source of income and attempt to remove the explosive content.⁴⁰ Similar incentives have also been observed in other contexts, such as Somalia, where individuals or communities walk through suspected hazardous areas for reasons of economic necessity. EO contamination critically restricts land use, exacerbates economic difficulties, and hinders income generating activities. While the presence of EO is rarely the only factor, there is a demonstrable correlation between the presence of EO contamination and poverty.⁴¹ EO may block access to critical infrastructure or access routes,⁴² and affected communities have described the stigma associated with living in contaminated areas. By releasing land back to communities, mine action efforts

can enable the start or resumption of income-generating activities such as agriculture, trade, industry, and tourism (SDG 8, Decent work and economic growth). Although these activities may initially be localized, the scale of land release can have a broader economic impact at the regional and national levels.

Mine action can also promote prosperity by enhancing local economic or employment capacities, including through targeted training and the employment of community members in land release, EORE, or victim assistance.⁴³ In some cases, operators target marginalized or vulnerable groups such as women, people with disabilities, or ethnic minorities for these endeavours⁴⁴ to support broader efforts towards community development or inclusion (SDG 10, Reduced inequalities).

Beyond economic activities, mine action can promote prosperity by enabling the development of new infrastructure and housing, and the creation of safe public spaces (SDG 9, Industry, innovation and infrastructure; SDG 11, Sustainable cities and communities). Public infrastructure gives people access to a range of essential services and can support the production of sustainable and green energy (SDG 7, Affordable and clean energy).

Pillar: Peace



In addition to reducing EO risks, mine action plays a critical role in fostering peace by strengthening systems, behaviour, and institutions that promote stability. The peace dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goes beyond the reduction of all forms of violence and related deaths, also emphasizing the need to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies in order to break cycles of conflict.⁴⁵ As such, mine action has a significant role to play in supporting the sustainable development of affected communities and thus contributing to conflict reduction and post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation⁴⁶ (SDG 16, Peace, justice, and strong institutions).

“In our turbulent world, mine action is a concrete step towards peace.”

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, 2018⁴⁷

Mine action can directly contribute to peace by creating stable conditions for post-conflict recovery through support for employment, education, equality, and economic development outcomes. As stated in the preamble to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”. Mine action operations can also help build capacity in the security sector, helping to ensure that security actors are just and well governed.⁴⁸ At a higher level, such operations build trust and confidence

in peace processes, helping increase the likelihood that peacebuilding or peace mediation processes will succeed.⁴⁹ A notable example is the Gestures of Peace (*Gestos de Paz*) initiative in Colombia, conducted by the Norwegian People's Aid during the peace negotiations between the government and the armed group the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP). Through this initiative, humanitarian demining pilot projects in heavily contaminated areas like El Orejón and Santa Helena brought together the government, the FARC-EP, and humanitarian organizations in joint clearance efforts. These projects not only facilitated land release but also served as a powerful confidence-building measure, reducing scepticism toward the peace process and fostering trust among stakeholders and the Colombian public.

Pillar: Partnerships



While the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of partnerships and cooperation for sustainable development, the mine action sector has at times been criticized for its siloed approach, working in isolation from other humanitarian, development, and peace efforts.⁵⁰ There is evidence, however, that this is gradually changing, with increasing examples of mine action actors adopting integrated approaches and partnering with other sectors, including in post land release activities, victim assistance, and EORE.

The incorporation and strengthening of partnership approaches can ensure that mine action operations achieve broader outcomes through the leveraging of expertise from other fields. For instance, in Iraq in 2019–2020, a partnership between the Mines Advisory Group and the Norwegian Refugee Council saw experts from the Norwegian Refugee Council support the mainstreaming of processes related to housing, land and property rights into the land release and community liaison efforts of the Mines Advisory Group.⁵¹ Other partnerships have enabled mine action to contribute to sustainable development outcomes in the fields of environmental conservation, justice, and educational training for EO victims.⁵² In turn, the involvement of mine action experts in national development planning and in regional peacebuilding processes have enabled success in those areas.

In addition to cross-sectoral partnerships, collaboration across different levels – local, national, regional, and international – is also essential.⁵³ The success of an operation heavily depends on the local partners as they can provide critical historical information and contextual analysis of the specific needs of the different groups affected. In Somalia, for instance, operators worked closely with community elders to ensure the safety of their staff and foster community trust and acceptance. Collaboration at the national level, particularly between various parts of the government, is also essential for the sustainability of mine action operations.

A whole-of-government approach can help, ensuring that mine action is recognized as a priority and that all stakeholders, including the national mine action authority, are included in strategic discussions and have access to relevant data.

Nevertheless, the potential of mine action to contribute meaningfully to sustainable development depends on there being sufficient and predictable financing. Despite its critical importance, funding for mine action represents only 0.4 per cent of total official development assistance.⁵⁴

During acute crises, mine action often receives an initial surge of funding, as donors prioritize its immediate life-saving benefits and its role in enabling humanitarian responses, such as the clearance of contaminated roads for the delivery of aid. These financial contributions typically decline, however, once stability is restored or the conflict ends, regardless of whether the EO contamination has been fully addressed. As a result, the response to legacy EO contamination often struggles for financing as donors prioritize post-conflict reconstruction, resilience, or long-term development. Shifting donor priorities and competing global needs exacerbate this funding volatility, posing risks to the planning and implementation of mine action programmes.

To address these challenges, there is a need for better leveraging of the link between mine action and sustainable development outcomes. With donors increasingly requiring evidence of this connection,⁵⁵ it is indispensable for national authorities to understand and articulate how the impact of mine action has evolved. This will enable them not only to access diverse funding sources but also to move towards more sustainable and effective mine action operations.

CONCLUSION

The role of mine action as a key enabler of sustainable development is increasingly being documented and recognized across the sector. While still more can be done, there is evidence that opportunities to bolster sustainable development outcomes are being taken and there is growing interest in connecting mine action with the SDGs. New studies in the sector are expanding understanding of how mine action interacts with the socioeconomic and environmental context in which it takes place. These studies reveal that mine action, when it adopts integrated approaches and cross-sectoral efforts, can be crucial in enabling activities or capacities, reducing conflict, and improving recovery. These efforts, in turn, facilitate the achievement of sustainable development outcomes.

The links between explosive ordnance risk reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals

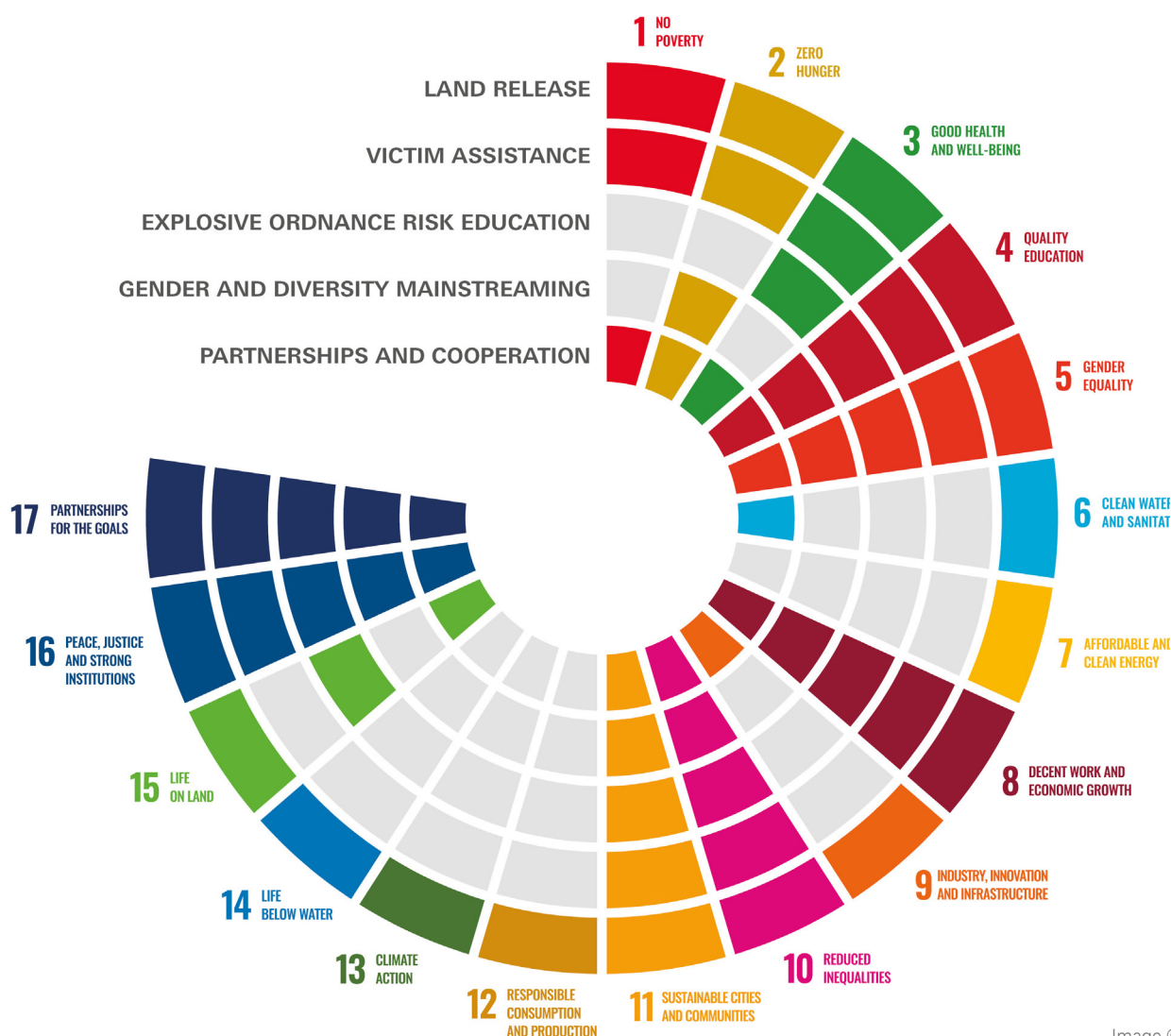


Image © GICHD

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTEGRATING MINE ACTION AND EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Demonstrate the impact of mine action with measurable outcomes: Mine action must clearly articulate its broader impact. Strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning systems, and case studies can show the role of mine action in reducing poverty, improving education, promoting gender equality, and protecting the environment. This can then be used to secure ongoing support from donors and policymakers.

Invest in multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral partnerships: Collaboration across sectors enhances the reach and effectiveness of mine action. Collaboration and partnerships at the local, national, and international levels ensure that mine action responses meet community needs and are informed by multidisciplinary knowledge and expertise.

Secure sustainable funding: Diversified and predictable funding is key. By linking mine action to the SDGs it may be easier to attract donor interest, particularly in contexts of legacy EO contamination. The engagement of private sector actors and use of alternative funding mechanisms may help decrease reliance on traditional bilateral government donors.⁵⁶

Integrate mine action into national development frameworks: As emphasized in the Lausanne, Oslo, and Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plans, the integration of mine action into national development frameworks is crucial for aligning mine action efforts with the SDGs. National mine action authorities should work within broader institutional mechanisms to ensure that their activities contribute to the achievement of broader development goals.

Endnotes

- 1 UN General Assembly, *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, 70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/70/1>.
- 2 GICHD, "Mission creep or responding to wider security needs? The evolving role of mine action organisations in armed violence reduction", 1 January 2013, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/mission-creep-or-responding-to-wider-security-needs-the-evolving-role-of-mine-action-organisations-in-armed-violence-reduction/>.
- 3 GICHD and the United Nations Development Programme, *Leaving No one Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017, accessed 17 July 2025, https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/uploads/gichd/Media/GICHD-resources/rec-documents/Leaving_no_one_behind-Mine_Action_and_SDGs.pdf.
- 4 GICHD, Kings College London, and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, *The Socio-Economic Impact of Anti-Vehicle Mines in Angola*, 2019, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/the-socio-economic-impact-of-anti-vehicle-mines-in-angola/>.
- 5 GICHD and UNDP, *The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, 2022, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/the-sustainable-development-outcomes-of-mine-action-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina/>.
- 6 GICHD, *Linking Mine Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Insights from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lao PDR*, 2022, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/linking-mine-action-and-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-insights-from-bosnia-and-herzegovina-and-lao-pdr/>.
- 7 GICHD, *The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Cambodia*, 2022, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/the-sustainable-development-outcomes-of-mine-action-in-cambodia/>.
- 8 GICHD, *Contribuciones de la Acción Integral Contra Minas al Desarrollo Sostenible en Colombia* (in Spanish only), 2022, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/contribuciones-de-la-accion-integral-contra-minas-al-desarrollo-sostenible-en-colombia/>.
- 9 GICHD and UNDP, *The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Iraq*, 2024, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/the-sustainable-development-outcomes-of-mine-action-in-iraq/>.
- 10 GICHD, *The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Jordan*, 2021, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/the-sustainable-development-outcomes-of-mine-action-in-jordan/>.
- 11 GICHD and UNDP, *The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Somalia*, 2023, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/the-sustainable-development-outcomes-of-mine-action-in-somalia/>.
- 12 GICHD and UNDP, *The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in South Sudan*, 2023, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/the-sustainable-development-outcomes-of-mine-action-in-south-sudan/>.
- 13 "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>.
- 14 Ibid (Means of implementation, para. 41).
- 15 Ibid (Preamble; Declaration – introduction).
- 16 The Partnering Initiative, *Maximising the Impact of Partnerships for the SDGs: A practical guide to partnership value creation*, 2019, accessed 17 July 2025, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2564Partnerships_for_the_SDGs_Maximising_Value_Guidebook_Final.pdf.
- 17 Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, *Draft Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025–2029*, 28 November 2024, APLC/CONF/2024/WP.23/Rev.2, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC-DOCUMENTS/Meetings/2024/5RC-Draft-Siem-Reap-Angkor-Action-Plan-2025-2029-revised-2-en.pdf>.
- 18 Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, *Oslo Action Plan*, 29 November 2019, APLC/CONF/2019/5/Add.1, introduction, para. 3, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.osloreviewconference.org/fileadmin/APMBC-RC4/Fourth-Review-Conference/Oslo-action-plan-en.pdf>.
- 19 Convention on Cluster Munitions, *Lausanne Action Plan*, 2021, p. 38, para. 5, accessed 17 July 2025, https://www.clusterconvention.org/files/action_plans/Lausanne-Action-Plan-eng-v1.pdf.
- 20 "Mine Action & Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)", Lao People's Democratic Republic National Round Table Process, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://rtm.org.la/sector-working-groups/mine-action/>.
- 21 "SDG 18: Lao PDR's Unique 18th Sustainable Development Goals", United Nations Human Settlements Programme, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://unhabitat.la/sdg-18/>; see also endnote 22.
- 22 Lao People's Democratic Republic, *National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR 2021–2030 "The Safe Path Forward III"*, January 2023, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://nra.gov.la/resources/Strategy/SPF%20III%20Eng%20version%20on%2019.1.2023.pdf>.
- 23 Cambodia, *Cambodia's Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2023*, June 2023, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Cambodia%20Report.pdf>.
- 24 The International Mine Action Standard IMAS 13.10 defines victims as "persons, either collectively or individually: who have experienced physical, emotional and/or psychological injury, economic loss; whose recognition, enjoyment or exercise of their human rights on an equal basis with others has been hindered; or whose full and effective participation in society has been restricted by an accident with a confirmed or suspected presence of explosive ordnance". It defines a survivor as a "direct victim who has been injured and/or impaired, but not killed as a result of an accident with EO". *International Mine Action Standard 13.10, Victim assistance in mine action*, 1 September 2021, Amendment 1, 17 January 2023, accessed 17 July 2025, https://www.mineactionstandards.org/fileadmin/uploads/imas/Standards/English/IMAS_13.10_Ed.1_Am.1.pdf.
- 25 Biscaglia, Laura, et al., "Gender mainstreaming in mine action: Powerful interlinkages for progress across the SDGs", *Proceedings from the International Conference on Sustainable Development*, 26–28 September 2018, accessed 17 July 2025, https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/uploads/gichd/Publications/ICSD_2018-Mainstreaming_Gender_in_Mine_Action-Final-12.11.18.pdf.
- 26 GICHD, *Guide to the Explosive Ordnance Pollution of the Environment*, 2021, accessed 17 July 2025, https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/uploads/gichd/Publications/EO_Pollution_of_the_Environment_v17_web_01.pdf; Cottrell, Linsey, and Carlie Stowe, "Climate Change and extreme weather: How can mine action programs adapt to out changing environment?", *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction* 25, no. 2 (2021):23–31, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2959&context=cisr-journal>; Robidoux, Pierre Yves, et al., "Toxicity assessment of contaminated soils from an antitank firing range", *Ecotoxicity and Environmental Safety* 58, no. 3 (2004):300–313, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoenv.2003.11.004>.
- 27 GICHD, "'Do no harm' and mine action: Protecting the environment while removing the remnants of conflict", paper for the seminar "Peacebuilding and Environmental Damage in Contemporary Jus Post Bellum", organized by the University of Leiden, 11–12 June 2014, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/uploads/gichd/Publications/Do-no-harm-and-mine-action-Leiden-University-Jun2014.pdf>; United Nations Environment Programme, Lebanon: Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment, 2007, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/26162>.
- 28 GICHD, *A Guide to Mine Action*, 2014, p. 115, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/uploads/gichd/Media/GICHD-resources/rec-documents/Guide-to-mine-action-2014.pdf>.
- 29 International Mine Action Standards, IMAS 07.13, *Environmental Management in Mine Action*, second edition, 3 July 2025, accessed 17 July 2025, https://www.mineactionstandards.org/fileadmin/uploads/imas/Standards/English/IMAS_07.13_Ed.2.pdf.
- 30 GICHD, *Mine Action and the Resilience of Communities to Climate Change*, 2023, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/mine-action-and-the-resilience-of-communities-to-climate-change/>.
- 31 See endnotes 4 to 12.
- 32 GICHD, *Mine Action and the Resilience of Communities to Climate Change*, 2023, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/mine-action-and-the-resilience-of-communities-to-climate-change/>.
- 33 In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, and Jordan (see endnotes 5, 6, 9 and 10 respectively).
- 34 In Colombia and Jordan (see endnotes 8 and 10 respectively).
- 35 GICHD, *Mine Action in Border Areas*, 2024, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/mine-action-in-border-areas/>.
- 36 GICHD, *Mine Action and the Resilience of Communities to Climate Change*, 2023, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/mine-action-and-the-resilience-of-communities-to-climate-change/>.
- 37 In Colombia (see endnote 8).
- 38 Moyes, Richard, "Tampering: Deliberate handling and use of live ordnance in Cambodia", *Global CWD Repository*, Center for International Stabilization and Recovery, Summer 8–2004, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-globalcwd/1140>.
- 39 Ibid; in Cambodia (see endnote 7).

- 40 Moyes, Richard, "Tampering: Deliberate handling and use of live ordnance in Cambodia", *Global CWD Repository*, Center for International Stabilization and Recovery, Summer 8-2004, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-globalcwr/1140>.
- 41 Benini, Aldo, and Charles Conley, "Joint analysis of landmine impact and human development surveys in Armenia", *Journal of Mine Action*, Winter (2006):14–16, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1711&context=cisr-journal>.
- 42 Ibid.
- 43 In Iraq and Jordan (see endnotes 9 and 10 respectively).
- 44 In Somalia (see endnote 11).
- 45 "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, para. 35, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>.
- 46 In Somalia (see endnote 11).
- 47 "Abyei celebrates mine awareness day", United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, 4 April 2018, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://unisfa.unmissions.org/abyei-celebrates-mine-awareness-day#:~:text=In%20our%20turbulent%20world%2C%20mine,Major%20General%20Tesfay%20Gidey%20Hailemichael>.
- 48 Hofmann, Ursign, et al., *SSR Paper 15: Linking Mine Action and SSR through Human Security*, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, 2016, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/ONLINE-DCAF-SSR-15-2016-06-16.pdf>.
- 49 Maspoli, Gianluca, *Mine Action in Peace Mediation: Promoting a Strategic Approach*, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.dcaf.ch/mine-action-peace-mediation-promoting-strategic-approach>.
- 50 GICHD and the United Nations Development Programme, *Leaving No one Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2017, accessed 17 July 2025, https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/uploads/gichd/Media/GICHD-resources/rec-documents/Leaving_no_one_behind-Mine_Action_and_SDGs.pdf.
- 51 Protection Cluster, *Mine Action, and Housing, Land and Property Guidance Note: Iraq*, April 2019, accessed 17 July 2025, https://globalprotectioncluster.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/03_iraq_hlp_guidance-note_for_mine_action_2019.pdf.
- 52 In Cambodia, Colombia, and Iraq (see endnotes 7, 8, and 9, respectively).
- 53 Convention on Cluster Munitions, *Lausanne Action Plan*, accessed 17 July 2025, https://www.clusterconvention.org/files/action_plans/Lausanne-Action-Plan-eng-v1.pdf.
- 54 GICHD, *Innovative Finance for Mine Action: Needs and Potential Solutions*, 2024, accessed 17 July 2025, <https://www.gichd.org/publications-resources/publications/innovative-finance-for-mine-action-needs-and-potential-solutions/>.
- 55 Ibid.
- 56 Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, *Draft Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025–2029*, 28 November 2024, APLC/CONF/2024/WP.23/Rev.2, accessed 17 July 2025, https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/_APMBC-DOCUMENTS/Meetings/2024/5RC-Draft-Siem-Reap-Angkor-Action-Plan-2025-2029-revised-2-en.pdf.

This issue brief was authored by Alice Spazian and Svenja Liu.

The GICHD works to reduce risks to communities stemming from explosive ordnance, with a focus on landmines, cluster munitions, explosive remnants of war, and unsafely and insecurely managed conventional ammunition. As an internationally recognized centre of expertise and knowledge, the GICHD helps national authorities, international and regional organisations, NGOs and operators in around 40 affected countries and territories to develop and professionalize mine action and ammunition management.

Through its work, the GICHD strives for the fulfilment of international obligations, for national targets to be reached, and communities' protection from and resilience to explosive harm to be enhanced. These efforts support sustainable livelihoods, gender equality and inclusion. They save lives, facilitate the safe return of displaced populations, and promote peace and sustainable development.

