Mine Action in Nepal

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MAC (Nepal Army)
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Phnom Penh, Cambodia
NEPAL STRATEGIC LOCATION BETWEEN CHINA & INDIA
LAND OF BUDHA & MT EVEREST
Agenda

1. Current scenario
2. Challenges and Threats
3. Mine Action Plan
4. Difficulties Needs and Expectations
5. Summary
6. Q & A
History & Facts

- Mining and Demining are practiced in all Armies
- Nepal is not a signatory of Ottawa Treaty
- Nepal is absent from all instruments of international law in the field of conventional weapons
- Rebels used IEDs extensively & indiscriminately in past
- Nepal Army started using mines only as defensive measures since 2002
- Mine Action in Nepal is still in infancy
- Need for Mine Action Authority & Mine Action Centre at National level has been realized
- Nepal is in a state of political, social & economic transition
- **Mine Action in Nepal is governed by ongoing Peace Process**
Ongoing Peace Process in Nepal

RECONCILIATION PROCESS

- Comprehensive Peace Accord.
- Agreement on Management of Arms and Armies.
- UN Security Council. UNMIN.
- Interim Constitution. Interim Legislature.
- Interim Government.
- Election for Constituent Assembly.
- Promulgamation of New Constitution.
- Election and formation of New Government.

*(Focus on Horizontal Inequalities Problems of Political, Social, Economic, Cultural, Ethnic, Religious, & Linguistic nature through Policy of Inclusiveness)*
Both sides shall assist each other to mark landmines and booby-traps used during the time of armed conflict by providing necessary information within 30 days and to defuse and remove/lift and destroy them within 60 days.

All improvised explosive devices will be collected at designated sites at a safe distance from the main cantonment areas. Unsuitable devices will be destroyed immediately.

(Nepal is moving towards Ottawa Convention)
NA in Mine Action

- Mine Risk Education
- Clearance
- Victim Assistance
- Stockpile Destruction
- Advocacy

NA Actively Involved

NA Capable
Reasons for laying Mines

- All the mines laid around security bases are for "Close in Protection"
  1. Used for protecting bases against mass attacks
  2. Gave confidence to troops guarding such bases

Nepal Army not being Proactive - for Deterrence only
Types of Minefield

There are 2 types of minefields around security posts:-

1. Conventional A/P Mines-52 posts (PMD-6: Blast type, POM z-2: Fragmentation type & NMM 14 Blast)

2. Command Detonated Devices- 280+(Claymore Directional Mine and Mortar Shells)
Mine Field Marking
Current Challenges

- NA has identified 2 challenges
- Own: Mines and IEDs laid around defence posts and vital installations
  - 52 Conventional Minefields ( >11,000 PMD-6, >3000 Pom z 2, NMM 14 Blast)
  - Rest- Command Detonated Devices- Assault Busters, IEDs (3" Bombs, 2" Mortar Bombs, 81 mm Bombs, 40 mm Rocket Ammunition) >25,000
## Distribution of A/P Mine Fields

<table>
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<tr>
<th>S No</th>
<th>Development Regions</th>
<th>Record Available</th>
<th>Record not Available</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Remain</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Western</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mid Western</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Far Western</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>41</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td><strong>52</strong></td>
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</table>
Graph Representation
Current Challenges (Contd..)

- **Rebel IEDs** – Socket and Pipe Bombs, Bucket Bombs, Gagri Bombs, Pressure Cooker bombs, *UXOs*—made from commercial explosives, hence unstable *(Unknown Quantity?)*

- **7 NA IEDD Teams on Standby for 7 Maoist Cantonments to work with the UN if requested**
Stages of Mine Action

- **Stage 1:** Preparation (1 to 2 Months)
  - Ongoing Phase

- **Stage 2:** Demining and Clearing Operation (Each Minefield would require 3 to 9 Months)

- **Stage 3:** Handover to concerned parties (1 to 3 Months)
Stage 1: Preparation (Ongoing Phase)

- Establishment of Mine Action Coordination Center at Army and Development Region level completed
Deployment of Regional MAC

- Mid West-Surkhet
- West-Pokhara
- Valley-Kathmandu
- East-Itahari
- Far West-Dhangadhi
- Central-Hetauda
Other Ongoing activities in Phase 1

- Survey and Verification of Land Mines, IEDs and UXOs by Technical Survey and Verification Teams has begun

- Prioritization Based on
  - **Degree of Urgency**: High, Medium, Low
  - **Degree of Difficulty**: Very High, High, Medium and Low

Bhedetar Repeater Tower, Dhankuta-East Nepal
Other Ongoing activities in Phase 1

- Preparation & Training for Demining Operation including Training of Canine Teams for Demining
- Strengthening of Fences around minefields
- Mine Risk Education to Security Force and Civilians
Providing Mine Risk Education
Our Partners in Mine Action
Our Partners in Mine Action - Members of Mine Action Campaign Groups

- UNMAS
- UNICEF (Mine Focal Point)
- Nepal Campaign to ban Landmines (NCBL)
- ICRC (Observer)
- Handicap International
- Informal Sector (INSEC)
- Nepal Red Cross Society
- World Education
- United Mission Nepal
- Rural Reconstruction Nepal
- IHRICON
- Ministries & Departments GON
- Friendly Countries

- Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN)
- Porters Progress
- Sahara Group
- Save the Children Norway
- Him Rights
- UNOCHA
- Digital Broadcasting Initiative
- Partnership Nepal
- Children as Zone of Peace (CZOP)
- Save the Children USA
- GICHD
- Mine Action for Canada
- Security Agencies
Distinguished Visitors to NA-MAC
Difficulties in Demining

- Dense Undergrowth
- Displacement of Mines due to Erosion and Heavy Monsoon Rain
- Explosion of Mines due to Fire, Animals and Lightning
- Demining and Clearing impossible during Monsoon
Needs and Expectations from Mine Action Agencies, Institutions & Organizations

• Mine Action requires **time** due to the sensitivity of the work involved

• **Professional Advice and Technical Support in MRE, Demining, Advocacy & Victim Assistance from International bodies & Communities, our partners & well wishers**

• **Joint Effort –We consider ourselves as equal partners**

• **Interactions/ Hazard & Risk Coverage Advice & Assistance**
Summary

- Verification, Prioritization, Planning & Preparation for Demining and Clearing has started
- 4th Demining Training Undergoing
- Intensive interaction & Close Co-ordination with UNMAS, UNMIN, UNICEF, GICHD, ICBL & all Mine/Demining related agencies and organizations going on. Valuable Cambodian Experience & Expertise sought in Mine Action & Demining
- Friendly countries, organizations & institutions willing to help. Emergency technical support needed in Demining Training & Victim Assistance
- Urgent Need of a dedicated Mine Action Authority & Mine Action Centre at National level
- Assistance for Implement Support Unit from GICHD would be sought to become member of Ottawa Convention
- Ensuring service rendered by Mine Action reaches to the most vulnerable groups at grass root level
- Government of Nepal & Nepal Army Committed toward Mine and UXO free Nepal
Demining Team in Action
Questions?
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