

# Aligning approaches to measuring mine action outcomes

Ottawa Treaty Intersessional 2020

- Thank you for the opportunity to speak
- For those who don't know me, I'm the DFID mine action lead.
- I want to discuss an ongoing piece of work being delivered jointly by GICHD and Itad, a development consultancy contracted by DFID.
- This work involves mapping donor approaches to measuring the outcomes of their programmes, including by reviewing existing strategies, theories of change, and result frameworks.
- The objective is to understand where the key similarities and differences lie in donor approaches to measuring the outcomes of mine action programmes, and with this understanding to explore, with donors and the wider sector, opportunities to more closely align approaches to outcome measurement.

- Global Mine Action Programme 2
- Itad literature review
- Informal Group discussions
- Joint GICHD/Itad work to map donor approaches to measuring outcomes
- Complementary work

## Global Mine Action Programme 2

Humanitarian Mine Action and Longer-Term  
Development: a review of the literature

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- DFID supports mine action through our Global Mine Action Programme 2, operating in 14 countries delivering land release, risk education and capacity building.
- As part of this programme, Itad was asked to conduct a research study into the links between mine action and the outcomes in DFID's theory of change.
- A literature review by Itad showed that there was a lack of evidence demonstrating causal links between mine action activities and the intended outcomes.
- This led to the creation of an informal group of colleagues from across the sector to look at how to build a stronger body of evidence.
- One of the outcomes of these discussions was for GICHD and Itad to map the approaches of donors to measuring outcomes, with the aim of identifying opportunities to more closely align on outcome measurement. The final goal is to have a model theory of change and set of outcome indicators that can be used by donors, national authorities and other partners across the sector. This initial mapping exercise is a first step towards that.
- This work focuses on measuring change at the outcome level, and will be complementary to ongoing work by a number of partners on areas such as standard beneficiary definitions and output-level key performance indicators.

- Build the evidence base to support programmes and demonstrate impact
- Support collaboration with national authorities
- Deliver value for money with data collection and reporting savings
- Build on previous successes in aligning approaches and defining terms



DFID sees a range of benefits in aligning the approach to measuring outcomes. This will help us to build the evidence base on the impact of mine action, as data will be more comparable across programmes. A better understanding of the impact of our interventions will support better programme design and implementation, ultimately helping us to maximise impact. Being more able to demonstrate the benefits of mine action may become increasingly important as efforts to deal with the impact of COVID-19 place greater strain on budgets.

Greater alignment may also support stronger collaboration between donors and national authorities, as ideally we would have a set of outcome indicators that partners across the sector can use.

There may also be opportunities for delivering greater value for money by allowing operators to standardise data collection across programmes and spend less time reporting different data to each donor.

Finally, DFID believes the time is right for this work, which can build on the previous sector successes in aligning approaches and defining terms. Two decades ago there was no common definition for 'demining', 'clearance' or 'mine risk education' and the concept of survey was fluid. More recently the definitions for beneficiaries have been firmed up. A sensible next step is to turn attention to aligning our approach to outcome measurement.

### Overall

- Donors emphasise different objectives: humanitarian, development, peace-building/stabilisation
- Variation in whether/how donors use a theory of change
- Attention is focused on outputs rather than outcomes
- Variation in the scope of programmes, eg. victim assistance, stockpile management

### Indicators

- Similarities in land release outcome indicators
- Risk education: increased knowledge measured more commonly than behaviour change
- Some commonalities on national capacity development and treaty implementation indicators
- Oslo Action Plan and SDG indicators may be helpful



GICHD and Itad's mapping work is ongoing, so all I can discuss here are a few emerging findings.

Overall, they have found that donors prioritise different objectives, putting varying levels of emphasis on humanitarian, development, or stabilisation/peace-building benefits. This is often linked to which part of the government the funding comes from.

There is also variation in the extent to which a theory of change methodology is used, with some donors measuring results based on a detailed theory of change, and others adopting a more high level or implied theory of change outlined in overarching strategy documents.

There is generally a focus on outputs rather than outcomes. These are easier to measure and have more standardised indicators and terms, such as the m<sup>2</sup> of land cleared, released or cancelled.

There is also variation in the scope of donor programmes, for example with some donors including elements such as victim assistance or stockpile management.

Looking at the indicators used, we can see some similarities in land release outcome indicators, such as the amount of land used for agriculture or housing.

On risk education, a large number of donors are measuring knowledge gained through risk education sessions, with a smaller number also measuring behaviour change.

There are some similarities and differences in the approaches to measuring capacity development and treaty compliance.

Also worth mentioning that there are a number of indicators in the Oslo Action Plan and SDGs which may be useful in this context, and are also being considered as part of this work.

1. Donor priorities vary in term of the focus on humanitarian/development/peace-building objectives
  - Response: explore a generic theory of change and set of outcome indicators that donors can select from as appropriate based on their priorities
2. Measuring outcomes is complex and dependent on country context
  - Response: identify opportunities to align where possible, while accepting a degree of divergence and complexity depending on country context
3. Some donors don't use a theory of change
  - Response: a set of standard outcome indicators would still help to deliver the benefits discussed earlier



I'd like to address some of the challenges this work faces.

The first, as already mentioned, is that donor priorities vary in terms of the focus on humanitarian, development or peace-building objectives.

While this will limit the extent to which it is possible to fully align outcome measurement, there would still be value in, for example, having a model theory of change and associated set of indicators that has distinct strands covering the range of common objectives. Donors and others would then be able to draw from the parts of this model that is most appropriate for them depending on their priorities

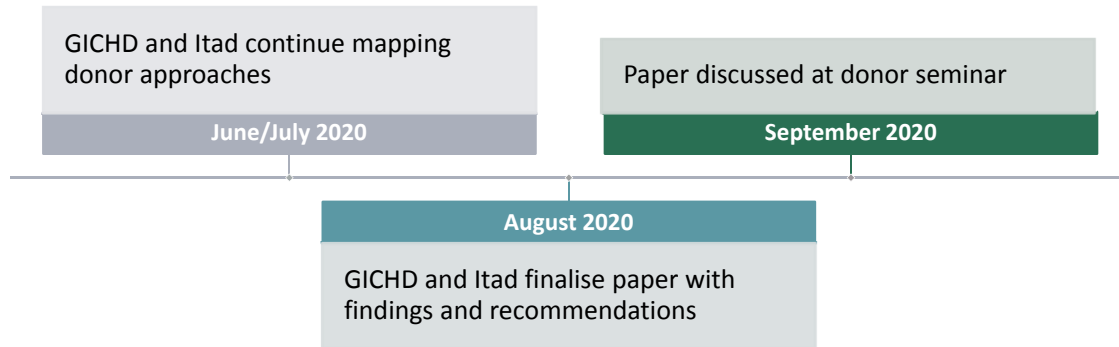
A further challenge is that outcome measurement is inherently complex, and the outcomes that we want to measure can be highly dependent on specific country contexts.

We can't escape this complexity, but it is also true that across a large number of countries we are trying to measure the same things, such as how land is used post-clearance or whether behaviour has changed after risk education, in subtly different ways. I hope that this work can identify opportunities to start measuring these things in the same way across programmes, while recognising that we may want to keep measuring other separate outcomes depending on the country context.

Finally, I mentioned earlier that there are differences in how donors use theories of change. This will mean that not all donors or other partners may be willing to draw from any theory of change model that may result from this work. Nevertheless, all the approaches mapped so far have included indicators intended to measure the outcomes

of programmes. So I hope that the set of model outcome indicators that may be produced as part of this work will be of value.

## Next steps



This final slide outlines the timeline for this initial piece of work. As you can see GICHD and Itad are working on a paper to be discussed at the GICHD donor seminar in September.

Of course, this is also a conversation to be had with the wider sector, including mine-affected states and operators. Once we have the findings and recommendations of the initial paper I look forward to discussing them with colleagues across the sector.

Thank you for your attention.