Land Release

GICHD

4th June 2008

What is the Problem?

- **Mine problem inflated by magnitudes**
  - < 3% of cleared land contains mines/UXO

- **Few resources – vast areas to release**

- **Time pressure**
  - AP Mine Ban Treaty requirements
  - Rapid road clearance requirement

- **Conservatism**
  - Limited understanding about scope of problem
  - Poorly developed survey concepts favouring conservative output
  - Poorly developed decision-making tools
  - Limited knowledge about output from tools (survey/clearance)
  - Fear of violating APMBC and IMAS
  - No incentive for increasing efficiency and improving concepts
Research objectives

- Understand how mines and UXO affect society
- Identify key principles of national policy
- Develop a methodology that promotes increased land release from general approaches and technical surveys
- Streamline non-technical and technical survey
- Develop appropriate management and decision-making instruments

Potential outputs

- Land release rates significantly improved
- Significant increase in removed mines
- Enable countries to resolve mine problem within reasonable timeframes
- Ensure effective use of resources
- Define a framework for States to deliver compliance with APMBC
- Manual clearance
- MDD
- Mechanical

- Technical survey
  - Non-technical survey
  - Analysis of land use
    - Analysis of existing survey information and collecting complementary information

Gives
Released land

Land Release:
A guide for mine and ERW affected countries
Land Release (non-technical) publication - Nov 2007

- Significant areas still being cleared without finding hazards
- Analysis of 6 countries undertaking land release.
- Development of common threads and comparative analysis
- Terminology raised as an issue

Broad principles

- 1. A formal, well-documented and recorded process of investigation into the mine/ERW problem;
- 2. Well-defined and objective criteria for the reclassification of land;
- 3. A high degree of community involvement and acceptance of the decision making;
- 4. A formal process of handover of land prior to the release of land;
- 5. An ongoing monitoring mechanism after the handover has taken place;
- 6. A formal national policy addressing liability issues; and
- 7. A common set of terminology to be used when describing the process.
Well-defined and objective criteria

- No original data on mine laying exists.
- No previous accidents.
- No previous fortification facilities/barriers showing mine/ERW existence.
- The area has not been used for fighting or military purposes.
- No detonation in areas exposed to fire.
- No indicators of mines (marking, casing material etc).
- The above criteria are confirmed by survey teams and through conversations with contact persons.
- If area is in use, analyse and document the use of the area. Confirm that there have been no detonations by people, animals or fire and no evidence of mines/ERW has been seen by the users.

Use of land
Use of land

- NOT a criteria for land release in itself
- People using land – does not imply a tolerable risk level
  - may not have a choice
  - may have wrong perception of threat
- By using land, locals collect information about the mine situation (survey)
- However, a very dangerous survey method
- Nevertheless, a useful instrument to gather data on land
- Degree of use needs to be quantified
Stages of the process - Land release

Land Release 08.20 (new)

- General Survey 08.21 (reworking of extant GMAA)
- Technical survey 08.22 (reworking of extant technical survey)
- Clearance 08.23 (extant 09.10)
- BAC 08.24 (extant 09.11)

Information Management (rework of extant 08.10 & draft 05.10)

Questions?