

**2021 Intersessional Meetings - Thematic Session:**  
**Mobilizing Resources towards a Mine Free World -**  
**Thursday, 24 June, 10:00 -12:00 CEST**

Thanks Diana – great to be back with the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and to see that it is in such good hands with you as Chair.

I am very pleased that you have asked me to talk about the case for innovative financing. Promoting alternative sources of financing for the mine action sector is more important than ever, as funding shortfalls in many mine-affected countries are limiting their progress to become mine-free. Budgetary pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may also mean that less funding is available from traditional donors in the coming years. It is therefore vital to explore alternative ways of funding mine action if we are to reach our goal of a mine-free world by 2025.

At last year's meeting of states parties, we announced that the UK would be funding a feasibility study into alternative and innovative funding for the mine action sector. The FCDO contracted Social Finance and the HALO Trust to produce a report on the potential for innovative finance in mine action as a practical contribution to the goal of a mine-free world. I am delighted to say that the report – entitled Innovative Finance for Mine Action – has been published today.

The report considers a range of alternative financing options, and provides case studies showing how they could be applied in particular countries. The headline conclusion is that there are ways that innovative finance could be used to bring new funding into the sector. In other words, we should not dismiss innovative funding as being too difficult or complex – it can be done.

Whilst concluding that innovative finance can and should be used by the mine action sector, the research also concluded that there is no 'one size fits all' approach. The report is a tool to help partners consider which approach would best fit their given context.

Another important conclusion is the various ways that innovative financing models can help to address wider challenges in the sector beyond the funding gap. The approaches described in the report have the potential to strengthen impact measurement, national ownership, and the delivery of development and stabilisation outcomes.

For example, the report describes financing approaches such as impact bonds where payment is wholly or partially made based on the delivery of outcomes. These could go beyond the amount of land cleared and focus on development outcomes such as cleared land leading to enhanced employment and livelihoods. Such an approach would promote partnerships between mine action and wider development actors to jointly deliver the outcomes required.

Similarly, it would be possible to establish a financing mechanism based around stabilisation-related outcomes. This would require additional consideration as stabilisation outcomes are often harder to define than development ones, but would be relevant for the fragile and conflict-affected states where demining casualty rates can be particularly high.

An important theme running through the report is the link to the sustainable development goals. The research shows that aligning mine action outcomes with the SDGs may be helpful in attracting potential donors who are not currently financing mine action. The report contains a helpful 'outcomes typology' which maps the type of mine action by outcome and SDG.

The financing models described in the report also have potential to increase national ownership and strengthen links

between national authorities and wider government bodies dealing with development. For example, the report describes a public-private partnership approach where the national government provides land to an investor in exchange for investment in clearance and potentially also investment in business or agriculture on the cleared land. Such an approach could facilitate closer working between different parts of mine-affected state governments.

This research enjoyed strong engagement from partners across the sector. Many of you were interviewed for the project and some of you joined our working group, which included representatives of states, the ISU, mine action organisations and the private sector. We thank you all for being so generous with your time. This strong engagement with the project demonstrates both the interest in this issue and the depth of commitment to making the world a safer place for the most vulnerable.

We hope that this report provides a solid foundation on which to progress discussions across the sector on this important agenda.

There will be a side event right after this thematic session that will examine the research findings in more detail. We hope colleagues will be able to join us there.