



Mine Action in Nepal

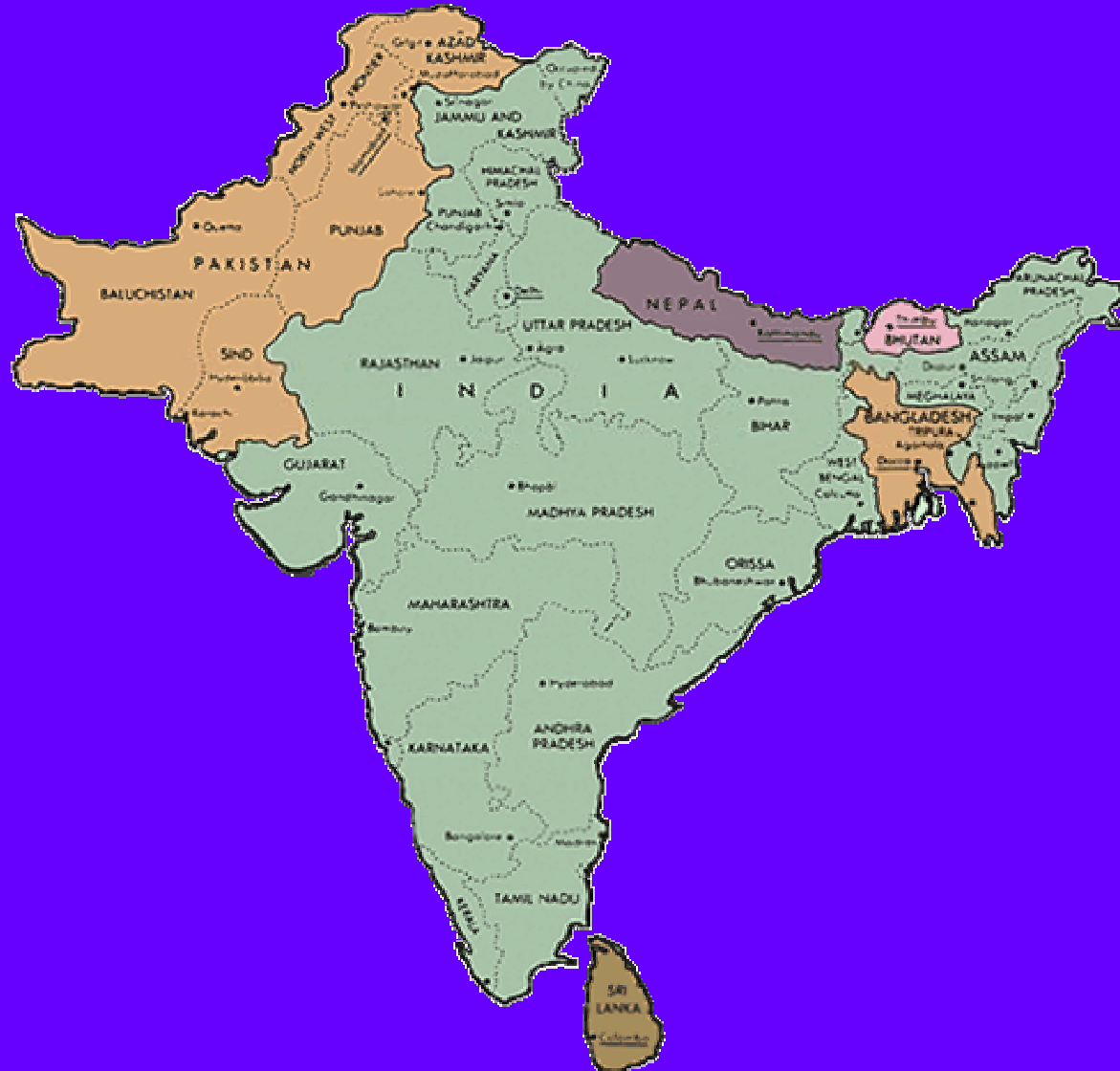
Brig Gen Lok Bahadur Thapa
MAC (Nepal Army)
Monday 12 March 2007
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

NEPAL STRATEGIC LOCATION BETWEEN CHINA & INDIA





LOCATION OF NEPAL IN SOUTH ASIA





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



- Restoration of Parliament. Interim Government.
- Comprehensive Peace Accord.
- Agreement on Management of Arms and Armies.
- UN Security Council. UNMIN.
- Interim Constitution. Interim Legislature.
- Interim Government.
- Election for Constituent Assembly.
- Promulgation 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)



Comprehensive Peace Accord & Management of Arms & Armies in Nepal



- 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

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

NA Actively Involved

NA Capable



Reasons for laying Mines



Dagam Post, No 3 Bde

- 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:-
 - Conventional A/P Mines-52 posts** (PMD-6: Blast type, POM z-2: Fragmentation type & NMM 14 Blast)
 - Command Detonated Devices- 280+**(Claymore Directional Mine and Mortar Shells)





Mine Field Marking



खतरा



DANGER

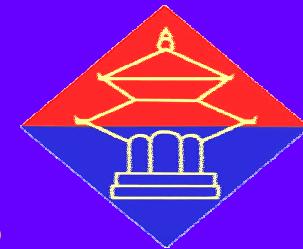


Current Challenges



- **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



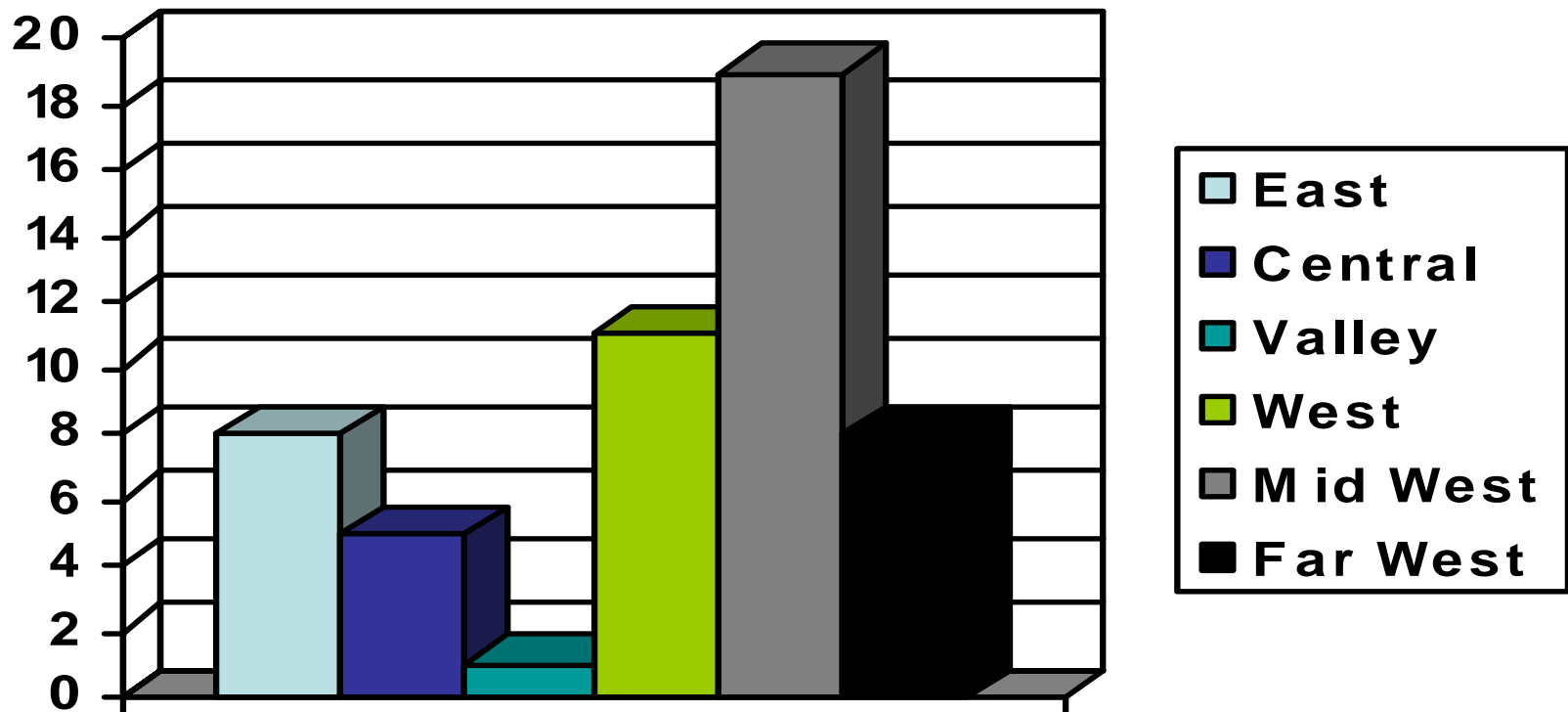


Distribution of A/P Mine Fields

S No	Development Regions	Record Available	Record not Available	Total	Re m
1	East	7	1	8	
2	Central	6	-	6	
3	Western	10	1	11	
4	Mid Western	10	9	19	
5	Far Western	8		8	
Total		41	11	52	



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

SOCKET BOMBS



BUCKET BOMB





Stages of Mine Action

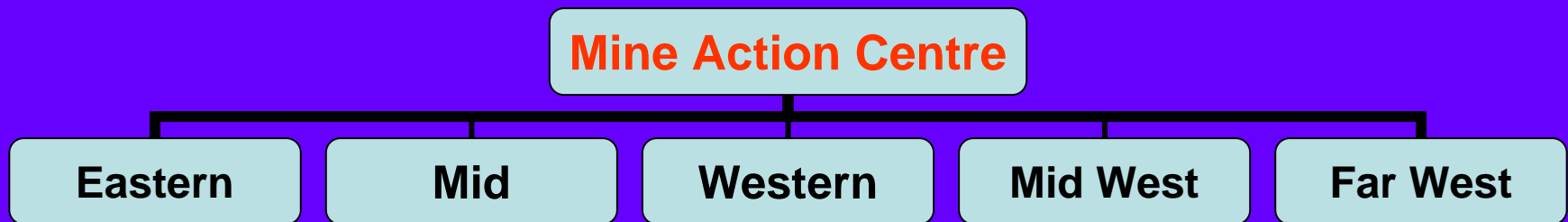


- ❖ **Stage 1: Preparation (1 to 2 Months)**
 - ❖ Ongoing Phase
- ❖ **Stage 2: Demining and Clearing Operation (Each Minefield would require 3 to 9 Months)**
- ❖ **Stage 3: Handover to concerned parties (1 to 3 Months)**



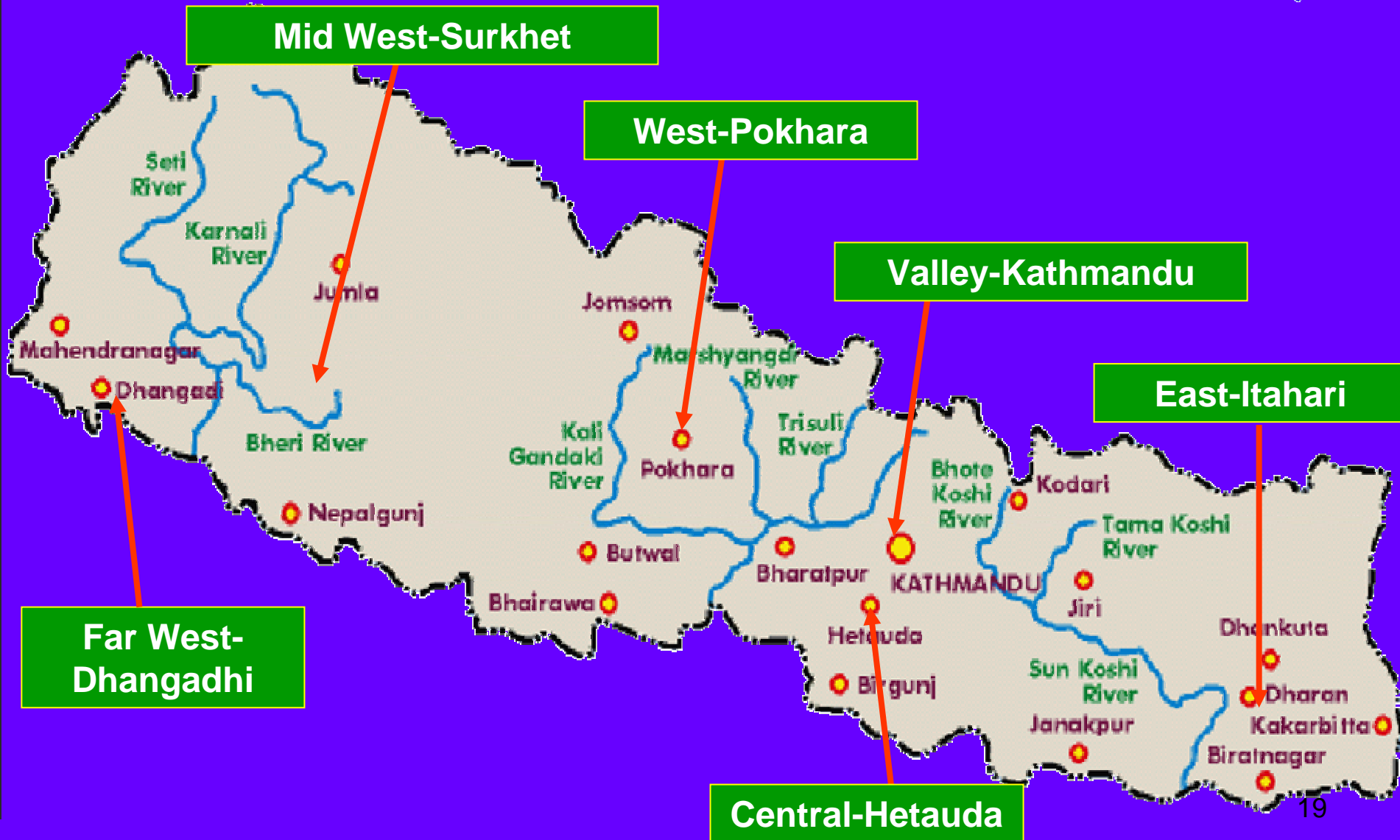
Stage 1 : Preparation (Ongoing Phase)

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



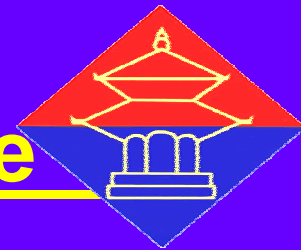


Deployment of Regional MAC





Other Ongoing activities in Phase



- 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)





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



Demining Training





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

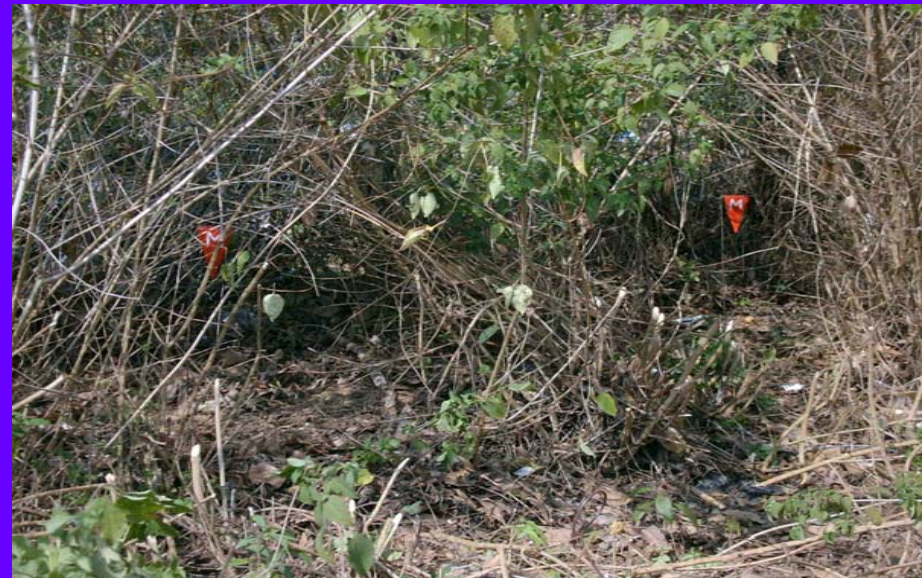




Difficulties in Demining



- **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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