

# LINKING MINE ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT CONTACT GROUP MEETING

26 MAY 2009

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION *on* *ERW, Human Security and Development*

### INTRODUCTION

- > MINES, CLUSTER MUNITIONS, SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS ARE ALL TOOLS OF ARMED VIOLENCE WHICH HAVE A LASTING, NEGATIVE IMPACT ON LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS
- > THE MINE ACTION COMMUNITY HAS DEVELOPED A STRONG BASE OF EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE IN PROMOTING SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE REMOVAL OF MINES AND OTHER REMNANTS OF CONFLICT

### **DR REZA MOHAMMAD HAIDER REZA (MACCA), THE LEGACY OF ERW IN AFGHANISTAN AND BROADER HUMAN SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES**

MINE ACTION IS A KEY ENABLER FOR SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- > PARTIAL CLEARANCE OF POWER SUPPLY ROUTES FROM UZBEKISTAN TO KABUL
- > THE AFGHAN MINISTRY OF MINES HAS COMMITTED \$2.6 MILLION FOR DEMINING THE AYNAK COPPER MINE IN LONGAR, SOUTH OF KABUL. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED FUNDING FROM ITS CORE BUDGET FOR MINE ACTION

### **ADAM KOMOROWSKI (MAG), FROM HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION TO HUMAN SECURITY**

MAG IS SUPPORTING BROADER ARMED VIOLENCE REDUCTION ACTIVITIES THROUGH ITS CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- > SAFE STORAGE OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION, AND COLLECTION AND DESTRUCTION OF SURPLUS ARMS IN COUNTRIES LIKE BURUNDI, DRC AND SUDAN; AND
- > PROVISION OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE NAIROBI-BASED REGIONAL CENTRE ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (RECSA) FOR THE GREAT LAKES AND HORN OF AFRICA

- > THIS OFTEN MEANS WORKING WITH NEW LOCAL PARTNERS, TYPICALLY NATIONAL POLICE AND THE MILITARY, TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CAPACITY TO ENSURE IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY.

#### **CHRIS CLARK (UNMAS), MINE ACTION AS A CONFIDENCE/PEACE-BUILDING TOOL**

- > MINE ACTION PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN BUILDING CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN (GOS) AND THE SUDANESE PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY (SPLA).
- > IN 2002, A TRIPARTITE MOU BETWEEN THE GOS, THE SPLA AND THE UN WAS SIGNED WHICH ALLOWED FOR EMERGENCY DEMINING OF KEY ROUTES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH SUDAN IN THE NUBA MOUNTAINS.
- > INVOLVED JOINT DEMINING TRAINING WHICH BROUGHT MEMBERS FROM THE OPPOSING SIDES TOGETHER WHICH LED TO INCREASED TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.

#### **ANETTE CHRISTOFFERSEN (DDG), WORKING WITH ARMED VIOLENCE REDUCTION - COMMUNITY SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

- > WHILE DDG HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN INVOLVED IN CLEARANCE OF MINES/ERW, IN MANY CONFLICT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES THEY RECEIVE REQUESTS FROM COMMUNITIES TO ALSO DEAL WITH THE WIDER THREATS POSED BY SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
- > IN SOMALILAND THEY HAVE INITIATED A COMMUNITY SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT. AS OPPOSED TO FOCUSING ON FORCED DISARMAMENT WHICH HAS PREVIOUSLY FAILED, DDG IS FOCUSING ON THE DEMAND SIDE BY ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF CONFLICT AND BEHAVIORAL CHANGE.
- > THE PROJECT INVOLVES WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND PEACE BUILDING NGOS TO PROMOTE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS, FIREARMS SAFETY EDUCATION, CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION, AND BUILD TRUST BETWEEN COMMUNITIES AND THE POLICE.