

Report on Meeting of Contact Group on Linking Mine Action and Development, 9 MSP, 24 November 2008

The meeting of the LMAD Contact Group on 24 November was co-chaired by Mauritania and Canada.

Key messages:

Funding trends for mine action

- International funds declined by 10 percent relative to 2006. However funding remains high at \$431 million.
- It is too early to assess whether the long-term trend of increased funding has ended. The share of overall funding by donor states has changed notably during the past two years, with some major donors reducing their contributions and others maintaining or increasing theirs – this seems related largely to changes in funding strategy and practice.
- The integration of mine action funds within broader disarmament or development budgets is a recent trend and its long-term consequences remain to be seen.

Guidance for donors on integrating mine action into their development programmes is now available

- Guidelines for official development cooperation agencies on integrating mine action into development assistance programmes are now available – through the GICHD website. The guidelines ~~are aimed at bilateral donors and the EC, UN agencies and multilateral~~ *were developed to provide guidance to* development banks. Key messages include:
 - o Country assistance strategies should reflect support for mine action
 - o Reconstruction and development programmes should consider and address the needs of contaminated communities
 - o Country programme and field staff should be encouraged to integrate mine action activities into development programming, and
 - o Mine action expertise should be available in-house.
- Guidelines for National Mine Action Centres and humanitarian and development NGOs are also available.

Consider non-traditional donors and approaches in this challenging funding environment

- Given fluctuations in funding and a decline in dedicated mine action funding, consider approaching non-traditional donors for assistance. In South Lebanon, UNMAS helped access assistance from the United Arab Emirates for clearance in support of reconstruction and development.
- The ITF is implementing a new pilot project involving private-public partnerships to promote post-clearance development in affected communities. Preliminary results should be ready by the Intersessionals.

Funding implications of the new Convention on Cluster Munitions

- It is unclear as yet what the funding implications of the new Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) will be. Although it fits within an already well-established stream of humanitarian and development work, the CCM needs to be recognised as creating new legal obligations for signatories, affected countries and donors alike.
- Specific articles of the Convention call on States Parties, in a position to do so, to provide assistance, including through integration into development assistance programmes.
- A key achievement is Article 5, obliging States Parties to provide assistance to victims under their jurisdiction. This goes far beyond the APMBC/ CCW Protocol V obligations.
- Meeting these obligations will require financial support, not just through funding channels dedicated to mine action but also as components of wider development programming.

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