

Mine Action for Children in Eastern Ukraine

Presentation to MASG Open Session

12 February 2020



CONTEXT

Ukraine population of 37 million people.

Since 2014, country experienced armed conflict. “Active phase” ended in 2016. Shelling still occurs.

Conflict area: eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, divided into GCA and NGCAs, separated by 420 km line of contact.

3.4 million people living in this area (430,000 children) currently directly affected by the conflict.

1.4 million are IDPs.



CONTEXT

Large areas contaminated with mines/ERW.
Along LoC*, Ukraine among world's most mine/ERW affected countries.

Contamination estimates: 7,000 m² hazardous areas (GCA); 4,000 m² (NGCA).

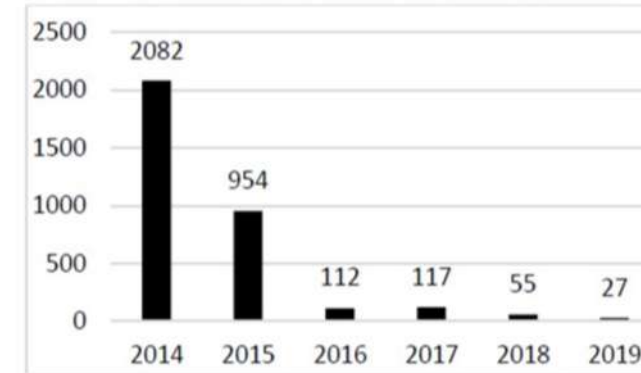
Shelling still happening, contact ongoing.

To date 1,077 civilian casualties (172 children)
- from mine/ERW incidents.

Trends in casualties telling.....

VERY optimistic forecast: 10-15 years to clear contaminated territory, if no escalated conflict.

Civilian deaths conflict related (2014 -2019)



Civilian casualties, mines/ERW incidents (2014 -2019)



Source: OHCHR Ukraine

Of 327 civilians killed: 223 men, 64 women, 37 boys, a 1 girl and two adults whose sex is yet unknown.

Of 750 civilians injured: 414 men, 166 women, 109 boys, 25 girls and 36 adults whose sex is yet unknown.

ACTORS and COORDINATION

Government

Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Temporary Occupied Territories; State Emergency Service

UN

UNDP (leads Coordination + MA Sub Cluster), UNICEF, OHCHR, UNCHR supporting MA

International Organizations

HALO Trust, ICRC, DDG, Save the Children, FSD

Local NGOs

2-4 NGOs limited expertise on EORE, VA and Mine Assistance

Expert Institutions

OSCE, GICHD

MINE ACTION RESPONSE

CLEARANCE

- Only in GCA
- Mostly INGOs + Government + one local non government operator
- Clearance stops in winter, further delaying process.

EORE

- Mostly INGOs + UNICEF + Government (State Emergency Service, Ministry of Temp. Occupied Territories)
- Promoting edutainment, digital innovation

VA

- UNICEF (with DDG-DRC, ICRC, Ministry of Temp. Occupied Territories).
- Most reported accidents happened in rural areas with limited social services (health care, case management)
- Access to specialized services, for families with child or adult survivors critical

ADVOCACY

- MA Sub Cluster taking lead for all Mine Action activities, coordinates all actors and authorities

STOCKPILE Destruction

- Government (Ministry of Defense)

UNICEF EORE FOR CHILDREN



<https://goo.gl/bWrH5W> - video case

UNICEF EORE FOR CHILDREN 2015-2019

TRADITIONAL TOOLS



EDUTAINMENT APPROACH

Billboards focused on checkpoints (GCA)

Printed materials at checkpoints, schools (GCA)

Direct training on mine safety (CGA schools with DDG, FSD)

Training of Trainers on EORE in schools (GCA)

Comprehensive digital campaign based on 4 superhero role models *Inforce.Team*

- **Comic books, cartoons** on mine safety
- **Children's web site** with games
- **Copybooks, coloring sheets, posters** for schools
- **Screenings** on *ChildrenKinofest* (GCA)

Web site *StopMina.com* for adult information

Cooperation with popular Youtube **bloggers**
Kreosan

Peer to Peer trainings

CAMPAIGN RESULTS

2016 - 2019 *Inforce.Team* campaign reached over 87% of children (6–11 years).

For teenage children in conflict affected areas:

- Knowledge, intended safe behavior practice around mines increased (12%)
- Ability to identify risk areas increased (15%)
- Ability to identify suspicious, dangerous objects increased (20%)

In 2019 reached 500,000 children via digital campaign (GCA, NGCA), 40,000 directly in school sessions

In 2020 expanded approach for EORE using Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality



VICTIM ASSISTANCE

No coordinated approach to collect, share data between Ministries of Health and Social Policy.

No clear, formal referral pathways for support and rehabilitation for child mine victims.

No system to register, track cases including injuries, assistance needs.

Limited organizations providing support: ICRC, UNICEF-DDG jointly*, Ministry of Temporary Occupied Territory through local NGO.

UNICEF, DDG Project :

- Completion of child landmine/ERW needs assessment, service mapping
- Case management, targeted assistance for 35 child and caregiver landmines/ERW victims



MINE ACTION LAW

6 years post conflict, Mine Action Law, Mine Action center still not established.

Since April 2018, proposed Law under Parliament review.

Working group initiated to speed up process, support reflection of international standards.

UNDP, UNICEF, INGOS part of group.

Proposed version of law should clarify role, responsibilities of every Ministry involved (Defense, Internal Affairs and Temporary Occupied Territories).



KEY BOTTLENECKS

- Absence of MA Law; government policy for victims' assistance.
- No system to register, track cases of child mine victims; weak capacity to fully roll-out IMSMA, sharing information on collected data (*DDG assessment*).
- Mine safety not yet included in school curriculum, impacting EORE scale up (*Advocacy and Programming*).
- Lack of access to NGCA conflict affected areas for mine assistance interventions
- Challenges providing EORE, VA in 0-20 km zone in GCA and NGCA (*Digital approaches*).
- Decreased international interest given protracted nature of the conflict – needs however remain acute (*Advocacy*).
- Challenging funding environment – to sustain EORE, VA (costly). Key donors like Germany, Japan, Italy give critical support to UNICEF.



Thank you!