HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION: EXAMINING THE PAST TO PROMOTE FUTURE SUCCESS

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Why Is This a “New” Problem in the Late 1980s and 1990s?

- Changing nature of the threat
  - Conventional to unconventional use of landmines
  - New technologies, new applications

- Largely ignored during the Cold-War era

- Landmines as “economy of effort” weapons (used in asymmetrical warfare)
Late 1980s & early 1990s

Humanitarian Consequences

- Refugee repatriation and Migration
  - Afghanistan, Cambodia, etc.

- Unusable land
  - Stability

- Health consequences
  - VVAF (SE Asia)
  - MEDICO (Central America)

- Developmental impacts (roads, etc.)
  - World Bank
Organizational Milestones in Mine Action

- **1980:** The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)
  - Regulate landmine use and other weapons

- **1988:** Afghanistan Mine Action Program
  - “Humanitarian demining” begins

- **1991:** International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)
  - Banning use, production, stockpiling, transfer, sale and export of APMs

- **1992:** Cambodian Mine Action Center
  - First major integrated mine action program

- **1994:** U.S. Humanitarian Demining Program
  - Pol-Mil/Weapons
1997

- UNMAS is created
- The Mine Ban Treaty
• Founded in 1996 at James Madison University, CISR is one of the world’s leaders in addressing
  - post-conflict research
  - education & training
  - landmine & UXO management

• On-the-ground work in more than 12 countries, including Jordan, Lebanon, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Vietnam, Cambodia, Croatia, Colombia, Peru, Tajikistan, Bosnia & Azerbaijan
1996 - Landmine Survivors Network
1998 – GICHD & Landmine Monitor

- The “Landmine Monitor Report” established by the ICBL – 1st Civil Society Monitoring System of Weapons Category
- Survey Working Group
- The Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) is established by the government of Switzerland.
1999 – IMAS, IMSMA & Management Training

• IMAS: The U.N. initiates a review of “International Standards for Humanitarian Mine Clearance Operations”

• The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), Version 1, is developed for UNMAS

• UNDP commissioned a study of “Management Training Needs”
2004–Beyond

- **2004**: First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention

- **Nairobi Action Plan**
  - Focuses on concepts relevant to completion:
    a. Risk management
      1. Prioritization
      2. Cost benefit
      3. Mine-free vs. impact free
    b. Mainstreaming of Mine Action activities in support of development
    c. “New” victim assistance (comprehensive)
    d. “New” clearance (highest impact first)
Mine Action’s New Paths

- Ammunition Stockpile Management & Unplanned Explosions
- Victim Assistance
- Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)
- Changing nature of conflict – Increasing Grey area
IED’s Past is Prologue: Landmine’s Buried History

U.S. CIVIL WAR
World’s First:
- Minefields
- Mine Mapping
- Clearence Ops
- Geographical Diversity

Alabama 1864
Virginia 1865
Iraq 2005
SILOS ARE BAD
(trust me)
New Technologies

Processing - Drones

PHOTOS CREDIT: JAMUS
Princess Diana – Angola and Bosnia 1997
Nobel Peace Prize
October 1997

International Campaign to Ban Landmines
ADVOCACY

Maintaining the Political Pressure
SUMMARY

1. Know the Past: “He who knows not his own generation, remains always a child.”

2. Communication and Information Sharing

3. Context (Local and Situational)

4. New Technologies Processing

5. Advocacy – Keeping Mine Action in the political and media spotlight.