LANDMINES/ERW - HIGH THREAT TO COMMUNITIES

YESTERDAY & TODAY

- 9 out of 14 States and Regions are contaminated

- Increase in casualties documented
  - 159 casualties documented in 2016 (> 2015)
  - First month of 2017, already 17 casualties

- Over the last 2 years, on an average basis,
  - a landmine incident every 5 days
  - 1 survivor out of 3 was a child
  - 1 survivor out of 4 died

Over 4,000 people in Myanmar are known to be mine victims, but the actual number is believed to be far higher.
ONGOING EFFORTS WITH THE PEACE PROCESS,

BUT COMMUNITIES DRIVE OUR WORK

SAFETY CAN NOT WAIT FOR PEACE...

Accelerated efforts on Community-Based Mine Action on:

- Mine Risk Education
- Victim Assistance
- Decentralized advocacy and coordination
COMMUNITY-BASED MRE

2014: KAP survey

2016: Common Mine Risk Education Tool Kit field-tested and approved by the Government

Rewarding results in 2016

✓ 40 organizations adopted the kit
✓ 200 certified community MRE facilitators
✓ 115,000 people reached
✓ Built confidence for communities to speak up

It takes time to significantly involve communities and to break the silence on a sensitive issue
COMMUNITY-LED VICTIM ASSISTANCE

- **One** Victim Assistance Center model piloted, successfully led by **people living with disabilities, including landmine survivors**

Now, **3 Victim Assistance centres**

- Address stigma and discrimination & contribute to **inclusive communities**

- **1,500 survivors & person with disabilities** were identified by one centre

*Engaging communities make survivors and their needs VISIBLE*
Identification, service directory, peer support, rehabilitation, community mobilization...
DRAW LOCAL SOLUTIONS THROUGH DECENTRALIZATION

- 4 State level mine action coordination platforms:
  - Strong involvement of grass-root, ethnic and faith-based organizations
  - Community voices stronger through their representatives at the Parliament
  - Building trust among local government counterparts and ethnic groups
**BENEFITS ARE GREATER THAN CHALLENGES**

**CHALLENGES**

- Difficult to maintain *quality assurance*
- Hard to *monitor remote communities*.
- Investing in communities has also a COST – *time & money*. *Investing in the human capital costs more than a radio campaign*....

**BENEFITS**

- Communities gain *ownership*, & mine action is *sustainable*.
- Increased *presence* = increased *(humanitarian) access*
- *Timely response* – first responders are part of the affected communities and closer to the survivors