Angola LIS: Guidelines for Using LIS Results in Mine Action
Annual Planning

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Recommended Citation
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Angola LIS: Guidelines for Using LIS Results in Mine Action Annual Planning

The Survey Action Center and Comissão Nacional Intersectorial de Desminagem e Assistência Humanitária carried out the Angola Landmine Impact Survey. In July 2006, SAC sent the author on the first of three planned missions to Angola as Technical Advisor for the completion of the LIS. The article explains the Provisional Provincial Reports, which contain a section of guidelines on the use of LIS results for operational planning. The National Mine Action Strategy for Angola was developed based on interim LIS results, and the detailed data supporting those results are made freely available to all interested parties.

Starting in early 2003, the Survey Action Center, CNIDAH and six implementing partners carried out the Angola Landmine Impact Survey fieldwork in 10 of the country’s 18 provinces. It was nearly complete when the project faced a funding crisis in mid-2005. SAC had to close its office due to lack of funding. CNIDAH assumed responsibility for coordination, the six partner nongovernmental organizations sought funding on their own to continue fieldwork in their agreed provinces, and the United Nations Development Programme established a project to provide key technical support for the database field funding from the European Union. Following an interruption of a few months, an additional five provinces were surveyed by August 2006. Two of the three remaining provinces were completed in February while the last is expected to be completed by May 2007.

Interim results of the ALIS suggest that there will be a total of about 2.7 million remaining landmines, or 1 percent of the national territory. This figure is lower than previous estimates; it is in line with results of the Landmine Impact Surveys performed in many other countries and is accepted by experienced actors in the country and government. The ALIS has identified about 2 percent of affected communities as suffering high socio-economic impacts, 13 percent as suffering a medium impact, and about 75 percent as low-impact. These results have generated discussion about the scoring system and how impact is measured, including the role the number of recent victims has in accounting for high impact. SAC has welcomed this discussion on alternative scoring systems and has kept attention on the high- and medium-impact communities. CNIDAH used the interim results from the first 14 provinces as the basis for the Angolan National Mine Action Strategy 2006–2011, adopted by the Council of Ministers in September 2006.

Provisional Provincial Reports

With the invitation from CNIDAH to continue joint responsibility for the ALIS, SAC recontracted from Germany and sent the author as Technical Advisor on the first of three planned missions in July 2006. In order to increase the usefulness of the LIS results, SAC and CNIDAH agreed to publish a set of Provisional Provincial Reports based on the data from 15 completed provinces, with a general summary, maps, tables, a short analysis of the results of each province and a CD-ROM with the full survey detail. CNIDAH completed this report and provided it to the Provincial Vice-Governors (responsible for mine action) at a national plenary meeting in October 2006. The report is freely available to the mine action operators and other interested parties. The National Mine Action Strategy and these interim ALIS results were key elements in the development of the 2007 operational provincial plans.

Guidelines for the Use of LIS for Operational Planning

The PPRs contain a section of guidelines on the use of LIS results for operational planning, developed by the author and reproduced in the following paragraphs. The guidelines are meant to provide practical guidance to make greater use of the LIS information. Comments and suggestions to improve these guidelines and make them more useful are welcome from the operational users. These guidelines are intended to support mining and rehabilitation projects.

To ensure realism and a greater chance of success, each task should include a quantifiable indicator (e.g., number or percentage of coverage per year) with an achievable “xxx percent” target, since the current assets are likely to be insufficient to respond to all these factors as promptly as would be preferred.

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The Child to Adult Method in Mine Risk Education

The author explains a child-to-adult approach to mine-risk education and how it uses the power of children as “little” MRE instructors in their communities. As part of this method, children use MRE lessons to teach adults and peers in their homes about the dangers of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

by Mudnhat Aziz Hamad (Ako) [Iraq Kurdistan Mine Action Agency]

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ine-risk education is a program carried out at the community level in which MRE operators exchange information with the community to help reduce the risk of death or injury by mines or explosive remnants of war. In many communities, children may not count as the group at highest risk as young men often face the most danger from ERW. However, the risk from mines/UXO may be one that becomes more relevant to the children as they get older, and it is easier to reach them and influence their behavior while they are young.

What is Child-to-Adult?
Child-to-Adult is an approach used to train children to be teachers in their homes teaching family members about MRE messages and instructions. The aim of this approach is to establish a community-based MRE program and to make use of the emotional relationship between the child and his/her parents in order to get parents and other adults to change their attitudes toward mines and ERW.

After IKMAA tested the Child-to-Adult method in a mine-affected village, it became clear that children not only looked after younger siblings but that they could also have a powerful influence on their peers, their parents and even the communities in which they live. The way in which messages are transmitted from children to others differs greatly depending on the experience and skills of the child and the group they get to influence. The easiest group for children to reach is generally their peer group and the hardest is their parents. It is not normal in most cultures for children to “teach” their parents; however, children can involve their parents in activities that indirectly help to educate the parents or inspire them to seek further information. The situation may be different if parents ask their children for information, for example, in communities where parents are not literate and they regard their children as important sources of information.

Child-to-Adult: A Different Approach to Learning
The child-to-adult method is an approach to learning that involves children as full participants in learning about and promoting MRE messages to their families, friends and communities. It demands that children: 1. Participate in developing and designing activities 2. Link what they are learning with problems they face 3. Involve their family members and others outside the immediate learning environment

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Child-to-Adult method has powerful links to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is a practical way in which a child’s right to participate in decisions that affect him or her can be truly implemented.

Why is the Child Selected?
The MRE department at IKMAA selected children to deliver MRE through Child-to-Adult approach because:

- Most of the time he/she is available for training and living in the community.
- He/she has more time to meet and participate in different activities.
- He/she is able to stay focused on and easily understand the messages and retain them for a long time.
- He/she follows the adults in the daily activities such as collecting wood and herbs, cultivation, grazing animals, etc.

Which Child is Selected?
Additionally, the MRE operators should look for the following characteristics when selecting a child. The child has to be:

- Between 9 and 15 years old
- Literate
- Clever and active
- Able to relay MRE messages and instructions to his/her family members in an effective way
- Able to use posters, leaflets or any education materials
- Recommended by his/her family to be involved in this method
- Able to take on the role of leader or instructor

News Brief

Canadian Mine Survivor Gets Custom Motorcycle

When Canadian Master Corporal Jody Mitic lost both his feet after stepping on a landmine in Afghanistan, Mitic never thought he would be able to ride a motorcycle again. After months in recovery at Toronto’s St. John’s Rehabilitation Hospital, Mitic had two new prosthetic feet and was walking with just a cane but still had little hope of ever riding a motorcycle. Having contacted the Barrie Harley dealership before his accident about purchasing a bike, Mitic had to write back and say, “Things have changed.”

In April, owners of the Harley Davidson in Barrie, Ontario, Canada, presented Mitic with a custom-made chopper.

Community organizers heard of Mitic’s situation and raised more than CAN$50,000 for the custom bike, which includes a hand-operated shifter and a hand brake that works both front and rear brake. To supplement the funding shortfall, bike builders from the Barrie Harley dealership donated 260 hours in labor to build Mitic’s perfect custom Harley.