April 2013

Geneva Call Launches First ANSA Database

News Brief

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Recommended Citation

Brief, News (2013) "Geneva Call Launches First ANSA Database," *The Journal of ERW and Mine Action* : Vol. 17 : Iss. 1 , Article 19. Available at: [http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal/vol17/iss1/19](http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal/vol17/iss1/19)

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50 percent. Previous project communities include the Trieu Phong and Gio Linh districts of Quang Tri province and the Tuyen Hoa and Minh Hoa districts of Quang Binh province.

Clear Path International provided reports on landmine/UXO casualty rates, which indicated that the trend in UXO incidents decreased from 2005 through the first five months of 2011. The rate of accidents in primary school-aged children reduced dramatically. Throughout the five-year period, 14–18 year olds represented a significant percentage of casualties for those under age 18. In Quang Tri province, eight children in this age group were injured or killed, accounting for roughly 23 percent of the casualties in Vietnam during 2005. Since then, child casualties decreased—only four children were killed or injured in 2009. From 3 December 2012 to 2 January 2013, however, 12 children were killed/injured (five dead/seven injured) due to old mortars and bombs, indicating that landmines, UXO and ERW still heavily impact Vietnam.

The CRS approach of targeting specific at-risk groups proved effective in reaching all sectors of the community, as demonstrated through increased knowledge, awareness and behavior regarding MRE among students and community members. In the PM/WRA 2010–2011 grant, a 10 percent sample of students who participated in the project were selected for testing prior to and after implementation of the MRE training. The comparative results of pre- and post-tests indicate that the in-school training increased the level of UXO understanding and accident prevention among students. The most recent progress report in May 2011 showed that, as a result of the CRS in-school MRE training, the percentage of students aware of what landmines/UXO look like, how accidents happen, how to avoid these incidents and the effects incidents have on victims and their families increased significantly, from 24 to 62 percent, in the Le Thuy district of Quang Binh province.

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In November 2012 Geneva Call launched “Their Words,” an information database. The database provides published commitments and internal rules and regulations of armed non-state actors. Issues such as the protection of children and civilian populations, the use of anti-personnel mines and compliance with the Geneva Convention are made public and accessible.

The publication of commitments and rules written by and for ANSAs is intended to encourage other non-state actors to enact and follow regulations that ensure the protection of civilian populations. The database provides examples in various contexts of how these codes can be created and implemented. For example, the Syrian rebellion seeks to create a code of conduct for its current efforts. The database provides the means for the Syrian rebels to research codes of conduct and take examples from other ANSAs.

The database is organized by topic/theme and geographic location of ANSAs. To access the database, use the following link: http://theirwords.org/pages/home.

Published by JMU Scholarly Commons, 2013

~ Paige Ober, CISR staff

2. MACCA fast facts December 2012.