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Reaching the Right People: Gender and Mine Action

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The role of gender in mine action has been increasingly recognized, as more practitioners have started to incorporate gender analysis into their work. This has led to a better understanding of the impact of landmines and explosives on women, children, and vulnerable groups. Gender analysis has revealed that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), with males suffering more accidents than females. The gender gap in casualties from landmines and UXO accidents is particularly pronounced in countries with highMine Action

Statistics suggest that males suffer anywhere between 75 and 95 percent of all mine- and UXO-related accidents, while females make up a much smaller percentage. This gender disparity is due to differences in roles and responsibilities between men and women in society. Males, for example, are more likely to work in industries that involve high exposure to landmines, such as construction or agriculture, while females are often responsible for household chores and childcare, which exposes them to the risk of stepping on a landmine or UXO.

In order to address these gender disparities, mine action practitioners have begun to focus on the specific needs of various groups, including women, children, and other vulnerable populations. This has led to the development of gender-balanced teams, which are designed to ensure that all members of the community have an equal say in the decision-making process. By involving both men and women in the mine action process, practitioners are able to better understand the unique needs and perspectives of each group, and design more effective programs to address the specific issues they face.

In conclusion, gender analysis is a crucial component of mine action, and practitioners are increasingly recognizing the importance of incorporating gender perspectives into their work. By doing so, they can ensure that their efforts are more effective, and that the needs of all members of affected communities are met. As the field of mine action continues to evolve, it is essential that practitioners remain committed to gender mainstreaming and continue to work towards a more equitable and just world.

References


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