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Mine Action and the Millennium Development Goals

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The most touching targets, are taken directly from the countries and the entire world’s leading development in- of 2015—form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing MDGs—which range from cutting extreme poverty in crisis highlights the tremendous potential of fair trade—likely more impor- of mine action entail the strategic and political interactions on for the high politics of mine action. The Politics of Mine Action, as a multidisciplinary and multidimensional activity, is manifestly pres- indeed, to optimize the global results of the politics of mine action, these three levels should act in harmony. This becomes more challen- outcomes, the United Nations, NGOs, the World Bank and mine-affected states regarding the utility of certain mine action programs—especially when there are many competing demands—quickly diverge and conse- ying beyond the emergency response phase of mine action. When the very high politics of mine action need to act liberally outside the development debate to protect and accentuate its humanitarian impact, it is suggested that there are also med- political dynamics related to the United Nations and are in a particular way, between states and the United Nations, the International Committee for Humanitarian Causes, protect and ensure the protection of the mine problem to be truly effective. National and local decision-making should even have the ability to reprioritize funding originally intended for mine action whenever other more urgent socio-economic or develop- ment needs arise. Having defined the high and low politics of mine ac- tion, it is suggested that there are also medium politics. These are the political dynamics within international organizations, regional organizations or the civil society itself—the interactions among non-governmental organi- nations, the United Nations, the International Committee for the Red Cross and regional political bodies such as the European Union and the Organization of American States, who altogether comprise the medium politics of mine action. Some of the more critical voices might call them the mobilization politics of mine action, since phenom- ena such as funding competition, turf protection and “clannish” mentality could spuriously form obstacles between the high and low politics of mine action.
planning decisions are also more the rule than the excep-
tion, often giving way to an early loss of momentum in
the process of post-conflict restoration.

**Recommendations**

Due to its complexity and cross-cutting charac-
teristics, mine action will have to continue to firmly make
its case to improve its mainstreaming into development
activities in mine-affected states. This should not cause
concern but rather acceptance of a broader prioritization
process, whereby no scarce funding should go to the
"demining of mountaintops or deserts" whilst the popula-
tion in the valley is suffering—or worse, dying, from the
consequences of extreme poverty. There is no ratio-
nale that can justify this—neither a humanitarian, nor
a development or even an Ottawa Convention one. The
straightforward rationale to prevail should be the pri-
mensional concerns of mine clearance, such as automatic-
ally calling the majority of their projects ‘high priority’
land can have any use in the future or referring to im-
pressive socio-economic benefits that were "calculated"
years ago.

As a closing note, it is important to continuously un-
derstand the real human costs and human faces behind
all the figures, goals or deadlines. Human development
is still much more than the MDGs, Poverty Reduction
strategy should avoid overstating the beneficial develop-
ment impact of mine clearance, such as automatically
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Humanitarian Demining as a Precursor to Economic Development, Lundberg [from page 53]

Endnotes

The Road to Mine Action and Development: The Life-Cycle Perspective of Mine Action, Paterson and Filipino [from page 55]

Endnotes
1. This phase is from The World Bank, which has been in the forefront of planning, managing and financing post-conflict reconstruction since the wars arising from the break-up of Yugoslavia. The central role played by the World Bank in one of the defining features of post-war reconstruction efforts, and during each period the Bank may be an important source of financing for demining.
2. Regular readers will notice a strong similarity to Figure 1 in the article from Issue 9 (USG: Burtons, “The Missing Link in Strategic Planning: ALARA and the End-state Strategy Concept for National Mine Action Planning”), which was developed independently in 1998 by Chip Brotman to illustrate the “End-state Strategy” approach to developing a national mine action strategy for Cambodia. GICHD personnel developed the life-cycle perspective to illustrate not only that the size of a programme would eventually diminish, but also that the principal purposes and partnerships for a mine action programme will evolve in a manner that can be understood and planned for.
3. Raw data does not help decision-makers unless it is “analysed” into information. Information is the right data presented in the right format at the right time to the right people.

Mine Action and the Millennium Development Goals, Van Der Linden [from page 58]

Endnotes

Environmental Applications in Demining, McLean [from page 60]

Endnotes
4. Editor’s Note: Some countries and mine action organizations are urging the use of the term “mine free”, while others are espousing the term “mine safe” or “impact free.” “Mine free” connotes a condition where all landmines have been cleared, whereas the terms “mine safe” and “impact free” refer to the condition in which landmines no longer pose a credible threat to a community or country.
10. That Landmine Thing: Students Take On the Landmine Crisis, Hudson and Fuentes [from page 77]

Endnotes

From Interventions to Integration: Mine Risk Education and Community Liaison, Durham [from page 80]

Endnotes
8. Playgroundst Without Mines, Ram, Rish [from page 81]

Endnotes