The Recovery of Human Remains in Weapon-Contaminated Settings: Towards Guidance for the Mine Action Community by Maresca, Poole, and Taylor (from page 8)

1. Humanitarian forensic action refers to the use and application of forensic sciences and other related areas of expertise to address the humanitarian needs of people affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence, disasters, and migration. This includes support for the proper management and identification of the dead, prevent and resolve the problem of missing persons, and ensure proper medical legal documentation of injuries in the case of the living.

2. This is due in part to the high death toll associated with protracted urban conflicts.


4. The Coordination Mechanism On Persons Unaccounted for in Connection with the Events of the 1992-1993 Armed Conflict and After gathers Abkhaz and Georgian participants, and the Coordination Mechanism On Persons Unaccounted for in Connection with the 90’s, August 2008 armed conflicts and their aftermath includes Georgian, South Ossetian, and Russian participants.

5. The HALO Trust stated that it had cleared more than nine thousand mines and nearly 49,000 items of unexploded ordnance between 1997 and 2011, https://bit.ly/3sYw46y.

6. New hazards identified since 2019 include one confirmed hazardous area (CHA) totaling 9,600m2 while five minefields were identified in April 2021, their area estimated at a total of 10.300m2. Mine Action Review, Clearing the Mines 2020 (6 Nov 2020); p.328. https://bit.ly/3MV0q2y.


Integrating Humanitarian Mine Action and Humanitarian Forensic Action by Cobham, Marquez-Grant, Harris, Barnes, Medina, Naranjo-Santana, and Collett (from page 12)


5. The term “booby-trap” has traditionally been used to describe a “cunning contrivance…designed to catch an unwary enemy” it may or may not include an explosive component. I. Jones. Malice Morethoough! A History of Booby Traps from World War One to Vietnam. 2004. London.


21. Death certification can be critical for relatives to receive death payments/pension and in some contexts for women to remarry or be welcomed back into society. J. Hunter and B. Simpson. Chapter 11. Preparing the ground. Archaeology in a war zone, in Ferllini, R. Forensic archaeology and human rights violations. 2007. pp. 269.


31. Reference to 161 rules of customary IHL identified in volume I (rules) of the ICRC’s study on customary IHL, originally published by Cambridge University Press in 2005.

32. Technical note (TNMA 10.10/01) provides guidelines on the management of human remains located during mine action operations and includes recommendations from the ICRC. The TNMA is currently being considered by the IMAS Technical Working Group.

33. Such as International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, international disaster response law and other provisions to ensure the proper management of the dead.


35. A/HRC/47/33. Reflection of mandate-holder Agnès Callamard on her work over the past five years as Special Rapporteur.


38. Reference to the coordination of humanitarian actors by the UN Office of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) responsible for coordinating humanitarian response to
enable a coherent and principled response in emergencies. (https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/)

39. Present and/or standby EOD teams were frequently the case during the recovery of WWI and WWII casualties from battlefields as well as for the search and recovery of human remains in many post conflict contexts. Other examples include Iraq and Cyprus.


43. Collett, G. 2021. An examination of the precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of explosive compositions found within Improvised Explosives Devices (IEDs).


47. This includes examining remains for skeletal characteristics to indicate age-at-death estimation, biological sex, ancestry, stature, as well as trauma.

48. The Technical Note for Mine Action. 10.10.01. Guidelines on the management of human remains located during mine action operations is currently being updated by the IMAS review board.


50. Accident investigations often involve the recovery of human remains from a hazardous area. Some basic competencies concerning human remains were also included in the new Test and Evaluation Protocol 09.30. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Ordinance.


52. This includes ensuring that the identification of ‘the missing’ is possible at a later date; that the principle of ‘do no harm’; dignity for the deceased; the rights of the dead and the right to know, is well understood and factored into operational planning and preparation.


60. As noted by Collett (2021) in his account of managing mine action operations in Nagorno-Karabakh.


6. Thomsen, Jørgen L. 2017. “Ethical Considerations for Forensic Scientists Participat-
We Better Align SSR, DDR, SALW and Mine Action?,” Event Report (Geneva, Switzerland).


See, for example, GICHD and swisspeace, “Mine Action and Peace Mediation” (Geneva, Switzerland: The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, 2011).


Hall, “HALO Trust’s Reintegration of Former Combatants into Demining.”

Garbino, “Un potential poc explorad.”


Garbino, “Un potential poc explorad.”


Strand, “Transforming Local Relationships: Reintegration of Combatants through Mine Action in Afghanistan.”

Hall, “HALO Trust’s Reintegration of Former Combatants into Demining.”

Åström and Ljunggren, “DTR and Community Based Integration: How to Mitigate Stigmatisation of Former Combatants.”


Hall, “HALO Trust’s Reintegration of Former Combatants into Demining.”

Officially called “Brigades of Ex-Combatants for Peace and Humanitarian Demining.”

Garbino, “Un potential poc explorad.”


UN, “Tajikistan: strengthening the National Mine Action Center: Scope of the Problem.”

E-mail exchange with Mario Rueda, Communications Associate, UNMAS Colombia, 2022.


10. The situation of the National Mine Action Authority in Afghanistan is currently somewhat precarious. With TMNAC unable to conduct QM on FSD’s teams in Afghanistan, FSD and other mine action organizations will have to await further developments in Kabul.

11. One of the foundations of do-no-harm approaches is the acknowledgement that whenever an intervention of any sort enters a context it becomes part of the context. FSD’s teams therefore liaise with and engage local communities that include mine survivors to have a clear picture of the context in which they live. This provides FSD with a better understanding of how details of its intervention interact with that context, which subsequently allows FSD to adapt its approach in order to minimize any potential negative impacts of its interventions on the context and to maximize positive impacts.

12. With the opening of a new operations HQ in Kunduz, FSD’s demining teams will be able to clear areas around Kunduz from February to April, and then return to Bada-kshan for demining from May to December.

TNMACE’s Victim Assistance Activities: The Mental Health Aspect of Survivors and HMA Person- nel by Munimova and Brohmzoomda [ from page 36 ]


3. Critical incident stress refers to the range of physical and psychological symptoms that might be experienced by someone as a result of being involved in a trauma- critical incident. Critical incident stress debriefing is a facilitator-led process conducted soon after a traumatic event with individuals considered to be under stress from trauma exposure. OSHA, “Critical Incident Stress Guide,” https://bit.ly/3NEBiY.

4. Tajikistan’s Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MHSSP), Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, and donor support from the U.S. Department of State, United Nations Development Programme, Canadian Centre for Mine Action Technologies, etc.


6. From 2016-2017, participants received trainings from the Polus Center for Social and Economic Development, an international NGO with extensive experience with victim assistance in mine-affected countries.

7. For more information on the independent living philosophy, see: https://nicl.org/about/aboutill.

8. Trainings were held in the Penjikent, Danvoz, Kulyab, Rasht (Central District Hospi- tals, Khujand and Bokhtar Regional Clinical Hospitals, as well as in the Tajikistan National Medical Center in the capital, Dushanbe.


10. In 2018, a new project was organized using new certification training as a logical continuation of the previous project supported by the U.S. Department of State.

11. TMNAC used the UNDOSS Critical Incident Stress Management Unit (CISMU) presen- tation “Psycho-social aspects of COVID-19 pandemic” in Tajikistan after its adapta- tion and translation into tajik.

National Capacity Building for Humanitarian Mine Action Activities in Iraq by Wilkinson [ from page 40 ]


New COD and EDDO Competency Standards for Mine Action: Notes on TBP 0930, 0931, and IMAS 0930 by Evans and Perkins [ from page 48 ]
