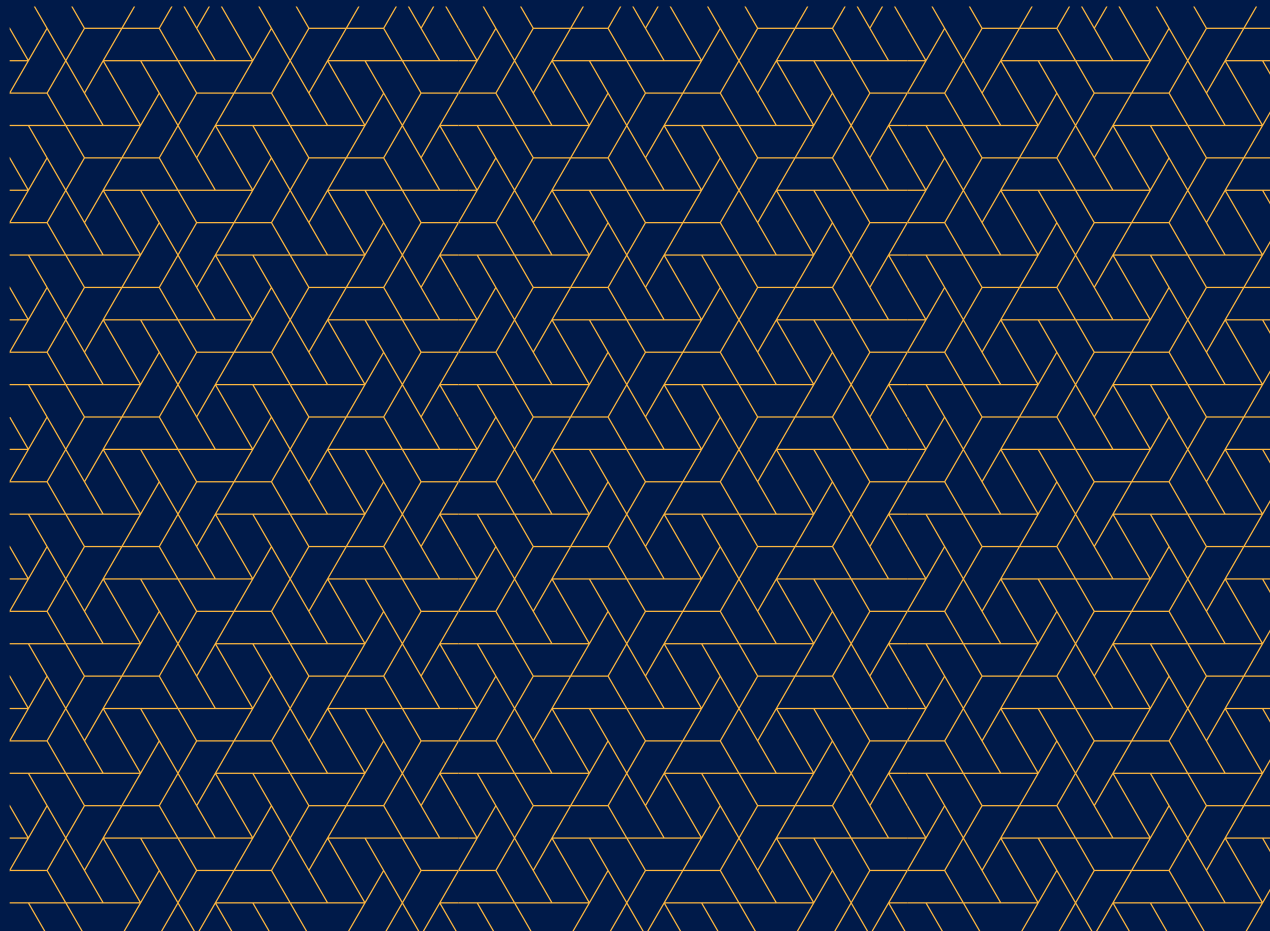


**THEMATIC BRIEF**

**Mine Action in  
Peace Mediation:  
Promoting a  
Strategic Approach**

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**About this thematic brief**

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The views expressed are those of the author alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the institutions referred to or represented within this publication.

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## Introduction

In the context of peace mediation, mine action is often considered from a narrow technical point of view. Indeed, mine action is seen as a stand-alone topic, which is not directly related to the core elements of a mediation process and does not have the potential to support or facilitate such a process in itself. This technical approach does not take into account that mine action's spectrum of activities (box with key definitions) has important synergies with other issues commonly addressed in peace mediation processes. Contrary to a narrow technical view, this thematic brief argues in favour of a more strategic approach to mine action in peace mediation, similar to that advocated for when dealing with security arrangements.<sup>1</sup> A strategic approach takes advantage of the broader outcomes of mine action operations and enables better support to peace mediation, and to peace processes more generally.

The brief is organized into two parts. The first part explains why it is useful to adopt a more strategic approach. The second responds to the question of how such an approach can be implemented. In particular, it outlines what should be considered, when mine action should be addressed and who should be in charge of it.

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## Key definitions

**Mine action** refers to: “[A]ctivities which aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of mines, and ERW [explosive remnants of war] including unexploded sub-munitions. [...] Mine action is not just about demining; it is also about people and societies, and how they are affected by landmine and ERW contamination. The objective of mine action is to reduce the risk from landmines and ERW to a level where people can live safely; in which economic, social and health development can occur free from the constraints imposed by landmine and ERW contamination, and in which the victims’ different needs can be addressed. Mine action comprises five complementary groups of activities:

- a) MRE [mine risk education];
- b) humanitarian demining, i.e. mine and ERW survey, mapping, marking and clearance;
- c) victim assistance, including rehabilitation and reintegration;
- d) stockpile destruction; and
- e) advocacy against the use of APM [anti-personnel mines].”<sup>2</sup>

**Peace mediation** is understood as “a process whereby a third party assists two or more parties, with their consent, to prevent, manage or resolve a conflict by helping them to develop mutually acceptable agreements”.<sup>3</sup>

## Why consider mine action in peace mediation?

Mine action is not very often included in ceasefire and peace agreements. In 2016, a joint study by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and swisspeace found that 35 of 807 agreements studied include provisions on mine action.<sup>4</sup> This shows that there is still a margin for enhancing the consideration of mine action in ceasefire and peace agreements. The relevance of discussing and possibly including provisions on mine action in agreements today is explained by the fact that the number of casualties from landmines and ERW has increased significantly since 2015, mainly due to protracted and new conflicts, such as those in Afghanistan, Libya, Myanmar, Syria and Ukraine.<sup>5</sup> Beyond these general and contextual reasons, enhanced consideration of mine action in peace mediation is motivated by the possibility of using it more strategically to support mediation processes themselves. In particular, four aspects characterizing mine action can be of strategic value in peace mediation.

First, as a humanitarian activity, mine action can be conducted even during the conflict and be used as an **entry point to engage conflict parties and build their confidence in the process**. Conflict parties are often not ready to discuss a fully-fledged peace process but, rather, short-term steps such as cessation of hostilities, a truce or humanitarian access.<sup>6</sup> Discussing measures to restrain the use of force and protect civilians, including ceasing to use landmines and respecting humanitarian principles, are possible entry points for engaging non-state armed groups. These measures have a concrete impact on the ground and are often closer to the groups' daily concerns.<sup>7</sup> Another reason is that conflict parties are often aware of the stigmatization of landmines generated by the Ottawa Convention and consequently they see these weapons differently from other small arms.<sup>8</sup> In addition, mine action is often less politically sensitive because it addresses the impacts of armed violence and not its root causes.<sup>9</sup> An example is the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangasamoro (CAB) signed by the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in 2014. The CAB includes an agreement that was reached in 2012, in part thanks to the confidence-building generated by joint mine action activities. These activities were related to the implementation of the Deed of Commitment (DoC) banning anti-personnel mines (signed by the MILF on 7 April 2002) and included support to conflict parties on the development of mine action capacities (box 1).

Second, mine action can deliver **immediate security benefits that are important for confidence-building**. On the one hand, these security benefits are relevant for civilians and help them gain confidence in the peace process. On the other hand, if undertaken jointly by conflict parties, mine action is also a strong vector of trust between and among them. These benefits are illustrated by the joint humanitarian demining that was agreed upon between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo, FARC-EP) in March 2015 (box 2).



### Box 1: The Philippines

The Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) (2012)<sup>1</sup> includes provisions on landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) and establishes transitional mechanisms to coordinate and monitor the normalization process (i.e. Joint Normalization Committee/JNC, Joint Peace and Security Committee/JPSC, and Joint Peace and Security Teams/JPSTs).

The parties recognize that the measures related to banning the use of anti-personnel mines and the engagement of different mine action organizations contributed to confidence-building and to the signing of the FAB.<sup>2</sup> In particular, a governmental representative stated that the DoC “played a pivotal role in moving the peace process forward.”<sup>3</sup>

The confidence built among the parties derived not simply from the formal signature of the DoC, but from the concrete activities required to ensure its implementation. Geneva Call verified compliance with the DoC through field missions, which required agreements among the parties,<sup>4</sup> and supported the development of joint clearance, monitoring mechanisms and training on mine action.<sup>5</sup> In addition, the development of a joint clearance programme involved the Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD).<sup>6</sup> FSD provided support on mine and UXO clearance and survey. It also developed curricula and training material and implemented courses on MRE and UXO reporting for the JPSTs. Furthermore, FSD coordinated survey and clearance in MILF-controlled areas.

Moreover, the CAB encompasses the establishment of a Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARRM), within which a Bangsamoro Mine Action Centre (BMAC) needs to be set up. FSD supports the development of the BMAC and currently fulfils its tasks—maintaining a mine/UXO survey and victim and MRE databases and serving as the focal point for reporting and clearance requests—while awaiting BMAC’s full establishment, which depends on the establishment of the BARRM.<sup>7</sup>

1 Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro, 15th October 2012, available at <https://peacemaker.un.org/philippines-bangsamoro-framework2012> (accessed on 23 October 2018).

2 Geneva Call, Annual Report 2012 (Geneva, 2013): 5, 17.

3 Ibid.

4 Geneva Call, Annual Report 2004 (Geneva, 2005): 20; Geneva Call, Annual Report 2009 (Geneva, 2010): 12-13.

5 Geneva Call, Annual Report 2005 (Geneva, 2006): 19; Geneva Call, Annual Report 2006 (Geneva, 2007): 21.

6 Geneva Call, Annual Report 2005: 19; Geneva Call, Annual Report 2006: 21; The idea of a joint clearance project was originated by the MILF.

7 Tony Fish, FSD Project Manager in the Philippines, email to author, 8 October 2018. See also <https://fsd.ch/en/project/philippines/> (accessed on 23 October 2018). FSD reached a joint agreement with the Government, the MILF and the Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines in 2010.

Third, mine action can **support other programmes** that are often addressed in peace agreements. In particular, recognizing the potential overlaps and synergies across related areas can enable mediators to enhance consistency in agreements and their implementation. For example, mine action can contribute to DDR by training and employing former combatants as deminers, an option that is also a powerful vector for reconciliation, as removal of explosive risks is performed by those who fought and eventually laid the mines in the first place. This supporting role of mine action is illustrated by the peace process between the Government and FARC-EP in Colombia as well (box 2).

Mine action can also provide an entry point for security sector reform (SSR).<sup>10</sup> Despite often being initiated and conducted by international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs),<sup>11</sup> mine action responsibilities have to be transferred to national authorities as soon as possible.<sup>12</sup> This requires the establishment of institutions, policies and legislative acts in accordance with principles of good governance. It also requires a transparent and effective division of labour and trade-offs among different ministries and agencies, namely, those responsible for defence, police, emergency services, education and health.

From the broader perspective of human security, mine action has the potential to contribute to small arms and light weapons (SALW) control programmes. Indeed, ministries and other state agencies involved in mine action also have responsibilities in SALW control (e.g. security and defence forces).<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, mine action organizations are increasingly active in the safe management of ammunitions and weapons depots.<sup>14</sup>

## **Box 2: Colombia**

In March 2015, the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP agreed to conduct a humanitarian demining pilot project while they were still negotiating a peace agreement in Havana. The project was intended to be a peace gesture aimed at improving safety for the local population and de-escalating the conflict. It encompassed joint demining in El Orejón and Santa Helena, with coordination provided by Norwegian Peoples' Aid.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, mine action has been used as part of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme. Former FARC-EP combatants are reintegrated as deminers through the establishment of the organization Humanicemos Desminado Humanitario. The first 124 former combatants were reintegrated on 15 March 2018 and started operations in the municipality of Montañita (Caquetá Department).<sup>2</sup>

1. GICHD and swisspeace, Mine Action and Peace Mediation: 9, 25. See also [www.npaid.org/News/News-archive/2015/Mine-Action-agreement-with-the-EU-for-Colombia](http://www.npaid.org/News/News-archive/2015/Mine-Action-agreement-with-the-EU-for-Colombia) (accessed on 3 April 2019).

2. Descontamina Colombia, "Humanicemos DH, organización civil de Desminado Humanitario inicia operaciones en Montañita, Caquetá", available at [www.accioncontraminas.gov.co/prensa/2018/Paginas/180711--HumanicemosDH-organizacion-civil-de-Desminado-Humanitario-inicia-operaciones-en-Montanita-Caqueta.aspx](http://www.accioncontraminas.gov.co/prensa/2018/Paginas/180711--HumanicemosDH-organizacion-civil-de-Desminado-Humanitario-inicia-operaciones-en-Montanita-Caqueta.aspx) (accessed on 31 August 2018).

Fourth, mine action can be a **vector for advocating human rights, international humanitarian law and, possibly, reconciliation**. Mine action follows a human-rights-based approach as it is about people and their individual, social and economic rights, among them the right to life, security and an adequate standard of living.<sup>15</sup> This is illustrated by the MRE pillar, which consists of mitigating risks “by raising awareness of men, women, and children in accordance with their different vulnerabilities, roles and needs, and promoting behavioural change”.<sup>16</sup> As this definition indicates clearly, to be effective, MRE has to be tailored to the specific condition of each social group and it therefore becomes a tool to promote gender sensitivity, human rights and international humanitarian law. Similarly, the victim assistance pillar plays a key role in promoting human rights and humanitarian agendas. On reconciliation, mine action can play an enabling role. This is illustrated by the case of Cyprus (box 3), where mine action has been instrumental in facilitating the recovery of the remains of disappeared persons, which is an important issue between Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

### Box 3: Cyprus

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Cyprus has been integrated into the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since July 2016. One of UNMAS’ objectives is to contribute to confidence-building measures between the parties and ultimately to support the negotiation of a peace agreement through the reduction of the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war.<sup>1</sup>

Mine action has supported confidence-building measures by reducing risks and barriers between the two communities. On the Turkish Cypriot side, minefields were released, additional ones were discovered and released, and one minefield in the buffer zone was also released.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, activities were conducted at two future border crossing sites (Lefka-Aplici/Lefke-Apıç and Deryniea/Derinya) in order to facilitate their opening. The first one was cleared in 2015 and UNMAS controlled the quality of clearance. The second went through survey and replacement of the marking. Both crossings are expected to be opened in the near future.<sup>3</sup>

UNMAS has also assisted the Committee on Missing Persons that works on recovering, identifying and returning to families the remains of persons who disappeared “during inter-communal fighting of 1963 to 1964 and the events of 1974.”<sup>4</sup> The Committee received support in ensuring safety and expediting work “at burial sites in Galateia/Mehmetçik, Aya Irini/Akdeniz and Beikioi/Beyköy”. UNMAS also provided advice on explosive hazards and mitigation measures and conducted training in using metal detectors. From a confidence-building perspective, the relevance of this support lies in the fact that the return of people’s remains is important for reconciliation between the two communities.<sup>5</sup>

1 The other objectives are to facilitate a return to normal living conditions and ensure safer freedom of movement. UNMAS, Factsheet on Mine Action Cyprus, October 2018, available at <https://unficyp.unmissions.org/unmas-factsheet-mine-action-cyprus> (accessed on 23 October 2018). See also United Nations Security Council, Comprehensive approach to mine action: Report of the Secretary-General, 21 June 2018 (S/2018/623\*): 8.

2 Stefan De Coninck, Chief of Operations, UNMAS, Cyprus, email to author, 4 September 2018.

3 Ibid.

4 Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, “About the CMP”, available at [www.cmp-cyprus.org/content/about-cmp-0](http://www.cmp-cyprus.org/content/about-cmp-0) (accessed on 5 September 2018).

5 UNMAS, “Cyprus: UNMAS collaboration with the Committee on Mission Persons”, available at [https://unficyp.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/unmas-cmp\\_story\\_15\\_feb\\_18\\_final.pdf](https://unficyp.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/unmas-cmp_story_15_feb_18_final.pdf) (accessed on 4 September 2018).



## How to make strategic use of mine action in peace mediation?

Advocating more strategic use of mine action in peace mediation requires identifying how concretely mine action can fit into and feed a process that is led by needs that are not necessarily those of mine action. In particular, it is useful to outline what can be discussed about mine action in a peace mediation process, and when, and who is responsible for introducing it into the process.

### What should be addressed in peace mediation?

The technical complexity of mine action programmes cannot be covered in full in negotiations towards a ceasefire or peace agreement. Guidance on key “mine action concerns that need to be addressed, or at least considered” can be found in the *United Nations Mine Action Guidelines for Ceasefire and Peace Agreements*.<sup>17</sup> While the Guidelines are very informative, they only go so far as to outline mine action requirements and do not address the challenges and constraints that are characteristic of peace mediation processes. To strategize the use of mine action in a peace mediation process, it is necessary to find a balanced trade-off between mine action concerns and peace mediation needs. In particular, mine action has to come to terms with mediation’s dependency on conflict parties’ consent and the case-by-case approach.<sup>18</sup> To accommodate this, it is suggested to avoid technicalities and **focus on basic questions** required for mine action operations:

- What has to be done?
- Who is responsible for what?
- When does it have to be done?
- Where will the funding come from?
- How will the demining be monitored?<sup>19</sup>

These questions allow those involved to deal with the broad lines of action and leave operational details<sup>20</sup> for a later stage in the peace process. Answering these questions should help conflict parties and mediators develop a realistic understanding of objectives and responsibilities in order to avoid generating misplaced expectations.

**Four key aspects** deserve to be highlighted to avoid misunderstanding and to manage expectations:

- Secure and safe access for operations. Mine action activities demand time and are labour intensive. Conflict parties have to provide access for mine action staff and equipment and ensure their safe and secure deployment.
- Effective and transparent management of information about locations, type of contamination and operations. This is critical to starting mine action and building trust among conflict parties. Indeed, a lack of clarity about contamination and its removal could generate suspicion, especially in the event of delays in implementation or incidents. Related to this requirement is monitoring, which is also critical for building trust and is best achieved through joint implementation of mine action.

- Mechanisms to manage possible incidents, which include not only emergency service and first aid but also communication, investigation and possible improvement of procedure to avoid repetition.
- Establishment of joint bodies involving conflict parties. At the lower end, these bodies are in charge of joint monitoring of operations, but more ambitious ones aim at joint survey and marking and even clearance. Joint bodies are a platform for ensuring transparency of operations and generating ownership of the peace process and concrete shared experiences upon which trust is built. In the establishment of these bodies, it is important to establish a third party as a neutral and impartial coordinator facilitating the working relationship between the conflict parties.

### **When should mine action be addressed in a peace mediation?**

Mine action is a humanitarian activity that mitigates the impact of armed violence and can be addressed from the very beginning of a mediation process. However, the exact timing to bring it into the process depends entirely on the context and is related to the conflict parties' willingness as well as the urgency of dealing with landmines and ERW. As peace mediation is a structured process that encompasses an initial context analysis and design of a mediation strategy,<sup>21</sup> there is a certain value in discussing mine action at the **process design stage**, which means considering whether and how mine action could help advance the mediation process. Addressing mine action during this stage is important to ensure that it is considered strategically as a component of the entire process and not simply as a technical part.<sup>22</sup> It is thus in the design phase that the five mine action pillars and their impacts have to be taken into account and possibly related to the other issues addressed by the mediation process (e.g. DDR and SSR) in order to identify and use potential synergies.

**During and after the design of the process**, some training is often needed for the parties, who may have limited knowledge and may not be able to discuss mine action in the negotiation phase.<sup>23</sup> For this reason, mine action experts can be called in to support the analysis of landmine and ERW consequences, to enhance understanding of what can be done to address them, to identify capacities and funding resources and to explore possible answers to the basic questions on mine action operations (those indicated above).

At the **implementation level**, strategic use of mine action would consist of conducting activities according to the different phases of the peace process. A number of generic options can be outlined, even though they do not represent a template as their execution depends on the parties' will:

- In the context of a ceasefire process and the transitional phase<sup>24</sup> - which entails ceasing to fight, disengagement, and verification and monitoring of such steps - options include using marking and eventually clearance of contaminated areas to ensure that the implementation of the ceasefire and monitoring are conducted safely. In this phase, a strategic approach should also consider immediate humanitarian benefits of mine action (e.g. improvement of humanitarian access and security of civilians) in order to nurture the confidence of conflict parties and the population in the peace process.

- In addition, the transitional phase encompasses the establishment of mechanisms to manage the ceasefire and security. Parties have to work together, resulting in further windows of opportunity to build confidence.<sup>25</sup> Here, mine action can be considered strategically for confidence-building by having conflict parties undertake joint activities, e.g. developing their capacities and conducting survey, marking and eventually clearing contaminated land, as has been the case in the Philippines (box 1) and the pilot project in Colombia (box 2).
- In the post-conflict phase, strategic use of mine action means attuning mine action with DDR and SSR, for instance by considering mine action as a reintegration option for ex-combatants and part of the reform of security institutions. In addition, mine action can support the implementation of other components of peace agreements, including the return of displaced people, reconstruction and electoral processes. In this phase, a mine action programme can be conceived in a more long-term perspective and oriented towards reconciliation and development objectives, rather than the short-term objectives during the conflict period, which demand a focus on immediate and confidence-building gains.

### **Who should address mine action in a peace process?**

Unless requested by the conflict parties, the mediator is best placed to propose the right moment and content to address mine action as she or he holds an overview of the process and is in closest contact with the stakeholders.<sup>26</sup> A mine action expert may be involved as an advisor. On the one hand, this expert can support the parties in reaching an understanding of mine action and what can be achieved realistically. On the other hand, she or he can help the mediator to identify and reach compromises. This should not, however, undermine a clear division of labour: the advisor has a supporting role and does not work directly in developing compromises with the parties, which is the specific task of the mediator.<sup>27</sup>

It is important that the mediator is aware of the strategic opportunities mine action can provide to help conflict parties in reaching an agreement. Therefore, the mediator should be able to present mine action not only from the perspective of security provisions but also to bring attention to the other positive results that mine action can potentially generate. Consequently, in addition to early contacts between mediators and mine action experts at the process design stage, it would be beneficial to promote a more general dialogue between mediation and mine action communities of practice, who do not know each other well.<sup>28</sup>

Furthermore, mediators have the option to involve mine action organizations, international and national NGOs, commercial companies and national authorities that have capacities to support the implementation of agreements in the field. These organizations can provide training, advice, coordination and direct implementation of mine action. Mediators have the role of preparing and discussing with parties the possible involvement of such organizations and the types of activities they will conduct.

The broad range of mine action organizations also opens avenues for engaging in “south-south cooperation” as mine action expertise is increasingly available from affected countries and former conflict countries. From this perspective, there is added value in study trips, allowing conflict parties to be exposed to other mine- and ERW-affected countries that have grappled with peace processes and, possibly, to learn also how other important issues (e.g. DDR, SSR, reconstruction, etc.) have been connected to mine action in support of peace agreements. When engaging in such capacity-building activities, it is important to adopt a conflict-sensitive approach to avoid risks related to the political and historical background of the conflict.

## **Conclusion**

This brief advocates in favour of overcoming a narrow and technical use of mine action and the adoption of a more strategic approach to it in a peace mediation process. Such an approach does not imply that mine action should be addressed in all peace mediation processes. The determinants of whether to include mine action in a peace process agenda remain the will of the parties and the context. The brief argues that, where such will and conditions allow, it is advised to go beyond an understanding of mine action that limits itself to a stand-alone and technical security arrangement. Rather, it is advised to adopt an approach that capitalizes on mine action’s broader results, its synergistic contribution to addressing other key issues in a mediation process and its support to confidence-building.

Evidence of the validity of such an approach exists, even though it is limited, as mine action has most often been considered to be purely technical. The examples outlined above show the potential synergies between mine action and peace mediation and support the consideration of a strategic approach. These potential synergies deserve to be discussed more at the policy level within mine action and peacemaking communities of practice. The case of Colombia shows mine action’s potential as a vector for confidence-building. In the case of Cyprus, mine action can still be conducted and provide benefits at ground level despite the deadlock in the peace process. In the Philippines, different mine action organizations have engaged with a non-state armed group, which contributed to the achievement of a peace agreement.

Finally, the relevance of more strategic use of mine action in peace mediation processes lies in the fact that non-state armed conflicts have increased in the last few years,<sup>29</sup> increasing landmine and ERW victims and undermining humanitarian interventions and recovery. Considering mine action in a more strategic way in a peace mediation process would not only help address the impacts of armed conflict but also sustain peace by contributing synergistically to other programmes commonly implemented in peace process and ensuring their greater coherence.

## Endnotes

- 1 According to Jeremy Brickhill, strategic use of security arrangements means integrating them “into the overall mediation strategy and security, economic, power-sharing, justice and other topics to use synergies between them”: Jeremy Brickhill, *Mediating Security Arrangements in Peace Processes: Critical Perspectives from the Field* (Zurich: Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich, 2018): 16, 36.
- 2 International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) 04.10, Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations, ed. 2 amendment 10, 19 March 2019, para 3.177, available at [www.mineactionstandards.org/standards/international-mine-action-standards-imas/imas-in-english/](http://www.mineactionstandards.org/standards/international-mine-action-standards-imas/imas-in-english/).
- 3 United Nations, *United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation* (New York, 2012): 4.
- 4 GICHD and swisspeace, *Mine Action and Peace Mediation* (Geneva, 2016): 17.
- 5 The number of casualties has increased sharply since 2015 and stood at 7,239 in 2017. International Campaign to Ban Landmines, *Landmine Monitor 2018* (Geneva, 2018): 49.
- 6 Brickhill, *Mediating Security Arrangements in Peace Processes*: 27-28.
- 7 Julian Hottinger, “Engaging with non-state armed groups in disarmament”, *Disarmament Forum*, No. 1, 2008, pp. 27-35.
- 8 Geneva Call, *Armed Non-State Actors and Landmines. A Global Report Profiling NSAs and Their Use, Acquisition, Production, Transfer and Stockpiling of Landmines*, Vol. I, Geneva, 2005, p. 36.
- 9 Mine action is not intended to address the causes of armed conflicts by redefining power-sharing or the monopoly on the use of legitimate violence. For this reason, it is less politically sensitive. Challenges exist, however, especially in today’s conflict contexts that are characterized by a politicization of humanitarian interventions. Yves Daccord, “Dunant’s dream, 150 years on: a sober celebration?”, *Humanitarian Exchange*, no. 58, July 2013, pp. 26-28.
- 10 Ursign Hofmann, Gianluca Maspoli, Åsa Massleberg and Pascal Rapillard, *Linking Mine Action and SSR through Human Security*, SSR Paper 15, (Geneva: Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) 2016).
- 11 Mine action responsibilities are often taken by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). Support is also provided by other mine action organizations such as international NGOs and GICHD.
- 12 In mine action, the principle of national ownership is established by the conventions banning anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions and by the IMAS. See IMAS 02.10, Guide for the establishment of a mine action programme, ed. 1, amendment 3, 20 April 2018, para. 4.1, available at [www.mineactionstandards.org/en/standards/document-detail/standard-document/1524219619-guide-for-the-establishment-of-a-mine-action-programme/action/show/](http://www.mineactionstandards.org/en/standards/document-detail/standard-document/1524219619-guide-for-the-establishment-of-a-mine-action-programme/action/show/).
- 13 DCAF and GICHD, “Seeking more coherent implementation in post-conflict security: Can we better align SSR, DDR, SALW and Mine Action? Event Report”, Geneva, Maison de la paix, 6 February 2017, available at [www.gichd.org/fileadmin/GICHD-resources/rec-documents/GICHD-DCAF-event-report-2017-05.pdf](http://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/GICHD-resources/rec-documents/GICHD-DCAF-event-report-2017-05.pdf).
- 14 Hofmann et al., *Linking Mine Action and SSR through Human Security*: 15, 46.
- 15 Hofmann et al., *Linking Mine Action and SSR through Human Security*: 28-29.
- 16 IMAS 04.10, para 3.186.

- 17 United Nations Inter Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, available (in French) at <https://bibliomines.org/wp-content/uploads/MineActionGuidelinesforCeasefireandPeaceAgreements.pdf> (accessed on 23 October 2018). Agreements rarely include provisions on victim assistance, advocacy and implementation of conventions banning anti-personnel mines. See GICHD and swisspeace, *Mine Action and Peace Mediation*: 19.
- 18 GICHD, "Mine Action and Sustaining Peace: Benefits and Challenges of Including Mine Action in Peace and Ceasefire Agreements", unpublished report on side event at the 17th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mines Ban Convention, Vienna, 20 December 2017: 4.
- 19 GICHD and swisspeace, *Mine Action and Peace Mediation*: 31.
- 20 For example, accreditation of mine action operators, quality management and handover procedure for cleared land.
- 21 United Nations, *United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation*: 6-7.
- 22 Brickhill makes this point for disarmament by saying that security aspects are "not treated as an integral part of the whole process" (*Mediating Security Arrangements in Peace Processes*: 10-11, 16). This view applies to mine action as well.
- 23 *Ibid.*: 30-32. Brickhill emphasizes the importance of building parties' skills, experience and confidence before the negotiation.
- 24 *Ibid.*: 38, 65.
- 25 *Ibid.*: 55.
- 26 If there is no peace mediation, the request may come jointly from the conflict parties or facilitators. This is possible because mine action organizations are often already active in the conflict environment, independently of a peace process.
- 27 Brickhill, *Mediating Security Arrangements in Peace Processes*: 32-33.
- 28 GICHD and swisspeace, *Mine Action and Peace Mediation*: 32.
- 29 Kendra Dupuy, Siri Aas Rustand, *Trends in Armed Conflicts*, (Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo, 2018) available at <https://www.prio.org/utility/DownloadFile.ashx?id=1616&type=publicationfile> (accessed 23 April 2019).



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