INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS pdf

1: International Mine Action Standards: IMAS in English

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Mine action is commonly represented as comprising five complementary groups of activities: Humanitarian demining , i. The objective of mine action is to reduce the risk caused by landmines and ERW to a level where people can live safely. Gender mainstreaming in mine action will ensure that the needs of affected women, girls, boys and men are taken into account and the response tailored accordingly. The coordination of mine action activities in affected countries is commonly conducted by Mine Action Coordination Centers MACC managed either by the United Nations or the host country government. Pillars[edit] Clearance of mines and explosive remnants of war[edit] In its broad sense, mine clearance includes surveys, mapping and minefield marking, as well as the actual clearance of mines from the ground. This range of activities is also sometimes referred to as demining. Humanitarian mine clearance aims to clear land so that civilians can return to their homes and their everyday routines without the threat of landmines and unexploded remnants of war ERW , which include unexploaded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance. This means that all the mines and ERW affecting the places where ordinary people live must be cleared, and their safety in areas that have been cleared must be guaranteed. Mines are cleared and the areas are thoroughly verified so that they can say without a doubt that the land is now safe, and people can use it without worrying about the weapons. The aim of humanitarian demining is to restore peace and security at the community level. Mine clearance methods[edit] Surveying[edit] Non-technical surveying, or the formal gathering of mine-related information, is required before actual clearance can begin. Impact surveys assess the socio-economic impact of the mine contamination and help assign priorities for the clearance of particular areas. Impact surveys make use of all available sources of information, including minefield records where they exist , data about mine victims, and interviews with former combatants and local people. Technical surveys then define the minefields and provide detailed maps for the clearance operations. Maps[edit] Maps resulting from the impact surveys and technical surveys are stored in an information management system, including a variety of programme databases, and provide baseline data for clearance organisations and operational planning. Minefield marking[edit] Minefield marking is carried out when a mined area is identified, but clearance operations cannot take place immediately. Minefield marking, which is intended to deter people from entering mined areas, has to be carried out in combination with mine awareness, so that the local population understands the meaning and importance of the signs. Manual clearance[edit] Manual clearance relies on trained deminers using metal detectors and long thin prodders to locate the mines, which are then destroyed by controlled explosion. Mine detection dogs[edit] Dog search for mines in Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine detection dogs, which detect the presence of explosives in the ground by smell. Dogs are used in combination with manual deminers. Mechanical clearance[edit] Mechanical clearance relies on flails , rollers , vegetation cutters, and excavators, often attached to armoured bulldozers, to destroy the mines in the ground. These machines can only be used in certain terrains, and are expensive to operate. Mine-risk education MRE [edit] Mine-risk education, or MRE, refers to educational activities aimed at reducing the risk of injury from mines and unexploded ordnance by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change through public-information campaigns, education and training, and liaison with communities. Objectives are to reduce the risk to a level where people can live safely and to recreate an environment where economic and social development can occur free from the constraints imposed by landmine contamination. MRE, along with demining which includes technical surveys, mapping, clearance of unexploded ordnance and mines, marking unsafe areas, and documenting areas that have been cleared , contributes to mine-risk reduction, or limiting the risk of physical injury from mines and unexploded ordnance that already contaminates the land. Advocacy and the destruction of landmine stockpiles focus on preventing future use of mines. According to the Landmine Monitor Report , [2] in , MRE was provided in 57 states and areas, compared to 61 states and areas in However, in the MRE programs were identified in just 14 states. MRE activities increased significantly in Yemen and Somaliland, and also increased to some degree in 10 other states. International standards have been developed to guide the management of MRE programmes.

Public information dissemination[edit] "Public information" in the context of mine action describes landmine and unexploded ordnance situations and informs and updates a broad range of stakeholders. Such information may focus on local risk-reduction messages, address broader national issues such as complying with legislation or raise public support for mine-action programmes. Public information "dissemination", however, refers primarily to public-information activities that help reduce the risk of injury from mines and unexploded ordnance by raising awareness of the risk to individuals and communities, and by promoting behavioural change. It is primarily a one-way form of communication transmitted through mass media. Public information-dissemination initiatives may be stand-alone MRE projects that are implemented in advance of other mine-action activities. Education and training is a two-way process, which involves the imparting and acquiring of knowledge, changing attitudes and practices through teaching and learning. Education and training activities may be conducted in formal and non-formal environments: Community liaison[edit] Community liaison refers to the systems and processes used to exchange information between national authorities, mine-action organisations and communities on the presence of mines, unexploded ordnance and abandoned munitions. It enables communities to be informed about planned demining activities, the nature and duration of the tasks, and the exact locations of marked or cleared areas. Furthermore, it enables communities to inform local authorities and mine-action organizations about the location, extent and impact of contaminated areas. This information can greatly assist the planning of related activities, such as technical surveys, marking and clearance operations, and survivor-assistance services. Community liaison ensures that mine-action projects address community needs and priorities. Community liaison should be carried out by all organizations conducting mine-action operations. Community liaison services may begin far in advance of demining activities and help the development of local capacities to assess the risks, manage information and develop risk-reduction strategies. Stockpile destruction[edit] Stockpiled anti-personnel landmines APM far outnumber those actually laid in the ground. In accordance with Article 4 of the anti-personnel mine-ban treaty , State Parties must destroy their stockpiled mines within four years after their accession to the convention. Sixty-five countries have now destroyed their stockpiles of antipersonnel landmines, destroying a combined total of more than 37 million mines. Another 51 countries have officially declared not having a stockpile of antipersonnel mines and a further three countries are scheduled to destroy their stockpiles by the end of the year. There are many options available to states in destroying their stockpiles. Stockpiles are usually destroyed by the military, but an industrial solution can also be employed. The techniques used vary depending on the make-up of the mines and the conditions in which they are found. The complete destruction cycle involves aspects such as transportation and storage, processing operations, equipment maintenance, staff training and accounting, as well as the actual physical destruction. Pre-process technology[edit] It is may be necessary to disassemble or breakdown anti-personnel mines prior to the destruction process. This is necessary because of limitations on the amount of contained explosive that can be incinerated, the anti-personnel mine design or the requirement for different components to have separate destruction methods. All of these methods require the movement of exposed bare explosive to the final destruction facility. The following are brief descriptions of these techniques: Manual disassembly[edit] This technique implies the use of human resources to physically dismantle APM by manual labour using simple hand tools. It has the advantage of requiring limited capital investment required, but is a labour-intensive process which results in relatively slow production rates. This method requires well-trained, yet semi-skilled staff. Mechanical disassembly[edit] The use of mechanically operated systems to dismantle APM. The different technologies are available, as noted above are: Pull Apart, Defuzing and Depriming. In contrast to manual disassembly, mechanical disassembly has the advantages of high production rates, it is an efficient system of work and has low staff requirements. It is environmentally friendly for this stage of the demilitarisation cycle and the technology is readily available. A major disadvantage, however, is the requirement for high capital investment. This is further complicated by the need for a wide range of equipment necessary to cope with all pre-processing requirements. Robotic disassembly[edit] A fully automated disassembly system. Similar advantages and disadvantages to mechanical disassembly, however the initial capital costs are much greater. This system would only be economically efficient for very large production runs due to the high start-up costs. Mechanical breakdown[edit] This

process is mainly concerned with techniques required to expose the explosive fillings of APMs prior to the destruction phase. There are low staff requirements for mechanical breakdown, and it is an environmentally friendly operation during this stage of the demilitarisation cycle. The technology is now readily available and there is no secondary waste stream, which reduces scrap salvage and disposal costs. A major disadvantage is the requirement for high capital investment. Production rates per machine can be slow and there is always the danger of induced initiation of the target APM during processing. Cryofracture[edit] This process is used to break down an APM into small enough pieces to be processed through an incineration destruction method. It involves the use of liquid nitrogen to change the mechanical properties of the munition casing to a more brittle phase by cooling it to C. The munition can then be easily shattered using simple mechanical shear or press techniques. A cryogenic wash out system is in the early stages of development. The principle is similar to cryogenic fracture; except that the filling is attacked with liquid nitrogen in order to make its removal easier. Cryofracture is an environmentally friendly technique during this stage of the demilitarisation cycle with low staff requirements. The technique can also be used for any other type of munition, explosive or propellant with limited pre-preparation of the munition required. There is no secondary waste stream, hence cutting final disposal costs. In financial terms low capital investment only is required for set up costs. Sensitivity tests have shown that even at C there is little change to the insensitiveness of the munition. The disadvantage of high operating costs for liquid nitrogen usage must also be considered, however. Today there is only one proven production system in place. APMs with metal or aluminium casings are not susceptible to embrittlement and variations in the shear forces or pressures are required to fracture the munition casing. Further trials are necessary, as analysis has shown that the failure modes for the munition casings involved a mixture of brittle fracture, plastic deformation and shearing. Results are currently unpredictable and there is an obvious low temperature hazard to personnel. There are two distinct technologies; 1 "entrainment" or 2 "direct injection". Research has now proven that the direct injection technology should be the preferred option for safety reasons. There are low staff requirements for HAC systems and a wide range of target munitions can be attacked. The explosive safety of systems is well proven and it is a cost effective technique in comparison to other pre-processing methods. The major disadvantage is the requirement for initial high capital investment for infrastructure. The systems also produce contaminated waste-water, which requires a complex filtration system to clean it up. In terms of post-process operations, the explosive content is "grit sensitised" and requires careful handling during any further processing or destruction.

2: Leadership | UNMAS

*Standards marked with a * have been reviewed and accepted by the IMAS Review Board and are pending final endorsement by the IMAS Steering Group and adoption by the UN IACG for mine action at Principal's level.*

It may be detonated by the action of its victim, by the passage of time or by controlled means. The explosive can be activated by many types of fuse mechanism normally by pressure, tilt rod, influence or command detonated. Normally used to ensure that the person or laying equipment has been able to withdraw from the immediate area. Also known as the start line. This causes the metal striker to come into contact with a detonator causing an explosion. Bomblets are designed to explode on contact with the target or ground. Sometimes used in order to increase the explosive content. The activation of the fuse causes a primary charge to be initiated which ejects the mine to a predetermined height before the main fragmentation charge is initiated. Mainly used for AP mines but has also been used for some AT mine models. Behind the fragments is a layer of explosive. The mine can be initiated by either pull or command detonation. Normally specified in the contract document or clearance plan. In the UN it is normally achieved to a clearance standard of per cent with a tolerance error of not more than 0. It has known coordinates and it can also be the start point of the first lane. Turning points and intermediate points are also datum points as they have known coordinates. This is normally referred to as mines per metre of minefield frontage. See also Blow in Situ. The first item in the explosive chain, used to initiate the main or booster charge. The procedure normally removes one or more links from the firing chain. Also known as a blasting machine or firing device. Some dogs can also be trained to detect tripwires and non-explosive booby traps. The dogs are normally referred to as explosive or mine detection dogs. This includes bombs and warheads, guided and ballistic missiles, artillery, mortar, small arms ammunition, mines, torpedoes, depth charges, demolition stores, pyrotechnics, cluster munitions and dispensers, cartridges and propelled actuated devices, electric explosive devices and similar items that are explosive in nature. EOD may be undertaken: It involves team members in the recovery of injured personnel and the provision of first aid. Also known as man down drill. There are several factors which require to be reviewed when determining this zone; the amount of explosive, body construction, type of material, ground conditions etc. See also secondary fragmentation. This normally includes a small margin at each side. It can be designed for use by electrical, chemical or mechanical systems; by push, pull, pressure, release and time activation, singly or in combination. It decomposes through a combustion reaction at a very fast rate. This reaction takes place on the surface of the composition and burns layer by layer. Normally refers to clearance teams using mine detectors and probes. See also Off Route Mine. It has all the elements of a mass manufactured mine or booby trap. It is identical to the actual live object but has no explosive content. Intermediate lanes are numbered successively forward of the start line. There can be several such markers. It can consist of both AT and AP mines. Used in conjunction with a benchmark to locate the start point of a mine field perimeter. Also called a reference point. Normally initiated by either the detonator or a booster charge. It may be detonated by the action of its target, the passage of time or by controlled means. Mine awareness encompasses mine risk education, mine awareness training MAT for peacekeepers, multi media presentations, and what action to take when a mine or UXO is found. It is intended to modify behaviour patterns to reduce casualties. A result of Mine Awareness is the flow of information back to a MAC about mine and ordnance locations. They can consist of one or several mines of one or various types. Most MACs also contain a limited map producing capability. It also involves the reduction and marking of the areas prior to demining activities. There are three levels of survey. Normally undertaken when roads have been frequently used but actual mine clearance operations have not taken place. In addition these metal components may have been manufactured from specialised material such as stainless steel which can be difficult to detect. It has been recommended that protocol II of the Geneva Convention be amended to specify a metal content of at least 8 grams. It does not make the item completely safe as removal of the pins or rods will immediately make the item active again. It should not be confused with Disarming. Sometimes referred to as a Horizontal Action Mine. Can be laid by hand or mechanical means. Also known as a prodder. Normally consists of only Anti Personnel mines. Also

called a benchmark. Depending on the material, secondary fragmentation can travel long distances. The line does not have to be straight. See also base line. Normally the Start Point is the location where the first clearance lane intersects the start line. It is not normally associated with anti personnel minefields. This is undertaken by use of three levels of survey: Pressure against the tilt rod activates by breaking or releasing mechanical retaining devices, thereby starting the activation chain of the fuzing mechanism. See also full width clearance. Pressure or the breaking of this trip wire will result in activation of the mine fuse. Normally attached to bounding and fragmentation type mines. This point has known coordinates and is related by bearing azimuth and distance to either an earlier turning point or intermediate point. It could have been fired, dropped, launched, projected yet remains unexploded either through malfunction or design or for any other cause.

3: International Mine Action Standards: IMAS

mine action activities e.g. MRE, MDD, and stockpile destruction as appropriate; and inclusion of requirements for protection of the environment in IMAS and The revision process will include consultation with experts.

The result was idealistic, but unworkable. As quick examples, every demining site required a helicopter CASEVAC and all deminers had to wear bombsuits, helmets and 13mm thick visors. These were "safe" in so far as no one could be criticised for setting the bar too low, but not a single UN controlled Mine Action effort could apply the standards they had produced. Amid commercials and NGOs, UN organisations and diplomats, he deliberately brought in elected field people and vocal critics of the industry. This helped to make the standards a reflection of what was practical, and so become minimum requirements that everyone should be able to achieve. Central to the standards was an agreed definition of what "Clearance" actually meant. It did not refer to mines, it referred to areas. It did not mean removing most mines from an area. It meant clearance of ALL explosive hazards to an agreed depth over that area. Impractical requirements were removed and other requirements refined in a way that led to almost all field operatives accepting the IMAS as a baseline. This was good for them because every organisation had to achieve a known end result. It was also good for the donors who could, at last, have some idea what they were paying for. I am that person. This "crime" had been committed regularly over eight years, during which I was repeatedly invited to remain an independent member of the IMAS board. The standards I had worked for were intentionally put together as International Mine Action Standards, not UN Mine Action Standards - because the UN had no authority to impose their views, and really had very little idea about field reality. It was field-orientated people who brought reality to the release and who instigated all important revisions, so they are responsible for making the IMAS a success. I personally drafted many revisions, finally getting through the change to the Mechanical IMAS that recognises that machines cannot "clear" ground to the required standard earlier this year. This revision was opposed by the GiHAD and by those who make big money out of deploying machines that cannot do the job. The problem with all bureaucracies is that individuals become more concerned with their promotion within the bureaucracy than the pursuit of the purpose for which they were established. It wants to become a genuine centre of excellence, but cannot balance that with an ongoing need to invent "essential" services that they can sell internationally, so it appoints "safe" bureaucrats who will suppress inconvenient truths in pursuit of the success of the institution and its popularity with those who have commercial interests. As long as this is the case, the International Demining Community, and the donors of it, should understand that the authority they have come to grant an international agreement no longer has validity. Just one example of why UNMAS in an inadequate agency to set standards for others is their record in Sudan over recent years. The latter contradicted the definition of clearance in IMAS Machines can detonate some devices and some especially detectors and sifters may locate all devices, but in that case the "clearance" follows detection and is manual. Obviously, the IMAS should try to be precise and internally consistent when we expect them to be widely translated. Their "interest group" of people who had invested in machines was deaf, but they all knew that without a man or woman in the loop, no machine can clear any ground to IMAS. They all leave pin-pull mines and common ordnance behind, and in my experience, always leave some damaged pressure-operated mines behind as well sometimes pushed deep, sometimes thrown outside the original mined area. I have many photographs of mines found after the passage of pseudo-clerance machines but have never been asked to show them because everyone with experience knows that machines do not really clear any ground to the IMAS requirement. Some users of machines went on to quote the GICHD drafted IMAS as evidence that the use of their machine was all that was required to clear ground to international standards. The inadequate clearance that resulted cost post-conflict countries and donors serious money, and has almost certainly cost lives. Despite having a great deal of support for my views, it took more than four years for me to get IMAS If anyone should doubt the accuracy of this summary, the email exchanges covering it are all held on record. The new IMAS On the follow-up needed behind machines, it now states: When demining machines are used in clearance operations to detonate devices and the machine may leave hazards within the agreed clearance depth, follow-up demining

operations shall be carried out before the area is released as cleared. When demining machines are used for ground preparation in a Defined Hazardous Area DHA that will be released as cleared, they shall always be followed-up by other demining operations. This represents a gross reduction in standards that has been led by a UN country programme dispensing donor funds and charging donors highly for its "expertise". It could be argued that hazard-reduction rather than hazard elimination is the aim and if the Sudanese are happy with this, we should not complain. In a competitive environment, those engaged in genuine "clearance" cannot bid for work on a level playing field when competing with a result that is allowed not to equal "clearance" as defined in IMAS. And perhaps the passage of a machine can give confidence that there is no need to clear? If it is released as "cleared", it puts the demining group at risk of legal liability, increases risk to the end-users and also puts deminers who may have to traverse the area at unnecessary risk. Earlier this year, and after the revision of IMAS It looks to me like the Sudan RFPs were rigged so that only a few players could respond - because many responsible demining agencies who could deliver real clearance using manual assets could not bid. The players who could respond belonged to the same Mechanical Mafia that I have encountered wherever demining is seen as a route to fat profits. But the worst part is not that UNMAS has deliberately reduced standards to give these mercenaries their profits, which they clearly have. It is that most of the donor money that is meant to go into HMA to support the peace-building process by providing security and stimulating the economy is going out of Sudan as fast as it goes in. No security results, little money enters the national economy, no effort is made to use methods that may be transferred to national control, and the IMAS definition of clearance - which UNMAS are responsible for - is ignored. High resolution images of these UNMAO "decision making tools" showing how the breaching of IMAS by using inadequate machines for clearance is institutionalised in Sudan are available of request. It probably is - if only because they are not that organised. I believe it has occurred because of gross ignorance and an obsession with producing meaningless square metre statistics to satisfy donors who they have misled. Whatever the cause, it undermines all that we have worked for in HMA for the past 15 years, undermines the foundation of the IMAS which was to present a level playing field for all those operating in HMA and shows a shameful ignorance of the integrated security and peace-building aims of Humanitarian Mine Action as known to most intelligent operators with field experience. They wanted everyone to have to clear all mines and ERW to an agreed depth. But now many commercials have become multi-nationals and seem prepared to compromise integrity for an easy profit - and why not when the idea has the sanction of UNMAS? HMA has always been simple. We do not need experts who do not have an overview in which to place their expertise. But the GiHAD has successfully specialised in creating jobs for itself and friends, complicating a demining process that must be kept simple if it is really going to be given into the hands of those affected in national programmes. The EOD training by Westerners really is not proven necessary - just look at the accident record to see how many Western trained EOD ex-pats die doing ridiculous things with explosive devices: Their acting-director, who is also the self-appointed chair of the IMAS Steering Committee, could not answer the criticisms - and could not pretend that I was simply wrong because too many people know otherwise. Criticising me for religious intolerance seemed clever because it obliged me to defend myself, but when it transpired that no one had complained, it became a public example of their unplanned knee-jerk "leadership" failings. If donors genuinely want to support peace-building and post-conflict recovery, they should give their funding direct to the demining organisations that they trust, just as they did before the UN assumed leadership of Mine Action. And if the IMAS Review Board were dominated by field people with broad experience, how much more useful might they become? So the IMAS are dead A rewrite had been suggested so that the standards ceased to be centered on "mines" and refered to all ERW - which they already do, as is shown in the definition of clearance above. The decline of their hard-won authority as International standards has begun. When the leadership is willing to sell the definition of "clearance" for the convenience of their friends, the IMAS no longer deserve the respect of field workers.

4: IMAS Mine Risk Education Best Practice Guidebook 1 - World | ReliefWeb

INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS pdf

The IMAS â€" the International Mine Action Standards â€" are standards issued by the United Nations to guide the planning, implementation and management of mine action programmes.

5: "IEDs and the IMAS" by Guy Rhodes

The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Ian Mansfield, Tuesday 8 May , Geneva International standards for humanitarian mine clearance programmes were first.

6: International Standards, UNMAS

International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) by Paddy Blagden Technical Director Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining Geneva International Centre for.

7: Mine Action Standards (www.enganchecubano.com) - International Mine Action Standards: IMAS

The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Training is a five-day, intensive regional course that reviews the IMAS content and focuses on the application of and inter-relationship between the standards.

8: International Standards for Humanitarian Mine Clearance

International Mine Action Standards, or IMAS for short. New IMAS are produced periodically and existing IMAS can be amended or replaced with a new edition as a result of the review process.

9: Mine action - Wikipedia

International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) were requested by the mine action community and are produced and sponsored by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), with support from a variety of organisations, including the Geneva International Centre for.

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