Generic Preventive Measures

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Meeting of Experts CCW Protocol V

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What is working and what is not working?

WEAPONS AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT (WAM)

- a slice of GPM
- From UNMAS experience on WAM
WEAPONS AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT (WAM)

- WAM is a relatively new area of work in the mine action sector
- Approaches could differ from organization to organization
- International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)
- IATGs serve as a guideline and not as a standard
Common problems associated with unsafe, unsecure and poor WAM:

- Unplanned deadly explosions
- Looted and stolen explosive materials used to fuel conflict
CLARIFICATION: WAM areas in which UNMAS is NOT involved:

- Life cycle management
- Operational use of ammunition
- Production
- Tracing
- Transfer
WHAT WORKS...

- Policy and legislation regulation
- Storage
- Security
- Record keeping
- Safe handling
- Disposal
- Marking
WHAT WORKS...

E.g. UNMAS work on WAM:

• Tailored services
• 33 secure storage facilities constructed in 2015
E.g. Where?

- Central African Republic
- Cote d’Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Libya
- Mali
- Somalia
A few examples
UNMAS in Libya

The Problem of Arms and Ammunition in Libya

The world’s largest uncontrolled stocks. Continued conflict has impacted public infrastructure such as schools, universities and hospitals. The ERW threat is exacerbated by the mine fields and ERW left behind from previous conflicts.

The number of IDPs in Libya is estimated to be over 410,000. There is no prospect of safe return for these IDPs without appropriate survey/clearance.

UNMAS Role

Arms and Ammunition Management
To support the Libyan government manage the arms and ammunition currently in Libya in line with national priorities, in accordance with international standards.
Libya—WHAT COULD WORK

• Development of comprehensive WAM system
• Completion of the “Technical Framework for Arms and Ammunition”
• Start of a project for policies, procedures, equipment and infrastructure
• Provision of weapons-marking machines and recordkeeping equipment
• Three training courses for Army and Police
WHAT WORKS...
UNMAS in Cote d’Ivoire

- Rehabilitation of armories
- Handover of two ammunition storage facilities
- Specialized training to national security forces (police, gendarmerie and armed forces)
- Destruction of 97 tons of unserviceable ammunition
WHAT WORKS...

UNMAS in Somalia

- Assist the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to develop a comprehensive WAM System
- Weapons-marking machines and recordkeeping equipment to the FGS
- Training courses to national counterparts in destruction of small arms and light weapons
- Capacity building in establishing frameworks, policies and procedures
Main challenges/What could be improved:

Policy

• Development of national guidelines / risk of IATG strategic and technical wisdom being largely ignored
• Identifying national dedicated and unified reference institution/central pint of contact recognized by agencies and security forces
• Accountable implementation after handover
• Finding pre-conflict data base
• Need of qualified and experienced technical staff
Main challenges/What could be improved:

Storage

• Finding suitable storage to implement the IATG
• Difficulties in applying rules and regulations for storage
• Difficulties in determining all pre-conflict weapons (starting from scratch)
• Security situation (ongoing conflict)
Main challenges/ What could be improved:

International Assistance

- Low level of resources from international assistance in ammunition management
- Looking into optional approaches to military-to-military
- Going beyond military assistance
UNMAS: “Mine Action is Humanitarian Action”

THANK YOU!

Questions/Comments?
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