

Critical issue module 5

Landmine awareness

Topic 3 Assessment and situation analysis

Handout 7



Assessing the risk to children from mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in an area **Sample of a needs assessment for a mine risk education (MRE) project for refugees**

This is a summary of the needs assessment part of the INTERSOS report from their MRE programme for Afghan refugees, who were repatriated from their camps in Pakistan to their home areas in Afghanistan.

Needs assessment

In December 2001, INTERSOS started a needs assessment to analyse and define the mines, ERW and cluster bombs situation in Afghanistan after September 11th.

Old Bagzai

During January 2002 when the refugee population in Old Bagzai camp had significantly increased by 6,000 people, information was collected on the number of refugees in the camp and their:

- date of arrival
- age
- sex (men, women, boys, girls)
- areas of origin
- ethnic group
- profession and/or acquired skills
- literacy.

Most of the refugees of the camp were from northern and eastern Afghanistan, and from the area surrounding Kabul. The major ethnic groups were Arab, Tagik, Uzbek, Turkmen, Pashtun. Around 60 per cent of the refugees in the camp arrived in Pakistan after September 11th. Most of them were non-literate. A substantial number were craftsmen such as carpet weavers, tailors, carpenters and bakers.

Based on this information two survey questionnaires were developed with these main objectives:

- To assess the level of the refugees' mine and ERW knowledge and awareness.
- To outline a general profile of the mine survivors.





The first survey prepared and conducted by the MRE expert on a random sample of the population (300 persons), investigated:

- the number of people who had attended MRE training sessions and presentations
- through what media they had got mines and ERW information such as leaflets and posters.
- the refugees' level of knowledge of mines and ERW and safe behaviour
- if there were any mine survivors among the refugees or if the people interviewed knew or had heard of somebody who had been injured by mines or ERW.

The results of the survey showed that only a small percentage of the interviewed refugees, around 10 per cent, had received proper MRE. Most of the refugees had only received very general information on mines and ERW and only very few of them knew about safe behaviours.

The second survey was based on the second objective and was conducted as a qualitative interview with 12 mine survivors. Questions were asked on where accidents had happened and what kind of actions survivors had performed when injured, so that the answers could form a basis for the safe behaviour part of an MRE project planned and carried out later.

An example of **wrong behaviour** was based on a myth. A shepherd believed that he could de-mine a grazing area from mines by sending in some sheep in advance to be blown up and thus make the area safe from mines. This of course did not work. It may cause some mines to explode, but not all. When the shepherd himself entered the area believing that his technique had worked, he was badly injured in a mine explosion.

The full report on the INTERSOS MRE programme for Afghan refugees can be ordered via email: pakistan@intersos.org

