

Critical issue module 5

Landmine awareness

Topic 4 Planning and implementation

Handout 3



Developing mine risk education (MRE) policies and programmes

International mine action standards (IMAS)

Guiding principles on MRE

IMAS divide the requirements for an MRE programme into eight groups:

- **Stakeholder involvement**
The needs of mine-affected communities and groups are addressed and national and local economic development priorities are taken into account. Mine action supports and enables humanitarian and development activities.
- **Coordination**
MRE should be well-coordinated, both between and within projects. Effective coordination will enable consistency of pedagogical content, optimise the use of resources, and minimise any duplication effort.
- **Integration**
MRE activities should be fully integrated with other mine action, humanitarian and development activities to achieve the best effect.
- **Community participation and empowerment**
The primary stakeholders in MRE are the members of the affected communities and the concept of empowering communities through participation should shape MRE projects throughout the project cycle.
- **Information management**
The effective management of MRE projects requires accurate, appropriate and timely information. There are many sources of information at local, national and international levels and the resulting collated information is needed by a wide range of individuals involved in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of MRE projects.
- **Appropriate targeting**
Mine action programmes should be context specific and respect the different needs, priorities and local and cultural values and norms of affected communities.
- **Education**
The development of appropriate and effective educational methodologies with appropriate content is an essential part of any MRE project throughout its cycle.
- **Training**
A major management responsibility of an MRE organisation during the planning and preparation phase is the recruitment and training of staff. This responsibility continues throughout the implementation phase, in particular if responsibilities are transferred





from international to national staff. Guidance on training of MRE is given in IMAS 12.20.

UNICEF with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) have produced a set of guidelines to support programme managers to implement MRE projects in accordance with international standards. These guidelines provide detailed advice on how to set up an MRE project, undertake an assessment, undertake planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Two special booklets are included on how to implement MRE in emergencies and how to coordinate MRE. These guidelines are available on-line. www.mineactionstandards.org

