AN INITIAL STUDY INTO
MINE ACTION AND
IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES
Purpose and Need

- Humanitarian imperative: Iraq, Syria, Colombia
- Current humanitarian response increasing
- Significant areas of uncertainty
  - Operators
  - Authorities
  - Donors
- Requirement to review Standards
Explosive Hazards affecting civilians

**IMAS**

- Landmines
- Improvised landmines
- Sub-munitions & other Unexploded Ordnance

**IIEDS?**

- Improvised Explosive Devices (ERW or Active)

**IATG**

- Unstable/Unmanaged Ammunition Stores
- Abandoned Explosive Ordnance
- EWIPA
C-IED vs. IEDD

Counter Terrorism / Insurgency

C-IED

- Attack Network
- Defeat Device
- Prepare Force

[HMA] IEDD
Time delay

Projected

Command

Suicide (belts or VB)
Victim Operated (Improvised Mines)

95% of devices found to date by NGOs and commercial operators in Iraq

Pressure Plate Activated Mine
Victim Operated (Improvised Mines)

Figure 7. Improvised devices by type, as cleared by MAG in Northern Iraq to October 2016 (image credit: GICHD).

Figure 8. Improvised devices by type, as cleared by MAG in North Eastern Syria to October 2016 (image credit: GICHD).
Example Operating Spaces for Disposal of VO-IED

- **Intensity of Conflict**
  - High
  - Low

- **Complexity of IED**
  - Low
  - High

- **State Military and Police Forces**
- **Specialised Companies**
- **Humanitarian Mine Action Agencies**
Several years later
RCIED has aged
Blast cap non-functional
Mobile phone non-functional

Conflict over
RCIED remains functional

RCIED with mobile phone;
Active conflict zone
Dynamic Context

Intensity of Conflict

Low

High

Complexity of IED

Low

High

Western Mosul
February 2017

Antioquia Colombia
2017 (10 year old)

Western Mosul
February 2020?
Key points from the Study

- Limitations of IED/IEDD language and terminology
- Stakeholder uncertainty exists on the topic
- Humanitarian IEDD mostly involves the application of the same underlying management systems and principles as in traditional HMA
- The IED environment is less forgiving
- Need to better define competence and equipment requirements for IEDD
Principles for Consideration

- Diversity of IED designs and laying tactics in different conflicts and post-conflict settings
- Security contexts change – IEDs change – tactics change
- Ageing of device
- Essence of top notch IM + information sharing → learning
- Risk Management – constantly, using data and results of analysis, across all aspects of operations
Possible IMAS Adjustments page 1/6

### Summary of proposed/possible adjustments to IMAS to reflect relevance/applicability to IEDs and IEDD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMAS</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Adjustments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01.10</td>
<td><strong>H</strong> Guide for the application of IMAS</td>
<td>IMAS to be reviewed in its entirety by the RB</td>
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<tr>
<td>02.10</td>
<td><strong>H</strong> Guide for the establishment of a mine action programme</td>
<td><strong>Main body</strong>&lt;br&gt;4.1 note possibility of improvised, artisanal and locally manufactured landmines&lt;br&gt;5.1 GMAA – should include improvised aspects where relevant&lt;br&gt;5.3 increased planning demand when wholly or partly improvised weapons are present&lt;br&gt;5.5 Personnel – reflect technical nature of mines/ERW that may be encountered, including IEDs where applicable&lt;br&gt;5.5.1 Training – demands of IEDs, CM/SM, etc.&lt;br&gt;6.3 MAC – potentially expanded stakeholder group membership if IEDs are involved (military, security and police, etc.)&lt;br&gt;8. possible need for training aids&lt;br&gt;11.2 MAC responsibilities – accreditation implications of different ERW types including IEDs&lt;br&gt;Annex D&lt;br&gt;D.4 a new brief subsection for IEDs and IEDD&lt;br&gt;D.4.2 highlight essential function of IM when dealing with IEDs&lt;br&gt;D.4.6 emphasise the use of incoming data to drive continual improvement – essential in a fast moving IEDD environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>03.10</td>
<td><strong>M</strong> Guide to the procurement of mine action equipment</td>
<td>Consider minor edits to:&lt;br&gt;17.1 mention of IEDs and specific technical challenges&lt;br&gt;18.1 User community aspects of IEDD&lt;br&gt;18.4 Military – functions relating to IEDs&lt;br&gt;Annex B – additional input on technology for IEDD&lt;br&gt;Also consider:&lt;br&gt;New subsection on ‘rapid changes in the operating environment’, such as those associated with IEDs and IEDD&lt;br&gt;Addressing funding and the importance of addressing real needs rather than ‘nice to have’&lt;br&gt;Revising the introduction (which is out of date in tone and content generally) and reflect procurement implications of action against different weapon types, including those partly or wholly improvised</td>
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<td>03.20</td>
<td><strong>L</strong> The procurement process</td>
<td>Could consider adjusting the section on project management to reflect application of the procurement process when speed is of the essence and when responding to fast evolving threats</td>
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<tr>
<td>03.30</td>
<td><strong>L</strong> Guide to the research of</td>
<td>Analysis of constraining factors – inclusion of IEDs where applicable</td>
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