

## **Guideline for Integrating Advocacy Messaging on Landmines into Child Protection Activities in Myanmar**

### **Introduction:**

The pervasive use of landmines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Myanmar has escalated significantly, leading to a dramatic increase in accidents and posing a severe threat to civilians. In line with advocacy strategy, this guideline aims to help humanitarian actors integrate key advocacy messages on landmine and IED risks into their activities across various sectors, such as child protection, gender-based violence (GBV), general protection, and education. By doing so, we can raise awareness, promote safety, and encourage coordinated efforts to mitigate these risks.

To support protection against land mines, CP AoR together with Mine Action AoR recommends that advocacy can be done very carefully with proper consideration for consequences, see below for suggested approaches to advocacy.

In addition to advocacy, it is important that we all try to incorporate messages about mines and how to prevent incidents within our daily CP activities. See below for suggestions.

### **Advocacy Messages:**

Advocacy on land mine with authorities and armed actors should be approached extremely carefully. CP AoR recommends that CP AoR member staff do not engage in this sort of advocacy for possibility of retribution or consequences such as refusal for travel authorisation or enhanced scrutiny by armed groups.

However, some community members may be influential with armed actors and through your CLCP work. As you engage in dialogue with communities, you may share the below advocacy points and brainstorm whether they think anyone would have influence for discussions with relevant stakeholders. Please prioritize DO NO HARM approach in your discussions. If they approach armed actors to request less land mines based on below, or they may be able to suggest marking the areas so children and others are more aware of dangerous areas. Communities will guide you on safe possibilities for soft advocacy, (e.g.. can they approach armed groups to thank them for keeping them safe but suggest that land mines are risky, etc.)

Children and adolescents should not be encouraged to engage in direct advocacy with stakeholders on land mines.

### ***Some facts that may be useful in advocacy***

#### **1. Increased Threat of Landmines and IEDs:**

- The use of landmines and IEDs has surged, with accidents rising from 390 in 2022 to 1056 in 2023.
- Nearly three million people have fled their homes since February 2021, and their return will likely increase the number of accidents.
- Landmine and IED contamination hinders peace, stability, and economic growth by making vast areas inaccessible.

#### **2. Call to Action for Conflict Parties:**

- Landmines and victim-activated IEDs are indiscriminate weapons that primarily harm civilians.
- All conflict parties must cease using these weapons and document their locations using GPS or other methods to facilitate future clearance.

### 3. Role of Humanitarian Mine Action Organizations:

- These organizations seek permission to conduct surveys and mark mined areas, especially where IDP returns are planned.
- Information from these surveys should be stored in a central database for prioritizing future clearance activities.
- Communities can be marked with semi-permanent hazard signs and provided with Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) to reduce accident risks.

## Awareness raising on risks associated with land mines in Child Protection activities.

### 1. Child Protection:

- **Key Message:** Children are particularly vulnerable to the dangers of landmines and IEDs. Incorporate EORE and advocacy messages into child protection programs to educate children on recognizing and avoiding these hazards but also supporting the message on limiting or stopping altogether the use of landmines and allowing humanitarian demining to take place.

- **Activities:**

#### Awareness raising

Incorporate mine risk awareness raising into your existing awareness raising activities with Communities, Caregivers and Children (see attached)

Develop child-friendly educational materials (e.g., posters, booklets) on landmine risks.

#### Child Friendly Spaces

Include awareness on mine risk messaging in child friendly space activities

#### PSS activities

When conducting PSS activities, talk with children about their fears and anxiety around land mines and provide them with some key messages to help keep them safe.

When working with caregivers, ensure they are aware of the key safety messages to minimise risks of land mines

#### Adolescent programming

Engage in dialogue with adolescents about their knowledge and fears around land mines. Empower adolescents with understanding on how to minimise the risks of land mine incidents and encourage them to share these messages with peers, siblings and within their communities.

## CLCP

Engage in discussions with community members about where they know land mines could be, how they can safely provide key safety messages to children and communities. Listen to existing practices and discuss how you can support them to mitigate the risks.

### Capacity building

Train child protection staff to identify signs of landmine contamination and refer cases to mine action organizations.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting:**

- Monitor the implementation of integrated advocacy activities and collect feedback from beneficiaries and staff.
- Evaluate the impact of these activities on raising awareness and reducing landmine-related accidents.
- Ensure that community members and staff know who to report to immediately if aware of existence of land mines (Mine Action AoR and/or CP AoR coordinators in your region)

### **Conclusion:**

Integrating advocacy messaging on landmine risks into various humanitarian activities is crucial for enhancing community safety and promoting coordinated efforts to address this pressing issue. By working together, we can significantly reduce the threats posed by landmines and IEDs and support the safe return and rehabilitation of affected communities in Myanmar.