**Annex 14: Key Terms**

*Note these definitions are taken from IMAS 04.10, Second Edition 01 January 2003 Amendment 7, August 2014, Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations. Exceptions to this are Threat, Vulnerability and Threat-Reduction. The absence of reference to vulnerability in IMAS is significant, as it has a key influence on risk and since mine action – as defined below – is about risk reduction then this is a critical part of the context that professional mine action has typically not invested in understanding, and it should directly influence prioritization and planning.*

**Mine Action**

Isactivities which aim to **reduce the social, economic and environmental impact** of mines, and ERW including unexploded sub-munitions.

**Note:** Mine action is not just about demining; it is also about people and societies, and how they are affected by landmine and ERW contamination. The objective of mine action is to **reduce the risk from landmines and ERW** to a level where people can live safely; in which economic, social and health development can occur free from the constraints imposed by landmine and ERW contamination, and in which the victims’ different needs can be addressed.

**Threat**

a potential act or physical hazard that can cause harm or fear

**Vulnerability**

The degree to which people are exposed to the threats in their environment, and the factors causing this. In the context of mine action and risk-taking with mines and other ERW poverty is usually the primary driver of vulnerability).

**Risk**

Risk (results from) a combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm. [ISO Guide 51:1999(E)]

**Residual Risk**

Is the risk remaining following the application of all reasonable effort to identify, define, and remove all presence and suspicion of mines/ERW through non-technical survey, technical survey and/or clearance.

**Tolerable risk (or Acceptable Risk)**

Is risk (levels) that is accepted in a given context based on current values of society. [ISO Guide 51:1999(E)]

**Clearance**

In the context of mine action, the term refers to tasks or actions to ensure the removal and/or the destruction of all mine and ERW hazards from a specified area to a specified depth

**Cleared Land**

A defined area cleared through the removal and/or destruction of all specified mine and ERW hazards to a specified depth.

**Community Liaison:**

Is liaison with men and women in mine/ERW affected communities to exchange information on the presence and impact of mines and ERW, create a reporting link with the mine action programme and develop risk reduction strategies. Community liaison aims to ensure that the different community needs and priorities are central to the planning, implementation and monitoring of mine action operations. Note: Community liaison is based on an exchange of information and involves men, women, boys and girls in the communities in the decision making process, (before, during and after demining), in order to establish priorities for mine action. In this way mine action programmes aim to be inclusive, community focused and ensure the maximum involvement of all sections of the community. This involvement includes joint planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects. Note: Community liaison also works with communities to develop specific interim safety strategies promoting individual and community behavioural change. This is designed to reduce the impact of mines/ERW on individuals and communities until such time as the hazard is removed.

**Impact:**

In the context of mine action, the term refers to…the level of social and economic suffering experienced by the community resulting from the harm or risk of harm caused by mine and ERW hazards and hazardous areas.

Note: Impact is a product of:

a) the presence of mine/ERW hazards in the community;

b) intolerable risk associated with the use of infrastructure such as roads, markets etc; c) intolerable risk associated with livelihood activities such as use of agricultural land, water sources etc; and

d) number of victims of mine and ERW incidents within the last two years.

Note: in the context of mine action evaluation, the term refers to ..... the positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by an intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. The term ‘final outcome’ may be substituted. IMAS 04.10 Second Edition (Amendment 7, August 2014) 20 3.140.

**Impact Free:**

Is a term applied to countries that may still have mines but where the mined areas are not having a negative socio-economic impact on communities, e.g. the mines may be in remote, marked and unpopulated areas.

**Impact Survey:**

An assessment of the socio-economic impact caused by the actual or perceived presence of mines and ERW, in order to assist the planning and prioritisation of mine action programmes and projects.

**Informal Demining**

Self-supporting mine and/or ERW clearance and hazardous area marking, normally undertaken by local inhabitants, on their own behalf or the behalf of their immediate community. Often described as a self-help initiative or spontaneous demining, informal demining usually sits outside or in parallel with formal mine action structures, such as demining undertaken by militaries or humanitarian demining such as is supported by the UN, international and national non-governmental organisations, private enterprise and governments, among others. Note: Informal demining is sometimes referred to as “village demining”.

**Threat-reduction:**

Threat reduction is used here in reference to the work of the ‘informal private’ mine action sector (individual private de-miners, sometimes called village deminers, and more organized groups working commercially within a low-priced Cambodian market place for mine action services . Threat-reduction refers to the physical elimination of threat items (mines and items of ERW from an area, but without the level of confidence that comes from clearance to national standards. Threat-reduction in mine action was the way HALO Trust referred to its mobile teams focused on reducing the risks of travel on roads in Angola and elsewhere in the mid-2000s. The did not claim their processes were road clearance as such, but rather sought to reduce the number of threat items on the roads, and therefore the overall risk, to broadly acceptable levels, whilst accepting there remains a residual risk. The advantage of this type of process is that it can make a rapid difference risk levels over a far greater amount of road network, in a relative short period of time.

**Land Release**

In the context of mine action, the term describes the process of applying all reasonable effort to identify, define, and remove all presence and suspicion of mines/ERW through non-technical IMAS 04.10 Second Edition (Amendment 7, August 2014) 23 survey, technical survey

**Monitoring**

Refers to a continuing function that uses systematic collection of data on specified indicators to provide management and the main stakeholders of an on-going project, programme or policy with indications of the extent of progress and achievement of objectives, and progress in the use of allocated funds. (OECD/DAC)

**Non-Technical Survey**

Refers to the collection and analysis of data, without the use of technical interventions, about the presence, type, distribution and surrounding environment of mine/ERW contamination, in order to define better where mine/ERW contamination is present, and where it is not, and to support land release prioritisation and decision-making processes through the provision of evidence.

**Residual Risk**

Is the risk remaining following the application of all reasonable effort to identify, define, and remove all presence and suspicion of mines/ERW through non-technical survey, technical survey and/or clearance.

**Risk Reduction**

Is actions taken to lessen the probability, negative consequences or both, associated with a particular risk.

**Safe**

The absence of risk. Normally the term tolerable risk is more appropriate and accurate.

**Technical Survey**

Refers to the collection and analysis of data, using appropriate technical interventions, about the presence, type, distribution and surrounding environment of mine/ERW contamination, in order to define better where mine/ERW contamination is present, and where it is not, and to support land release prioritisation and decision making processes through the provision of evidence.