

Norwegian People's Aid

Mine Risk Education - Myanmar



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Conflict History

- Civil War and conflict since independence in 1948
- Some of the longest running armed conflicts in the world
- 21 recognized armed groups, hundreds of militias
- 2011: Embarked on a series of reforms (e.g. political and economic reforms and ceasefire negotiations)
- Up to 2015, 17 bilateral ceasefire deals were signed
- 2015: Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signed with eight groups
- 2018: Two more groups signed the NCA



NCA implementation

- NCA mentions the parties are responsible for demining of their own areas
- Level of trust is not in place between the government and ethnic armed signatory groups
- Northern part of the Country is still seeing active conflicts
- Functionality of resolving mechanisms between signatory groups and the government is feeble
- The political process has slowed down – ethnic groups waiting for political results before moving on with security sector changes
- As a result no demining has started – only MRE and limited survey



Current HMA possibilities

- Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance is acknowledged and allowed by the government
- MRE and VA are acceptable in some of the former conflict affected areas
- This is quite a significant change in Myanmar – not accepted until 2012



Why we conduct MRE

Does not solve the problem but it is valuable in itself as it raises awareness and helps avoid mine accidents



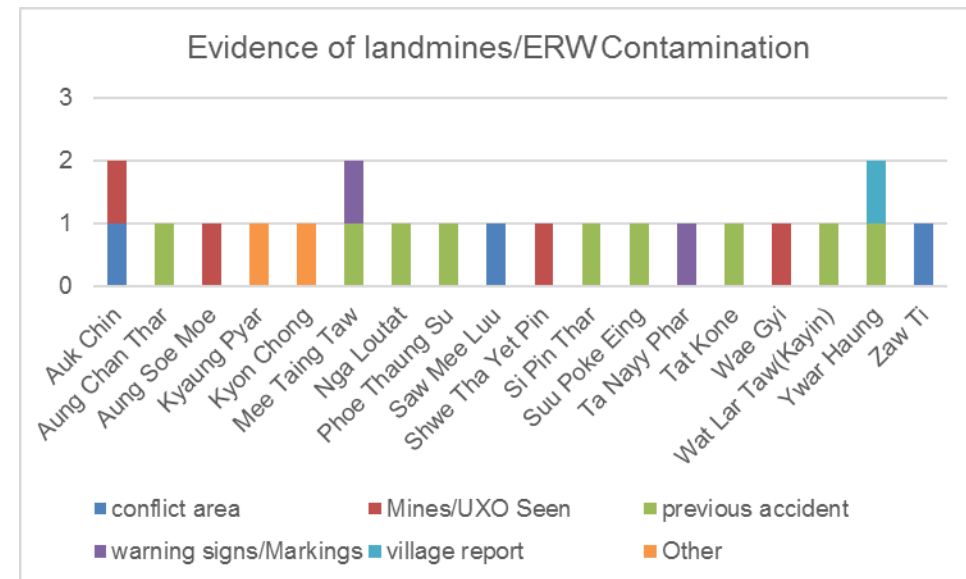
MRE as a trust building tool

- To gain access and to build trust with communities
- MRE is important to build trust with the armed groups
- It is a starting point for further discussions on HMA
- Community have a chance to address their issues and difficulties through MRE activities



Key messages from MRE

Although armed groups and the military often deny the presence of landmines or ERWs; useful evidence information can be collected through MRE activities.



Conclusion

- Humanitarian Mine Action is connected to Peace Process
- The political process need to progress for large scale humanitarian demining to take place
- MRE, VA and NTS are currently the entry points for trust building with armed groups and the military – will hopefully eventually lead to demining

