

A recap of IMAS mine action terminology:

In general, humanitarian demining is about releasing land that is suspected or known to contain mines or **ERW** back to public or private use.

The largest unit of concern is the **hazard area** or **suspected hazardous area**. Ideally this is well documented by a **General Mine Action Assessment** or a **Landmine Impact Survey**. It denotes known mined areas and perceived (suspected) mined areas. Too often the creation of these areas is not well documented. But once they are in a database they must be taken seriously. (Article 5 of the MBT requires the determination of suspected and mined areas.)

SHA's are released by general survey, technical survey or clearance. Land released by either general or technical survey is known as **cancelled area**.

The remaining area is either **cleared, fenced, marked or ignored**. If cleared it becomes **cleared area**.

Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) (3.88) Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AXO). (CCW protocol V).

hazard (ous) area (3.111) contaminated area; a generic term for an area not in productive use due to the perceived or actual presence of **mines** or **ERW**.

Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA) (3.250) see **hazard (ous) area**

General Mine Action Assessment (GMAA) (3.98) the continuous process by which a comprehensive inventory can be obtained of all reported and/or suspected locations of **mine** or **ERW** contamination, the quantities and types of **explosive hazards**, and information on local soil characteristics, vegetation and climate; and assessment of the scale and **impact** of the landmine and ERW problem on the individual, community and country.

Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) (3.135) **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.

cancelled area (3.27) an area previously recorded as a **hazardous area** which subsequently is considered, as a result of actions other than **clearance**, not to represent a **risk** from **mines** and **ERW**. Note: This change in status will be the result of more accurate and reliable information, for example from technical survey, and will normally only be authorised by the **NMAA**, in accordance with national **policy**. The documentation of all **cancelled areas** shall be retained together with a detailed explanation of the reasons for the change in status.

mine clearance (3.155) the clearance of **mines** and **ERW** from a **specified area** to a predefined standard.
marking (3.144) emplacement of a measure or combination of measures to identify the position of a **hazard** or the boundary of a **hazardous area**. This may include the use of signs, paint marks etc, or the erection of physical barriers.

Cleared area (3.32) cleared land; an area that has been physically and systematically processed by a **demining organisation** to ensure the removal and/or **destruction** of all **mine** and **ERW hazards** to a **specified depth**.