

A Comprehensive Approach to Mine Action (CAMA)



*Phet Latsabout, 63, was a victim of a cluster munition during the war
Savannakhet province, Laos. © Nicolas Axelrod / Handicap International*

**HANDICAP
INTERNATIONAL**

Handicap International is a unique organisation with technical expertise in four of the five pillars of Humanitarian Mine Action, including victim assistance (VA). Our comprehensive approach takes advantage of synergies that exist between our work in mine clearance, victim assistance, risk education and advocacy. This approach has a double benefit: greater impact of our actions for beneficiaries, and increased efficiency of our projects for donors.

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL, A COMPLETE PACKAGE OF MINE ACTION ACTIVITIES

Handicap International is a humanitarian organisation that intervenes alongside persons with disabilities and vulnerable people in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. Humanitarian Mine Action has been part of this mandate since 1992.

The organization carries out clearance operations and is engaged in the disposal of explosive remnants of war (ERW), conducts community safety and security programs, and deploys all activities related to victim assistance; from referral to rehabilitation, education and socio – economic inclusion. We work alongside authorities and incite them to take responsibility in all spheres of Mine Action. Our advocacy work at the national and international level is directly grounded in our field experience. Handicap International is the only non-governmental organisation that covers victim assistance alongside clearance, risk education and advocacy in as many countries.

Mine risk education session in a school in Mopti, Mali.
© Handicap International



Woman deminer Lam Ngeung, 30, is a member of an HI roving team.
Savannakhet province, Laos. © Nicolas Axelrod / Handicap International

THE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH: A MANAGEMENT METHOD

Because of the multiplicity of actors, specialisations by pillar, the domain of Mine Action suffers from a severe compartmentalization of activities, creating additional costs and administrative burden. Subsequently, the ability to adequately respond to needs is negatively impacted.

In 2012, Handicap International decided to capitalise on the synergies that exist between the various pillars by streamlining its procedures and pooling related resources: this is the Comprehensive Approach to Mine Action!

THE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH: A REQUIREMENT FOR OPERATIONAL QUALITY

With this comprehensive approach, Handicap International is able to undertake activities related to the various pillars of Mine Action in a holistic fashion on a given territory: when a village is being cleared, victims are identified and referred to services, and the population is made aware of risks posed by the presence of mine/ERW. Authorities are alerted on needs and on measures to be taken.

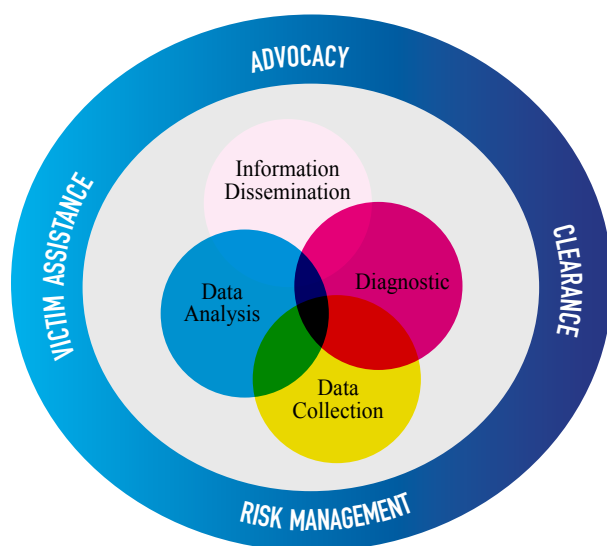
Our advocacy initiatives ensure that the reality faced by affected populations is understood by actors in the national and international arena, leading to the development of adequate laws and policies. All of these actions are executed simultaneously. Even better, they are implemented in a concerted manner!

BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY

The operational synergies developed through our comprehensive approach reduce costs, for example, as a result of reduced overhead expenses, pooling of logistics equipment and human resources. For the same budget, we offer a wider range of interventions.

Handicap International has a 360-degree view of Humanitarian Mine Action, which fuels its strategic choices. The advantages are many:

- Authorities are directed to a single point of contact for all operations
- Information management is centralised; data is cross-checked and consolidated in a single data base
- Reporting is optimised and exhaustive



Information management enable organisations to leverage informatic evidence-based decision-making and results-based management

IN OUR TEAMS, THE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH IS OPERATIONALISED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

- Surveys are conducted by multi-disciplinary teams collecting information on contaminated areas, risk behaviors, and on the needs of victims...

OUR STAFF IS VERSATILE:

- A deminer is able to deliver risk education
- A person responsible for risk education is able to refer a victim to services
- A victim assistance expert can report a hazardous area.

COUNTRIES OF INTERVENTION

Handicap International is engaged in Mine Action in the following countries: Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Palestinian Territories, Senegal, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Ukraine and Yemen.



*In December 2012, to mark the 15th anniversary of the Ottawa Treaty banning anti-personnel mines, HI founder Jean-Baptiste Richardier participated in a joint press conference with Mine Action Canada and Canadian Landmine Foundation at the Canadian Parliament.
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