



**OFFICE OF WEAPONS REMOVAL AND ABATEMENT  
BUREAU OF POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS**

# **Humanitarian Mine Action in a Counterinsurgency/Insecure Environment:**

## **Special Considerations**

*Murf McCloy*

*Colombian Humanitarian Demining  
Planning Workshop – June 2009*

[www.state.gov/t/pm/wra](http://www.state.gov/t/pm/wra)



**Bureau of Political-Military Affairs**  
U.S. Department of State



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# Presentation Outline

- Overview of development of HMA in a Counterinsurgency/Insecure Environment
- Working definition
- Major obstacles
- Key stakeholder decisions
- Mine clearance prioritization considerations
- Q&A session





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# **Working Definition of HMA in an Insecure Environment**

Mine action conducted in a situation where armed conflict between opposing parties is on-going and HMA operations are likely to be targeted by violent actions/armed force.





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## **Obstacles to HMA in a Counterinsurgency/Insecure Environment**

- Hostile opposition to HMA;
- Loss of “neutrality” by HMA demining organizations;
- Greatly reduced field of HMA tasks;
- Security limitations;
- Increased security demands;
- Post-clearance security requirements;
- Security/operational demining trade-offs





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## **Key Stakeholder Actions/Decision Points**

- Accept the reality of the security situation;
- Establish close collaboration between donors/HNG demining officials;
- Closely coordinate demining and security force operations;
- Shift focus of HMA to HN “must have” strategic value projects;
- “Tailor” HMA projects to HN security umbrella;
- Inform population of the HNG/donors’ demining efforts.





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## **Prioritization of Mine Clearance in a Counterinsurgency/Insecure Environment**

- Projects of “strategic value” infrastructure needed for economic recovery/development of the HN
- Projects designed to foster increased employment and income generation opportunities
- Projects that enhance freedom of movement of people, goods and services
- Projects that clear explosive threats to selected communities





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# Q&A Session