

## **Report on Workshop “Development Communication in Mine Risk Education”**

- Purpose:** Educate Mine Risk Education Focal Points with Communication skills.
- Resource:** Tajikistan Mine Action Centre
- Participants:** 23 MRE volunteers
- Representatives:** Tajik Red Crescent Societies, ICRC, Ministry of Education, NGO “Harmony of the World”, FSD
- Date:** January 29-30, 2008

### **Background**

The workshop has provided collaborative environment for the National MRE Focal Points to design action plan on development communication skills for the Mine Risk Education activities that current year will be continued in 22 districts of the republic. In spite of cold weather of the winter previous and new selected volunteers visited TMAC with the purpose to have an access for new information and various types of communication. The workshop agenda covered two days with the different topics about Mine Action and communication technology which conducted by initiative of TMAC staff and involved participants to discuss, analyze and exchange information. Majority of the participants are MRE volunteers from districts branches of the Tajik Red Crescent Society that were processing MRE activities in 15 districts. Also, new selected volunteers have been joined their colleagues from seven border districts of Khatlon oblast. It is first time that new MRE volunteers have informed about Mine Action, and especially gained rich information about National Mine Risk Education. Thus, they will work under integration of the program and coordination of the plan in communities, schools and local authorities of the mine affected areas. They have aimed to learn relevant communication approaches and use among people who are accepted as a risk categories group of mine/UXO and cluster bombs.

### **Role of Communication in MRE**

Participants appreciated the importance of the communication and pointed out that they didn't use official and unofficial ways of communication during activities. At those communities where the life condition and environment of the people are differ from each other only one way has been used. It was provision with the posters and leaflets in the meetings. Because of low economy level quality access to official mass media is limited last years, but regularly creation of short topics by MRE program keeps communities in safety situation.

During discussion about the selection of communication ways participants confirmed that they have used interpersonal communication – communication among people. It is effective was and promote to change behavior. Interpersonal communication is a way to explain and conduct advocacy on new skills on prevention mine/UXO risk, small weapons and assist volunteers. Those ways used by volunteers are the following:

- Meetings with the villagers
- Information on mine danger by deminers to villagers;
- Needs of mine victims in the frameworks of MRE;
- Role of teachers, health workers and heads of local authorities with the schoolchildren and village people on realization MRE;

- Program responsible actors and significant partners propose new actions to support MRE;

### **Work in groups**

Participants were divided in 4 groups in each working groups and worked on the following subjects:

First day: *Identify risk and problems in community level.*

1. Persons who don't aware about mine/UXO hazards.
2. Those who haven't preventive information (these persons have information about mine/UXO, but haven't information about safety behavior).
3. Persons who haven't proper information (these persons haven't proper information about safety behavior or have wrong thoughts about mine).
4. Careless persons (these persons are aware about safety behavior, but do not follow it).
5. Intended persons (these persons have now way and purposely select risk behavior).

Second day: *Discussion on using types of mass media.*

1. Poster for small media.
2. Radio and TV for mass media.
3. Songs, scenes for traditional media.
4. MRE for interpersonal media.

During group works new MRE volunteers have been joined experienced MRE volunteers to develop safety messages and identify problems. Identified problems indicated that most of participants were able to give common information about risk group categories or mine affected area, but couldn't inform about traditional media or collaboration with Mass Media. They weren't educated to use this media.

For example, according to the result of group works for the development of communication among students next interesting activities are used:

- Drawing competition, dictation and story;
- Demonstration of role plays;
- Presentation by students in the school morning meetings;
- Organize competitions and quizzes among schools on the mine affected areas;
- Prepare leader on MRE among students;
- Open exhibitions;

### **Conclusion and analyzes**

According to the done analyze by participants it was found that in presents economy and social condition **interpersonal communication** is a long-term, strong and cheaper and easy and accessible for local volunteers. But, use of small media which mainly use in round tables, workshops, focus group discussions and training most of times works separately that can't give positive impact to target audience. Use of posters, brochures and flipcharts will be limited, because printing and dissemination become expensive, period of using them is not longer and it requires to train special group for designing and editing.

Another way that participants recognized effectively it is traditional media which raise the interest of the people. Messages in this type of media are used appropriately to the local dialect, involve central persons of the community and produce products from low cost materials or performed activities free of charge. Puppet Theater is used by participation of the students and teachers in free way. This type widely is practiced in school # 4 of the jamoat Navobod in Isfara district by Mamadova Salima

who is MRE volunteer. She shared her experiences for workshop participants. Small numbers of audience have an access to traditional media as in small media. Official media is not implementing regular because it's expensive for the program. It requires clear and precise and concrete information. Not all volunteers use this media and pointed out that for the lack power and far distance it's hard to watch TV or listen to radio in remote areas, disseminate papers with published articles. So, it can't to develop safety skills constantly.

**Publication materials**

Following Tajik sources have been provided to participants:

1. TMAC Bulletin
2. Manual on "Development Communication in MRE"
3. Guide "MRE in school"
4. Poster-calendar for 2008 with the drawing products by students and preventive risk messages.
5. Leaflet with messages and pictures.
6. Copies of power presentations on MRE and Effective Technology of Communication.
7. Records of advertisements
8. Film about Mine Victims
9. Information sources on cluster bombs.

**Evaluation**

Workshop participants have valued the new skill and confirmed the role of communication in MRE. According to passed projects they took part in round tables and received educational materials. But participation in this workshop they could work and planned directly new activities and work in groups. Workshop has provided collaborative-working environment and presented topics by TMAC staff were simple and clear. Representatives of Khatlon TjRCS branches took part actively on integration their activities with the districts committee of Emergency Situation. All MRE volunteers got full picture about TMAC and enhance collaboration with the relevant sectors.

Evaluation of participation:

<b>What topics are most important?</b>	<b>What part of the workshop is necessary?</b>	<b>What types of information are necessary for MRE?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mine Victim Assistance</li> <li>- Collaboration with mass media, TV, radio.</li> <li>- Preparation messages in working group.</li> <li>- National Mine Risk Education.</li> <li>- Myth about mines.</li> <li>- Video films.</li> <li>- Ottawa Convention and Tajikistan as state-member.</li> <li>- Different Power Point Presentations on Mine Action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Films about MA.</li> <li>- Myth about mine.</li> <li>- Ottawa Convention.</li> <li>- Working group on communication.</li> <li>- Types of mines.</li> <li>- Effective Communication Technology.</li> <li>- TMAC sectors.</li> <li>- Advocacy approach.</li> <li>- Sharing practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information about mines.</li> <li>- Mine Victim Assistance.</li> <li>- Publication materials.</li> </ul>

Following suggestion by participants:

- Financial support by fundraising sources.
- Conduct regular workshops and training by TMAC initiative.
- Organize share experience visits among 22 districts.
- Organize workshops and training in communities.
- Provide new educational materials.
- Develop encouragement of MRE volunteers.
- Record of new films about Mine Action.