



UNHCR/B. Bannon



Mixed demining team in Cambodia © CMAAC and Adopt-A-Minefield



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gender & mine action



About us

The **Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines** is an umbrella organisation composed of about 50 Swiss NGOs gathered around the common objective of banning anti-personnel landmines and similar indiscriminate weapons. The Swiss Campaign runs a programme on **Gender and Mine Action** to encourage and support the mine action sector to mainstream gender through its policy, programming and operations. The programme focuses on research and advocacy activities, with emphasis on making information on gender and mine action available to interested stakeholders.

What can the Gender and Mine Action Programme offer?

- A web portal with information on gender and mine action (www.scbl-gender.ch)
- A report "Gender and Landmines - from Concept to Practice" which studies the importance of gender in mine action and which can be downloaded on the web portal
- Advocacy material and tools
- Email- or telephone based consultancies on gender and mine action
- Expertise in the field of gender and mine action
- Review of documents and/or events from a gender perspective

Read more

On the Gender and Mine Action web portal (www.scbl-gender.ch) you will find more information on gender sensitive budgeting.

Voices

"What impact does this budget have on gender equality? Does it reduce gender inequality, increase it or leave it unchanged?"

"Gender sensitive budgeting is not about whether an equal amount is spent on women and men, but whether the spending is adequate to address women's and men's needs"

IOM (2008) Understanding Gender Sensitive Budgets



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What is Gender Sensitive Budgeting (GSB)?

Gender sensitive budgets are not separate budgets for women and men but are attempts to break down budgets according to their impact on women and men. The rationale is that where the needs are different, allocations have to be different.

Why is GSB important in mine action?

• Due to budgets often being gender blind, they ignore the different effects of landmines on women, girls, boys and men and are thereby conducive to implicit dimensions of discrimination against either sex. By detailing all costs and expenses in a sex and age disaggregated manner, budgets become a gender sensitive instrument clearly showing priorities and focus areas.

• Gender mainstreaming activities, as all new initiatives and investments, may create extra costs. Gender mainstreaming activities need to be viewed as equally important as other costs traditionally linked to mine action, such as the introduction of new technical innovations.

• The social cost of **not** mainstreaming gender, of **not** involving both women and men in mine action, has to be evaluated. Systematic exclusion of women and girls directly hinders an efficient mine action programming and produces damaging effects on development and advancement.



What are the costs of implementing GSB in mine action?

- Most of the costs generated by gender mainstreaming are initial, one-time-costs.
- Worth underlining is that not all gender mainstreaming initiatives bare costs. Sometimes it simply requires adjustments, rethinking or re-planning of ongoing mine action activities.

Pillar	Area	Example of possible costs that can arise when mainstreaming gender
Demining	Camp management	Organising the camp to include separate tents, field toilets, showers etc. for women and men
	Equipment	Ensuring that both women and men have adequate uniforms, or special equipment
Mine Risk Education	Material	Producing gender aware training material
	Location	Increasing the number of locations where MRE is taking place, for example through house to house visits – increased staffing required
Victim Assistance	Access to health care	Making transportation means available, introducing mobile health services
	Employment	Ensuring that income generating services are provided to both female and male landmine victims
Advocacy	Material	Producing advocacy material reflecting both women's and men's needs and roles within mine action
	Target group	Ensuring that advocacy campaigns reach both women and men
Overall – applicable in all pillars	Gender sensitive human resource policies	Maternity/paternity leave, free time for breastfeeding mothers, child care arrangements
	Gender aware recruitment processes	Introducing new recruitment methods, increasing communication channels, welcoming women's applications in all positions within mine action

What is the added value of using GSB?

- **Equality** - GSB acts as a gender equalising measure by ensuring fair allocation is attributed in accordance with women's and men's different needs.
- **Efficiency** - GSB gives input about the differing priorities of women and men, thereby improving resource allocations and enabling reallocations of programme budgets when needed.
- **Accountability** - Mainstreaming gender at all steps of the overall budget process provides a method to hold governments as donors accountable to their commitments to gender equality. Making gender mandatory instead of desirable for conditional funding enables to fill the gap existing between the gender equality commitment of governments and the programmes funded by their budgets.
- **Transparency and participation** - GSB initiatives engage all members of society, especially women who are generally marginalised from such discussions, and ensure that both women and men are treated as individuals through the use of participatory, bottom-up and transparent processes.

Did you know that...

- UNDP recommends that at least 10% is set aside in all budgets, including those of mine action, for gender mainstreaming activities?
- the 52nd session (March 2008) of the UN Commission on the Status of Women focused on the theme *"Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women"*?
- to date, more than 70 countries have engaged or supported GSB initiatives and achieved results ranging from GSB tools to securing increased budget allocations for gender equality?
- Australia introduced the first gender budgeting initiative in 1984, pioneering analysis of the impact of public budgets on gender relations?