

Introduction :

End of 2006 during 2 months Handicap International Mine Risk Education (HIMRE) project carried out a quantitative survey in order to precise the population knowledge, attitude, and practice in the areas targeted by the MRE project. In 2002 and in order to start a relevant MRE project, a similar survey was conducted by Handicap International and UNICEF in four regions of the North West Zone of Somalia (self-declared Republic of Somaliland) : Awdal, Galbeed, Togdheer, and Sahil

Objectives :

The aim of this study is to evaluate (to some extent) the effects of the MRE project implemented by Handicap International in Somaliland from January 2002 by gathering information towards an understanding of the evolution of the knowledge, attitudes and practices in the area of mine and UXO safety and awareness in the Galbeed and Sahil regions by comparing it to the starting results given by the previous KAP survey of 2002.

Methodology :

The study was conducted in two steps.

The first step was to compare the results with the 2002 study, in order to measure the change of knowledge and behavior regarding mine risk within the targeted regions.

The second step consisted of comparing the level of knowledge, attitude and practice of the population groups according to their living area (urban, rural and nomadic), where HIMRE project targeted the herders as first priority (rural and nomadic areas).

To test the differences, a statistical test 'Khi2 for trend or the Fisher exact test with the risk $\alpha = 5\%$ ' was used to be relevant to the hypothesis. A representative random sample of 240 people was selected. The representatives of the sample were tested using the main socio-demographic characteristics (the sex, the age and the area of living).

The communication channels were also evaluated within the population groups in order to identify the adapted tools to use for each population group in the coming project.

Population characteristics :

A high level of gender balance was achieved : 126 (47.1%) were male compared to 113 (53.3%) in 2002 with $p=0.6$. The respondent's age of the populations of 02 and 06 didn't show a significant difference $p=0.9$. Ninety six respondents (40%) were living in urban area while 72 were living in rural and nomadic areas (30% in each area), this result was also not significantly different from the study conducted in 2002 ($p=0.7$). This means that we cannot show any difference between the two populations (2002 and 2006). The comparisons thus are possible.

Results :

A significant increase in the number of people who saw landmines and UXO was observed, compared to the number in 2002, specially about the landmines with a p value <0.0001 , while with UXO the test was on the limit of significantly with a p value $=0.05$. This increase in the number of landmines and UXO seen reflects a global result of the activities in the region that the population notices it; the SMAC, HAVAYOCO, HIMRE project and specially the deminers' presence on the field.

La question 5 montre que plus de personnes déclarent repérer les UXO en 2006 (54%) qu'en 2002 (45% - $p=0.055$).

Cependant, en 2006, 11% des personnes ne savent pas si elles vivent dans une zone comportant des landmines/UXO contre 5% seulement en 2002 ($p=0.06$). Les personnes sont-elles plus prudentes ou manquent-elles d'information sur leur zone de vie. L'activité de déminage ou le LIS ne pourraient-elles pas permettre de fournir cette information aux populations ?

Between 2002 and 2006, we cannot show any difference on how the population get information about landmines/UXO. But the military seem to be more present in urban areas, while deminers and authority (governor, mayor) are the main liaison for herders population.

In 2002 and 2006, with no difference, a major part of the population agrees that herding animals is a bad way to know if a place is safe.

In 2002, 75% of the population knew that mines are not only laid on the roads, while in 2006, only 43% of them agree with this idea ($p < 0.0001$). This appearing lower 'theoretical' knowledge may be linked to the fact that the majority of minefields reported by the population are roads and military camps areas (Landmine impact survey, 2003). The demining organizations have tackled their work with this priority, and the population, since then, is seeing deminers working mostly on the roads.

The question '**If you have found a landmine or UXO. You would report the information to the authorities.**' shows a better intention of the population in 2006 than in 2002 as 94.5% agree that they would report the information to the authorities if they had found a landmine or UXO vs. 88% in 2002, with a significant test and a p value=0.01.

This reflects not only the improvement of the attitude of the population towards mines/UXO but also the presence of the authorities around them.

The analysis of the question '**Have you received information/training on mines/UXO?**' stratified on the 3 areas (rural, urban and nomadic) doesn't show any significant difference between the information/training given to the urban population compared to the rural or nomadic ($p=0.16$). Thus we cannot show any gap between herders and urban and thus a reinforcement of the herders should be supported.

The way the herders get this information or training on mines/UXO can guide HI strategy in the future knowing that the communication channels are different from a group population to another: a high percentage of respondents in urban area is reporting the radio and the TV as a main way to get information, instead the way to pass information for the rural and nomadic population is less precise. Several means should be used with a focus on more direct contacts (leaflets, posters, community meetings...).

The analysis within the age groups categories show the tool of choice for each age category to get information. The category of ages between 15-25 years old shows a big interest in leaflet and in billboards compared to the two other categories with $p=0.003$ and 0.007 respectively. While the over 35 years old category shows a big interest in posters contrary to the other age groups with a significant test $p=0.017$.

Sixty six percent of the respondents who get information from the community meetings were men compared to 34% women with $p=0.001$.

Seventy five percent ($p=0.04$) of the respondents interested in posters and 29% ($p=0.03$) interested in TV were men compared to women.

Conclusions and recommendations :

This evaluation is an interesting work in order to capitalize on the Somaliland experience focusing on the HI MRE strategy and on the epidemiology field. It is intended to provide a basis upon which to adapt and fine tune an appropriate MRE strategy in the current locations of the project (Sahil, Togdheer, Galbeed and Awdal). The recommendations made by the evaluation mission on the HI project in Somaliland will bring useful orientations for the project extension intending to cover in 2007 the whole of North Somalia: in the two remaining regions of Somaliland (Sool and Sanaag) and in the South and Western areas of Nugaal and Mudug of the self-declared autonomous region of Puntland.

The full survey is posted on the Handicap International website: <http://www.handicap-international.fr>