

FAQ

Community Liaison Teams in Mine & Explosive Clearance

This advocacy-focused brief provides answers Frequently Asked Questions on how Community Liaison Teams help support clearance and demining.

What is a Community Liaison Team (CLT)?

A Community Liaison Team plays a critical role in mine clearance and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) operations. Their work focuses on the human and communication side of operations, ensuring affected communities are informed, safe, and involved throughout the clearance process.



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Why are CLTs so important in mine action?

Because it is not just about finding explosives and clearing, it's about identifying people who are directly and indirectly benefitted through the clearance. CLTs ensure that clearance operations reflect real community needs, like reopening farmland, roads, or school playgrounds. Without them, teams might clear the wrong areas or miss key local information.



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What does a CLT do before clearance starts?

They meet with villagers, leaders, and local authorities to gather information about suspected hazardous areas (SHAs). They map danger zones, record accident stories, and help technical teams understand where clearance is most urgent.



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Do CLTs actually clear mines?

No, they don't handle explosives directly. Their work focuses on communication, coordination, and education, ensuring safety and smooth cooperation between clearance team and communities. CLTs are always advised to stay away from going very close to explosives.

How do CLTs keep communities safe?

By delivering Mine Risk Education (MRE), short, interactive sessions teaching people how to recognize, avoid, and report explosive hazards. They also spread key safety messages through posters, school talks, community events, and puppet shows.

What happens during clearance operations?

The CLT keeps communities informed about where and when clearance is happening. They make sure people stay away from danger zones and that everyone knows what the warning signs mean.



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What happens after an area is declared safe?

The CLT helps hand over cleared land to the community and monitors how it's being used. They also check if new explosive risks appear nearby and ensure that people feel confident using their land again.



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How do CLTs collect information?

Through non-technical surveys (NTS), interviews with government officials and local residents, community mapping, and observation. Local people often know exactly where past fighting happened or where someone got injured, so CLTs rely heavily on those insights.

Who are the members of a CLT?

They're trained professionals, often local residents, who understand both the language and culture of the area. This helps them gain trust quickly and communicate effectively so they can gain trust among diverse groups, vulnerable adults, and children.



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What's the biggest impact of a CLT?

Trust and connection. When communities trust the CLTs they provide them with more specific details which makes mine action become faster, safer, and more meaningful. This is needed as CLTs always know that people are surrounded with fear and they might not trust anyone easily due to the political tensions in the location.