Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in Palau

Presentation to the MASHG
Sept. 5/12
Impact

• The full scale of the problem remains unknown and presents a wide-spread danger

• A door to door survey in Peleliu found ERW in 26% of households

• Power plant in the capital damaged by a self-initiating ERW, causing 6 months of outage

• 1,000lb bomb found 20m from the capital’s water supply tank

• On ‘Helmet Wreck’, a popular dive spot, explosives are leaking dangerous chemicals into the surrounding environment
ERW a National Priority

- Eradicating ERW a national priority in Palau
- Early accession to the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty and the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions
- ERW problem highlighted by Palau’s President Toribiong at the UN General Assembly
- National Plan on priority communities, tourism, fishing grounds, etc.
- ERW Government Working Group established in 2010 and formalized by Executive Order
Action on the Ground

- ‘Demining’ done in partnership with Cleared Ground Demining (CDG), an expert NGO, according to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)

- National Plan
- Building Risk Awareness
- Increasing Technical Capacity
- Centralizing Information & Data Management
- Expanding Financial Resources
Building Risk Awareness

• Local surveys

• National media campaign

• School programs – every Palauan school child has attended an ERW risk awareness program taught by local teams

• Community meetings

• Government coordination and agency meetings
Building Capacity

• Developing sustainable local capacity for ERW surveying and removal

• Building a Regional Training School, with plans to train other Pacific Small Island State nationals

• Since 2009, 21 local personnel have worked with 3 expats to remove more than 15,000 ERW (from grenades to 17,000lb aircraft bombs)
Information and Data Management

• ERW Hotline for public reports
• National Reporting Procedure
• IMSMA standard international recording formats
• National Data Base – location, types of ordnance
• Gathering historic data
Eradicating ERW in Palau

- Eradicating ERW in Palau is possible within a 3-5 year time frame
- A framework for activities and clearance infrastructure are already in place
- Local teams, in partnership with CGD, have proved successful
- Additional financial resources required to undertake the work sustainably, especially the local teams
Thank You

Please contact aaron.korman@palauun.org for further information