Summary of the external, final evaluation of DCA’s Humanitarian Mine Action programme titled: “Security, Protection and Stabilization Programme in Libya”

In June 2004, DCA’s “Security, Protection and Stabilization Programme in Libya” underwent an external evaluation. The programme ran over 2 years as a DCA led consortium with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and was funded with 5 million Euro by the European Commission through EuropeAid’s Instrument for Stability.

The programme’s overall objective was to support the conflict-affected population by creating a safe and secure environment for the reconstruction of Libya and consisted of four different areas of intervention 1) Rehabilitate infrastructure through ERW removal, 2) Build the national mine clearance capacity, 3) Support small arms management and 4) Provide protection to vulnerable groups and minorities.

The evaluation reached the conclusion that the objectives are highly relevant and that the activities carried were meaningful and have potential for positive impact in Libya. The evaluation also identified a number of challenges, especially regarding the political context in Libya which affected the cooperation with the local authorities, causing delays and hindered implementation of activities affecting the effectiveness of some activities.

Lessons learned (L) and recommendations (R):

1. L: Having relevant project aims is not sufficient. The operational approach must fit the local context.
   R: Do not rush the programme design phase. Make sure that the understanding of the local context is well reflected in the design and ensure that this design informs the programme’s recruitment strategy.
2. L: Unforeseen contextual changes can hamper programme effectiveness and applicability.
   R: The programme design should allow for responding to changes in needs and in the environment.
3. L: A short timeframe for the project, combined with broad objectives, limits programme effectiveness.
   R: To align project objectives with project timeframe.
4. L: Programme efficiency in Libya depends on good cooperation with local authorities which demands staff with local understanding and knowledge.
   R: When recruiting international staff focus more on skill-sets needed for enabling a good cooperation.
5. L: Frequent personnel turnover limits continuity and the ability to build rapport with the local counterparts - obstructing programme efficiency.
   R: Continue to explore ways of improving staff welfare and the handover of lessons and experiences.
6. L: Creating long-term impact demands more activities carried out over a sustained period of time.
   R: Ensuring long-term sustainability in the Libyan context demands a focus on building institutional capacity locally rather than conducting activities directly (in-house technical operational competence).