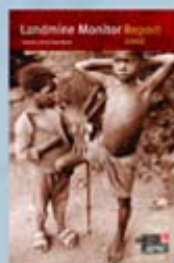


# *Impacts of Landmines and ERW*

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International **TO BAN**  
**CAMPAIGN**  
**LANDMINES**

**M** **LANDMINE**  
**MONITOR**

# Introduction



- 1) Origins of the landmine crisis
- 2) Responses to the problem
- 3) Status of Mine Ban Treaty
- 4) Challenges remaining



# 1. World War II



Antipersonnel mines were first used extensively during World War II in Europe and North Africa. Mines and other Explosive Remnants of War still pose dangers 60+ years on.



# A story from Egypt



In December 2004, Helal was injured as he grazed his sheep near his home in Egypt. He lost his hand, damaged his eyesight, and disabled both legs when a fire he had made for tea detonated WWII ordnance buried underneath. Helal has three sons, aged 2, 3, and 4 years.

# 1. Cold War



Antipersonnel mines were supplied and used in great quantities during the Cold War in countries such as Angola, Cambodia, and Nicaragua.

# A story from Belarus



In 2003, I accepted an invitation from Belarus to witness the destruction of the AP mine stockpile it had inherited from the break-up of the Soviet Union.

# 1. Rebel Use

At least 70 armed non-state actors or rebel groups have used AP mines since 1999 including in Burma, Colombia, Somalia, and Sri Lanka.



This 13-year-old mine victim was treated at Dr. Cynthia Maung's Clinic in the Thai border town of Mae Sot.

# A story from Burma



These Burmese elephant stepped on landmines in 2003 and received treatment at the Elephant Hospital in Thailand .



# 2. Humanitarian Response



Humanitarian demining or mine clearance started in early 1990s and is now widespread.

# 2. Civil Society



- In 1992, six NGOs called for a total ban on antipersonnel mines, establishing the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL).
- In 1997, the ICBL and its coordinator won the Nobel Peace Prize.

# 2. Diplomatic

1996: Canada launches Ottawa Process to secure AP mine ban

1997: Mine Ban Treaty negotiated

1999: Treaty enters into force

2004: First Review Conference

2007: 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to be held in Jordan (18-22 Nov.)



# 3. Treaty Status

- 153 States Parties
- None use, produce or trade AP mines.
- 74 States Parties have since destroyed a total of more than 39.5 million mines.
- Major funding spent on demining



# 3. Pacific & the Mine Ban Treaty

- Four Pacific countries yet to accede: FS Micronesia, Palau, Tonga, Tuvalu.
- Marshall Islands has signed, but needs to ratify.



# 4. Universalization challenges

- 13 non-States Parties still produce AP mines incl. China, Russia, USA, but none trade.
- Few non-States Parties use AP mines (Myanmar/Burma, Nepal, Russia).
- Over 160 million mines stockpiled by non-States Parties, eg China (est. 110m), Russia (26.5m), US (10.4m).



# 4. Field challenges

- Still at least 15,000 new mine-ERW casualties annually, 86% civilian.
- Uncleared landmines and ERW still affect millions of people living in 78 countries.
- Newer weapons, eg. cluster munition duds in Lebanon, create new Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)



Villagers holding a community map prepared during the Landmine Impact Survey in Angola.

# 4. Pacific challenges

- Problem remote
- Other priorities!
- Multiple diplomatic initiatives (eg. Disability Rights Convention, Oslo Process on Cluster Munitions, Arms Trade Treaty)
- Ratification time-consuming
- Implementation expectations





# 4. Meeting the challenges



- Assistance available (legislative, transparency, meetings)
- Minimal/light requirements (reporting, participation, financial)
- Moral/ethical responsibility (to establish norm, solidarity)

# Thank You!



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