

**ICBL Statement on Mine Risk Education
Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk
Education and Mine Action Technologies
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Landmine Monitor recorded MRE activities in 63 countries in 2006 and the first half of 2007. Forty-four of the countries with MRE were States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty. Nineteen are not party to the treaty. There were also MRE programs or activities in seven of the eight other areas covered by Landmine Monitor.

Five countries accounted for nearly four million MRE beneficiaries: Afghanistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Sudan. Landmine Monitor reported last year that the total number of direct MRE recipients increased to 7.3 million people in 2006, up from 6.4 million in 2005...

But what do these numbers *not* tell us – and why?

We do not know how many casualty hotspots were provided coverage within this figure. We do not know from this figure how many people from the greatest at-risk groups received MRE. We do not know from this number whether or not the MRE provided focused on the most prevalent device types or activities leading to new casualties.

Many of these beneficiaries of MRE received information from multiple sources and were counted by each provider. Many of these beneficiaries were counted more than once by the same provider in sequential actions. Although in some countries, for example Cambodia and Thailand, MRE providers put up lower numbers than in previous years since they no longer counted repeated provision of MRE to the same populations; however, these remain the *exception*, not the rule in MRE statistics.

In general, Landmine Monitor 2007 found that basic data collection on clearance, casualties and survivors has shown little overall improvement and is an obstacle for effective mine action planning,

optimal use of resources, adequate provision for survivors, and for the adequate and appropriate provision of MRE. While over the years MRE has been included in a number of evaluations and studies, given the number of MRE programs that have been implemented few have been directly evaluated and, in some cases, these evaluations are not available to the general public.

In 2008 Landmine Monitor will bring a new approach to reporting Mine Risk Education. The main points of this approach will be to define the casualty and risk profiles of countries, the historic and current geographic, demographic, activity and threat trends, to examine changes to this context, and identify whether or not adapted responses were made by MRE providers.

In terms of perceived adequacy and inadequacy of MRE programs, the key indicators will be implementer coverage of areas where the majority of casualties occur, strategies to guide, evaluate and coordinate their actions, how programs do or do not focus their efforts on greatest at-risk groups to address trends evidenced by prevailing activities and device types that lead to new casualties.

In conclusion, we call on States and MRE implementers to better collect and manage data relevant to establishing the context of the problem, provide or develop clear distinctions for reporting on the populations they serve, respond to the current casualty and risk profile, and target specific risk groups within the general at-risk population in mine and ERW affected areas.