

# FAST FACTS

## Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery



### MINE ACTION

#### Key statistics:

##### Countries affected:

As many as 78 nations are affected by landmines and about 85 by explosive remnants of war. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction came into force in 1999. 156 countries have accessed the Mine Ban Treaty. 39 countries remain outside the treaty, possessing a collective 160 million antipersonnel mines. The Convention on Cluster Munitions, which came into effect in December 2008, prohibits the use, transfer, sale and stockpiling of cluster munitions, and sets additional obligations for the clearance of unexploded sub-munitions.

##### Casualties:

There are an estimated 500,000 landmine and explosive remnants of war survivors today, of whom three-quarters are civilians. Thirty-four percent of civilian casualties are children – nearly all of them boys. In some severely affected areas, children were the majority of casualties: 59 percent in Afghanistan; 53 percent in Nepal; 66 percent in Somalia. Boys between 5 and 14 are a particularly high-risk group.



Mine-affected community in Cambodia

##### Stockpiles:

Forty countries outside the Mine Ban Treaty stockpile over 160 million antipersonnel mines, with the vast majority held by five states: China (est. 110 million), Russia (26.5 million), US (10.4 million), Pakistan (est. 6 million) and India (est. 4-5 million).

##### Demining:

Since 1999, more than 4 million antipersonnel mines, 1 million anti-vehicle mines and 8 million items of unexploded ordnance have been cleared through humanitarian demining operations, opening over one billion square metres of land for safe use. In 2006 alone, over 450 square kilometers of contaminated land was cleared of over 217,000 antipersonnel mines.



Woman mapping a suspected hazard area

##### Landmine Users:

New use of antipersonnel mines continues to decline, with only two state users – Russia and Myanmar (Burma) confirmed in 2007. Possession of antipersonnel mines by Non-State Armed Groups or criminal groups was reported in at least 9 countries.

##### Landmine production:

Thirteen countries either produce or reserve the right to produce antipersonnel mines: Burma, China, Cuba, India, Iran, North Korea, South Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, United States and Vietnam. At least 38 countries have *ceased* production of antipersonnel mines, including five states not party to the Mine Ban Treaty.

##### Mine risk education:

Mine risk education programs have expanded dramatically since 1996, reaching 38 million people in more than 60 countries, including more than 8 million people in 2007. This has contributed to the reduction in the overall number of casualties. In 1999, recorded annual casualty rates were estimated at 26,000, whereas in 2007, 1,401 were reported killed and 3,939 injured.

## Call to Action:

The international community must step up advocacy efforts to encourage other states to ratify the Mine Ban Treaty.

Donor governments must sustain funding levels for demining activities to prevent serious shortfalls in mine-action programmes. While total annual needs have been calculated at around US\$459 million in 2009, annual allocations fall short – reaching only \$430 million in 2007. This represents a decrease of \$45 million from 2006 levels.

States affected by landmines must adopt a systematic assessment of their impact to determine priorities for clearance, and to enable productive use of land once cleared. These mine action activities must involve all members of the community to ensure they will be equally effective, and must consider the social and developmental cost of landmines, including medical costs for survivors as well as the financial burden of damaged fields, roads, water supplies, etc.



*Cluster sub-munitions*

Governments and humanitarian organizations must allocate resources to develop and maintain injury surveillance systems, which enable effective decision making, planning, monitoring and evaluation of risk reduction activities.

In some countries, child casualties are increasing as a proportion of all casualties from mines and explosive remnants of war. Government and humanitarian organizations must step up demining activities and mine awareness education programmes targeting children.

Affected states and humanitarian organizations must do more to provide warnings and preventative measures protecting civilians from weapons as they are being deployed – not just after the fact.

Donor governments and affected states must allocate greater levels of funding for mine survivor assistance programs, taking into consideration the additional needs for child survivors, who need to replace prosthetics as they grow. Affected states should ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## UNDP in Action:

- Assists mine-affected countries address the landmine and explosive remnants of war problem by developing national programs.
- Supports national authorities in all areas of mine action, including demining, mine risk education, victim assistance, advocacy, and stockpile destruction through tailored strategic and operational advisory support and training.
- Ensures that mine action addresses the socio-economic impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war on development sectors, including agriculture, health, education, water, infrastructure, tourism, and domestic and foreign investment.
- Provides gender sensitive technical advisory support to some 40 mine-affected states.
- Supports States Parties to meet their Mine Ban Treaty obligations by helping them to identify mined areas and develop and implement national plans to address them. For example, UNDP helped Albania develop a plan to complete clearance of mines and explosive remnants of war by 2010, and has, together with implementing partners, assisted Malawi with identifying the extent of its mine problems so it could fulfill its commitments under the treaty.
- Organizes management training courses for mine action programme managers. By 2007, training courses had been conducted for national staff of mine action programmes from 42 countries.
- Facilitates regional mine action exchange programme to enable affected countries to share experiences and lessons learned.
- Fosters cooperation among members of the UN Mine Action Team to share information and provide updates on the latest developments in the field of mine action and development.
- Supports the inclusion of a gender perspective across all mine action programmes.

For further information contact:

Jehane Sedky or Elisabeth Diaz  
United Nations Development Programme  
Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery  
One United Nations Plaza, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
Telephone: +1.212.906.6711 or +1.212.906.6175  
Fax: +1.212.906.5364  
Or visit: [www.undp.org/cpr](http://www.undp.org/cpr)



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