

## Ready for the Next Leg of the Journey?

The Tenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty (10MSP) brings us together one year after the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World -- a remarkable event that allowed us to celebrate the power of a treaty that has inspired so much dedicated effort year after year. The past year also saw record-breaking progress in implementing the Mine Ban Treaty: casualty rates are the lowest on record, while more contaminated land was cleared than ever before.

But we still face many challenges on the road to a mine-free world. The Cartagena Summit clearly demonstrated the significant amount of work that remains to be done. For example, up to 43 States Parties must still clear their land of landmines, four States Parties failed to meet their stockpile destruction deadlines and still have millions of mines to destroy, and hundreds of thousands of landmine survivors worldwide are still in need of sufficient support.

This should only inspire us to work even harder than ever. Indeed, States Parties pledged through the Cartagena Declaration that they would stay committed in the coming years, and the Cartagena Action Plan provided a set of concrete steps for States Parties to take that commitment forward in all the key areas of the treaty.

The 10MSP is the first formal occasion to measure States Parties' progress in putting the Cartagena Action Plan into place. We count on states to highlight their

***We are counting on you to keep up the compassion, and keep up the energy!***

work on all relevant points of the plan, so that we can see how these impressive words on paper are being translated into real progress on the ground. We look forward to hearing from states about:

**10MSP**  
**Keep Up**  
**the Energy**  
29 November-3 December 2010  
Geneva, Switzerland

- Final completion date for remaining stockpiles
- Detailed information on the identification and clearance of mined areas, especially in states that are requesting or have received extensions
- An update on national victim assistance plans, including how landmine survivors are involved in designing, carrying out, and monitoring such work
- Information on international cooperation and assistance needed or provided
- Information on past and planned use of mines retained for training or development
- Overdue transparency reports
- Updates on development of national implementation measures.

As we get ready for the next leg of the journey toward a mine-free world, let's make sure we collectively keep up the same high levels of enthusiasm and motivation that have been associated with the Mine Ban Treaty since its inception. Such dynamism is essential to carrying out the daily work at the national level -- efforts that must continue until all stockpiled mines are destroyed, all mined areas are cleared, and all victims enjoy the rights and economic possibilities available to all others. We are counting on you to keep up the compassion, and keep up the energy! We look forward to a productive Tenth Meeting of the States Parties. ■

# Landmine Monitor 2010 Reveals Record- Breaking Progress for Mine Ban

Record-breaking progress in implementing the Mine Ban Treaty was made in 2009, according to Landmine Monitor 2010. The report was released on 24 November 2010 in Geneva.

"Progress made in the past year toward eliminating antipersonnel mines shows that the Mine Ban Treaty is working," said Mark

Hiznay of Human Rights Watch, Landmine Monitor's

Final Editor. "Sustained action by governments and civil society, including stable funding, is the key to ensure this progress continues until we completely eliminate the weapon."



## Use

The Monitor identified only one government laying antipersonnel mines: Myanmar. Antipersonnel mine use by non-state armed groups was confirmed in six countries (Afghanistan, Colombia, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Yemen.) This is the lowest level of recorded use since the Monitor began reporting in 1999. For the first time, Russia was not identified as an active user.

## Production

The Monitor identified 12 producers of antipersonnel mines—the smallest total ever recorded. Of the 12, as few as three were actively manufacturing mines (India, Myanmar, and Pakistan.) Following official declarations of non-production, Nepal was removed from the list of producers.

## Casualties

In 2009, 3,956 new casualties to landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) were recorded, the lowest annual total since monitoring began in 1999 and 28% lower than in 2008.

Due to incomplete data collection, the actual number of casualties was certainly higher than recorded

## Contamination

A total of 66 states and seven other areas were confirmed or suspected to be mine-affected. This is a decrease of three states.

## Mine Action

Mine action programs cleared at least 198km<sup>2</sup> of mined areas in 2009, by far the highest annual total ever recorded by the Monitor. At least 359km<sup>2</sup> of former battle areas were cleared.

Programs in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Croatia, Iraq, and Sri Lanka accounted for more than 80% of the total recorded clearance.

Mine/ERW risk education continued to be conducted in many affected locations, with new projects being initiated in Algeria and Pakistan.

## Victim Assistance

In 2009, there was some improvement in quality and/or accessibility of victim assistance services in 11 countries or other areas, but a decline in nine others. While coordination improved in some places, the vast majority of countries did not provide assistance based on data assessing the number of survivors and their needs. Survivors or their representative organizations participated in victim assistance implementation in under half of affected countries, mostly through non-governmental peer support networks. Only 15 international donors reported supporting victim assistance, totaling US\$38 million—only 9% of the global total of funding for mine action.

## Support for Mine Action

Donors and affected states devoted about \$622 million to mine action in 2009, the third highest level of international funding ever. Contributions from the top five mine action donors (the United States, European Commission, Japan, Norway, and Germany) accounted for 61% of all funding. The top five recipient states (Afghanistan, Iraq, Cambodia, Sudan, and Sri Lanka) received almost 50% of all international mine action contributions in 2009. National contributions from affected states increased from \$144 million in 2008 to \$173 million in 2009, with Croatia and Angola accounting for 56% of the total. ■

# Mine Ban Treaty Implementation and Compliance 2009–2010

## The Good

156 countries have joined the Mine Ban Treaty—80% of the world's nations.

The Cartagena Action Plan adopted at the Second Review Conference provides an ambitious and concrete five-year roadmap to implement and universalize the Mine Ban Treaty.

There has been no need for States Parties to invoke the treaty's formal compliance provisions to clarify any compliance matters.

86 states have completed the destruction of their stockpiles, collectively destroying over 45 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines.

All 22 states that asked for an extension went through a rigorous process of review to ensure that they presented realistic and ambitious plans for finishing clearance.

In June 2010, Nicaragua formally declared that it had completed its clearance obligations. It was the 16th state to do so; Albania, Greece, Rwanda, Tunisia, and Zambia declared they fulfilled their clearance obligations in 2009.

## The Bad

No state has joined the treaty since Palau acceded in November 2007.

There are highly disturbing allegations that members of the armed forces in Turkey used antipersonnel mines in 2009; these are currently the subject of a legal investigation by Turkey.

Ukraine missed its stockpile destruction deadline in June 2010 and is in violation of the treaty; as are Belarus, Greece, and Turkey, which missed their deadlines in March 2008.

Too many States Parties granted extensions in 2008 and 2009 have since made disappointing progress. Of greatest concern is Venezuela, which has not started clearance operations more than 10 years after ratifying the treaty.

The rate of compliance with submitting annual transparency reports is at an all-time low (56%); Equatorial Guinea is 11 years late with its initial report.

Less than 40% of states have passed domestic laws to implement the treaty.

## TRANSITION

# CMC & ICBL

As announced earlier this year, a transition process is underway within the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor (the Monitor), towards a more unified structure to take full effect in 2011.

A Transition Team of CMC & ICBL governance members has been in place since February 2010, and has reviewed all aspects of our collective work, based on the results of the campaign-wide consultations held in 2009.

The CMC, ICBL, and Monitor on a practical level have increasingly been sharing resources over the last few years

including coordination of civil society sponsorship programmes and sharing of work between CMC and ICBL staff. This will be reinforced in the future while still ensuring the three components continue to be the global authorities in their areas of work.

The ICBL and CMC will operate under one legal structure with a new Governance Board providing strategic, financial and human resources oversight. In practical terms, the CMC and ICBL will remain two separate and strong campaigns with dedicated staff for both. Staff working on administration, finance, logistics and policy will support both campaigns.

The Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor will remain the research and monitoring arm of both the CMC and ICBL, and will continue to provide the international community with innovative, civil society-based monitoring of the global landmine and cluster munition situation.

We are confident this transition will allow us to effectively continue playing the civil society leadership role that we are committed to and that States Parties, our partners, and donors, expect from us.

On 12 November, the Steering Committee of the CMC and the Management Committee of the ICBL were dissolved and their responsibilities were transferred to the new Governance Board. The Governance Board has elected a Chair (Steve Goose of Human Rights Watch) and an Administrative Committee to provide more regular input to staff and the working of the campaigns (Atle Karlsen of NPA, Eva Veble of DCA, Miriam Struyk of IKV Pax Christi, Paul Hannon of MAC, and Steve Goose of HRW.) ■

### Governance Board members include:

Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organisation, Action On Armed Violence (UK), Asociación para Políticas Públicas (Argentina), Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines, Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas, DanChurchAid, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, ICBL Georgian Committee, IKV Pax Christi (The Netherlands), IPPNW (Russia and Zambia), Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines, Mines Action Canada, Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines, Norwegian People's Aid, Protection (Egypt), Religions for Peace

# Moving Forward on the Cluster Munition Ban

A total of 121 states, including 34 non-signatories, participated in the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions held in Lao PDR from 9-12 November 2010, alongside representatives of UN agencies, the ICRC, and civil society gathered under the umbrella of the Cluster Munition Coalition. The meeting concluded successfully by agreeing on a political declaration and a 66-point action plan to turn treaty obligations into concrete actions.

The Vientiane Action Plan commits to "implement fully all of the obligations under the Convention." It establishes rapid timetables for interim steps to make it happen:

**Stockpile destruction:** The treaty obliges States Parties to destroy stockpiles within eight years. *Now, they have one year to set a timeline and a budget to begin the destruction.*

**Clearance and risk education:** The treaty obliges States Parties to clear contaminated areas within 10 years. *Now, they have one year to identify all contaminated areas, develop a plan and begin clearance. Risk education is also prioritised.*

The mother of Piou, a 10-year old girl killed in a cluster submunition explosion, holds a picture of her and her sister Paeng, 15, who survived the explosion. The incident occurred in Lao PDR's Bolikhamxay province during the 1MSP. Photo: Giovanni Diffidenti



Survivors and youth delegates address the closing of the 1MSP. Photo: Mary Wareham

**Victim assistance:** The treaty obliges States Parties to provide an unprecedented level of assistance to cluster munition victims. *Now, contaminated states have agreed to designate a focal point for victim assistance within six months.*

**International assistance:** The treaty obliges states in a position to do so to provide assistance to affected countries to clear contaminated areas and assist victims. *Affected countries have now agreed to do more on clearance and victim assistance in 2011 and donor countries have also agreed to respond*

*to requests from affected states already in 2011.*

**Reporting:** States have committed to report on all aspects of implementation, including on the convention's comprehensive victim assistance provisions.

To date 108 states have signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions and 46 have ratified. The high level of participation at the 1MSP by states that have not yet joined the convention shows that the ban norm is growing. ■

# Victim Assistance in Inclusive Development

Action #41 of the Cartagena Action Plan calls for States Parties to ensure that development cooperation is inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities, including mine survivors. The Mine Ban Treaty's Standing



Photo: Giovanni Diffidenti

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines advocates for a "twin-track approach" to inclusive development and victim assistance.<sup>(1)</sup> Such an approach means ensuring that all appropriate and "mainstream" economic development programs are fully accessible to landmine and explosive remnants of war survivors by removing all physical and attitudinal barriers that might prevent their participation. It also means simultaneously providing specialized programs and initiatives to strengthen the capacity of survivors, so that they are better positioned to actively participate in and benefit from development.

Similarly, the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance recommends that: "While integrating victim assistance into

development programmes it may also be necessary to provide specialized services to ensure that mine survivors and other persons with disabilities are empowered to participate on an equal basis with others."

Development programs often address health systems, governance systems and local authorities, education and work or employment. In all these areas, survivors have the right to be part of the development of their countries, making contributions in the implementation and as beneficiaries of these programs. Additionally, the inclusion of survivors helps to ensure that, as systems are designed and progress, they are being adjusted in ways that are accessible to all persons with disabilities, including survivors.

## What is inclusive development?

Inclusive development is an approach to development that respects the full human rights of every person.

It acknowledges diversity, works to eradicate poverty and aims to include all people as active participants in the development process and activities, regardless of age, gender, disability, state of health, ethnic

- Survivors have a right to be involved in the planning and implementation of development activities in their communities (locally and at the national level), and to benefit from them.
- Various international instruments (the Mine Ban Treaty with the Cartagena Action Plan, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) require that survivors and other persons with disabilities have full access to all services and initiatives, including health centers, education, and vocational training and employment promotion projects.

origin or any other characteristic.

When considering the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development, it means ensuring that all phases of the development cycle (design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) include a disability dimension and that persons with disabilities are meaningfully participating in development processes and policies. <sup>(2)</sup> ■

(1) See the ICBL, "Guiding Principles for Victim Assistance", April 2007, p. 2, [www.icbl.org/index.php/icbl/Work/MBT/Victim-Assistance](http://www.icbl.org/index.php/icbl/Work/MBT/Victim-Assistance).

(2) Inclusive Development and the Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, prepared by the IDDC Task Group on the UN Convention, 2005.

## CAMPAIGN NEWS

### DRC: New Steps on Victim Assistance

ICBL Victim Assistance Focal Points Francky Miantuala and André Tabaro from Democratic Republic of Congo took part in the taskforce organizing the first national workshop on victim assistance (VA), held by the UN Mine Action Coordinating Center in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and National Solidarity. Held from 19-21 October, the workshop aimed at laying the foundations of a national strategy and action plan on VA, and provided an opportunity to develop a network of VA actors. Some 80 participants including provincial and national authorities as well

as local and international NGOs agreed on a series of recommendations and will reconvene in 2011 to review progress made on their implementation. Other advocacy activities included a press conference held on 10 October to emphasize the need for DRC to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions, sign the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and adopt the national legislation implementing the Mine Ban Treaty. The latter was adopted by the national assembly on 15 October and will now be submitted to the senate. More information: [francky\\_tos@yahoo.fr](mailto:francky_tos@yahoo.fr) ■

### Metro Canada's Homepage Explosion

Metro Canada, Juniper Park Advertising Agency and Mines Action Canada are working in partnership to change the lives of individuals and communities that have been affected by landmines and cluster bombs. In the first week of November, the homepage of the free newspaper Metro's online version featured a

special announcement that exploded after the visitors had spent a few seconds on the webpage. Readers were invited to donate to the Walk Without Fear Foundation, which raises awareness on the impact of victim-activated weapons. More information: [jordan@minesactioncanada.org](mailto:jordan@minesactioncanada.org) ■

### Mauritania: Nouakchott Seminar on Mine Action in Francophone Africa

From 27 to 30 September, Boubine Touré from the Senegal Campaign to Ban Landmines joined the seminar that brought together governments from fourteen francophone African states as well as other governments, mine action operators and international organizations, to review successes and challenges in addressing landmine, cluster munition and explosive remnants of war contamination in

francophone Africa. The seminar was held by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining, with support from the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, the French and Swiss governments, and the Mauritanian PNDHD. More information: [boubine@refer.sn](mailto:boubine@refer.sn). ■

### Germany: ICBL Members Honored

The Association of Ethical Shareholders has awarded the Henry Mathews Prize 2010 to ICBL members Thomas Küchenmeister and Action Group Landmine.de on 13 September 2010, for their outstanding campaigning on raising awareness of dangers posed by landmines and cluster munitions among the general public, and promoting the rights of victims of these weapons and other explosive remnants of war. In the past, the media as well as German parliament



Photo: Mette Eliseussen

members from all political parties acknowledged Action Group Landmine.de's major contribution to obtaining the German government's approval of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, as well as the implementation and monitoring of the Mine Ban Treaty. Congratulations! ■



Photo: Landmine Survivors Initiatives

### Sports and Arts in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Some 100 athletes with disabilities from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia gathered in Mostar for the 12th Princess Diana Memorial sitting volleyball tournament, held on 12 September. Organized by Landmine Survivors Initiatives in partnership with the Sports Association of Persons with Disabilities "Neretva" Mostar, the event promotes the rights and capacities of persons with disabilities and highlights the role of sports in social inclusion. Many of the participating athletes survived war-related trauma and their participation in the tournament contributes to the processes of regional cooperation and reconciliation.

In August, the 6th Regional Balkana Art Colony brought together 20 visual artists with and without disabilities, for a week of artwork creation to promote social inclusion and equal opportunities for all. The event was organized in partnership with UDAS Republika Srpska and the municipality of Mrkonjic Grad. Two roundtables were also held, during which journalists explored the role of media in reporting on disability issues, and government representatives discussed the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. More information: [rbecirovic@ipm-lsi.org](mailto:rbecirovic@ipm-lsi.org) ■



Photo: Kenyan School of Monetary Studies

## Yemen Survivors Call for Enhanced Governmental Commitment

The Yemen Association of Landmine Survivors in partnership with the Arab Human Rights Foundation held a workshop on the needs and rights of landmine survivors, aimed at ensuring rapid approval and thorough implementation of Yemen's national victim assistance action plan, promoting the integration of victim assistance in the country's development programs, and calling for increased funding for disability issues. The event took place on 9 and 10 October and brought together senior government officials, civil society

organizations, survivors, and journalists. Civil society also called on the government to harmonize the national victim assistance action plan with the Cartagena Action Plan, to create a joint coordination mechanism on victim assistance, and to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions. More information: [saleh0096@hotmail.com](mailto:saleh0096@hotmail.com) ■

## Iraq: Campaigners Meet with President Talabani

Representatives of the Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations (IADO) met with President Jalal Talabani on 4 October to advocate for better support for the rights of survivors and other persons with disabilities. The Iraqi President assured the IADO of its commitment towards the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the IADO reiterated its request for the creation of a national disability council. Other advocacy activities by IADO during the fall included a meeting with the new Director of the Human Rights Office of the UNAMI to discuss the

victim assistance aspects of the Mine Ban Treaty and CCM. In addition the fourth annual national conference of the IADO, supported by Mercy Corps, was organized on 22 September, and brought together dozens of representatives of ministries, members of parliament, provincial councils members, religious leaders and community leaders, as well as the media. The meeting adopted 14 recommendations on the rights of survivors and persons with disabilities, which were shared with stakeholders. More information: [maffak62@yahoo.com](mailto:maffak62@yahoo.com) ■

## East and Central Africa Regional Workshop on Victim Assistance

Central and East Africa are heavily affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war and, as a result, have many victims. Most countries in the region have yet to develop national action plans on victim assistance (VA). Given the increased focus on SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound) action planning following the adoption of the Cartagena Action Plan, Handicap International organized two regional victim assistance workshops in Nairobi on 13 and 14 October: one for civil society and government representatives from Burundi, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somaliland, Sudan, and Uganda, as well as one for participants from these

countries and donors. Uganda, Chad and Sudan, which have already developed SMART national action plans on victim assistance and/or disability, shared their experience. Participants developed a better understanding of the VA obligations of the Mine Ban Treaty, Convention on Cluster Munitions and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, became familiar with the specific service delivery domains of VA, developed objectives and activities for VA within their national contexts, and presented these to donors. More information: [ehottentot@handicap-international.ch](mailto:ehottentot@handicap-international.ch) ■

## Pakistan: Religious Scholars Ready to Support MRE

The Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (SPADO) with support from Religions for Peace offered training to 48 Islamic religious scholars in 2010, to prepare them to support SPADO's risk education activities in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa area. Training participants offered their full support to conduct risk education, condemn the use of landmines and promote the rights of landmine survivors. An enhanced version of the 2005 booklet

Landmines and Islamic Teachings was produced, which includes additional information on the teachings of Islam against the use of indiscriminate weapons and a new section on the rights of survivors and other persons with disabilities, prepared by Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Chairman of the Department of Islamic Studies at the University of Peshawar. The booklet will be available soon in English. More information: [spado@icbl.org](mailto:spado@icbl.org) ■



## Victim Assistance in Turkey

On 19 October, an ICBL advisor on victim assistance joined the national campaign coordinator in an international delegation invited by the government of Turkey to visit the Turkish Armed Forces Rehabilitation and Care Center, in Ankara. Further to the visit, ICBL members held meetings at the government office for persons with disabilities, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and with members of parliament.

In partnership with the Mardin Bar Society, the Initiative for a Mine-Free Turkey continued to provide legal support services to mine survivors, organizing a second meeting for survivors and their families, in the mine-affected region of Mardin. The meetings are held jointly with the Turkey Disabled Foundation, with support from Global Dialogue. More information: [bilgi@mayinsizbirturkiye.org](mailto:bilgi@mayinsizbirturkiye.org)

## Wheelchair Rugby Match Shortlisted for Prestigious Award

The international organization Peace and Sport, under the patronage of Prince Albert II of Monaco, has announced the nominees for the 2010 Sports Event for Peace award. The wheelchair rugby match Rumble in Cartagena that was the talk of the town at the Cartagena

Summit on a Mine-Free World is shortlisted along with only two other events. «By harnessing the power of athletes with disabilities, the event demonstrated that ability can replace adversity and triumph can overcome tragedy,» said Juan Pablo Salazar from Fundación Arcangeles, one of the organizers of the event, along with the Cluster Munition Coalition, Survivor Corps, the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation and the ICBL. The prize will be awarded on 2 December.

Prince Mired Raad Al Hussein of Jordan and Colombian Vice-President Francisco Santos, at the Rumble in Cartagena rugby match.

Photo: Giovanni Diffidenti



## Nepal: Campaigners Engage with High-Level Government Officials

In September, the Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal (NCBL) gathered the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Law and Justice, representatives of the national army and police, as well as UNICEF, the National Federation of the Disabled, and other stakeholders, for a two-day workshop on the responsibilities of Nepal towards international humanitarian conventions including the Mine Ban Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions. Parliamentarians and officials from political parties were also invited to a one-day symposium on the obligations of the Mine Ban Treaty.

In November, a training course on the rights of persons with disabilities

that brought together for the first time civilian, military, and non-state armed group victims of mines and improvised explosive devices, with a view to contributing to the reconciliation process. The State Minister of Peace and Reconstruction spoke at the end of the training course. Other activities during the fall included the ongoing development of the national network of mine victims of the NCBL that now has members in 22 out of 75 districts, the delivery of risk education sessions in schools, and a refresher course for 90 risk education focal points from 45 districts.

More information: [purnashova@gmail.com](mailto:purnashova@gmail.com)



Photo: JASMAR

## Sudan: Football & Risk Education

As part of its mine risk education activities, the JASMAR Human Security Organization organized a football competition on 28 October with support from the UNICEF, in the mine-affected area of Telkok (Kassala state). The event brought together government officials, local authorities, civil society

actors and community members including a majority of youth and school pupils. Thanks to a partnership with Exploration Logistics, JASMAR now has six risk education teams in the areas of Blue Nile, Kassala, and Darfur. More information: [abdelaizimjasmar@yahoo.com](mailto:abdelaizimjasmar@yahoo.com)

The ICBL is a global network in over 90 countries, working for a ban on landmines and cluster munitions.

We welcome any comments and questions about ICBL News.