

Cluster Munition Monitor 2024 Major Findings

As of 1 August 2024

Status of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions

- The convention has 112 States Parties and 12 signatories. The last country to accede was South Sudan in August 2023, while Nigeria was the last to ratify it in February 2023.
- Lithuania enacted a law on 26 July 2024 approving its withdrawal from the convention, which will take effect six months after it follows the steps prescribed in Article 20.
- An annual resolution in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) promoting the convention was adopted in December 2023 by 148 states, including 37 non-signatories to the convention. Russia was the only country to vote against it.

Use of Cluster Munitions

- Cluster munitions were used in Ukraine by Russian and Ukrainian forces in 2023 and through July 2024, while new use was also recorded in Myanmar and Syria.
- There have been no reports or allegations of new use of cluster munitions by any State Party since the convention was adopted in May 2008.

Cluster munition casualties

- Ukraine had the highest number of annual casualties globally for the second consecutive year. Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022, over a thousand cluster munition casualties have been recorded in Ukraine.
- Globally, 219 people were killed or injured by cluster munitions in 2023.
- The 2023 global number of casualties represents a significant decrease compared to the previous year's record spike, however, the actual number is likely much higher as many casualties go unreported.
 - In Ukraine alone, more than 50 cluster munition attacks were reported in 2023 where the number of casualties that occurred was not noted.
- New casualties from cluster munitions were recorded in nine countries—Azerbaijan, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mauritania, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen—in 2023.
 - All of those countries, except Myanmar, had new casualties from cluster munition remnants in 2023.

- Casualties from cluster munition attacks occurred in three countries—Myanmar, Syria, and Ukraine—all non-signatories to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
- Of the total reported casualties in 2023, 118 were the result of cluster munition attacks, while 101 were caused by cluster munition remnants.
- Cluster munitions and their remnants continued to disproportionately impact civilians and civilian objects including schools, hospitals, and agricultural land.
 - Civilians accounted for 93% of all casualties recorded for 2023, where the status was recorded.
- Children are at particularly high risk of harm from cluster munition remnants, especially submunitions.
 - Children accounted for almost half (47%) of all casualties from cluster munition remnants in 2023. Children made up the majority of casualties from cluster munition remnants in States Parties Iraq and Lebanon, and in non-signatory Syria.

Stockpile Destruction and Retention

- Since the convention's adoption in 2008, States Parties have collectively destroyed 100% of the cluster munition stocks that they declared, destroying 1.49 million cluster munitions and 179 million submunitions.
- Bulgaria, Slovakia, and South Africa announced the completion of the destruction of their respective cluster munition stocks in September 2023, while Peru completed its stockpile destruction in December 2023. With Peru's completion, all current States Parties have now completed destruction of their stocks.
- Only 10 States Parties are retaining live cluster munitions for permitted research and training purposes, of which Germany has the highest number. Belgium destroyed all of its retained cluster munitions during 2023.

Cluster Munition Contamination and Clearance

- A total of 28 countries and other areas are contaminated or suspected to be contaminated by cluster munition remnants, including 10 States Parties to the convention—Afghanistan, Chad, Chile, Germany, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mauritania, Somalia, and the newest State Party, South Sudan.
- State Party Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) completed clearance of cluster munition remnants in August 2023, becoming the ninth State Party to meet its clearance obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
- Contaminated States Parties reported the clearance of 83.91km² of cluster munition contaminated land during 2023, resulting in the destruction of at least 73,348 cluster munition remnants, primarily unexploded submunitions and unexploded bomblets. This is a decrease from the 93.49 km² of land cleared and the 77,408 cluster munition remnants destroyed in 2022.
- In the first half of 2024, Chad, Germany, and Lao PDR each requested to extend their current clearance deadlines. These requests will be considered and decided at the convention's Twelfth Meeting of States Parties in September 2024.

Risk Education

- In 2023, men and boys remained the groups at highest risk of harm from cluster munition remnants.
- All contaminated States Parties carried out risk education activities in 2023 warning of the dangers of cluster munition remnants and other explosive hazards, except for Chile and Germany, where cluster munition contaminated areas are on military land that is inaccessible to the public.
- These risk education activities reached men (23%), women (11%), boys (38%), and girls (28%).

Victim Assistance

- Victim assistance efforts under the Convention on Cluster Munitions saw some progress, but many States Parties faced significant challenges in providing adequate and accessible services.
- Healthcare systems in Afghanistan and Lebanon were severely compromised, with increased restrictions on access to health services for women and girls in Afghanistan, and for refugees in Lebanon.
- Limited progress was made in socio-economic inclusion and financial assistance for victims, leaving many needs unmet.

Production

- Since 2023, the number of countries producing cluster munitions increased from 16—Brazil, China, Egypt, Greece, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, South Korea, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Türkiye, and the US—to 17 with the addition of Myanmar. None of them are party to the convention.
- Cluster Munition Monitor found evidence of new cluster munition production in India, Myanmar, Russia, and South Korea during the reporting period.

Transfer

- Between July 2023 and April 2024, US President Joe Biden approved five transfers to Ukraine of US cluster munitions delivered by 155mm artillery projectiles and by ballistic missiles. Ukraine may have acquired cluster munitions from other countries in this period, but reports of such transfers have been denied by the countries concerned.
- At the Eurosatory Arms Exhibition in Paris in June 2024, companies from India and South Korea promoted their cluster munitions for sale.
- In the past, at least 15 countries have transferred more than 50 types of cluster munitions to at least 60 other countries.

Transparency Reporting

- A total of 106 States Parties have submitted an initial Article 7 transparency report for the convention, including the newest States Parties Nigeria and South Sudan.

Six have not done so, of which Cabo Verde, Comoros, and Togo are more than a decade late.

- Compliance with the annual reporting requirement has been sporadic, as more than half of States Parties do not provide updates to their transparency reports annually.

National Legislation

- A total of 33 States Parties have specific implementation laws for the convention. The last country to enact national implementing legislation was Niue in 2021.
- Another 22 States Parties are planning or are in the process of drafting, reviewing, or adopting specific legislative measures to implement the convention, while 43 States Parties regard their existing laws and regulations as sufficient.