MAJOR FINDINGS

BAN POLICY

STATUS OF THE 1997 MINE BAN TREATY

The Mine Ban Treaty has a total of 164 States Parties, while 33 states have not yet joined. The last countries to accede to the treaty were the State of Palestine and Sri Lanka, both in 2017.

- In 2023, Russia became the first country ever to vote against the annual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution that urges full universalization and the effective implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty.

MINE USE

Antipersonnel landmines were used by states not party Myanmar and Russia, as well as by Iran and North Korea, during the reporting period of mid-2023 through October 2024.

- Russia has used antipersonnel mines extensively in Ukraine since invading the country in February 2022, resulting in an unprecedented situation in which a country that is not party to the Mine Ban Treaty is using the weapon on the territory of a State Party.
- As in every year since it was first published in 1999, this annual report documents new use of antipersonnel mines by government forces in Myanmar.

Non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in at least five states—Colombia, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Palestine (Gaza)—also used antipersonnel mines during the reporting period. Additionally, new use of landmines has been attributed to NSAGs in countries in or bordering the Sahel region of Africa—Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mali, Niger, and Nigeria.

PRODUCTION

A total of 12 states not party to the Mine Ban Treaty remain on the Monitor's list of those who develop, produce, or acquire antipersonnel mines: Armenia, China, Cuba, India, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, and Vietnam.

- India, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russia, and South Korea appear to be actively developing or producing antipersonnel mines. Other states listed as producers are not believed to be actively producing but have yet to commit to never do so in the future.

STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION AND MINES RETAINED

Of the 164 States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, 94 states have officially completed destruction of their stocks of antipersonnel mines, destroying a combined total of over 55 million antipersonnel landmines.

- States Parties Greece and Ukraine both still possess stocks of antipersonnel landmines. They remain in violation of Article 4 of the Mine Ban Treaty, having failed to complete stockpile destruction by their respective four-year deadlines: Greece (1 March 2008) and Ukraine (1 June 2010). In 2024, Greece started transferring antipersonnel landmines to Croatia for destruction.
- Another 67 States Parties have confirmed that they have never possessed antipersonnel mines. State Party Tuvalu must provide an initial transparency report to confirm that it does not stockpile antipersonnel mines.

A total of 63 States Parties retain antipersonnel mines for training and research purposes. Two of these states—Bangladesh and Finland—each retain more than 12,000 mines, while another 23 states retain more than 1,000 mines each.

- In May 2024, Slovakia reported that it no longer retains antipersonnel mines.

TRANSPARENCY REPORTING

All except one State Party—Tuvalu—have provided an initial Article 7 transparency report, but less than half provide annual reports due by 30 April each year.

A total of 84 States Parties have not submitted a report for calendar year 2023, of which most have failed to provide an annual Article 7 report for two or more years. Only 80 States Parties have provided reports for 2023, a slight increase from 2022.

THE IMPACT

CASUALTIES

At least 5,757 casualties of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) were recorded (1,983 killed and 3,663 injured) for 2023. The survival status was unknown for 111 casualties.

- In 2023, mine/ERW casualties were identified in 53 states and two other areas. Of these, 38 are States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty.
- Civilians made up 84% (4,335) of all recorded casualties, where the military or civilian status was known. Children accounted for 37% (1,498) of civilian casualties, where the age group was recorded.
- State not party Myanmar recorded the highest number of annual casualties (1,003) for the first time in 2023. This ended the three-year period that state not party Syria had the highest number of annual casualties.
- Syria had the next highest number of casualties (933), followed by States Parties Afghanistan and Ukraine, which both had more than 500 recorded casualties in 2023.

- In 2023, improvised landmines (victim-activated improvised explosive devices) continued to cause the most casualties (2,071).
- In 2023, antipersonnel mines caused 833 casualties, the highest annual number recorded since 2011; and the number of casualties from antivehicle mines (291) almost tripled since 2022, in correlation with increased casualties from this type of mine in Ukraine.

CONTAMINATION

At least 58 states and other areas are contaminated by antipersonnel mines.

- This includes 33 States Parties with current clearance obligations under Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty, in addition to 22 states not party and three other areas.
- At least 25 States Parties are believed or known to have contamination arising from improvised mines.
- Croatia and Yemen succeeded in decreasing the extent of their contamination through land release activities in 2023, while the extent of contamination increased in Mauritania and Sri Lanka, due to ongoing efforts to complete a baseline survey.

CLEARANCE

States Parties reported clearing a total of 281.50km² of contaminated land in 2023, resulting in the destruction of 160,566 antipersonnel landmines.

- This total is the largest area cleared by States Parties since the last review conference in 2019 and represents an increase of 62.2km² of land cleared compared with 2022.
- Cambodia and Croatia reported the largest clearance totals in 2023, clearing a combined total of more than 209km² of land and destroying 24,743 antipersonnel mines. Another nine States Parties each cleared more than 1km² of contaminated land in 2023.
- Clearance progress was negligible in many States Parties in 2023—with 11 clearing less than 1km², three not reporting any clearance in 2023, and five not formally reporting on their Article 5 obligations.
- Nineteen States Parties have deadlines to meet their Article 5 clearance obligations before or no later than 2025, while 14 States Parties have deadlines after 2025. Of those States Parties with a 2025 deadline or earlier, only Oman appears to be on track to meet its clearance deadline.

In the first half of 2024, seven States Parties—Afghanistan, Chad, Cyprus, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Peru, and Serbia—requested extensions to their current clearance deadline of 2025 or earlier. As of October 2024, Eritrea had yet to submit a new request to extend its clearance deadline of 31 December 2024.

RISK EDUCATION

Of the 33 States Parties with clearance obligations, 28 reported providing, or are known to have provided, risk education to populations at risk from antipersonnel mine contamination in 2023.

- At-risk groups included those that moved regularly between different locations, such as nomads, hunters, herders, shepherds, and agricultural workers. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) faced a similar threat.
- People seeking natural resources for their livelihoods, and people deliberately engaging with explosive ordnance—such as scrap metal collectors—were also at risk.
- Children remained at high risk and were a key target group for risk education providers, comprising 67% of all beneficiaries reached in 2023.
- Fourteen States Parties with clearance obligations submitted an annual Article 7 report for 2023 providing detailed information on risk education, including beneficiary data disaggregated by gender and age.

There has been a positive trend in the number of affected States Parties reporting risk education activities since 2019, when the importance of risk education was highlighted in the Oslo Action Plan. While 70% of them reported risk education activities in 2019, this proportion increased to 85% in 2022 and 2023.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

In 2023, healthcare and rehabilitation services remained under-funded and faced multiple challenges in many states, particularly regarding accessibility, expertise, and infrastructure.

- Several States Parties with significant numbers of mine victims in need of assistance experienced massive disruption—and in some cases damage and destruction—to their healthcare systems in 2023, including Afghanistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen.
- Monitor findings indicate that rehabilitation services have been reduced in many affected States Parties, including those receiving essential support through internationally funded programs. Several of these programs lost their capacity or were otherwise concluded in 2023, such as in Algeria, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jordan, the Philippines, and Rwanda.
- Major gaps remain in access to economic opportunities for mine and ERW survivors in many of the States Parties where livelihood support is most needed. Reporting on this commitment was limited, however.
- While psychological support services were available in a handful of affected States Parties, these services—in particular, community-based peer support—are rarely included in national health budgets, thereby limiting their impact and reach. Survivor networks and NGOs were helping to fill this gap.

SUPPORT FOR MINE ACTION

In 2023, global support for mine action totaled US$1.03 billion. This is the first time that annual funding for mine action has surpassed one billion, due in part to an increase in funding for Ukraine.

- Twenty affected states contributed a combined total of $227.3 million to their own national mine action programs, representing 22% of global funding.
- Thirty-four donors provided $798.3 million in international support to mine action, a similar amount to that provided in 2022.
- The donor base remained largely unchanged from recent years. The 15 largest donors provided 96% of all international mine action funding, with a combined total of $762.4 million. The US, Germany, and the European Union (EU) remained the three largest donors toward mine action.
- The top 10 recipient countries received $603.8 million, which accounted for 76% of all international assistance. Ukraine headed the list of recipients for the second year in a row, receiving $308.1 million, representing 39% of all international donor funds. Eight countries in the top 10 saw a decrease in funding, with the decrease particularly significant in Afghanistan and Yemen.
- International assistance to international non-profit organizations accounted for 46% of total funding during 2023, with $363.5 million received, compared with 37% of total funding in 2022. However, international assistance provided directly to national non-profit organizations accounted for less than 1% ($4 million).
- Half of international mine action funding went to support clearance and integrated clearance programs. International support earmarked for victim assistance totaled $47 million, a 25% increase on the 2022 total, yet represented only 6% of total mine action funding. Of those funds directed toward victim assistance, 60% went to just five states—Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen.

While some affected States Parties have seen substantial support, others have struggled to obtain international funds, which can impact their ability to meet their Article 5 clearance obligations "as soon as possible."

- States Parties with smaller amounts of mine contamination often lack support. Of the 12 States Parties with less than 5km² of contamination, only half—Colombia, the DRC, Palestine, Senegal, Serbia, and Somalia—received funds for clearance in 2023. This amounted to only 5% of the total funds provided for clearance.
- Eight States Parties with clearance obligations did not receive any international funding for clearance in 2023, despite funding requests by four of them—Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Peru, and Türkiye.