HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF MINES

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I. Anti-personnel Landmines – Why a Complete Ban?
Landmines are weapons that strike blindly and senselessly.
AP mines kill and maim after the end of the conflict
Mines often affect children

Child victims are maimed for the rest of their life
On average, a child who steps on a landmine will need 25 prostheses in his/her lifetime.

As he grows up, this boy will need to have his prosthesis changed **every six months**.
Victims are often in need of financial help to reintegrate into society.
AP mines make land unusable for crops
The Ottawa Convention is built on a few simple ideas:

- Civilians should not be killed or maimed by weapons that strike blindly and senselessly during and after conflicts.
- Wars should end when the fighting stops. Communities should be free to rebuild without risking lives and livelihoods to do so.
banning anti-personnel landmines

First time that a weapon in widespread use has been banned
II

REASONS FOR HOPE?
More States are becoming party to the Ottawa Convention

Some states that are not party are showing encouraging signs
The international response has not been limited to the adoption of new normative agreements.

Humanitarian mine action has become one of the principal emergency response in the aftermath of an armed conflict.
Countries of this region have made great contribution to clearance operations in many regions of the world.
Military forces play an important role in preventing and mitigating the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war.

Often, explosive ordnance disposal teams are a first responder to the presence of these weapons.
peacekeeping forces are also active in clearance activities.
Can ICRC contribute?
Involvement in field operations:

- Evacuation
- Surgery
- Hospitalization
ICRC has provided more than 300,000 prostheses and orthoses over the last 25 years.
Staff trained to produce false limbs and joints in workshops like this one in the Afghan capital, Kabul.
Consultations in local villages (here in Cambodia) to repair damaged prostheses and other appliances
Support to families of mine victims, for instance through micro-credit (here in Afghanistan)
Mine awareness programmes
Legislation implementing the Ottawa Convention
Convention, Article 9

Adoption of appropriate measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under this Convention
International humanitarian law sets out detailed rules that seek to limit the effects of armed conflict. Its main treaties have been accepted by nearly every State in the world. (Treaties and States parties)

However, becoming party to these agreements is only a first step. Efforts must be made to implement humanitarian law, to turn the rules into action.

Some measures will require the adoption of legislation or regulations. Others will require the development of educational programmes, the recruitment and/or training of personnel, the production of identity cards and other documents, the setting up of special structures, and the introduction of planning and administrative procedures.

Areas where the adoption of implementing measures is required include: the protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems, the repression of war crimes, the protection of cultural property, the use of certain weapons, etc.

The ICRC set up its Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law in 1996 to step up its support to States committed to implementing IHL. Specifically, the Advisory
Mines

22-6-2003
Model of Legislation for Common Law States to Implement the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction

23-5-2001
Information Kit: Development of National Legislation to Implement the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines

Missing

21-5-2003
Missing Persons and their Families
Fact sheet describing the problem of missing persons and providing recommendations for crafting national legislation in this area.

Geneva Conventions Act

21-2-2003
Model Geneva Conventions Act (for Common Law States)
Using the Geneva Conventions Acts adopted by different States, and following discussions held with common law experts, the ICRC Advisory Service on IHL has drawn up this model Geneva Conventions Act. This Model Act gives effect to the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to their two Additional Protocols of 1977.
IMPLEMENTING LAWS AND REGULATIONS: TEXT

State: Cambodia
Law or Regulations: Law on the prohibition of anti-personnel mines, 1999

[Attachment]

Full text in English: Anti-personnel Mines - Cambodia - EN.pdf
Finally, a brief overview of the related issues of unexploded remnants of war
Explosive Remnants of War
Explosive Remnants of War

AP mines part of a broader problem.

Statistics from Laos, Kosovo and other war-affected countries.
Direct impact: Human death and suffering.

Socio-economic costs for families, communities and the country as a whole.

Problems similar to AP mines.
Laos for example, is a country which today struggles with enormous amounts of ERWs from the conflicts that took place in Southeast Asia during the 1960's and 1970's.

One does not have to look far to see the deadly effects of ERWs.
Information provided by the National UXO Programme in Laos shows that, since 1973 approximately 11,000 people have been killed or injured by explosive remnants of war.
Explosive Remnants of War

In 2003, the Fifth Protocol to the CCW on ERWs was adopted
Still a low level of ratification, especially in East and South-East Asia

However, here also, some encouraging signs
IV

Conclusion
More countries are becoming parties to the Ottawa Convention.

More is done for mine action, victims and their families.

However, mines and other unexploded remnants of war still kill and injure worldwide. Efforts must continue.
Thank you