

Update on Mine Risk Education

Intersessional Standing Committees, 26 April 2007

Mine Risk Education in the Treaty

- **Article 5: States Parties must “ensure the effective exclusion of civilians” from mined areas**
- **Article 6: States Parties “shall provide assistance ... for mine awareness programs”**

Mine Risk Education in the Treaty

- **Article 7: States Parties shall report on “the measures taken to provide an immediate and effective warning to the population”**

Mine Risk Education in the Nairobi Action Plan

Actions # 20 and # 21:

- **Provide MRE to all at-risk communities**
- **Integrate MRE into education systems**

[cont.]

Mine Risk Education in the Nairobi Action Plan

- Integrate MRE into broader relief and development activities
- Ensure that all clearance operations have a community liaison component
- Ensure consistency with IMAS (Action #21)

Afghanistan

- 848 casualties
- Clearance includes community liaison
- Some accessibility problems

Algeria

- 51 recorded casualties
- Serious contamination from mines/ERW but little mine action
- MA program about to start, but no MRE

Angola

- At least 96 casualties
- MRE significantly helped reduce mine & ERW threat
- Landmine Impact Survey helps targeting nearly 2,000 communities at risk
- More work needed re casualty data management

Burundi

- 162 casualties
- Ceasefire since September 2006
- Large number of returnees particularly at risk from mines/ERW
- **Community-based MRE** reaching momentum: local educators and pastors have been trained

Cambodia

- 2005: 875 casualties
- 2006: 440 casualties (49% drop)
- MRE provided to almost everyone
- Substantial MRE & data collection
- MRE integrated in school curriculum
- “Student teachers”

Colombia

- 1,110 recorded casualties (338 civilians)
- Need for more MRE (in particular for IDPs)
- MRE often not reaching civilians most at risk (rural municipalities)
- MRE, fencing and marking/clearance needed around military bases that are still mined

Eritrea

- 68 casualties
- MRE provided as part of Peacekeeping in Temporary Security Zone and in Eritrean countryside

Mozambique

- Casualties increased while MRE decreased (2005: 57 casualties)
- 22 March 2007: explosion of stockpile of weapons and explosives, including missiles and landmines: 130 people dead and around 515 injured
- Delivered **emergency UXO-risk education** following the explosion

Philippines

- Philippine CBL recorded 145 casualties
- People killed/injured by command-activated AV-mines and similar improvised devices
- Attacks affect mostly soldiers. However, **at least 18 civilians** were also affected.
- MRE needed?

Sudan

- At least 79 casualties
- No systematic data collection
- Dramatic increase of mine action program since 2005 but
- MRE as well as other activities seriously challenged by country size & climatic conditions

Turkey

- A7 Report: 194 military casualties
- Turkish civil society: at least 220 casualties (22 children)
- Limited MRE
- Minefields reportedly fenced and population warned (Art.7 reports)
- More comprehensive mine action (data collection, marking, clearance, MRE...) needed to address community risks

Conclusions

1. MRE needed in at risk communities, even during conflict
2. MRE capacity should include local representation (sustainability)
3. MRE needs to creatively address risk taking behavior

Conclusions

4. Effective MRE also requires data collection, survey, marking/fencing
5. Affected states should be prepared for emergency MRE
6. MRE resources need to be increased by affected states

**Feed-back?
New developments?**

Please contact the Landmine Monitor
MRE research coordinator:

Sebastian Kasack
sebastian.kasack@handicap.be

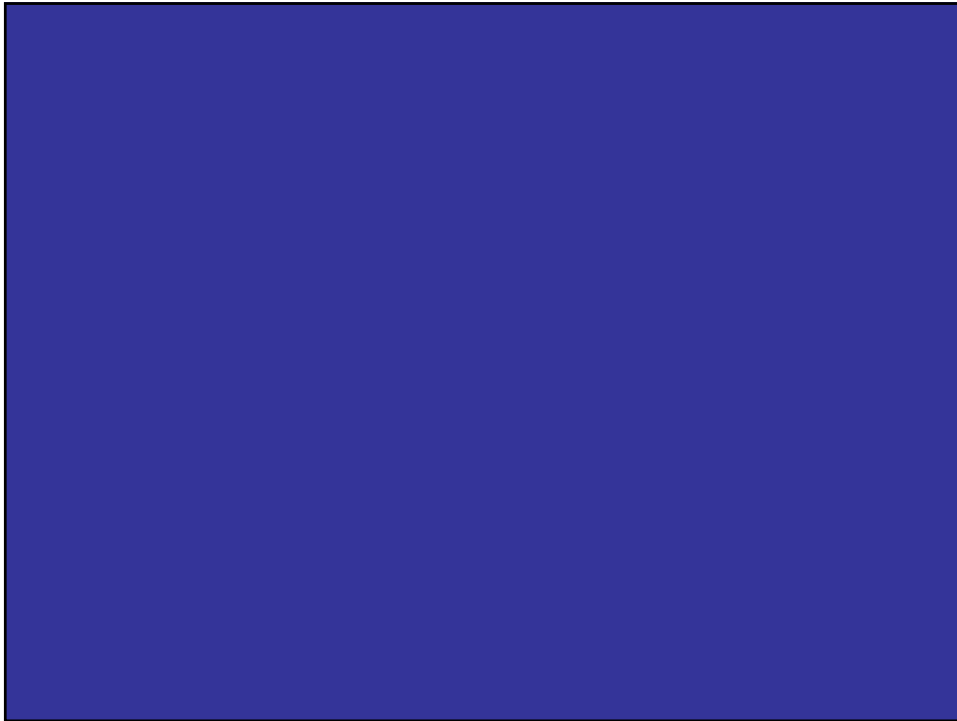
Questions or comments?



Thank you

**HANDICAP
INTERNATIONAL**

**LM LANDMINE
MONITOR**



**7. Angola, 8. Sudan, 9. Eritrea,
10. Mozambique**

Four African countries – each with less than 100 casualties

- All with serious mine/ERW contamination
- All with mine action programs including MRE.

Non-States Parties & Areas

11 Non-States Parties had more than 50 casualties in 2005 (Azerbaijan, Burma/Myanmar, India, Iran, Iraq, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Somalia, Vietnam)

And two *Areas* (Palestine, Somaliland)

Some have excellent or at least sufficient MRE programs,
others have insufficient programs
or mine action is non-existent.