

## **Intervention of the International Committee of the Red Cross**

### **Fifth Meeting of States Parties Bangkok**

**19 September 2003**

#### **Mine Risk Education**

The *ICRC Mine Action Special Report 2002* gives an overview of ICRC preventive mine action activities (*humanitarian diplomacy, protection and mine awareness*) and mine victim assistance (*curative care and physical rehabilitation*) carried out or supported during the year 2002.

Since the ICRC began mine awareness activities in 1996 with less than 5 programs, it has developed an approach based on three main principles: information collection, community involvement, and integration with the humanitarian sector at large. Through this approach, it seeks to help to change patterns of risk-taking behaviors, helping communities identify alternative solutions suited to their particular needs.

Like other organizations involved in Mine Action, the ICRC' activities do not only cover anti-personnel landmine victims, but also victims of other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).

During 2002, the ICRC conducted mine awareness activities directly or through National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies in over 16 countries around the world, setting up new programs in three additional countries, and conducting needs and capacity assessment in 6 others. In parallel, the ICRC commissioned an external evaluation of its mine awareness programs giving sufficient information for the ICRC to end its Mine/ERW activities in two countries after gradually turning them over to the local partner, typically the National Society.

We are happy to see that a growing number of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's mine awareness programs have improved their effectiveness as a result of needs and capacity assessments, external evaluation, and consolidation mechanism based on sharing of experience and lessons learnt.

Mine awareness activities have a direct preventive impact, but also allow a daily process of investigating the specific needs of the affected communities and risk factors. For this the ICRC urges all mine affected states to ensure that Mine / ERW awareness programs are being implemented in their countries and fully integrated in their Mine Action plans, by the 2004 Review Conference.