

PHNOM PENH REGIONAL CONFERENCE MINE ACTION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF MINES

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ICRC



I.

Anti-personnel Landmines – Why a Complete Ban?



**Landmines
are
weapons
that strike
blindly
and
senselessly**



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**AP mines
kill and
maim
after the
end of the
conflict**



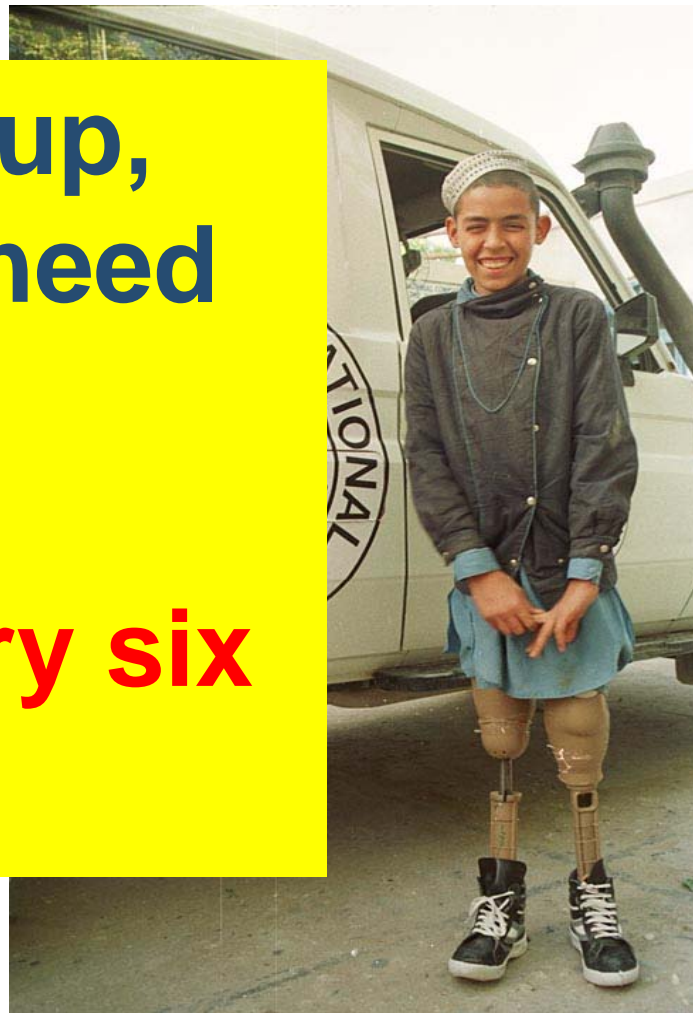
Mines often affect children



Child victims are maimed for
the rest of their life



As he grows up,
this boy will need
to have his
prosthesis
changed **every six
months.**



On average, a child who steps
on a landmine will need 25
prostheses in his/her lifetime.



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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**



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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.



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**peacekeeping
forces are
also active in
clearance
activities.**



III

**Can ICRC
contribute?**



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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**



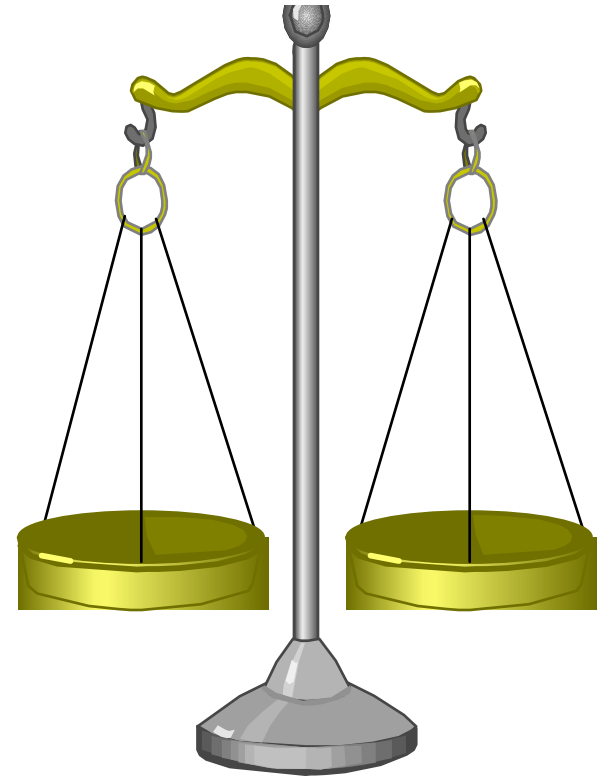
Support to families of mine victims, for instance through micro-credit (here in Afghanistan)



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**



Database on ICRC Website

National Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the ICRC Advisory Service - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/advisory_service_ihpOpenDocument

About the ICRC | ICRC activities | The ICRC worldwide | Focus | Humanitarian law | Info resources | News

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Women displaced by war

MAKE A DONATION

Home > Humanitarian law > National implementation

Section

National Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the ICRC Advisory Service

What national implementation of international humanitarian law means and how the ICRC encourages States to adopt the required legislation.

[Key document](#) | [Annual Report](#) | [Event](#) | [International Review of the Red Cross](#) | [Report](#) | [More in this section](#) |

News

Guyana: CARICOM and ICRC sign cooperation arrangement on international humanitarian law
1-3-2007 Press Release

OAS / ICRC meeting on international humanitarian law
31-1-2007 Regional news

More news

Sections

- Humanitarian law
 - IHL in brief
 - Treaties and customary law
 - Protected persons and property
 - Conduct of hostilities
 - Emblem
 - Women and war
 - Children in war
 - Refugees and IDPs
 - Missing persons
 - Weapons
- National implementation**
 - Treaties and States parties
 - Bodies involved
 - Topics

DATABASE

IHL - National Implementation: laws, regulations and case law

About the database

"The High Contracting Parties and the Parties to the conflict shall

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

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- ▶ IHL in brief
- ▶ Treaties and customary law
- ▶ Protected persons and property
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- ▶ Emblem
- ▶ Women and war
- ▶ Children in war
- ▶ Refugees and IDPs
- ▶ Missing persons
- ▶ Weapons
- ▶ **National implementation**
- ▶ Reaffirmation and development
- ▶ International criminal jurisdiction
- ▶ Other issues

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 - ▶ Treaties and States parties
 - ▶ Bodies involved
 - ▶ Topics

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Section National Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Advisory Service

What national implementation of international humanitarian law the ICRC encourages States to adopt through the Advisory Service

[Key document](#) | [Annual Report](#) | [Event](#) | [International Review of the Red Cross](#) | [Report](#) |

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DATABASE

IHL - National Implementation: laws, regulations and case law

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by State
by keyword



- ▶ GRAVE BREACH
- ▶ INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
- ▶ INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNALS
- ▶ JUDICIAL GUARANTEES
- ▼ LANDMINES
 - ▶ Argentina
 - ▶ Australia
 - ▶ Austria
 - ▶ Belize
 - ▶ Brazil
 - ▶ Burkina Faso
 - ▶ Cambodia
 - ▶ Canada
 - ▶ Colombia
 - ▶ Costa Rica
 - ▶ Czech Republic (the)
 - ▶ El Salvador
 - ▶ Finland
 - ▶ France
 - ▶ Germany
 - ▶ Guatemala
 - ▶ Haiti
 - ▶ Honduras
 - ▶ Hungary
 - ▶ Iraq
 - ▶ Ireland
 - ▶ Italy
 - ▶ Japan
 - ▶ Kyrgyzstan
 - ▶ Luxembourg

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW
NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION



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.**



Explosive Remnants of War

**Direct impact:
Human death and
suffering.**

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

Problems similar to AP mines.



One does not have to look far to see the deadly effects of ERWs.

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.



▶ 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



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