

Statement on Risk Education
22nd Meeting of States Parties, Mine Ban Treaty
Geneva, 1-5 December 2025

Thank you, Madame President,

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines reminds States Parties that informing and educating affected populations about the dangers of mines is a **core legal obligation under the convention**. States Parties must provide immediate and effective warnings to civilians in areas where antipersonnel mines are known or suspected. Risk education is therefore not optional—it is a life-saving requirement and an essential component of Article 5 implementation.

Landmine Monitor accident and casualty **data from 2024 confirm the crucial role of risk education in preventing further harm**. Many contaminated States Parties continued to deliver risk education in affected communities. Nineteen States Parties provided sex- and age-disaggregated beneficiary data in their annual Article 7 reports — more than double the number as in 2019. A few States Parties reported beneficiaries with disabilities, and several noted casualties who had previously received risk education — this reflects efforts to understand behaviour change and the effectiveness of different approaches. The current rash of conflicts that force people to flee hastily across known minefields and newly contaminated areas further underscores the urgent need for effective risk education if we are to prevent further significant rise in casualties.

Yet, despite these positive trends, **only 2% of international mine action funding was allocated to risk education in 2024**. Funding for risk education is rarely separated from clearance budgets, making it difficult to track investment in protecting vulnerable communities.

This aligns with our concern that **very few Article 5 extension requests include detailed, costed, multi-year risk education plans**. Of 22 requests submitted in 2024 and 2025, only seven states provided such plans, falling short of commitments under the Oslo and Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plans.

Risk education must also be tailored to **context-specific exposure patterns** and integrated into land release, victim assistance, education, protection, and disaster risk-reduction frameworks. We welcome the growing use of digital tools and community-based methods, many of which proved effective during the COVID-19 pandemic and remain in use today.

Sustained progress requires **strong national leadership**. States Parties should strengthen national systems, including school curricula, civil protection mechanisms, and local governance structures, while continuing to build local capacity through training-of-trainers and community engagement.

In closing, the ICBL urges all affected and donor states to **give greater priority to life-saving risk education** by ensuring that targeted, context-specific interventions are fully integrated into national plans, programs, and budgets. These plans must be backed by dedicated funding to ensure that resources reach high-risk groups and that behaviour-change efforts are sustained until the mine threat is completely eliminated. Without clearly defined, costed risk-education plans and predictable support, States Parties cannot demonstrate how they will prevent casualties or adequately protect affected communities.

Thank you.