

**Casualty Data Collection in States Parties and Non-States Parties  
Seventh Meeting of States Parties  
Geneva, 18 September 2006**

**Overview**

At the First Review Conference in November-December 2004, States Parties acknowledged “the value and necessity of accurate and up-to-date data on the number of new landmine casualties, the total number of survivors and their specific needs, and the extent/lack of and quality of services that exist to address their needs...”<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, comprehensive data on landmine/UXO casualties remains difficult to obtain, particularly in countries experiencing ongoing conflict, with minefields in remote areas, or with limited resources to monitor public health services.

In 2005-2006, many countries made progress with retrospective data collection by consolidating data sets, unifying separate data collection systems, reviewing existing records and revisiting survivors. In other countries, data collection was expanded to cover areas previously not monitored, or to include better statistics on less recent casualties. Additionally, many governments, NGOs, and other experts have identified better distribution of information and better integration into larger injury surveillance mechanisms as a priority area to improve; some countries tried to include more relevant survivor assistance information to enhance data for survivor assistance program planning purposes.

In some countries, significant decreases in reported new casualties appear to be due to decreased capacity to collect data. Conflicts, instability and insecurity, or political reasons also impede data collection and information sharing in some countries.

**Global Human Impact of Mines/ERW in 2005**

	Casualty Total	Killed	Injured	Unknown Status	Male	Female	Child	Deminer	Military	Unknown Casualty
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,328</b>	1,743	5,348	237	1,494	347	1,518	115	1,404	2,450
% of Total		24%	73%	3%	20%	5%	21%	2%	19%	33%
<b>States Parties</b>	<b>4,238</b>	991	3,220	27	995	254	1,073	90	1,077	749
% of Total	<b>58%</b>	57%	60%	11%	66%	73%	71%	78%	77%	31%
<b>VA 24</b>	<b>3,664</b>	782	2,869	13	951	241	1,012	83	802	575
% of Total	<b>50%</b>	45%	54%	5%	64%	69%	66%	72%	57%	23%
<b>Non-States Parties</b>	<b>3,090</b>	752	2,128	210	499	93	445	25	327	1,701
% of Total	<b>42%</b>	43%	40%	89%	34%	27%	29%	22%	23%	69%

*The status (killed/injured) of all but three percent of casualties was identified by Landmine Monitor; 89 percent of these casualties were located in non-States Parties. Notable among these were Iraq (180 casualties unknown) and the Russian Federation (22 unknown). Also notable is that for 33 percent of casualties any further information was unavailable and that non-States Parties accounted for 69 percent of those casualties.*

Of the 7,328 total recorded casualties in 2005, 39 percent (2,833) occurred in just three countries: Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Colombia. Most (58 percent) of the recorded casualties occurred in 37 States Parties, and 42 percent occurred in 28 non-States Parties or areas not recognized by the UN. Of the casualties in States Parties, 87 percent were recorded in the 24 countries identified as having significant numbers of mine survivors (the “VA 24”). Far less is known about casualties in non-States Parties.

**Casualty Data Collection: States Parties vs. non-States Parties**

A number of mine-affected countries collect and store mine incident and casualty data using the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) or other databases. Often a lack of human and financial resources prevents prospective, proactive data collection and full operational use of databases. Most data collectors only have the capacity to record casualties reported to them, but not to actively identify casualties in mine-affected areas. Accurate casualty data is necessary for planning effective and comprehensive survivor assistance activities and also of great benefit to focusing risk education messages and prioritization of clearance activities.

<sup>1</sup> Final Report of the First Review Conference, APLC/CONF/2004/5, 9 February 2005, p. 29.

## Casualty Data Collection in 2005<sup>2</sup>

Data collection and services in 58 countries and 7 areas	Casualties	Complete Data Collection	Data Management System	No Data Management System
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,328</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>20</b>
% of Total		12%	69%	31%
<b>VA 24</b>	<b>3,664</b>	4	22	2
% of Category	50%	50%	49%	10%
<b>Other States Parties</b>	<b>513</b>	1	8	5
% of Category	7%	13%	18%	25%
<b>Non-States Parties</b>	<b>2,514</b>	2	10	11
% of Category	34%	25%	22%	55%
<b>Areas</b>	<b>518</b>	1	5	2
% of Category	7%	13%	11%	10%
+ERW-only (14 countries/areas)	119	2	7	7

*Only one third of non-States Parties or areas have data collection systems and therefore it is highly probable that a significant number of new casualties are not reported, and that previous casualties have been significantly underreported. Further, the majority of these unidentified casualties are likely in non-States Parties or areas where there is the least capacity to plan and execute adequate assistance.*

In many mine-affected countries, there is no formal data collection mechanism. Only limited data on landmine/ERW casualties is collected from government ministries and agencies, international agencies, NGOs, hospitals, media reports, surveys, and country campaigns of the ICBL. Hence, there is a strong likelihood not only of significant underreporting, but also of inaccurate or duplicated data.

Of the 58 countries and seven areas reporting new mine/ERW casualties in 2005-2006, 40 countries and five areas reported using IMSMA or other comparable databases to record casualty data.<sup>3</sup> Of those, only seven countries and one area were able to provide Landmine Monitor with complete full year data, collected in all mine-affected regions. Even in countries with a functioning data collection system, it is likely that not all mine casualties are reported. A total of 6,168 (86 percent) of casualties occurred in states or areas where there was incomplete or no data collection. The 20 countries or areas reporting new casualties which have no data collection system account for 1,614 (22 percent) of all reported casualties.<sup>4</sup>

Among seven States Parties with no data collection system 244 casualties were reported - three percent of casualties. While in the 13 non-States Parties and areas with no data collection system 1,373 casualties were reported - 19 percent of total casualties. Clearly a significant number of new casualties and survivors occur where there is no data collection system in place. The lack of data collection has a continued negative impact upon survivors and their families in terms of both assistance and risk reduction.

In 2005, reported casualties increased in 42 countries and areas. Of these, four (Abkhazia, Azerbaijan, Croatia, and Lebanon) have complete data collection and only Croatia is a State Party. Of 26 countries and areas with data collection systems who reported increased casualties, 17 are States Parties.

In 2005, reported casualties either decreased or remained the same in 23 countries. Of these countries, only four (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia and Greece) have complete data collection. All four are States Parties and three of them are VA-24 countries. Of those 18 with data collection systems who reported reduced or the same casualties, 12 are States Parties.

<sup>2</sup> For full data details see the *Landmine Monitor Report 2006, Toward a Mine-Free World, Executive Summary*, p. 50.

<sup>3</sup> This compares with 33 countries and six areas reported in *Landmine Monitor Report 2005*.

<sup>4</sup> These data exclude the casualties from 14 countries where ERW but not mines caused 119 casualties.