



LANDMINE & CLUSTER MUNITION MONITOR



The Monitor provides research and monitoring for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Cluster Muniton Coalition.
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PRESS RELEASE

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Ban treaty advances progress in eliminating humanitarian threat of cluster bombs, with deadly exception of ongoing attacks in Syria

(Geneva, 29 August 2019) – As the treaty banning cluster munitions nears its ten-year anniversary since entering into force in 2010, it remains an effective agreement that is making the world safer, according to an annual monitoring report released today by the Cluster Muniton Coalition.

“As more countries join the Convention on Cluster Munitions and take measures to end the threat cluster munitions pose, we are progressing toward a world free of these inhumane weapons” said Hector Guerra, director of the Cluster Muniton Coalition (CMC). “Syria must immediately stop using cluster munitions and Russia must refrain from being complicit in this use, and all countries should commit to addressing the harm caused by these nefarious weapons.”

For the first time since 2015, the Monitor did not report new use of cluster munitions in Yemen in the year prior to its publication.

It also found that in Syria the number of reported cluster munition attacks has decreased since mid-2017 as government forces have regained areas previously held by non-state armed groups. In 2018, 80 cluster munition casualties were recorded in the country, the lowest annual figure since use resumed there in 2012. The report warns that the actual number of casualties and instances of use are likely far higher as access to Syria is limited and many activities go unrecorded.

Cluster Muniton Monitor 2019 reports that three countries have ratified the treaty in the past year—the Gambia, Namibia, and the Philippines—bringing the total number of States Parties to 106.

“The stigma against cluster munitions is growing stronger by the day, as shown by the dedicated work to destroy stocks, clear remnants, and ensure the ban convention is functioning effectively,” said Mary Wareham of Human Rights Watch, ban policy editor of *Cluster Muniton Monitor 2019*. “States that have not joined this convention should reconsider that position and take steps to accede without delay.”

The Cluster Muniton Coalition urges states outside the convention to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions ahead of its milestone Second Review Conference in September 2020.

The annual report also finds that States Parties to the convention have already destroyed 99% of their stockpiled cluster munitions, eliminating a collective total of nearly 1.5 million cluster munitions and more than 178 million submunitions. Since the last edition of *Cluster Muniton Monitor* was published in August 2018, Botswana and Switzerland completed destruction of their stockpiles. Guinea-Bissau, however, did not meet its stockpile destruction deadline of 1 May 2019—the first time a state has violated the treaty's eight-year stockpile destruction deadline.

In total, *Cluster Muniton Monitor 2019* identified at least 149 new cluster munition casualties globally in 2018, a continuation of the significant decrease compared to the annual total of 971 in 2016 and 289 in 2017. While all the casualties recorded due to *attacks* occurred in Syria (65) in 2018, Yemen had the most recorded

casualties due to cluster munition *remnants* (31), surpassing the annual remnants casualties reported for Syria (15) or Lao PDR (21) for the first time. Casualties related to remnants from earlier conflicts were also recorded in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Nagorno-Karabakh. Civilians accounted for 99% of all casualties whose status was recorded in 2018, consistent with statistics on cluster munition casualties for all time, and due to the indiscriminate and inhumane nature of the weapon.

"Our reporting demonstrates clearly that each year nearly all victims of cluster munitions are civilians, with children accounting for more than half of the casualties reported in 2018 due to the explosion of deadly remnant submunitions," said Loren Persi, casualties and victim assistance editor of *Cluster Munition Monitor 2019*. "States and the international community need to urgently prioritize assistance and increase resources in order to better address the needs of cluster munition survivors, their families and communities."

States Parties with cluster munition victims have obligations to provide adequate assistance and these provisions have improved the situation for victims since the convention was adopted. Significant challenges remain, however. In the last year, for example, declines in funding for community-based work has left local organizations struggling to maintain their operations. As a result some victims in affected states were not able to reach, or access, vital services.

At least 26 states remain contaminated by these weapons, including 12 States Parties to the convention. No state completed cluster munition clearance in the past year. In all, 10 countries, eight of which are States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, have completed clearance of cluster munition-contaminated land.

Cluster munitions are fired by artillery and rockets or dropped by aircraft, and open in the air to release multiple smaller bomblets or submunitions over an area the size of a football field. Submunitions often fail to explode on initial impact, leaving dangerous remnants that pose the same danger as landmines until cleared and destroyed. The Convention on Cluster Munitions was adopted and opened for signature in 2008, and entered into force on 1 August 2010. It comprehensively prohibits cluster munitions, requires destruction of stockpiles within eight years, clearance of areas contaminated by cluster munition remnants within 10 years, and the provision of assistance for victims of the weapon.

###ENDS

About the Monitor:

This tenth annual Cluster Munition Monitor report has been prepared by the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) for dissemination at the Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, at the UN in Geneva, on 2–4 September 2019. It is the sister publication to the Landmine Monitor report, issued annually since 1999 by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor is coordinated by a committee of ICBL-CMC staff and representatives from ICBL-CMC member organizations, DanChurchAid, Danish Demining Group, Human Rights Watch, Humanity & Inclusion, and Mines Action Canada.

Using the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions as its principal frame of reference, the report focuses on activities in calendar year 2018 with information included into August 2019 where possible. It covers global trends in ban policy and practice, contamination and clearance of cluster munition remnants, cluster munition casualties, and efforts to guarantee the rights and meet the needs of cluster munition victims. These findings are drawn from country profiles published online.

Links:

- *Cluster Munition Monitor 2019* landing page, including new maps - the-monitor.org/CMM19
- Online country profiles - the-monitor.org/cp
- Monitor factsheets and infographics - the-monitor.org/en-gb/our-research/factsheets/2019.aspx
- *Worldwide Investment in Cluster Munitions: a shared responsibility* - stopexplosiveinvestments.org/

- Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) - www.stopclustermunitions.org
- Convention on Cluster Munitions – www.clusterconvention.org
- Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor Twitter - twitter.com/MineMonitor
- CMC Twitter - twitter.com/banclusterbombs
- CMC Facebook - www.facebook.com/banclusterbombs

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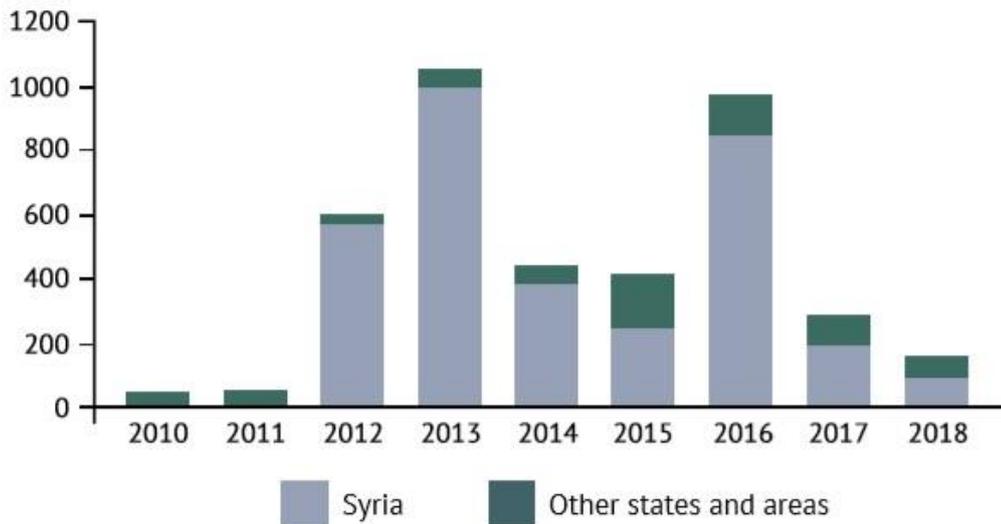
Key charts from *Cluster Munition Monitor 2019*

Cluster munition casualties
in 2018

Cluster munition attacks	
Syria	65
Cluster munition remnants	
Yemen	31
Lao PDR	21
Syria	15
Iraq	6
Lebanon	5
South Sudan	3
Afghanistan	1
Ukraine	1
<i>Nagorno Karabakh</i>	1

Note: States Parties are indicated in **bold**, other areas in *italics*.

Cluster munition casualties in Syria and other states and areas 2010–2018



States Parties that have completed stockpile destruction

State Party (year of completion)	Quantity of cluster munitions	Quantity of submunitions
Austria (2010)	12,672	798,336
Belgium (2010)	115,210	10,138,480
BiH (2011)	445	148,059
Botswana (2018)	510	14,400
Cameroon (2017)	6	906
Canada (2014)	13,623	1,361,958
Chile (2013)	249	25,896
Colombia (2009)	72	10,832
Côte d'Ivoire (2013)	68	10,200
Croatia (2018)	7,235	178,318
Cuba (2017)	1,856	0
Czech Republic (2010)	480	16,400
Denmark (2014)	42,176	2,440,940
Ecuador (2004)	117	17,199
France (2016)	34,876	14,916,881
Germany (2015)	573,700	62,923,935
Hungary (2011)	287	3,954
Italy (2015)	4,963	2,849,979
Japan (2015)	14,011	2,027,907
Moldova (2010)	1,385	27,050
Montenegro (2010)	353	51,891
Mozambique (2015)	293	12,804
Netherlands (2012)	193,643	25,867,510
North Macedonia (2013)	2,426	39,980
Norway (2010)	52,190	3,087,910
Portugal (2011)	11	1,617
Slovenia (2017)	1,080	52,920
Spain (2018)	6,837	293,652
Sweden (2015)	370	20,595
Switzerland (2019)	206,061	12,211,950
United Kingdom (2013)	190,828	38,758,898
Total	1,478,033	178,311,357

This represents 99% of all cluster munitions that States Parties have reported stockpiling.