



# LANDMINE & CLUSTER MUNITION MONITOR FACT SHEET



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## The Impact of Mines/ERW on Children

A total of **4,191 new casualties** from mines, victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs), cluster munition remnants, and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) were recorded in 60 states and areas in 2010.<sup>1</sup> This included 1,155 people killed and 2,848 people injured; for 188 casualties the outcome of the incident was unknown. The global casualty total in 2010 was almost the same as that recorded in 2009, when 4,010 casualties were identified. As in previous years, many more casualties occurred that were not reported, especially in the most heavily affected countries. Overall, the number of mine/ERW survivors continued to increase globally.

As in previous years, boys and men comprised the vast majority (88%) of all casualties where gender was known, while girls and women accounted for 12%. The vast majority of military casualties and deminer casualties were men. Among civilian casualties, in 2010 children made up 43% and females 17%.<sup>2</sup>

### Child casualties<sup>3</sup>

In 2010, children accounted for 30% of all casualties, a percentage that has remained fairly constant since 2005. However, this is significantly higher than levels prior to 2005, with, for example, 19% in 2004, and 23% in 2003. When looking only at civilian casualties in the last four years, each year, children have accounted for nearly half (43% or 1,066 in 2010, 45% in 2009, 41% in 2008, and 46% in 2007).

For 85% of all casualties, information about their age was known, which increased from 80% in 2009. This marked an improvement in the age disaggregation of casualty data as called for by the Mine Ban Treaty's Cartagena Action Plan.

### States with the most child casualties in 2010<sup>4</sup>

State	Boy	Girl	Unknown Sex	Total
Afghanistan	319	74	76	469
Cambodia	61	19		80
Sudan	62	12		74
Lao PDR	52	15		67
Pakistan	41	3		44
Yemen	18	7	8	33

<sup>1</sup> Figures include individuals killed or injured in incidents involving devices detonated by the presence, proximity, or contact of a person or a vehicle, such as all antipersonnel mines, victim-activated IEDs, antivehicle mines, cluster munition remnants (mostly unexploded submunitions), abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO), and unexploded ordnance (UXO). AXO and UXO are collectively referred to as explosive remnants of war (ERW). Not included in the 2010 totals are: estimates of casualties where exact numbers were not given; incidents caused or reasonably suspected to have been caused by remote-detonated mines or IEDs (those that were not victim-activated); and people killed or injured while manufacturing or emplacing devices. In many states and areas, numerous casualties go unrecorded; thus, the true casualty figure is likely significantly higher.

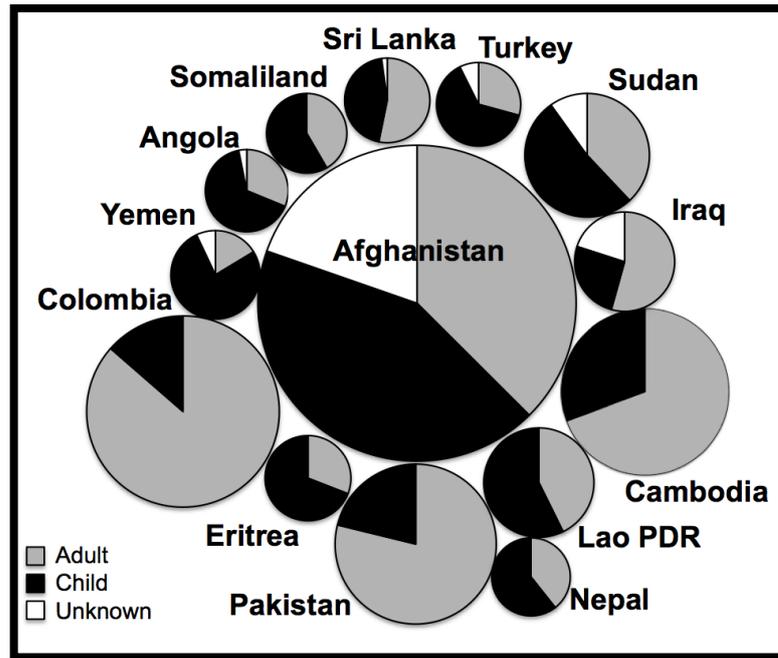
<sup>2</sup> These statistics refer to the percentages of casualties where the age or gender was known.

<sup>3</sup> A child casualty is defined as a person under the age of 18. The above statistics make comparisons to the number of casualties for where the age was known.

<sup>4</sup> These figures include confirmed casualties as reported to the Monitor. Estimates have not been included and under-reporting is likely. As of July 2011, South Sudan had separated from Sudan and casualty figures were reported as such in 2011 Monitor reports. However, since there was just one country throughout 2010 the data has been combined here as the total for Sudan.

In 2010, in 25 countries/areas, children made up more than half of civilian casualties for whom the age was known. These countries/areas were: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Malawi, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Philippines, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Yemen, and Zimbabwe and *Kosovo, Palestine, and Somaliland*.<sup>5</sup> In Yemen, where the total number of casualties more than doubled as compared with 2009, the number of child casualties increased to 33 from just two. Children, mostly boys, made up 77% of the identified casualties for which the age was known.<sup>6</sup>

**Child civilian casualties in the countries with the largest numbers of child casualties in 2010**



The majority of child casualties are boys (73% in 2010). In 2010, boys were the largest single casualty group, among civilian casualties, in 17 countries/areas (Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Nepal, Somaliland, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Yemen). While casualties involving girls did not occur in large numbers in 2010, they were recorded in 25 countries/areas.

**Child casualties by device and activity**

Where the age of the casualty was known, children made up 20% of casualties from victim-activated IEDs, and 11% of casualties from antipersonnel mines in 2010. Children constituted the majority, or 59%, of casualties caused by ERW. Among those ERW casualties, boys made up the single largest casualty group, as in 2009, with 48%.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> This was more than double the number of countries/areas where children were the majority in 2009. However, of these 25 countries/areas, eight (Albania, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Nicaragua, Philippines, Zimbabwe, and *Kosovo*) had five casualties or less in 2010.

<sup>6</sup> Children represented 33 of 43 casualties in Yemen where the age was known in 2010. However, this figure may be influenced by one of the sources of casualty data, UNICEF, specifically recording only incidents with child casualties from media reports.

<sup>7</sup> Boys made up 465 of 968 of those reported. The age, sex or both was not known for 70 of the 1,038 recorded ERW casualties.

In many countries contaminated with mines/ERW, boys are more involved than girls in outdoor activities during which they are likely to come across mines and ERW, such as herding livestock, gathering wood and food, or collecting scrap metal. Children in general are more likely to deliberately handle explosive devices than adults, often unknowingly out of curiosity or by mistaking them for toys. In Yemen, in 2010 children were particularly at risk of incidents from mines or ERW because they handled them or while they were tending to their herds in remote areas of the country.<sup>8</sup> In Iraq, children were often not educated about the dangers associated with approaching or disturbing landmines and ERW.<sup>9</sup>

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### **Assistance to child casualties**

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Since child survivors have specific and additional needs in all aspects of assistance, the Mine Ban Treaty Cartagena Action Plan and the Convention on Cluster Munitions Vientiane Action Plan require that victim assistance be age-appropriate. However, states are not yet reporting on their efforts to address the specific needs of survivors according to their age. Despite the fact that children, especially boys, are one of the largest groups of all recorded cluster munition casualties, in the first year of the Convention of Cluster Munitions, age-sensitive assistance was the least considered aspect of the treaty's victim assistance provisions. Almost all efforts reported were limited to disaggregating data on casualties, rather than the needs indicated by assessments and any services provided to address them.

Victim assistance providers rarely keep statistics that are reliable measurements of how many child mine/ERW survivors or other children with disabilities have been assisted and which services have been rendered. Children whose injuries result in amputated limbs require more complicated rehabilitation assistance; they need to have prostheses made more often as they grow and corrective surgery for changing stumps. Few countries or health systems report on the capacity they have to address this situation.

In many countries, child survivors have to end their education prematurely due to the period of recovery needed and the accompanying financial burden of rehabilitation on families. Accessible inclusive or special education is seldom available and further hindered by the lack of appropriate training for teachers. In addition, insufficient awareness of disability issues among teachers and fellow pupils can lead to discrimination, isolation, and the inability to participate in certain activities. This is a de-motivating factor for child survivors to stay in school. As a result, education rates among child survivors are lower, while school drop-outs are more frequent, which results in diminished employment prospects later on.

In Afghanistan, the Ministry of Education lacked funding to extend its pilot project for inclusive education of children with disabilities, but the Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization established new centers providing education opportunities and vocational training for persons with disabilities including children in two provinces. In Albania, activities and fundraising events to support child survivors' educational needs continued. In Cambodia, a local NGO, the Arrupe Outreach Center in Battambang, offered wheelchair classes specifically for children. In Eritrea, UNICEF assisted children with disabilities in remote rural communities by providing donkeys as transportation to school. In Nepal, where the majority of casualties are children, the Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines offered scholarships and vocational training for child survivors and UNICEF provided an education grant for the most severely affected child survivors and income to the most affected families.

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<sup>8</sup> UNICEF, "Twelve Children Killed by Landmines This Year: UNICEF calls for immediate humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas in the northern parts of Yemen," Sanaa, 21 December 2010.

<sup>9</sup> UN Inter-Agency Information and Analysis Unit, "Landmines and Unexploded Ordnances Fact Sheet," April 2011, [www.iauiraq.org](http://www.iauiraq.org).