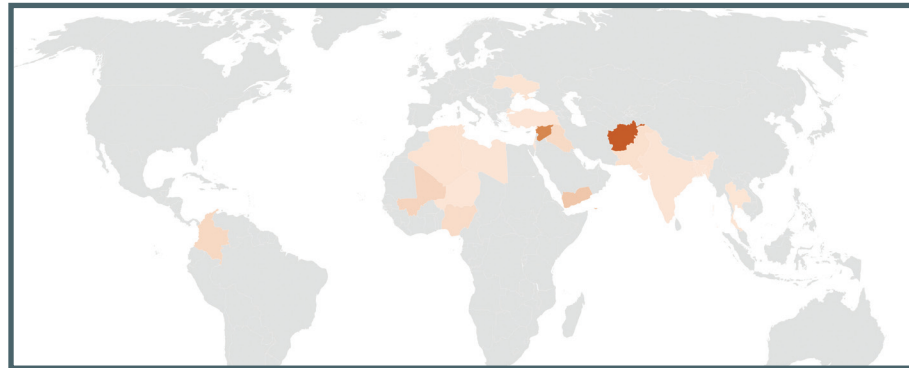


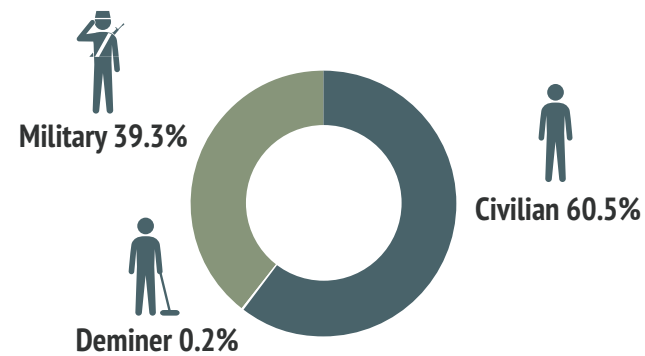
Improvised Mines: Casualties

States with improvised mine casualties in 2018

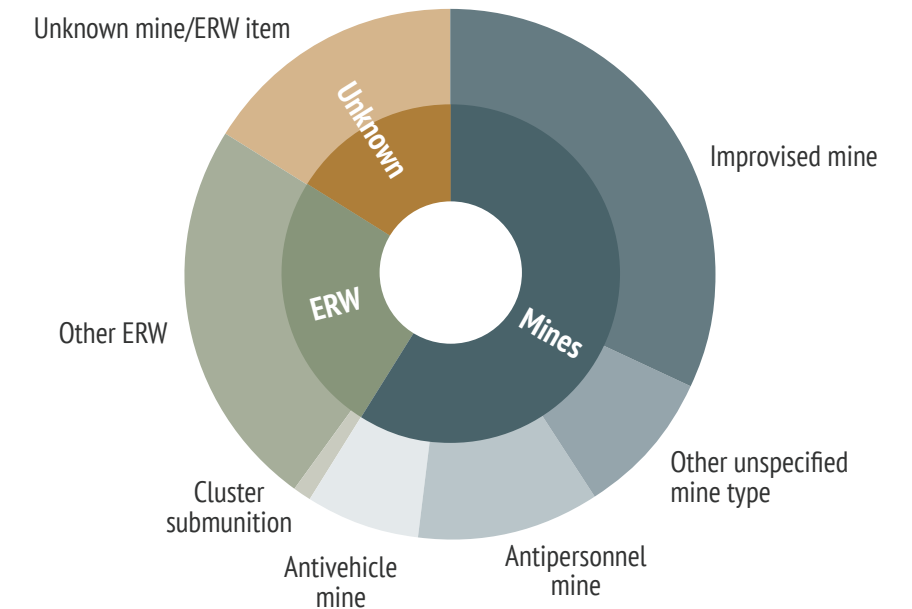


Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Colombia, India, Iraq, Israel, Libya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Yemen.
Bold: States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty

Civilian status of improvised mine casualties in 1999-2018



Devices causing casualties in 2009-2018



Devices causing casualties in 2018

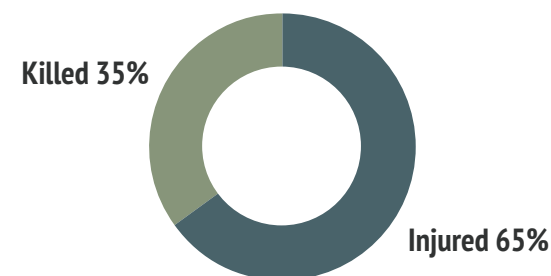
Category	Device type	Casualties	Percentage of annual total
Mines	Improvised mine	3,789	55%
	Other unspecified mine type	370	5%
	Antipersonnel mine	332	5%
	Antivehicle mine	394	6%
ERW	Cluster submunition	85	1%
	Other ERW	1,410	20%
Unknown	Unknown mine/ERW item	517	7%

States with the most recorded improvised mine casualties in 2018

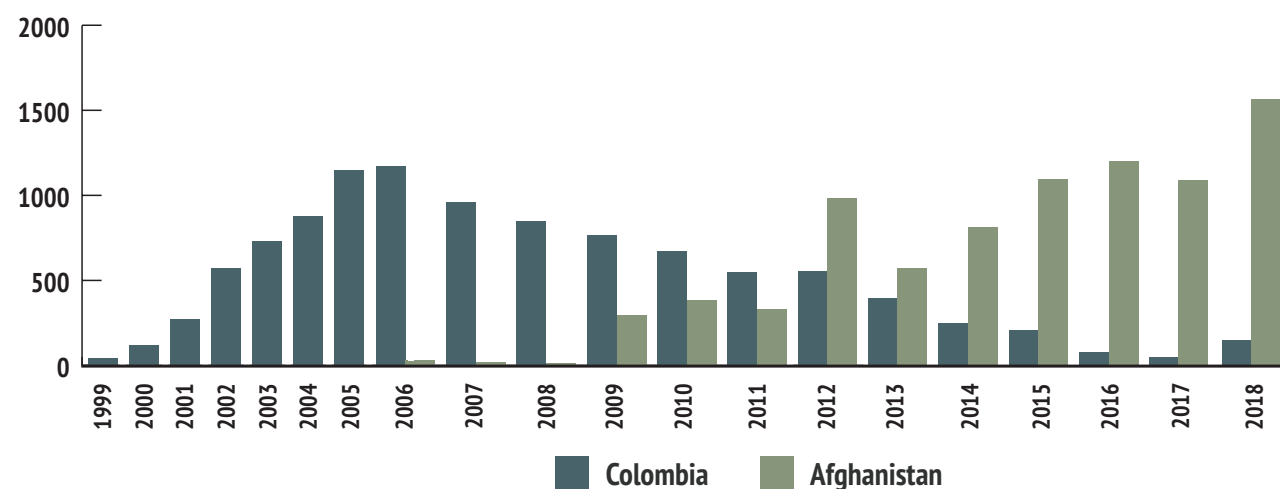
State	Casualties	State	Casualties
Afghanistan	1,586	Colombia	150
Syria	1,076	Iraq	129
Yemen	352	Nigeria	114
Mali	204		

Bold: States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty.

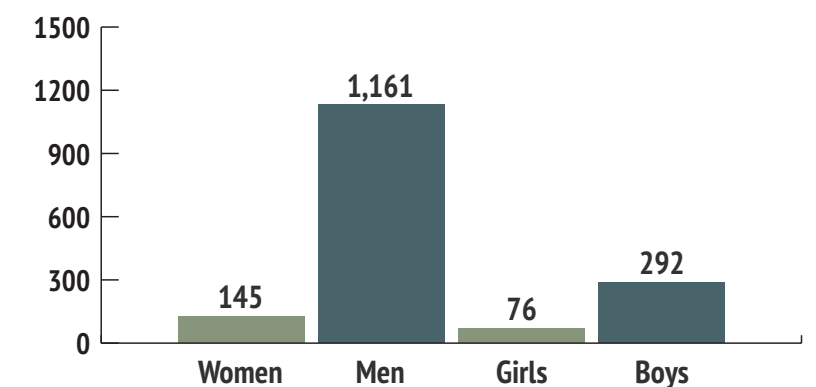
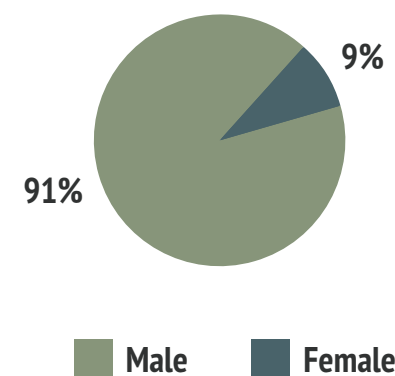
Survival of improvised mine casualties in 1999-2018



Countries with the most improvised mine casualties over time: Colombia and Afghanistan trends 1999-2018



Age and gender of improvised mine casualties in 2018



Improvised Mines: Casualties

At a glance:

- Improvised mine types caused the most recorded casualties of any mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) type in 2018
- Improvised mines are victim-activated explosive devices
- Improvised mine types that can explode due to presence, proximity, or contact of a person are antipersonnel mines
- Most casualties of improvised mines are believed to be caused by antipersonnel (improvised)mine types¹

In 2018, 3,789 casualties of improvised mines were recorded in Landmine Monitor data. For the third consecutive year this was the highest annual total of such casualties recorded since Landmine Monitor reporting began in 1999.

Casualties from improvised mines were identified in 18 states in 2018. Most improvised mine casualties in 2018 occurred in Afghanistan (1,586) and Syria (1,076). As in previous years, it is certain that there are many more mine/ERW casualties that occurred in that have not been identified.

States with improvised mine casualties 1999–2018

Afghanistan	Iraq	Russia
Algeria	Israel	Sri Lanka
Azerbaijan	Libya	Sudan
Bangladesh Cambodia	Mali	Syria
Cameroon	Myanmar	Thailand
Colombia	Nepal	Tunisia
Croatia	Niger	Turkey
DR Congo	Nigeria	Uganda
Egypt	Pakistan	Ukraine
India	Peru	Yemen
Indonesia	Philippines	

Bold: States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty

In Monitor casualty reporting, the terms “victim-activated improvised mines” or “improvised mines” are synonymous with victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs). IEDs are “homemade” explosive weapons that are designed to cause death or injury. Improvised mines are victim-activated IEDs that are detonated by the presence, proximity, or contact of a person or a vehicle. These are sometimes referred to as artisanal mines, victim-operated IEDs (VO-IEDs), or are referred to by the type of construction or initiation system, such as pressure-plate IEDs (PP-IEDs) and crush wire IEDs.

Improvised mines that can be detonated by the presence, proximity, or contact of a person, fit the definition of antipersonnel mines and are therefore prohibited under the Mine Ban Treaty. Available information indicates that the fusing of most improvised mines causing casualties worldwide allows them to be activated by a person, thus effectively making them prohibited under the Mine Ban Treaty. For example, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) reported that most of the improvised mines in Afghanistan had the “trigger sensitivity of an anti-personnel mine.”¹ According to UNAMA’s reporting improvised mines constructed as PP-IEDs in Afghanistan “are detonated by any person, including children stepping on them or any vehicles, such as civilian vehicles or tractors driving over them.”² In June 2019, UNAMA stated that it “reiterates that victim-activated pressure plate IEDs [a common type of improvised mines in many countries] function like anti-personnel landmines, which are prohibited under the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines.”³

Casualties in Colombia that are recorded as antipersonnel mine casualties have been reclassified in Monitor data as improvised mine casualties, due to the type of contamination prevalent in Colombia. It was noted in 2017 that most such casualties in Colombia were caused by improvised antipersonnel mines, and no factory-made antipersonnel mines casualties were known to have been recorded in the national casualty database. Among casualties recorded as caused by antipersonnel mines in Myanmar, it is also extremely likely that there is a large percentage caused by improvised mines.

In many countries where armed violence is prevalent, media reporting and other sources do not clearly identify the type of explosive item causing casualties. The term “landmine” is often used both for improvised mines and other mine types. These casualties are recorded by the Monitor under “unspecified mine types.”⁴ The ICRC states that for antipersonnel and antivehicle mines “the main feature of both types is that they are victim-activated.”⁵ Victim-activation is the common element of all mine types recorded in Monitor casualty data, including improvised mines and other unspecified mine types that may include improvised mines. Historically, the number of improvised mine casualties is under-reported due to their being recorded by various stakeholders as other unspecified mine types, and recorded among undifferentiated mine/ERW categories.

¹ United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), “Annual Report 2014: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict,” Kabul, February 2015, p. 48.

Victim-activated IEDs used in Afghanistan are often called pressure-plate IEDs.

² UNAMA, “Annual Report 2016: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict,” 2017, p. 14.

³ UNAMA, “Midyear Update on The Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 1 January to 30 June 2019,” 30 July 2019, p. 6.

⁴ Unspecified mine types: when a reliable source reports a “mine” or “landmine” incident, but the information to distinguish if it was an antipersonnel mine, antivehicle mine, or improvised mine type is lacking.

⁵ ICRC, “The Law of Armed Conflict: Weapons,” June 2002, p. 6.

Note: all charts refer to data for casualties where the age, gender, or survival outcome was recorded in each case

