



# Land Mines: Eliminating the Threat

A land mine is a weapon of war that remains in the ground, ready to injure or kill innocent people, long after the fighting stops. In one third of the world's nations, an estimated 45 million to 50 million land mines plus unexploded ordnance (UXO) cause civilian casualties; prevent the cultivation of land; stop the movement of people and goods, and hinder political and economic stability. International humanitarian efforts that began in 1998 are reducing land-mine casualties; restoring land; reopening roads, schools and markets, and assisting survivors. Acre by acre, the threat of land mines can be eliminated.

MAP KEY: Impact of Land Mines (ratings do not include stockpiled land mines)

Severe Moderate Affected No Known Impact



**Common Antipersonnel Mines**  
Antipersonnel (AP) mines are designed to wound or maim those who come in contact with them. These land mines are generally not visible to the eye because they are buried in random patterns in the ground or camouflaged with dirt, vegetation or sand. They can be laid by hand, aircraft or artillery, and can remain active indefinitely. Severe weather patterns can quickly move them to the surface.



**Stake Mine**  
Type: Antipersonnel  
Fragmentation  
Unlike many other AP mines, stake mines are designed to kill. They are typically mounted on wooden stakes and hidden by vegetation. The most common stake mine can be triggered by a person's weight or a vehicle's axle.  
Type 72  
Type: Antipersonnel  
Fragmentation  
This small pressure mine weighs just 5 ounces (140 grams) and has a 10-foot (3-meter) fuse. It is designed to be used in areas where the ground is soft, such as in rice paddies. It is triggered by a person's weight or a vehicle's axle.

**Butterfly Mine**  
Type: Antipersonnel  
Fragmentation  
Called a butterfly mine because of its shape and appearance, this mine is a small, flat, and is usually buried in the ground. It is triggered by a person's weight or a vehicle's axle.  
Type: Antipersonnel  
Fragmentation  
This mine is a small, flat, and is usually buried in the ground. It is triggered by a person's weight or a vehicle's axle.

**Colombia**  
History: The longest years of Colombian civil war, the country's army, guerrillas and paramilitaries used landmines. Guerrilla forces still use mines, so do coca growers and drug traffickers to protect their illegal drug crops.  
Impact: The fear of land mines is preventing more economic and agricultural development. Land mines and UXO affect approximately 22 million people in Colombia.  
Program: The United States and other nations have provided technical assistance to help the Colombian military clear land mines and UXO. The constant cycle of fighting has led to a growing number of mine-affected areas and an increased casualty rate.

**Angola**  
History: More than three decades of national conflict have left Angola with one of the world's most serious land mine problems.  
Impact: Approximately 240,000 square miles (625,000 square kilometers) are mine-affected, mostly in areas that are highly populated and rich in natural resources. During 2000, there were 840 land mine and UXO casualties recorded. Half of the casualties occurred on Angola's roads, illustrating that there is still an acute awareness of people and goods. It is estimated that one in every 413 Angolans has a mine-related injury. For many survivors, the long-term effects have been reduced to begging.  
Program: In 2000, approximately 2.2 square miles (5,700 square kilometers) of land mine-affected area were cleared, and 75,000 pieces of UXO were destroyed. In the same year, 237,000 people were cleared of land mines.

**Croatia**  
History: Croatia's approximately 1 million land mines were laid during its war of independence from Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Impact: Croatia has the highest concentration of land mine contamination in the world. The most mine-affected areas are in eastern and western Slavonia and the near South-coastal region. Land mines are used to block, control, demarcate and along roads and power lines. Agricultural activity is still being hampered. From 1990 and 1991, an average of 118 casualties per year were reported. In 2000, 39 casualties were reported.  
Program: Since 1998, Croatian deminers have cleared more than 2,000 mines from 61.2 square miles (158 square kilometers) of land, returning some of it to agricultural use.

**Afghanistan**  
History: Since 1978, Afghanistan has experienced a Soviet-supported coup, bitter fighting between rival Islamic groups and the war terrorism, leaving it one of the most severely mine-affected countries in the world.  
Impact: Eleven percent of the country is mine-affected with an estimated 2 million land mines. Most mines are in agricultural fields. A quarter remain and growing. The nation averages 200 land mine casualties per month. The majority of the 10 million are trying to work.  
Program: Since 1986, more than 100 square miles (250 square kilometers) of high-priority mine-affected land have been cleared. In 2000, 121,000 land mines and 985,000 pieces of UXO have been destroyed. The cleared land has provided employment opportunities to more than 5,200 farmers and industrial workers. More resources have been devoted to the country since by 60 percent. A total of 1.5 million refugees have been able to return to their homes.

**Vietnam**  
History: A war continuum state of war from the early 1950s until the late 1970s has left an enormous legacy of land mines and UXO.  
Impact: There are an estimated 3.5 million land mines and 300,000 tons (772 million kilograms) of UXO in the country. The most mine-affected region is the Quang Tri province, which contains the most mines between 1960 and 1970. An estimated 2,000 casualties a year from mines and UXO are reported. The highest concentration of unexploded ordnance is in the Quang Tri province.  
Program: As of 2000, the United States and other nations have provided technical assistance to help the Vietnamese Army clear 87 anti-personnel and 10,000 pieces of UXO. More than 7,000 UXO and 80 other war-related items have been destroyed by the British Mine Advisory Group.

**Jordan**  
History: Jordan's mine afflictions are a result of Arab-Israeli conflict.  
Impact: There are more than 220,000 land mines affecting an area approximately 20 square miles (50 square kilometers). The minefields are generally confined to the area around Jordan's border with Israel and Syria. Much of the red Jordan Valley is degraded of production and used as a mine. Since 1992, a total of 63 Jordanians have become land mine casualties.  
Program: Since 1997, a national mine awareness program, demining operations and protective equipment have reduced casualties significantly. As of February 2000, Jordan's Royal Corps of Engineers had cleared 81,823 mines from more than 200 minefields, restoring more than 4.4 square miles (11 square kilometers) of land to use.

**Land Mines by the Numbers**  
5.3 - Cost of producing a land mine, in U.S. dollars  
5.0% - Percentage of mine victims who die before reaching the hospital  
6.6% - Percentage of the world's poorest families who live with the daily threat of mines  
90% - Percentage of victims who are civilians  
328 square miles - Estimated amount of land (850 square kilometers) cleared in the 40 countries where the United States and others have provided assistance  
\$1,000 - Estimated cost, in U.S. dollars, of recovery for a land-mine survivor in developing countries  
10,000 - Reported number of mine casualties in 2000  
45.50 million - Number of land mines still in place around the world

