

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE
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IMPACT OF LANDMINES ON CHILDREN IN THE EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

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"From my experience in peacekeeping, I have seen first-hand the literally crippling effects of landmines and unexploded ordnance on people and communities alike. Not only do these abominable weapons lie buried in silence and in their millions, waiting to kill or maim innocent women and children; but the presence – or even the fear of the presence – of a single landmine can prevent the cultivation of an entire field, rob a whole village of its livelihood, place yet another obstacle on a country's road to reconstruction and development."

Kofi A. Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Geneva, April 1999

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Jean-Luc Bories
UNICEF
East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office
Bangkok, 2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In his 2002 Report on Children and Armed Conflict,¹ the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted that children in more than 80 countries are at risk of injury and death from landmines and unexploded ordnance, particularly when fleeing conflict or upon the return home. He recommended that the international community give greater support to mine action, including mine risk education programmes, and the rehabilitation of child landmine survivors, including the provision of prosthesis. He also recommended that child-focused mine risk education and assistance to mine survivors are incorporated into post-conflict programmes for peace building.

It is well documented that there is an anti-personnel landmine and unexploded ordnance problem in the East Asia and Pacific region due to present and past conflicts. From the Second World War, the Korean conflict, the Viet Nam War and other internal conflicts, a significant amount of explosive remnants remain throughout several countries.

This report only assesses the situation of UNICEF-assisted countries in the East Asia and Pacific region. Of the countries that the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office includes, 14 have signed or ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and their Destruction, also called the Mine Ban Treaty or Ottawa Convention, and 11 are not signatories. In this region, the most severely affected are Cambodia, Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand. Countries also affected include the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North) and the Republic of Korea (South), Myanmar, the Philippines and China, although in these countries less information is available on the humanitarian impact of landmines on the population.

In response to the landmine and UXO scourge, the UN General Assembly nominated UNICEF as the Focal Point within the UN family for mine risk education. In addition, UNICEF assists mine survivors and advocates for a total ban of anti-personnel landmines. Because thorough mine assessments have been carried out by UNICEF programmes in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam, this assessment does not go into great detail regarding these countries. Instead, it was recommended that UNICEF examine the situations of Thailand and Myanmar, where UNICEF previously had not been involved in mine action.

This report recommends that, in view of the recent launch of UNICEF's Mine Action Strategy 2002-2005 and on the occasion of the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in Bangkok in September 2003, UNICEF strengthen and harmonize its role in mine action in the East Asia and Pacific region. In countries such as Myanmar and Thailand, where the number of mine accidents is presumed to be high, UNICEF as much as possible should develop appropriate responses, looking particularly at the situation of displaced children, women and their communities and other vulnerable groups in relation to landmines and UXO.

There is scope for UNICEF to enhance its advocacy efforts in the region in light of the Fifth Meeting of States Parties taking place in Thailand and to further enhance the ratification performance in the region. The fact that some of the largest landmine stockpiles, that some of the largest landmine producers and that

¹ Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, 26 November 2002, submitted pursuant to paragraph 15 of the Security Council resolution 1379 (2001)

some of the countries still using landmines are in Asia should trigger a comprehensive strategic advocacy response within UNICEF.

INTRODUCTION

Increasingly in conflicts over the past 50 years, anti-personnel landmines have been deliberately used against civilian populations to control their movements and affect them psychosocially. But long after conflicts end, the presence of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) continue to affect civilians, often making it impossible for refugees and displaced people to return to their homes, which then prolongs their suffering. For individuals and communities alike, often already mired in poverty and insecurity, the impacts of landmines are not only physical, but also psychological, social and economic. Advocacy to support a total ban on anti-personnel landmines remains a central element of the United Nations' activities in mine action.

With the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines in 1997 and the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) the following year, enormous progress has been made. A road map to prohibit and eradicate landmines has been sketched in the Mine Ban Treaty. Of the 147 States that have signed the Treaty, 134 had ratified or acceded at the time of this writing.

During the Fourth Meeting of States Parties in September 2002, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) issued the following statement:² "More than 30 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed by 61 States, including seven million in the past year. The export of anti-personnel landmines has nearly ceased, the number of countries producing the weapon has decreased from 55 to 14, mine action programmes have expanded, there are fewer new mine casualties than in the past and use of anti-personnel mines has fallen off. Nine governments were reported to have used anti-personnel mines since May 2001, compared to at least 13 governments the previous year. Two of the nine governments, Angola and Sri Lanka, stopped use in 2002 and have not resumed. Eight countries became States Parties I think should be Capitalized to the Mine Ban Treaty since the last annual report, including three that recently had used anti-personnel mines but now spurn the weapon – Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo and Eritrea – as well as regional leaders Nigeria and Chile." The ICBL also condemned extensive ongoing use of anti-personnel landmines by the military in Myanmar and Russia (in Chechnya) and lesser-scale ongoing use by the military in Nepal and Somalia.

However, millions of landmines remain lying in the ground throughout the world and claim civilian victims every year. New casualties were reported in 69 countries in 2001. Landmine Monitor estimates new casualties to number between 15,000 and 20,000 each year. In the East Asia and Pacific region, Myanmar continues to use landmines as indiscriminate weapons of war.

In adopting the Mine Ban Treaty, the international community conveyed the message to affected populations that they have the right to live free from the threat of landmines and the right to receive assistance to be freed of mines. These rights have become enshrined in international law. They create obligations for governments and organizations to provide assistance for mine action, as well as for all actors in armed conflicts to cease the use of anti-personnel landmines. However, these rights and obligations will not be fulfilled without sustained political and financial commitments at the highest levels of government.

² International Campaign to Ban Landmines: 2002 Landmine Monitor report, an exhaustive 922-page study of global developments.

The role of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in humanitarian mine action, from mine risk education to survivors assistance and advocacy, must continue to develop and grow so that the vision of a world safe from landmines becomes a reality. UNICEF is committed to work untiringly towards this goal.

Anti-personnel landmines affect the daily life of boys, girls, women and the whole community. A UNICEF survey carried out in Viet Nam, shows that one third of all deaths caused by mines were among youth or children, and half of all non-fatal mine injuries involved youth and children. Landmines also have a psychosocial effect on the Vietnamese population: 65 per cent of those in the survey said they were scared by or worried about the presence of mines.

UNICEF'S ROLE IN MINE ACTION

UNICEF warns that landmines and other explosive remnants of war³ directly and indirectly threaten children's rights to life, survival and development. UNICEF works with and supports governments and civil society partners to help children, their families and their communities understand how to reduce mine risks and advocates for and with them on mine-related issues. UNICEF focuses on mine risk education and works to integrate it into broader mine action responses.

This means working with State and non-State actors to promote ratification and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty in its entirety. It means making people aware of the threat, working to destroy or clear existing landmines and that new ones are no longer procured, manufactured nor used. It means providing access to services for survivors, particularly children and women so that they can fully participate in their society. UNICEF advocates for, and with, mine survivors and other people with disabilities to ensure that their voices are heard, their rights are respected and that their basic needs are met. The main role of UNICEF is in identifying needs and advocating for them to be addressed in the planning and provision of health, social, education and other services. (UNICEF focuses on access of mine survivors and other people with disabilities to services and programmes rather than on service provision.)

While countries in the East Asia and Pacific region, such as Cambodia, Viet Nam and Lao PDR, suffer the most severe and widespread impact of mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW), other countries such as China, the two Koreas, the Philippines and Thailand are also affected, mostly in confined areas and along the borders. Even if mined areas are not inhabited, continuing armed conflict, economic necessity or natural disaster may suddenly displace people into or through those danger areas. UNICEF works with the UN Mine Action Service and other organizations to ensure that mine contamination is factored into humanitarian contingency plans. At a global level, and based on its work in the field, UNICEF's role is to promote good practices in mine risk education, advocate for universal ratification and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty – including provisions for international assistance to mine-affected countries – and to work for the further development of international law in relation to other explosive remnants of war.

PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK

The UNICEF Mine Action Strategy 2002-2005⁴ that was launched in Geneva in 2003 is rooted in the UNICEF Mission Statement, its Core Corporate Commitments in Emergencies, its Peace and Security Agenda, the World Fit for Children Outcome Document, the UNICEF Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2002-2005 and in the UN Mine Action Policy. The Strategy is written within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and Their Destruction (Mine Ban Treaty, or MBT) for which UNICEF continues to be an active advocate, and the Comprehensive and Integrated International Convention to Promote and Protect the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

³ Explosive remnants of war (ERW) is the collective term for any explosive or parts thereof, whether fired or unfired, left over as the result of a conflict.

⁴ UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes, "UNICEF Mine Action Strategy 2002-2005" launched in Geneva in 2003. This document is intended to clarify UNICEF's mine-action responsibilities as outlined in "Mine Action and Effective Co-ordination: The United Nations Policy", presented by the Secretary-General to the 53rd Session of the General Assembly in 1998, and to assist in meeting the objectives of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2001-2005, prepared in response to GA Resolution A/53/26 on Assistance in Mine Action, also adopted at the 53rd Session.

UNICEF takes a rights-based approach to mine action, which recognizes the legal and moral obligation and accountability of States to the rights and needs of their people and affirms that children, women and men have basic rights. It also recognizes that people should have the opportunity to express their views and participate in making decisions on issues affecting their lives. UNICEF places affected children, their families and their communities at the centre of mine action and encourages its partners to do likewise. While UNICEF particularly focuses on children and women, its work in mine action is not confined to them.

UNICEF supports the integration of mine action components through coordination and common planning by the various UN and other agencies. For this reason, UNICEF works closely with the United Nations Mine Action Service, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Operations Programme Support, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, other UN agencies and non-government organizations.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

UNICEF will work with partners to protect children, their families and communities from the physical, social, economic and psychological impact of landmines and other explosive remnants of war by pursuing the following three goals:

1. Identifying mine risk education needs and responding in an appropriate, effective and timely fashion.
2. Universal ratification and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty and other related legal instruments.
3. Access of mine survivors, especially children, to the highest attainable standards of services and support.

EFFECTS ON CHILDREN

Anti-personnel mines often directly affect civilians. Victims are inevitably the poorest and most vulnerable members of society. They are farmers, fleeing refugees, displaced families and those returning home after a conflict ends to mined villages and lands. They are those who rely mainly on their physical abilities for survival. Economic necessity leaves them with no option other than daily entering known minefields in search of food and water, to cultivate, cut firewood or gather building materials. Civilian victims are usually the same people who can least afford the healthcare necessary to treat landmine injuries.

Among the vulnerable populations, children are even more in danger. It is reported⁵ that in some parts of the world it has become common practice for small children to be paid to retrieve landmines for re-sale. Some landmines look like toys, and although arms manufacturers have always denied allegations that they have been designed for such purposes, the attraction that the lethal products have on children has been documented. Some landmines are brightly coloured, attractively shaped and easy to pick up, thus increasing the temptation of children to play with them. In many countries where mines have become a long-standing element of the environment, children have forgotten that they are lethal weapons. Even when children understand the dangers, the allure of risk can prove fatal.

Children's size and natural curiosity make them particularly vulnerable to anti-personnel mines. They may be too small to have a proper perspective to notice mines that are clearly visible to adults. Always keen to explore, children may stray off safe routes into minefields when out walking. They may not be able to understand or read warning signs. Sometimes children perform jobs that are crucial to the economic survival of the family, such as tending livestock, scavenging, gathering firewood and collecting water. In mined regions, these simple tasks become tremendously dangerous.

An estimated 20,000 people in the world are killed every year, with an additional 10,000 being maimed and disabled. It is difficult to know how many of the survivors are children, although it is estimated that 85 per cent of children who step on landmines will die before they reach the hospital.⁶ In Afghanistan, more than 30 per cent of the mine survivors are children. The UN reports that there are still more than 600,000 landmines to be cleared in Afghanistan, while warring factions continue to lay more.

For children who survive mine accidents, the physical injuries are usually more extensive than in adults because of their size; their economic prospects are bleaker than for adult victims and the emotional trauma goes very deep.

The majority of child mine survivors have little chance of going to school, of receiving counselling and of learning skills that could help them adapt to their new condition. Stigmas attached to having a disability may prevent them from marrying when they are grown up; girl mine survivors are often even more socially marginalized and ostracized. For mine survivors who live far from a rehabilitation clinic, the trip can be prohibitively expensive, long and difficult. Therefore poor children living in rural areas rarely receive the long-term care they require. Children need frequent medical check-ups, and new prostheses

⁵ War Child Project Web site

⁶ Free the Children Web site

need to be fitted regularly. As the child amputee develops, it is clinically observed that the bone of the amputation site grows more quickly than the surrounding tissue and may require several amputations.

Economically, child victims are a drain on limited resources. That they may be unable to contribute to family income or daily tasks can have a severe psychological effect on them and on the family. Landmines can also have grave consequences on children when their parents are mine survivors. Loss of employment and the deprivation that can follow directly affect children, forcing them to leave school, to look after injured parents and to somehow supplement the family income.

**OVERVIEW OF LANDMINE CONTAMINATION IN
THE EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION
(Only UNICEF-assisted countries)**

Normative Framework and Applicability

Country	Mine Ban Treaty Position	Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Conventional Weapons ⁷	Attendees to the Third Meeting of States Parties	Call for Universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty ⁸	Production of Landmines
Cambodia	Ratified in 1999	Adhered in 1997	Attended	Voted in favour	-
China	-	Adhered in 1998	-	Abstained	Producer
Cook Islands	Signed in 1997	-	-	Not member of the UN	-
DPR Korea	-	-	-	Absent	-
Federated States of Micronesia	-	-	-	Abstained	-
Fiji Islands	Ratified in 1998	-	-	Voted in favour	-
Indonesia	Signed in 1997	-	Attended	Voted in favour	-
Kiribati	Acceded in 2000	-	-	Absent	-
Lao PDR	-	Adhered to the CCW but not the Amended Protocol II amended	-	Absent	-
Malaysia	Ratified in 1998	-	Attended	Voted in favour	-
Marshall Islands	Signed in 1997	-	-	Absent	-
Mongolia	-	Adhered to the CCW but not Protocol II amended	-	Voted in favour	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	Producer
Niue	Ratified in 1998	-	-	Not member of UN	-
Palau	-	-	-	Absent	-
Papua New Guinea	-	-	-	Voted in favour	-
Philippines	Ratified in 2000	Adhered in 1997	Attended	Voted in favour	-
Samoa	Ratified in 1998	-	-	Voted in favour	-
Solomon Islands	Ratified in 1999	-	-	Voted in favour	-
Thailand	Ratified in 1988	-	Attended	Voted in favour	-
Timor Leste	In process of acceding	-	-	-	-
Tonga	-	-	-	Voted in favour	-
Tuvalu	-	-	-	Absent	-
Vanuatu	Signed in 1997	-	-	Absent	-
Viet Nam	-	-	-	Abstained	-

Within the UNICEF-assisted countries of the East Asia and Pacific region, there has been no State Party enacting domestic legislation to implement the Mine Ban Treaty; the Philippines has legislation pending. In this group, four countries have signed but not ratified the Mine Ban Treaty: Cook Islands, Indonesia, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu.

⁷ States Party to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, Geneva, 10 October 1980, also called Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW). This convention has four Protocols, including an Amended Protocol II called "Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices" as Amended on 3 May 1996.

⁸ Vote in November 2001 on UN General Assembly Resolution 56/24M, calling for universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty.

Eleven States remain non-signatories to the Mine Ban Treaty, and no country from the region has acceded to or ratified the Mine Ban Treaty since 2002.

Non-signatories include major anti-personnel mine users, producers and stock pilers, such as Myanmar, China and other mine-affected countries such as Lao PDR and Viet Nam.

On the positive side, the Government of the newly established state of Timor Leste has announced its intention to accede to the treaty as a matter of priority. Several countries from the region, including non-signatories Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Tonga, voted in favour of the UN General Assembly Resolution 56/24M in November 2001 that calls for the universal implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. China, FS Micronesia, Myanmar and Viet Nam abstained from voting. Other countries from the region were either absent or unable to vote.

In May 2003, the ICBL Ambassador, Tun Channareth, and Canadian Landmines Ambassador, Ross Hynes, visited Indonesia for key meetings with Indonesian government counterparts, NGOs and UN agencies. Following their visit, the Government of Indonesia took some important steps forward in efforts towards the ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty. This included the July 2003 creation of an Ad Hoc Inter-Governmental Working Group for the ratification of the MBT, which includes the participation of the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Industry.

Some countries of the region attended the Third Meeting of States Parties in Managua, Nicaragua in September 2001, including non-signatory Lao PDR. Thailand has assumed the role of co-chair of the Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention in 2002 and is hosting the Fifth Meeting of States Parties from 15 to 19 September 2003 in Bangkok.

The military forces in Myanmar continue to lay landmines inside the country and along its borders with Thailand. Three rebel groups not previously identified as mine users are now known for using landmines in Myanmar in 2002, bringing the total number of rebel groups using mines to 15. In the Philippines, there are reports of continued use of landmines by non-State armed groups, such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), New People's Army (NPA) and the Abu Sayyaf. However, these are mostly "home-made" devices used as booby-traps rather than sophisticated landmine ordnance. These are commonly used for the perimeter defence of camps and also as offensive weapons for ambushing military vehicles.

Five of the 14 landmine producers globally are from the East Asia and Pacific region: China, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Viet Nam.⁹ Rebel groups and non-State actors are believed to produce anti-personnel mines in Myanmar and the Philippines. All of the producers have a moratorium on export in place or have stated that they no longer export anti-personnel mines, except for Myanmar and the DPR Korea.

Some of the largest stockpiles globally are in the East Asia and Pacific region: China and the Republic of Korea. Other countries holding stockpiles include Myanmar, DPR Korea, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Singapore and Viet Nam, as well as Indonesia, Brunei (signatory countries), and Japan (States Parties). Armed non-State actors are believed to maintain stockpiles of anti-personnel mines in Myanmar and the Philippines.

⁹ International Campaign to Ban Landmines: Regional Overview 2000. Production and Transfer: Eight of the 16 current producers globally are from the Asia-Pacific region: Myanmar, China, India, North Korea, South Korea, Pakistan, Singapore and Viet Nam.

In the region, several countries are both affected with landmines and UXO. Cambodia remains one of the world's most-affected countries. A Landmine Impact Survey completed in April 2002 revealed that the number of areas contaminated by mines and UXO is about 30 per cent higher than was estimated at the beginning of the 1990s. About 46 per cent of Cambodian villages have mine/UXO-affected areas. In Lao PDR, more than 25 per cent of villages are affected by the presence of un-cleared UXO contamination. An impact survey completed in May 2001 identified 934 mine-contaminated areas located within 27 provinces of Thailand. In Viet Nam, the Government has estimated that 16,478 million sq m of land remains contaminated by landmines and UXO. Nine out of fourteen states and divisions in Myanmar are mine-affected, with a heavy concentration in eastern Myanmar. No systematic marking of mined areas is done within Myanmar. A recent UNICEF survey carried out in Viet Nam showed that the primary need of mine awareness is to supplement people's knowledge in a few key areas, target key sub-groups and positively reinforce safe behaviour, as opposed to a blanket mine/UXO-risk education campaign.

Tremendous needs for mine risk education programmes were reported in Myanmar, where for the first time, a three-day mine information workshop took place in Rangoon in February 2002. Significant MRE programmes continue in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam, while smaller-scale activities have been conducted in South Korea. In Cambodia, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre launched a community-based mine/UXO-risk reduction pilot project in October 2001. UXO Lao, an organization dealing with mines, sent community awareness teams to 766 villages in 2001, reaching approximately 182,000 persons, including 75,000 children, throughout Lao PDR. In Thailand, the Thailand Mine Action Centre and three NGOs conducted MRE activities, reaching about 77,000 persons.

Mine casualties were recorded in seven of the mine-affected countries in the East Asia and Pacific region: Cambodia, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. In 2001, casualties continued to decrease in Cambodia where 813 casualties were recorded, down from 847 in the previous year. In Lao PDR, UXO LAO recorded 122 casualties in 2001, up from 103 in 2000.

In Myanmar, the ICRC reported that in 2001 the country ranked third out of their 14 prosthetic programmes worldwide for the highest number of mine survivors receiving prostheses, after Afghanistan and Angola. In Lao PDR, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has formally approved the constitution of the Lao Disabled People's Association. In Viet Nam, the community-based rehabilitation programme has expanded from 40 to 45 provinces.

In 2001, the South-East Asia Regional Conference on Victim Assistance took place in Bangkok. The Conference aimed to raise awareness of the needs of mine survivors and to assist countries in the region in the development of national plans of action.

Overview of Landmine Problem in the East Asia and Pacific Region

Country	Scope of the Problem	Impact on Populations
Cambodia	Cambodia is one of the most heavily landmine- and UXO-contaminated countries in the world. Around 46% of villages have mine/UXO-affected areas.	Despite intense mine risk education programmes where UNICEF is involved, casualties still occur; 802 reported in 2000.
China	China has expressed intent to use mines for national security reasons but has acknowledged the importance of a total prohibition of mines. China is believed to be one of the world's largest producers of anti-personnel mines and has been producing approximately 22 types of anti-personnel mines. Nonetheless, China denies having a landmine-contamination problem.	China has used anti-personnel mines along its borders with Russia, India and Viet Nam, planting an estimated 10 million mines over the years. The Government states that China is not a country seriously affected by mines. After major clearance operations from 1992-1999, China maintains that the mine threat on the Chinese side along the Sino-Vietnamese border has been basically removed. Although the Government of China is believed to be collecting information on landmine casualties, no comprehensive data is available.
Cook Islands	The Cook Islands has never produced, transferred, stockpiled or used anti-personnel mines. Not affected.	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	DPR Korea has not acceded to the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. The government has not made a policy statement on landmines since 1998. It has not attended any of the major international meetings on the landmine issue. The DPR Korea has been absent from every vote on the pro-ban UN General Assembly resolutions since 1997, including in November 2001. DPR Korea is not a party to the Convention on Conventional Weapons.	No new information on the DPR Korea's production, trade, stockpiling or use of anti-personnel mines is available. DPR Korea has said that they used landmines in the area along the military demarcation line solely for defensive purposes. It seems that DPR Korea has also planted some mines along the east coast area between the demilitarized zone and the port city of Wonsan.
Federated States of Micronesia	Not affected.	
Fiji Islands	Fiji has never transferred or produced mines. Not affected.	
Indonesia	<p>Indonesia is not considered to be a mine-affected country, and it is one of the few conflict-affected countries in East Asia and the Pacific where landmines have never been used by the military (TNI) or systematically by any parties to a conflict.</p> <p>There have been unconfirmed reports that the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) has made past attempts to acquire anti-personnel mines in its ongoing armed campaign for the independence of the province of Aceh.</p> <p>There is anecdotal evidence with numerous reports of UXO and improvised explosive devices (IEC), such as home-made booby-traps, being used as anti-personnel weapons in the conflict-affected provinces of Aceh and the Maluku.</p> <p>Despite recent good signs, it is difficult to speculate when the Government of Indonesia will ratify the MBT. Although there are few official political or military obstacles to its ratification, because Indonesia is not considered to be a mine-affected country and is <i>de facto</i> in compliance with the MBT, ratification of the treaty is not a priority, especially in the House of Representatives, which is responsible for ratification</p>	<p>It is important to note that no systematic data collection or assessment of the degree of the problem in Indonesia has ever been conducted. As such, it is difficult to determine the exact numbers of and specific impacts that these weapons have had. In those areas where the use of such devices presents a security risk to civilians, mine action issues are relevant.</p> <p>Recently, an organizing committee for a landmines campaign this is not a formal name was formed with the objectives of building a landmines campaign network in Indonesia, to organize and coordinate advocacy efforts at different levels and to prepare a strategy for the Indonesian landmines campaign. This organizing committee is made up of the Canadian Embassy, UNICEF, Jesuit Refugee Services and Lapasip.</p> <p>This core group communicates and meets regularly in order to build a campaign strategy and set action points and next steps. Note that all efforts of the Indonesian campaign to date have been grounded with the Indonesian Government, including regularly updating the Government on activities, and have enjoyed the support of government officials.</p> <p>UNICEF has played a key role in this group. In July 2002,</p>

	of international laws. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stated repeatedly that the lack of clarity on the procedural steps that must be followed have caused the delay in ratification.	UNICEF organized the first working-level meeting in an effort to form an Indonesian campaign network and to brainstorm on a campaign strategy. This meeting included the active participation of Tun Channareth, as well as the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Indonesian Department of Defence, key embassies, international NGOs and Indonesian NGOs and civil society leaders. At this meeting it became clear that all those represented had an interest in getting involved in the campaign to the best of their ability.
Kiribati	Not affected.	
Lao PDR	<p>In 2001, 8.74 million sq m of land were cleared in nine provinces. Mine risk education was provided to an estimated 182,000 people in 766 villages.</p> <p>Lao PDR is mainly affected by UXO. The problem is the legacy of the Indochina War, especially from 1964 to 1973, when it is estimated that more than 2 million tons of ordnance were dropped on Lao PDR. Of 18 provinces, 15 report significant contamination from UXO. More than 25% of villages have reported UXO contamination. The most severely contaminated area in the country is the eastern border of Savannakhet province where the Ho Chi Minh Trail used to run.</p>	According to UXO LAO records, 35 people were killed and 87 injured by UXO or mines in 2001. Children make up 42% of the reported casualties. It is believed that most if not all were caused by UXO. It is difficult to select sites to develop for irrigation and agriculture purposes as there is a high risk of hitting a mine or UXO when digging the ground. The high UXO contamination has had an impact on development, slowing down or even causing the abandonment of projects. Mine/UXO clearance priority is given to areas of public utility, such as schools, clinics, hospitals and roads. Many agricultural areas needing demining are considered too small for immediate action. It is reported that villagers resort to demining themselves, driven by the need to use the land to ensure family food security.
Malaysia	Malaysia is no longer a mine-affected country. No mines remain planted from the insurgency that took place from the 1960s through the 1980s.	
Marshall Islands	The Marshall Islands is not believed to have ever produced, transferred, stockpiled or used anti-personnel mines. There are considerable quantities of UXO left over from WW II when Japanese and American forces fought over many of the islands.	
Mongolia	No injuries reported from mines. However, the country is affected by UXO, remnants from WW II. It is believed that Mongolia keeps a large operational stockpile of landmines. The number is not known.	
Myanmar (Burma ¹⁰)	Myanmar's military has continued laying landmines inside the country and along its borders with Thailand. Myanmar has been producing at least three types of anti-personnel landmines. Fifteen rebel groups are now using landmines. ¹¹	Although landmine casualties appear to be increasing, especially during the past five to six years, the total number of landmine casualties in Myanmar remains unknown. Systematic collection of data remains difficult, but there are regular reports of new casualties, including children.
Niue	Niue has never produced, transferred or stockpiled mines. Not affected.	
Palau	Palau has never produced, transferred or stockpiled mines. Not affected by mines or UXO.	
Papua New Guinea	Not affected by landmines and has no stockpile. However, PNG has a problem with UXO dating from WW II. The Bougainville Revolutionary Army may have improvised explosive devices.	
Philippines	There are reports of continued use of landmines by	The Armed Forces of the Philippines has conducted

¹⁰ The military junta now ruling the country changed the name from Burma to Myanmar. Many ethnic groups within the country still prefer to use the name of Burma. In this report, Myanmar is used when referring to this country.

¹¹ According to the 2003 Landmine Monitor. This report has been given to UNICEF prior to its official release.

	<p>non-state armed groups in the Philippines, such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), New People's Army (NPA) and the Abu Sayyaf. However, they are mostly "home-made" devices used as booby-traps rather than sophisticated landmine ordnance. These are commonly used for perimeter defence of camps and also as offensive weapons for ambushing military vehicles.</p> <p>The MILF indeed has recommitted to the adherence to the total ban on landmines, although reports persist of their use of booby-traps to halt or delay the advance of government troops.</p> <p>The NPA insisted that it is not employing victim-activated landmines but admitted to using command-triggered landmines that are not covered by the ban under the Ottawa Convention.</p> <p>There are bills pending in the House of Representatives that seek to legislate the landmine ban. With a few months left before the present Congress concludes its session, there is little chance that these will be passed, especially as they have no counterpart bills in the Senate.</p> <p>UXO is a very real problem in Central Mindanao where the Government for the past five years extensively has used heavy artillery and aerial bombardment against the MILF.</p>	<p>several small-scale clearing operations for mines and UXO in affected areas in Mindanao since 2001, but implementation and mapping have not been very systematic. It is reported that there are no large-scale mined areas; mines are found sporadically, usually around rebel camps or battle areas.</p> <p>In 2001, there were reports of 22 new casualties in at least six mine and UXO incidents: two were killed and 20 injured. Five were civilians, including one 11-year-old child, and 17 were military personnel or police officers. In 2000, it was reported 64 new casualties, of which 11 died and 53 were injured, including 19 civilians.</p>
Samoa	Samoa does not produce, transfer or stockpile mines. The island is not affected by mines or UXO.	
Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands has never produced, transferred or stockpiled mines. There is a significant problem of UXO left over from WW II.	
Thailand	<p>The Landmine Impact Survey completed in May 2001 identified 934 mine-contaminated areas within 27 provinces, along the borders with Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Malaysia. A total of 530 villages were reportedly affected, with the largest number in the area along the Thai-Cambodian border where 295 villages were affected. No updated figures on amount of affected land have been released.</p> <p>Thailand became co-chair of the Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention in September 2001. Thailand is hosting the Fifth Meeting of States Parties in 2003.</p>	According to the results of the Landmine Impact Survey, between June 1998 and May 2001, 346 new landmine casualties were recorded – more than 100 people a year – mostly at the Cambodian border.
Timor Leste	While Timor Leste is apparently not affected by landmines, there have been problems with other types of UXO. In 2000, the UN Transition Administration for Timor Leste (UNTAET) launched a public information campaign with radio messages and posters to increase people's awareness about UXO dangers.	
Tonga	Not affected. Tonga has never produced, transferred or stockpiled mines.	
Tuvalu	No injuries reported from mines or UXO. Tuvalu has never produced, transferred or stockpiled mines.	

	Though there is a problem of UXO from WW II, there has not been any injury linked to the problem.	
Vanuatu	No stockpile. Believed not to be affected although there are dumps of military equipment from WW II.	
Viet Nam	In 2002, the Government re-stated its earlier estimate that around 16,478 million sq m of land remain contaminated by landmines and UXO leftover from the Viet Nam War. This estimate, which equates to about 5% of Viet Nam's land, was first made in 1998; apparently no new aggregate figures have been compiled since then. At the regional landmine seminar in Bangkok in May 2002, Viet Nam gave a presentation estimating that US\$4 to \$5 billion will be required to clear all the mines and UXO and that the work will take several decades.	There is no comprehensive mechanism for collecting and recording data on mine/UXO casualties in Viet Nam. However, there are frequent reports in newspapers of mine/UXO incidents that result in death or serious injury. Incidents causing the death of at least 46 people and injuring another 20, including 34 children, were reported in 2001 in several provinces. It is believed that this figure does not include incidents in remote rural areas.

UNICEF PROJECTS ON MINE ACTION IN THE EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

In Cambodia, the Children in Post Conflict Project supports activities of government and NGO partners in mine action, support to landmine survivors and other disabled people as well as social services in former conflict areas. UNICEF allocates some of its resources to innovative activities such as the newly developed Community-Based Mine Risk Reduction (CBMRR). Initiated in 2001 by Handicap International with UNICEF's support, CBMRR aims at increasing the involvement of the mine/UXO-affected communities in the prioritization of mine actions. It was implemented for the first time in 2002 in 40 villages in Battambang and Pailin provinces, where a total of 144 mine/UXO committees were established. An evaluation was conducted at the end of the pilot project, and the recommendations will be used to for the expansion of this activity by the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in 2003. Key issues to be addressed are the capacity of CMAC to respond to communities' requests and the sustainability of the network of volunteers. The Child Mine Risk Education implemented by the NGO, World Education, with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MOEYS) continued to integrate mine risk education into the formal education system. In 2002, 581 new schools and 70,971 pupils were reached. However, despite the introduction of child-to-child methodologies to reach out-of-school children, the number of casualties remains high among this group. In 2003 more efforts have been made by the MOEYS in this respect. Through local and foreign NGOs, the support to mine victims continues, covering needs from medical care and physical rehabilitation to socio-economic assistance and inclusive education. A total of 3,283 persons with disabilities benefited from direct assistance, including 1,071 children integrated into schools. UNICEF also supported the Disability Action Council in its effort to build local capacity on inclusive education through reference document production and training of NGO and MOEYS staff.

In Lao PDR, consolidation of UNICEF's approach to UXO awareness and education continues by building on lessons from the previous country programme. The Government's national UXO Lao project has lacked donor support and downsized, reducing staff capacity by 40 per cent. This resulted in greater emphasis on programmes seeking alternative mechanisms for UXO awareness/education, including those supported by UNICEF. The Ministry of Education and the Lao Youth Union, with support from UNICEF, continue the process of review and expansion of the in-school curriculum and the "Sport in a Box" projects. New lesson plans and teacher training materials were developed by the Ministry of Education for the UXO school curriculum implemented in four severely affected provinces. Targeting out-of-school youth and children living in remote areas was achieved through the "Sport in a Box" project promoting safe play alternatives and community-based UXO education. Project expansion occurred with the project reaching 64 villages in six provinces by the end of 2002.

In Viet Nam in 2002, UNICEF initiated a new landmine/UXO awareness and education project. Previously, no data had been collected ever on the impact of UXO or landmines. With the UNICEF intervention, this information will now be available. In November, UNICEF supported the first series of province-wide assessments of: i) the overall impact of mines/UXO on communities; ii) communities' knowledge, awareness and practices pertaining to the threats; and iii) the impact of mine/UXO accidents on survivors, victims and their families. This achievement, given the sensitivities surrounding mine/UXO action, demonstrates the Government's increasing willingness to allow activities addressing this issue, and thereby paves the way for additional international standard mine/UXO projects in Quang Tri province and other affected areas of Viet Nam in the near future.

FUTURE ORIENTATIONS

Following the launch of UNICEF's Mine Action Strategy 2002-2005, UNICEF will carry on strengthening its response on mine action throughout the East Asia and Pacific region whenever needs are identified. This regional overview shows that UNICEF's response to the landmine problem has varied from country to country. In some severely affected countries, such as Cambodia, UNICEF has responded early and developed efficient programmes in mine risk education and assistance to mine survivors; in other affected countries, responses need to be better articulated. UNICEF will ensure more consistent response to the landmine and UXO issues in countries throughout the region, where it is needed, using synergies between country programmes.

Seizing the opportunity of the Fifth Meeting of States Parties in Bangkok from 15 to 19 September 2003, the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office is determined to demonstrate a more prominent and active advocacy role to support the Mine Ban Treaty (Ottawa Convention). Organizations such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) could be encouraged to include universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty to their meeting agendas. Countries such as Singapore and China should be encouraged to sign or ratify the Treaty.

There is an interest from donors to support UNICEF's role in mine action as part of their humanitarian assistance in countries such as Myanmar, Thailand and others. The UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office recognizes the need to build in-country capacity to address the landmine problem and engage dialogue with countries where landmines casualties are reportedly high to respond by filling institutional gaps and taking appropriate remedial actions so that civilian populations are protected from the dangers of mines and UXO.

Existing synergies and cooperation among country offices on mine action have to be further strengthened and developed in the region. In keeping with the aim of improving and harmonizing UNICEF's response in mine action, it is important to build upon good experiences in the region. A regional workshop could be organized to share lessons learned and good practices among country offices dealing with mine-affected countries.

ANNEX

PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE UNITED NATIONS PORTFOLIO OF MINE-RELATED PROJECTS

1) Mine Risk Education for Children in Cambodia 2003

The objective of this project is to reduce landmine/UXO accidents involving Cambodian children through mine risk education (MRE) programmes and child-to-child outreach. The implementing partners are the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MOEYS); Cambodia Mine Action Authority (CMAA); Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC); World Education. The project time frame is one year, from January 2003 to December 2003.

Summary

In pursuit of the objective, the following activities will be undertaken:

- Coordination with CMAA, MOEYS and other mine-action organizations regarding the definition of national MRE standards;
- Provision of MRE training to teachers, student teachers and contract teachers in target provinces;
- Continued development, inclusion and evaluation of MRE in primary school curriculum;
- Mobilization of parents and the community around MRE issues through existing institutions and committees (PTAS, VDCS and cluster committees);
- Use of child-to-child outreach programmes to find out-of-school children and youth;
- Promotion of activities surrounding international mine awareness day;
- MRE programme for out-of-school youth integrated with other community MRE programmes in the target areas;
- Facilitation of regular technical group refresher meetings and training for teachers;
- Yearly workshops on MRE activities for children;
- Revision and printing of existing MRE material, guidelines and a teacher's manual;
- Encouragement of community participation in MRE activities; and
- Coordination of activities on national mine awareness day.

In terms of national coordination and implementation, the MRE steering committee will continue to provide guidance as well as deciding the strategic direction for the programme. A national technical advisor will assist the national coordinator and the MOEYS MRE working group in planning and monitoring programme activities. Members of the working group will be selected from each department involved in the programme (primary education, teacher training, pedagogy research and non-formal education) and will be in charge of monitoring and evaluation.

A MRE field officer will be based in Battambang and will be in charge of the day-to-day supervision of the programme. At the provincial level, an existing network will continue to direct the programme. This network includes MRE specialists within the provincial office of education (POE) and the district office of education (DOE).

Outputs

- 200,000 primary school students in affected areas receive MRE through classroom activities and service learning projects;
- 45 provincial and district MOEYS MRE specialists/trainers and 120 cluster directors monitor and evaluate MRE activities in primary schools;
- 5,000 primary school teachers conduct MRE, using child-centred teaching techniques;
- MRE training given to 4,000 student teachers;
- MRE curriculum regularly revised and developed;
- 40,000 out-of-school youths in the affected areas learn about mine risks from primary school students and teachers;
- At least 50,000 primary school students involved in outreach activities to encourage out-of-school peers to adopt safer behaviour in relation to mines and UXO;
- Cluster resource centre managers carry out supplementary mine awareness activities with school and out-of-school youths;
- School committees and parents' associations support the outreach activities; and
- Exhibitions and performances prepared for international mine awareness day.

Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of the programme will be children and youth living in highly affected regions. Secondary beneficiaries will be the teachers, school administrators and members of clusters and village-level committees who will gain new MRE skills and experiences.

2) Psychosocial Support for Child Victims of UXO in Lao PDR 2003

The objectives of this project are to analyse the psychosocial effects of UXO accidents on children and advocate for programmes and policies to address these effects. The project's implementing partners are the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, provincial department of education and public health and UXO Lao. The project period covers January 2003 to December 2003.

Summary

Recent data suggests that more than 40 per cent of victims of UXO accidents in Lao PDR are children. In most cases, the accidents were caused by preventable actions, such as playing with or handling UXO. It has also become apparent that existing services for victims of landmines/UXO in general tends to focus mainly on the provision of prosthetics and other mobility aids, with psychosocial recovery services virtually non-existent.

As a first step towards addressing this imbalance, this project will assess the knowledge gap that exists regarding the psychosocial impact of landmine/UXO accidents on children and their families by conducting a survey of around 500 respondents, including:

- Children injured by mine/UXO accidents (approximately 200);
- Children whose parents have been the victim of mine/UXO accidents; and
- Families (parents and siblings) of children who have been killed by mines/UXO.

The project also will study issues of psychological trauma, service provision and access to education, health care and community support mechanisms. It will then make recommendations for future programme development.

The study will be an important step to improving mine risk education and will help in the development of services to support children suffering psychosocial trauma. A report detailing the findings of the research and recommendations for programming will be released and a stakeholders meeting will be conducted to disseminate and discuss the report. In addition, a booklet containing stories and drawings by the children participating in the research will be developed for distribution as part of an ongoing UXO awareness campaign. (Recent monitoring of UXO awareness activities indicates that sharing of stories by victims of UXO accidents is a potentially powerful educational tool.)

A consultant/NGO partner will assist in designing the survey, as well as training and coordinating local surveying staff. Implementation of project activities will be achieved in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, as well as the provincial department of education and public health. At the conclusion of the survey, UXO Lao will assist with the analysis of accident data.

Activities

- Develop and finalize survey design and methodology;
- Conduct analysis of UXO accident data;
- Select respondents;
- Train surveyors;
- Conduct field research with victims;
- Conduct data entry and analysis; and
- Prepare and disseminate report.

3) UXO/Mine Risk Education in Viet Nam 2003

The objectives of this project are i) to help reduce mine/UXO casualties in heavily affected areas of Viet Nam through sustainable programme activities; ii) to support information gathering activities in affected areas, foster mine/UXO programme coordination and advocate for national action; iii) to provide assistance to and create opportunities for child victims of exploded landmine/UXO and other disabled children.

The implementing partners of this project will be the Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Health, Youth Union, provincial People's Committees, Viet Nam Television, Committee on Population, Family and Children and the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Fund.

Summary

In 2002, UNICEF Viet Nam initiated a UXO/mine risk reduction, education and awareness project. At the time, very little data collection on the issue had been conducted. Mine risk education was non-existent in schools, and almost all mine action in Viet Nam had been restricted to a single province. Highlights of the project include:

- A province-wide assessment of the overall impact of UXO/mines on communities, as well as knowledge, awareness and practices about the threat;
- A primary school safety curriculum introduced in 15 provinces;
- The nationwide television broadcast of a documentary on the impact of UXO/mines, as well as child-focused UXO/mine education programmes and numerous information spots; and
- Other impact surveillance, education, awareness and victims' assistance activities.

Activities

UNICEF plans to expand the scope of its community-level activities in 2003 to seven new provinces – five in central Viet Nam and one each in southern and northern Viet Nam. UNICEF will continue to implement project activities through various government counterparts to better ensure sustainability. Assistance will include providing all necessary technical help, guidance and oversight. The project will include the following:

1) Assessments

UNICEF will support a series of three assessments (impact/needs; knowledge, attitudes, practice, or KAP; victim impact) in seven new provinces. This information will provide a much more comprehensive picture of the impact of mines/UXO in Viet Nam. This will assist UNICEF, the Government and other international agencies in this area in targeting communities/affected groups, as well as developing appropriate project strategies.

2) Mass media coverage

With more than 80 per cent of all households having access to television, UNICEF will support nationally televised educational programmes and information spots on mine/UXO safety, as well as national print media coverage and radio programmes.

3) UXO/mine safety curriculum

UNICEF will support the expansion of its safety curriculum in additional provinces throughout Viet Nam, teaching children how to protect themselves from mine/UXO accidents as well as other threats to their health and well being.

4) UXO/mine warning signs

UNICEF will support the dissemination of mine/UXO warning signs in affected areas of the eight target provinces in which it is working.

5) Information dissemination

Using the results of the previously mentioned assessments, UNICEF will support relevant information dissemination activities in the eight provinces in which it is working. Whenever possible, these activities will be incorporated into ongoing UNICEF-supported programmes to better ensure sustainability.

6) Community awareness and education

UNICEF will also support relevant community-level awareness and education activities in all project provinces, also using the previously mentioned assessment results. These activities may include in-school awareness activities, child-to-child learning activities, etc.

7) Impact surveillance

UNICEF will expand its pilot mine/UXO impact surveillance activities to the seven new provinces in which it is working.

8) Advocacy

UNICEF will advocate for the creation of a national mine/UXO coordination body.

9) Assistance to survivors

Again using the results of the previously mentioned assessments, UNICEF will also support survivors' assistance activities.

10) Education and awareness activities along the former Ho Chi Minh Trail:

Pending approval by the Ministry of Defence, UNICEF will support the introduction of education and awareness activities along what is now the Ho Chi Minh Highway. It is estimated that there is heavy UXO contamination along more than 100 km (625 miles) of the highway. Due to limited funds, clearance is only being done a few metres beyond the actual highway. As tens of thousands of Vietnamese people use this new highway corridor, injury from landmines/UXO is a real threat.

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