

# Mine Action: Light at the End of the Tunnel?

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## At the Outset

- The suffering caused by anti-personnel mines is a humanitarian disaster.
- Humanitarian demining is a precondition for development.



# Overview

- The history of mine action
- The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)
- Where do we stand: Achievements and challenges
- Mine Action: Future Mission
- Strategic objectives of the GICHD
- GICHD: Looking ahead

# History (1): NGOs Take the Lead

- **1939/45:** Landmines are first used widely in World War II.
- **1977:** Geneva Convention: Prohibition to target civilian populations by indiscriminate weapons in wartime.
- **1980:** Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW): Limitation of the use of landmines against persons.
- **1991:** Start of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.
- **1993:** First international meeting of NGOs.

## History (2): States Follow

- **1995:** Belgium has the first national law to ban AP-Mines.
- **1996:** Canada launches the Ottawa process by hosting a meeting among like-minded states.
- **1997:** The APMBC is adopted. Jody Williams and the ICBL are awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- **1999:** The APMBC becomes binding international law (March 1).

# The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)

- The APMBC bans the **use, stockpiling, production and transfer** of AP-Mines. Moreover, States Parties to the Convention commit themselves to **destroying stockpiled and emplaced AP-mines and to assisting victims**.
- **2013:** Record high support for mine action: US \$ 681 Mio  
National: US \$ 184 million  
International: US \$ 497 million

# Status of the APMBC

## PROGRESS AFTER 15 YEARS

- 161 State Parties
- As of December 2012, all EU member states are States Parties
- With the exception of the USA, which is reviewing its landmine policy, all NATO member states are States Parties

## CHALLENGES 2014

- Yemen admitted the use of APLs on its territory and is now investigating the incident
- Sudan, South Sudan and Turkey have also allegedly used APLs on their territory
- There is high incidence of use of APLs by armed non-state actors





# Stockpile Destruction

## PROGRESS AFTER 15 YEARS

- 150 / 161 States Parties do not have stockpiles of APLs.
- 87 have official completed stockpile destruction
- 63 have never possessed APLs

## CHALLENGES 2014

- Nearly 11 million APLs await destruction by eight States Parties
- **Belarus, Greece and Ukraine** are in violation of the treaty: They missed their stockpile destruction deadline

# Transfer and Production

## PROGRESS AFTER 15 YEARS

- For the past decade, global trade in AP-Mines consisted of a low-level of illicit and unacknowledged transfers.

- The appearance of AP-Mines in Sudan and Yemen 2013 indicates that some form of market trade for/in AP-Mines still exists.
- China, Cuba, India, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, USA, Vietnam have been identified as potential producers (Land Mine Monitor 2013)

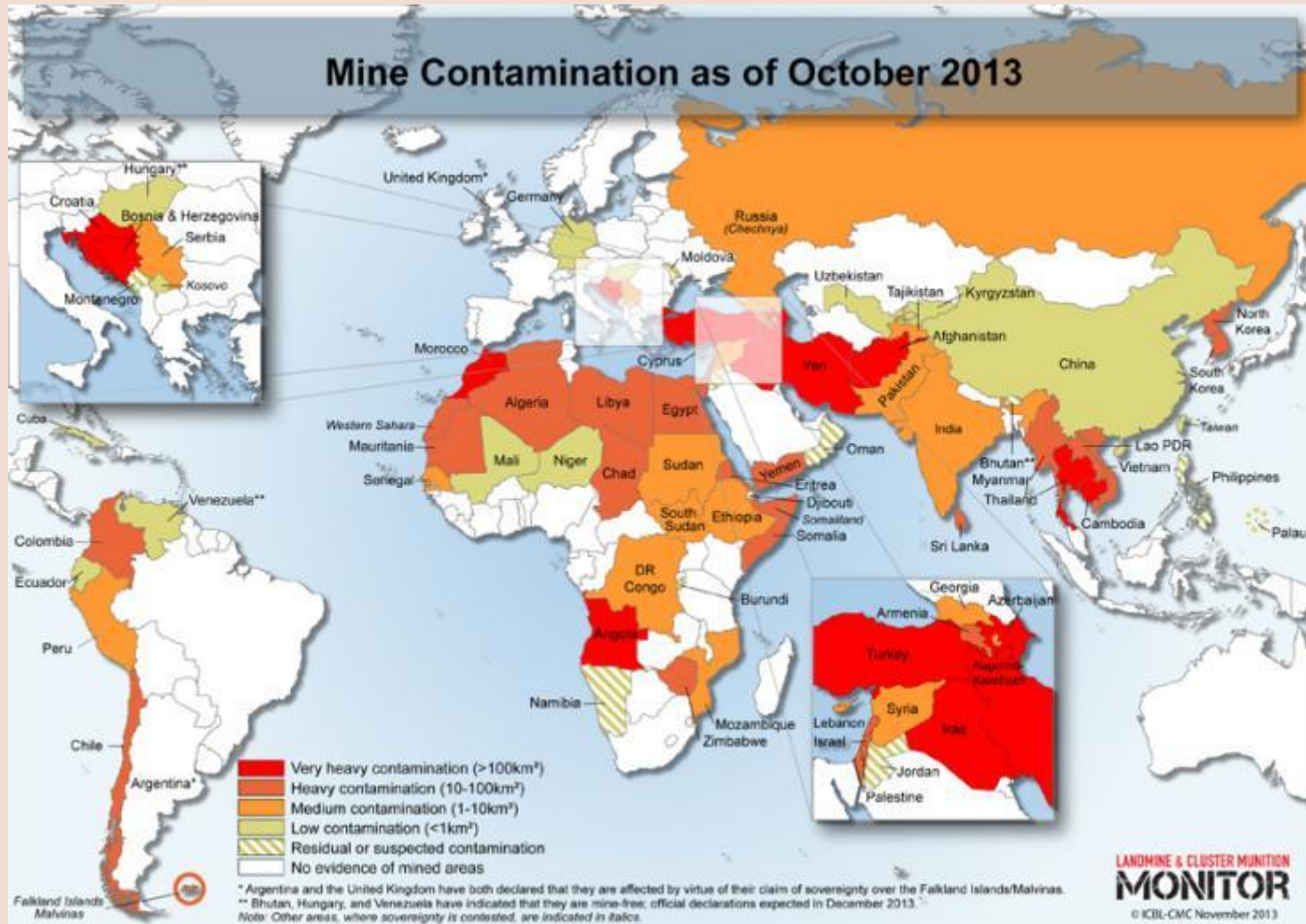
# Contamination and Land Release

## PROGRESS AFTER 15 YEARS

- Record high of released land: 281km<sup>2</sup>
- 62% of which was released in: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Croatia and Sri Lanka
- 27 States Parties have cleared their territory of placed AP-Mines

## CHALLENGES 2014

- 59 States and 4 other areas confirmed with contamination
- 32 States Parties are still in the process of clearing mined areas
- States Parties requesting clearance deadline extensions: 83% have been granted at least one extension period



# Casualties

## PROGRESS AFTER 15 YEARS

- Record low level of casualties
- Current figure of approximately 10 casualties a day compared to 25 in 1997

## CHALLENGES 2014

- Increase of 5% in the rate of civilian as compared with military casualties, bringing the rate to 78%
- Increase of 4% in the rate of child casualties as a proportion of civilian casualties, bringing the rate to 47%

# Where do we stand: Summary (1)

- The international community understands that the use of AP-mines is unacceptable. 161 States committed themselves to never and under any circumstances use, produce, stockpile or transfer AP-Mines.
- Humanitarian demining has become highly professional. UN's International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) serve as the benchmark. Demining is supported by information management systems and quality management systems.
- At the same time, there still is no full clarity regarding AP-mines and other ERW. In many countries we still don't know, what remains to be done.

## Where do we stand: Summary (2)

- Formal and informal meetings of the international mine action community offer open, inclusive exchanges of diplomats, experts, NGOs and practitioners – with an impact on multilateralism beyond humanitarian demining.
- On the ground humanitarian demining cannot be separated from humanitarian disarmament.
- Mine and ERW contamination are not only a humanitarian but a development issue: Humanitarian demining and development strategies have to go hand in hand – also following the principle of "do no harm".

# The Future of Mine Action

We need to work towards the following objectives:

- Full compliance with the legal obligations and normative standards to never use the weapons in question
- Universalization of the APMBC
- Destruction of all stockpiles and clearance of all hazardous areas
- Integration of victim assistance into the broader health care, social services and disability context following the standards set by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



# GICHD: Strategic Objectives 2011/14

## Clarity on explosive hazards

- Collecting data for national strategies
- Improving methods for survey and clearance
- Developing software package
- Improving mapping methods

## High-performing national authorities

- Enhancing results-based management
- Enhancing operational efficiency
- Considering socio-economic, gender aspects
- Broader context of armed violence reduction

## Outreach: Competence Center

- Effective trainings and advisory missions
- Efficient mine-action management tools
- High quality website and publications
- Linguistic programmes for other audiences

# GICHD: Activities and Deliverables

## Operations Consulting

- National MA programmes: Security and development
- Land release: Efficiency, safety, clarity,
- Ammunition technical operations

## Management Consulting

- Information Management Systems
- Quality Management Systems

## Supporting Standards and IHL

- Supporting Standards: IMAS, NMAS
- Supporting IHL: Hosting ISU-APMBC; preparing to host ISU-CCM
- Promoting APMBC, CCM, CCW

## GICHD: Looking Ahead (1)

- **Humanitarian Demining:** The GICHD remains the competence center supporting States Parties to the APMBC with its expertise to work towards treaty completion. Moreover, we support the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons CCW as well as the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).
- **Humanitarian disarmament:** Our expertise and tools developed for humanitarian demining can also be used to address challenges posed by weapons belonging to the broader humanitarian disarmament / armed violence reduction agenda.

## GICHD: Looking Ahead (2)

- **Synergies:** Making use of all synergies available is decisive in order to achieve more safety and security for more people worldwide.
- **Maison de la Paix:** Joining other competence centers in the Maison de la Paix end of January 2014 may allow for bottom-up cooperation in areas of common interest and complementary expertise and has the potential to strengthen the visibility of our common efforts as part of the “Genève International”



Our mission is to end the suffering caused by explosive remnants of war, including anti-personnel mines and unexploded submunitions.

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