

## Landmine Facts

1. There are over 60 million active landmines in the world today and over 250 million stockpiled by armies, ready to be used despite the 1997 ban on anti-personnel mines.
2. The average price to manufacture a landmine can be as low as \$3 U.S. However, it can cost up to \$1000 to remove one landmine from the ground.
3. Landmines affect 88 countries in the world today. Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola, Mozambique and Bosnia are the most heavily plagued countries.
4. Landmines kill or maim only 13% of fighting personnel. Mines are scattered indiscriminately on village paths, agricultural fields, and on dirt roads which civilian men, women and children must use in their daily task of farming, tending livestock and traveling. In some countries, between 30-40% of mine casualties are found among children below 15 years of age.
5. A 10-year-old mine amputee, with a life expectancy of approximately another 40-50 years, will need 25 artificial limbs over his or her lifetime.
6. More than 2000 people a month are injured or killed by landmines, most are civilians in peace time
7. For every mine cleared 20 are laid
8. In some countries, women and children account for over 30% of landmine casualties
9. Those not killed by landmines face amputation and disease as a result of dirt, debris and metal fragments entering the wounds
10. *One person every 20 minutes is injured or killed by landmines*

## Here's how you can help the innocent around the world.

The Canadian Red Cross set up the Landmine Survivors Fund in 1997 so people like you can help improve the quality of life for landmine survivors. With the money raised, the Red Cross:

- Supports hospitals and rehabilitation centres
- Creates landmine awareness programs and raises funds to remove them
- Manufactures over 100,000 prostheses for over 67,000 amputees in 22 countries
- Established 18 prosthetic/orthotic projects in seven countries
- Promotes and strengthening humanitarian law worldwide



Canadian Red Cross

**INNOCENT IN WAR**

**CAMPAIGN**



**BATTLE AGAINST LANDMINES**

## The Problems

Between 1999-2000, 1.5 million children were slaughtered, 4-5 million injured or disabled and 20 million left homeless because of war.

Only 25% of mine victims arrive at hospital within 6 hours of being injured with 15% having to travel for more than 3 days before they reach a hospital.

### Who are high at risk?

Villagers foraging for firewood and food, herding cattle, or tilling their fields are particularly at risk.

Young adult males make up the majority of people killed or injured by landmines. In Cambodia, 87% of surviving landmine victims are males over 15 years old, with a mean age of 28 years. In Afghanistan, 73% are males between ages 16 to 50, and 20% of the victims are male children.

The ratio of death to injury is considerably greater in children, perhaps because their vital organs are closer to the blast and comparatively less protected, and their bodies are less able to withstand blood loss. Those at highest risk of the indirect health consequences of landmines (i.e., waterborne diseases, malnutrition, childhood infections, etc) are again mostly the disadvantaged poor, especially children.

Armed conflict and political violence were responsible for more than 270 million deaths during the 20<sup>th</sup> century

## The Solution

*"Ask them not to hide the sun with their planes and not to shatter our dreams with bombs. Children are born to dream."* – Dragan, age 14

The Canadian Red Cross mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity in Canada and around the world.

Over three-quarters of the world's states have ratified to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction, also known as the Ottawa treaty, which was adopted in 1997.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) mine-awareness activities include funding programs run by local organizations, distributing leaflets in seed-kits to farmers, and full-scale campaigns using mass media and teams of mine-awareness trainers.

The ICRC tries to ensure children in war have adequate access to medical care, food and water, and, when possible, reunites them with their families. It also campaigns against the recruitment of child soldiers and reminds all parties to conflict of their obligations towards children.

### Rehabilitating child soldiers:

The Red Cross establishes programmes aimed at young people aged 10 to 18 who were harmed during the war. Some young people fought. Others became sex slaves, domestic labourers or the victims of violence. Participants receive counselling to help them come to terms with their experiences, they catch up on basic schooling, their health is checked, and the older children learn job skills like tie-dyeing, soap-making, building construction or tailoring. At the end of the year, most of the younger children are enrolled in schools.

## Children and War Quiz

1. How many armed conflicts are taking place in the world today?

15-25    35-45    more than 50

2. In the world today, what percentage of people killed and injured in war are civilians?

50%    75%    90%

3. How many children have been killed in the last 10 years as a result of war and armed conflict?

500,000    1.5 million    over 2 million

4. How many children have been seriously injured or permanently disabled during this time?

1 million    5 million    10 million

5. How many children have been uprooted from their homes by war, either as refugees or internally displaced.

5 million    10 million    20 million

6. How many children under the age of 18 are currently taking part in hostilities around the world as child soldiers or sexual slaves?

100,000    300,000    500,000

1.) 35-45    2.) 90%    3.) over 2 million    4.) 5 million

5.) 20 million    6.) 300,000