

Victim Assistance in Somalia: then and now

Somalia	1	2	3	4	5	6
According to original study		•		•	•	
According to LM 2002		•				•
According to LM 2003						•

Key Developments (LM 2002):

Landmines apparently continue to be used during the fighting among the many militias. Instability and conflict have impeded the establishment of a Mine Action program and the start of mine action activities.

Indicator 1: The extent to which information on mine victims' demographics and needs is available.

According to original study:

LM 1999 indicates that mine-related casualties have been decreasing in recent years, but that a 1998 UNMAS-led Assessment Mission reported 70 landmine accidents resulting in 40 fatalities in the Togdheer region of NW Somaliland within the previous year. LM 2000 reports that in 1999 the government's National Demining Agency conducted a systematic survey to collect data on mine victims, and estimates that there have been more than 3,500 mine casualties since 1988. An IMSMA database is currently being installed in NW Somalia.

According to LM 2002:

Landmine casualties continue, though often unreported. In 2001, there have been a total of six reported landmine incidents and twenty UXO incidents in Mogadishu alone, in which 60 people were killed and 61 injured, according to the UNDP-supported mine action office.¹⁴ In Puntland, there were 103 reported incidents resulting in human casualties.¹⁵

According to the US Department of State, reporting on events in 2001, "On 1 February 2001, in Burhakaba, Bay region, four nomads were killed by a landmine explosion. On 10 May 2001, a landmine explosion near Ballidogle airstrip killed a man. On 2 June 2001, a truck hit a mine in Saragoble, which exploded and killed one person and injured four others. On 24 July 2001, four cars hit landmines on the road linking the Lower Juba and Middle Juba regions. The cars exploded and killed several persons and injured some others."¹⁶ Incidents are also reported in the media. In the Gedo region, four people were killed and two others injured in two separate incidents in April.¹⁷ In August, more than ten people were killed and several injured in the Kurtun Waarey and Baraawa areas of the Middle Juba Region when their vehicles hit landmines.¹⁸ On 5 September 2001, a landmine in southern Somalia killed three people. There had been at least five other mine incidents in the same area in previous two months.¹⁹ It is believed that many such incidents in southern Somalia are unreported.

Between 1995 and 2000, 4,357 landmine/UXO casualties were reported, including 2,626 killed and 1,731 injured.²⁰

In 2001, the ICRC-supported hospitals treated 7,352 surgical cases, of which 405 were mine/UXO casualties.²¹

Indicator 2: The extent to which a national disability coordination mechanism exists and recognizes mine victims.

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

No information available.

Indicator 3: The extent to which programs and services for the medical care and rehabilitation of mine victims are available.

According to original study:

LM 2000 reports that as a result of several years of conflict, health care infrastructure is dysfunctional and lack staff and resources. LM 1999 reports that there are only three hospitals capable of providing surgery in the whole of North Western Somalia and that these are poorly equipped. With support from the Somaliland

government and the Norwegian Red Cross, the Somaliland Red Crescent Society (SRCS) provides limited prostheses to amputees at its centre in Hargeisa. HI runs an orthopedic centre, also in Hargeisa, which provides prostheses, mobility devices and physical therapy. However, LM 1999 reports that the majority of mine victims do not receive post-operative care. The SRCS is planning to deploy mobile clinics, four in the Togdheer region and three in Awadal.

According to LM 2002:

The health infrastructure in the country is very poor and the few hospitals available are poorly staffed and ill equipped. The ICRC provides medicines, technical advice, training and financial support to four major surgical facilities in Somalia: Keysaney Hospital, run by the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), and Medina Hospital in Mogadishu, Baidoa Hospital in Bay and Mudug Regional Hospital in Galkayo. The ICRC also assists 26 SRCS health posts in southern and central Somalia.²³ In 2001, the ICRC reported providing surgical treatment to 405 mine/UXO casualties.²⁴

In 2001, the Norwegian Red Cross continued to support three rehabilitation centers, run by the SRCS, in Mogadishu, Galkaiyo, and Hargeisa. The centers provide physiotherapy, prostheses, orthoses, crutches, and a repair service. In 2001, a total of 909 prostheses were provided at the three centers, of which 95 were for landmine survivors.²⁵

Indicator 4: The extent to which programs and services for the social and economic reintegration of mine victims are available

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

According to the Peace and Human Rights Network, there are no special programs for landmine survivors in Somalia.²²

Indicator 5: The extent to which mine victims are protected and supported by effective laws and policies.

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

According to the Peace and Human Rights Network, there are no special programs for landmine survivors in Somalia.²²

Indicator 6: The extent to which there is a disability community advocacy network.

According to original study:

LM 2000 reports the existence of a Somaliland Handicapped Persons Association, but information on its mandate are is not available.

According to LM 2002:

No information available.

Endnotes:

¹⁴ Report emailed to Landmine Monitor by the UN Mine Action Office in Mogadishu, 27 March 2002.

¹⁵ Puntland mine casualty report for 2001.

¹⁶ US Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2001: Somalia*, 4 March 2002.

¹⁷ "Land Mines Kill Four in Gedo Region," *IRIN*, 27 April 2001.

¹⁸ "Land mines said 'causing havoc' in southern Somalia," *HornAfrik*, 7 August 2001.

¹⁹ Xasan Barise, "Landmine Kills Three in southern Somalia," *BBC Somali Service*, 5 September 2001.

²⁰ *Landmine Monitor Report 2001*, pp. 261-262.

²¹ ICRC Special Report, Mine Action 2001, Geneva, July 2002, p. 20.

²² The Peace and Human Rights Network is a coalition of 32 organizations throughout Somalia. Landmine Monitor held a meeting with members of the network in Hargeisa in February 2002.

²³ The ICRC in Somalia, Fact Sheet, 5 March 2002, accessed at <http://www.icrc.org>.

²⁴ ICRC Special Report, Mine Action 2001, Geneva, July 2002, p. 20.

²⁵ Norwegian Red Cross, Response to Landmine Monitor Survivor Assistance Questionnaire, 6 May 2002.