




# ENDING THE LANDMINE ERA


## ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES





ICRC


# The landmine epidemic is being contained but success of the Ottawa Convention will depend their commitments and provide the necessary

 In the mid-1990s, the medical staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) - overwhelmed by the ever-increasing number of civilian mine victims they had to treat - characterized the global anti-personnel mine problem as an epidemic.

 Major public advocacy campaigns undertaken by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the United Nations and many States, culminated in 1997 in the adoption of a new international treaty outlawing anti-personnel mines: **the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention)**.

 This was the first time in history that States had agreed to ban a weapon that was in widespread use by armed forces throughout the world, owing to its appalling human costs. The treaty is based on fundamental rules of humanitarian law prohibiting the use of certain kinds of weapons.

 Since 1997 impressive progress has been made towards universal adherence to, and implementation of, the Ottawa Convention. It has already had a significant impact in many mine-affected countries.

 Where mine-affected States are faithfully fulfilling their obligations, the annual number of new mine victims has fallen by two-thirds or more. Lives, limbs and livelihoods are being saved.

# it has not yet been eradicated. The ultimate on the willingness of governments to meet resources

Impressive progress has been made since anti-personnel mines were outlawed in 1997 – making the “end of the landmine era” a real possibility. But as long as anti-personnel mines continue to maim and kill thousands of people each year, it is too early to declare victory over these “hidden killers.”



## UNDER THE CONVENTION, EACH STATE UNDERTAKES TO:

**Never use, develop, produce, stockpile or transfer anti-personnel mines or help anyone else to do so.**

Some three-quarters of the world's States are now party to the Ottawa Convention. Their impressive record of compliance has rapidly established the non-use of anti-personnel mines as the international norm. The Convention has even affected the practice of major military powers that have not yet adhered to it, and nearly halted the global trade in anti-personnel mines.

**But still . . .** Dozens of States have not yet joined the Convention, including some major producers and possessors of anti-personnel mines.

**Destroy all its stockpiled anti-personnel mines within four years of the date the treaty enters into force for that State.**

By the end of 2003, States Parties had destroyed over 31 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines within the stipulated deadlines.

**But still . . .** An estimated 200 million anti-personnel mines remain stockpiled around the world, primarily by States not party to the Ottawa Convention.

**Complete mine clearance within 10 years of the Convention's entry into force for that State. Until then, each State is required to take measures to protect civilians, such as marking and fencing off mined areas and raising awareness about the dangers of landmines.**

By 2003 nearly all of the most severely mine-affected countries in the world had joined the Convention. In total, 52 States Parties had declared having, or were reported to have, mined areas. Mine-clearance



Franco Pagetti / ICRC

May	ICBL calls for a ban on anti-personnel (AP) mines	Feb	ICRC calls for a ban on AP mines	
	1993		1994	1995

activities are under way in most of these countries, freeing up land for agriculture, commerce, playgrounds and the rebuilding of communities.

**But still . . .** Anti-personnel mines continue to threaten children, women and men long after conflicts have ended. The Convention's 10-year deadlines for total clearance of mined areas will start to arrive in 2009. Mine-affected States will need to both enhance their own efforts and to receive increased support from others in order to meet their respective deadlines.

**Provide assistance for the destruction of stockpiles, mine clearance activities, mine awareness programmes and the care and rehabilitation of mine victims.**

Since the Convention was adopted, States Parties, including mine-affected countries themselves, have provided 1.1 billion US dollars for mine action. Through regular consultations at the national, regional and international levels, States have shared experiences and improved their effectiveness in these fields.

**But still . . .** Most mine victims fail to receive the care and rehabilitation they need because they live in countries where health facilities are inadequate or have been disrupted by war. Their needs have to be met throughout their lifetimes. Moreover, the resources and expertise made available for mine clearance and mine awareness fall short of what is required.





Roband Stiller / ICRC


Oct	International Strategy Conference Towards a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines, Canada	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	
			Dec	The Convention is signed by 123 States in Ottawa	Oct	The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement adopts a "Strategy on Landmines"		
			Sept	The Convention is adopted in Oslo	March	The Convention enters into force (40 States Parties)	21 July	Mauritania becomes the 100th State Party
					May	First Meeting of States Parties in Maputo	Sept	Third State Party


Where the Convention is fully implemented, the number of new mine victims drops significantly and survivors, fitted with artificial limbs, learn to walk again and regain their autonomy. Precious land is returned to local communities, thereby restoring their livelihoods. Children can safely go back to school.


The global anti-personnel mine epidemic has been contained, but it will still take time, resources and commitment to put an end to it. This can be a humanitarian success story if everyone contributes:

 **Citizens and civic organizations** can encourage States that have not yet joined the Ottawa Convention to do so, and can urge all States Parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention.

 **Public figures and the media** can seek to publicize the unique success that has already been achieved in implementing the Convention and the challenges that still lie ahead.

 **Each State Party affected by landmines** must ensure that mine-affected areas are cleared within its deadline, and integrate mine action – including assistance to mine victims – into its long-term development plans.

 **Political leaders and parliamentarians** should provide sustained financial and technical support for mine-action programmes, until the job is done.

 The **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, international development and aid agencies, non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions** should ensure that mine action is sustained.

In December 1997 world leaders gathered in Ottawa made a promise to help mine victims recover their dignity and to rid their communities of mines. They now have the obligation and the opportunity to make this promise a reality.

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<p>1st Meeting of States Parties in Nagua</p>		<p>January First affected State Party to declare itself "mine-free" – Costa Rica</p> <p>1 March 31 million mines destroyed "on time" by States Parties</p>	<p>29 Nov-3 Dec Nairobi Summit for a Mine Free World (First Review Conference of the Convention)</p>		
		<p>13 Oct 140th State Party Sudan</p> <p>31 Dec 1.1 billion US dollars invested in mine action by States Parties since adoption of Convention</p>		<p>2004-07 Deadlines for over 85 States Parties to destroy any AP stockpiles</p>	

## MINE-ACTION PROGRAMMES OF THE ICRC

The ICRC has been given the lead role in implementing the **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Strategy on Landmines**. Acting in cooperation with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies throughout the world, the ICRC helps reduce the suffering caused by mines and other explosive remnants of war through its involvement in three major areas:

**Medical care and physical rehabilitation.** The ICRC provides or supports first aid, medical and surgical assistance for mine victims and other war-wounded. Since 1979, the ICRC has established or supported 80 limb-fitting and rehabilitation centres in 36 countries. It has provided more than 300,000 prosthetic and orthotic devices for amputees, over half of whom were mine victims.

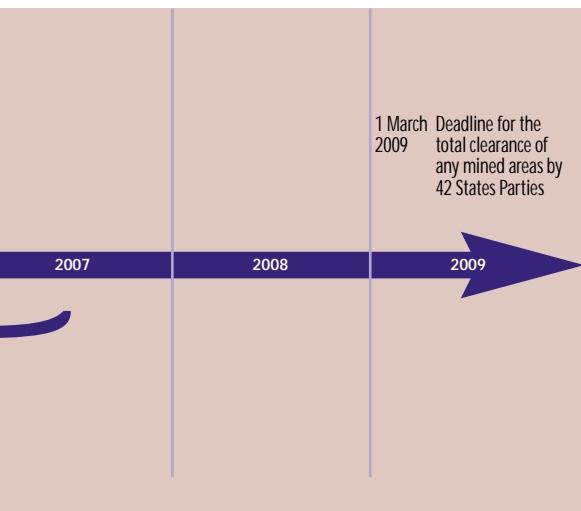
**Mine awareness.** Since 1996 the ICRC has carried out programmes to raise awareness of the dangers of mines and other explosive remnants of war in some 20 countries.

**Training, legal advice and advocacy.** The ICRC promotes adherence to the Ottawa Convention by all States, and respect for its norms by organized armed groups.

The organization also assists States in preparing national implementing legislation.

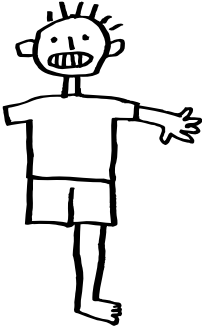


Bruno L'Hostie / ICRC



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Your National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society or the nearest ICRC delegation:



You can also contact the Mines-Arms Unit of the ICRC in Geneva by e-mail ([weapons.gva@icrc.org](mailto:weapons.gva@icrc.org)) or by phone (+41 22 730 2667).

### Additional sources of information:

International Campaign to Ban Landmines ([www.icbl.org](http://www.icbl.org))  
Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining ([www.gichd.ch](http://www.gichd.ch))  
United Nations Mine Action Service ([www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org))

### Mission

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



ICRC

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