



MINE RISK EDUCATION



ICRC

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Cover Photo: MRE focal person from NRCS Headquarters conducting EMRE session in Myagdi district in 2011.

FOREWORD

The armed conflict in Nepal left behind dangerous explosive remnants of war (ERWs) that continue to kill and maim people after the last gun shot was fired years ago. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed by the parties to the conflict in November 2006 to end the conflict stated that both parties were obliged to provide information on landmine fields and areas with explosive ordnances, and support each other to remove, destroy and diffuse such land mines and explosive ordnances within 30 days. In total, 53 minefields and 273 improvised explosive devices (IED) fields were identified and marked. Despite the agreement, the commitments expressed in the CPA could not be fulfilled completely within the stated timeframe.

The lack of awareness and knowledge about the risks of landmines and other explosive ordnances combined with a lack of information pertaining to the various types of improvised devices used and their locations further compound the problem. With increased mobility after the conflict, people and especially children, fell victim to such explosive devices. Since 2006, about 500 people have become victims of these devices with 81 of them killed. Children are particularly vulnerable, of the total, 44 children lost their lives while 213 were injured.

Half a decade later, in 2012 the Government of Nepal, despite being a non-signatory to the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines, will finally succeed in clearing minefields and IED fields in the country respecting the CPA. In June 2011, Nepal was declared a landmine field free country and with the clearance of IED fields by early 2012 Nepal will be IED field free. Nevertheless, stray ERWs combined with IEDs used by armed groups in the post conflict period still pose a threat to the people.

Creating awareness at the communities' level has proven to be an effective strategy to mitigate the risk of explosive devices. Together with other organizations in the Mine Action Joint Working Group (MAJWG) coordinated by the Mine Action Section of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR), the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are contributing to the effort to address this dire humanitarian problem. Within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the

ICRC has the lead role in implementing the 2009 Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and Other Remnants of War. Together with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in mine/ERW affected countries, the ICRC implements programmes addressing medical needs, including physical rehabilitation, economic needs with programmes such as micro economic assistance (MEI), carries out mine risk education and training activities, and provides legal advice and advocacy.

Since 2005, the NRCS is at forefront of an awareness programme (through Emergency/ Mine Risk Education - E/MRE¹) in the country with the technical and financial support of the ICRC. The goal of Mine Risk Education is behaviour change to mitigate the risk of explosive devices through creating awareness and education about the risks and safe behaviour. Given that Nepal is going to be both a mine-field and IED-field free country but not a mine and IED free country, all efforts to increase public awareness on the threat posed by explosive devices need to be continued to educate people on safe behaviour.

The Red Cross Movement partners, the Nepal Red Cross and the ICRC, remain committed to working together with the MAJWG to reduce the humanitarian consequences of explosive remnants of the past conflict.



Dev Ratna Dhakhwa
Secretary General
Nepal Red Cross Society



Jerome Fontana
Deputy Head of Delegation
International Committee of the Red Cross

¹ MRE sessions are regular information dissemination forums held in places affected by mines and IEDs. EMRE sessions are conducted following an incident of explosion or after an explosive device has been found.

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I. INTRODUCTION

All modern-day armed conflicts have left behind problems of explosive remnants of war (ERW), usually for years or even decades after the conflict ended. Nepal is no exception and during the decade-long conflict the parties to the conflict used improvised explosive devices (IEDs), landmines and other types of explosive devices. Due to the nature of the conflict, explosive ordnance contamination was widespread and has affected many different districts in all five regions of the country.

Although a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in November 2006 ended the conflict, ERW contamination continued to claim lives and injure civilians. Almost 500 people became casualties of victim-activated explosions from January 2006 to November 2011. Lack of awareness and proper behaviour, combined with a widespread presence of explosive devices in and around homes has been the major cause of accidents. Sixty-four percent of the total number of victims were killed or injured while tampering/handling, throwing, burning or simply standing close

to the person who activated an explosive device. Most of these accidents could have been prevented if the victims were aware of the danger, and knew about safe and appropriate behaviour.

In addition, use of explosive devices by different armed groups in the post-conflict period has added to the already existing problem, with more incidents reported that are the result of explosive devices produced after the CPA.

The Nepal Red Cross Society has been an active advocate of safe behaviour, widely promoting awareness about the risks of ERWs in communities. People have started demonstrating safe behaviour by reporting about IEDs/explosive ordnances found or seen. As a result, recovered ordnances have been safely diffused thus saving lives and limbs of many people. If people are aware, incidents of explosions can be avoided. To achieve this, education and dissemination about risks of ERWs and safe behaviour have to be maintained.

II. EXPLOSIVE DEVICES IN NEPAL

Types of Explosive Devices²

Improvised explosive Device (IED): a home-made explosive device, usually placed or thrown manually and designed to injure, kill or terrorise. The most common types of IED's in Nepal include socket bomb - improvised hand grenade made from galvanized plumbing joints (photo 1), the pressure cooker bomb (photo 2), the pipe bomb (photo 3) and sutali bomb, made of cloth and string (photo 4).



Photo 1: Socket Bomb



Photo 2: Pressure Cooker Bomb



Photo 3: Pipe Bomb



Photo 4: Sutali Bomb

Anti-Personnel landmine (AP mine): an explosive device placed under, on or near the ground and designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or a contact of a person. Anti-personnel landmines are usually divided into three categories:

- blast mines for example PMD 6 "shoobox mine (photo 5)
- omni-directional fragmentation mine - POMZ or stake mine (photo 6)
- directional fragmentation mine - M18 Claymore mine (photo 7)



Photo 5: Shoobox Mine



Photo 6: Stake Mine

² The materials used in this section has been taken from Mine Risk Education Flipcharts produced by the Mine Action Joint Working Group (MAJWG) Nepal.



Photo 7: M18 Claymore Mine

Other explosive device: limited to factory made explosive munition which was either unexploded or abandoned such as mortar shells (photo 8), hand grenades, cartridges and detonators.



Photo 8: Mortar Shell



Photo 9: Hand Grenade

Unexploded ordnance (UXO): a device which has been fired, dropped, thrown or launched but has failed to detonate as intended.

Abandoned ordnance (AO): a device which has not been used and which is no longer under the control of those that left it behind or dumped it (photo 9 shows a picture of a hand grenade which can be found abandoned).

WANGJEW'S DANGEROUS TOY

In April 2008 somewhere in Sindupalchowk district, 14-year-old Wangjew Lama found a colourful object in the fields near his home. He played with it and enjoyed throwing it onto the ground. One day he decided to use the object as a tool to break pebbles into fine sand. As he was striking the pebbles, his new toy exploded in his hand. He was blown away and fell on his back with his hand bleeding profusely. His mother, Thuli Maya heard the explosion then the screams of her son from inside the house. She rushed

outside and to her horror she saw Wangjew on the ground holding his bleeding hand and writhing in pain. She quickly summoned her neighbours who helped her get Wangjew to the nearest dispensary. At the hospital it was concluded that the boy's hand was badly injured and he had lost three fingers. Wangjew's family was distressed by the news and rallied together to support their son's recovery. As if that was not bad enough, the family had to borrow Rs. 80,000 to pay for his medical treatment.

III. THE VICTIMS OF EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

In addition to the 53 minefields and 273 IED fields reported by the authorities, an unknown number of IEDs scattered in the fields and forests or stored in or near people's houses remained to contaminate Nepal after the CPA was signed. According to the data collected by Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) (refer table 1), 488 people became victims of explosive devices

in 246 incidents of explosion that occurred after the end of the conflict. Eighty-one of them were killed, while the remaining 407 survivors sustained various types of injuries such as loss of limbs, fingers, hearing, sight, burns, etc. People who survive are usually physically incapacitated in some way or another for the rest of their lives, and a majority of them are children.

TABLE 1 | **Summary of Incidents and Victims of Explosions Since 2006.**³

Year	Incident	No. of victims	Injured	Killed
2006	98	169	130	39
2007	42	104	91	13
2008	38	73	69	4
2009	24	70	54	16
2010	23	41	41	0
2011	21	31	22	9
Total	246	488	407	81

Facts

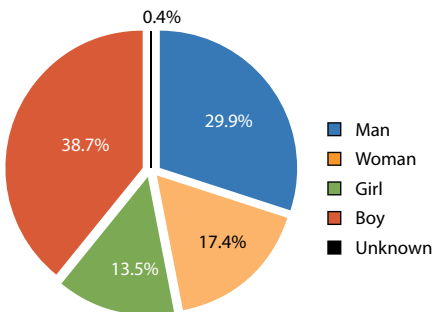
- More than half of the total number of victims were children (38.7% boys and 13.5% girls).
- Six out of every 10 victims (64%) were either killed or injured while tampering/handling, throwing, burning or simply standing close to the person who activated the explosive device.
- 36% of all the incidents occurred at home, 14.5% in the farm and 11.4% on the road
- 81% of casualties were caused by IEDs, mainly socket bombs (29% of the total number of casualties) unknown/other IEDs (25%) and sutali bomb (21%). Other IEDs that caused casualties were pressure cooker, pipe and tiffin bombs. (refer Annex 3-table 3)
- Blast and fragmentation mines had caused 22 casualties (5%), while other explosive remnants of war such as mortar shells, hand grenades and detonators had affected 49 persons or 10% of the total number of casualties.

³ The data in the table is for the period between 2006 and 9th November 2011.

Unlike in other mine/ERW affected countries, homes were the most dangerous place in Nepal with explosions occurring in or near the home. This is because many houses in the districts were harbouring explosive devices hidden or left behind by insurgents during the conflict period. In addition, many children and even adults who found unknown objects (explosive devices or ordnances) brought them to their homes.

table 2 in annex 3 for more details). The data also shows a high percentage of female victims 31% or 151 out of 486⁴ victims. The rest of the victims 69% (335 out of 486) were male. Women have been injured primarily because they were near the site of the explosion; which is not strange as most explosions occurred at home. Women were also accidentally exposed to explosive devices while collecting firewood, clearing grass, cutting grass, grazing cattle in the forest.

FIGURE 1 | **Victims of Explosive Device by Age and Gender**



An analysis of the data reveals that children, primarily boys, are at higher risk. This is because they tend to play with unidentified or unknown objects. Out of the total child victims, 55% of the children handled or played with explosive devices, while another 18% of them were within the vicinity when an explosion occurred (refer

The impact of the kind of injuries reveals that socket bombs caused maximum injuries (30% of total injured) and unknown/other IED killed the most number of people (36% of total killed). The *sutali* bomb comes a close second in injuring people. Interestingly, the data show that *sutali* bomb, pressure cooker bomb, tiffin bomb and claymore mine have injured but not killed anyone so far. As shown in Table 1 (page 4), in 2010 no deaths were reported since most of the incidents in that year were caused by *sutali* bombs. In 2011, despite decreased number of victims, nine deaths were reported, most of which were caused by socket bombs. In light of this, it is important to raise awareness about the kinds of explosive devices and their impact in order to enlighten people accordingly. For more information regarding victim data and types of devices, please see annex 3.

⁴ Out of the total 488 victims, age and gender of 2 victims are unknown (refer to table 2 in annex 3).

IV. TOWARDS SOLVING THE PROBLEM

The "Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and other Explosive Remnants of War: Reducing the Effects of Weapons on Civilians" guides the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement response to the suffering caused by explosive ordnance contamination. This strategy gives the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) the lead role when it comes to the RC/RC Movement action to reduce the impact of weapon contamination on civilians.

The threat of explosive remnants of war is highest in the years immediately following the end of conflict as people start to move about freely thereby increasing their risk of exposure to contamination. In the last five years towards a peaceful transition, the people of Nepal have, in numerous

instances, been exposed to the risks of various explosive ordnances such as Antipersonnel Mines, IEDs, Unexploded Ordnances, Abandoned Ordnances and other explosive devices.

In 2004, the ICRC carried out an assessment to understand the risks/impact of mine/explosive devices and need for mine action activities in Nepal. The assessment recommended the Red Cross to engage in Mine Risk Education activities.

As a result, in 2005, even before the conflict had formally ended, the ICRC together with the NRCS started raising awareness about the risks of mines and other explosive devices and educating people especially in conflict-affected areas on precautionary and safety measures.

The Role of Nepal Red Cross Society (NCRS)

The work of the NRCS in response to the explosive ordnance problem is directly linked to its humanitarian mission to "Relieve human suffering and reduce vulnerability". Its primary objective is "alleviating or reducing human suffering without discrimination on grounds of religion, race, sex, class, caste, tribe, nationality or political belief".

NRCS as the natural and primary partner of the ICRC implemented the MRE programme

at the local level, given their wide network of local volunteers in all 75 districts of the country and knowledge of the local context.

With the objective of reducing vulnerabilities, NRCS directly educates people and communities to increase awareness about the risks of explosive devices; supports the dissemination of information about victim assistance; and provides information about the various international treaties as part of the Mine Risk Education Programme in Nepal.



NRCS Mine Risk Education (MRE) Programme

Mine Risk Education (MRE) is one of the important preventive educational activities to mitigate the risk of landmines and explosive remnants of war. It is defined as “activities that seek to reduce the risk of injury from mines and unexploded ordnance by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change including public information dissemination, education, training and community mine action liaison”.

MRE in Nepal is primarily targeted towards people living in rural communities and children. It strives to bring about change in behaviour of individuals by creating awareness about the risks of mine and IEDs, educating people about the different kinds of explosive devices found, so that people are aware of possible risks and thus adopt safe behaviour practices especially when confronted with unknown objects.

Nepal's problem of explosive devices is unique. Unlike in other context, in Nepal there is no concrete way of identifying contaminated areas (apart from the mine and IED fields) as most of the ERWs were either left behind unknowingly/knowingly and have been forgotten or remained after they failed to explode. In addition, people are unknowingly storing explosive devices in their houses and in case of accidental exposure to such devices, they bring such unknown objects home to exchange the metal body for other goodies. Explosive devices have been found in various places including roads, forests, home, government offices, rivers/banks, pathways, schools, etc. Therefore, the nature of the problem makes it difficult to ensure complete removal of all explosive devices, thereby necessitating the need to continue to create awareness and educate about its risks and safe behaviour.

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) was established in 1963, and in 1964 recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In the same year, NRCS was affiliated to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as a member national society. Since then the NRCS has grown to become the largest humanitarian organization in Nepal with its network of District Chapters (DCs) in each of the 75 districts of the country. District Chapters receive organizational support from more than 1300 Sub-Chapters and Co-operation Committees under them. Many of its activities are carried out by students and youth volunteers from almost 5000 Nepal Junior and Youth Red Cross Circles organized at schools, campuses and within communities.

NRCS involvement in MRE programme dates back to 2005 even before the conflict had ended. With the technical and financial support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to strengthen the capacity of NRCS in MRE, the programme was initially launched in 10 districts that were considered to be the most affected by mines and IEDs. The objective of the MRE programme was to reduce the number of casualties by raising awareness of the danger of explosive devices, and teaching safe and appropriate behaviour. In each of the 10 districts, two Youth Red Cross volunteers were trained on how to deliver MRE information sessions in their communities. Each of volunteer-trainee organized at least three risk education sessions per month using a set of photos of the most common types of explosive devices in Nepal and some basic safety messages.

In 2006, the programme was expanded to 10 additional districts. Experience from other countries had shown that victim levels were the highest in the period immediately after the end of the conflict as the population starts to move freely. As a result, after the CPA was signed in November 2006, NRCS activities were expanded to 26 additional districts. A total of 49 affected-districts have been covered under the MRE programme.

Selection of districts was based on the following criteria:

- number of victim-activated explosions and casualties for the previous year/s based on Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) data

Advocacy

Although Nepal is neither a signatory to the Anti Personnel Mine Ban Treaty nor the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, NRCS has been through its work disseminating information on the basics of both of these and other international treaties which regulate the use of weapons.

- districts where the heaviest clashes took place during the conflict
- capacity and strength of NRCS district chapters and its sub-chapters

In the period from 2005 to the end of 2011, NRCS staff and volunteers have conducted a total of 3697 MRE and 196 EMRE sessions for a total of 2,22,837 participants in 70 districts across Nepal⁵. At present NRCS has a pool of trained volunteers known as Mine Risk Educators in 52 districts. For more details please refer to the tables in annex 1 and 2.

Apart from the regular MRE sessions, NRCS staff and volunteers also conduct Emergency MRE sessions, which are organized immediately following an incident, or after an explosive device is reported to have been found. The aim is to further promote safe and appropriate behaviour, investigate the needs of persons affected by the incident, as well as, to provide some sort of psychological support to the population stressed by the incident. At present, the NRCS is collaborating with the government on the implementation of the MoPR's community MRE programme in 21 districts and envisions to provide its support in more districts (refer map inside the last cover page).

⁵ This data for outreach is only for the ICRC NRCS conducted E/MRE session and does not include the outreach of sessions conducted by NRCS under the MoPR's community MRE programme.

Volunteers' Experience



Parsa

Through MRE programme, I have been able to embrace the risks of the community and create an identity for myself in the community due to which people still visit the DC office and request for MRE leaflets.

Devendra Yadav, MRE volunteers, NRCS Parsa DC

Baitadi

Very few people had understood the importance of MRE four years ago, when I had just started working as MRE focal person and used to disseminate about the risks of explosive devices. Since some incidents of explosion have occurred in Baitadi even after the conflict, I feel that this programme, initially implemented with the support of ICRC and now being implemented jointly with the LPC (Local Peace Committee), has been able to raise the level of awareness of the potentially vulnerable communities in the district. In most of the district, trained youth volunteers have been mobilized under this programme. After understanding the importance of this programme, the junior students in the district are also now talking about its awareness to the smaller children in their own schools, to students of neighboring schools and to the local communities. This has helped build awareness about explosive devices in the district.



Hem Raj Bhatta,
MRE focal person
NRCS Baitadi DC



Chitwan

In December 2010, six members of a single family fell victim to a mortar shell explosion, three of them were killed on the spot. The victims tampered with the device that they had found near Mortaal stream in Bhandara Chitawan without knowing that it was an explosive device. Two days after the incident, NCRC Chitwan conducted EMRE sessions which was attended by about 350 locals. Soon after, the villagers found a socket bomb in the same Mortaal stream. This time, they informed Nepal Red Cross office which alerted the authorities and the bomb was later diffused. Thus, MRE sessions have made the villagers more aware of the risks, saving lives and limbs of people.

Sunita Dhakal
MRE focal person
Chitwan DC

Other Programmes Linked with MRE

Physical Rehabilitation programme

MRE sessions are also used to inform the communities about the availability of free physical rehabilitation services that are supported by the ICRC at Green Pasture Hospital in Pokhara (since 2004) and Yerahity Rehabilitation Centre in Kathmandu (since 2009). During these sessions, people who need physical rehabilitation are referred to these centres. The amputees can receive artificial limbs and physiotherapy to regain their mobility. The sessions also disseminate

information about the Government's interim relief and rehabilitation packages for the injured and the disabled.

Micro Economic Initiative (MEI) programme

In the period from 2006 to 2009, before the launch of the Government's Interim Relief package, the ICRC together with NRCS provided in-kind assistance to 5,050 conflict-affected families, including mine and IED victims and their families to restore their livelihood.

LEARNING TO WALK AGAIN

Eleven-year-old Tulasi always enjoyed playing outside with her friends. One day, chasing after a goat, she followed it through the perimeter fence of an army barracks. "There was a huge blast that threw me high up into the air through the trees," she says, raising her little hands to gesture before adding, "I landed with a thud on the ground." She had stepped on a landmine that exploded. She vaguely remembers her brother carrying her to the nearest hospital about two hours away from their village in Kapilvastu district in the rural western part of Nepal.

Tulasi spent four months in hospital. Her left leg was seriously injured and the doctors had to amputate it. She underwent four further operations to save her right leg. Whilst in hospital, Tulasi recalls the anguish that she underwent from losing her leg. She recounts strange dreams in which her leg would start growing, the wound would heal, the scar would vanish and she would be able to walk again.

Before the accident Tulasi was an enthusiastic student and a playful girl. Afterwards she was restricted to staying indoors and had difficulty walking with crutches and moving without help. The simple act of stepping on a landmine had changed her life, seemingly irreparably.



Now 16, Tulasi is walking again thanks to a prosthetic limb which was fitted five years ago at Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre in Pokhara. Once again, Tulasi can ride a bicycle and play outside with her friends. The Green Pastures Hospital provides physical rehabilitation services for people who have lost limbs or injured spinal cords, enabling them to resume their lives and regain their independence to work and reintegrate into family and community activities.

Tulasi is one of more than 150 conflict-related victims with irreversible disability who will need follow-up services throughout their lives. Like other patients, her prosthetic limb requires regular adjustment and needs replacing every three years as she grows. To assist people like Tulasi, the ICRC works closely with the NRCS's District Chapters, following up on registered patients and identifying those with disabilities and in need of physical rehabilitation.

V. CURRENT SITUATION

Mine Action activities in Nepal are currently coordinated by the Mine Action Section of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR), which took over this responsibility from UNICEF in August 2010. The last of 53 mine fields were officially cleared on 14 June 2011 and Government of Nepal declared the country mine field free. In addition, the last of 273 IED fields will be cleared in 2012, making Nepal a mine-field and IED-field free country⁶. The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction of the Nepal Government is currently implementing community MRE activities in 43 selected districts across Nepal. It has also made provisions to provide financial support to victims and their families in their interim relief/rehabilitation package.

MINE ACTION JOINT WORKING GROUP (MAJWG)

Since 2005 until today, NRCS and ICRC have regularly participated in MRE and MAJWG meetings to share information on their activities in order to avoid duplication of activities with other mine action actors. NRCS staff and volunteers contributed to the production of MAJWG dissemination materials such as flip charts, leaflets and posters which are used for MRE activities and were involved in the field-testing of these materials.

Although clearing of mine/IED fields marks an incredible achievement, it does not mean the threat from explosive devices has disappeared. Safe behaviour and reporting of explosive devices found have contributed to the decrease in the number of incidents and victims. Nevertheless, in 2011 alone, 22 persons were injured and nine killed in 21 different incidents. Although the number of victims has steadily decreased since 2007, there are still some explosive ordnances left behind that threaten to injure and claim lives in the future. It is therefore necessary to continue with preventive educational activities in the coming years. Funding for such work is secured and available through Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF).

Apart from awareness sessions conducted in schools, in cooperation with the Department of Education, there is a need to continue activities in affected communities. In this respect, the NRCS has proven experience and capacity, and therefore, it is one of the best-placed organisations to carry out preventative educational activities. With the funding received from Local Peace Committees (LPC), the NRCS was able to carry out the activities in 21 districts and has the capacity to do more. Apart from promotion of safe behaviour and integration of basic safety messages into their other programs and activities, NRCS will also continue to facilitate victims' access to services and entitlements provided by the government.

⁶ 267 IED-fields in Nepal have been cleared by the end of 2011. Remaining 6 IED-fields will be cleared in 2012.

VI. ROLE OF NRCS IN FUTURE

With its presence in all 75 districts of Nepal, NRCS has the mandate to provide humanitarian services to the population in need. With over 6 years experience in saving lives and limbs, NRCS has the capacity to be the major organization to disseminate and educate the Nepali people on the risks of mines and explosive remnants of war.

Role of Various Components of NRCS

Role of NRCS Headquarters

- Maintains contact and coordinates its work with the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction and other agencies working on Mine Risk Education/Mine Action
- Maintains contact, coordinates and shares relevant information with NRCS DCs
- Develops programme proposals, education and communication materials if and where required
- Participates in meetings, workshops and seminars.
- Analyses and shares information about the problem with concerned DCs.

Role of NRCS District Chapters

- Maintain contact and coordinate its work with the Local Peace Committees at the District level.
- Implement MRE and disseminate other relevant information in coordination with LPCs.
- Participate in District level meetings, workshops and seminars.
- Provide training to new youth volunteers on MRE to enhance their knowledge and capacity to conduct MRE sessions, if and where required.

Role of NRCS Sub-Chapters

- Maintain contact and coordinate its work with VDC level LPCs.
- Implement activities in coordination with LPCs on VDC level.
- Build capacity of new youth volunteers to make them aware and capable of delivering MRE sessions, if and where required.

Role of MRE Focal Persons

- Coordinate activities with NRCS HQ.
- In coordination with NRCS HQ, district chapter, sub-chapters and juniors and youth Red Cross circles disseminate information on MRE programme and activities.
- Prepare and submit reports to NRCS DCs upon completion of the activities.
- Carry out other activities and duties of the MRE focal person.

VII. BASIC SAFETY

Basic Safety Messages

- All explosive devices are dangerous and designed to kill or injure over a great distance
- Explosion usually affects not only the person who handles the device but also bystanders
- Keeping an explosive device in the house can result in not only damage to the house but also a loss of life of family members

Therefore, if you see an unknown or suspicious object or an explosive device:

Do not approach it!

Remember the exact place!

Inform adults or the authorities immediately so that no one else is killed or injured.

Only the Nepal Army and Armed Police Force have the capacity to deal with and dispose of the explosive devices safely.

Do not forget to share these basic safety messages with your families, friends and neighbours.

HERO OF SINDHUPALCHOWK

On 11 October 2011, 14-year-old Jhalak Shrestha from Attarpur VDC-8, Sikle, Sindhupalchowk, found a socket bomb in his grandfather's agricultural field while he was cutting grass. Since what he had found was similar to what he had seen Maoist cadres carrying during the armed conflict, he knew that those objects were dangerous. He immediately returned to his house and informed his father about it.

His father, in turn, informed local police who together with the family recovered a total of five socket bombs from the area. The explosive devices were later safely diffused. Thus, a small boy's prompt action saved lives of many in Sindhupalchowk.

PICTORAL MESSAGE ON SAFE BEHAVIOUR ⁷



Do not approach it!



Remember the the exact place!



Inform adults or the authorities immediately so that no one else is killed or injured.



Only the Nepal Army and Armed Police Force have the capacity to deal with and dispose of the explosive devices safely.



Do not forget to share these basic safety messages with your families, friends and neighbours.

⁷ The materials used in this section has been taken from Mine Risk Education Flipcharts produced by the Mine Action Joint Working Group (MAJWG) Nepal.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Summary of ICRC-NRCS MRE Programme

S.N.	Districts ⁸	MRE session organized years	No. of EMRE sessions	No. of MRE Sessions	No. of VDCs included	No. of Schools included	Total beneficiaries
1	Taplejung	2007		26	2	24	1049
2	Panchthar	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010		136	93	43	6012
3	Ilam	2010	3				325
4	Jhapa	2007, 2008		35	25	10	1928
5	Sankhuwasava	2011	2				350
6	Terhathum	2006, 2007, 2008		144	25	119	7300
7	Bhojpur	2009	10				650
8	Dhankuta	2007		6	1	5	222
9	Morang	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010		109	38	71	4507
10	Sunsari	2009	4				700
11	Solukhumbu	2010	5				1170
12	Okhaldhunga	2010	2				650
13	Khotang	2007, 2008, 2009	4	75	7	69	4809
14	Udayapur	2010	2				375
15	Saptari	2010	4				350
16	Siraha	2006, 2007, 2008		102	56	46	4102
17	Dolakha	2005, 2006, 2007, 2008	3	125	58	67	7030
18	Ramechhap	2007	4	18	9	9	1707
19	Sindhuli	2007, 2008		54	41	13	2103
20	Sarlahi	2006, 2007, 2009, 2010	3	44	24	16	3397

⁸ No MRE or EMRE sessions have been conducted in Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Gorkha, Baglung and Parbat districts till Nov 2011.

S.N.	Districts ⁸	MRE session organized years	No. of EMRE sessions	No. of MRE Sessions	No. of VDCs included	No. of Schools included	Total beneficiaries
21	Mahottari	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010		179	151	28	8087
22	Dhanusa	2007,2008	5	40	22	18	3100
23	Chitwan	2005, 2006,2007, 2008, 2009, 2010	8	183	83	97	15857
24	Makwanpur	2007,2008	5	63	16	47	3050
25	Bara	2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010	5	175	73	113	8675
26	Parsa	2006, 2007, 2009, 2010	6	126	32	94	7589
27	Rautahat	2007, 2008, 2009, 2011	2	96	72	34	4040
28	Rasuwa	2009	3				650
29	Dhading	2005,2006,2007		78	23	56	3567
30	Sindhupalchok	2005, 2006,2007, 2010, 2011	8	60	32	28	5090
31	Kavrepalanchok	2005, 2006, 2007, 2008		110	18	92	5490
32	Nuwakot	2010	3				970
33	Bhaktapur	2011	1		1		35
34	Lamjung	2008, 2010, 2011	12	37	16	21	4902
35	Tanahun	2007, 2009	3	27	6	21	2760
36	Kaski	2011	3				670
37	Syangja	2010	3				500
38	Manang	2011	3				250
39	Mustang	2009	4				300
40	Myagdi	2010	2				300
41	Nawalparasi	2007		27			875
42	Rupendehi	2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009	2	156	31	124	8650
43	Kapilvastu	2007,2008		18	6	12	851
44	Gulmi	2007,2008	4	41	4	37	4927
45	Argakhanchi	2006,2007		77	53	25	3878
46	Palpa	2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010	7	157	63	153	11025

S.N.	Districts ⁸	MRE session organized years	No. of EMRE sessions	No. of MRE Sessions	No. of VDCs included	No. of Schools included	Total beneficiaries
47	Rolpa	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010	10	66	37	30	5213
48	Rukum	2007, 2008	2	30	20	25	1744
49	Salyan	2007	3	18	7	11	1570
50	Pyuthan	2009	1	25	1	24	1260
51	Dang	2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010	6	183	118	64	9039
52	Dailekh	2006, 2007, 2009		57	6	46	3365
53	Jajarkot	2007, 2009		39	30	9	2489
54	Surkhet	2006, 2007, 2008		102	37	65	4972
55	Banke	2005, 2006, 2007		71	48	23	3798
56	Bardia	2007, 2008		28	10	18	2558
57	Humla	2009, 2010, 2011	5				521
58	Mugu	2011	1				70
59	Kalikot	2007, 2008, 2009	3	59	21	38	2166
60	Jumla	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010	4	42	15	27	3156
61	Dolpa	2007	1	3			200
62	Bajhang	2007, 2009, 2010	2	16	13	33	1585
63	Bajura	2011	2				400
64	Achham	2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011	4	142	61	71	7398
65	Doti	2007, 2009, 2010	2	17	9	8	845
66	Kailali	2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010	10	175	84	92	10124
67	Darchula	2009	2				410
68	Baitadi	2008		30	4	26	1516
69	Dadeldhura	2009	3				350
70	Kanchanpur	2006, 2007		70	68	2	3264
			196	3697	1670	2104	222837

Annex 2: List of NRCS DCs and Their MRE Resource Persons

Districts	NRCS DCs capacity covered	Contact No
Taplejung	Ms. Nira Gurung, Mr. Prabin Baniyan	024-460102
Panchthar	Mr. Prem Nepal, Mr. Dipendra Rai, Mr. Pampha B.K.	024-520273
Jhapa	Mr. Prakash Karki	023-520102
Terhathum	Ms. Sapana Koirala, Mr. Birendra Shrestha Ms. Kamala Sangraula	026-460101, 460141
Bhojpur	Mr. Dhruv Shrestha	029-420137
Dhankuta	Ms. Sanjita Pradhan, Mr. Dipak Bhujel	026-520352
Morang	Mr. Jyoti Kafle, Mr. Man Bahadur Lamichane Ms. Rita Bhattarai	021-523325
Khotang	Mr. Bhumiraj Saiju, Ms. Kopila Budhathoki Mr. Lok Maya Thapa, Mr. Tek Bahadur Manandhar	036-420282
Siraha	Mr. Bijay Kumar Yadav	033-520095, 520561
Dolakha	Mr. Gokarna Prasad Pokheral, Ms. Samjhana Shrestha	049-421374
Sindhuli	Mr. Deep Narayan Shrestha, Mr. Pawan Pakhrin Mr. Tikajang Thapa	047-520120
Sarlahi	Mr. Shashi Shekhar Kushwaha, Mr. Raj Kumar Pandit	046-520195
Mahottari	Mr. Vijay Chaudhary, Mr. Umesh Mishra	044-520133, 520633
Dhanusa	Mr. Naresh Singh, Mr. Khagendra Kumar Singh Ms. Nisha Yadav, Mr. Mukesh Yadav	041-520870
Chitwan	Mr. Kedar Koirala, Mr. Rajendra Prasad Pathak Ms. Sushmita Shrama, Ms. Sunita Dhakal, Mr. Nabin Tiwari Ms. Goma Adhikari, Mr. Ramkrishna Poudel	056-520133, 526265
Makwanpur	Ms. Janak Lamsal, Ms. Sarita Dahal	057-520711
Bara	Mr. Dilli Singh Waiba, Mr. Uday Nepal Mr. Sambhu Kumar Gupta	053-692676
Parsa	Mr. Devendra Yadav, Mr. Prabin Kumar Khatri Ms. Yasodha Bastola, Ms. Rita Thapa	051-522525, 527864
Rautahat	Mr. Sudhir Kumar Jha, Ms. Nilu Kumari Jha	055-520141, 520927
Dhading	Ms. Garui Nepal, Mr. Balam Rajal, Mr. Badri Lamsal Ms. Laxmi Shah	010-520137
Kavrepalanchok	Mr. Maheshwor Jangam, Ms. Uma Basnet	011-661431
Lamjung	Mr. Ganguram Giri, Mr Asbin Subedi	066-520169
Tanahun	Mr. Bimal Giri	065-560169, 561720
Myagdi	Mr. Sarada Pahari, Ms. Ishwor Subedi	069-520169, 520116
Nawalparasi	Mr. Gopal Prasad Sharma, Ms. Sobha Panday	078-520526, 520527

Districts	NRCS DCs capacity covered	Contact No
Rupendehi	Mr. R Mohammad Khan, Mr. Sulav Nepal Ms. Sangita Neupane, Mr. Prajwal Dhital Mr. Laxmi Gaire	071-520263
Kapilvastu	Mr. Deepak Prasad Bhusal	076-560015, 561067
Gulmi	Mr. Man Singh Panthi, Mr. Ghanashyam Tandon	079-520163, 690163
Argakhanchi	Mr. Bishnu Prasad Parajuli	077-420275
Palpa	Ms. Namita Basyal, Ms. Sushila Gaire	075-520080
Rolpa	Mr. Chandra Bahadur Gharti Magar Mr. Karna Bahadur Dangi	086-680151, 440036
Rukum	Mr. Bishnu Oli, Mr. Keshan Kumar Kshetreeyal Mr. Kuber Khadka, Mr. Suresh Khattri	088-530145, 530017
Salyan	Ms. Elina Basnet, Mr. Krishna Bahadur Khadka Mr. Rakesh Shrestha, Mr. Sebak Raj Neupane	088-520004
Pyuthan	Ms. Pratikshya Thapaliya, Mr. Narayan Pandey	086-420021
Dang	Ms. Chandrika Neupane, Mr. Ramsurat Yadav	082-520022
Dailekh	Mr. Bhakta Bahadur Thapa, Mr. Bikash Thapa Mr. Topendra Sijapati, Ms. Ishu Thapa, Ms. Sita Thapa	089-420179
Jajarkot	Mr. Lokendra Raj Thapa, Mr. Haansi Lal Pant	089-430042
Surkhet	Mr. Yagyannarayan Subedi, Mr. Khagendra Puri Mr. Dipendra Raj Koirala	083-520310, 523518
Banke	Mr. Dolakh B. Dangi, Mr. Dhingaraj Bajgain Ms. Susma Sharma, Mr. Salikram Giri	081-520104, 521256
Bardiya	Mr. Ghanshyam Gautam, Ms. Anju Upadhaya Mr. Ram Kumar Chaudhari, Ms. Rama Dhakal	084-420125, 520845
Humla	Mr. Nar Bahadur Rokaya, Mr. Tsepal Dorje Lama	087-680130
Mugu	Mr. Tilak Bahadur Malla, Mr. Hari Bahadur Bitalu Mr. Jay Bahadur Malla, Mr. Nitendra Malla Ms. Sarita Rokaya	087-460007
Kalikot	Ms. Krishna Kala Panday, Mr. Kamal Bahadur Shahi	087-440125
Jumla	Ms. Bhagwati Shrestha, Mr. Hari Gopal Chaulagain	087-520036
Bajhang	Ms. Parmila Joshi, Ms. Parvati Singh, Mr. Ramesh K.C. Mr. Suresh Nepali	092-421133
Bajura	Mr. Ram Bahadur Shahi	097-541109
Achham	Mr. Briakesh Singh Bogati, Mr. Ganesh Khadka Mr. Tarak Bahadur Rawal, Mr. Khem Prasad Bhattarai	097-620148
Doti	Mr. Subash Shrestha, Mr. Tilak Bahadur Mahara	094-420228
Kailali	Mr. Laxman Joshi, Mr. Iswari Bam	091-521333, 523091
Baitadi	Mr. Hemraj Bhatta, Mr. Tarini Dutta Pandey	095-520156, 520356
Dadeldhura	Mr. Surendra Singh Aire, Ms. Sarashwoti Khadka	096-420463, 420553
Kanchanpur	Mr. Prakash Pandey, Ms. Nisha Thapa	099-523983, 525588

Annex 3: Data Tables⁹

TABLE 2 | **Activity of Victims When Explosion Occurred**

Activity of injured persons/ age and gender	Boy	Girl	Man	Woman	Unknown	Total	%
Tampering/Handling devices- others/playing & safe-keeping/ Intentionally striking/Throwing ED	106	34	34	14	1	189	38.7%
Burning ED	5	1	4	3	0	13	2.7%
Bystander/near victims	34	12	35	30	0	111	22.7%
Others/ producing socket bomb	16	7	25	8	0	56	11.5%
Unknown Activity	13	4	11	7	0	35	7.2%
Travelling	7	3	14	5	0	29	5.9%
Collecting firewood/cutting grass/Herding	3	2	8	11	0	24	4.9%
Labour work	1	0	3	4	0	8	1.6%
Cleaning room, forest, courtyard	1	0	5	1	0	7	1.4%
Removing Block/Flag/Banner	1	0	4	0	1	6	1.2%
Farming	1	2	2	0	0	5	1.0%
Stepping	1	1	0	2	0	4	0.8%
Demining	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.2%
Grand total	189	66	146	85	2	488	

TABLE 3 | **Type of Casualties per Explosive Device**

Type of Device	Injured	Killed	Total	%
Socket Bomb	124	18	142	29%
Unknown/other IED	92	29	121	25%
Sutali Bomb	101	0	101	21%
Roadblock Booby Trap	5	5	10	2%
Tiffin Bomb	6	0	6	1%
Steel Tiffin box bomb	4	1	5	1%
Pipe Bomb	3	2	5	1%
Pressure Cooker Bomb	3	0	3	1%
SF Defensive IED	2	1	3	1%

⁹ All the analysis is based on the data collected by INSEC on behalf of the Mine Action Joint Working Group Nepal

Type of Device	Injured	Killed	Total	%
Detonator	17	1	18	4%
Hand Grenade	8	5	13	3%
Mortar Shell	7	6	13	3%
Other ED	4	1	5	1%
Unknown Mine	7	2	9	2%
Blast Mine	7	1	8	2%
Stake Mine	2	1	3	1%
Claymore Mine	2	0	2	0.4%
Unknown Device	13	8	21	4%
Total	407	81	488	

TABLE 4 | **Victims per Type of Explosive Devices According to Place of Incident**

Place of incident	IED	Mine	Other ED	Unknown Device	Total
Home	139		25	10	174
Farm	67		8	1	76
Road	54			2	56
Village and Town	33		6		39
Forest and Jungle	17	1	5	4	27
Other places	25				25
Path	19		4		23
Near Security Force Base	4	13		1	18
School	8			3	11
Grassland	9				9
Near Tower		8			8
Government Office	7				7
Near Health Post	7				7
River Bank	4				4
Factory	2				2
Market			1		1
Unknown Place	1				1
Total	396	22	49	21	488

ICRC 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 armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC 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 Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



ICRC

NRCS MISSION

The mission of the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) is to relieve human suffering and to reduce vulnerability through community participation and mobilization of an increased number of volunteers, by mobilizing the power of humanity through expansion and strengthening of the organizational structure of the society and by building links with governmental and non-governmental organization.

