

James Madison University

JMU Scholarly Commons

Global CWD Repository

Center for International Stabilization and
Recovery

8-2018

The Reduction of Weapons-Related Violence: A Global Approach to Saving Lives

Humanity and Inclusion

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-globalcwd>



Part of the [Defense and Security Studies Commons](#), [Peace and Conflict Studies Commons](#), [Public Policy Commons](#), and the [Social Policy Commons](#)

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at JMU Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Global CWD Repository by an authorized administrator of JMU Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact dc_admin@jmu.edu.



© Jean-Jacques Bernard / HI



The reduction of weapons-related violence:

A global approach to saving lives



The “Stop Bombing Civilians” campaign
The use of explosive devices in populated areas results in a very large number of civilian casualties. HI is working to ensure States, and, more generally, armed actors, refrain from actions banned under international humanitarian law. To this end, the organization co-founded the INEW (International Network on Explosive Weapons) coalition of international organizations.

Extensive experience and a long-standing commitment

HI's history is closely intertwined with the fight against armed violence, including the use of anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosive remnants of war, and the proliferation of light and small caliber weapons. The history of Humanity & Inclusion has been marked by our humanitarian commitment to reducing the impact of conventional weapons on civilian populations. HI was founded in 1982 to help Cambodian victims of landmines, and in 1992, we launched the first of many demining programs. Today, the organization continues to advocate for the landmine and cluster munitions ban treaties and runs victim assistance, demining, and risk prevention programs in some of the world's most dangerous places, including Syria and Afghanistan.

Unique expertise

Thanks to its solid experience in the world's most landmine polluted countries, HI uses a specific approach which combines actions against explosive remnants of war and light weapons, with emergency interventions and prospects for development. Our objective is to provide the most rapid and best-adapted response possible, thereby helping to restore safety and promote the development of affected areas.

What sets us apart is our ability to implement projects that cover the four main pillars of humanitarian action against mines.

Demining and land clearance: releasing land to populations

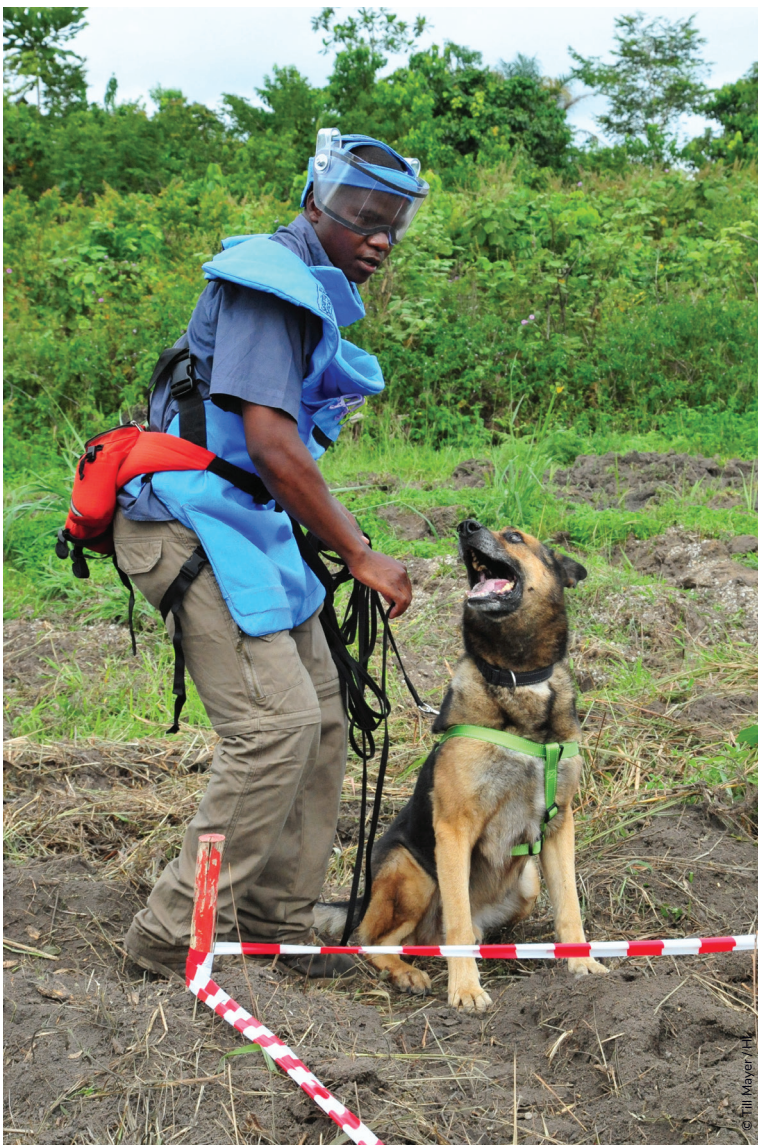
The objective of demining operations is to release safe land back to the local population, to reduce accidents, to guarantee the safety of individuals, and to provide economic security for local populations. This allows displaced people and refugees to return home in safety, rebuild, and use their land again.

HI uses a range of practices, tools, and techniques:

- The mine clearance of contaminated areas is carried out by teams of deminers who check the sites, clear them, and make them safe
- The destruction of isolated explosive devices is implemented at the request of the local authorities

- The management and making safe of stocks of explosive weapons is a valuable component implemented following a cease-fire to avoid accidents or the uncontrolled spread of weapons

The organization also uses other complementary techniques: manual demining covers a set of operations carried out by teams of trained individuals. They may be supported by armored machines which demine or, more simply, prepare the ground by cutting down vegetation, or by explosives detection dogs who facilitate the deminers' work.



Innovation to prepare for the future...

Already a pioneer in survey techniques and the use of mine detection dogs, HI, is working with a network of universities on a ground-breaking research project for destroying explosive remnants of war using an environmentally sound process.



Our mine clearance operations rely on appropriate and effective study techniques in order to confirm the presence of explosive remnants of war in an area. A technical survey provides a formal confirmation or refutation, which allows us to optimize and plan our interventions.

Risk education for accident prevention

Our expertise, grounded in 20 years of action, favors a comprehensive approach to risk education. The objective is to help affected communities better manage risks in order to reduce the number of accidents. Prevention comes from awareness and knowing the right behaviors to adopt when confronted with danger.

Community liaison, carried out by trained local workers, builds a relationship of mutual trust with communities, and allows for discussion and key information to be fed back, such as the presence of unidentified devices in the area. This work is done in conjunction with the surveyors and deminers because it enables inhabitants to better protect themselves and to help mark out high-risk areas.

Community-based risk education is for stable populations living close to areas contaminated by explosive devices. We train educators within the communities who undertake sustainable risk prevention work themselves.

Risk education in emergency settings targets refugees and vulnerable displaced persons. We intervene as soon as conflict endangers a population through the presence of unexploded ordnance (newly mined areas, the presence of explosive devices on route used by fleeing populations, etc.).

Risk education on light and small caliber weapons is intended to limit accidents caused by the inappropriate use and proliferation of these weapons: media campaigns (primarily national radio broadcasts), awareness-raising sessions, teacher training, and training for members of civil society and local authorities are organized to better inform them and promote appropriate conduct in order to reduce the risk of accidents.

FOCUS

A global approach based on the needs of local populations

HI takes an innovative approach to mine action by combining several complementary activities. The organization jointly implements demining, risk awareness and victim assistance activities through teams with complementary technical skills. These activities can be implemented in emergency response or development settings. This approach prevents the juxtaposition of compartmentalized and more costly actions with a limited impact. By including people from the start of projects, we are also better able to meet their needs and provide them with sustainable support.



21 mine action projects
implemented in **15** countries⁽¹⁾

More than **7** million square meters
of land cleared of mines between 2011 and 2016

Around **1.3** million people
living in areas cleared of mines by our teams in 2014

A total of **599,543**
people made aware⁽³⁾ of the dangers of weapons in 2015

Victim assistance, "living in dignity"

From medical interventions to social inclusion, HI provides a range of solutions covering all aspects of assistance for the victims of mines and explosive remnants of war:

- **Rehabilitation:** we provide technical support to physical and functional rehabilitation centers and train professionals working in rehabilitation (physical therapists, orthoprosthesis technicians, occupational therapists, etc.)
- **Psychosocial support:** we set up support networks and connect survivors to them
- **Economic inclusion:** we provide victims with education, professional training, jobs, and access to social and rehabilitation services
- **Support for governments:** we assist governments in implementing public policies to help the victims of mines, in accordance with the obligations set out in international treaties, in order to provide a full response to the needs of the survivors of these weapons

Advocacy campaigns for changes in policy

In 1992, HI, together with other NGOs, launched the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, a powerful campaign that led to the Ottawa Treaty banning the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. It requires States to commit to demining their territory and to providing funding for demining programs and victim assistance. HI was named co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize with other NGOs for this campaign. The initiative was reiterated with the Oslo Treaty, signed in 2008, banning cluster munitions.

The organization's legitimacy and strength is based on its:

- **Ability to testify to the scale of the threat mines and cluster munitions pose, and to give a holistic view of how to tackle the problem.** It campaigns at the national and international levels to inform and raise the awareness of the general public and political representatives, and launches vast international petition campaigns.
- **Commitment to monitoring the implementation of treaties and putting pressure on States to ensure they uphold their commitments.**
- **Desire and willingness to act as a spokesperson for victims of these weapons by collecting and publishing their testimonies and working with those who would like to participate in international conferences.**

¹ in 2016 - ² in 2016

Main partners

- > United Nation Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- > Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- > International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)

- > MAG, Halo Trust, Danish Church Aid, Danish Demining Group, and Norwegian People's Aid
- > Centers for humanitarian demining (local authorities), and all countries in which HI operates

Key figures

every day
90 people

are killed or maimed
by explosive weapons worldwide⁽¹⁾



57 states
and
4 territories

were still contaminated by mines in 2014⁽²⁾

More than

41,000

people were killed or injured
by explosive weapons in 2014.
When these weapons
were used in populated areas,



92%
of the victims were
civilians⁽³⁾

Out of

875 million

light and small calibre weapons
in circulation worldwide,

75%
are in civilian hands⁽⁴⁾



© Jean-Jacques Palma / OCHA

Sarneta, a Mozambican deminer trained by HI:

"We often work near villages and fields being farmed and I know that each explosive device and every mine we remove represents a life saved. I started with manual demining, then I asked to be trained on demining machines. They prepare the ground and make it possible to clear difficult hilly or wooded areas more quickly. The most effective one is an enormous 30-ton armored machine."

¹ Unacceptable Harm - Monitoring Explosive Violence 2015 (AOAV).

² Landmine Monitor 2015.

³ HI 2015.

⁴ GRIP.