Libya

Country Profile

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Somalia is not known to have produced or exported anti-personnel landmines to the past, however, landmines and mines are plentiful and can be easily bought from weapons markets. This easy access allows fighting clans to use landmines to defend their territory and increase their chances of winning engagements.

Somalia is unable to accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention due to the systemic lack of Somaliland’s government since the fall of the warlord regime of Siad Barre in January 1991. In August 2004, the Transitional Federal Government was formed.

Humanitarian Implications

The landmine problem in Somalia has a socioeconomic impact with a serious economic impact on many vulnerable groups living in areas of minimal or no security. Somalia is one of the poorest countries in the world.

The total number of deaths from landmines in the country is not known. In 2004, 91 new casualties were recorded in 20 landmine incidents. This number is an increase over 2003; however, these figures are not consistent due to the lack of security. Local human rights groups have indicated that the number of landmine deaths may be significantly underestimated. The majority of incidents appear to be caused by anti-vehicle mines.

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