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How Students and Educators Can Get Involved in Mine Action

Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR)

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Students have a number of available options for getting involved in helping the global mine action community. Below are some examples of programs you can participate!

**Adopt-A-Minefield and Landmine Survivors Network** have joined forces to create “That Landmine Thing.” This campaign was created for and by students. The effort helps clear minefields, assist survivors, and raise awareness about the mine problem. Since it began, the campaign has involved over 1,000 schools and raised over $300,000.

To register your school, e-mail info@thatlandminething.org.

This year, Clear Path International has two Grassroots Fundraising Appeals you can support:

- **AbilityTrek** an amputee cyclist from North Carolina is going to ride his bike around the world to raise funds and awareness of the landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) issue. This grassroots effort will involve pledging money per mile for the rider—if a student or youth group can raise $1 a penny per mile, it would total $130 at the end of his ride. Students can learn about the issue, geography, and the human toll of landmines and UXO while raising funds for this cause.

- **Raising Funds for Landmine Survivors** has designed the “Landmines Blow!” campaign to raise funds for mine action. Students can get involved by:
  - Start a letter-writing campaign.
  - Think outside the box!
  - Create a unique fundraising event.

Contact us via www.landminesblow.org for more information.

- **Global Landmine Initiative** is an educational project that enhances educational, cultural and humanitarian activities. Contact Kimberly McCasland at kmccasland@marshall-legacy.org.

- **The Global Landmine Initiative** is one of PTPI’s many educational programs aimed at reaching international high priorities. Recently, its efforts have focused on Sri Lanka. PTPI assistance supports a demining team, plus education and aftercare for mine survivors. Following the tsunami of December 2004, efforts expanded to build three schools. PTPI Student and Adult Chapters have embraced this effort through fundraisers to raise awareness and donations, as well as a Landmine Awareness Festival.

Here’s how you can help:

- **Join or create a PTPI Student Chapter** to enhance educational, cultural and humanitarian activities.
- **Coordinate special events** at your school to raise awareness and funds. PTPI offers a variety of high school student materials and activities. PTPI also provides educational and humanitarian forums to raise awareness for this and other global humanitarian needs.

**Matching Grant** PTPI currently has a matching grant from the U.S. Department of State to raise civil society support for mine action. It is encouraging people and encouraging them to give to a cause. Matching grants can be matched to assist landmine and UXO victims.

For more information, contact info@ptpi.org.

**Freedom Fields USA** has designed the Landmine Awareness Education Program for Children. The program is an excellent way to learn about the landmine problem and ways to help solve it. They are challenged to think beyond their own local fund and be responsible, active global citizens.

This informative packet is for teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools. It includes an educational DVD, a world landmine map, classroom activities and a list of resources. For those interested, we also have "Change For Children," an in-school fundraising program. Contact Jennifer Lachman at jennifer.lachman@magamerica.org or (831) 644-6154 to request materials.

**Landmine-related resources/further reading**

**MAIC website features**

- **Micro Action News/What’s New** — http://maic.jmu.edu/maic/micronews
- **The Journal of Mine Action** — http://maic.jmu.edu/journal/index
- **Research Tools** — http://maic.jmu.edu/research/research.htm
- **Landmine Learning Resource** — http://maic.jmu.edu/research/primer.index.htm
- **General Mine Action Resources** — http://www.rootsofpeace.org
- **Mine Action Centers** — http://maic.jmu.edu/orms/micmac.htm

**To Walk the Earth in Safety** www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/walkearth/

The U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action Program is the largest program of its kind in the world. These illustrated annual reports provide short descriptions of the landmines and explosive remnants of war in each country receiving U.S. mine action assistance. They also detail the precise nature of that assistance and the results achieved. Student mine awareness report (6th Edition) is available at www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/walkearth/2006/.

**Landmine Monitor Report** www.icbl.org

An annual, comprehensive report on the mine situation made up of individual articles for each country.

**E-MINE** www.mineaction.org

Website for mine action efforts of the different U.N. entities.

**International humanitarian news centers**

- **Relief Web** www.reliefweb.int
- **Alliance** http://www.alliance.allianceonline.net
- **IRIN News** http://irinnews.org

**The global landmine problem:** an opportunity for students and educators to help resolve it

Abandoned landmines and explosive remnants of war have left humankind with a deadly legacy. This post-conflict debris affects at least 60 countries, and kills or injures thousands of civilians each year. Persistent landmines keep people from leading normal, productive lives. They hinder agriculture and economic growth, and they create the lasting stigma and loss of life in areas ruined by armed conflict. This situation can change, however, through the combined efforts of governments and private citizens.

“Humanitarian mine action” is the field that involves reducing the social, economic and environmental effects of mines and unexploded remnants (UXO) such as bombs, grenades, etc. Mine action is not just about removing mines and destroying UXO. It is also about people and societies and how landmines affect them. The goal of mine action is to deal with victims’ needs and reduce the risk posed by landmines.

Mine clearance helps people live safely and lets economic and social development occur more freely. Mine action is a central part of any broad effort to rebuild and heal the wounds of war.

Between 1992 and 2002 alone, governments contributed over $1.7 billion to the cause of mine action. The total U.S. contribution surpassed $1 billion in 2005. These official efforts have resulted in significant reductions in casualties and a substantial return of mined land to safe, productive use.

Yet governments alone cannot solve the numerous complex challenges presented by the landmine problem. As we have seen, there are many challenges facing landmine action.

Our nation’s youth have a huge capacity for contributing to mine action. Thus, one of the greatest ways to make a difference on this issue is to educate young people. Help them start programs in local schools, churches or neighborhoods. Students can carry out projects that raise awareness in their community and persuade others to become involved. Such projects encourage them to develop critical thinking and leadership skills, creativity, teamwork, and community service. They can work with local civic groups to raise money or other contributions that are vitally needed.

Raising funds for others is true service learning because it requires students learn about the issue and make a real difference in the form of financial support.

This packet outlines just a few of the many ways you can help solve the landmine problem. Whatever course of action you choose, we applaud you for deciding to inform yourself and get involved! Please keep reading for further information to help you learn more about the landmine issue and how students can employ service learning to make a difference in the world of mine action.

**Did you know?**

The UN General Assembly declared April 4, 2006 the first annual International Day for Mine Awareness and Mine Action. The resolution was passed on December 10, 2005 and was adopted by governments alone and by the General Assembly. The International Day is commemorated around the world to raise awareness about landmines and progress toward their eradication.

Last year, people and organizations in at least 30 countries held events to observe it, according to the United Nations. This day is a great opportunity for students to host mine action activities in their own lives and communities or even just to take time to learn more about the landmine issue.

If you decide to host an event for International Mine Action Day, please e-mail us the details at maic@jmu.edu.
**m i n e   a c t i o n   o r g a n i z a t i o n s**

**Adopt-A-Minefield**
www.adoptamineminefield.com
Adopt-A-Minefield is a program that helps save lives by raising funds for mine clearance and survivor assistance and by raising awareness about the landmine problem.

**Canadian Landmine Foundation**
www.canadianlandmine.org
The Canadian Landmine Foundation was formed as a registered charity with a mission: to raise awareness & funds to end the human and economic suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines.

**Center for International Rehabilitation**
www.cironline.org
The Center for International Rehabilitation is a non-profit organization that develops technologies and programs to help people with disabilities worldwide reach their full potential.

**Children of Armenia Fund**
www.coafkids.org
COAF seeks to reverse the impoverished conditions affecting significant numbers of Armenia’s children by revitalizing Armenia’s villages and implementing projects that provide immediate and sustainable benefits to children and youth.

**Clear Path International**
www.clearpathinternational.org
CPI provides medical and social services to landmine survivors, their families and their communities in Southeast Asia.

**Danish Church Aid**
www.dca.dk
DanChurchAid is involved in mine action programs in several countries, with activities that focus on mine awareness, mine clearance, non-landmine building and advocacy activities.

**Freedom Fields USA**
www.freedomfieldsusa.org
Freedom Fields USA is a non-profit organization that removes abandoned landmines in war torn countries.

**Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining**
www.gichc.ch
The GICHD works toward a world free of anti-personnel landmines and the reduction of the impact of remnants of war by providing operational assistance, creating and sharing knowledge, and supporting instruments of international law.

**Global Care Unlimited**
www.globalcure.org
Global Care is a student-led organization designed to foster community inclusion, self-reliance, and economic independence.

**Help Handicapped International**
www.humptydumpty.net
HHI organizes free Jaipur foot and Calipers fitment camps and free distribution of wheelchairs, tricycles and crutches.

**International Railway Group- America**
www.magamericana.com
MAG America implements a range of activities including mine surveying and localized mine clearance, explosive ordnance disposal, mine risk education, stockpile destruction, and research and development for new demining technologies.

**Missouri State University**
www.missouristate.edu/polsci/landmines
Landmine Studies at Missouri State’s Department of Political Science provide comprehensive, hands-on in-academy training for students to learn about the global landmine crisis.

**One Sri Lanka Foundation**
www.onesrilanka.org
One Sri Lanka strives to raise funds from individuals and organizations across the world to completely eliminate the landmine menace in Sri Lanka and convert minefields to rice fields.

**Organization of American States**
http://oas.org
The OAS is an integrated effort to assist its Member States in addressing the problems caused by anti-personnel landmines.

**PeaceTrees Vietnam**
www.peacetreesvietnam.org
PeaceTrees Vietnam is a Vietnamese organization devoted to removing landmines and unexploded ordnance alongside the Vietnamese people to transform the destructive legacy of war into a safe and healthy future for the children of Quang Tri province.

**People to People International**
www.ptpi.org
PTPI enhances international understanding and friendship through grassroots education and development projects involving the exchange of ideas and experiences directly among peoples of different countries and diverse cultures.

**Polus Center for Social and Economic Development**
www.poluscenter.org
The Polus Center creates opportunities for disabled people and others to become empowered individuals, family members and community contributors. Activities include prosthesis outreach, employment opportunities, and disability training, education and advocacy.

**Problems of War Research Foundation**
www.pofsea.org
POF’s mission is to restore mobility and independence worldwide through projects and other disadvantaged persons suffering from orthopedic disabilities.

**R o o t s  o f  P e a c e**
www.rootspeace.org
Roots of Peace strives to rid the world of landmines by transforming minefields into thriving farmland. By turning “Menace” to “Opportunity”, Roots desmints landmines to restore the promise of hope and prosperity to afflicted communities.

**SAC**
www.smec.org
SAC serves as the coordination body for Landmine Impact Surveys. These surveys provide vital information to improve priority setting and take action to control the threat of mines by the year 2010.

**UNICEF**
www.unicef.org
UNICEF is the lead agency for mine risk education. UNICEF is also actively involved in victim assistance activities and in the promotion of a global ban on anti-personnel landmines.

**United Nations Mine Action Program**
www.un.org
The UNDP is responsible for assisting governments in building sustainable national capacities for long-term mine action efforts. UNDP funds for mine action and rehabilitation efforts.

**United Nations Foundation**
www.unfoundation.org
The UN Foundation seeks to support the goals and objectives of the United Nations in order to promote a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world, with special emphasis on economic, social, and environmental factors.

**United Nations Mine Action Service**
www.un.org
The UNMAS is the focal point for all mine-related issues and activities. It provides mine action assistance in the context of humanitarian emergencies and peacekeeping operations.

**U.S. Department of State**
www.state.gov/t/pm/wra/nr/wha/cuu/22480.htm
The US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement seeks to support the goals and objectives of the United Nations in order to promote a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world, with special emphasis on economic, social, and environmental factors.

**Veterans for America**
http://www.veteransforamerica.org/
Veterans for America is a non-profit organization that unites veterans to address the causes, conduct, and consequences of war. VFA’s Information Management and Mine Action Program is literally charting a course to safety and peace through former battlefields and minefields in numerous countries.

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund**
www.vvmf.org
Project RENEW is VVMF’s humanitarian program designed to reduce the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance in Vietnam.

**World Rehabilitation Fund**
www.worldrehabfund.org
The World Rehabilitation Fund is the pioneer organization devoted to providing rehabilitation programs for people with disabilities throughout the world.

**Worldwide Youth in Action**
www.wyia.org
One of the projects of the organization is the "Landmines Blow!" project about the global landmine and unsafe water crises.