Landmine Survivors Network

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National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and NGOs in many other countries

- To collect and analyze, where possible, data for use in the development of appropriate mine action programs.

More than 80 percent of the funds will be allocated to ICRC programs which provide surgical care, medical assistance and physical rehabilitation for mine victims within the context of the organization's overall assistance to the war wounded. The ICRC is about to open three new field centers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. It also provides direct medical assistance to health facilities and appropriate training for nurses, doctors and surgeons treating mine victims.

In cooperation with a number of National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC currently runs mine awareness programs in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia. Similar programs are being drawn up in Angola, Georgia and Sudan. They aim to reduce the risk of mine-related death or injury by providing people in mine-affected areas with information on the precautions to be taken until the mines can be cleared.

Since February 1994, the ICRC and the entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have been actively involved in the drive to impose a total ban on anti-personnel mines, running public awareness campaigns and encouraging diplomatic and military circles to support their efforts. These efforts will continue in order to achieve universal acceptance of the Ottawa Treaty, to coordinate and improve the care given to victims, and to extend preventive mine awareness programs.

The ICRC is currently running 25 limb-fitting and rehabilitation programs in 13 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Iraq, Kenya, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan and Uganda. Twenty-four ICRC projects in 12 other countries have now been handed over to local or international NGO control, although many continue to receive financial and technical support from the ICRC. In a number of countries, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, supported by their International Federation, care for mine-injured people through health, rehabilitation and social welfare programs.

In addition to these activities, the ICRC and national societies are conducting mine awareness programs in several countries in order to reduce the number of landmine incidents in mine-affected areas.

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**Landmine Survivors Network**

Landmine Survivors Network (LSN) works to help mine victims and their families recover through an integrated program of peer counseling, sports, and social and economic reintegration into their communities. In countries in the developing world where landmines are prevalent, survivors lose more than a leg or arm; they often lose their place as a valued and respected member of their society. LSN works with survivors and their families to support their efforts to retake their place and become productive members of their communities. For example, landmine survivors play a crucial role in landmine education, particularly for children within communities at risk.

Since its inception, LSN has been building a worldwide network to link landmine survivors with the resources available to help them. LSN is developing the first comprehensive database designed to track the rehabilitation needs of mine victims and the organizations that can channel urgently needed assistance to the impoverished survivors who need it most.

Today, the network is concentrating its efforts on the mine-polluted countries where most survivors live, including Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia and Montenegro. In each country, we are working to bring medical supplies, education and employment opportunities to thousands of survivors. LSN is on the steering committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), a coalition of more than 1,000 humanitarian, religious and development groups, that was a co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

**Profiles**

**Jersey White**

Jersey White, co-founder and director of LSN, stepped on a mine in Iraq in 1984 while hiking with friends. He has 18 years experience tracking the spread of weapons of mass destruction. A graduate of Brown University, White worked at the Brookings Institution prior to becoming assistant director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control in Washington, D.C. He has testified before Congress and published numerous articles in the New York Times.
Landmine Survivors Network

Landmine Survivors Network (LSN) works to help mine victims and their families recover through an integrated program of peer counseling, sports, and social and economic reintegration into their communities. In countries that develop working relationships with LSN, survivors lose more than a leg or an arm; they often lose their place as a valued and respected member of their society. LSN works with survivors and their families to support their efforts to re-integrate and become productive members of their communities.

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Jersey White, co-founder and director of LSN, stepped on a mine in Israel in 1984 while hiking with friends. He has 10 years experience tracking the spread of weapons of mass destruction. A graduate of Brown University, White worked at the Brookings Institution prior to becoming assistant director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control in Washington, D.C. He has testified before Congress and published numerous articles in the New York Times.
1997 treaty negotiations in Oslo, Norway.
• Establishment of working relationships with survivors in Africa, Asia, and Europe willing to promote cooperation on landmine issues, including better rehabilitation services.
• Development of an easy-to-use database to link landmine survivors with the resources available to help them.
• Over 35 public presentations and published articles. Please contact the editors for further information.

Northern People’s Aid

Founded in 1939, Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) is one of Norway’s largest non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Although NPA is currently involved in more than 300 projects in thirty countries, its work in Cambodia continues to be guided by the spirit of its founding principles: solidarity, unity, human dignity, peace, and freedom. The range of NPA’s projects is diverse, from extensive outreach programs for the people of Palestine, to short term emergency relief programs and long term development cooperation in over twelve countries in Africa, and more. One of NPA’s most notable efforts is its humanitarian demining activities, centered in Asia and Africa.

A History of Excellence

It should come as no surprise that the founding principles of the NPA should have guided it to take a place as a driving force behind the world-wide humanitarian demining effort. Starting in 1992 with mine work in Cambodia, NPA has expanded their operations into several other countries, especially Mozambique, Angola, and Iraq. In accordance with the spirit of its founding principles, NPA not only tackles the physical problem of landmines, but the social and political factors that make mines such a deterrent to the development process of these recovering countries. The landmine must be addressed not only as a physical threat, but also as a symbolic anchor on the efforts to rehabilitate and rebuild a country.

With this in mind, NPA has developed a multi-faceted mine program that is easily adaptable to individual local needs, but always contains the following elements:
• Mapping of mine fields—NPA is quick to point out that the mapping of mine fields is nothing new, but the social angle which the organization imparts to the activity is. To NPA, mapping is not only an aid to the operation of demining, but an important psychological step to empowering the local population by limiting their paralyzing fear of the mines.
• Training—NPA has developed a three-step program for training deminers, and a two-step program for training accommodation personnel, the eventual goal of both programs is to make the local population self-sufficient, and eliminate the need for Norwegian presence within five years.
• Demining—NPA’s demining operations are based on models used by the Norwegian Army, altered to fit peace time goals. NPA points out that it has set the official UN standards for demining in many areas.
• Technology—NPA is actively involved in the development of new demining equipment, with experienced project workers collaborating with organizations such as the Norwegian Armed Forces, the Norwegian Institute for Industrial Design, and The Foundation for Scientific and Industrial Research at the Norwegian Institute of Technology (SINTEF).

Local successfully cleared landmine fields in the Battle of Saigon in Vietnam. The foundation was laid for the development of new demining equipment, with experienced project workers collaborating with organizations such as the Norwegian Armed Forces, the Norwegian Institute for Industrial Design, and The Foundation for Scientific and Industrial Research at the Norwegian Institute of Technology (SINTEF).

Technology—(SINTEF)
• International campaign—Motivated by the everyday tragedy NPA bears witness to in its project countries, NPA supports the international ban on landmines, and takes an active part at both the national and international level in the international battle to ban landmines.

Some Individual Successes

Employing 505 deminers, 18 dogs and 2 demining machines, NPA is the largest operator in the mapping and clearance of mines in Angola. So far, the NPA surveying unit has managed to register the dimensions of the landmine problem in ten out of eighteen provinces and turn this valuable information over to the National Landmine Institute of Angola. Recent efforts include the use of new, time-saving technology to collect and analyze air samples to check for the presence of mines along roads. The samples are collected by mine proofing vehicles, and then given to specially trained dogs to sniff out the presence of mines.

In Mozambique, 1997 was a milestone year for NPA’s demining efforts. Control of the demining program was handed over to Mozambican personnel. NPA continues to support its Mozambican partners in their quest to eradicate the mines through measures for regional development, mine clearance, and organizational and institutional development. So far, almost 0 million square meters of land have been cleared of landmines, 39 percent more land than NPA originally planned.

The Future of NPA’s Mine Program

One of the only voluntary organizations that specializes in mine work, NPA continues its efforts in accordance with the organization’s founding principles of solidarity, unity, human dignity, peace, and freedom. To NPA, it is not enough to address only the physical problem of landmines, the political and social implications of the mine problem must also be addressed as an integral part of an affected country’s redevelopment and rebuilding process. And for as long as the mine problem exists, NPA will be there to guide part of the solution.

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Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund

In 1989, Sen. Patrick Leahy started a fund to get medical aid to victims of landmines. There are an estimated 100 million unexploded landmines in over 60 countries, where they kill or maim an estimated 26,000 people each year. Vast areas of countries like Cambodia, Bosnia and Angola have become death traps.

In 1992, Leahy sponsored an amendment to stop U.S. exports of anti-personnel landmines: the first law of its kind anywhere in the world. In 1993, the amendment to extend landmine bans passed the Senate 100-0, and in 1997, President Clinton adopted it as permanent U.S. policy. The senator sponsored a 1995 amendment to halt U.S. use of anti-personnel mines for one year, beginning in 1999. That amendment was passed in the Senate 67-27, and was signed into law by Clinton on February 12, 1996. The law reads as follows:

Leahy Amendment Moratorium on Use of Anti-personnel Landmines
Sec. 583. (a) UNITED STATES MORATORIUM: For a period of one year beginning three years after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States shall not use anti-personnel landmines except along internationally recognized national borders or in demilitarized zones within a perimeter area that is monitored by military personnel and protected by adequate means to ensure the exclusion of civilians.

(2) EXEMPTIONS: The term “anti-personnel landmine” does not include any..