

Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction

Volume 4
Issue 3 *The Journal of Mine Action*

Article 34

October 2000

Global Information Networks in Education: Landmine Awareness Education Website

CISR JMU
Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at JMU (CISR)

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Recommended Citation

JMU, CISR (2000) "Global Information Networks in Education: Landmine Awareness Education Website," *Journal of Mine Action* : Vol. 4 : Iss. 3 , Article 34.

Available at: <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal/vol4/iss3/34>

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GINIE

Global Information Networks in Education: Landmine Awareness Education Website



Founded in 1995 at the University of Pittsburgh, the Global Information Networks in Education (GINIE), sponsored by the Human Capacity Development Center and USAID, serves as a "virtual learning community" for education innovation for nations in crisis and transition. The GINIE project functions, through use of the Internet, as a rapid-response delivery system that provides high quality educational information and expertise to local decision makers about policy, planning and evaluation; teaching and learning; access, equity and diversity; and workforce education and community economic development.



In concerted cooperation with the International Bureau of Education's (IBE) Education for Humanitarian Assistance program, GINIE has created the Landmine Awareness Education (LMAE) program to act as a forum for worldwide experts to exchange ideas, discuss their work experiences and collaborate in order to enhance the ways of dealing with landmine awareness issues. Initiated by Miki Fukuhara, a former GINIE research associate, the program is intended to function as a medium through which people can learn and share the sorrow of people affected by mine problems globally. The program also maintains a detailed website, including a list of countries where landmine awareness campaigns are taking place, brief personal stories related to landmine awareness, a contact list and a humanitarian assistance education forum.



The Country List link displays an assortment of native landmine awareness educational materials (e.g., posters, brochures and handouts), many of which were supplied by Tim Grant, and campaign



descriptions. The countries included in this list are Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia, El Salvador, Laos, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Yemen and Zaire. By clicking on the Stories link, visitors can view accounts ranging from "A Trip to Angola" by Tim Grant, recounting the landmine victim situation in Angola, "Blind Bosnia Teenager," a relay of messages started by Adrian Farnsworth and Peter Lumley with a blind Bosnian teenager who lost both eyes and both hands to an exploding landmine to "The First Landmine Victim I Ever Saw" by Dr. Anne Boldfeld, detailing the horrific medical consequence of landmine victims.

Another feature of the website is the Emergency Response Network, which provides rapid responses to questions posed by people in the field about landmine awareness education issues. Indicative of the program's mission, this forum is important as it facilitates the exchange of information gained from working in the field. It also provides information and documentation for agencies initiating new programs.

Under the Humanitarian Assistance Education heading, the site supplies a link to a report about efforts in Angola, a website on child and young adult soldiers, a website on the education and psychological distress in countries in crisis, a website featuring education for peace and reconciliation topics, and a report on UNESCO's Program for Education for Emergencies and Reconstruction.

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