

Gender in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Mine action takes place in highly gendered contexts where there are differences and inequalities between women, men, boys and girls, and between diverse groups (ethnic, religious, language, etc.). These dynamics affect exposure to risk, levels of knowledge and information, and decision-making capacities in affected communities. Gender influences the likelihood of becoming a landmine victim, and the ability to access medical attention, long-term reintegration, risk education and mine awareness resources. Structural inequalities also impact the ability to get employed, influence mine action processes and have access to land after clearance.

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS				
Civilian Casualties by sex and age	Women	Girls	Boys	Men
	7%	7%	35%	51%
Involvement in Accidents	Reasons for involvement in accidents vary significantly based on gender, age and a number of other factors (e.g. type of activity, season, poverty, education, etc.). 88% of landmine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims are boys and men. Societal gender roles determine the higher mobility and risk-taking behaviour of men and boys, significantly impacting their likelihood of having accidents.			
Impact on Children	Boys are disproportionately affected by unexploded ordnance (UXO).			
Impact on Women	Women and girls are often indirect victims, assuming a caregiving role for survivors and providing financial support for their families when the main breadwinner is injured or killed.			
Fatality Rate	26% for both males and females, though some evidence suggests reporting rates for females may be lower.			
Recent trends	More data and research are needed to understand the gendered impact of urban contamination in post-conflict contexts where people return to areas and buildings contaminated by victim-activated devices.			

Data Provided by the **Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor** (2018 Report Dataset 1999-2017).

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AREAS IN MINE ACTION
Mine action is traditionally a male-dominated sector; the employment of women in different roles in mine action, including operational and management ones, is transformative and contributes to women's economic empowerment and increased participation and decision-making power. GMAP estimates that only around 20% of those currently employed in the mine action sector globally are women.
Information gathering and community liaison activities should be inclusive and consult all groups affected by contamination including in Non-Technical Survey and Handover. An inclusive and gender-balanced workforce facilitates access to all groups in a community, and enhances the inclusion of different groups' needs and priorities in planning and implementation.
Women, girls, boys, and men often face different explosive risks, and can only be accessed effectively through targeted activities. Mine-risk education programmes should be age appropriate, gender sensitive, and especially target and reach those most at risk (often men and boys).
Women, girls, boys and men who have been injured in accidents often have very different needs, even when faced with the same type of injury. Mine action organisations should ensure that they can benefit equally from victim assistance services, including indirect victims.
Women are still underrepresented in international mine action meetings. Over the past five years there have been slight improvements in women's participation in the Meeting of States Parties (MSP) to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), with civil society sending significantly more women delegates than states. According to GMAP's examination of the UN's participant lists in 2017, 23.6% of overall delegates to the APMBC meetings were women.
Sex and Age-Disaggregated data (SADD) is a collection of data (e.g. on casualties, beneficiaries, staff) broken down by sex and age. It should apply to all instances where a mine action organisation/State Party collects data about people. It helps to determine how successfully mine action interventions are being conducted and who benefits from mine action activities, and to measure progress towards gender equality.
Gender-responsive mine action programmes challenge negative stereotypes and gender norms on the limitations of women and girls. Effective gender mainstreaming in mine action can facilitate a shift towards greater gender equality.

GENDER IN CONVENTIONS (APMBC AND CCM)

While the APMBC text does not address gender directly, the CCM has specific gender-related provisions. Both instruments address gender in their Action Plans (the Maputo and Dubrovnik action plans, respectively) with a focus on: a) gender-sensitive clearance, mine-risk education and victim assistance and b) collection and analysis of SADD.

MEASURING PROGRESS: THE MAPUTO ACTION PLAN

The Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC in November 2018 is the last opportunity for States Parties to assess progress in achieving the Maputo Action Plan's goals ahead of the 2019 **Review Conference**. **States Parties are to implement the Action Plan** "in an age-appropriate and gender-sensitive manner", as follows:

A. Mine/ERW-affected States Parties to establish age and gender-sensitive goals and report on:

- The participation of women, girls, boys and men in the land release process;
- The provision of age and gender-sensitive victim assistance;
- The provision of age and gender-sensitive mine-risk education;
- Gender and age sensitive data gathering and analysis.

B. Mine/ERW-affected States Parties and States Parties that are donors in mine action to report:

- If States Parties are establishing age and gender-sensitive time-bound goals with timelines, target numbers, list of beneficiaries and indicators;
- If funding proposals are analysed from a gender perspective (e.g.: through a gender marker) and if they encourage gender mainstreaming (e.g.: through action plans, tools, guidelines).

AREAS FOR ACTION

- ✓ **Sex and age disaggregated data** in States Parties' reports on compliance with the obligations of conventions is often limited or absent. Both affected and donor States Parties should improve SADD collection, analysis and reporting ahead of the 2019 APMBC Review Conference.
- ✓ **Employment:** States should ensure that there are no legal impediments for women to work in mine action, and encourage greater gender balance through national/sectoral policies and gender-sensitive and -responsive prioritisation of donor funding.
- ✓ **Victim Assistance (VA)** is underfunded compared to other areas (only 2% of total mine action funding goes to this area). Donors should increase support for VA activities and advocate for an integrated approach between healthcare systems and VA services, recognising different needs of women, girls, boys, and men. The collection and analysis of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data on persons in need of assistance and their specific needs should be encouraged (see GMAP's Operational Guidance for Victim Assistance Responsive to Gender & Other Diversity Aspects for more).
- ✓ **Anti-Harassment & Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA):** Mine action organisations should have systems in place to safeguard staff and beneficiaries against harassment and to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. This includes the creation of appropriate reporting mechanisms and investigation procedures.
- ✓ **Participation and representation:** States should aim to send gender-balanced delegations to increase the participation of women in international mine action conferences.
- ✓ **Link to broader gender equality agendas:** Promote connections between mine action, the SDGs and the Women, Peace and Security agenda, highlighting the contribution of gender-responsive mine action to the achievement of sustainable development and gender equality.
- ✓ **Transformative Impact:** Mine action authorities from affected states and donor states should consider targeted actions to contribute to gender equality.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- **GMAP's website www.gmap.ch**
 - Guide to Reporting on Gender in Maputo Action Plan.
 - Victim Assistance Responsive to Gender & Other Diversity Aspects: Operational Guidance.
 - UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes.
 - Guidance on all of the topics mentioned above which can inform thinking ahead of the Action Plan of the 2019 RevCon.
- **UNIDIR's website www.unidir.org**
 - Research on Achieving Gender Equality and Advancing Gender-Responsive Disarmament in Multilateral Forums.