

As of 31 May 2011, confirmed CBU strike locations counted 1,226 contaminating approximately 54.7 square kilometers of land of which 37 square kilometers (67%) were cleared. Cluster bombs massively used by Israeli Forces during the July 2006 hostilities on Lebanon were mostly spread in agricultural land and inhabited villages contaminating the source of survival of the majority of the population in the South and destroying as such the economy. For instance, the agricultural production decreased by more than 35% over the following years.

Removal of cluster bombs is well underway in conformity with national standards developed based on the international standards. International assistance has helped a lot. We are grateful to all donor countries and concerned UN agencies. However, much more needs to be done. International assistance is still requested.

In parallel to the clearance operations, risk education and promotion of safe behavior activities have been undertaken. An evaluation study conducted for the initiated risk education campaigns showed that 70% of the population has significant knowledge of the problem but still lack the skill of keeping safe. Hence, more support for risk education is needed.

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Cluster bombs have killed and maimed more than 404 innocent people between August 2006 and May 2011. Forty nine were killed and 355 were injured including children less than 12 years old (10%), adolescents between 13 and 18 years of age (19%), and adults aged 19 years and above (71%). Six percent of the victims of cluster bombs in Lebanon are females.

Many victim assistance initiatives were undertaken by the concerned ministerial bodies and local and international organizations. Yet lack of funding still hinders appropriate victim assistance work and international support is a necessity for Lebanon to fulfill its obligations under article 5 of the convention. In addition, the national disability law (220/2000) needs to be enforced and more activated. We hope that Lebanon will ratify soon the Convention on the Rights of the Disabled; which we already signed.

So, lots of work is still ahead of us.