

CMC Statement on Survey, Clearance and Risk Education

CCM 2RC, 25-27 November 2020



In 2010, when the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force, State Parties took on obligations to address the devastating humanitarian consequences and unacceptable harm to civilians caused by cluster munitions.

The timely clearance of cluster munition remnants, and the provision of effective and relevant risk education to impacted communities remains crucial.

Significant progress has been made in survey and clearance. The 2020 Cluster Munition Monitor reports that in the decade since entry into force, States Parties have cleared at least 559km² of cluster munition contaminated land and more than 450,000 submunitions. Clearance is more targeted as a result of improved survey, speeding up overall progress. Six State Parties have now completed their Article 4 clearance obligations. We congratulate Croatia and Montenegro, who have both announced completion of their Article 4 obligations this year!

Risk education has been crucial in helping civilians to avoid risk and in supporting survey and clearance through community reporting of submunitions. Effective and relevant risk education interventions are equally important in States with long-term contamination as well as in States not Party impacted by new contamination. When risk education is integrated with wider humanitarian, development, protection, and education efforts, it can maximize impact and further support affected communities to avoid risk. The Lausanne Action Plan will include a more comprehensive section on risk education, to refocus attention on, and support to, this vital intervention.

There is still much to be done. Ten State Parties remain contaminated, including Mauritania, which reported newly discovered contamination in 2020. Five State Parties have already requested Article 4 extensions. While most States Parties are making progress, in a few the rate of clearance has been slow, and in two there has been virtually no progress. We are pleased to see the inclusion of the 'early warning mechanism' in the draft Lausanne Action Plan, aimed at assisting States falling behind and preventing delays in clearance, as we unfortunately witnessed this year in BiH, Chile and Lebanon.

The Cluster Munition Coalition urges all affected States, donors and stakeholders to increase efforts to meet the obligations in the convention and to ensure that gender, age, disability and other diversity factors are mainstreamed across the LAP action points and indicators.

We believe that all contaminated State Parties, with the exception of Lao PDR and perhaps Iraq, where the contaminations is massive, should be able to complete clearance by the next review conference in 2025.

It really is time for a concerted effort to ensure that clearance is achieved as soon as possible in ALL State Parties.