

CMC Statement on Risk Education
Third Review Conference, Convention on Cluster Munitions
Vientiane Capital, 14-18 September 2026

Thank you, President.

Risk education remains one of the most immediate ways in which the Convention protects people living with the threat of cluster munition remnants. Looking back over the Lausanne Action Plan period, the Cluster Muniton Monitor finds important progress and a clear evolution in how risk education is delivered.

Over this period, risk education has become more closely integrated into national mine action programmes, education systems and broader humanitarian and protection efforts. National agencies, schools and community structures are increasingly involved in delivery, strengthening national and community ownership.

This matters because people do not take risks simply because they lack information. Economic pressures may force farmers to cultivate contaminated land, families may have no alternative but to return to contaminated communities, and children may collect scrap metal to help support their households. Risk education therefore needs to understand why people are exposed to risk and connect, where possible, with broader humanitarian, livelihood and protection responses.

We have also seen progress in reporting. For activities conducted in 2025, every State Party reporting risk education activities provided sex- and age-disaggregated beneficiary data - a significant improvement compared with earlier reporting under the Convention.

Important reporting gaps remain. Mauritania was the only State Party to provide disability-disaggregated beneficiary data for 2025. This limits our ability to assess whether persons with disabilities are being reached equitably. Reporting also did not always make clear whether activities addressing broader explosive ordnance threats reached communities affected by cluster munition remnants.

And counting beneficiaries tells us only part of the story. Knowing how many women, men, girls and boys were reached does not tell us whether we reached those facing the greatest risk or whether they were able to act on the advice provided.

We welcome the draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan's emphasis on outcomes and behavioural change. Its commitment to tailored, accessible, inclusive and community-informed approaches is equally important, as is its recognition that risk education must adapt to insecurity, armed conflict and population movements.

The Cluster Muniton Coalition calls on affected States Parties to:

- ensure risk education reaches populations most at risk and is tailored to their different exposure, behaviour and information needs;
- ensure that risk education is accessible to persons with disabilities, involves them in its design and evaluation, and is supported by disability-disaggregated reporting;

- move beyond beneficiary numbers to assess outcomes, including whether risk education contributes to safer behaviour and reduced exposure to risk;
- integrate risk education into survey, clearance and victim assistance and, where appropriate, broader national systems;
- link risk education with humanitarian, livelihood and protection support where economic pressures or other constraints prevent people from acting on safety advice;
- adapt approaches as risks and circumstances change; and
- ensure sustainable national capacity and resources, supported by predictable international assistance where needed.

Risk education is essential, but it cannot substitute for clearance or for practical measures that enable people to avoid exposure.

Over the next five years, we must ask not only how many people we reached, but whether we reached those most at risk, whether they could act on the advice provided, and whether their exposure to danger was reduced.

Where economic necessity leaves people with no safe choice, information alone is not enough. Risk education must be linked to practical support that makes safer choices possible.

Thank you.