

INTRODUCTION

Measured Steps: Progress in implementing the Ottawa Convention

While anti-personnel mines continue to be a source of human suffering in countries around the world, we now know that the unprecedented global response to this issue is making a difference. Canada's efforts, along with those of other states and non-governmental and international organizations, are resulting in measurable progress. The Ottawa Convention has provided the world with a comprehensive framework for addressing the global landmine problem and Canada, through the Canadian Landmine Fund, and with other resources, is making a sizeable contribution to implementing this framework for action.



John Rodsted

The problem

Anti-personnel mines are weapons placed in or on the ground, which wound or kill when activated by the pressure of a foot-step. These hidden, indiscriminate killers cause insidious injuries, often involving extreme blood loss, loss of limbs and extensive harm to the human body. Most of the people killed or injured by anti-personnel mines are civilians, many of them

women and children, living in countries ill-equipped to provide the medical care and rehabilitation services they require. Many mine incidents go unreported – many victims die before ever reaching a hospital.

Entire communities are haunted by the psychological terror created by a fear of mines in their fields, on their roads and near their homes. The fear of mines



Frank Lytko

Anti-personnel mines, like the POM-Z 2M fragmentation stake mine (above) and the PRB M409 blast mine (left) continue to injure and kill indiscriminately years after they are laid.