

Creating mine awareness

Mine awareness programs are critical to preventing new landmine accidents.

In the past, progress in this area was measured by the number of people reached by mine awareness programs rather than by the degree to which behaviours changed. Experts have begun to recognize that some groups will continue to take risks simply because they have no other choice than to seek water, food or fuel in mined areas.

UNICEF is attempting to address some of these problems by developing and disseminating new guidelines for mine awareness training. Mine awareness programming has begun to move beyond the old lecture-style presentations and literature that often lacked sensitivity to culture, age and literacy levels. New mine awareness programs display more creativity and sensitivity to community needs and context. Today's mine awareness educators often rely on popular education techniques such as mime, story telling, music, comic books and even soap operas to get the message out.

Messages must be visual and direct to convey the dangers to those most vulnerable.

