

Critical issue module 5

Landmine awareness

Topic 4 Planning and implementation

Handout 6



Developing mine risk education (MRE) policies and programmes

Landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) safety information for UNHCR staff and partners

It is important that UNHCR and partner staff working in areas with the threat of mines and ERW get proper safety information.

Mines and ERW have injured and killed more than 531 UN peacekeeping staff since 1957.

Learning how to avoid landmine accidents is the responsibility of each individual travelling to a mine-affected area, but employers also have a responsibility to ensure that everyone receives a proper landmine safety briefing. The **duty of care** extends to UN organisations, NGOs, governments, construction companies, the media, and other private sector entities that hire people to work in areas where there is the threat of landmines or ERW.

The **Landmine and ERW Safety Project** (LSP) was launched to address the need for systematic safety briefings, primarily for aid workers. UNMAS, other UN agencies and some mine action NGOs jointly developed the *Landmine and ERW safety handbook* and a range of accompanying training materials. The handbook, based on an initial version developed by CARE, has been translated into Arabic, Dari/Farsi, French, Pashtu, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish, and more than 70,000 copies have been distributed worldwide. The booklet describes requirements for mine-safe behaviour. A landmine and ERW safety briefing is intended to supplement these materials.

While MRE is intended to reach the general public in mine-infested communities, landmine safety briefings are meant to target institutions and those working in hazardous settings.

Goals

The LSP is intended to provide general landmine and ERW awareness and safety information to minimise the risk of accidents. This information includes:

- safety procedures
- details about the local threat of mines and ERW
- guidelines for action for emergency situations such as inadvertent entry into a mined area.

The project involves safety training and briefings, along with supporting materials:





- the general mine and ERW safety **handbook**, designed to be distributed and carried in the field
- **leaflets** tailored to specific countries
- a safety **training video**
- a landmine and ERW **training module**, to be used by mine safety trainers
- landmine and ERW **posters and pictures** to aid identification of mined areas.

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has also produced an **interactive CD-ROM** version of the safety handbook and other materials, which may support self-paced learning, to extend the reach of the project and provide greater sustainability in the future.

The UN Office for Project Services, UNMAS, UNICEF and the Department of Safety and Security implement the LSP in different countries.

www.mineaction.org.

A list of training aids is included under *Mine Risk Education*.

