

# The Mine Ban Treaty: Five Years On November, 2004

UNICEF Video News Package

Duration: 34:04 minutes

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## **Children and Landmines: A Deadly Legacy**

Landmines are killing, injuring and orphaning children. Over 80 per cent of the 15,000 – 20,000 landmine victims each year are civilians, and at least one in five are children, according to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

- In Cambodia children account for up to 50 per cent of landmines casualties, according to the Cambodian Red Cross. In Somalia more than 55 per cent of landmines victims are children, according to the 2003 Landmine Impact Survey.
- Children are at particular risk of injury and death from landmines because their small size, unfamiliar shape, and colors can make them look like toys.
- Children are far more likely to die from landmine injuries than adults. An estimated 85 percent of child victims of landmines die before reaching the hospital.
- Children, particularly refugees and displaced children returning home, are in particular danger of landmines because they are most likely to be unaware of the dangers of playing in or traversing hazardous areas.
- Landmines cause gut-wrenching injuries: children may lose their sight or hearing; lose fingers, toes and limbs; suffer injuries to their genitals. They also suffer psychologically from the trauma of a landmine injury.
- Without adequate medical treatment, children injured by landmines are often pulled out of school. They face limited future prospects for education and employment and are often perceived as a burden to their families.
- Landmines devastate the lives of children by killing or maiming their parents or caregivers. When mothers are maimed or killed, children are less likely to receive adequate nutrition, to be immunized or to be protected from exploitation. When fathers fall victim to landmines, children are often forced out of school and into work to supplement family income.
- The cost of providing long-term care for child landmine victims can be prohibitive. Rehabilitation clinics are often too far away or too expensive to access.
- Uncleared landmines prevent access to reconstruct homes, roads, schools, health facilities and other essential services. They deny access to farmland and irrigation.

Landmines and unexploded ordnance violate nearly all the articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: a child's right to life, to a safe environment in which to play, to health, clean water, sanitary conditions and adequate education.

## 1. Landmines: A Global Menace for Children. English narration by Danny Glover

Narrator 01:00:00	Script
Danny Glover, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador	Millions of landmines and other explosive remnants of war strewn across the globe pose a vicious and indiscriminate threat to civilians; to men, women and children, who are injured, killed and orphaned by them long after a conflict is over.
Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme	<b>This is a scourge, a consequence of ugly wars of the past, that throws a long-term shadow over future development. And winning the fight - removing landmines – these are critical commitments.</b>
	Landmines are some of the most insidious weapons ever devised by man, lying in wait for their victims in fields, roads, forests and footpaths for decades.
	According to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, of the 15,000 – 20,000 landmine victims each year, over 80 per cent are civilians, and at least one in five are children.
	Producing one landmine costs just \$3, yet once in the ground it can cost more than \$1,000 to find and destroy... a debilitating sum for developing countries.
Carol Bellamy, UNICEF Executive Director	<b>More than 31 million landmines have been destroyed, landmine production is down but unfortunately they are still in use so more needs to be done but I think if one builds on these 5 years, one can have some hope.</b>
	Landmines devastate families and orphan children; when mothers are maimed or killed, children are less likely to be well-fed, immunized or protected from exploitation. When fathers fall victim to landmines, children are often forced out of school and into work to supplement family income.
	Children are at particular risk of injury and death from landmines, because their small size, shape, and color can make them look like toys; an estimated 85 percent of child victims of landmines die before reaching the hospital.
Kofi Annan, Secretary General, United Nations	<b>We are concerned about the victims; they are often ostracized in society. In some societies, they are even rejected. So we have to be their advocates and bring attention to their needs.</b>
	Each and every one of us has a moral responsibility to make sure that each and every country ratifies the Mine Ban Treaty and works together to rid the world of these terrifying, devastating weapons.

## 2. Landmines in Cambodia, cut segment, English narration

Narrator 01:03:00	Script
Dan Thomas, UNICEF Correspondent	A demining team in western Cambodia prepares to destroy a recently unearthed cache of landmines and unexploded ordnance
	1 2 3 BANG!!!
	This area around Pailin near the Thai border is one of the most dangerous places on earth. Two decades after the Khmer Rouge and their enemies tore

	Cambodia apart, experts from the Cambodian Mine Action Centre are still trying to make the land safe for new settlers.
Rodney Hatfield, UNICEF Representative, Cambodia	<b>The poorest people are the ones who tend to suffer the most because they are the ones who are looking for land. And quite often these areas are infested with mines and unexploded ordnance. And quite often people know those areas are infested with weapons but they are prepared to take those risks. But of course a lot of the time do not get away with it.</b>
	One person who didn't get away with it is 14-year-old Lay Sokhum. Two years ago he lost both his legs to a mine buried at this spot in his parents' field
Lay Sokhum, Aged 14	<b>After the blast I saw smoke. I was on the ground and didn't know what had happened.</b>
Dr Williams Homes, Battambang Emergency Hospital	The very, very typical scenario is someone has come in and one leg is blown off, either above the knee, or below the knee. And then they have these other injuries. Very often, the other leg has been severely injured. Broken bones, open injuries, blood vessel injuries...
	At first Lay was so shocked and depressed by his disability that he dropped out of school, but after months of rehabilitation and the fitting of two prosthetic legs he's able to get himself around quite well, and even cycle to school on a bike paid for by funds from UNICEF.
Lay Sokhum, Aged 14	<b>I don't really feel different from other people. As long as I try hard at school I should be OK.</b>
	As well as assisting victims, UNICEF believes mine risk education is key. At schools like this children warn younger children about the danger of mines and unexploded ordnance.
	Near Pailin, Cambodia, this is Dan Thomas reporting for UNICEF. For every child, Advance Humanity.

### 3. Landmines in Cambodia, cut segment, international version

01:05:51

### 4. Landmines in Cambodia, raw footage

Timecode	Video
	Pailin, Cambodia, October 2004
01:08:28	Demining team in western Cambodia prepares to destroy a recently unearthed cache of landmines and unexploded ordnance
010853	Detonation
0927	Mine-riddled landscape, fishermen
0946	Mine warning signs
0958	Deminers at work
1023	Toy-like mine
1031	Boy with prostheses walks through grass
1101	Boy in wheelchair with amputated legs

1112	Amputee under bed net, puts on prostheses
1152	Boy on cycle with prosthetic legs
1206	Mine education at school
1309 Rodney Hatfield, UNICEF Representative, Cambodia	The dangers are considerable. Cambodia is a very poor country. The poorest people are the ones who tend to suffer the most because they are the ones who are looking for land. And quite often these areas are infested with mines and unexploded ordnance. And quite often people know those areas are infested with weapons but they are prepared to take those risks. But of course a lot of the time do not get away with it.
1342 Dr Williams Homes, Battambang Emergency Hospital	The very, very typical scenario is someone has come in and one leg is blown off, either above the knee, or below the knee. And then they have these other injuries. Very often, the other leg has been severely injured, with broken bones, open injuries, blood vessel injuries. And that's the leg that's actually going to be the main power source for the rest of the person's life. So we try very hard to save that leg. The injured leg, we try very hard to prevent infection and other things from actually taking a life, from blood loss and later infection. Because the mines are typically under the ground, the wounds are embedded with dirt and rock that's actually been blasted into the patient's exposed limb, so the extent of the injury travels much further than the obvious, devastating open leg, with shards of bone.
1441 Lay Sokhum, Aged 14	After the blast I saw smoke. I was on the ground and didn't know what had happened.
1448	I don't really feel different from other people. As long as I try hard at school I should be OK.
1454 Chhay Saroeun aged 15	The reason I'm doing this is because I want all children in Cambodia to be aware and to know how to avoid accidents.

### 5. Landmines in Angola, cut segment, English narration

Narrator 01:15:25	Script Malange Province, Angola, October 2004
Sarah Crowe, UNICEF correspondent  NGO workers from Palancas Negras (means Sable Antelope in Portuguese) in the village of Mbila, Malange Angola.	It's a rare call in Angola. A call to the children that says peace is here but watch out for the leftovers of war. They delight in the spectacle of dancing, drumming and theatrics. This NGO supported by UNICEF, puts on a great show full of vitality but the message these young ones need to learn, is deadly serious. And it takes one their age to warn them about the hidden dangers.  These two boys, Domingo and Nascimento, now know those dangers and bear the scars. Their friend did not live to tell the story.
Domingo and Nascimento. English dub	<b>We went down to the river to look for roots to eat. My friend was digging and suddenly we heard a BOOM.</b>

	Landmines pose a very real threat to children curious by nature. With three million displaced flooding back home the remnants of war are everywhere in Angola. Unexploded ordinances for adults are harmless playthings for children.
	Demining vast areas of fertile land is vital for the future of Angola. But there are no maps of the mines and it is a painfully slow and dangerous job to clear a field.
Baptista Miguel Demining Supervisor, Norweigan People's Aid.	<b>For me this job is very important, because I am contributing to the country's development and mines are a big obstacle to development.</b>
	This was once prime land. Now it will take a decade to be cleared. Controlled explosions like this will free up the country's potential. This is simulated, but accidents can and do happen in demining.  The farm workers have seen it before and their reactions are real. But the victim is not and this time round it is all smiles and laughter.
	In just two years since the end of the war, some 200 people have become very real victims of mine accidents, many losing their lives or learning to get used to false limbs and a new life. Some six million mines still litter the country. Next year alone the cost of mine action will be 88 million dollars.
	Already one in 70 Angolans bears the legacy of the long war and it will take at least another 10 years before the country is truly free of mines. Sarah Crowe for Unicef, For Every Child, Advance Humanity

## 6. Landmines in Angola, cut segment, international version

01:18:35

## 7. Landmines in Angola, raw footage

Timecode	Video
	Malange Province, Angola, October 2004
01:21:34	Children and adults march in anti-mine rally
01220	Boys in mine-awareness tshirts in demined area
217	Boy plays with mine in street
2225	Close up danger sign
2247	Parcel to be cleared of mines
2257	Deminer at work
2305 Baptista Miguel Demining Supervisor, Norweigan People's Aid.	For me this job is so important, because I know I am contributing to the country's development of these people. I know that mines are a big obstacle for people to do whatever they want to.
2332	Simulated mine accident exercise, megaphone
2349	Detonation cable laid
2407	Mine explodes

2435	'victim' carried off, loaded onto ambulance
2514	Street scene

### 8. Landmines in Bosnia, cut segment, English narration trt

Narrator 01:25:53	Script Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, October 2004
Jane O'Brien, UNICEF correspondent	Nikola sits on the front steps of his home where he lost his hand while playing with a landmine lighter that exploded. His mother was in the yard nearby, hanging out laundry.
Nikola Kokorus (Dubbed In English)	<b>In 1993 when I was three, I found a metal object that looked like a toy to me. I found it near the stairs and I hit the stairs with it. Then it exploded and took away my right hand.</b>
	Growing up without a hand has been difficult for the 14 year old. Two years after the accident he and his family were forced out of their home by the war in Bosnia.
	People made fun of his injury and although he has friends in his home town, he still tries to conceal his arm.
	His parents are unemployed and can't afford to replace the prosthesis he outgrew several years ago.
	Nikola knows of many other children who have been maimed or killed by landmines.
Nikola Kokorus (Dubbed In English)	<b>I am not the only one who has got injured by these devices. There are worse cases. I comfort myself since I see that I am not the only one who was hurt by unexploded devices. There are worse injuries than mine.</b>
	Nikola's injury means he cannot become a farmer like his father and grandfather before him.
	His message to the world is simple...
Nikola Kokorus (Dubbed In English)	<b>To people, I would like to tell them not to produce explosive devices, and not to put them near playgrounds, near children.</b>
	Like thousands of other children Nikola's life has been changed by landmines – when all he did was play.
	This is Jane O'Brien reporting for UNICEF For Every Child...Advance Humanity

### 9. Landmines in Bosnia, cut segment, international version

01:28:18

### 10. Landmines in Bosnia, raw footage

Timecode	Video Pailin, Cambodia, October 2004
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01:30:34	Nikola sitting on the steps of his home where his landmine accident happened
013050	Nikola in school
3218	Nikola with his friends
3234	Nikola sitting with his friends

**11. Interview bites from Carol Bellamy, UNICEF Executive Director, 23 July 2004**

01:32:58	Landmines serve virtually no purpose, personnel landmines, they just create a situation where people are hurt, very often they are young people. Its estimated that one fifth of all the injuries for landmines are children, even when they are hurting people physically, they take land away from being able to farmed and they accomplish virtually nothing in terms of conflict these days. So one hopes that there will be some rational thinking on how unimportant landmines are and we move to a landmine free world.
013334	Children are particularly vulnerable to landmines, they very often will not recognize the barriers that have even been put up, they tend to run from their families and across fields that perhaps might still have landmines in them, they see something interesting that they want to play with and landmines are made to look like toys and they are smaller, there closer to the ground so when a landmine explodes it has the potential for damaging a child to a greater degree that an adult.