

GENDER AND DIVERSITY IN THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION (APMBC)

Landmines continue to harm people and communities around the world. Gender norms, along with other identity factors—such as age, disability and ethnicity—can influence exposure to risk, access to risk education, ownership and control of cleared land, as well as the ability for direct and indirect victims to access their rights and to benefit from medical care, mental health and psychosocial support, and rehabilitation and socioeconomic inclusion services.

CASUALTIES BY SEX AND/OR AGE IN 2022¹

ADULT			CHILD		
Female	Male	Unknown	Female	Male	Unknown
244	1624	280	149	449	573
7%	49%	8,5%	4,5%	14%	17%

FATALITIES BY SEX AND/OR AGE IN 2022²

ADULT			CHILD		
Female	Male	Unknown	Female	Male	Unknown
82	599	111	39	143	204
7%	51%	9,5%	3,5%	12%	17%

GENDERED IMPACTS

- > Because of social and economic roles, men and boys are more likely to be killed or injured in landmines accidents.
- > Women, as well as girls and boys, are more often indirect victims. Because of predominant gender norms, they often need to take on a caregiving role for survivors and provide financial support for their families when the main provider is injured or killed.

- > In some contexts, when family resources are limited after a landmine accident, girls are more likely to be the first ones to be taken out of school and/or married at an early age.
- > The interplay of gender and other identity factors (e.g. age, race, disability, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, language and urban/rural differences) can lead to further marginalization, stigmatization, and challenges for survivors, the families of those killed and injured, and affected communities that share such identity characteristics.

WHY GENDER AND DIVERSITY MATTER IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APMBC

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Incorporating gender and diversity considerations into programming helps ensure that survey, clearance, risk education, advocacy and victim assistance activities deliver for all, including those that often are marginalized and face more obstacles to access their rights.

ENHANCING EFFECTIVENESS

Different groups of society, performing different tasks and activities, may hold different information on land contamination. Recruiting mixed-gender teams with diverse backgrounds (ethnic, religious, linguistic, etc.) can ensure more effective communication and active participation in community-facing activities.

GENERATING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Access to employment in mine action can have a positive impact on the lives of individuals, particularly members of socioeconomically disadvantaged, marginalized and/or at-risk groups.

ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

Mainstreaming gender and diversity in the implementation of the APMBC contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 5 on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

¹ Casualties include injuries and fatalities. In 2022, there were an additional 1391 casualties where data on sex and/or age was not recorded. See ICBL-CMC, Landmine Monitor Report 2023, Geneva, November 2023.

² In 2022, there were an additional 483 fatalities where data on sex and/or age was not recorded. See ICBL-CMC, Landmine Monitor Report 2023, Geneva, November 2023.



THE APMBC OSLO ACTION PLAN

The APMBC aims to end the casualties and suffering caused by anti-personnel mines through four main objectives: ensuring universal adherence, clearing mined areas, destroying stockpiled mines, and assisting the victims.

In its latest Action Plan, known as the Oslo Action Plan (2020–2024), APMBC States Parties committed to take a number of practical steps to integrate gender perspectives and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into all aspects of mine action and programming.

States Parties also decided to amend the working methods of the Convention's Committees. Each of the five Committees appoints a Gender Focal Point to provide advice on gender mainstreaming and to ensure that the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities are taken into account in the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan.

SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE APMBC & THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY (WPS) AGENDA



PARTICIPATION

The participation of women in mine action activities and their employment in different roles, including operations and management, is transformative and contributes to women's economic empowerment, increased participation and decision-making power.

RELIEF & RECOVERY

Clearance and handover of land previously contaminated by landmines can redress gender imbalances and empower women in the community. The same applies to gender-sensitive assistance to landmine victims.

PREVENTION & PROTECTION

The ban on the use of landmines and the destruction of their stockpiles contributes to the prevention of and protection from armed violence. Gender- and diversity-sensitive education to the risks of landmines contributes to preventing injuries and saving lives. Victim assistance and advocacy for rights of survivors help combat the high level of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) faced by women with disabilities.



AREAS FOR ACTION

ALL STATES



DESIGN and implement initiatives aimed at promoting more diverse representation, including that of survivors, in leadership roles in Convention meetings.



IMPROVE data-collection mechanisms to go beyond sex and age to collect data on gender, disability and other diversity factors. Particular focus should be paid to collection of disability data to align with the Oslo Action Plan.

ENSURE that victim-assistance programmes are gender- and diversity-responsive, and include specific actions to minimize stigma and discrimination based on gender, disability and other factors; and promote the mental health and psychosocial well-being of all victims.



EXAMINE practical ways to strengthen synergies between the Convention and other international agreements and agendas, especially promoting gender equality and inclusion.



AFFECTED STATES



REPORT on concrete measures taken to ensure that diversity and gender equality are incorporated in all activities, in extension requests and transparency reports.

MOVE BEYOND data collection by sex to also encompass gender, age and disability and ensure that disaggregated data is used effectively to inform programmes and victims assistance.



DONOR STATES



SET clear and detailed requirements to ensure that project design, implementation and reporting by recipient States are at minimum sensitive to gender, age, disability, as well as the diversity of populations in affected communities.

ENSURE that explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) is targeted towards those at risk by avoiding arbitrary targets for risk education beneficiaries (e.g. 50/50 female/male targets) in favour of an approach that balances the need to reach all affected age, disability, and gender groups, with the need to target those most at risk.



PROVIDE budget for thorough context/conflict analysis to inform project design in a gender and diversity sensitive manner.

CREATE training opportunities for women and support the deployment of mixed-gender clearance and community-facing teams wherever possible.

