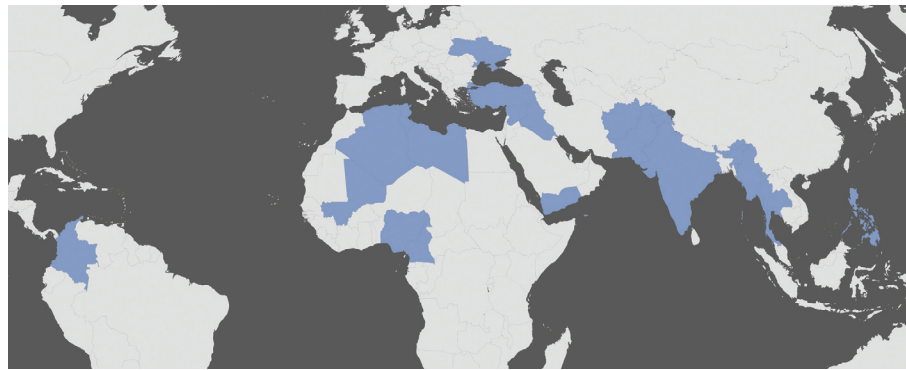


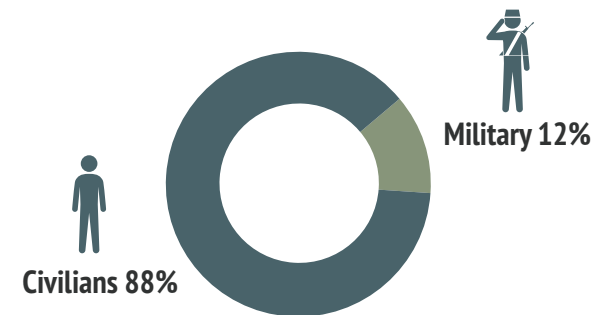
Improvised Mines: Casualties

States with improvised mine casualties in 2017

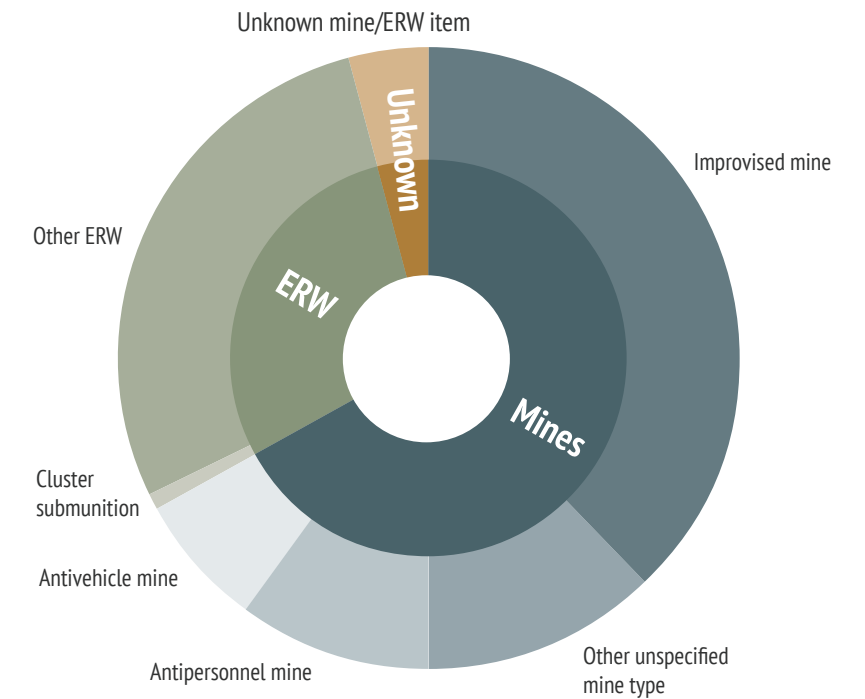


Afghanistan, Algeria, Cameroon, Colombia, India, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Yemen.
Bold: States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty

Civilian status of improvised mine casualties in 2017



Devices causing casualties in 2017



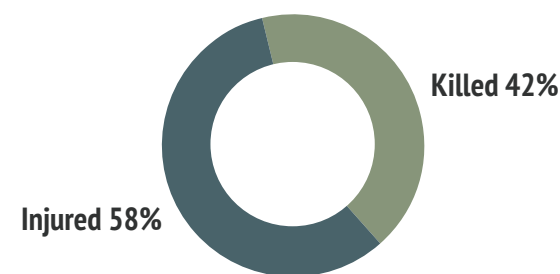
Category	Device type	Casualties	Percentage of annual total
Mines	Improvised mine	2,716	38%
	Other unspecified mine type	843	12%
	Antipersonnel mine	748	10%
	Antivehicle mine	488	7%
ERW	Cluster submunition	93	1%
	Other ERW	2,038	28%
Unknown	Unknown mine/ERW item	313	4%

States with the most recorded improvised mine casualties in 2017

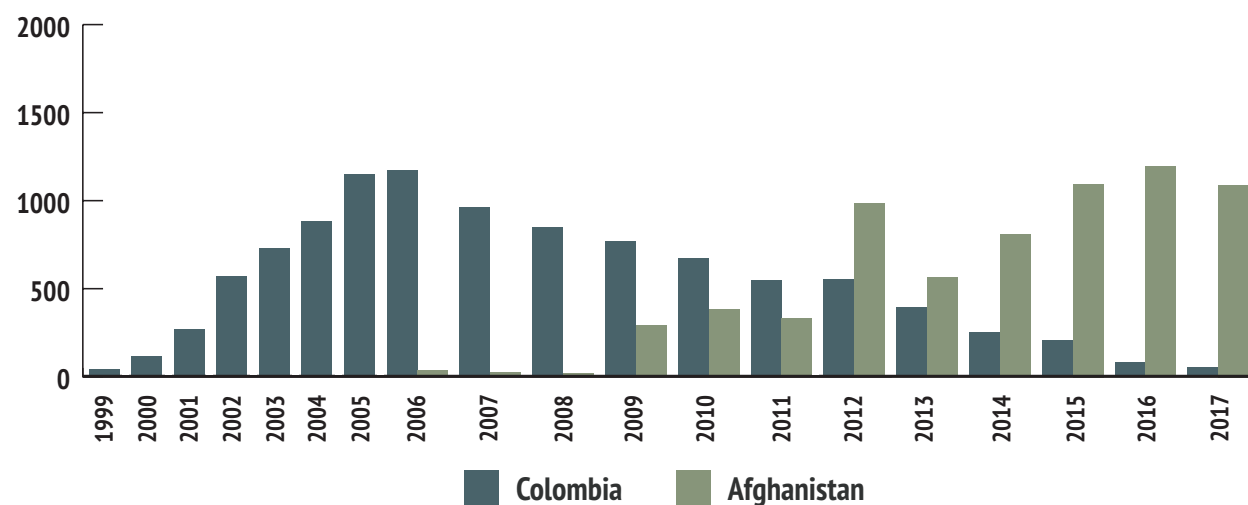
State	Casualties
Afghanistan	1,093
Syria	887
Nigeria	220
Iraq	161
Ukraine	113

Bold: States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty.

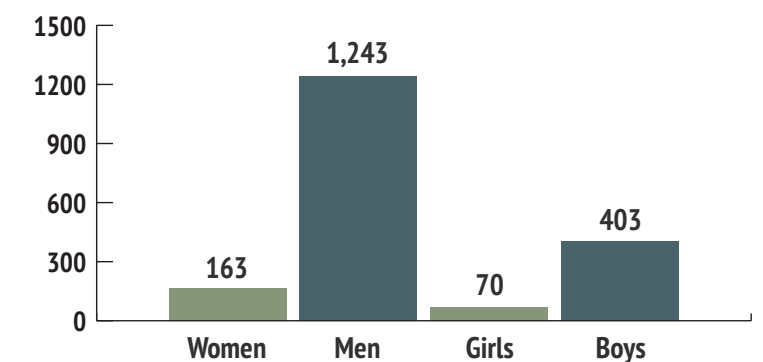
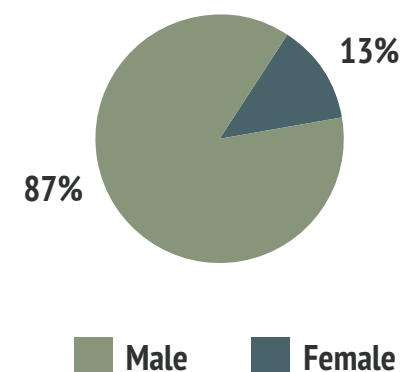
Survival of improvised mine casualties in 2017



Countries with the most improvised mine casualties over time: Colombia and Afghanistan trends 1999-2017



Age and gender of improvised mine casualties in 2017



Improvised Mines: Casualties

At a glance:

- Improvised mine types caused the most recorded casualties of any mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) type in 2017
- Improvised mines are victim-activated explosive devices
- Improvised mine types that can explode due to presence, proximity, or contact of a person are antipersonnel mines
- Most casualties of improvised mines are believed to be caused by antipersonnel (improvised) mine types

In 2017, 2,697 casualties of improvised mines were recorded in Landmine Monitor data. This was the highest annual total of such casualties recorded since Landmine Monitor reporting began in 1999. Casualties from improvised mines were identified in 18 states in 2017.

Most improvised mine casualties in 2017 occurred in Afghanistan (1,093) and Syria (887). As in previous years, it is certain that there are many more mine/ERW casualties that occurred in Iraq in 2017 that have not been identified. The number of improvised mine casualties recorded for Iraq in 2017 was 161, more than half of the 304 total mine/ERW recorded casualties in the country. It is particularly apparent that improvised mine casualties that occurred in Mosul in 2017 are, so far, vastly underreported.¹ It was reported that large sections of Mosul were mined and booby-trapped by the non-state armed group Islamic State. In August 2017, UNMAS was reported as stating that since clearance operations began in October 2016, some 1,700 people had been killed or injured by such explosive hazards.²

States with improvised mine casualties 1999–2017

Afghanistan	Iraq	Sri Lanka
Algeria	Libya	Sudan
Azerbaijan	Mali	Syria
Cambodia	Myanmar	Thailand
Cameroon	Nepal	Tunisia
Colombia	Niger	Turkey
Croatia	Nigeria	Uganda
DR Congo	Pakistan	Ukraine
Egypt	Peru	Yemen
India	Philippines	
Indonesia	Russia	

Bold: States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty

In Monitor casualty reporting, the terms “victim-activated improvised mines” or “improvised mines” are synonymous with victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs). IEDs are “homemade” explosive weapons that are designed to cause death or injury. Improvised mines are victim-activated IEDs that are detonated by the presence, proximity, or contact of a person or a vehicle. These are sometimes referred to as artisanal mines, victim-operated IEDs (VO-IEDs), or are referred to by the type of construction or initiation system, such as pressure-plate IEDs (PP-IEDs) and crush wire IEDs.³

Improvised mines that can be detonated by the presence, proximity, or contact of a person, fit the definition of antipersonnel mines and are therefore prohibited under the Mine Ban Treaty. Available information indicates that the fusing of most improvised mines causing casualties worldwide allows them to be activated by a person, thus effectively making them prohibited under the Mine Ban Treaty. For example, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) reported that most of the improvised mines in Afghanistan had the “trigger sensitivity of an anti-personnel mine.”⁴

According to UNAMA’s reporting in 2017, improvised mines constructed as PP-IEDs in Afghanistan “are detonated by any person, including children stepping on them or any vehicles, such as civilian vehicles or tractors driving over them.”⁵ Casualties in Colombia that are recorded as antipersonnel mine casualties have been reclassified in Monitor data as improvised mine casualties, due to the type of contamination prevalent in Colombia. It was noted in 2017 that most such casualties in Colombia were caused by improvised antipersonnel mines, and no factory-made antipersonnel mines casualties were known to have been recorded in the national casualty database. Among casualties recorded as caused by antipersonnel mines in Myanmar, it is also extremely likely that there is a large percentage caused by improvised mines.

In many countries where armed violence is prevalent, media reporting and other sources do not clearly identify the type of explosive item causing casualties. The term “landmine” is often used both for improvised mines and other mine types. These casualties are recorded by the Monitor under “unspecified mine types.”⁶ The ICRC states that for antipersonnel and antivehicle mines “the main feature of both types is that they are victim-activated.”⁷ Victim-activation is the common element of all mine types recorded in Monitor casualty data, including improvised mines and other unspecified mine types that may include improvised mines. Historically, the number of improvised mine casualties is under-reported due to their being recorded by various stakeholders as other unspecified mine types, and recorded among undifferentiated mine/ERW categories.

¹ See, Landmine Monitor 2018 for details on the issues of reporting on improvised mine casualties in Iraq

² Lucy Rodgers, Nassos Stylianou, & Daniel Dunford, “Is anything left of Mosul? The battle to save the city and its people,” BBC News, 9 August 2017.

³ Data on improvised mine (victim-activated IED casualties) was gathered through many varied sources, such as mine action centers, service providers, as well as Landmine Monitor media scanning. These included data from among the casualties of explosive incidents categorized as “victim-activated” in the Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) explosive violence data set for 2017. AOAV casualty data for 2017 provided by email from Jennifer Dathan, Researcher, AOAV, 29 August 2018; and Monitor analysis of Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project (ACLED), Clionadh Raleigh, Andrew Linke, Håvard Hegre, and Joakim Karlsen, “Introducing ACLED—Armed Conflict Location and Event Data,” Journal of Peace Research, Issue 47(5), pp. 651–660. New information on casualties in Nigeria was recorded by Mines Advisory Group (MAG), resulting in an improved understanding of the extent of the impact of improvised mines in that State Party.

⁴ United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), “Annual Report 2014: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict,” Kabul, February 2015, p. 48. Victim-activated IEDs used in Afghanistan are often called pressure-plate IEDs.

⁵ UNAMA, “Annual Report 2016: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict,” 2017, p. 14.

⁶ Unspecified mine types: when a reliable source reports a “mine” or “landmine” incident, but the information to distinguish if it was an antipersonnel mine, antivehicle mine, or improvised mine type is lacking.

⁷ ICRC, “The Law of Armed Conflict: Weapons,” June 2002, p. 6.

Note: all charts refer to data for casualties where the age, gender, or survival outcome was recorded in each case