

The Convention on Cluster Munitions

Cluster Munitions



Illustration © Norwegian People's Aid / Photo © Handicap International

A cluster munition, or cluster bomb, is a weapon containing multiple explosive submunitions.

The canister opens up in mid-air to release tens or hundreds of submunitions.

This saturates an area up to the size of several football fields. Anyone within the strike area – civilian or military – might get killed or injured.

A large percentage of submunitions do not explode on impact. They remain on the ground for an indefinite time, ready to explode when someone touches them.

Impact



Worldwide, 25 countries and areas are affected by cluster munition remnants.

Cluster munition remnants:

- Kill or maim civilians
- Obstruct economic and social development
- Impede post-conflict reconstruction
- Delay the return of displaced people
- Hamper humanitarian assistance efforts

This is why states have decided to ban this weapon by creating the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.



The majority of contaminated states can complete clearance within a few years if the right resources are used in an efficient way.

© CMC/Mariella Furrer

60% of the world's states have already joined the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

States Parties to the Convention:

- Cannot use, stockpile, produce or transfer cluster munitions
- Must destroy their stockpiles within 8 years
- Must clear all contaminated areas within 10 years
- Must meet the needs and respect the rights of survivors of cluster munition explosions, their families and communities.

All states that have joined the Convention have stopped using, producing and selling cluster munitions. States Parties are abiding by their obligations. This is a major success.

States such as Japan, the United Kingdom or Germany have completely destroyed their stockpiles. They no longer possess cluster munitions.

Nobody wants to be associated with this horrible weapon.

In almost all recent incidents of use of cluster munitions, the user state denied having used this weapon. Some 150 states condemned the use of cluster munitions in Syria in 2012-2015.

- At the UN General Assembly*, 139 states expressed strong concern with the use of cluster munitions in different parts of the world. They urged all states outside the Convention on Cluster Munitions to join as soon as possible.

*A/RES/70/460, December 2015

Join



Survivors of explosions played a crucial role in advocating for the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

© MAG/Sean Sutton

Please join the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

All states should join the convention to strengthen the international rejection of this weapon – even states that do not possess cluster munitions. By joining, each state adds one more voice in favor of the ban. This reinforces the body of the laws of war.

Cluster munitions do not meet the criteria a responsible government should have for the weapons in its arsenal. States that own stockpiles, and past users, should prevent further civilian suffering by renouncing cluster munitions forever.

stopclustermunitions.org
[@banclusterbombs](https://twitter.com/banclusterbombs)
facebook.com/banclusterbombs
info@icblcmc.org

