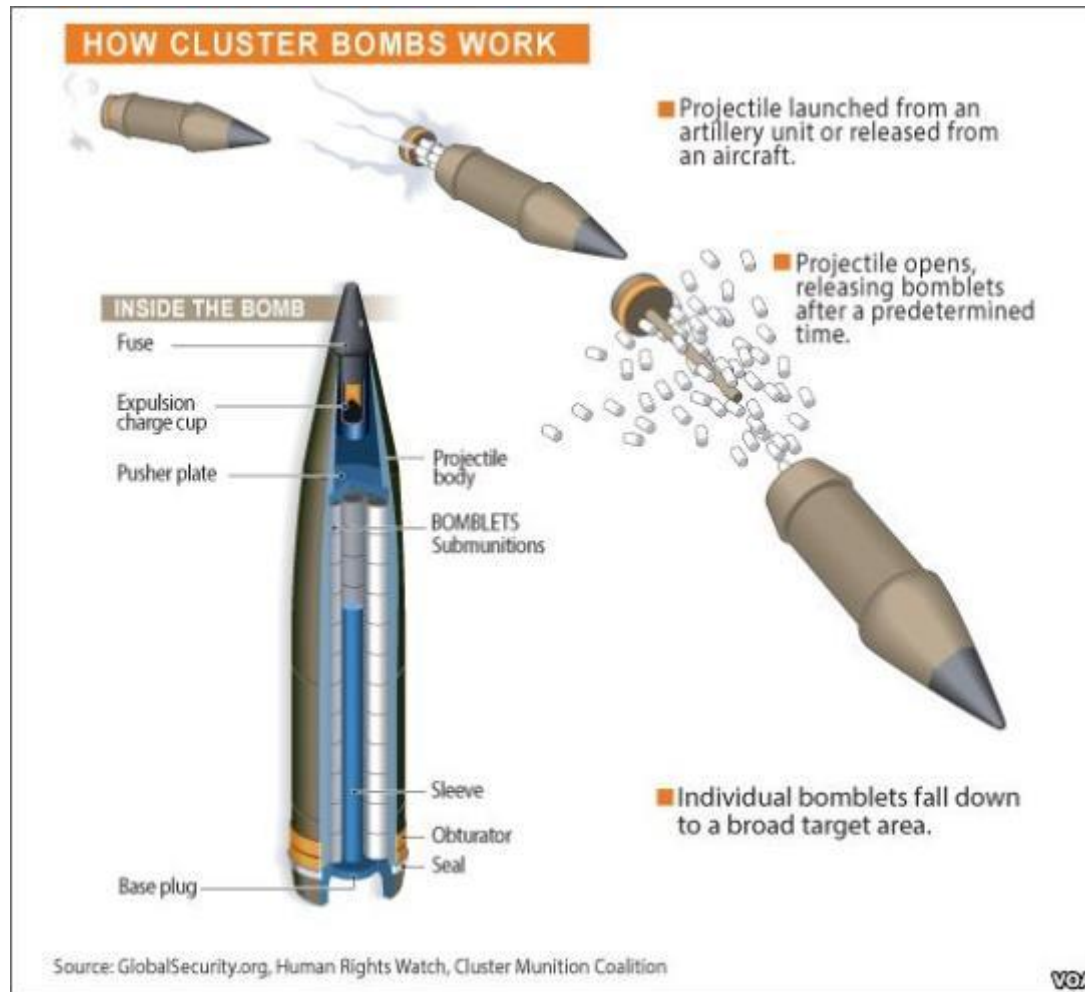




Why cluster munitions are banned under the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions

Amy Little – Norwegian People's Aid

What is a cluster munition?



Cluster munitions overview in Africa

Of the total 54 states in Africa:

- 18 have possessed stockpiles
- 2 have produced cluster munitions
- 7 have used cluster munitions
- Cluster munitions have been used in 14: Angola, Chad, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia.

Why Cluster Munitions Were Banned

Cluster munitions are problematic at the time of use...

- Wide area impact means it can't distinguish between a civilian or a military target
- Cluster munitions are often used in populated areas, where civilians will always fall victim
- Anyone within each strike area is likely to be injured or killed

And long afterwards...

- Cluster munitions are notoriously unreliable, leaving very dangerous unexploded submunitions after conflicts end



Why Cluster Munitions Were Banned

High failure rate → widespread & long-term contamination



Contamination **prevents** people from **rebuilding their livelihoods** after conflicts. The explosive contamination **hampers post-conflict development, access to schools and hospitals**, and renders **agricultural land inaccessible**. Of course some have no choice but to use the land.

Why Cluster Munitions Were Banned



- Tens of thousands have already fallen victim – the Convention on Cluster Munitions will prevent more.
- 94% cluster munition casualties = civilian. 82% male. 40% children. 60% while carrying out normal daily livelihood activities.

Cluster Munition Use



Cluster munitions have been used by over 22 states during armed conflict in over 38 countries. This internationally banned weapon is being used in **Syria** and eastern **Ukraine** right now, causing mounting civilian casualties. Also recent use in Libya. All use of cluster munitions has been widely condemned.