



Cluster bomb facts and stats

- For over 40 years cluster bombs have killed and injured civilians during and after conflict. Unexploded cluster bombs continue to kill and injure for days, months, even decades after conflict.
- Cluster bombs have been used in at least 31 countries and areas: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chechnya, Croatia, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Falklands/ Malvinas, Grenada, Iraq, Israel, Kosovo, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Montenegro, Nagorno-Karabakh, Serbia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Uganda, Vietnam and Western Sahara.
- 34 countries are known to have produced over 210 different types of air-dropped and surface-launched cluster bombs.
- At least 13 countries have transferred over 50 types of cluster munitions to at least 60 other countries.
- Billions of cluster bomblets are currently stockpiled by some 78 countries worldwide and around half of these countries have now agreed to destroy them.
- Tens of thousands of civilians worldwide have been killed or injured by cluster bombs.
- On average, a quarter of civilian casualties are children.¹ In some areas more than 50% of victims are children. The small size and curious shapes of the bomblets dispersed by cluster bombs make them particularly interesting to young people.

South Lebanon

- The most recent recorded use of cluster bombs was by Israel in south Lebanon. The UN estimated that of 4 million used, up to 1 million cluster bomblets remained unexploded after the conflict ended.
- In the 6 months after the 2006 ceasefire in Lebanon around 200 civilians were killed or injured by unexploded cluster bomblets.

Laos

- Laos is the most heavily cluster bombed country in the world following the 1965 - 1973 Vietnam War.
- Some have likened the scale of the bombing in Laos to the equivalent of a B52 load of bombs every 8 minutes for approximately 9 years.

¹ See Handicap International's "Circle of Impact" report from 2007:
http://en.handicapinternational.be/download/0606_WEB_FINAL_REPORT_HI_BD.pdf

