



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 32 countries and areas: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chechnya, Croatia, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Falklands/ Malvinas, Grenada, Georgia, 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.

Georgia

Cluster bombs were used by Russia and Georgia in the recent conflict over South Ossetia in August 2008, killing and injuring dozens of civilians during the strikes and after. The death toll is likely to rise.

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

