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A Survey of Landmines in Top Ten Countries with Most Landmines

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Introduction

• On 4 April 2014, the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action,
• the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated that the Convention on the Anti-Personnel Mines Ban has been adopted in 161 states.
• However, every year, landmines kill 15,000 to 20,000 people and most of them children, women and the elderly.

• In addition to those killed, a lot more have been severely maimed.

Landmines are scattered in some 78 countries.
Furthermore, landmines are continued to be used both by the armed forces in war and by civilian in protecting their farms and other properties from intruders trying to rob them.
Another reason for use of landmines is that terrorists like to use them against civilian population to force them from their communities.
Introduction (Cont.)

• There is a growing list of outlaw organizations that are using more and more landmines.
• Landmines are simple and easy to make and workshop can be set up to make landmines.
Introduction (Cont.)

• As a matter of fact, landmines have been used in every wars since 1938 even though landmines have resulted in death or injury of civilian and contributed to limited military objectives.
• There are over 100 million landmines in the ground and over 100 million in military warehouses.
Introduction (Cont.)

• The landmines can be bought at US$ 5 - 10 each.

• Furthermore, China is building landmines for less than US$ 3 each.
Introduction (Cont.)

• One of the most effective way to help the officials in clearing landmines is to train local volunteers to be members of the part-time mine clearing team.
Introduction (Cont.)

• This paper surveys problems of landmines and the efforts and progresses of landmine removals in the ten countries with most landmines,
Introduction (Cont.)

- namely,
  - Egypt
  - Angola
  - Iraq
  - Kuwait
  - Mozambique
  - Iran
  - Afghanistan
  - Cambodia
  - Bosnia
  - Somalia
2. Landmines in Egypt

• Searching Google for "Landmines in Egypt", 376,000 entries were found.
Landmines in Egypt (Cont.)

• From the web "Landminefree.org" the number of landmines in Egypt to be removed is about 23 millions even though ten millions have been cleared in the past 15 years.
Landmines in Egypt (Cont.)

• One of the problems for Egypt is that most of the landmines are very old and very difficult to locate.

• The landmines were from World War II as well as the Egypt-Israel wars of 1956, 1967, and 1973.
Landmines in Egypt (Cont.)

• The landmines problems hindered economic development of the rich area in the north coast and red sea.
Landmines in Egypt (Cont.)

• In the war between 1940 to 1943, Egyptian and British allies were fighting German and Italian forces to control North Africa and they infested the area with landmines.
Landmines in Egypt (Cont.)

- All the area contaminated is about 22% of Egypt and cannot be fully developed.
- In particular, the problem of landmines caused significant reduction of Egyptian production of oil and natural gas.
3. Landmines in Iran

• Searching Google for "Landmines in Iran", 409,000 entries were found.
Landmines in Iran (Cont.)

• According to the web "strategypage.com“, posted 9 January 2014, Iran stated that it has cleared 60% of the mines planted during the 1980s war with Iraq.
Landmines in Iran (Cont.)

• However, there are still 16 million mines left to be cleared.
• The mines are causing over 300 casualties per year.
• As an example, on 18 October 2013, seven school children in Iran were injured by landmines while playing in a field.
Landmines in Iran (Cont.)

• As another example, two persons were killed by the explosion of a mine left in an abandoned police station.

• Due to the large number of mines, many agricultural areas of land have been left unattended.
Landmines in Iran (Cont.)

- Although the war has ended, the mines are still alive and moved by rain and wind and therefore, difficult to locate and clear.
4. Landmines in Angola

• Searching Google for "Landmines in Angola", 350,000 entries were found.
• According to www.undp.org, there are 10 - 20 million mines waiting to be removed.
• However, Angola is a small country and therefore, it can be said that there are now 1 - 2 mines for every Angolan.
In the past 30 years, about 80,000 Angolan have been killed or maimed by landmines since Angola's 27-year civil war started in the year 1975.
• More than 870 million square meters of land in Angola have been cleared of landmines.

• UNDP has trained over 1,000 demining specialists at the National Demining Institute.
There was a five-year US$ 4.5 million Mine Action Capacity Development Project supported by:
- Italy
- Sweden
- Japan
- UNDP
5. Landmines in Afghanistan

• Searching Google for "Landmines in Afghanistan", 562,000 entries were found.

• According to www.afghan-network.net, there are about 10 million landmines waiting to be removed.
Landmines in Afghanistan (Cont.)

• It started in the war of 1978. Soviet and Afghanistan soldiers planted landmines in the years 1979 to 1992.
Landmines in Afghanistan (Cont.)

• An average of about 10 - 12 people per day were affected by landmines and about 50% of them died because of insufficient medical treatment.
• Kabul the capital of Afghanistan is the most heavily mined capital city of the whole world.
• The UN stated in the year 1993 that 162 of 365 districts of the country were affected by landmines.
Landmines in Afghanistan (Cont.)

• Minefields accounted for 466 sq. km.
• Five provinces out of 29 surveyed had the largest amount of mines.
Landmines in Afghanistan (Cont.)

- During the fighting,  
  50% of Afghan villages were destroyed,  
  25% of paved roads were ruined.
Landmines in Afghanistan (Cont.)

- Crop harvests were seriously affected.
- **In term of poverty and development, UNDP ranked Afghanistan 171 out of 173 countries, i.e. better than only 2 countries.**
6. Landmines in Iraq

- Searching Google for "Landmines in Iraq", 450,000 entries were found.
- According to www.hrw.org/legacy/campaigns/iraq/iraqmines1212.htm, there are about 10 million landmines waiting to be removed.
Landmines in Iraq (Cont.)

• They are from:
  - World War II
  - 1980-1988 Iraq-Iran War
  - 1991 Gulf War
  - and two decades of internal conflict.
Landmines in Iraq (Cont.)

• Landmines are problems in the north, along the Iran-Iraq border, and throughout the central and southern regions of the country.
• In the year 2001, an estimate of 30 casualties per month was reported.

• Humanitarian mine action programs have been in operation with funding of about US$80 from 1993 to 2001.
The UN also funded Iraq Mine Action Program (MAP) with about US$ 20 in the year 2000, and over US$28 million in the year 2001.
Landmines in Iraq (Cont.)

- The Army of Iraq also used mines in Kuwait in 1990-1991.
7. Landmines in Cambodia

• Searching Google for "Landmines in Cambodia", 460,000 entries were found.
Landmines in Cambodia (Cont.)

- According to Wikipedia, there are about 4 - 6 million landmines waiting to be removed.
Landmines in Cambodia (Cont.)

• From the three decades of war in Cambodia, there have been some 40,000 amputees which is the highest among all countries in the world.
Landmines in Cambodia (Cont.)

- In the year 2013, 111 persons were dead or injured by the mines.
The landmines in Cambodia were placed by:
- the Khmer Rouge,
- the Heng Samrin,
- the Hun Sen regimes during the Civil War in Cambodia in the 1970s.
Landmines in Cambodia (Cont.)

• One of the problems is that the people who placed the mines do not remember them a few years later.
Landmines in Cambodia (Cont.)

- From the survey conducted in the year 2002, 20% of all villages in Cambodia are still contaminated by landmines, resulting in restrictions on access to:
  - agricultural land
  - pasture land
  - forests
  - water resources
Landmines in Cambodia (Cont.)

- The Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMMA) estimates that the combined cost for demining operations are US$30 million and that Cambodia needs 10 to 20 years to clear the mines.
8. Landmines in Kuwait

• Searching Google for "Landmines in Kuwait", 216,000 entries were found.
• According to The-monitor.org, there are about 5 million landmines waiting to be removed.
Landmines in Kuwait (Cont.)

• In the year 2001, Kuwait stated that 45,845 landmines have been removed following the Gulf War and have been destroyed and that Kuwait forces have never used landmines.
Landmines in Kuwait (Cont.)

• In the year 2002, the US moved at least 7,776 mines from Qatar to Kuwait.
• In the year 2003, Kuwait collected and destroyed 28,262 pieces of ammunitions from an area of about 154.6 square kilometers.
Landmines in Kuwait (Cont.)

• From March 2000 to December 2002, there were 22 mine casualties in Kuwait.
• From 1991 to 1999, sixty were killed and 131 injured during mine clearance operations.
Landmines in Kuwait (Cont.)

• The Kuwait Red Crescent Society provides services for persons with disabilities including mine survivors.

• In the year 2002, an NGO called the Kuwaiti Society for Landmine Victims Assistance was established.
Landmines in Kuwait (Cont.)

• In the year 2003, approximately 35 civil groups requested that the government establish a national fund for persons with disabilities in Kuwait, with financial support from individual and company donations.
9. Landmines
In Bosnia-herzegovina

• Searching Google for "Landmines in Bosnia-Herzegovina", 190,000 entries were found.
• According to Wikipedia, there are about 3 million landmines waiting to be removed.
Landmines in Bosnia-herzegovina (Cont.)

• According to Wikipedia, there are about 3 million landmines waiting to be removed.
• Landmine contamination in Bosnia and Herzegovina became serious after the war from 1992 to 1995.
Landmines in Bosnia-herzegovina (Cont.)

- Landmine contamination in Bosnia and Herzegovina became serious after the war from 1992 to 1995.
• By the year 1996, 2 million landmines littered Bosnia.

• By September 2013, there are landmines in 28,699 locations with a total of 2.4% of the country's territory.
In May 2014, extensive landslides and flooding unearthed landmines so severe that government had to send in de-mining workers in residential areas.
Landmines in Bosnia-herzegovina (Cont.)

• The country hoped to clear all landmines by the year 2019.
• From the year 1992 to 2008, 5,005 people were killed or maimed by landmines.
The casualties after the year 2008 are:
- 28 for 2009
- 14 for 2010
- 23 for 2011
10. Landmines in Mozambique

- Searching Google for "Landmines in Mozambique", 294,000 entries were found.
- According to Aljazeera.com, there are about 3 million landmines waiting to be removed.
Landmines in Mozambique (Cont.)

• Hundreds of thousands of mines were planted in Mozambique during the war of independence from the year 1964 to 1975 against Portugal, and in the civil war from 1976 to 1992.
• However, Mozambique is expected to be declared landmine-free soon.
• The de-mining efforts in Mozambique have become a model for other countries.
Landmines in Mozambique (Cont.)

• A team from Handicap International, which is a nongovernmental organization, has been de-mining around power supply line which had been mined during the civil war to protect the power line from sabotage.
Landmines in Mozambique (Cont.)

• In de-mining, human de-miners with metal detectors enter the danger zone, with a dog with keen sense of smell to sniff out explosives in the ground.
Landmines in Mozambique (Cont.)

• The dogs are about 30 times faster than human de-miners.
• Also, the dogs‘ weight distribution make them less likely to trigger the mines.
11. Landmines in Somalia

• Searching Google for "Landmines in Somalia", 336,000 entries were found.
• According to Irinnews.org, there are about 1 million landmines waiting to be removed.
Landmines in Somalia (Cont.)

• The problems of landmines in Somalia is the result of internal and regional conflicts over about 40 years.
Landmines in Somalia (Cont.)

• The first conflict in the year 1964 and the second conflict in the years 1977 to 1978 were between the Somali Democratic Republic and Ethiopia over what is now Ethiopia's Somali Region.
Landmines in Somalia (Cont.)

• The third conflict in the years 1981 to 1991 between the Somalia National Movement and Somalia National Army.

• The UNDP stated that 400,000 to 800,000 landmines were laid between 1988 and 1991 alone.
Landmines in Somalia (Cont.)

- Central and southern Somalia are heavily mined.
- Landmines reduce access to land for agricultural production and for livestock.
Landmines in Somalia (Cont.)

- Landmines increases transportation costs, contributes to poor performance of rehabilitation and development efforts, loss of life, disabilities, lack of security, and etc.
• The UN thinks that the mine problems in Somalia can be solved in 7 to 10 years with adequate resources.

• Landmines problems and solutions are interdisciplinary in the sense that they require knowledge and efforts in many disciplines.
12. Concluding Remarks

- Landmines problems and solutions are interdisciplinary in the sense that they require knowledge and efforts in many disciplines.
Concluding Remarks (Cont.)

• Many disciplines such as:
  - Technology in general
  - Information and Communications Technology
  - National and Social Development
  - Health Sciences
  - and etc.
Concluding Remarks (Cont.)

• There are still millions of landmines to be removed and more landmines are being employed.

• Therefore, all parties concerned must try their best in combating the landmines problems.
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