



Explosive Weapons & Armed Violence Reduction

Explosive weapons, including landmines and cluster munitions, kill and injure civilians in countries all around the world during active conflict *and* decades after fighting ends.

When explosive weapons are used in populated areas, a **shocking 90% of casualties are civilians**.

The death toll keeps on rising as violence escalates in places like Ukraine and Gaza.

When conflict ends, these explosive remnants of war remain a threat to communities for decades to come. They pollute soil and water sources. Homes, health facilities, schools, and roads remain littered with unexploded ordnance that can detonate at any moment.

So many people have been left injured or with their lives and livelihoods completely ruined. **It is our mission at Humanity & Inclusion to ensure that these innocent people living in war-torn countries are not forgotten** and to put an end to the indiscriminate bombing of towns and cities.

Over the years, **Humanity & Inclusion has evolved into the world's most comprehensive mine action organization** with a three-pronged approach:



We prevent accidents through explosive ordnance risk education.



We make communities safer by clearing landmines and explosive remnants of war.



We support survivors with rehabilitation care and artificial limbs, as well as mental health support and economic opportunities.

Marta Quintero was just 14 when she stepped on a landmine. It was raining that day, and she was playing chase with her friends near her home. **“I looked behind me, and that's when I saw it. I had stepped off the path while running and put my foot on a mine,”** says Marta. Miraculously, the mine didn't explode that day because it was wet, yet Marta's life was changed forever.

Today, Marta has been part of HI's demining operations in Colombia for more than seven years. She started as a deminer and is now the field supervisor for two demining zones. She goes to work each day with an unwavering determination born out of personal experience.



Five-year-old Salam was picking olives in the field at her home in Syria when she found a strange piece of metal and began to play with it. **But Salam was playing with a cluster munition - a bomblet thrown from an aircraft. It exploded, killing her brother.**

Severely injured, Salam's left leg had to be amputated. After surgery, **she was cared for by HI physical therapists, who fitted her with a prosthetic leg and helped her learn to walk again.**

Salam and her family moved to Jordan, where she still receives support from HI. She is frequently at the top of her class. Salam wants to become a doctor and make artificial limbs for other children.

Drone Technology

Humanity & Inclusion works with robotics partners to test drones in assisting with mine clearance. Using thermal technology, drones can map contaminated areas and build a detailed picture of what's on the ground or below the surface. We piloted this technology in places like Chad, Iraq, and Ukraine.

Drones are revolutionizing landmine clearance operations. They help target mine clearance areas more precisely, improve the safety of humanitarian deminers, and reduce the time it takes for teams to return contaminated land to communities.

Anti-Personnel Landmines

Humanity & Inclusion was created in 1982 in response to the horrific landmine injuries suffered by Cambodian refugees. Soon, we realized that action needed to be taken at an international level to ban these indiscriminate weapons.

Humanity & Inclusion played a key role in founding the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, for which we were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997. Our advocacy continues as we urge the United States to join its NATO allies in the Treaty.



Bombing civilians isn't war. It's a crime.

Humanity & Inclusion is part of a global movement to stop the bombing of civilians. At Humanity & Inclusion, we want to protect civilians from indiscriminate acts of violence.

HI advocated for an international declaration to protect civilians from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The agreement was endorsed by global leaders, including from the United States, in 2022. We must continue to hold States accountable.

Join the campaign to Stop Bombing Civilians at hi-us.org/stop-bombing-civilians



Cluster Munitions

HI is a founding member of the Cluster Munition Coalition, and we actively support the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Although cluster bombs have been banned since 2010, they are still used in various countries. The United States has recently transferred cluster munitions to Ukraine.

A cluster munition is a container filled with small explosive bombs. Air-dropped or land-launched, it opens in the air and releases sub-munitions, scattering over a larger area. These indiscriminate weapons are particularly dangerous to civilians as their use is not accurate. And, in many cases, they fail to explode on impact, posing a grave, long-term threat to communities.

