

### Victim Assistance in Iran: then and now

Iran	1	2	3	4	5	6
According to original study		•	•	•	•	•
According to LM 2002					•	•
According to LM 2003					〈	〈

#### **Key Developments (LM 2002):**

Although Iran declared an export moratorium in 1997, mine clearance organizations in Afghanistan are encountering numerous Iranian mines, dated 1999 and 2000. Also, in early January 2002, the Israeli military seized Iranian-produced antipersonnel mines on a ship reportedly destined to Palestine. According to an Iranian military official, from March 2001 to March 2002, 70 million square meters of land was cleared, including more than 3.2 million antipersonnel mines, 914,000 antitank mines and 4,236 UXO. A new joint project with UNDP is aimed at establishing and implementing an integrated national mine action program.

#### **Indicator 1: The extent to which information on mine victims' demographics and needs is available.**

##### **According to original study:**

LM 2000 reports the findings of a January 2000 survey in Eylam (western province bordering Iraq) conducted by the High Center for Research and Informatics which found 394 deaths and 688 mine injuries between 1989-1999.

##### **According to LM 2002:**

Landmine Monitor recorded 18 people killed by mines in 2001, and two people killed and seven injured in the first quarter of 2002, from a limited number of available media reports. The reports showed the majority of casualties were civilian, including children and shepherds. According to two media reports, every year dozens of livestock, locals and migrant tribesmen are killed or injured by mines.<sup>21</sup>

In February 2001, an Iranian Army commander on a demining team in the southwest section of the country was killed in a mine accident.<sup>22</sup> In March, five children were killed in a landmine explosion at an abandoned military base in the border province of West Azarbaijan.<sup>23</sup> In another incident in March, two shepherds were killed by a mine in the western border city of Mehran, in Ilam province.<sup>24</sup> In April, in the southwestern province of Ilam, six Iranian soldiers were killed after stepping on mines.<sup>25</sup> In November, a farmer was killed in a mine explosion in Ilam province.<sup>26</sup> In December, three people were killed by landmines, including two soldiers in Kurdistan.<sup>27</sup> Mine incidents reported in Ilam province in 2002 included: in January, one person was killed and two injured in a landmine incident<sup>28</sup>, and in March, one person was killed and five others injured in landmine explosions.<sup>29</sup>

There is no systematic nationwide reporting of landmine survivors in Iran; a survey done in Ilam province in 2000 is the most in-depth study to date. Between 1989 and 1999, the survey recorded 1,082 casualties, of which 394 were killed.<sup>30</sup> No comprehensive information is available on landmine casualties in other provinces. The Medical Engineering Research Center estimates that there are 300 landmine or UXO casualties in Iran every year, of which 36% are killed.

#### **Indicator 2: The extent to which a national disability coordination mechanism exists and recognizes mine victims.**

##### **According to original study:**

No information available.

##### **According to LM 2002:**

Little is known about survivor assistance programs in Iran. Military personnel injured by mines receive medical care, rehabilitation, prosthetics, and a pension, from the army. However, civilians injured by mines are referred to the relevant governor general department who then assigns them to a public or private department.<sup>31</sup>

#### **Indicator 3: The extent to which programs and services for the medical care and rehabilitation of mine victims are available.**

**According to original study:**

LM 2000 reports that the High Center for Research and Informatics is planning to undertake a pilot study of the assistance and awareness programs for victims and affected communities, especially in Eylam province on the border with Iraq. No further information on the medical and rehabilitation services in Iran is available.

**According to LM 2002:**

The “Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation” provides a variety of services to people disabled during the Islamic Revolution and war with Iraq. According to their website, the Janbazan section provides many services for the members, including medical care, housing, employment opportunities, and advocacy on nondiscrimination laws and legislation. While this organization does provide assistance for soldiers affected by landmines, it is not clear who assists civilian mine survivors.<sup>32</sup>

In 2000, the High Center for Research and Information, the Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation, and the Norwegian Trauma Care Foundation, presented a proposal for a victim assistance program to the Ministry of Health. The program would provide training in emergency medical care to paramedics in mine-affected areas.<sup>33</sup> No information on the activities of the program in 2001 is available. However, it is known that in 2001 the Trauma Care Foundation received US\$41,000 in funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the program.<sup>34</sup>

**Indicator 4: The extent to which programs and services for the social and economic reintegration of mine victims are available**

**According to original study:**

No information available.

**According to LM 2002:**

The “Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation” provides a variety of services to people disabled during the Islamic Revolution and war with Iraq. According to their website, the Janbazan section provides many services for the members, including medical care, housing, employment opportunities, and advocacy on nondiscrimination laws and legislation. While this organization does provide assistance for soldiers affected by landmines, it is not clear who assists civilian mine survivors.<sup>32</sup>

**Indicator 5: The extent to which mine victims are protected and supported by effective laws and policies.**

**According to original study:**

No information available.

**According to LM 2002:**

No information available.

**Indicator 6: The extent to which there is a disability community advocacy network.**

**According to original study:**

No information available.

**According to LM 2002:**

No information available.

**Endnotes:**

<sup>21</sup> “Farmer Killed in Western Iran by Landmines Leftover from War with Iraq,” *Islamic Republic News Agency* (Ilam), 21 November 2001; and “Two Soldiers Killed in Mine Blasts on Iraqi Border,” *Agence France Presse* (Tehran), 18 December 2001.

<sup>22</sup> “Five Children Killed in Iran Landmine Explosion,” *Agence France Presse*, 17 March 2001.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> “Two Killed in Iran Landmine Blast,” *Agence France Presse*, 29 March 2001.

<sup>25</sup> “Six Iranian Soldiers Killed by Left-over Iran-Iraq War Mine,” *Agence France Presse*, 1 May 2001.

<sup>26</sup> “Farmer Killed in Western Iran by Landmines Leftover from War with Iraq,” *IRNA*, 21 November 2001.

<sup>27</sup> “Two Soldiers Killed in Mine Blasts on Iraqi Border,” *Agence France Presse*, 18 December 2001.

<sup>28</sup> “One Killed, Two Injured by Landmine in Ilam,” *Agence France Presse*, 29 January 2002.

<sup>29</sup> “One Killed, Five Wounded in Mine Explosions in Ilam,” *IRNA*, 6 March 2002.

<sup>30</sup> For details on the Ilam survey, see *Landmine Monitor Report 2000*, p. 930.

<sup>31</sup> See *Landmine Monitor Report 2001*, pp. 1006-1007.

<sup>32</sup> “Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation” website, <http://www.neda.net.ir/mostazfn/intro.htm>, accessed 30 March 2002.

<sup>33</sup> Portfolio of Landmine Victim Assistance Programs, ICBL, September 2000; see also <http://www.traumacare.no> (accessed 4 July 2002).

<sup>34</sup> UN Resource Mobilization at <http://www.mineaction.org> (accessed 4 July 2002).