

Victim Assistance in Nepal: then and now

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

Key Developments (LM 2002): The use of mines by the Maoist United People’s Front has increased with the escalation of the conflict. Mine incidents have now been reported in 71 of 75 districts, compared to reported incidents in 37 districts last year. According to information collected by the Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines, in 2001, 214 people were killed and 210 injured in 148 landmine and IED incidents. There continue to be serious indicators that government forces, both the police and the army, are using antipersonnel mines.

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

According to original study:

As Nepal is not mine affected, there have been no landmine victims inside the country. However, Nepalese soldiers have fallen victim to landmines while participating in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, and peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavian territories. Other Nepalese soldiers have apparently been maimed and killed by landmines while serving in foreign armies, such as India and UK. (This entry not in original study but found in LM 1999.)

According to LM 2002:

According to information collected by the NCBL, in 2001, 214 people were killed and 210 injured in 148 landmine and IED incidents: 33 were children (aged between one and 15 years); 19 were women and 372 were men. Of the 424 casualties, 71 were civilians. In 2000, 178 casualties were recorded, of which 94 were killed and 84 injured: 59 were civilians. The NCBL report was based on information from parliamentarians, leaders of various political parties, the special Monitoring Committees set up to monitor the activities of the army and Maoist rebels after the declaration of a state of emergency, the media, and personal interviews. Information is provided to the various sources by the army, the police, or from people living in the affected areas. Although there is no official data collection mechanism on mine casualties, a Ministry of Home Affairs representative said, “There is no data on death caused solely by landmines, but the number of people killed in mine explosions is not small.”³⁴

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:

No information.

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

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

Nepal has taken special measures to aid casualties of the conflict with the Maoists, however, no special provisions are designed for mine survivors. A Ministry of Home Affairs official stated, “The government has provided treatment to all those wounded in terrorist attacks, be it from landmines or from any other weapons. There is no separate budget for landmine victims and the cost is borne by the budget set aside for terrorist attacks.”³⁵ Hospitals providing assistance to mine/IED casualties include Bheri Zonal Hospital, Bir Hospital,

Tribhuvan Teaching Hospital, Dipendra Police Hospital, and the Birendra Police Hospital. There are no known programs offering physiotherapy, prosthetics, or psychological support to mine survivors.

The government provides financial assistance of Rs.750,000 (US\$9,740) to security personnel and Rs.150,000 (US\$1,299) to civilians if killed in Maoist attacks; if hospitalized, it will pay the entire bill and provide an Rs.75 (US\$0.75) per diem for food.³⁶ However, survivors claimed that they do not receive money in time for medical care and other expenses. The government spent a total of US\$15,264 in the period from 16 July 2000 to 15 July 2001 and US\$31,438 from 16 July 2001 to 1 February 2002 to provide helicopter evacuation for people injured in Maoists attacks.³⁷

A report from the Medical Director of the Birendra Police Hospital revealed that the hospital requested a total of US\$119,474 for the treatment of people wounded in Maoist attacks in the past two years, but the government provided only US\$43,984. The shortfall of US\$75,490 created difficulties in providing treatment to the injured. The equipment needed for the treatment of casualties costs about US\$219,922, but to January 2002, the government had provided only US\$23,286.³⁸

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:

No information.

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.

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.

Endnotes:

³⁴ Interview with Gopendra Bahadur Pandey, Ministry of Home Affairs, 30 January 2002.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Press conference of Devendra Raj Kandel, Minister of Home Affairs, Singh Durbar, 1 February 2002.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Statement of Dr. Kashi Ram Kunwar, Medical Director, Birendra Police Hospital, 22 January 2002.