

### Victim Assistance in Senegal: then and now

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

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

In 2001, 54 new landmine/UXO casualties were reported, a small decrease from the previous year. No systematic demining has occurred, although the Army engages in some mine clearance. From mid-2000 to mid-2001, Handicap International's mine risk education program reached the population in 680 of 776 accessible villages, and benefited 59,583 school children.

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

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

LM 1999 reports a survey of landmine survivors by the NGO Radho, 32% are in Ziguinchor, 23% in Oussouye, 16% in Oussouye and 6% from Bignona. 35% of victims are women and 58% are between the ages of 1 and 17. Senegalese military records indicate that, between October 1995 and June 1998, 226 mines were detonated by people or vehicles in the Ziguinchor region, creating 153 victims, all civilians, (45 dead and 108 injured), suggesting an average of about thirteen victims per month. LM 2000 reports that 59 mine casualties were registered in 1999, down from 195 in 1998.

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

In 2001, 54 new landmine/UXO casualties were reported, of which eight people were killed and 46 injured, including 48 men, three women, and three children.<sup>26</sup> This represents a small decrease from the 65 new casualties reported in 2000, which included 22 killed and 43 injured.<sup>27</sup> Handicap International has recorded another 452 landmine/UXO casualties between 1993 and 1999, including 91 killed, 324 injured, and 37 casualties where the date of the incident could not be determined.<sup>28</sup>

It is believed that the reported figures on mine casualties may not reflect the true reality of the number of new landmine/UXO victims in the region because of the influence of Islamic practice (burials take place as soon as possible after a death) and the absence of death registries.<sup>29</sup>

In Form C of its Article 7 report, Senegal reported that 89 antipersonnel mines, 59 antivehicle mines, one "mixed" mine and four other ordnance had been victim activated in the period 1 January 2001 to 1 April 2002.<sup>30</sup> It could be supposed that this caused more than the 65 casualties reported in 2001. NGOs and other mine survivor initiatives in the region are encouraging the local population to report landmine incidents.

Casualties continue to be reported in 2002. Handicap International recorded three men injured in mine incidents in January,<sup>31</sup> and in March, a landmine explosion killed eight people, including a Gambian national.<sup>32</sup>

#### **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 available.

#### **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 1999 reports that there is an orthopedic centre at Ziguinchor regional hospital, where HI is currently carrying out a medical support program for the mine victims. The centre lacks materials and trained professionals; ongoing and follow-up care is inadequate. Only military mine victims, who are generally evacuated to Dakar, receive coverage for medical expenses and follow-up support.

**According to LM 2002:**

Due to a lack of national resources, assistance to mine survivors is limited.<sup>33</sup> Prosthetics and rehabilitation services are provided at the Ziguinchor hospital and the Centre d'Appareillage orthopédique (Center of Orthopedic Appliances) in Dakar. Handicap International is the main mine action actor. In addition to data collection, HI supported the decentralization of the orthopedic surgery and physical rehabilitation services of the Ziguinchor hospital. Two departmental centers were created in Bignona and Oussouye, the two chief towns of the region.<sup>34</sup> HI also supports the training of physiotherapists and orthopedic technicians. Until February 2001, HI financed the KAGAMEN victim transit center in Ziguinchor, and provided survivors with prostheses and with financial support for income generating activities. The program has now ceased activities.<sup>35</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:**

LM 2000 reports that socio-economic reintegration programs are available and that KAGAMEN has providing support for mine victims since June 1999.

In July 1999, mines survivors created the Association Sénégalaise des Victimes de Mines (ASVM) to help empower survivors to achieve sustainable economic reintegration. Since its creation, ASVM has received forty prostheses from Handicap International, and CFA 2,400,000 (about US\$3,300) from the national football team. This money is being used for a micro-credit program targeting mine survivors in the Casamance region.<sup>36</sup>

**According to LM 2002:**

The "Centre de Guidance Infantile et Familiale," a NGO based in Casamance, provides psychotherapeutic support for war victims, including landmine survivors, through group discussion and sensitization.<sup>37</sup>

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

LM 2000 reports that the national association of Senegal's physically handicapped is supporting legal proceedings in defense of the handicapped. The association hopes to get the government to pass a law to protect the disabled but that there been no progress since the change of government in 2000.

**According to LM 2002:**

No information available.

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

LM 2000 reports that the national association of Senegal's physically handicapped is supporting legal proceedings in defense of the handicapped.

**According to LM 2002:**

No information available.

**Endnotes:**

<sup>26</sup> Data on mine and UXO victims in Casamance from 1988 to January 2002, Handicap International, sent to Landmine Monitor on 8 May 2002.

<sup>27</sup> Revised casualty data for 2000 was provided to Landmine Monitor by Handicap International in an email dated 30 November 2001.

<sup>28</sup> Data on mine and UXO victims in Casamance from 1988 to January 2002, Handicap International, sent to Landmine Monitor on 8 May 2002.

<sup>29</sup> "Les Victimes de Mines en Casamance," Handicap International, November 2000, p. 21.

<sup>30</sup> Article 7 Report, Form C, 22 April 2002.

<sup>31</sup> Data on mine and UXO victims in Casamance from 1988 to January 2002, Handicap International, sent to Landmine Monitor on 8 May 2002.

<sup>32</sup> "Eight Killed in Landmine Explosion," *The Independent* (Gambian newspaper), 15 March 2002.

<sup>33</sup> *Landmine Monitor Report 2000*, p. 101.

<sup>34</sup> Email from Sophie Wiseur-Gaye, Program Coordinator in Casamance, Handicap International, 8 May 2002.

<sup>35</sup> Telephone interview with Sophie Wyseur-Gaye, Program Coordinator in Casamance, Handicap International, Ziguinchor, 2 May 2002; email from Sophie Wiseur-Gaye, 8 May 2002; interview with Sophie Wiseur-Gaye, Ziguinchor, 15 May 2002.

<sup>36</sup> Abdoulaye Seye, “Ziguinchor : des GIE pour les victimes de mines,” *Le Soleil* (daily newspaper), 10 August 2001.

<sup>37</sup> Interview with Emile Dieme, Coordinator, Centre de Guidance Infantile et Familiale, Ziguinchor, 14 May 2002.