

Issue Brief

Risks Posed by Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War in Arakan: Long-Term Impacts and Protection Challenges

No. (12/2026)

Mine/ERW Risk and Civilian Protection



Maung Aung Hlaing, a father of three who was injured by a landmine on 3 August 2024, pictured at an IDP camp in Shwe Bo Village, Buthidaung Township. (Photo: Rajeev Bhattacharyya/The Diplomat)

October 5, 2026

1. Introduction

(A) Main Focus	Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in Arakan: Civilian Harm, Livelihood Impacts, and Mine-Clearance Responses
(B) Geographic Scope	All 17 townships in Arakan (Rakhine State)
(C) Study Period	From January 2024 to August 2026

Following the renewed escalation of fighting in Arakan (Rakhine State) in November 2023, armed conflict expanded across many townships, while the risks posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) became an increasingly significant challenge to civilian safety. In particular, incidents involving landmines and ERW have continued to cause civilian deaths, loss of limbs, and serious injuries in former conflict areas, around former military positions, along coastal areas, in forests and mountainous areas, and on agricultural land. Children have also been among those affected.

The risks posed by landmines and ERW extend beyond casualties and injuries, affecting the daily livelihoods and mobility of local communities. Many incidents have occurred while civilians were collecting firewood, bamboo, and vegetables; fishing; grazing livestock; or working on farms, plantations, and gardens. As a result, landmine contamination has become not only a civilian protection concern but also a longer-term challenge affecting the resumption of livelihoods and the safe return and resettlement of displaced communities.

In areas under the control of the Arakan Army (AA), measures such as the installation of mine-risk warning signs and the provision of landmine risk awareness activities have been reported. However, civilian casualties continue to occur due to the continued presence of landmines and ERW. Survivors also face ongoing needs for medical treatment, rehabilitation, and livelihood assistance.

This study provides an overview of reported landmine- and ERW-related incidents in Rakhine State between 2024 and 2026. It examines civilian casualties, patterns of incidents, impacts on livelihoods and children, mine-clearance responses, and the longer-term challenges faced by survivors. The study draws on reports from local and international media, as well as information published by UNICEF. The incidents presented below are not intended to constitute a comprehensive record of all landmine- and ERW-related incidents in Rakhine State; rather, they represent selected relevant cases identified for this study.

2. Summary of Findings

January 2024

(1) Increase in Civilian Casualties from Landmines During the Rakhine Conflict (DMG)

Between 13 November 2023 and 12 January 2024, [one civilian was killed, and 10 others were injured](#) by landmines in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Myebon, Ann, Rathedaung, and Maungdaw townships. The incidents occurred mainly around military junta bases and police stations, and the risk posed by landmines to civilians' daily movement and livelihood activities has increased alongside the conflict.

February 2024

(2) Civilian Loses Arm and Leg After Stepping on a Landmine in Myebon Township (Narinjara)

On 23 February 2024, a 50-year-old man from Ngapyaw Chaung Village in Myebon Township [stepped on a landmine while searching for buffalo fodder](#), resulting in the loss of his right leg and right arm, as well as injuries to his left leg and chin. The report stated that military junta troops had previously been stationed near the location where the incident occurred.

March 2024

(3) Five Civilians Injured by Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War in Minbya, Myebon, and Kyaukphyu (DMG & Narinjara)

On 11 March, two men from Yar Hmu Ward and Min Tat Taung Village in Kyaukphyu [each lost their left leg](#) after stepping on landmines. On 13 March, a woman from Kyar Ye Pyin Village in Minbya Township [lost her left leg after stepping on a landmine while collecting firewood](#), while a man from Kan Thar Htwet Wa Ward in Myebon [lost his right leg after stepping on a landmine](#) and also sustained injuries to his left leg. On 14 March, a 25-year-old man from Yan Taing Village in Minbya Township [was injured by the explosion of an explosive remnant of war](#).

(4) One Killed and One Injured in Landmine Explosions in Kyaukphyu (Narinjara)

On 22 March 2024, a Kyaukphyu resident returning from collecting jackfruit [stepped on a landmine at Kyan Tet Taung near Police Battalion No. \(32\) in Doe Tan Taung, Kyaukphyu Township](#), resulting in the loss of his right leg. Another villager who went to rescue him also lost a leg after another landmine exploded nearby and later died. Local residents said that military junta troops had previously been stationed in the area and that landmine risks could therefore remain.

April 2024

(5) Father Killed and Daughter Seriously Injured in ERW Explosion in Minbya (Narinjara)

On 6 April 2024, in Nga/Tan Pyin Village, Minbya Township, [an explosive remnant of war found behind a house exploded when it was struck in an attempt to break it open](#), killing a 58-year-old man and seriously injuring his 28-year-old daughter. Military junta troops had been stationed in the village during the conflict, and after local residents returned to live in the village, they continued to face risks from landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

(6) Four Civilians Seriously Injured by Landmines in Kyaukphyu Township in April (DMG, Narinjara)

On 9, 20, and 22 April 2024, three landmine incidents occurred in Kyaukphyu Township, seriously injuring four civilian men. The incidents occurred at [Nga Kaung Su Taung between Mala Kyun and Ohn Taw villages](#), [Nga Maung Oo Taung between Hnan Phe Taung and Pyaing Se Kay villages](#), and [near Pyaing Se Kay Village](#). The victims stepped on landmines while carrying out livelihood activities, including collecting vegetables and tending cattle. Three of them each lost a leg, while one sustained shrapnel injuries across his body. According to the reports, local residents said that military junta troops had travelled through, camped, or been stationed in these areas.

(7) Landmines Around Sittwe Make It Difficult for Local Residents to Flee (DVB)

In April 2024, DVB reported, citing local residents and political circles, that local residents faced [difficulties fleeing Sittwe](#) because the military junta had blocked land and waterways and planted landmines around the city, including at jetties and along routes that could be used to leave the city. Local residents also reported deaths and injuries caused by landmine explosions, while those trapped in the city were facing shortages of food and medicine.

May 2024

(8) Three Civilians Seriously Injured by Landmines in Kyaukphyu, Taungup, and Ann (Narinjara)

Between 6 and 7 May 2024, [three civilians each lost a leg after stepping on landmines](#) in Kyaukphyu, Taungup, and Ann townships. On 6 May, a 48-year-old woman from Taungup stepped on a landmine while searching for Katet roots, while a 15-year-old student from Ann stepped on a landmine while collecting cashew nuts. On 7 May, a 45-year-old man from Kyaukphyu stepped on a landmine while going to cut bamboo, resulting in the loss of a leg as well as injuries across his body. Narinjara reported that all three incidents were linked to landmines planted by military junta troops.

(9) One Youth Killed and Two Injured by a Remnant Landmine in Rathedaung (Narinjara)

On 15 May 2024, three youths from Kyauk Tan Village in Rathedaung Township were travelling to Kan Pyin Village when [one of them stepped on a landmine near Kan Pyin School](#), killing a 16-year-old youth and injuring the other two. The youth who stepped on the landmine lost his left leg and sustained serious injuries, later dying while receiving medical treatment. The two other youths, aged 16 and 18, sustained shrapnel injuries to their faces and bodies.

June 2024**(10) Landmine Risks Affect Local Mobility and Agricultural Activities in Kyaukphyu (DMG)**

As of June 2024, the presence of landmines along forest paths, hills, routes crossing farmland, forest edges, and plantations near several villages in Kyaukphyu Township was [affecting local mobility and agricultural activities](#). According to DMG, four civilians had been killed and 10 injured in landmine incidents in villages including Ohn Taw, Kalar Bar, Mala Kyun, Pyaing Se Kay, Hnan Phe Taung, and Aung Zedi, while buffaloes and cattle had also been killed or injured. Local residents said that landmines had been planted in areas where military junta troops had conducted operations or established temporary positions. Due to the landmine risk, some farmers were unable even to cultivate monsoon paddy.

(11) Local Resident Killed by Landmine While Collecting Vegetables in Thandwe (DMG)

On 17 June 2024, a man in his 60s from Ale Ywar Village in Thandwe Township [stepped on a landmine while going to collect vegetables](#) on farmland near the village and died from excessive blood loss. According to local residents, military junta troops had been stationed in the area and withdrew on 2 June following fighting with the AA, DMG reported.

(12) Two Civilians Lose Legs and One Goes Missing After Landmine Incident in Taungup (DMG)

On 25 June 2024, three residents of Don Village in Taungup Township [stepped on a landmine while going to search for vegetables](#) in the mountain range west of Taungup University. The explosion resulted in the loss of the left leg of one woman and the right leg of one man. Another man who was accompanying them went missing, and his condition had not yet been confirmed, according to DMG. The report stated that military junta troops were stationed at Taungup University, approximately three furlongs from the site of the incident, and that security outposts had also been established in the surrounding area.

July 2024

(13) Two Civilians Lose Legs in Landmine Incidents in Gwa Township in July (DMG)

During July 2024, two local men from Kyeintali in Gwa Township each lost a leg after stepping on landmines while going to search for vegetables. On 2 July, a [29-year-old man](#) lost his right leg, and on 7 July, another man also [lost a leg after stepping on a landmine](#). According to DMG, local residents had been informed that [the military junta had planted landmines](#) in forests, mountainous areas, and other locations in the area.

(14) One Civilian Killed and Another Loses a Leg in Landmine Incidents in Minbya (DMG)

During July 2024, two landmine incidents occurred in Minbya Township, killing one civilian and seriously injuring another. On 7 July, a 26-year-old man from Pha Pyo Village stepped on a landmine while cutting firewood in the hills near the village, resulting in the loss of his left leg, and [died from excessive blood loss](#). On 11 July, a 22-year-old man from Aung Tharyar Ward in Minbya stepped on a landmine [inside Light Infantry Battalion \(LIB\) 379, where military junta troops had previously been based](#), while going to collect bamboo shoots. He lost one leg and sustained serious injuries.

(15) ULA/AA Issues Landmine Risk Warning (AA Info Desk)

On 13 July 2024, the AA warned of landmine risks at former military junta bases, roads, bridges, schools, and grazing areas in Thandwe, Maungdaw, and townships it had captured. It also [urged people to avoid travelling to these areas or allowing buffaloes and cattle to graze there](#).



An unexploded landmine found in Rakhine State. (Photo: Narinjara)

August 2024

(16) Civilians Injured by Landmines During August (DMG, Narinjara)

During August 2024, civilians were killed and injured by landmines in Gwa, Maungdaw, Taungup, and Myebon townships. On 2 August, a 41-year-old man from Kyeintali in Gwa Township [stepped on a landmine while collecting logs for firewood](#), resulting in the loss of his right leg. On 7 August, a man in his 40s from Maungdaw [stepped on a landmine while fleeing displacement caused by the conflict](#), resulting in the loss of his right leg and injuries across his body. On 13 August, a 36-year-old man from Taungup [stepped on a landmine while returning from fishing](#), resulting in the loss of his left leg. On 16 August, a 13-year-old child from Myebon [accidentally struck a landmine with a knife while cutting firewood](#), causing it to explode and injure the child's face and legs. In addition, on 24 August, a 37-year-old man from Thazin Village in Ponnagyun Township [stepped on a landmine while going up a hill near Light Infantry Battalion \(LIB\) 550](#), resulting in the loss of a leg and his death. On 31 August, a 69-year-old man from Ngapyaw Chaung Village, Gone Chwin Village Tract, Kyaukphyu Township, [stepped on a landmine while grazing cattle](#), resulting in the loss of his left leg and injuries across his body. He died from excessive blood loss.

(17) Military Junta Plants Landmines Near Some Villages in Manaung (DMG)

In August 2024, DMG reported that military junta troops had planted landmines in some [farmland and coastal areas](#) near Kha Ohn Maw and Kan Taing Oak villages in Manaung Township and had installed warning signs indicating the presence of landmines.

September 2024

(18) One Killed and One Seriously Injured by Landmines in Kyaukphyu (DMG)

On 8 September 2024, a 58-year-old man from Sai Chone Village stepped on a landmine while grazing cattle and [lost his right leg](#). Due to his family's financial difficulties, he [required emergency assistance to cover medical treatment costs](#). On 17 September, a 26-year-old woman from Kyaukphyu stepped on a landmine while collecting vegetables near Aung Zedi Village, resulting in the loss of her right leg, and [died from excessive blood loss](#). According to DMG's records, between November 2023 and September 2024, [six people were killed and 13 injured by landmines](#) in Kyaukphyu Township.

November 2024

(19) Landmine Explodes While Residents Clear Their Homes in Tinma Village (DMG)

On 2 November 2024, local residents who had returned to Tinma Village in Kyauktaw Township

were clearing the areas around their homes when they burned piles of vegetation, causing [a landmine to explode](#). No injuries were reported. DMG reported that the risks posed by explosive remnants of war have made it difficult for local residents in Rakhine State to resume farming and hillside cultivation.

December 2024

(20) Landmine and Explosive Ordnance Casualties in Rakhine State in 2024 (UNICEF)

During 2024, 91 incidents involving landmines and explosive ordnance (EO) were recorded in Rakhine State, resulting in 130 civilian casualties, including both deaths and injuries. This accounted for 12 percent of all civilian casualties caused by landmines and EO nationwide. Compared with other states and regions, Rakhine State had the [third-highest number of casualties](#), after Shan State and Sagaing Region.

February 2025

(21) Woman Loses a Leg After Stepping on a Landmine While Collecting Firewood in Taungup (Narinjara)

On 6 February 2025, a 51-year-old woman from Kan Paing Ward in Taungup [stepped on a remnant landmine while collecting firewood](#) near Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 346, where military junta troops had previously been stationed. The landmine explosion resulted in the loss of her left leg and serious injuries to her right leg, requiring medical treatment.

(22) Civilian Casualties Caused by Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War in Maungdaw (Narinjara)

On 5 February 2025, a 27-year-old man in Shwe Zar Gone Nar Village [stepped on a landmine while going to wash his face](#) near a water tank at his home, resulting in the loss of one leg. The following day, on 6 February, a woman in the same village [stepped on a landmine while going to fetch water](#) behind her house and lost one leg, while two other people nearby, including a two-year-old child, sustained shrapnel injuries. On 10 February, an explosive remnant of war found in the village exploded while being handled and played with at a tea shop, [killing one young man and injuring four others](#). Following these incidents, the AA conducted mine-clearance operations and had [removed more than 30 landmines by 12 February](#). However, on 23 February, a man from Mee Taik Village in northern Maungdaw [stepped on a remnant landmine while going to cut bamboo](#) on a hill north of the village, resulting in the loss of one leg.

March 2025

(23) AA Clearing Thousands of Landmines in Ann to Enable Local Residents to Return Home (Narinjara)

After taking control of Ann Township on 20 December 2024, the AA began conducting mine-clearance operations in urban wards, former military junta positions, conflict-affected areas, hills, plantations, and agricultural land to enable local residents to return home. As of March 2025, local residents said that [thousands of landmines had been removed](#). Narinjara also reported that some displaced residents had not yet been permitted to return home because mine-clearance operations had not been completed.

April 2025

(24) Civilian Casualties from Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War Continue in Rakhine During April (Narinjara)

During April 2025, civilian casualties caused by landmines and explosive remnants of war continued to occur in Gwa, Taungup, and Myebon townships. On 3 April in Gwa, a man who had gone to collect vegetables [stepped on a landmine and lost one leg](#). On 4 April in Taungup, a 13-year-old child was killed and an 11-year-old child injured after they [struck an explosive remnant of war they had collected while playing with it](#). On [9 April in Myebon](#) and [10 April in Taungup](#), three people who had gone to collect vegetables stepped on landmines and lost their legs. Then, on 24 April in Taungup, a man was killed when [an explosive remnant of war exploded after he attempted to pull it out](#) while clearing vegetation.

(25) Challenges Related to Mine Clearance and Response (Myanmar Now)

Although mine-clearance and risk-awareness activities are being conducted in AA-controlled areas, AA spokesperson U Khaing Thukha said that [the lack of sufficient equipment and supporting materials required for mine clearance](#) remains a major challenge. Therefore, material and technical support from neighbouring countries and international organisations is needed to accelerate mine-clearance operations. The report also stated that local residents who have to travel to forests and mountainous areas to sustain their livelihoods continue to face landmine incidents, while people who have lost limbs also require psychosocial support, rehabilitation, and livelihood assistance.

June 2025

(26) Landmine Casualties Continue in Rakhine and Border Areas in Late June (Narinjara)

Between 22 and 30 June 2025, one civilian was killed and two others were seriously injured in landmine explosions in [Taungup and Kyaukphyu townships](#). The victims encountered landmines while ploughing farmland, collecting vegetables, and walking. In addition, along

the Bangladesh–Rakhine border, two young Bangladeshi nationals lost their legs in landmine explosions on [22 June](#) and [25 June](#). Therefore, the reported incidents resulted in a total of one death and four injuries.

(27) More Than 2,000 Landmines Cleared in Thandwe and Gwa (Narinjara)

As of June 2025, Narinjara reported that the Arakan Army had [cleared more than 2,000 landmines](#), including approximately 500 in Thandwe and more than 1,500 in Gwa. Mine-clearance operations were being conducted at former military positions, along roads, in forests and mountainous areas, and on agricultural land. However, the risks posed by landmines and unexploded remnants of war continued to restrict local residents' mobility and livelihood activities.

July 2025

(28) Landmine Risks Affect Livelihood Activities in Ann (Narinjara)

On 23 July 2025, a 31-year-old man who had gone to collect bamboo shoots in Ann Township [lost one leg after stepping on a landmine](#). At least six landmine incidents were reported in Ann between February and July, resulting in one death and at least six injuries. Most of the incidents occurred during livelihood and subsistence activities, such as cutting firewood and bamboo, collecting fruit and bamboo shoots, and travelling to farmland.

August 2025

(29) Reports of Increased Landmine Deployment Near Sittwe University and Residential Areas (Narinjara)

During August 2025, Narinjara reported, citing local residents, that military junta troops had planted more landmines than previously at strategically important locations [in Sittwe](#), including around the university, airport, Bume Ward, Strand Road, and villages near the city. Local residents expressed concern about an increased risk of civilian landmine casualties because some of these locations, including open areas behind the university, were places where residents commonly collected vegetables and other food.

December 2025

(30) Rakhine Records Second-Highest Number of Landmine and Explosive Ordnance Casualties in Myanmar (UNICEF)

According to UNICEF's 2025 records, Rakhine State had the [second-highest](#) number of both landmine and other explosive ordnance (EO) incidents and civilian casualties in Myanmar, after Shan State. A total of 74 incidents were recorded in Rakhine, resulting in 117 civilian casualties.

These accounted for 15 percent of all recorded incidents and 16 percent of all civilian casualties nationwide.

January 2026

(31) Casualties from Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War in Maungdaw and Ann Townships (BNA, Narinjara)

During January 2026, one person was killed and another seriously injured by a landmine and explosive remnants of war in Maungdaw and Ann townships. On 10 January, a 30-year-old man from Taung Bazar Village in Maungdaw Township [stepped on a landmine near the Milepost 50 checkpoint while returning from cutting wood](#), resulting in the loss of one leg. On 19 January, an eight-year-old child from Auk Ywar (Si Saing Kone) in Ann Township [was killed by the explosion of an explosive remnant of war](#) while going to collect bananas from a banana plantation near the village.

February 2026

(32) Displaced Man Killed After Stepping on a Landmine in Sittwe (Western News)

Around mid-February 2026, a 50-year-old displaced man from Kyay Taw Ward in Sittwe [was killed after stepping on a landmine](#) while returning to check on his home. Citing local residents, Western News reported that military junta troops had planted landmines in Kyay Taw, the Korean Port, Point Beach, the airport, and other strategically important locations around Sittwe.

(33) Two Men Killed in ERW Explosion in Minbya (Narinjara)

On 14 February 2026, two men aged 27 and 35 who worked as woodcutters found an explosive remnant of war while going to collect firewood they had previously cut east of Pha Pyaw Village in Minbya Township. The explosive device detonated after they attempted to strike it with a knife, [killing both men instantly](#).

March 2026

(34) One Killed and Four Injured by Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War During March (Western News)

Between 18 and 24 March 2026, five landmine and explosive remnants of war incidents occurred in Thandwe, Myebon, Minbya, and Taungup townships, [killing one civilian and injuring four others](#). In Thandwe, Myebon, Minbya, and Taungup, one person was killed and three others were injured after stepping on landmines while collecting firewood or travelling near former military positions. In Taungup, an 11-year-old child was seriously injured when a 40 mm explosive

remnant of war, which the child had collected near a former military base, exploded while the child was striking and playing with it.

(35) Two Young People Lose Legs in Landmine Explosions Along the Bangladesh–Rakhine Border (Narinjara)

On 26 and 29 March 2026, two landmine explosions occurred near the Naf River and the zero line along the Bangladesh–Rakhine border, [seriously injuring two young refugees](#), each of whom lost one leg. In the 29 March incident, a teenage youth encountered a landmine explosion while coming ashore on the Myanmar side after fishing. On 26 March, a 25-year-old refugee was also seriously injured in a landmine explosion near the border’s zero line.

April 2026

(36) Child Loses a Leg After Stepping on a Landmine in Maungdaw, and 22 Landmines Cleared (Narinjara)

On 27 April 2026, a 12-year-old child stepped on a landmine while picking mangoes near Four Mile (Muslim) Village in Maungdaw Township, resulting in the loss of the left leg. Following the incident, the AA conducted mine-clearance operations in the area and [located and removed 22 landmines](#). The report stated that the landmines were believed to have been planted by the Myanmar military before the AA took control of Maungdaw, and that mine-clearance and mine-risk awareness activities were continuing in Maungdaw and surrounding areas.

(37) Two Civilians Lose Legs After Stepping on Landmines in Sittwe During April (Narinjara)

During April 2026, two landmine incidents occurred in Sittwe Township, with [two civilians each losing one leg](#). On 17 April, a 45-year-old man from Dar Paing Muslim Relief Camp stepped on a landmine in the area surrounding the camp. On 29 April, a 10-year-old girl from Ohn Taw Gyi Village stepped on a landmine while collecting firewood near the village with her mother, resulting in the loss of her right leg. Local residents said that the landmines had been planted by the military, and the report stated that landmine risks remained in villages and along creek banks around Sittwe.

June 2026

(38) Long-Term Livelihood Challenges Faced by Landmine Survivors (The Diplomat)

The impacts of landmines and explosive remnants of war extend beyond deaths and injuries at the time of an explosion and also affect the long-term livelihoods of survivors. The experiences of landmine survivors from Rakhine State interviewed by [The Diplomat](#) included people who encountered landmines while carrying out daily livelihood activities such as collecting firewood,

bamboo, and vegetables and grazing livestock. The report described how, following the loss of [limbs](#), survivors faced difficulties returning to their previous occupations, as well as longer-term socioeconomic impacts including loss of income and the need for medical treatment and rehabilitation.

July 2026

(39) 102 M-14 Landmines Cleared in Maungdaw During July (Narinjara)

During July 2026, the AA mine-clearance team removed a total of 102 M-14 landmines in Maungdaw Township. On 3 July, [35 landmines](#) were cleared from around Gaung Nyar Village near the Labawzar Bridge, and on 25 July, [an additional 67 landmines were cleared](#) along inter-village roads between Zula, Horitala, Italia, and Zantila villages. The reports stated that these landmines had been planted during previous periods of fighting and that mine-clearance operations were continuing along roads and in forested and mountainous areas used by local residents.

August 2026

(40) Ten Children Injured in ERW Explosion in Maungdaw (DMG)

On 20 August 2026, 10 children aged approximately five to 10 were injured when [an explosive remnant of war](#) exploded while they were striking and playing with it inside a compound in Inn Din Village, Maungdaw Township. Six of the children sustained serious injuries. It was not known where the explosive device had been found, but local residents believed that it could have been an explosive remnant of war because military troops had previously been stationed in Inn Din Village during the conflict. Although mine-clearance operations have been conducted in Maungdaw, risks from landmines and explosive remnants of war remain, with children being the primary victims in this incident.

3. Key Findings

1. Based on the incidents compiled and reviewed between 2024 and 2026, civilian casualties caused by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) continued to occur across multiple townships in Rakhine State. The impacts included deaths, serious injuries, and loss of limbs. The geographical distribution of the documented incidents indicates that the risks posed by landmines and ERW are not confined to a single area but affect communities across Rakhine State.
2. Most of the documented incidents were associated with civilians carrying out their daily livelihood activities rather than being directly caught in active fighting. Incidents repeatedly occurred while people were cutting firewood and bamboo, collecting food, fishing, grazing livestock, and working on farms, plantations, and gardens. This demonstrates the close relationship between landmine risks and livelihood insecurity.

3. Children were also identified as a particularly vulnerable group to the risks posed by landmines and ERW. Repeated incidents involved children being killed or injured after picking up, handling, or playing with unexploded grenades, 40 mm explosive ordnance, and other remnants of war. These incidents indicate a continued need for greater risk awareness and education specifically targeting children.
4. The review of landmine incidents indicates that risks from landmines and ERW were particularly evident in former conflict areas and around former military positions. In many documented cases, local residents and news sources reported that the landmines had been planted during the previous deployment of Myanmar military forces in those areas.
5. The situation in Sittwe Township differs somewhat from other areas, as landmine risks are also closely linked to civilians' freedom of movement and ability to flee. Reports of landmines along routes into and out of the city and near residential areas, together with incidents affecting people attempting to flee, indicate that landmine contamination can also obstruct civilians' ability to move to safer locations.
6. Although mine-clearance and risk-awareness activities are underway in areas under Arakan Army control, gaps remain in clearance capacity, technical resources, and equipment. While some areas have reportedly removed large numbers of landmines, insufficient mine-clearance equipment remains a key challenge.
7. The consequences of landmine incidents do not end with the immediate casualty but have longer-term impacts on survivors and their families. Loss of limbs can reduce survivors' ability to return to their previous livelihood activities and create longer-term needs for medical care, physical and psychosocial rehabilitation, prosthetic devices, and livelihood assistance.

4. Analysis

The Ottawa Treaty, formally known as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, entered into force on 1 March 1999. It is one of the principal international legal instruments aimed at prohibiting the use of anti-personnel mines and reducing the humanitarian consequences of landmine contamination. However, several major powers, including the United States, China, Russia, and India, are not parties to the Convention.

In armed conflict, mines can provide military advantages by restricting an opposing force's movement, protecting strategically important positions and territory, and functioning as a form of force multiplication. They can also disrupt an adversary's movement and create psychological pressure. In Myanmar's internal armed conflicts, different armed actors have used mines in various ways for military purposes. Mines can broadly be categorised as landmines and naval mines, while landmines can be further classified into anti-vehicle mines and anti-personnel mines.

Based on the incidents reviewed in this study, many of the mines causing civilian casualties appear to be anti-personnel mines. Such mines may have originally been placed to protect military positions or restrict the movement of opposing forces. However, when mines remain in place after fighting has ended or forces have withdrawn, they continue to pose risks to civilians. As documented in this study, casualties have occurred when civilians entered forests, hills, farmland, and other areas in search of food or livelihoods. Other incidents involved people unknowingly handling explosive remnants of war, including cases in which children picked up or played with explosive devices, resulting in deaths and serious injuries.

Although landmines can be relatively easy to deploy, detecting, removing, and neutralising them can be considerably more difficult. This challenge becomes particularly serious when accurate records of mine locations are unavailable. In a number of the incidents reviewed in this study, local residents and media reports attributed landmines found around former military positions and conflict areas to the Myanmar military. Where forces have withdrawn from territory, identifying the precise locations of previously laid mines can be difficult, increasing the longer-term risks faced by civilians returning to these areas.

At the same time, the AA, which has assumed responsibility for mine-clearance activities across areas under its control, faces limitations in the availability of specialised equipment, technical capacity, and other resources required for effective mine action. As a result, despite ongoing clearance efforts, landmine and ERW contamination continues to expose civilians to death, serious injury, and loss of limbs, while also restricting access to farmland, forests, and other areas essential to local livelihoods.

The landmine problem in Rakhine State therefore extends beyond an immediate security concern. It is also a long-term civilian protection, livelihoods, displacement, and recovery challenge. Addressing these risks requires coordinated mine action involving relevant authorities and domestic and international organisations, including risk education, prevention, systematic survey and clearance, medical treatment, physical and psychosocial rehabilitation, prosthetic support, and livelihood assistance for survivors. Sustained and coordinated action across these areas will be essential to reducing civilian harm and supporting the safe recovery of mine-affected communities.



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