



South Lebanon Cluster Bomb Info Sheet

Casualties from Unexploded Ordnance

- There have been 22 reported fatalities and 134 reported injuries from all types of unexploded ordnance in Lebanon as at November 2, 2006. Of these totals, children 18 years old or younger accounted for six of the fatalities and 48 of the injuries, according to Lebanon's National Demining Office. All the fatalities and most of the injuries resulted from cluster munitions.

Cluster Bomb Contamination

- So far, 800 cluster bomb strike locations have been identified in the south.
- Approximately 85% of southern Lebanon has been assessed for cluster-bomb strikes.
- For each cluster-bomb strike, clearance personnel must verify an area totaling 196,000 square meters to locate (and eventually destroy) all unexploded bomblets.
- An estimated 12 to 15 months will be needed to clear the cluster bomblets from southern Lebanon.
- Unexploded cluster bomblets pose an immediate threat to returnees and humanitarian workers. They also pose a threat to the deployment of an enhanced UNIFIL peacekeeping force.
- So far, more than 58 000 cluster bomblets have been cleared and destroyed jointly by the Mine Action Coordination Center of South Lebanon (and its contractors), UNIFIL engineers and the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Types of Cluster Bombs Used

Most cluster bomblets were delivered by rockets or artillery. A limited number appear to have been dropped by aircraft (BLU-63-type bombs).

Whilst to date, neither the GoL or UN have received any detailed or specific information from the IDF regarding either the target locations or amounts of cluster bombs fired, recent media report from Israel indicate that at least some 1800 MLRS rocket systems were fired. This rocket system fires 12 individual rockets, each of which disperses 644 individual sub-munitions. This equates to 1,159,200 (1800 x 644) individual cluster bomblets which in turn relates to the following possibilities for un-exploded to be located and cleared:

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|----|---|-----|---------|
| a. | Maximum official failure rate, | 15% | 173,880 |
| b. | Generally accepted actual failure rate, | 20% | 231,840 |
| c. | Emerging failure rate in South Lebanon, | 40% | 463,680 |

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- d. The same Israeli media reports state that Israel fired 160,000 artillery projectiles during the conflict. Whilst not all of these projectiles contained cluster munitions it is reasonable to assume that between 10-20% did.
- e. 10% 16,000 x 88 individual bomblets 1,408,000
- f. 20% 32,000 x 88 individual bomblets 2,816,000
- (1) Maximum official failure rate, 15% 211,200 – 422,400
- (2) Generally accepted actual failure rate, 20% 281,600 – 563,200
- (3) Emerging failure rate in SL, 40% 563,200 – 1,126,400
2. Therefore, it is estimated that a figure up to **one million un-exploded cluster munitions** may be expected on the ground.

Note: These figures relate ONLY to MLRS rocket launched cluster munitions and artillery delivered cluster munitions. To this must be added an as yet undetermined number of aerial delivered cluster bombs.

Unexploded Ordnance Other than Cluster Bombs

- In addition to cluster bomblets, there are an estimated 15,300 items of unexploded ordnance on the ground in southern Lebanon.
- Other unexploded ordnance includes air-dropped bombs of 500 lbs. to 2,000 lbs (found in residential areas), ground- and naval-launched artillery rounds, and air-delivered rockets.

Operational Response

- Lebanon's National Demining Office in partnership with the Mine Action Coordination Centre of South Lebanon (overseen by the UN Mine Action Service) is collecting information and coordinating the response to the problem.
- Clearance, explosive ordnance disposal, and information gathering are being carried out by the Lebanese Army, UNIFIL, Mines Advisory Group and firms contracted under UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS): BACTEC, the Swedish Rescue Services Agency and MAG.
- Additionally, the UAE sponsored OES will provide clearance teams to complete landmine clearance of Area 6: Nabatieh, Jezzine & Hasbayya areas and the Cluster Bomb Clearance in the old OES area centered around Beit –Yahoun. BACTEC & Armor Group will provide clearance for this project. We thank the UAE for their continued assistance in Landmine & UXO Clearance in South Lebanon.
- UNICEF is supporting the National Demining Office's Mine Risk Education Steering Committee to implement a print and broadcast media campaign to raise awareness among civilians—especially children—about the dangers of UXO.

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