Within an affected country it is likely that there will be several types of mine present. The overall chart for such a country would look as in Figure 10. For each type of mine (in this case three types; A, B and C) a lifespan bar indicates the history of the type from the period during which laying took place through to the projected end dates for both neutralization and disarmament.

![Figure 10. Illustrative country overview](image)

At the national level the various subsidiary bars can be further aggregated to describe the overall national landmine contamination lifespan, through to the point at which it is unlikely that any landmines remain in an actual- or potential-functioning condition within the country.

The length of each bar is related to the vulnerability of the mine type under the environmental conditions found in the region where they are laid. At this stage there is no reliable mathematical relationship between the VI of a mine and the length of its lifespan, but it can be said with some confidence that mines with higher VIs will have shorter lifespans. Thus, in the illustration in Figure 10 mine type C is likely to have a higher VI than mine type B.

It is also possible to extrapolate between types and regions to say that similar mine types, with similar VIs, are likely to respond to similar environmental conditions in similar ways; the lifespan bar of a wooden box mine in one hot wet environment is likely to be similar to that of another wooden cased mine in another hot, wet area. Mines that contain similar components (such as strikers and pins) manufactured from similar material can be expected to exhibit similar degradation and failure patterns.

### 4.3. Residual hazards

The lifespan chart considers the impact of aging on a population of landmines. Once all the mines have failed, either through disarmament or neutralization, the original population of mines no longer presents a hazard to victims in the way they were originally designed. However, it is important to note that some individual explosive components of the mines may still represent a general hazard to people. A mine may be unable to function as a mine, but if someone were to throw it onto a fire there might still be elements inside which could explode.