

THE JOURNAL

of Conventional Weapons Destruction

ISSUE 26.1 CALL FOR PAPERS

ARTICLES DUE
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The Journal invites government/nongovernment organizations, field/research practitioners, policy advisors, and technical experts working in humanitarian mine action/conventional weapons destruction to contribute their challenges, experiences, and lessons learned in the form of practice-based article submissions.

Spring-Summer 2020



Photos courtesy of FSD (Ukraine), MLI (Yemen), and NPA (Tajikistan).

The Journal will be accepting articles about Ukraine, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives (DEI) in HMA on a rolling basis for Issues 26.1, 26.2, and 26.3

UKRAINE

HMA organizations and personnel are shifting priorities and redesigning their on-the-ground operations to accommodate the situation in Ukraine. *The Journal* is actively seeking articles on how organizations are currently operating and planning for future operations in Ukraine. Amidst an evolving and complicated situation, with no national HMA program, a compromised healthcare system, and lack of surveyed contaminated

land, how are organizations conducting operations in Ukraine? What are the unique operating requirements and challenges of working in Ukraine? How do organizations quickly adapt their operations when conflict erupts? And how is the community targeting specific at-risk groups such as children or those disabled by explosive ordnance? How is the sector pivoting and adapting their work in response to the current conflict?

DEI INITIATIVES IN HMA

DEI encapsulates race, disability, gender and gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, socio-economic status, religion, caste, age, etc. What do DEI initiatives look like in HMA? What does it mean for HMA donors and organizations to act equitably? What does this sound like (language used), look like (social media posts, videos, articles), and act like (organizations' operations in the office and "in the field"; and at trainings, meetings, and conferences)? For the 26th edition, *The Journal* is accepting articles on how organizations are approaching and encapsulating DEI initiatives within the sector. How are we countering bias within our organizations—through hiring, training, working groups? Are our services inclusive of the input, opinions, knowledge, and experiences of those individuals and communities we're aiding? How often do we ask aid recipients about their needs, and how open are we to receiving their suggestions, advice, and complaints? How do these in turn affect or change the way we conduct operations? How accessible and inclusive are our communications and operations?

Equitable Social Media and Marketing: Social media is a powerful tool through which HMA organizations tell their stories, highlighting their operations in specific countries, beneficiaries, and money well spent. We use social media to fundraise, to raise awareness around issues that concern the sector, and to market ourselves. When highlighting beneficiaries of our programs and operations, are we doing so with the input, opinions, knowledge, and experiences of those individuals and communities we're aiding? Are we cognizant of using an individual's disability, socioeconomic status, and/or trauma to highlight our needs and successes? If not, why should this be of our utmost concern? How closely have we evaluated the language we use, and have we taken an intersectional lens to the way in which we use images and stories of the men, women, and children we "assist"? How do we create an equitable social media landscape and move away from aid recipients to partners?

TOPICS FOR *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction*

Demining in Border Areas: Article 5 of the *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty* obligates State Parties to clear all mined areas on territory under their jurisdiction or control, including border areas. However, extension requests frequently cite that border agreements must be reached before meeting Article 5 deadlines. How can States, especially those sharing borders, work together to achieve clearance? How can EORE and survivor assistance programs adapt to support border communities as well as migrants and refugees, and how can casualty data collection improve to better inform EORE and clearance efforts?

Legal Considerations for Remote Sensing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in HMA: With the ever-evolving nature of AI, what measures are in place and/or necessary for HMA organizations using AI? Is there a need for standards within the IMAS? How are organizations using this technology working within national and international legislation?

Effects of EORE on Children: According to the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor*, in 2020 there were 1,872 child casualties where the age group was known. Children made up half of civilian casualties and 81 percent of child casualties were boys. Children were killed/injured by mines/ERW in 34 states in 2020, with Afghanistan and Syria having the highest number of child casualties. How have HMA organizations adapted their EORE programs, and what more needs to be done, especially in conflict environments such as Ukraine? What considerations will need to be taken into account in the future? And how are organizations utilizing social media to reach at-risk populations?

Cluster Munitions: According to the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor 2021*, cluster munition casualties have been on the rise since 2009, with civilians accounting for all casualties recorded since 2020 and children representing 44 percent of all known casualties. With casualties recorded in several countries (Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Iraq, Lao PDR, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, and Nagorno-Karabakh) and confirmed use in Ukraine, how are organizations handling assessments and best practices, technical/non-technical survey, land release, and EORE?

History of SA/LW & PSSM: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward: How has PSSM evolved over the past decade? *The Journal* seeks articles on changes detailing risk assessment, effective accountability/inventory systems, conducting training/risk assessments; maintaining physical infrastructure of storage sites; destruction of surplus and obsolete stockpiles, etc. What have we learned and what is the way forward?

Low-tech Innovations in Mine Action: Technological breakthroughs can lead to revolutionary new ways of conducting tasks more efficiently than before, and while exciting, these often overshadow more common incremental improvements that nonetheless ensure progress and advance the methods of demining operators. What practices has your organization improved upon over the past year?

HMA's Role in Enabling Humanitarian Access: What role does mine action have in providing humanitarian aid when access to those in need is restricted due to landmines, booby traps, and ERW? How can HMA actors infuse their high-value skillsets and resources into the conflict-recovery formula and create the conditions needed for safe and efficient recovery?

CWD in the Balkans: Countries in the Balkans have stockpiles of excess conventional arms and stockpiles of aging ammunition inherited from the Yugoslav Wars of 1991–2001. How are organizations working to prevent accidental detonations, destroy excess and aging ammunition, and improve munition storage facilities, including security of stockpiles?



Photo courtesy of HALO (Angola).

Direct inquiries or submissions to
cisr-journal@jmu.edu

The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction
Center for International Stabilization and Recovery
James Madison University, MSC 4902
Harrisonburg, VA 22807 / USA
Website: <https://jmu.edu/cisr>

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