



For immediate release

**Press Release :**  
**Cluster Munition Monitor reports record number of casualties in 2022 due to war in Ukraine**

**Montreal, September 5, 2023 - 1,172 people were killed and injured by cluster munitions last year. These are the findings of a report published today by the Cluster Munition Monitor. This is the highest number of victims recorded since the report was first published in 2010. This unprecedented figure is mainly due to the repeated use of these weapons in Ukraine.**

One week ahead of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Oslo Convention), to be held from September 11 to 14 in Geneva, Switzerland, Humanity & Inclusion Canada is calling on the Canadian government to condemn the use of cluster munitions and hold the countries responsible for their use accountable.

The new report from the Cluster Munition Monitor assesses the implementation of the Oslo Convention, which is ratified by 123 countries and bans the use, production, transfer, stockpiling and sale of cluster munitions. The report covers the period from January to December 2022, and the first half of 2023 where information is available.

**Unprecedented death and injury toll**

According to the Monitor, 1,172 new victims of cluster munitions were recorded in eight countries: Azerbaijan, Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. This is the highest annual toll of people killed and injured by cluster munitions since 2010.

This alarming finding is mainly due to the massive use of cluster munitions by Russia and Ukraine: 916 victims of cluster munitions were recorded in Ukraine over the past year. Among them, 890 victims are directly linked to cluster munition attacks. Many victims of other attacks may have gone unrecorded.

"We call on Russia and Ukraine to stop using these devastating weapons immediately. We also urge Canada and the other States Parties to the Oslo Convention to put pressure on countries still using cluster munitions to end these practices. They have an obligation to defend and apply the Convention and all other texts relating to international humanitarian law." - Anne Delorme, Executive Director, Humanity & Inclusion Canada



This upsurge can also be explained by attacks in Syria (84 victims) and by the considerable increase in the number of victims of cluster munition remnants in Yemen (95 victims).

### **An inherently indiscriminate weapon**

Cluster munitions are indiscriminate by nature. They contain several hundred mini-bombs designed to be dispersed over vast areas. In 2022, 95% of all cluster munitions casualties recorded by the Monitor were civilians. They are among the most harmful of all weapons and can have human consequences long after a conflict has ended.

Of the 1,172 new victims recorded in 2022, 987 were caused by cluster munition attacks in Myanmar, Syria and Ukraine. Cluster munition remnants claimed 185 victims in seven countries: Yemen (95), Iraq (41), Ukraine (26), Laos (9), Syria (6), Lebanon (5), Azerbaijan (3). As up to 40% of these weapons fail to explode on impact, the high level of contamination by explosive remnants poses a serious threat to local populations in affected countries.

### **US decision undermines efforts to eradicate cluster munitions**

Humanity & Inclusion Canada continues to condemn the decision made by the United States to transfer cluster munitions to Ukraine, which compromises the progress made by the international community with the ratification of the Oslo Convention to protect civilians in conflict situations. A convention to which neither the United States, Ukraine nor Russia are party.

More than ever, Humanity & Inclusion Canada urges the Canadian government to continue pressuring these countries to destroy their stockpiles and cease all use, production, transfer and sale of cluster munitions.

“Canada has always been a world leader in banning or limiting the use of explosive weapons. The signing of the Ottawa Treaty banning anti-personnel mines is a perfect example of Canadian leadership. We hope that our government will continue to use diplomacy to encourage the United States and other countries that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so. No situation justifies the use of such weapons.” - Anne Delorme, Executive Director, Humanity & Inclusion Canada

### **Helping survivors and their families**

Injured people make up 70% of all cluster munition victims in 2022. When they survive explosions, they often suffer severe or multiple injuries, affecting vital organs. They may have their hands or feet blown off. Eye injuries are also common and these accidents are often followed by psychological trauma. Survivors also lose their self-esteem and are



frequently victims of discrimination. Victim assistance is an obligation for States Parties to the Oslo Convention, and Canada is firmly committed to ending the devastating impact of these weapons on civilians, especially children. Humanity & Inclusion supports survivors and their families through victim assistance programs in over 30 countries around the world.

Read the new Cluster Munition Monitor report: [http://www.the-monitor.org/media/3383234/Cluster-Munition-Monitor-2023\\_Web.pdf](http://www.the-monitor.org/media/3383234/Cluster-Munition-Monitor-2023_Web.pdf)

### **About Humanity & Inclusion**

Humanity & Inclusion (HI) is an independent and impartial international solidarity organization. It has been working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster for 40 years. Working alongside people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, our action and testimony are focused on responding to their essential needs, improving their living conditions and promoting respect for their dignity and basic rights. The organization is present in 60 countries and nearly 14 million people have benefited from its inclusive education, rehabilitation, armed violence reduction programs and much more in 2022.

Recognized for its advocacy work, HI is one of the six founding organizations of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 and winner of the 2011 Conrad N. Hilton Award. HI co-founded the Cluster Munition Coalition, which played a major role in the development of the Oslo Convention. The Coalition continues to campaign for the universalization and implementation of the Convention. In Canada, HI has been based in Montreal and Ottawa for almost 20 years. For more information, visit <https://www.hi-canada.org/en/index> .

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