

# AUSTRALIAN NETWORK TO BAN LANDMINES AND CLUSTER MUNITIONS INC

## UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE IN EASTERN CAMBODIA WITH A FOCUS ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS



An extended family explains the difficulty of farming cluster affected land (February 2012).

The Kingdom of Cambodia has suffered many decades of war from both international forces and a civil war. Much of the country has been left with a serious Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) problem of landmines and cluster bombs.

Landmines are predominant in the west of Cambodia. Much vital research has been carried out in these provinces, leading to an influx of international aid and support for victims.

The more inaccessible and un-researched areas in the east and north of the country were heavily cluster bombed by the United States in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Large quantities of the bombs failed to explode when dropped and have lain about either on the surface or sub-surface of the land leaving a dangerous legacy which poses serious physical, social and economic problems to this day.

The ANBLC now has a research team investigating cluster bomb contamination in the provinces of Ratanakiri, Mondolkiri, Kratie, Stung Treng, and Kampong Cham. John Rodsted and Gemima Harvey are compiling information to be presented in a photographic, dual language (Khmer and English) book detailing the issue of unexploded ordnance, land release, survivors, their families and communities.



When complete, this book will be launched at the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), to be held in Oslo, Norway, in September 2012.

The Cambodian Government will be invited to attend this launch and the Meeting of the States Parties to the CCM, with a view to joining the Convention. Shining a spotlight on the lives of Cambodians who are affected by cluster munitions will send a strong message to the international community about the needs of Cambodia. The international community responds more readily to countries willing to accede to the Convention and if Cambodian delegates can engage positively with the international community, discussions of issues and needs can be adequately addressed.

The book has the potential to be a key resource for schools and non-government-organisations working in Cambodia, as well as for the international community. Books of this nature, such as the two previously produced by the ANBLC in conjunction with AusAID and John Rodsted have proved hugely successful in raising awareness and reinforcing the importance of the treaties.

The ANBLC is committed to the worth of this project and is prepared to invest some of our limited funds to achieve its completion. In order to create a quality product we are hoping for support from AusAID and we are also conducting fund raising events.



ANBLC researcher, Gemima Harvey, interviews an officer from Norwegian People's Aid about the economic impact of contaminated ground on farmers. This farm was heavily bombed. There were two injuries 2 years ago and more than 10 clusters were found within a few metres of the houses.

### Can you help?

Do you belong to an organisation that could lend its support to this project? If you belong to a service club such as Rotary we would be delighted to set a speaking date to provide more details about the project.

Can you host a dinner or film night to raise funds?

Can you give a donation?

Cheques can be sent to: ANBLC, PO Box 445, Walkerville SA 5081

Or money can be paid in by direct deposit. Our details are:

Bank:	Commonwealth Bank
Account Name:	ANBLC
BSB:	065 005
Account No.:	1026 3346

Please ensure that ***your name or your Organisation's name*** will appear on our bank statement.

**Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.**

**LOREL THOMAS**  
NATIONAL COORDINATOR

## LOW COST ARTIFICIAL LEG DEVELOPED

Jan Andrysek, a scientist based at a children's rehabilitation hospital in Toronto, has developed an artificial leg that costs only \$50. This "Low-Cost Prosthetic Knee Joint" is comparable to other limbs costing \$3000, making it perfect for survivors of landmine and cluster munition blasts in the developing world.

A key component of the limb is its unique knee mechanism that functions much like the human joint. "It automatically locks and unlocks itself based on how the person is putting their weight on the limb," Andrysek says, noting that many of the artificial limbs used in developing countries have outdated manual locks on the joints. An added bonus of using plastic? The knee is waterproof, increasing its chances of working well in humid environments.

Andrysek has received a \$100,000 grant funded by the Canadian Government to further develop his innovative limb to address global health challenges. Andrysek plans to use the grant to further test the knee in developing countries, including Ethiopia, Colombia and Nicaragua.

MEGAN OGILVIE, THE STAR

[HTTP://WWW.THESTAR.COM/NEWS/ARTICLE/1128332--TORONTO-SCIENTIST-DEVELOPS-ART](http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1128332--TORONTO-SCIENTIST-DEVELOPS-ART)



### 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Did you know that 2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines? Activities to mark this milestone will occur throughout the year. For more information, check

out the ICBL-CMC website at [http://www.icbl.org/index.php/icbl/Library/News-Articles/20th\\_anniversary](http://www.icbl.org/index.php/icbl/Library/News-Articles/20th_anniversary)

**GENEVA: CCM STATES PARTIES STOOD FIRM TO UPHOLD THE BAN ON CLUSTERS**

Our November edition alerted us that the fate of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) was resting in the balance, threatened by the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which was then taking place from 14 to 25 November in Geneva. Gemima Harvey, ANBLC member and campaigner, was in Geneva on our behalf, and sent us regular reports. She was campaigning and lobbying actively, meeting, Tweeting, reporting on Facebook, arranging radio interviews, taking photos and sending us daily updates.

Gemima reported that in the general exchange of views in the opening stages at the United Nations, there was considerable opposition to the US-sponsored Protocol VI.

The draft protocol allowed the use of 1% failure rate cluster munitions and those with self-destruct devices forever. It still had a 12-year deferral period during which cluster munitions produced after 1980 could be used. The victim and victim assistance provisions had not been changed. This draft protocol would do more humanitarian harm than good.

Along with positive statements from six other countries, Costa Rica delivered a joint statement from nearly 30 states (including Laos) saying that adopting the draft text would be a step in the wrong direction and would not adequately address the humanitarian harm caused by cluster bombs.

Spain shared the news of the European Parliament's resolution to oppose Protocol VI: "This represents the views of a whole continent."

Australia supported the draft protocol. The UK remained silent.

Over the next ten days others joined the bloc led by Costa Rica, which read out a joint statement on behalf of 50 countries that the US proposal did not fully address their fundamental concerns, did not prohibit use of cluster munitions, did not have added humanitarian value, and did not adequately respond to cluster munitions. "It does not command consensus", they said.

Although there were other supportive states, of the parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, France, and later Australia, were lone voices reacting positively to the US proposal.

By the end of the deliberations, there was no option but for the President to declare the adoption of the final report with no mention of the Protocol.

This historic success reinforces and demonstrates the strength of the CCM's normative impact. Katie Harrison, from Action on Armed Violence, summed up the Conference: "Hardly able to contain our joy, relief, and amazement, we are celebrating here in Geneva!"

[GEMIMA HARVEY'S REPORTS COMPILED & EDITED BY HELEN STANGER, SA COORDINATOR](#)

**FINLAND JOINS THE BAN**

After more than a decade of debate on antipersonnel landmines by government authorities and civil society in Helsinki, Finland finally became the 159th nation to join the Mine Ban Treaty when it deposited its instrument of accession with the UN on 9 January 2012. Finland will now destroy its stockpile of more than one million antipersonnel mines – each one capable of devastating or ending a life – within four years, as required by the treaty.

[FROM ICBL-CMC'S NEWSLETTER](#)

**UXO/LANDMINE BLAST INJURES THREE CHILDREN IN KOSOVO**

Three children from the village of New Rufc of Lipjan, were recently admitted to the Emergency Clinical Centre with serious bodily injuries from a suspicious UXO explosion. The Kosovo Police confirmed the case. Two of the victims were aged 14, the other was 12. The family explained that the children were sliding in the snow, when they found a bottle which contained the explosive device.

[DAILY NEWSPAPER KOHA DITORE 14-01-2012](#)



## Lend Your Leg Global Campaign

Last year in Colombia, one idea, one little action united everyone, from the government to famous people, common people, private companies, public companies, students, employees, adults, and children in towns and cities.

Thousands rolled up one of their pants' legs and together they all said "NO MORE LANDMINES!"

This year, with the backing of the United Nations, the campaign is sweeping the world.

In Australia we need your help. Can you join in?

### **What do you have to do?**

**Roll up one leg of your pants for one day – 4 April 2012**

**Be prepared to say out loud:  
"Lend your leg for landmine victims."**



A prosthetics technician crafts an artificial leg for a blast victim

To download a flyer and a covering letter for your own use go to: <http://australia.icbl.org>

If you could use this campaign to raise funds for our research project in Cambodia we would be very grateful.