The reduction of weapons-related violence:

A global approach to saving lives

Extensive experience and a long-standing commitment

HI’s history is closely intertwined with the fight against armed violence, including the use of anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosive remnants of war, and the proliferation of light and small caliber weapons. The history of Humanity & Inclusion has been marked by our humanitarian commitment to reducing the impact of conventional weapons on civilian populations. HI was founded in 1982 to help Cambodian victims of landmines, and in 1992, we launched the first of many demining programs. Today, the organization continues to advocate for the landmine and cluster munitions ban treaties and runs victim assistance, demining, and risk prevention programs in some of the world’s most dangerous places, including Syria and Afghanistan.
Unique expertise

Thanks to its solid experience in the world’s most landmine polluted countries, HI uses a specific approach which combines actions against explosive remnants of war and light weapons, with emergency interventions and prospects for development. Our objective is to provide the most rapid and best-adapted response possible, thereby helping to restore safety and promote the development of affected areas.

What sets us apart is our ability to implement projects that cover the four main pillars of humanitarian action against mines.

Demining and land clearance: releasing land to populations

The objective of demining operations is to release safe land back to the local population, to reduce accidents, to guarantee the safety of individuals, and to provide economic security for local populations. This allows displaced people and refugees to return home in safety, rebuild, and use their land again.

HI uses a range of practices, tools, and techniques:

- The mine clearance of contaminated areas is carried out by teams of deminers who check the sites, clear them, and make them safe.
- The destruction of isolated explosive devices is implemented at the request of the local authorities.
- The management and making safe of stocks of explosive weapons is a valuable component implemented following a cease-fire to avoid accidents or the uncontrolled spread of weapons.

The organization also uses other complementary techniques: manual demining covers a set of operations carried out by teams of trained individuals. They may be supported by armored machines which demine or, more simply, prepare the ground by cutting down vegetation, or by explosives detection dogs who facilitate the deminers’ work.

Innovation to prepare for the future...

Already a pioneer in survey techniques and the use of mine detection dogs, HI, is working with a network of universities on a ground-breaking research project for destroying explosive remnants of war using an environmentally sound process.
Our mine clearance operations rely on appropriate and effective study techniques in order to confirm the presence of explosive remnants of war in an area. A technical survey provides a formal confirmation or refutation, which allows us to optimize and plan our interventions.

**Risk education for accident prevention**

Our expertise, grounded in 20 years of action, favors a comprehensive approach to risk education. The objective is to help affected communities better manage risks in order to reduce the number of accidents. Prevention comes from awareness and knowing the right behaviors to adopt when confronted with danger.

Community liaison, carried out by trained local workers, builds a relationship of mutual trust with communities, and allows for discussion and key information to be fed back, such as the presence of unidentified devices in the area. This work is done in conjunction with the surveyors and deminers because it enables inhabitants to better protect themselves and to help mark out high-risk areas.

Community-based risk education is for stable populations living close to areas contaminated by explosive devices. We train educators within the communities who undertake sustainable risk prevention work themselves.

Risk education in emergency settings targets refugees and vulnerable displaced persons. We intervene as soon as conflict endangers a population through the presence of unexploded ordnance (newly mined areas, the presence of explosive devices on route used by fleeing populations, etc.).

Risk education on light and small caliber weapons is intended to limit accidents caused by the inappropriate use and proliferation of these weapons: media campaigns (primarily national radio broadcasts), awareness-raising sessions, teacher training, and training for members of civil society and local authorities are organized to better inform them and promote appropriate conduct in order to reduce the risk of accidents.

**FOCUS**

A global approach based on the needs of local populations

HI takes an innovative approach to mine action by combining several complementary activities. The organization jointly implements demining, risk awareness and victim assistance activities through teams with complementary technical skills. These activities can be implemented in emergency response or development settings. This approach prevents the juxtaposition of compartmentalized and more costly actions with a limited impact. By including people from the start of projects, we are also better able to meet their needs and provide them with sustainable support.
Main partners

- United Nation Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)
- MAG, Halo Trust, Danish Church Aid, Danish Demining Group, and Norwegian People's Aid
- Centers for humanitarian demining (local authorities), and all countries in which HI operates
Sarneta, a Mozambican deminer trained by HI:

"We often work near villages and fields being farmed and I know that each explosive device and every mine we remove represents a life saved. I started with manual demining, then I asked to be trained on demining machines. They prepare the ground and make it possible to clear difficult hilly or wooded areas more quickly. The most effective one is an enormous 30-ton armored machine."

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1 Unacceptable Harm - Monitoring Explosive Violence 2015 (AOAV)
2 Landmine Monitor 2015.
3 HI 2015.
4 GRIP.