

NEWSFLASH

REPLACEMENT OF SCHOOL BELLS MADE FROM EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

Dehub, Eritrea
By Kutloano Leshomo

Recently, UNICEF in collaboration with the Eritrean Demining Authority and Ministry of Education launched the replacement of 600 school bells made of explosive remnants of war (ERW). The launch took place in five schools and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Eritrea's regional administration of Dehub, mainly the towns and villages of Adi Quala, Indagiorgis, Geza Hamle, Adi Keyh and Una Aegen IDP camp.



This was a life saving intervention for over 550,000 school children, teachers and parents, as the majority of schools, particularly in the war-affected communities use explosive remnants of war as school bells and accidents have occurred during assemblies.



The ERW used as a school bell is removed.

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The use of explosive remnants of war in the daily economic lives of Eritreans in mine impacted communities is common, sometimes as agricultural tools, household utensils, decorations or school bells, and sometimes sold in markets.



This hanging remnant of war will be taken down to be replaced by the newly acquired bells.

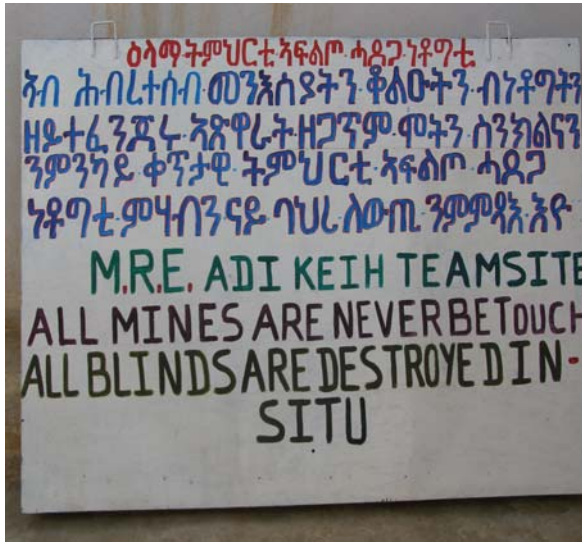
This intervention is part of UNICEF's Child Protection programme to reduce the risk of injuries and deaths among children in mine impacted communities in Eritrea. In 2009 alone, of the 38 casualties reported, 29 victims were children. The launch was jointly conducted with the Italian Cooperation, the only donor supporting Mine Risk Education activities in Eritrea. The procurement of the bells was made possible by UNICEF's Supply Division in Copenhagen, Denmark.



Giacomo Giovannini of Italian Cooperation hands over the bells to one of the schools.

PICTORIAL

Key messages



A mine risk education session in progress



Donor representatives observe a mine risk education session



The joint collaboration of UNICEF and the Eritrean Demining Authority is one of the strongest partnerships in Eritrea. Seen here with school children from Adi Keyh is (extreme left and right) Brigadier General Tesfay Isaac and Mr Habtom Seghid of the Eritrean Demining Authority, In the centre is Gbemi Akinboyo and Tedla Gebrehiwet of UNICEF's Child Protection Programme



School children appreciate the bells



Humanitarian assistance to vulnerable families in mine-affected communities by the Child Protection Programme has also included the provision of family relief kits such as jerry cans.

