MYANMAR WITNESS

A project by

CIR CENTRE for INFORMATION RESILIENCE

HIDDEN HARM: LANDMINES, CIVILIAN INJURY & DISABILITY IN MYANMAR

Reported Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War Incidents, April 2025-March 2026

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30 September 2026

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Landmines and other types of explosive remnants of war (ERW) continue to affect civilians across Myanmar, not only in areas of conflict but also elsewhere in everyday life. This includes roadsides, near homes, gardens, monasteries and public market areas. Moreover, the ramifications of these weapons extend far beyond the initial blast; alongside people being killed, many are left seriously injured and with consequences that may affect long-term impairment and disability-related needs.

Myanmar Witness documented 170 reported landmine and ERW incidents across 12 regions and states between April 2025 and March 2026. Within that it involved 56 of the country's 330 townships. With 52 reports, the highest concentration was recorded in Shan State, followed by Rakhine State with 50, and Kachin State with 16. Note that these figures reflect varied open-source reporting and civilian harm patterns rather than an exhaustive map of total explosive contamination in the country.

One defining pattern that emerged from this investigation is the locations of the reported incidents, which highlighted the risks civilians face in everyday spaces. For example, public areas accounted for the largest share of reported locations, including roadsides and riversides. This was followed by residential and community spaces where landmine incidents were reported near homes, gardens, monasteries and markets. These findings indicate that civilians routinely encounter explosive hazards during ordinary activities such as travelling, working, farming or worshipping.

The documented human cost within Myanmar Witness's dataset is also significant to highlight as it accounts for 230 reported casualties, including 57 fatalities and 173 traumatic injuries. Notably, of those, 77 individuals were reported to have sustained amputations across 71 distinct incidents. These types of injuries trigger enduring disability-related needs, requiring rehabilitation and assistance in returning to daily activities such as education or work. Among the total number of casualties, men accounted for the largest share, with 136 reported incidents. Children were also notably affected, with 30 incidents documented, including cases where they encountered ERW in community spaces or while playing.

Myanmar Witness notes that definitive actor attribution remains a challenge; 120 of the 170 incidents could not be assigned to a specific party. Of the remaining cases, 37 incidents were linked by open-source reports to the Myanmar military, and 13 others to various non-state armed groups. However, Myanmar Witness could not verify these claims.

Ultimately, these findings in this report underscore that landmines and ERW represent not only an immediate threat to life, but can also create long-lasting physical, social and economic consequences for survivors, their families and communities. This report uses open-source information to document where these reported incidents occurred, how civilians are affected and what can be established about the circumstances of individual cases.

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2 INTRODUCTION

In Myanmar, civilians continue to face a severe threat from landmines and ERW, which result in casualties and enduring long-term physical disabilities. As indiscriminate weapons, they remain hazardous long after active combat has moved elsewhere or ended in a particular area. Furthermore, survivors of landmine incidents may also face profound consequences extending well beyond the initial blast, such as amputation, reduced mobility, psychological harm, loss of livelihoods and a reliance on long-term rehabilitation needs.

Since the February 2021 coup, Myanmar's conflict has continued to intensify, with fighting between Myanmar's military, Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs), and People's Defence Force (PDF) driving an expansion of explosive hazard contamination. As Myanmar is not a party to the Mine Ban Treaty, international organisations such as Human Rights Watch have reported continued use, production and the discovery of mines and other explosive hazards in the country. Consequently, the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor's data reveals that Myanmar now records some of the highest numbers of casualties from landmines and explosive remnants globally, with 2,029 casualties documented, including 253 deaths as well as 1,768 injuries in 2024.

Unlike other forms of conflict-related violence such as on-the-ground clashes, arson attacks and airstrikes, landmine incidents can continue to affect civilians long after an incident, or when a period of fighting has ended. Such explosive hazards could obstruct travel, prevent access to certain farmlands and fields, and other livelihoods, as well as making ordinary activities such as attending school or gardening dangerous. This sort of threat not only entails an immediate risk of death and severe injury, but also longer-term risks to one's mobility, independence and everyday life.

In this report, Myanmar Witness assesses what can be independently established using open-source intelligence (OSINT) and, where suitable visual or even contextual evidence was made available, the team used techniques including geolocation, chronolocation, satellite imagery comparison and source corroboration to analyse selected incidents.

Crucially, the dataset contains reported incidents identified through various online sources and has been used to identify patterns across the reporting period of April 2025 to March 2026. This collection is not a complete record of all landmine or ERW incidents in Myanmar, and therefore should not be treated as a definitive illustration of contamination. Additionally, this investigation is constrained by significant limitations, with gaps in online reporting and a lack of visual material, munition details or actor attribution. Finally, information may be absent due to restricted access, source removal, or remote locations.

Taken together, Myanmar Witness's findings present the humanitarian consequences of explosive hazards for civilians in Myanmar. For example, they indicate that reported incidents mainly occurred in public, residential and community areas, and those who survived sustained injuries with potentially life-altering consequences. This report therefore considers the implications for civilian protection, mine risk education, victim support and documentation of possible violations of international humanitarian law (IHL).

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3 INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW & CIVILIAN PROTECTION

International humanitarian law (IHL) seeks to limit the effects of ongoing armed conflict and protect civilians and civilian objects. Regarding the landmine and ERW incidents examined in this report, the principles most pertinent are distinction, the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks, and the obligation to take precautions in attack, as set out in Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, Articles 48, 51, and 57.

Myanmar Witness does not make legal determinations regarding its collected individual incidents. However, it examines reported locations, casualty patterns, injury outcomes if known and any additional available evidence to identify the circumstances that may follow under IHL.

Principle of Distinction

The principle of distinction obliges parties to distinguish between civilians and combatants in conflict, as well as between civilian objects and military objectives. For example, homes, roads, schools, religious sites and other locations used by civilians are typically marked as civilian objects unless they become military objectives under IHL.

In this case, landmines and other explosive hazards could create challenges for distinction because they can still remain active even after deployment and could detonate when encountered by people, regardless of their purpose or status, which

cannot be known to the placed device. Therefore, the analysis of reported incident locations in this report, including gardens, monasteries and other residential areas, could therefore be relevant to the assessment of civilian risk.

Indiscriminate Attacks

Closely linked with the principle of distinction is the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks, which IHL prohibits. These could include attacks that are not targeted at a specific military objective, or attacks that use methods that cannot be directed at a specific military site, and finally, attacks whose effects cannot be contained as required by IHL.

The continued presence of such landmines or ERW in a civilian area does expose civilians to harm, as they can remain active long after their deployment and may continue to endanger, especially those civilians who return to an area after a period of fighting and may be unaware.

Obligation to Take Precautions in Attacks

IHL notes that parties acting in a conflict must take all feasible precautions to minimise incidental harm to civilians. In the context of landmine contamination, such precautions may include measures to signal, monitor, clear or otherwise reduce the risk to civilians. However, limited information on the actors responsible for reported incidents, along with evidence of the continued presence of visible anti-personnel mines, does suggest that adequate precautionary measures may not have been taken into consideration in some affected areas

It is important to note that the consequences of these explosive hazards can continue long after an attack or period of active hostilities. For example, deaths and severe injury could occur when civilians travel, work, access fields, or even handle unexploded ordnance (EO). These could result in harm that may include not only immediate physical injury but also traumatic amputations, impairment, loss of livelihoods and restrictions on daily life activities.

4 DEFINITIONS

Amputation:

An amputation is the traumatic (accidental) or surgical removal of part of the body, and can range from the loss of entire limbs to the loss of part of a finger or toe. In this report, an amputation is documented where an online source explicitly reports it or where traumatic limb loss is visually apparent.

Casualty:

This is an individual who was reportedly killed or injured as a result of an explosive incident, and they do not refer to incidents.

Disability:

At Myanmar Witness, disability is understood in parallel with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as an evolving concept arising from the interaction between impairment, attitudinal, environmental, or other barriers that may hinder an individual's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

In this context specifically, disability concerns long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, limitations of daily activities or participation restrictions that have resulted from, or worsened by, a specific incident within conflict settings.

Incident:

In this report, incident refers to a reported event involving the detonation or alleged presence of a landmine, unexploded ordnance or other explosive remnant of war at a reported time and place. Multiple people may be affected in a single incident.

Injury outcome:

A reported or visually assessed consequence of a landmine incident, and for this report injury outcomes are categorised as amputation, major injury, minor injury or unknown outcome. These categories are based on forensic analysis of the available evidence and are not clinical diagnoses.

5 KEY FINDINGS

5.1 DATASET OVERVIEW

Myanmar Witness documented 170 landmine and ERW incidents between April 2025 and March 2026. These incidents were identified through open-source tools and analysed for geographical distribution, timing, reported location types, casualties, injury outcomes, demographics, claimed actors and munition types.

The dataset encompasses reported incidents from 12 states and regions, and 56 of Myanmar's 330 townships. A reminder that these incidents were identified through online reporting during the study window, and so it does not represent a complete record of landmine contamination in the country.

5.2 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The highest number of reported incidents were documented in areas where intense clashes between the Myanmar military and EAOs have been ongoing, including Shan State and Rakhine State, which recorded 52 and 50 incidents. Kachin State recorded the third-highest figure, with 16 incidents (figure 1).

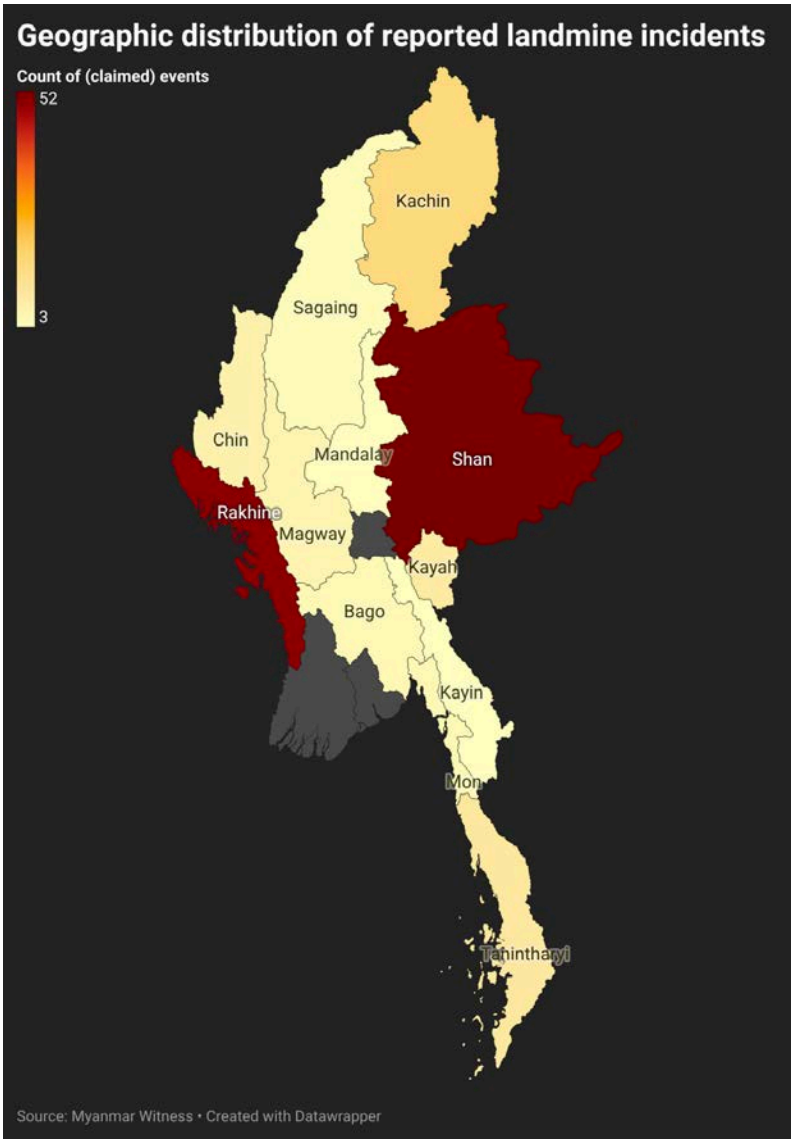


Figure 1: A map showing the count of claimed landmine and ERW incidents within Myanmar.

At township level, reported incidents appeared concentrated in a small number of locations (figure 2). The top five were: Nawnghkio Township in Shan State with 20 reported incidents, followed by Maungdaw Township in Rakhine State with 15, Kyaukme Township in Shan State with 13, Toungup Township, Rakhine State with 12 and finally Hpakant Township, Kachin State with 11 (figure 3).

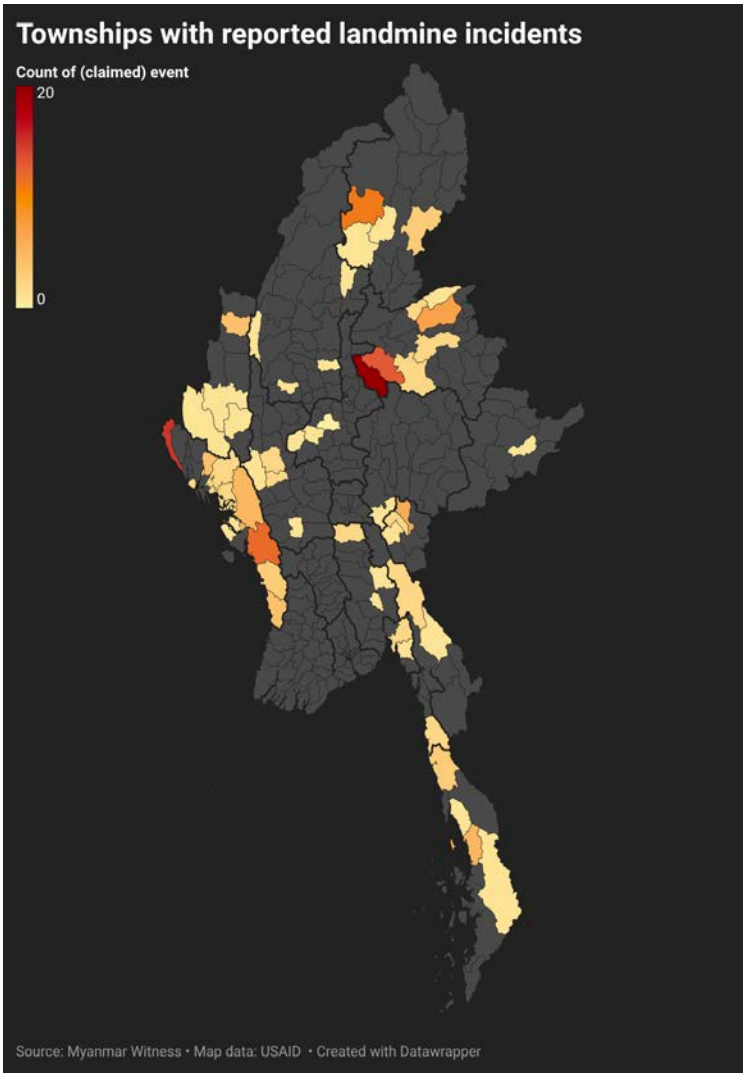


Figure 2: A map showing the count of claimed landmine and ERW incidents by townships.

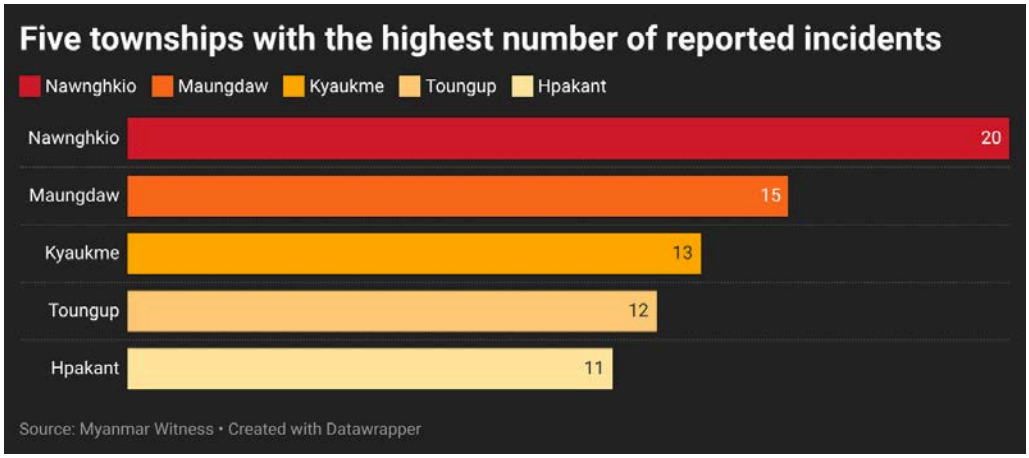


Figure 3: A bar chart showing the top five reported townships affected by reported landmine and ERW incidents.

This geographic pattern is relevant to civilian protection and humanitarian planning, and townships with repeated reports may require further investigation, mine-risk education, as well as access to medical and rehabilitation services. However, these reported incident locations should be used to simply identify areas for attention, not a definitive map of landmine contamination.

5.3 REPORTED INCIDENT LOCATIONS

Myanmar Witness also assessed where these landmine explosions reportedly occurred, between April 2025 and March 2026 (figure 4). To determine the number of reported incident locations, Myanmar Witness categorised four location types:

- Residential and Community areas: *homes and private gardens, schools, monasteries, and markets*
- Public areas: r*oadsides, parks, lakes, riversides and forests*
- Farmland areas: *fields, agricultural fields, paddy fields, and farms*
- Myanmar Military areas: *Myanmar military-based camps, temporary camps, disused military sites and military offices*

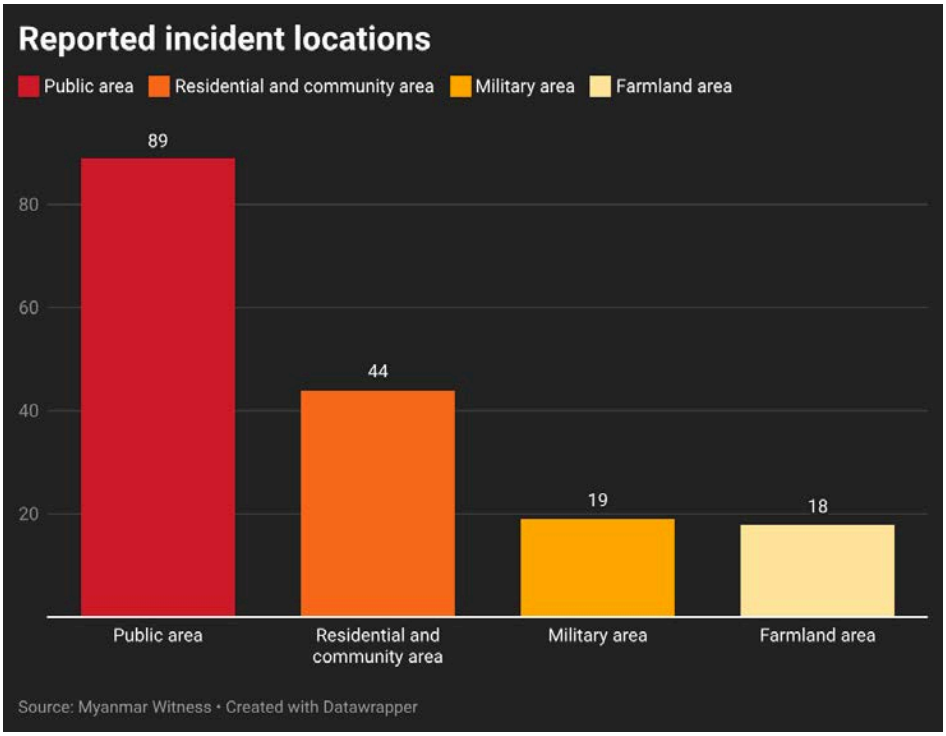


Figure 4: A bar chart showing the count of claimed incident locations.

Public areas accounted for the largest share of reported incident locations, with 89 of 170 incidents (52%) occurring in these areas, including 56 reportedly occurring on roadsides. Residential and Community areas were the second most commonly reported location category, with 44 incidents, followed by Military areas (19) and Farmland areas (18).

Of the 44 incidents in Residential and Community areas, 23 occurred inside homes or immediately around them (for example, gardens and yards). Individuals were reportedly engaged in routine daily activities such as [GRAPHIC] gardening, [GRAPHIC] cleaning or playing at the time of the incident.

This pattern places reported civilian exposure in the spaces of everyday life, including roads, homes, gardens, monasteries, schools and places of worship and could not only disrupt livelihoods but also prevent people from returning safely to their homes.

5.4 TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED INCIDENTS

The dataset shows an average of approximately 14 reported incidents per month, with February 2026 recording the highest number with 25 incidents, followed by March 2026 with 22 (figure 5).

Data show that six months within the reporting period (April, May, September, and

November 2025 and February and March 2026) exceeded the average reported incidents per month. While the dataset cannot definitively attribute this spike to a specific actor or operation, the surge of reports from Nawnghkio directly coincided with renewed military activity under Operation 1027 and the subsequent return of civilians. This example highlights how explosive hazards can still continue to affect communities following clashes, and especially when civilians begin to return or move through different conflict-affected areas.

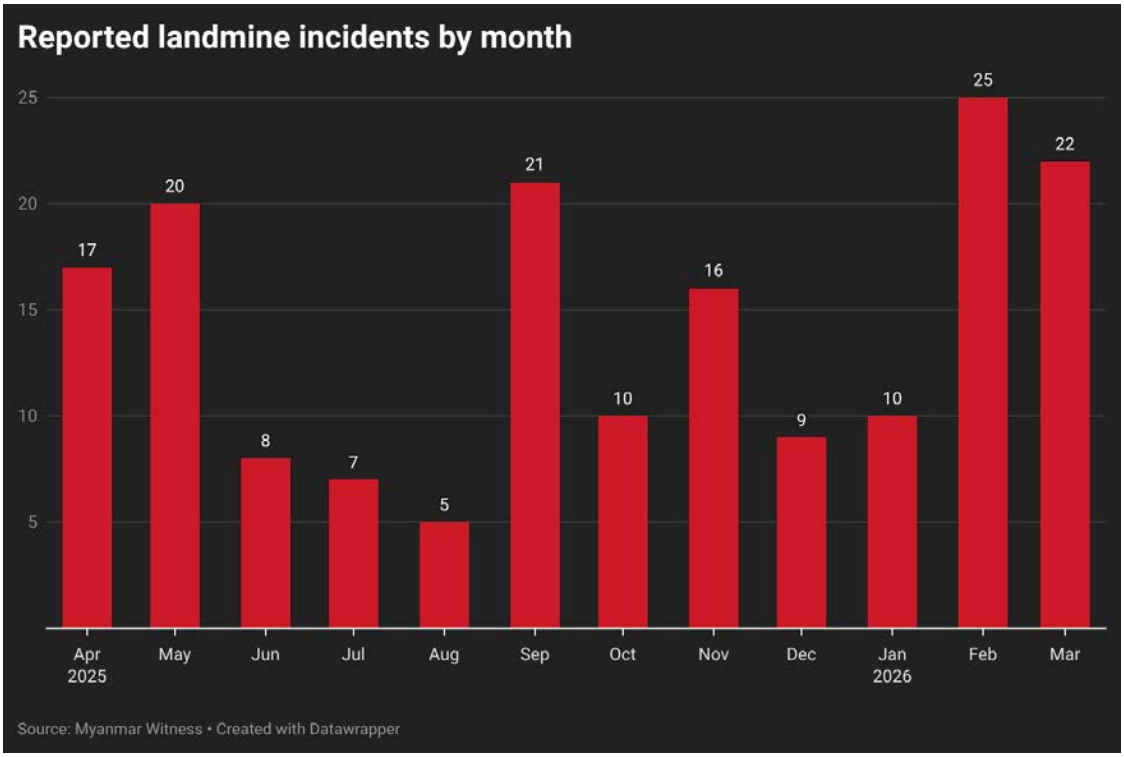


Figure 5: Bar chart showing the breakdown of monthly incidents Myanmar Witness has collected and analysed.

5.5 CASUALTIES & SURVIVAL OUTCOMES

This section highlights the reported human consequences, including deaths, injuries, demographic patterns and injury outcomes that lead to potential long-term disability-related implications.

Counting casualties:

In this report, an incident is a reported event involving the detonation or alleged presence of landmines or ERW. A casualty refers to any individual either reportedly killed or injured as a direct result of such an event. Crucially, one incident may involve multiple casualties.

In this section, fatality refers to a person reported to have died as a result of the incident, and survivor refers to an individual who sustained injuries but survived. These classifications are used only where the outcome can be established or is sufficiently supported by the open-source evidence documented by Myanmar Witness.

Reminder: where the available material does not establish whether a person was killed or injured, the entry has been classified as unknown. These figures have been taken from reported sources and should not be interpreted as a complete or independently verified count of all those affected.

Across the 170 reported incidents, there were 230 reported casualties. This figure comprises 57 reported fatalities and 173 reported injured people. Casualty figures cover individuals rather than recorded incidents, meaning that more than one casualty could have been connected with a single incident.

These figures highlight that the reported impact of landmine incidents extended well beyond immediate fatalities, and rather that people who survived such an incident could require either emergency treatment, surgery, rehabilitation or extensive support to resume daily life.

5.5.1 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED CASUALTIES

A geographical breakdown of casualty figures indicates that Shan State recorded the highest number, followed by Rakhine State (figure 6). This pattern is consistent with the concentration of reported incidents across these two states. Crucially, casualty totals could reflect the differences in conflict activity, local reporting and the availability of information at the time of publishing; therefore, the geographic distribution should be used to identify areas requiring further monitoring and assessment rather than as a direct measurement of contamination.

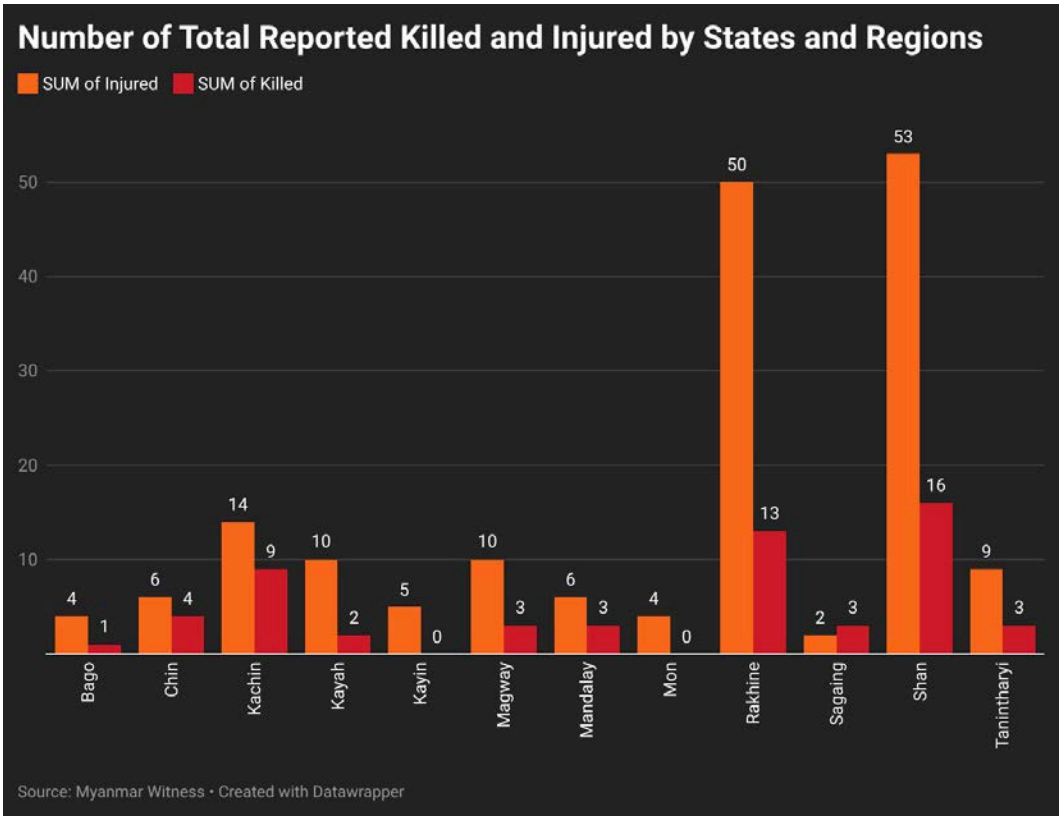


Figure 6: Reported fatalities and injured people by state or region

5.6 INJURY OUTCOMES & DISABILITY

Injury categories in this report are based on available reporting material and imagery. Reported injuries are classified as amputation, major injury, minor injury or unknown outcome.

1. Minor injuries: Small skin breakages or lacerations that do not involve significant tissue damage, exposure of internal structures or major mutilation. Example: Small cuts to an arm with minimal skin breakage or blood present. Bruising (haematomas) might be present, caused by blunt force trauma.

2. Major injuries: Severe bodily trauma involving significant tissue damage, major lacerations, substantial blood loss, or injuries likely to result in long-term impairment or disability. Examples include eye injuries, severe burns, and wounds exposing internal organs (e.g., abdominal wounds).

3. Amputation: An amputation is the traumatic (accidental) or surgical removal of part of the body, and can range from the loss of entire limbs to the loss of part of a finger or toe. In this report, an amputation is documented where an online source explicitly reports it or where traumatic limb loss is visually apparent.

4. Unknown: Myanmar Witness could not classify the injury reliably due to lack of reporting or UGC.

Note: Fatalities are excluded from comparisons of injury type in this section, and where available evidence cannot support a reliable classification, the outcome is recorded as unknown.

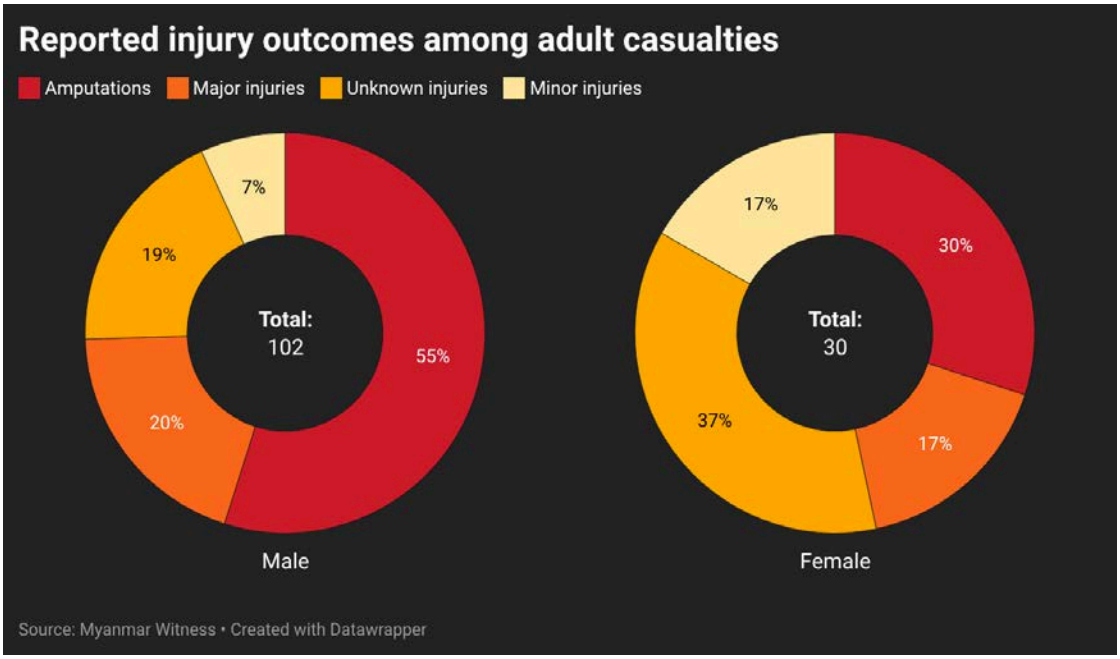


Figure 7: Pie charts showing the reported injury outcomes by gender.

Of the 173 people who sustained injuries, 128 had an outcome that could be explicitly categorised from reporting, while the remaining 45 were recorded as an unknown injury outcome (figure 8). Among the classified cases, amputation was the most frequently documented outcome, followed by major injury.

These findings highlight the severity of the reported incidents; amputation could require emergency surgery and intensive physical rehabilitation, and thus ultimately affecting one's mobility, employment and daily participation in community life.

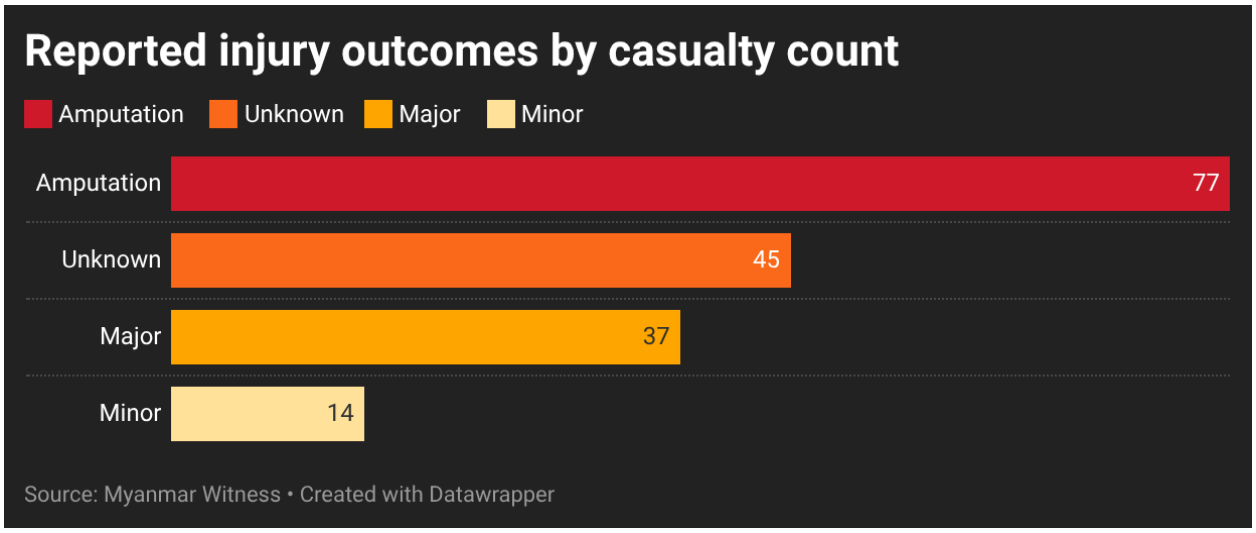


Figure 8: Reported injury outcomes among the 173 people reported injured. The chart counts individual people, not incidents. Fatalities are excluded. Cases with an unknown injury outcome are [shown separately/excluded]

5.6.1 AMPUTATIONS & DISABILITY RELATED CONSEQUENCES

Disability note:

An amputation or other serious injury could result in long-term impairment and disability related needs. However, disability cannot be determined from injury type alone, and the available sources do not consistently establish functional outcomes, rehabilitation access or the barriers present to daily life activities.

A total of 77 individuals sustained amputations across 71 reported incidents. The figures count people and incidents separately, as one incident may involve more than one person with an amputation. When evaluated against the total 173 injuries Myanmar Witness documented, these amputations account for 45% of reported injured people. This high proportion highlights a severe and significant burden of physical long-term impairment and underscores the critical need for sustained disability-related support services.

5.7 DEMOGRAPHICS: GENDER & AGE

Demographic data note:

Gender and age were recorded only where identified in the available sources, and missing or inconsistently reported demographic information limits the comparison between the groups. Therefore, the figures describe the composition of recorded casualties and should not be interpreted as the overall population-based rates.

Men accounted for the largest share of recorded casualties in the dataset with a total of 136 documented out of 230 (59%), whereas women accounted for a smaller share of the reported casualties (figure 9). Children are analysed separately because their gender was not consistently identifiable in the available sources.

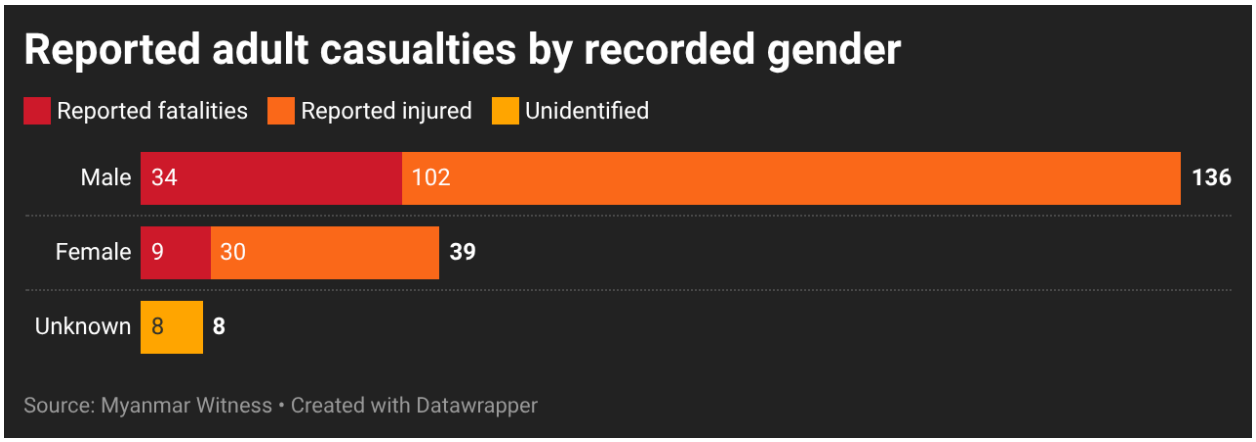


Figure 9: Reported casualties by recorded gender

5.7.1 CHILDREN

Children were reportedly involved in 30 out of 170 reported incidents. These included 14 reported fatalities and 33 injuries (figure 10). In nine of these incidents, more than one child was reportedly affected.

It is important to stress that children may face different risks when they encounter landmines and other explosive ordnance while either playing or handling unfamiliar objects, especially in areas where risk information could be unavailable. For example, according to reports, several children encountered explosive remnants while playing or engaging in outdoor group activities.

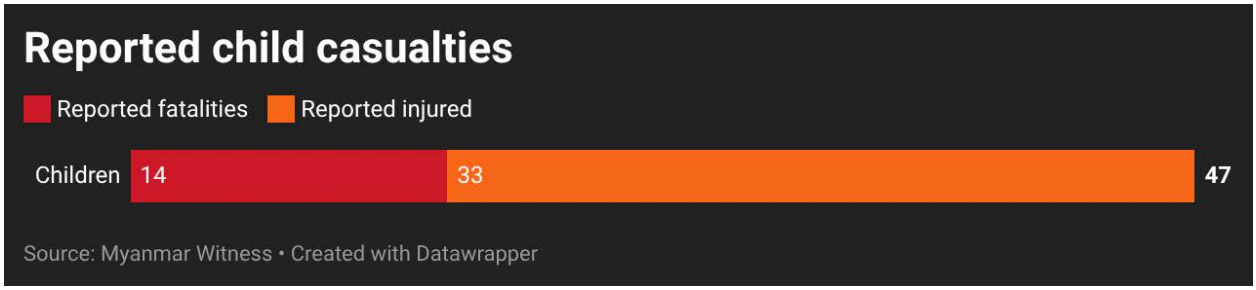


Figure 10: Reported child casualties by outcome

5.8 GEOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES: GENDER & AGE

Myanmar Witness also analysed the geographic distribution of casualties by gender and age. The demographic profile of reported casualties did vary across states and regions, and although men accounted for the largest recorded gender group overall, this pattern was not consistent across all locations (figure 11).

For example, Rakhine State recorded nearly three times as many reported child injuries as Shan State. This notable difference may reflect variation in civilian exposure to risk, conflict dynamics, population movement, daily activity and open-source reporting patterns. Consequently, these findings may be relevant to further monitoring, risk education and assessment of localised civilian protection and different assessment needs. For example, areas with a higher volume of child casualties require age-appropriate mine-risk education, child rehabilitation services and other targeted measures to protect access to education.

Myanmar Witness acknowledges that this comparison should be interpreted cautiously, as the dataset relies on open-source material, and these figures reflect trends in online reporting rather than verified baseline contamination. Therefore, it cannot be confirmed whether children face a higher underlying risk in Rakhine State or if the disparity stems from variations in internet connectivity and reporting behaviours.

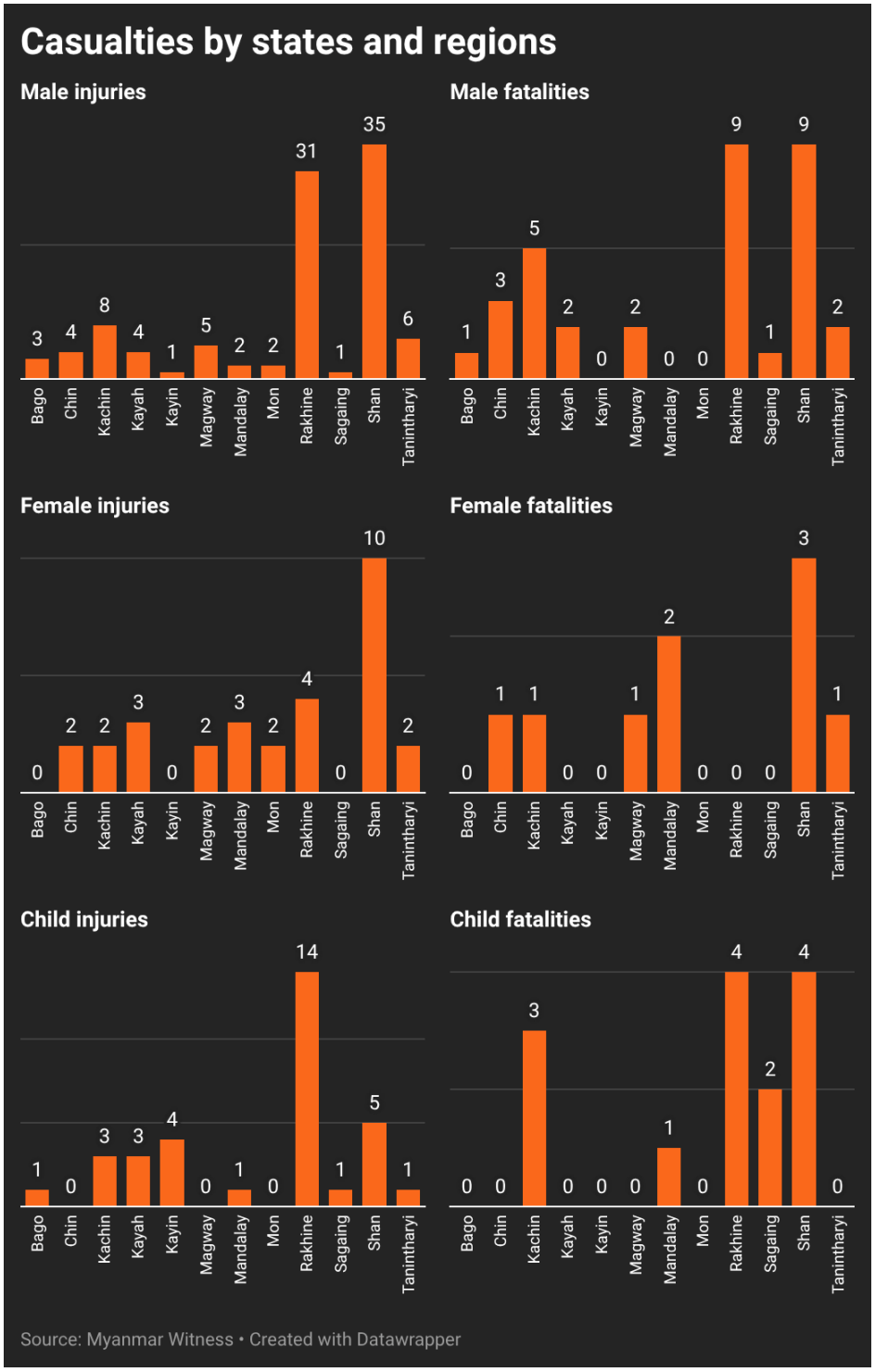


Figure 11: Reported casualties by recorded gender and age category, by state or region

5.9 REPORTED ACTORS & MUNITIONS

5.9.1 REPORTED ACTOR ATTRIBUTION

Due to the limited availability of footage showing actor presence and the emplacement of munitions, actor attribution and munition identification are often not possible based on open-source information alone.

Of the 170 documented incidents, 120 (71%) were categorised as having an unknown actor attribution (figure 12). Additionally, 37 (22%) were reportedly attributed to the Myanmar military, while 13 (7%) were reportedly attributed to other armed groups, including EAOS, PDFs, and other non-state actors.

The high proportion of incidents allocated with unknown attribution showcases the evidentiary difficulty of investigating mine emplacement through open sources.

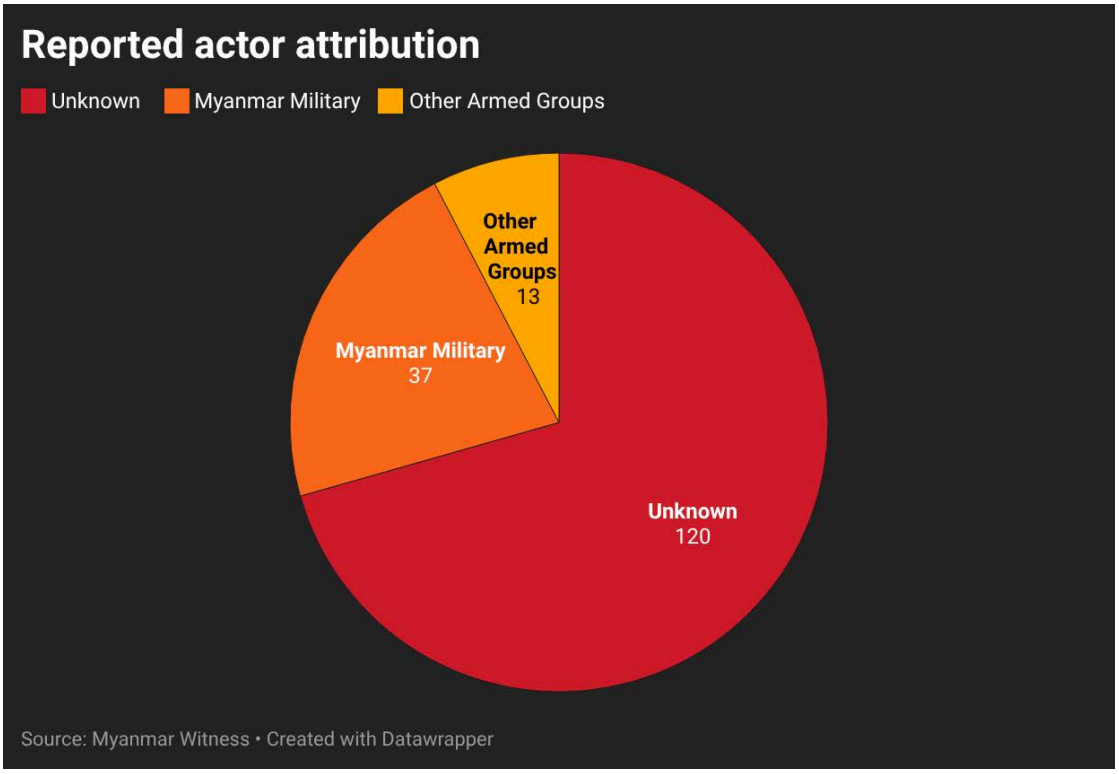


Figure 12: A pie chart showing the count of reported claimed actors.

5.9.2 MUNITION IDENTIFICATION

Alongside actor attribution, identifying the specific munitions involved in the documented incidents was also challenging. Due to the limited availability of original footage or imagery showing landmines, Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) or ERW at the incident site, identification is frequently not possible. In several cases, online sources

used archive or stock imagery when reporting on these explosive incidents, rather than using imagery tied to the reported event itself. Therefore, Myanmar Witness was only able to identify the munition type in a limited number of cases within the dataset.

Among the 170 documented landmine incidents, 150 (89%) were reportedly caused by landmine explosions, 16 (9%) were described as UXO incidents, and four (2%) were tripwire mine incidents (figure 13). The reported UXO incidents involved a range of remnants, including mortar rounds (40 mm bomb/ 60 mm bombs), remnant grenades or rocket-propelled grenades (RPG).

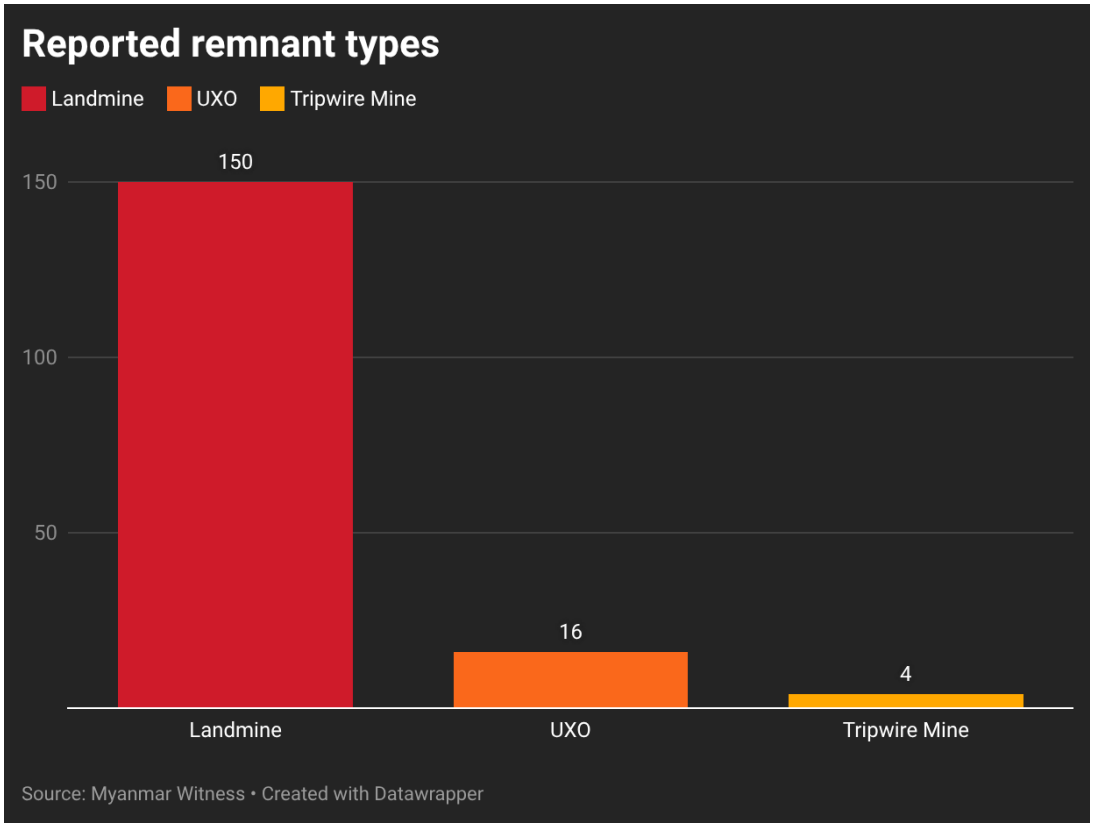


Figure 13: A column chart showing the count of reported remnant types.

Myanmar Witness analysed footage showing a cluster of landmines reportedly recovered in Rakhine State, as well as footage from Western News on 24 April 2025 relating to an incident in Toungup Township, Rakhine State (figures 14 and 15). Based on a technical recognition guide compiled by Collective Awareness of Unexploded Ordnance (CAT UXO), an expert group composed of former EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) professionals, Myanmar Witness believes it is a copy of the Vietnamese MN-79 mine, whose design originated from the US-manufactured M14

High-Explosive-Blast (HE Blast), Anti-Personnel (AP) plastic mine. The markings on the bottom indicate this batch was manufactured in 2005.



Figure 14: The visualisation of the Anti-Personnel (AP) plastic mine. [Left] The footage was reportedly found in Rakhine State, and the [Right] image is from the Myanmar military equipment guides website. (Source: [Left] Western News, [Right] Myanmar military equipment guides and CAT UXO)



Figure 15: A visual of High-Explosive Blast mines. [Left] The footage was reportedly found during an AA clearance operation in Rakhine State, and the [Right] image is from the Myanmar military equipment guides website. (Sources: [Left] Maung media outlet from Facebook, [Right] Myanmar military equipment guides and CAT UXO)

The limited ability to identify actors or munition types has two clear implications: responsibility for individual incidents should not be inferred from the overall general

presence of mines in Myanmar, and the absence of attribution does not reduce the humanitarian significance of the incidents. Therefore, regardless of who the actor is that emplaced a device, reported contamination of such weapons in civilian and public areas creates risks that require mine-risk education, medical assistance and future rehabilitation support.

6 OSINT VERIFICATION & LIMITATIONS

For this investigation, open source intelligence (OSINT) served two purposes:

1) The systematic collection of publicly available information that enabled Myanmar Witness to identify reported incidents, and analyse any patterns, including geographic distribution, timing, casualties, and injury outcomes.
2) Where either visual or contextual evidence was available, Myanmar Witness applied OSINT techniques to assess selected elements of individual incidents, location, timing and their apparent injury patterns.

Of the 170 reported incidents in the dataset, Myanmar Witness independently verified the location of two cases. Although this represents a small subset of the wider dataset, the remaining reported incidents could not be geolocated with the available open-source material. This is due to either the original footage being unavailable, visual features being insufficiently distinctive, or locations being too remote for the source material to show the incident area.

6.1 OSINT CASE STUDIES

6.1.1 REPORTED ROADSIDE EXPLOSION IN KACHIN STATE

On 9 November 2025, a woman was reportedly killed in a landmine explosion in Hmaw Si Zar (မော်ဆီဇာ) village, Hpakant Township, Kachin State. Available footage from [GRAPHIC] Red Peacock shows a figure on the floor with a damaged motorbike on a roadside. The report mentions that the landmine had been intended for a military vehicle and that the woman was travelling behind it when the explosion occurred.

Myanmar Witness geolocated the footage to a public area of Hmaw Si Zar village, Kachin State at approximately [25.640553, 96.348061] (figure 16). Additionally, online reporting stated that the incident took place at around 11:00 local time. Moreover, using Suncalc, Myanmar Witness observed that the direction and position of shadows

visible in footage (source removed due to privacy concerns) were consistent with a time between 11:00 and 11:30 local time on 9 November 2025 (figure 17).



Figure 16: Myanmar Witness geolocated footage of the reported incident to a public area of Hmaw Si Zar village at approximately [25.640553, 96.348061].The footage and satellite image match key features near the incident, including a small building (white box), a larger building (yellow box), the corner of the street (red line), and the adjacent building (blue box) (source: [Left] UGC - source removed due to privacy concerns) (source: [Right] Google Earth, image © 2026 Airbus)

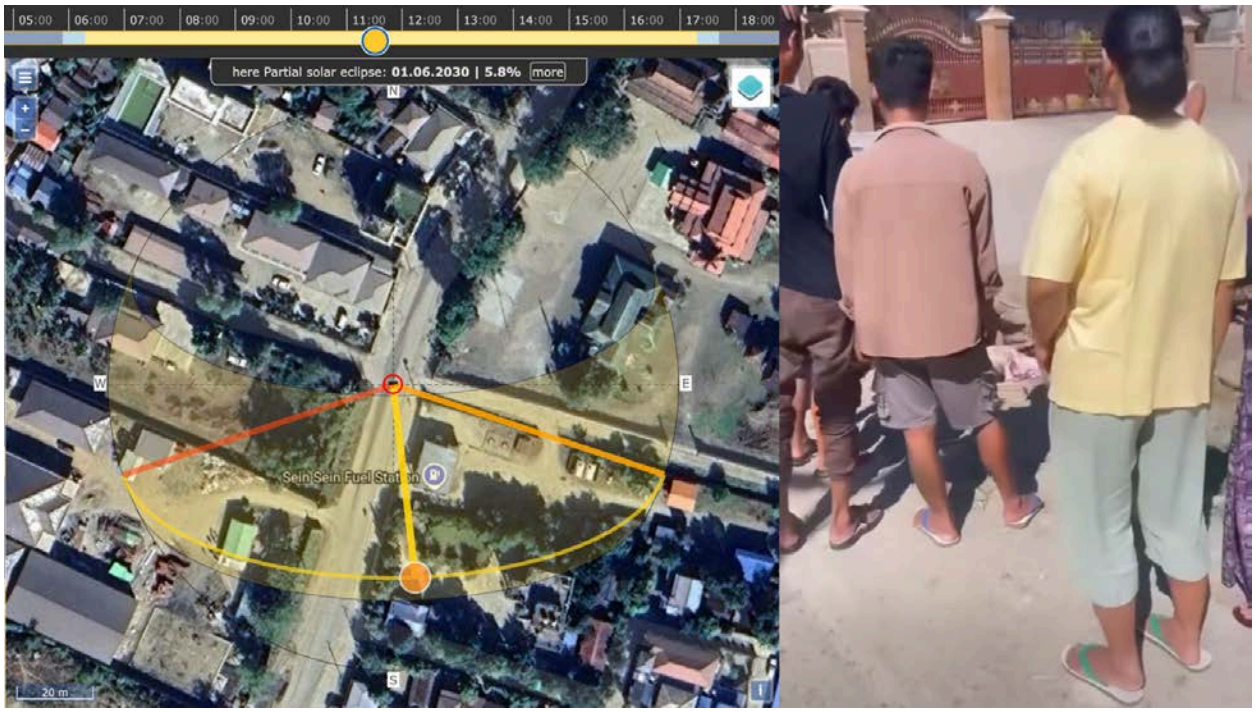


Figure 17: Myanmar Witness conducted chronolocation of the reported incident allegedly at 11:00 am local time on 9 November 2025, using SunCalc. The estimated shadow position between 11:00 and 11:30

local time matches the shadow visible in the footage. (Source: [Left] SunCalc, [Right] removed due to privacy concerns)

Although the complete circumstances of the explosion, the munition type and actor attribution could not be established, this case study highlights how civilians may encounter explosive hazards on roads used for everyday travel.

6.1.2 INCIDENT NEAR REPORTED MILITARY SITE IN KAYIN STATE

On 29 July 2025, a 42-year-old man was reportedly injured after stepping on a landmine while walking near a compound allegedly connected with the Myanmar military in Hlaingbwe (လှိုင်းဘွဲ့မြို့) town, Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State. [GRAPHIC] Karen Information Centre (KIC) news states that the incident took place near an A1 car tyre service shop, and that the individual received medical assistance.

Myanmar Witness identified and geolocated the A1 car tyre service shop at approximately [17.135698, 97.813126] in Hlaingbwe town (figure 18). Myanmar Witness also examined imagery showing a nearby compound, containing earthworks, bunker-like structures and buildings that are consistent with a secured facility. Although these features may indicate military use, the available imagery does not allow Myanmar Witness to confirm the compound's function. Therefore, Myanmar Witness assesses with medium confidence that the reported landmine incident occurred near a compound that may be associated with the military.



Figure 18: [Left]Google Earth imagery showing the nearby reported locations of the landmine incident, including an alleged military compound. [Right] Google Earth imagery highlighting features observed within the nearby compound that may indicate military use, including a bunker-like structure (yellow box), artillery positions or earthworks (red box) and buildings consistent with a secured facility (white box). (Source: Google Earth @ 2026 Airbus)

Separate footage from Myanmar Rescue Organisation in Hlaing Bwe shows the injured individual being transported for medical treatment (source removed for security reasons). Myanmar Witness geolocated the imagery to the entrance of Hlaingbwe General Hospital at approximately [17.119794, 97.817908 (figure 19). The source indicated that the man's foot was reportedly amputated as a result of his injuries. However, Myanmar Witness could not determine the exact date of the incident or verify the individual's subsequent medical condition.

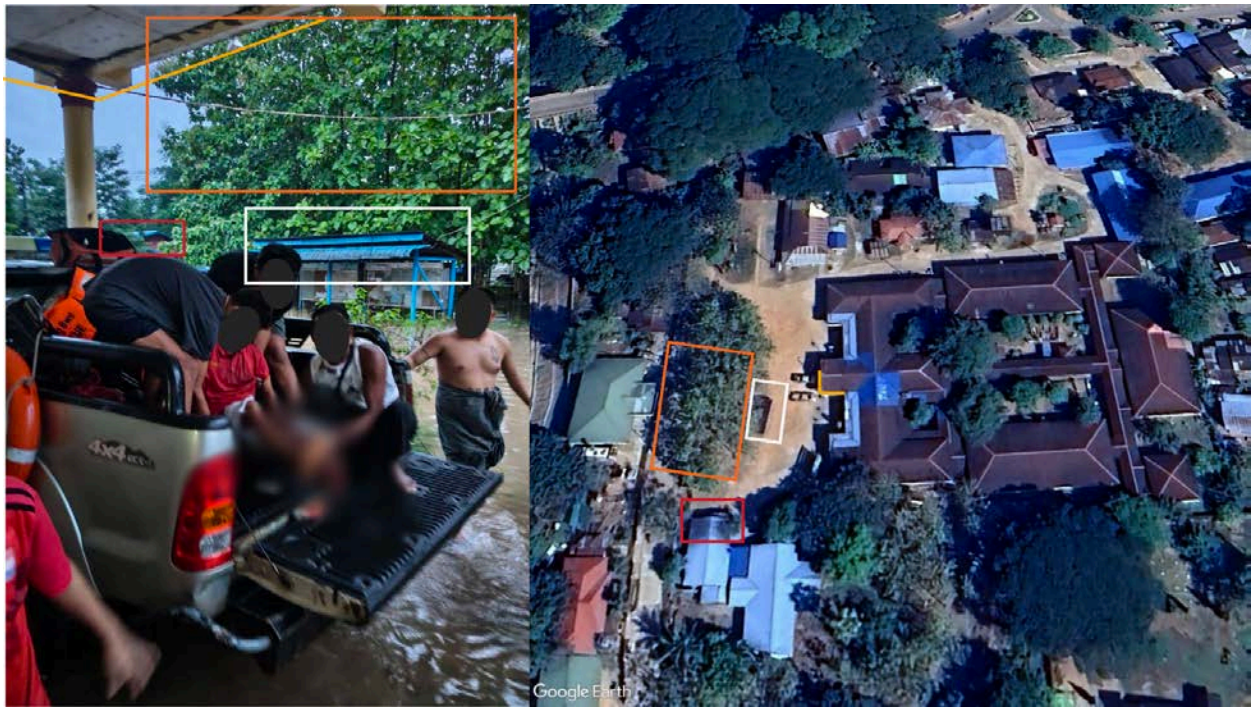


Figure 19: Myanmar Witness geolocated footage of the individual being transported to Hlaingbwe General Hospital to [17.119794, 97.817908] (source: [Left] removed due to privacy concerns, [Right] Google Earth, image © 2026 Airbus)

This case signifies the potential risks civilians face when moving through areas near military-associated sites.

6.2 DISABILITY & INJURY OUTCOMES

The following cases are examples of the types of severe injury Myanmar Witness has collected through online sources. Note that the visual assessments are not clinical diagnoses and cannot establish the survivor's long-term medical or disability outcomes.

6.1.2 REPORTED LOWER LIMB INJURY IN SHAN STATE

On 2 August 2025, a monk was reportedly injured after stepping on a landmine while gardening in the compound of Nat Sit Lin monastery, Kyaukme (ကျောက်မဲမြို့) town, Kyaukme Township, Shan State (figure 20). [GRAPHIC] Shwe Phee Myay News Agency states that the individual was transported to Lashio Hospital for medical treatment.

Footage shows substantial visible trauma to the person's lower right limb, including bleeding and tissue damage. This evidence is consistent with a severe lower limb injury that could significantly affect mobility and daily life activities. However, it does not establish whether amputation was required or the monk's subsequent medical condition.

Shwe Phee Myay News Agency reportedly notes that the mine may have been placed by the Myanmar military, as military personnel had been stationed at the monastery during Operation 1027. However, based on the available evidence, Myanmar Witness could not establish the type of munition or attribute its emplacement to the military.



Figure 20: The footage shows significant bleeding and visible tissue damage to the victim's lower leg, consistent with the reported landmine incident. (Source: [GRAPHIC] Shwe Phee Myay News Agency)

6.1.3 REPORTED LOWER LIMB INJURIES IN KAYAH STATE

On 5 May 2025, two women were reportedly injured in a landmine incident while gardening in Loikaw (လွိုင်ကော်မြို့) town, Loikaw Township, Kayah State. [GRAPHIC] Kantarawaddy Times reports that one woman was severely injured, while the other was reported to have sustained an eye injury (figure 21).

From available footage, one individual is seen with substantial trauma to the left leg and right foot, which is consistent with a severe lower-limb injury and thus may indicate partial or complete limb loss. However, the extent of the injury could not be established from the footage alone. Moreover, the imagery shows the individual being transported in an ambulance, indicating that medical assistance was provided at the time shown.

Myanmar Witness could not verify the munition type, the actor responsible for the device's emplacement or the subsequent medical condition of either woman.



Figure 21: The reported footage shows a woman with a severe leg injury, including visible tissue damage and significant trauma consistent with the reported landmine incident. (source: [GRAPHIC] Kantarawaddy Times)

6.1.3 CHILD & UXO CASE STUDY

On 26 February 2026, an 11-year-old boy was reportedly seriously injured by an UXO explosion in Nam Hpat Kar (Ho Pong + Pang Sa Lorp)(နမ့်ဖတ်ကာ (ဟိုပုံ + ပန်ဂျရောပ်)) village, Kutkai Township, Shan State. According to SHAN News, the child found an explosive object in a monastery compound and was injured when it detonated while he was either handling or playing with it.

The footage shows the child receiving medical treatment, and also shows serious injuries including an apparent lower-limb amputation and injuries to the upper limbs and face. This footage illustrates the severity of the reported harm; however, it does not establish the type of explosive device (figure 22).



Figure 22: The reported footage shows a child receiving medical treatment after a reported UXO explosion. Visible injuries include a lower-limb amputation, as well as injuries to the upper limbs and face. (Source: removed due to privacy concerns).

SHAN News highlights that children in northern Shan State continue to face risks from landmines, UXO and other explosive remnants associated with previous conflicts. In this case, the available evidence does not indicate whether longer-term support such as rehabilitation was needed or applied.

Taken together, these case studies demonstrate several key points, such as civilians reportedly encountering explosive hazards in public, residential and community areas. Secondly, these incidents resulted in severe physical injuries, including apparent amputations. Finally, even where OSINT can independently assess a location or support a reported time, questions still remain concerning actor attribution, munition type and long-term disability outcomes.

7 HUMANITARIAN SIGNIFICANCE

The reported landmine incidents collected in this investigation indicate that landmine and ERW hazards continue to affect civilians across multiple parts of Myanmar. The reported concentrations of incidents in Shan State and Rakhine State, along with the number of incidents in public, residential and community areas, strongly suggest that these hazards were not confined to active military positions.

As documented, roadsides, homes, gardens, monasteries and other community spaces which are typically used for travel, work, education and daily activity have been contaminated with explosive hazards. These weapons can restrict civilian movement, access to livelihoods, food and education, but also create further risks for individuals returned to areas that were affected by displacement or recent clashes.

Regarding the effects on disability, the reported casualty figures also show that consequences extend beyond simply immediate fatalities. The reported number of amputations and other severe injuries indicate potential long-term disability needs, including rehabilitation, assistance with education, employment and everyday living. This likely will also extend beyond the individual to family members and communities. However, Myanmar Witness's dataset does not measure these indirect effects.

A key finding in this investigation was that men accounted for the largest share of documented casualties, while women and children were also impacted. Additionally, the demographic profile did vary between locations, including differences in the number of reported child casualties in Shan State and Rakhine State. These findings suggest that risk education and victim assistance response may need to be adapted to local patterns of exposure rather than being designed around a single national demographic profile.

Finally, regarding OSINT, this investigation demonstrates its value for identifying patterns of civilian harm across an already geographically dispersed conflict. Moreover, it shows the limits of relying on only material online. At the time of writing, Myanmar Witness was able to independently geolocate two reported incidents and conduct detailed assessments of selected evidence; however, most incidents could not be independently located. Therefore, this dataset can support monitoring and prioritisation, but it cannot provide a complete map of contamination of all landmine and ERW casualties.

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8 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on this report's findings along with limitations identified, Myanmar Witness recommends the following:

- Continue monitoring of online landmine and ERW reporting, and update the dataset as new information emerges.
- Use OSINT to identify patterns of civilian harm and pay particular attention to locations where incidents are repeatedly reported, and where civilians are reportedly exposed in public, residential and community areas.

- Where information is available, future data collection will record age, gender, activity at the time of the incident, location, injury outcome and any information concerning long-term impairment.
- Continue to develop a dedicated disability related data field covering amputation, livelihood consequences and disability-related needs where information is available
    - Given the number of reported amputations and severe injuries identified in this report, Myanmar Witness will also distinguish between the different injuries and long-term consequences. Such information will be collected only where it is obtained responsibly and without increasing risk to online users, survivors or family members.

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9 METHODOLOGY

Myanmar Witness follows a methodology of digital preservation and rigorous, replicable analysis. Digital content is collected and archived in a secure database and hashed to confirm authenticity and prevent tampering.



Myanmar Witness applies a four-tier classification system to describe the extent to which footage has been independently verified by Myanmar Witness. This is as follows:

Myanmar Witness uses a confidence judgement system to describe the extent of independent verification:

- Very High: Myanmar Witness is 85-95% sure that the event took place as described in the claims. Digital content is independently geolocated and mostly chronolocated, with strong corroborating evidence on details of the claim.
- High: Myanmar Witness is 70-80% sure that the event took place as described in the claims. Digital content is geolocated. Other reliable sources confirm the time and date, but it cannot be independently chronolocated. Other details of the claim have not been proven beyond a reasonable doubt.
- Medium: Myanmar Witness is 50-60% sure that the event took place. The event is somewhat verified, but significant gaps remain.

- Low: The geolocation and chronolocation process has shown the location or timing of the digital content to be inaccurate.
- Unknown: There is insufficient evidence for the investigator to make a judgement.

For the avoidance of doubt, this verification system only refers to Myanmar Witness' ability to independently geolocate or chronolocate footage. Incidents marked as unverified may still be substantiated by multiple eyewitness reports. Myanmar Witness also collates and assesses unverified information, including claims on social media. This information is presented as claims, rather than verified fact.

This report contains figures showing how footage has been geolocated. In these images, coloured lines are used to represent the left and right arcs of vision. Coloured boxes show corresponding landmarks or distinguishing details in each piece of footage or data. Geolocation is conducted using an array of open-source tools such as Google Earth to match satellite imagery with visual features identified in the footage or images. Geolocations are peer-reviewed.

Data sources, collection and preservation:
The dataset was compiled from publicly available online sources, including local media reporting, User-generated content (UGC), civil-society organisations (CSOs) reporting and other relevant online evidence. Information that was collected has been archived in the database.

Myanmar Witness used platform-specific and general search tools to identify relevant material, including Facebook, Telegram, YouTube, Google Advanced Search and WhopostedWhat. Searches used a combination of keywords relating to landmines, explosions, injuries, amputations and disability.
Each entry was reviewed to identify duplicate reporting and multiple sources referring to the same reported incident, and where several sources described the same event, they were linked to a single incident record.

Note that the dataset is not a complete representation of all landmine incidents in Myanmar; it is based on information that was publicly available through online sources and search methods.

Coding and analysis
The dataset was coded using predefined categories corresponding to:
- State or Region
- Township
- Town or village

- Reported incident location
- Date and month
- Reported Casualty Outcome
- Age and gender
- Injury outcome
- Actor attribution
- Munition type
- Verification status

Myanmar Witness's analysis distinguishes between reported incidents and casualties. An incident refers to a reported event, while a casualty refers to an individual who was either reportedly killed or injured. Therefore, one incident can involve multiple casualties.

Assessment of injury outcomes
Myanmar Witness analysed available imagery and reporting to classify the reported injury outcomes as a result of a landmine incident. Categories included major injury, followed by amputation, minor injury and unknown outcome.

Where the available material did not support a reliable classification, the outcome was recorded as unknown.

Munitions assessment
Where UGC was available showing a device or munition type, Myanmar Witness's weapons specialist analysed it for a possible identification. Note that this assessment does not establish when or where the munition was deployed, or whether it caused a particular explosion and which actor placed the device. Where the evidence was insufficient, the munition was recorded as unknown or reported only as described by the source.

Detailed limitations:

Myanmar Witness obtains information from an area of ongoing conflict. Resultantly, selection bias may occur due to internet outages, lack of connectivity, fear of reprisal, or restrictions on media. Myanmar Witness strives to eliminate bias by collecting digital content from multiple sources, including pro and anti-regime news and social media.

Several reported incidents lacked precise location information or original footage of the incident site. Images showing injured people often lacked distinctive geographic features and therefore could not be used for geolocation.

Myanmar Witness could not match several reported villages confidently to available coordinates or MIMU reference data. Where a precise village location could not be

established, the nearest known town or township may have been used for mapping or categorisation.

The dataset does not include systematic field interviews, medical records or comprehensive mine-action survey data. Other studies using field-based or interview-based methods may produce different casualty or incident totals because they access information that was not available to Myanmar Witness.

The available online information does not consistently provide clinical diagnoses, treatment histories or information about long-term outcomes. As a result, the report cannot measure the full prevalence of disability, rehabilitation needs, or impacts on education, employment and livelihoods.

Injury categories are based on reported information and visual assessment where available. They should not be treated as equivalent to clinical classifications. The absence of a recorded amputation or disability outcome may reflect a lack of information rather than the absence of such an outcome.

The final date for data collection was 19 June 2026. However, Myanmar Witness will continue monitoring the situation in order to gain more information on these events.

10 ABBREVIATIONS

Arakan Army	AA
Anti-Personnel plastic mine.	AP
Civil Society Organisations	CSO
Collective Awareness to Unexploded Ordnance	CAT UXO
Ethnic Armed Organisations	EAOs
Explosive Remnants of War	ERW
High-Explosive-Blast	HE Blast
International humanitarian law	IHL
Open-source Intelligence	OSINT
People's Defence Force	PDF
Unexploded Ordnance	UXO
User-Generated Content	UGC