

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INTERNATIONAL  
A PROUD PARTNER OF GLOBAL LANDMINE CLEARANCE



# Global Landmine Initiative Action Pack



**Learn about the global landmine crisis and discover  
ways you and your friends can help!**



*Peace through Understanding*

# What is PTPI's Global Landmine Initiative?

Imagine living in or near a minefield. Imagine living with the constant reminders of danger signs and boundary markers where one stumble, one soccer ball kicked out of bounds, or one child innocently taking a shortcut home, can mean the difference between life or death. Welcome to the real world for families in

countries such as Cambodia, which boasts the unenviable record of the highest ratio of amputees per capita. Now, imagine thousands of miles away, YOU reaching out to help. Because of you, a child feels safe. Because of you, a family is fed. Here are the facts and simple ways your life will positively impact others. *Imagine...*

## PTPI's 3 Step Program *Turning Minefields into Cornfields*

- 1. Eradication:** The sinister nature of a landmine or unexploded ordinance (UXO) impacts individuals, families and entire communities. Since 2004, PTPI has funded the removal of more than 1,500 mines and UXO and cleared 28 acres of land. PTPI's eradication efforts are straightforward: Removing mines to ensure a more fruitful life for all people.
- 2. Education:** Did you know, producing a mine can cost as little as \$3.00 USD? In some countries, handmade explosives take the form of a simple soda can or child's toy. Long after conflicts have ended, mines prey on innocent victims.
- 3. Aftercare:** After PTPI's successful three-year demining effort in Sri Lanka, the newly demined land was returned to the local population for development. Then, following the 2004 Asian Tsunami, an outpouring of support from PTPI members worldwide resulted in the creation of three schools. PTPI is currently exploring aftercare efforts to establish water wells in Cambodia, and expanding outreach to Central America.

## By Definition

**What is a landmine?** A landmine is an explosive device designed to cause severe injury or death when triggered. Anti-personnel mines inflict harm on individuals or animals; anti-tank mines destroy entire vehicles.

**What is UXO?** UXO, or unexploded ordinance, represents those items (bullets, grenades etc.) that did not explode and could still inflict injury. In some cases, these hidden killers pose a risk *decades* after their use.



Mary Jean Eisenhower is briefed by Program Manager Tim Porter in Cambodia about the "Smart Detector."

*On the cover, children in Sri Lanka are able to learn in a school built far away from dangerous landmines.*

# The Global Tragedy

**Estimates indicate more than 300,000 men, women and children are landmine survivors.** Countless others are victims, due to an immeasurable ripple effect on families and communities. Landmines and UXO bar development at the social and economic levels, preventing job creation, and limiting agriculture and basic infrastructure projects. Agriculture and food sources are destroyed as communities and nations suffer.

## Landmines & Civilians...

Landmines maim and kill. They prevent the use of land for housing; contaminate soil and water sources; cause starvation through loss of farming; and limit access to roads, schools and hospitals.



A father and daughter in Cambodia fell victim to landmines by simply trying to earn a living. When the father's prized chainsaw was left behind after he stepped on a landmine, his daughter returned to retrieve it. Survivors often face a lifetime of physical pain, psychological trauma and social rejection.

*"In Sri Lanka, I literally saw minefields transformed into cornfields. Schools were rebuilt and children could play safely."*

-Mary Jean Eisenhower, PTPI President/

## Success in Sri Lanka

- For three years, PTPI supported a demining team in Jaffna, where 68% of all mine casualties in Sri Lanka occur. In one year alone, PTPI-funded personnel cleared 199 anti-personnel mines on high priority land. PTPI expanded that focus following the 2004 Asian Tsunami, ultimately building three schools, which serve 3-4 villages and 35 households each.
- What does this success in Sri Lanka mean? With Jaffna's high population density and a heavy reliance on agriculture, a great portion of the local population is directly impacted by mines. Mine clearance priorities focused on resettlement – returning the land to her people, agricultural development, and basic infrastructure such as schools and roads. Efforts focused on reducing the number of casualties and returning land to productive use.

# Landmines in Cambodia

## PTPI INITIATIVES IN CAMBODIA

- With success met in Sri Lanka, PTPI shifted focus to Cambodia, supporting the first team from December 2007 to November 2008.
- Cambodia ranks #1 on the list of amputees per capita, with more than 25,000 direct victims reported. Countless others are impacted by loss of income, agriculture and basic infrastructure.
- *Why?* During the horrific genocide orchestrated by Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, more than 2,000,000 Cambodians were starved, tortured and massacred. In an effort to expel the Khmer Rouge, at least 2,000,000 mines were laid along the Thai border.
- The infamous K-5 mine belt along the Cambodian border with Thailand constitutes the densest mined ground in the world.



**Removing landmines is a long, arduous process that takes the patience of individuals who want to restore safety and economic possibilities to their country.**

“With your help, PTPI can continue funding efforts in Cambodia. During my visit, I witnessed families living next to active minefields, and I met with the grateful beneficiaries of our efforts there.”

-Mary Jean Eisenhower, PTPI's President/CEO

## The Good News

Attitudes towards landmines are changing! More and more countries recognize the harmful effects of landmines and have vowed to help the problem. One way the international community has helped is through the development of conventions (treaties) on landmines. Check out the link below to learn more!

**Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons** was amended May 3, 1996. The Protocol regulates the use of landmines, booby-traps and other devices. For the full text, visit <http://www.cwtreaty.com/keydocs.html>.

# You + Action = Progress



PTPI's Osterville, MA (PEACE) Student Chapter created a flyer to raise community awareness about the landmine crisis and hosted a presentation from a representative with The HALO Trust.

Ideas on how to help...

*Enjoy a glimpse of successful past projects:*

- PTPI's Pensacola, Florida (Peace Train) Student Chapter organized a Global Landmine Initiative Benefit Dinner in celebration of Global Youth Service Day.
- PTPI's Quad Cities Student Chapter participated in an Adopt-A-Minefield project by collecting money and coloring school sidewalks equivalent to the space they were able to clear of landmines with the money raised.

## Our pooled efforts = success!

PTPI's joint efforts with the HALO Trust continue through the generosity of PTPI members and friends around the globe. A demining organization, The HALO Trust reports that in 20 years of mine clearance, more than one million landmines have been destroyed in 9 countries. More than 50,000 acres are safe for resettlement, agriculture and development, while approximately 7,000 miles of roads have been cleared for safe travel.

In the fall of 2008, PTPI's President and CEO, Mary Jean Eisenhower, visited the HALO Trust team and PTPI-sponsored deminers in Cambodia. So impressed by the possible increased productivity, she directed 2009 support for a team of HSTAMIDS operators. HSTAMIDS stands for Hand-Held Stand-Off Mine Detection System, or more simply put, the "Smart Detector." The

detectors have such potential that we anticipate clearance of approximately 138,000 square meters and the destruction of at least 350 mines in 2009.

**From January to April 2009, 140 anti-personnel mines and five UXO were removed on 1.4 acres in Cambodia. PTPI is the first U.S. Non-Governmental Organization to fully support a HSTAMIDS team in humanitarian mine clearance.**

A "Smart Detector" in use in Cambodia.



# Recognizing the Need

Raise funds for a Smart Detector!

YOU can make a positive impact. In Cambodia, removing a mine costs \$100 USD. Supporting the “Smart Detector” team costs approximately \$230 USD per month. In a struggling global economy, it will take each of us pooling our efforts to maintain support in Cambodia and ultimately return this beautiful country to her people. Through PTPI’s International Friendship Fund – Global Landmine Initiative, 100% of our joint efforts go toward eradication, education and aftercare.



In Cambodia, a sign recognizes donors including People to People International and the Osterville, Massachusetts (PEACE) and Delray Beach, Florida Student Chapters.



Children living just steps away from a minefield.

In some areas, the “Smart Detector” has increased productivity by 500%.

## Landmines and Poverty

We cannot overcome poverty without getting to the root of the problem. Landmines prey on the poorest of the poor – rendering a life of hardship on individuals, communities and nations. In Cambodia, 50% of victims were cutting wood or gathering food; 45% were foraging in the forest or collecting scrap metal to survive; while 5% were working to reclaim land for farming.

# Making Your Project Happen

**H**ere are simple ways to support People to People International's Global Landmine Initiative. With our pooled efforts, PTPI can continue to support a demining team in Cambodia. Together, we will apply for matched funds from the U.S. government to expand outreach, which could double our combined funds. Whether \$1 USD or \$1,000 USD, donations to PTPI's International Friendship Fund-Global Landmine Initiative go toward eradication, education and aftercare.



As a deminer works in the background, yellow markers indicate where mines have been safely removed.

## Awareness 101-It's As Easy As 1, 2, 3

**YOU** can host a PTPI Landmine Awareness Event. Humanitarian efforts are limited only by our imaginations. If you can dream it, you can do it! A few ideas to get you started...

1. Contact PTPI for brochures and educational materials to help you spread the word.
2. Get Involved! Have participants of your event role-play coping with the direct result of a landmine injury – the loss of sight or limb.
3. Feature Cambodian culture as a central theme of your special event.
4. Organize a Walk-A-Thon or other FUNdraiser for PTPI's Global Landmine Initiative.
5. Produce a play, which illustrates the impact mines have on the poorest of the poor.
6. Work with your school toward landmine awareness – “planting” fake mines with messages and statistics throughout the school to educate students about the daily threat to children in mine-affected countries.
7. Picture This! A picture is worth 1,000 words. Use the impact of photography to spread the word.
8. Create a playground map or other creative display to illustrate PTPI's demining efforts.
9. Network, Network, Network! Use your social networking sites to inform and impact others about this global crisis.
10. Join the PTPI “Cause” on Facebook and start a campaign for the Global Landmine Initiative, encouraging friends to join the cause and donate money.
11. Go Green! Help restore what landmines destroy.

# Global Landmine Initiative Resources

PTPI acknowledges that landmine developments and statistics are constantly changing. We encourage you to visit sites from, which we have collected statistics, to learn about the latest developments!

- People to People International [www.ptpi.org/programs/GlobalLandmine.aspx](http://www.ptpi.org/programs/GlobalLandmine.aspx)
- The HALO Trust [www.halotrust.org](http://www.halotrust.org)
- Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons [www.ccwtreaty.com/keydocs.html](http://www.ccwtreaty.com/keydocs.html)



Through PTPI's International Friendship Fund, 100% of donations designated for the Global Landmine Initiative go toward eradication, education and aftercare.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "*Be the change you wish to see in the world.*" Now you know how you can change our world, starting now!

## CONTACT US

We want to support your Global Landmine Initiative project in any way possible. Please contact PTPI with any questions or for more information. E-mail PTPI at [cindyspake@ptpi.org](mailto:cindyspake@ptpi.org) or call +1.816.531.4701.

