

## INJURIES CAUSED BY LANDMINES AND UNEXPLODED DEVICES (UXD) IN THE JAFFNA PENINSULA

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Injuries due to antipersonnel pressure mines (commonly termed landmines) and other unexploded devices have been claiming the lives and limbs of several civilians in the Jaffna Peninsula. Accurate data of those injured are not available.

This is a on-going prospective study of injuries caused by antipersonnel pressure mines and other explosive devices. The data collected from 1.5.1997 to 31.12.1997 is analyzed.

The data was collected using an interviewer administered questionnaire. The injured were identified from admission records in hospitals (Teaching Hospital, Jaffna and Base Hospital, Point Pedro) and news reports in the daily papers.

81 persons were injured during the 8 month period. 77 cases were investigated and analysed.

The incidence was high (12 - 13 per month) during the months of October , November and December. 59.7% of the cases were from Valigamam area.

75% of the injuries were cause by stepping on a mine and 25% due to handling of an explosive device.

75% of the injured were males. 53% were injured while at work.

25% of the injuries occurred in their own compound. A majority (58%) of those injured in their own compound had been women.

25% of those injured had been children. Among the children more boys (79%) were affected than girls and 89% of the children had been between 10-19 years old. 58% of the children were injured as a result of handling the unexploded device.

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