



अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र सेवा केन्द्र (इन्सेक)  
Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC)

# **INSEC Surveillance System on Explosive Devices Incidents**

## **Report On Casualties of Victim-Activated Explosions Nepal**

January-December 2012

Prepared By: Prashannata Wasti

Srijana Nepal



## Table of Contents

<b>Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Methodology</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1. INSEC Surveillance Methodology	6
2.2. Case Definitions	6
2.3 Typology of Explosive Devices	7
2.4. Active Surveillance	7
2.4.1. Overview	8
2.4.2. Coverage	8
2.4.3. Range of Information	8
2.4.4. Limitation	8
<b>3. Number of Incidents and Casualties</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1 Casualties and Incidents by Months	9
3.2 Death	10
<b>4. Location of Victim-activated Explosions</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1 Incidents and casualties by location	12
4.2 Incidents and casualties by setting	16
4.3 Casualties Before and After the Signing of CPA	17
<b>5. Circumstances of Victim-activated Explosions</b>	<b>17</b>
5.1. Type of Explosive Device causing Incidents	17
5.2. Cause of Incidents	17
5.3. Activation of the Device	18
<b>6. Profile of the Civilian Casualties</b>	<b>18</b>
6.1 Age and Sex of Civilian Casualties	18
6.2 Description of injuries	19
6.3. Occupation of Civilian Casualties	20
6.4 Prior Knowledge of the Risks	21
<b>7. Conclusion</b>	<b>22</b>



## SUMMARY

This annual report has been prepared on the basis of information gathered through INSEC's Surveillance System. It records the effects of explosive devices in Nepal from January-December 2012.

During the reporting period, the Surveillance System identified 23 new casualties from a total of 14 incidents caused by improvised explosive devices (IED), and other explosive devices (ED). In these 14 incidents, 19 people were injured and 4 were killed.

Four administrative regions had incidents of victim-activated explosions, with the highest number of incidents (7) casualties (13) in Central Region. Out of the 12 districts affected by victim-activated explosions, Mahottari district of the Central region had the highest number of casualties (6).

The highest number of incidents occurred in the month of January with 4 incidents resulting 4 casualties. The highest number of casualties (10) occurred in homes. The IEDs, mainly socket bombs, caused 6 incidents. The main cause of casualties for this period was handling/tampering of the explosive devices (16) followed by touching the explosive device (6). Children accounted for 48 % (11) and adult accounted for 52% (12) of the total number of casualties'. Males were 48 % and females were 52% of the total casualties.

Most of the casualties belonged to the 'lower' economic category. This indicates that the majority of the casualties will most likely be unable to afford medical treatment, or even in some cases evacuation to the closest medical facility. They may also face financial difficulty in any follow-up treatment required.

91% (21) casualties were not aware that the area where the explosion occurred was dangerous. 78% (18) casualties did not know that their activity at the time of the incident was dangerous. Almost all of the casualties had not received MRE prior to the incidents except the soldiers who were involved in demining.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report, based on Armed Violence Surveillance System maintained by Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) since June 2006, covers the period from January- December 2012, and is part of an ongoing collaborative project, to improve Mine/IED/UXO Risk Education (MRE), Victim Assistance (VA) and Advocacy, and to inform future Explosive Ordnance Disposal Missions. This report provides an overview of the impact of VAE, namely Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), including Unexploded/Abandoned Ordnance (UXO/AO) and Antipersonnel Mines on the population of Nepal. Its publication aims to highlight the extent of the threat that EDs continue to pose to Nepali citizens. Through such a reporting process, INSEC hopes that this issue will continue to be addressed in the most comprehensive and immediate manner possible, by all the relevant stakeholders. The Active Surveillance System on which this report is based on only on the details of casualties of victim-activated explosions.

Millions of people have been killed and maimed by mines and “explosive remnants of war”. These are the unexploded/abandoned ordnance such as artillery shells, mortars, grenades, bombs and rockets, left behind after an armed conflict. When an armed conflict is over, the battlefields are often littered with explosive debris. Much of this debris is still dangerous, in particular stocks of weapons left behind by combatants and explosive munitions that were fired but failed to go off as intended.<sup>1</sup> For the civilians and communities in war-affected countries the presence of these weapons represents an ongoing threat. Globally, there are millions of explosive remnants of war on the ground today affecting more than 83 countries. It is known that millions of people living in 83 countries are affected by land mines, but the size of the global landmine problem is not yet well defined. It is estimated that 10,000 civilians killed or maimed every year by landmines, a large number are children.<sup>2</sup>

During the conflict, the CPN-Maoist used IEDs as anti-tank mines to target security force vehicles. Similarly, the security forces also used fragmentation and blast type of antipersonnel mine and MOTAPM (Mines Other than Anti-Personnel Mines) massively.<sup>3</sup> Peace agreements may be signed, and hostilities may cease, but landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are an enduring legacy of conflict.<sup>4</sup> This happened in Nepal when the decade-long armed conflict came to an end but the threat of explosive remnants of war remained.

Point no. 5.1.4 of Comprehensive Peace Accord (November 2006) signed by the erstwhile CPN-Maoist and Nepal Government states that " both sides shall assist

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.icrc.org/eng/war-and-law/weapons/explosive-remnants-war/overview-explosive-remnants-of-war.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [www.clearlandmines.com/landmineProb-Impact.cmf](http://www.clearlandmines.com/landmineProb-Impact.cmf)

<sup>3</sup> Govt to Outline Defense Policy on Landmines”, Himalayan Times, 3 February 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Global Burden of Armed Violence, Geneva Declaration Secretariat, Geneva, 2008

each other to mark landmines and booby-traps used during the time of armed conflict by providing necessary information within 30 days and defuse and excavate the within 60 days." The point was included in the CPA to exterminate the threats of explosive remnants of war by mitigating the effects of victim-activated explosions.

Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation takes the casualties occurring from the explosive devices manufactured during the conflict time as conflict victims. But, increasingly new groups are also using the devices as a tool to create terror and to make the target succumb to their criminal demands. The overly prolonged transitional period is also posing a challenge because the political parties are vying for power and the government is paying more attention to saving their posts than to take care of the people's agendas including the ERW problems.

INSEC's active surveillance system results in the collection of reliable and comprehensive data to support the five pillars of mine action. As Nepal has been declared landmine field free country, there is little worry about civilian casualties caused by landmine. But the mine action activities are essential to prevent future IED-related incidents and also to alleviate the damage caused by explosive devices. The data and the work generated from it also target the behavior change. As seen in this report, some people are hurt because they were assembling the devices for fishing purpose and met with the accident. This comprehensive system in place ensures widespread dissemination of detailed and accurate information on victims of IEDs to all organizations, who work directly or indirectly with mine action activities. Such information is imperative for the efficient implementation of Mine Risk Education, Victim Assistance, Advocacy and Mine Clearance Programs to alleviate the dangers posed by EDs. The Active Surveillance System on which this report is based details casualties of victim-activated explosions and does not include the targeted attacks.

The objective of INSEC's Surveillance System is three-fold. It intends to:

- Collect information about civilian casualties of victim-activated explosions in all the Districts of Nepal
- Create links between casualties and VA agencies
- Disseminate reliable information on the incidents to Mine Action stakeholders in order to improve VA and MRE, Advocacy and prioritize IED Disposal activities.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 INSEC Surveillance Methodology**

Surveillance, in the public health approach, is the ongoing and systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of health-related data essential to planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice.



Surveillance may be “active” or “passive”, depending on the needs and resources. In active surveillance, injury cases are sought out and investigated; injured persons are interviewed and followed up. It usually requires large expenditures of human and financial resources.

In passive surveillance, relevant information is collected in the course of doing other routine tasks. That is to say, the generation of data is not necessarily the primary function of the system that yields the data. The report presents results on active surveillance conducted in all 75 districts of Nepal.

## 2.2 Case Definition

A casualty of victim-activated explosion is described by the following sets of inclusive and exclusive criteria:

### Inclusive criteria

- People injured or killed when they activated an Explosive Device (ED) unknowingly, or without the intention to harm, hurt or terrorize. These EDs are:
  - Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) including booby-trap
  - Anti-personnel Mines
  - Other ED
- Casualties who were close to an ED activated by an animal or by natural causes (lightning, heat, landslide)
- Casualties who were close to those who activated the ED (bystanders)
- People bystanders affected by explosions due to ED manufacturing, transport or storage
- People who were forced by the Security Forces - or the non-state actors - to defuse or remove ED

### Exclusive criteria

- Victims of command-detonated explosions (attack, demolition of infrastructure) including bombs activated by timer
- Victims of hurled socket bombs, artillery bombardment, aerial bombing, rocket attacks or any other sort of direct launched devices
- Persons who fell victim to direct or stray bullets
- Victims with minor physical injuries (not needing medical treatment)
- Any other persons not meeting the inclusive criteria as set out above

## 2.3 Typology of Explosive Devices

**Mine:** Ammunition designed to be placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area and to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person or a vehicle

**Anti-personnel Mine (AP Mine):** A mine designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person and that will incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons

**Improvised Explosive Device (IED):** a home-made explosive device usually manually placed/used and designed to injure, kill or terrorize. This definition includes booby-traps using explosive. This category includes Unexploded, abandoned and stored IEDs as well.

**Booby-trap:** An explosive or non-explosive device, or other material, deliberately placed to cause casualties when an apparently harmless object is disturbed or a normally safe act is performed

**Other Explosive Devices (ED):** In this specific context, are limited to factory-made explosive munitions (including command-detonated mines) which are either Unexploded or Abandoned.

**Unexploded Ordnance (UXO):** Explosive ordnance that has been primed, fused, armed or otherwise prepared for use or used. It may have been fired, dropped, launched or projected yet remains unexploded either through malfunction or design or for any other reasons

**Abandoned Ordnance (AO):** An explosive ordnance that has not been used during an armed conflict, that has been left behind or dumped by a party to an armed conflict, and which is no longer under control of the party that left it behind or dumped it

Abandoned explosive ordnance may or may not have been primed, fused, armed or otherwise prepared for use.

**Explosive Remnants of War (ERW):** Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AO) from the conflict time.

## **2.4 Active Surveillance**

### **2.4.1 Overview**

The information presented in this report is based on Mine Action surveillance System on civilian casualties of victim-activated explosions initiated by INSEC on June 2006. INSEC district representatives were trained in data collection on incidents, identification of explosive devices, interview techniques, safe behavior and referral of survivors.

Whenever an explosion affecting civilians occurs, INSEC is notified by one of its informers or partner organizations and sends one of its district representatives to investigate.

Incident data collected at the district level, usually from the survivor, relatives or witnesses of the incident, is sent to INSEC Regional and Central Offices using a specific form, and then transferred to the MAJWG whenever needed.

Data is checked for consistency at the central level, and then entered into an Excel worksheet. Information is analyzed in Excel and summarized in a periodic report, which is disseminated through the MAJWG. INSEC reports can also be downloaded from INSEC Website in English.

#### **2.4.2 Coverage**

As INSEC has district representatives in each of the 75 districts of Nepal, the active surveillance System covers the whole country. Each of the five regional offices of INSEC acts as an intermediary between the district representatives and INSEC Central Office in Kathmandu. The Regional Offices notify the district representatives, ensure the follow up in data collection and assist the transfer of data to the central level.

#### **2.4.3 Range of Information**

A wide range of information is collected by INSEC district representatives from the survivors, sources close to them or witnesses of the incident. Data collected can be grouped into the following main categories:

- date of incident
- location of incident
- type of explosive device causing the incident
- circumstance of the incident
- profile of the casualty
- description of injuries or details of death

#### **2.4.4 Limitations**

There is a risk of under-reporting especially if an incident occurs in a remote area, unnoticed by media or INSEC's extended network of partner organizations. In light of this, the figures presented in this report are therefore taken to be the minimal figures, comprising all the confirmed cases.

### **3. NUMBER OF INCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES**

In the period under review, from January to December 2012, INSEC's Surveillance System identified 23 new casualties from a total of 14 incidents caused by IEDs. In these 14 incidents, 19 people were injured and 4 were killed. As demonstrated in figure 1 below, casualty numbers have continued to decrease since 2006.



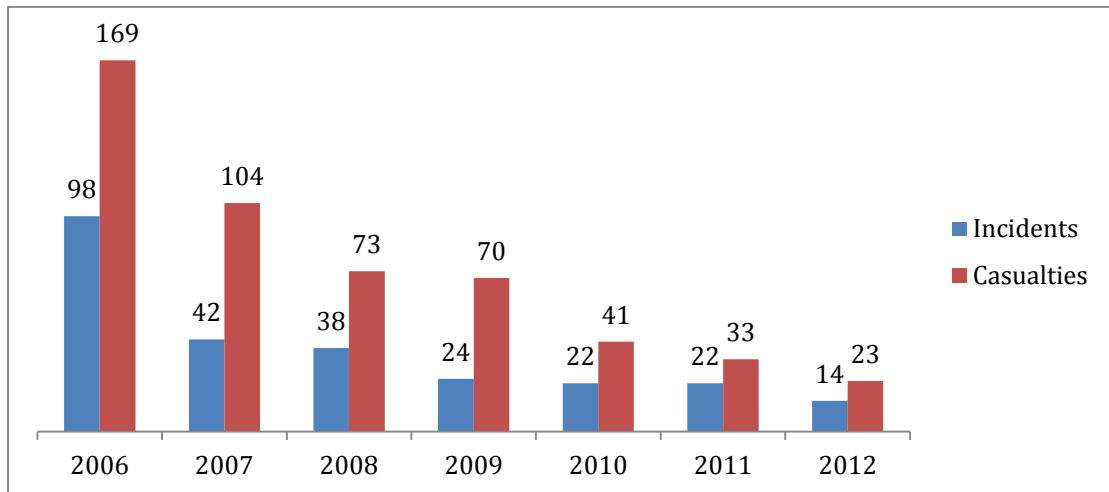


Figure 1: Incidents and Casualties by Year (January 2006-December 2012)

### 3.1 Incidents and Casualties by Months

Until December 2012, the highest number of incidents occurred in the month of January, that is, 4 casualties in 4 incidents. Similarly, highest number of casualties occurred in February with six casualties in one incident.

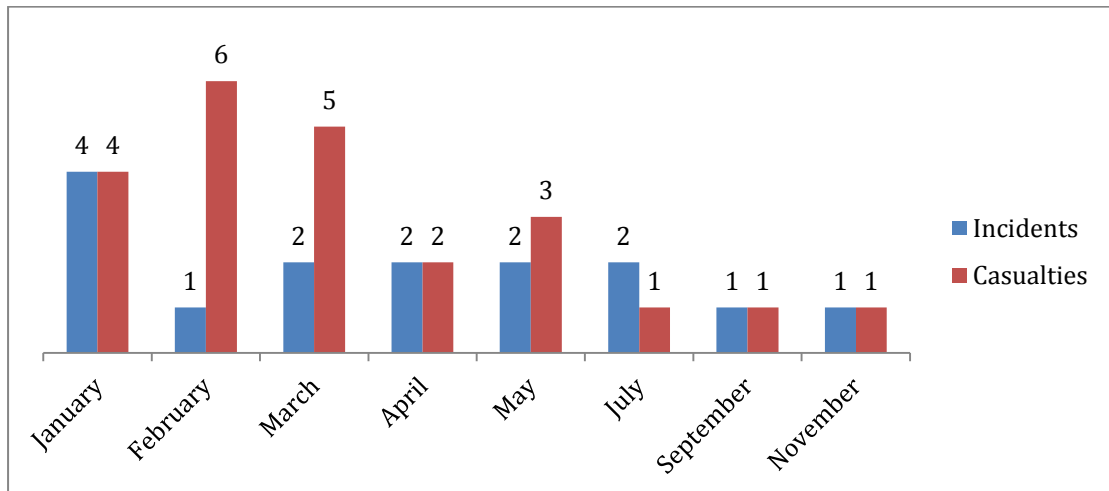


Figure 2: Incidents and Casualties by Months (January-December 2012)

There was no incident in the months of June, August, October and December.

### 3.2 Death in Explosion

Out of 23 casualties, 19 (83%) were injured and 4 (17%) were killed.



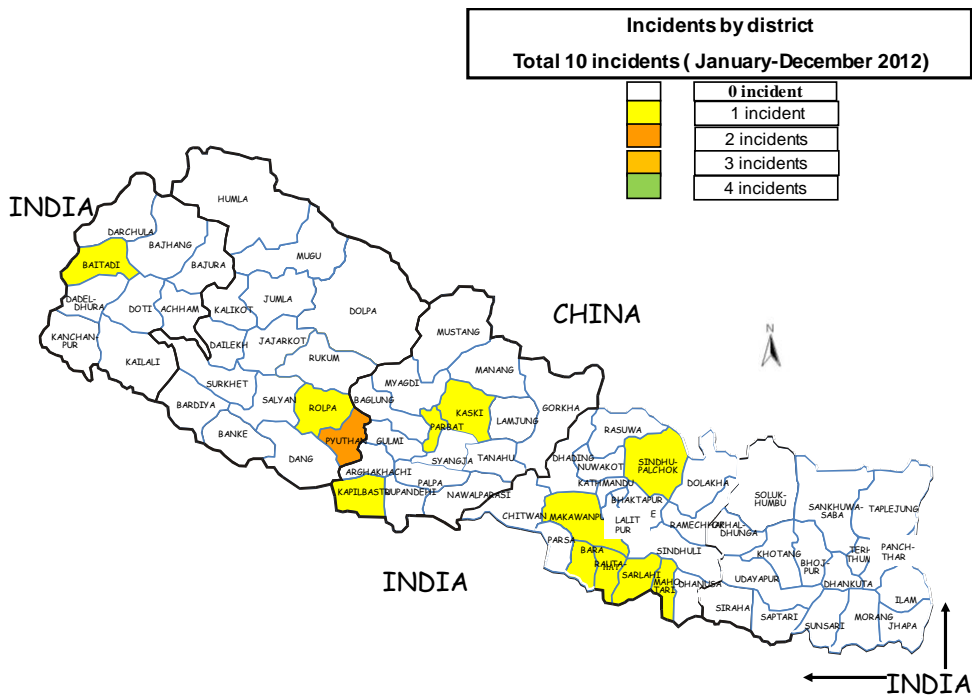


Figure 5: Map of Incidents by District (January – December 2012)

#### 4.1 Incidents and Casualties by Location

Between 1 January and 31 December 2012, a total of 14 incidents and 23 casualties have been identified through INSEC’s Surveillance System. Four regions had incidents of victim-activated explosions, with the highest number of incidents (7) and Casualties (13) occurring in Central region. Out of the 12 districts affected by victim-activated explosions, Mahottari district of the Central region had the highest number of casualties (6) in one incident. There was no incident in Eastern region in this reporting period.

Region	District	Incidents	Casualties
Central	Mahottari	1	6
	Sarlahi	2	2
	Makwanpur	1	2
	Sindhupalchok	1	1
	Rautahat	1	1
	Bara	1	1
<b>Central Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>
Western	Kaski	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
	Parvati	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

	Kapilvastu	1	1
<b>Western Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mid-Western</b>	Pyuthan	2	2
	Rolpa	1	1
<b>Mid-Western Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Far-western</b>	<b>Baitadi</b>	1	4
<b>Far-Western Total</b>		1	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>

Table: 1. Casualties and Incidents by Regions and Districts (January-December 2012)

**Table 2: Casualties and Incidents according to Village Development Committee (VDC) and Municipalities (January 2007-December 2012)**

Table 2 below shows the VDCs/Municipalities affected by victim-activated explosions, ranked from those with the most number of casualties to the least affected. This covers the period from January 2007–December 2012 which includes 141 VDCs or Municipalities. The highest number of casualties occurred in a single incident in 2007 which resulted in 32 casualties. This occurred in Korobari VDC of Jhapa district. A team of policemen who were removing explosive devices left behind by a group and some curious locals who had gathered were all injured in the incident. Second in the list is Malakheti VDC with 11 casualties in one incident and Gothadi VDC in Palpa had nine casualties in one incident when one of the casualties was handling the device.

Sn	VDCs/Municipalities	Casualties	Incidents	District	Region
1	Korobari	32	1	Jhapa	Eastern
2	Malakheti	11	1	Kailali	Far-Western
3	Nepalgunj	9	4	Banke	Mid-Western
4	Gothadi	9	1	Palpa	Western
5	Biratnagar	8	4	Morang	Eastern
6	Birgunj	8	4	Parsa	Central
7	Kalaiya	6	3	Bara	Central
8	Bhandara	6	1	Chitwan	Central
9	Sugarkhal	6	2	Kailali	Far-Western
10	Bahundanda	6	2	Lamjung	Western
11	Paklihawa	6	1	Nawalparasi	Western
12	Sakhuwa Dhamaura	6	1	Rautahat	Central
13	Ramgunj Belgachhiya	6	1	Sunsari	Eastern
14	Aurahi	6	1	Mahottari	Central
15	Jogbudha	5	1	Dadeldhura	Far-Western
16	Lipini Birta	5	1	Parsa	Central
17	Malangawa	5	1	Sarlahi	Central



18	Ghorahi	4	1	Dang	Mid-Western
19	Manma	4	1	Kalikot	Mid-Western
20	Bardibas	4	1	Mahottari	Central
21	Khairawa	4	1	Sarlahi	Central
22	Kataunjpani	4	1	Baitadi	Far-western
23	Basuling	3	1	Baitadi	Far-Western
24	Kafalseri	3	1	Bajhang	Far-Western
25	Sisahaniya	3	1	Bara	Central
26	Sonpur	3	1	Dang	Mid-Western
27	Dunai	3	1	Dolpa	Mid-Western
28	Bhajani	3	2	Kailali	Far-Western
29	Sadepani	3	1	Kailali	Far-Western
30	Sitapur Bhangaha	3	1	Mahottari	Central
31	Bidur	3	1	Nuwakot	Central
32	Khumel	3	2	Rolpa	Mid-Western
33	Goithi	3	1	Saptari	Eastern
34	Balara	3	1	Sarlahi	Central
35	Netragunj	3	1	Sarlahi	Central
36	Salempur	3	1	Sarlahi	Central
37	Arnama Pra Pi	3	2	Siraha	Central
38	Babiya	3	1	Sunsari	Eastern
39	Binnebasini VDC	2	1	Achham	Far-Western
40	Jukena	2	1	Arghakhanchi	Western
41	Uchidi	2	1	Bara	Central
42	Lothar	2	2	Chitwan	Central
43	Darlamchaur	2	1	Gulmi	Western
44	Darling	2	1	Gulmi	Western
45	Kalika	2	1	Humla	Mid-Western
46	Thehe	2	1	Humla	Mid-Western
47	Garkhakot	2	1	Jajarkot	Mid-Western
48	Hanku	2	1	Jumla	Mid-Western
49	Phoimahadev	2	1	Kalikot	Mid-Western
50	Suntale	2	2	Khotang	Eastern
51	Khutapiparadi	2	1	Mahottari	Central
52	Raghunathpur	2	1	Mahottari	Central
53	Phaparbari	2	1	Makwanpur	Central
54	Siswani Jahada	2	1	Morang	Eastern
55	Phaktep	2	2	Panchthar	Eastern
56	Bahuarwa Bhattha	2	1	Parsa	Central
57	Bhingri	2	1	Pyuthan	Mid-Western
58	Manthali	2	1	Ramechhap	Central
59	Ajgaibi	2	1	Rautahat	Central
60	Bhawang	2	1	Rolpa	Mid-Western
61	Homa	2	1	Rolpa	Mid-Western
62	Sakh	2	1	Rukum	Mid-Western



63	Siddhakali	2	2	Sankhuwasa bha	Eastern
64	Bhardaha	2	1	Saptari	Eastern
65	Manraja	2	1	Saptari	Eastern
66	Lampantar	2	1	Sindhuli	Central
67	Lagadigdiyani	2	1	Siraha	Eastern
68	Madar	2	1	Siraha	Eastern
69	Padampokhari	2	1	Makwanpur	Central
70	Pandavkhani	1	1	Baglung	Far-Western
71	Srikot	1	1	Baitadi	Far-Western
72	Bichhya	1	1	Bajura	Far-Western
73	Kachanapur	1	1	Banke	Mid-Western
74	Kamdi	1	1	Banke	Mid-Western
75	Piprahawa	1	1	Banke	Mid-Western
76	Batauda	2	1	Bara	Central
77	Bhulhibharwaliya	1	1	Bara	Central
78	Jitpur	1	1	Bara	Central
79	Dhadhabar	1	1	Bardiya	Mid-Western
80	Khairang	1	1	Bhojpur	Eastern
81	Kabilas	1	1	Chitwan	Central
82	Badabhairav	1	1	Dailekh	Mid-Western
83	Baluwatar	1	1	Dailekh	Mid-Western
84	Kharigaira	1	1	Dailekh	Mid-Western
85	Room	1	1	Dailekh	Mid-Western
86	Sattala	1	1	Dailekh	Mid-Western
87	Seri	1	1	Dailekh	Mid-Western
88	Chaulahi	1	1	Dang	Mid-Western
89	Narayanpur	1	1	Dang	Mid-Western
90	Purundhara	1	1	Dang	Mid-Western
91	Parewadin	1	1	Dhankuta	Eastern
92	Godar	1	1	Dhanusa	Central
93	Lakkad	1	1	Dhanusa	Central
94	Umaprempur	1	1	Dhanusa	Central
95	Maspal	1	1	Dolpa	Mid-Western
96	Barchhen	1	1	Doti	Far-Western
97	Raya	1	1	Humla	Mid-Western
98	Sarkideu	1	1	Humla	Mid-Western
99	Dhangadhi	1	1	Kailali	Far-Western
100	Masuriya	1	1	Kailali	Far-Western
101	Pandaun	1	1	Kailali	Far-Western
102	Badalkot	1	1	Kalikot	Mid-Western
103	Kotwada	1	1	Kalikot	Mid-Western
104	Malkot	1	1	Kalikot	Mid-Western
105	Lichki Ramche	1	1	Khotang	Eastern
106	Hattilet	1	1	Mahottari	Central



107	Ramnagar	1	1	Mahottari	Central
108	Dhiyal	1	1	Makwanpur	Central
109	Pakhel	1	1	Makwanpur	Central
110	Babiyabirta	1	1	Morang	Eastern
111	Indrapur	1	1	Morang	Eastern
112	Seri	1	1	Mugu	Mid-Western
113	Rakhupiple	1	1	Myagdi	Western
114	Takam	1	1	Myagdi	Western
115	Ranigaun	1	1	Panchthar	Eastern
116	Amarpatti	1	1	Parsa	Central
117	Bangesal	1	1	Pyuthan	Mid-Western
118	Khalanga	1	1	Pyuthan	Mid-Western
119	Badachaur	1	1	Rolpa	Mid-Western
120	Liwang	1	1	Rolpa	Mid-Western
121	Sakhi	1	1	Rolpa	Mid-Western
122	Khalanga	1	1	Rukum	Mid-Western
123	Padsari	1	1	Rupandehi	Western
124	Dhanbang	1	1	Rupandehi	Western
125	Chainpur	1	1	Sankhuwasa bha	Eastern
126	Rajbiraj Municipality	1	1	Saptari	Eastern
127	Gadaiya Dumariya	1	1	Sarlahi	Central
128	Narayankhola	1	1	Sarlahi	Central
129	Tandi	1	1	Sindhuli	Central
130	Bastipur	1	1	Siraha	Eastern
131	Inaruwa	1	1	Sunsari	Eastern
132	Khanar	1	1	Sunsari	Eastern
133	Barahathawa	1	1	Sarlahi	Central
134	Gholche	1	1	Sindupalchok	Central
135	Pokhara Sub MP	1	1	Kaski	Western
136	Musauli	1	1	Sarlahi	Central
136	Bhuktangle	1	1	Parvat	Western
137	Belbas	1	1	Pyuthan	Mid-Western
138	Kotgoan	1	1	Rolpa	Mid-Western
139	Bhalwad	1	1	Kapilvastu	Western
140	Sarmujwa	1	1	Rautahat	Central
141	Syaulibang	1	1	Pyuthan	Mid-Western
Total		344	162		

Table 2: VDC/ Municipality with the highest number of casualties to the least (January 2007-December 2012)

Incident-wise, Nepalgunj Municipality had four incidents affecting nine people, Biratnagar and Birgunj Sub-metropolises had four incidents with eight casualties. Twelve VDCs/Municipalities had two incidents while 116

VDCs/Municipalities had one incident each. Kalaiya Municipality has three incidents and six casualties recorded between 2007 and 2011. Nine and 16 incidents occurred in two and one incidents respectively.

Biratnagar Sub-metropolis had the highest number of incidents (4) one of which occurred in November 2007, while the other three occurred between April and October 2008. None of the VDC/Municipality had explosions in same wards.

This table can be used to prioritize the implementation of mine action programs. The VDCs/Municipalities with recurring incidents will especially need to be targeted, particularly for mine risk education (MRE) and mine clearance programs. In 2012 one sub-metropolis (Pokhara) and 11 VDCs had the incidents. Most of the affected VDCs were in Central Region.

#### 4.2 Incidents and Casualties by Setting

As shown in Figure 6 below, the highest number of casualties was in home (10). In one explosion in agricultural land, six people were injured.

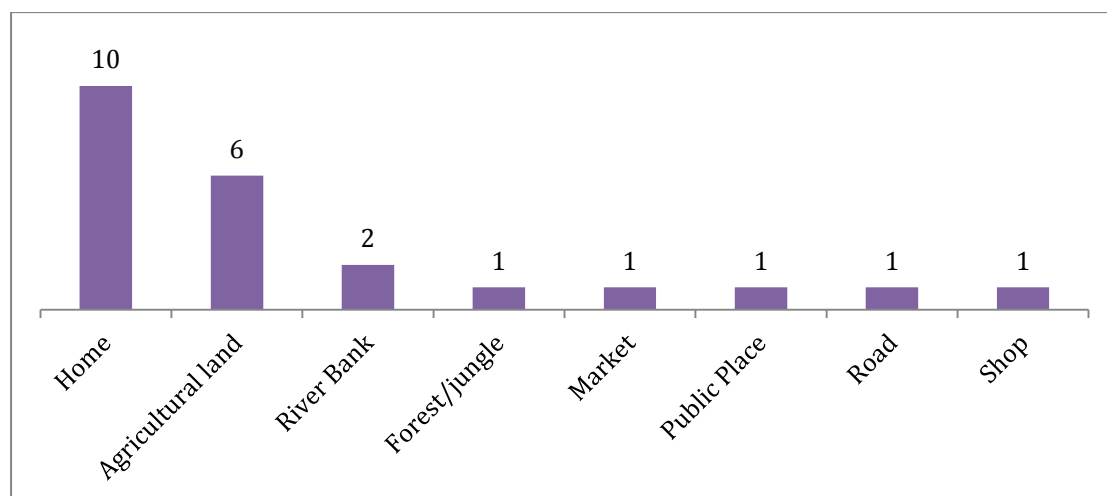


Figure 6: Casualties by Place (January-December 2012)

#### 4.3 Casualties Before and After the Signing of CPA

Eight people were affected by the devices that originated before the Comprehensive Peace Accord whereas 15 were affected by the explosive devices that were originated after conflict time. It is noteworthy that the devices in all Tarai districts were originated after the signing of CPA. This point adds to the fact that use of explosive devices continued in the Tarai districts even after the peace agreement, while the people of hilly areas keeping falling prey to conflict-time explosive devices.

### 5. CIRCUMSTANCES OF VICTIM ACTIVATED EXPLOSIONS





### 5.1 Type of Explosive Device Causing Incidents

Table 3 below shows that 13 incidents were caused by Improvised Explosive Devices namely socket bomb (6), Pressure cooker bomb, Pipe bomb and Time bomb, Sutali bomb and one incident was caused by ERW.

Type of Device	Name of Device	Incidents	Casualties		
			Adult	Child	Total
IED	Socket Bomb	6	3	3	6
	Pressure Cooker Bomb	2	4	1	5
	Pipe Bomb	1	1	0	1
	Sutali Bomb	1	0	6	6
	Time Bomb	1	1	0	1
	Unknown	2	2	1	3
ERW	Grenade	1	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>

Table 3: Incidents and Casualties by Explosive Device (January-December 2012)

### 5.2 Cause of Incidents

As Figure 7 shows, the main cause of casualties for this period is the tampering/handling of the explosive devices. Out of 23 casualties, 16 casualties were victimized while tampering/handling of ED following touching (6) the IED'S.

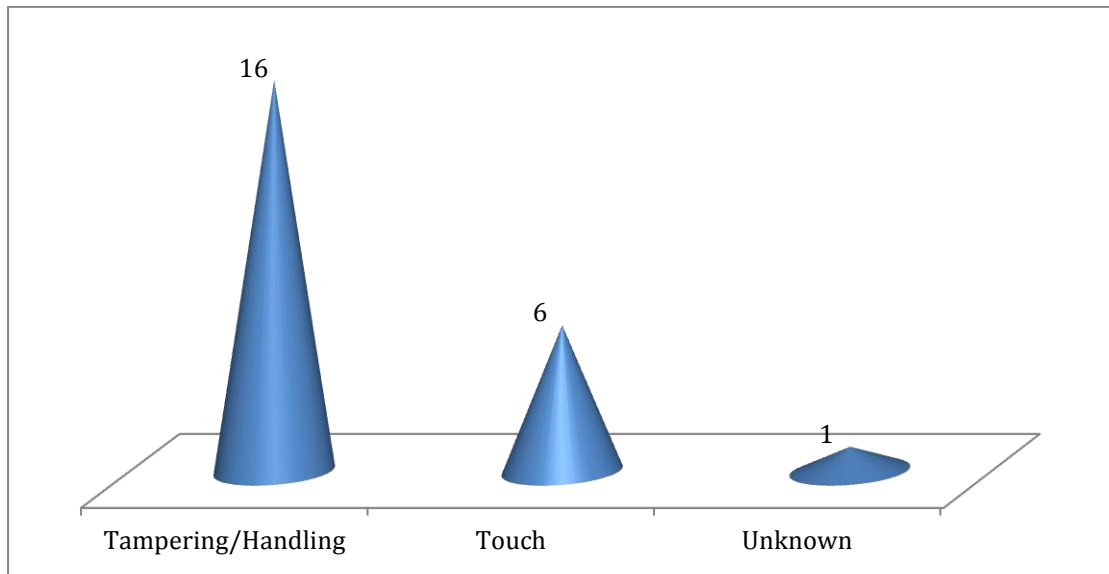


Figure 7: Casualties by Cause of Incidents (January-December 2012)

### 5.3 Activation of Device

Who Activated the Device	Adult	Child	Total
Victim	10	10	20
Someone	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>

Table 4: Activation of the Device (January-December 2012)

As seen in Table, around 86% (20) of casualties activated the explosive devices themselves. 14% (3) casualties were close to or beside the person who activated the device.

## 6. PROFILE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

### 6.1 Age and Sex of Civilian Casualties

Age and Sex	Casualties
Boy	3
Girl	8
Man	8
Woman	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

Table 5: Age and Sex of Casualties (January– December 2012)

Since 2006, INSEC's records have continuously highlighted the disproportionate number of child casualties resulting from such explosions.

As demonstrated in Figure 8 and Table 5, children accounted for 48 % of the total number of ED casualties till December 2012. It was 54 % (39) in 2008, 64% (46) in 2009, and 49% (20) in 2011 respectively.

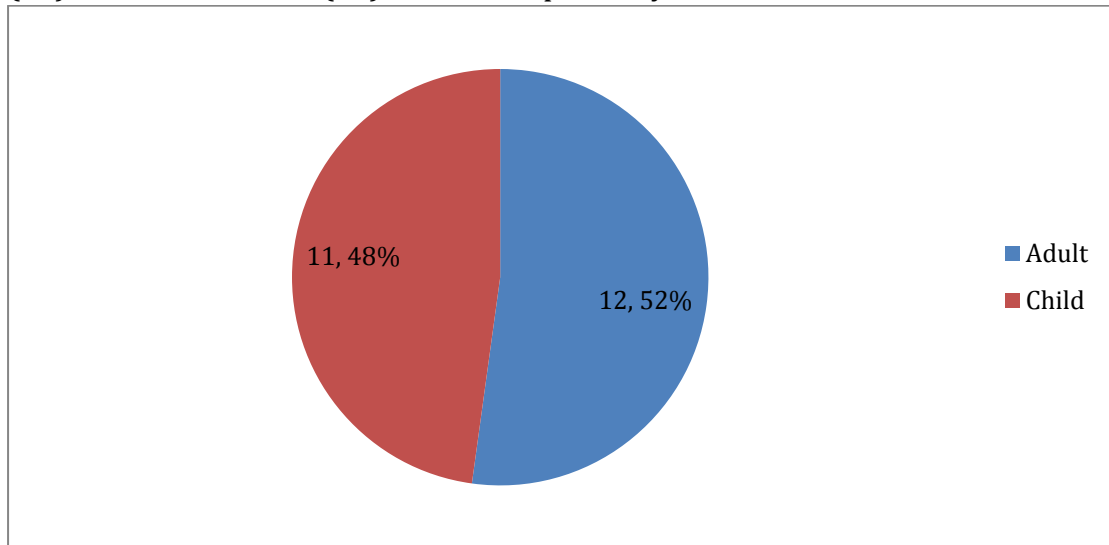


Figure 8: Children and Adult Casualties (January-December 2012)

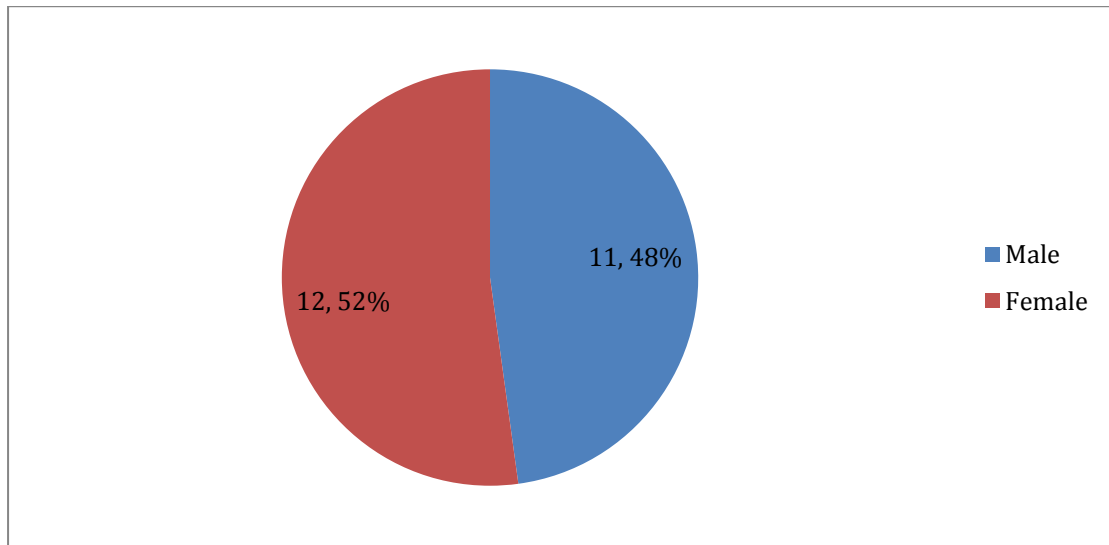


Figure 9: Casualties by Gender (January-December 2012)

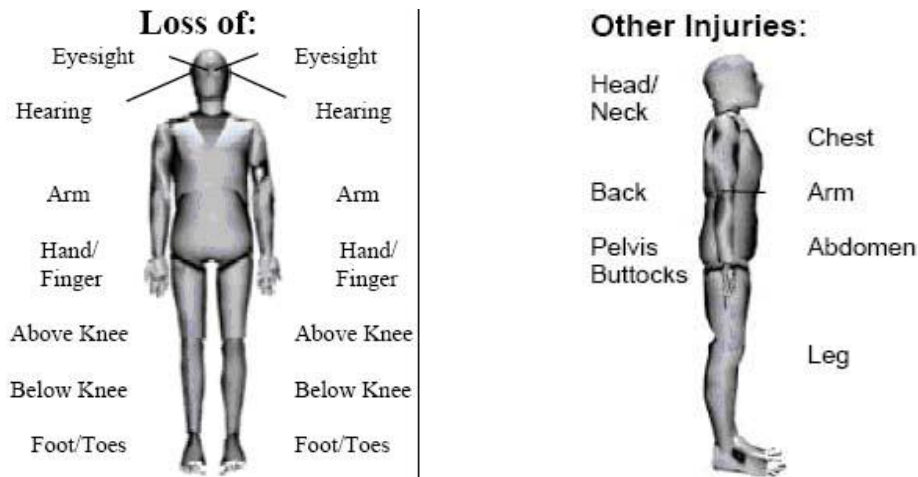
As seen in Figure 9, male accounted for 48 % of total casualties whereas female accounted for 52% of total casualties.

## 6.2 Description of Injuries

Figure 10 and 11 (below) show the type of injuries sustained by all casualties.

**Figure 10: Description of Injuries**

**Figure 11: Description of Injuries**



In this reporting period most of the casualties suffered from shrapnel wounds and burns to the face, chest, arms, hands and legs, indicating that they were facing the explosive device at the time of the incident. Type of injuries show and data on cause of explosion substantiate the possibility that most of the casualties were handling the device at the time of explosion.

### 6.3 Occupation of Civilian Casualties

Occupation	Adult	Child	Total
Student	0	4	4
Farmer	8	0	8
Labor	1	6	7
Army	2	0	2
Unknown	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>

Table 6: Occupation of casualties prior to incident (January-December 2012)

Table 6 identifies that the majority of casualties in 2012 were farmer (8) and laborers (7). Out of the remaining casualties; (4) were students, and (2) army. Communities where farmers reside, require greater attention so that risk-taking behavior can be identified and in this way reduced.

Literate	Child	Adult	Total
	Casualties	Casualties	Casualties
Yes	5	7	12
No	6	4	10
Unknown	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>

Table 7: Literacy of Casualties (January-December 2012)



In terms of literacy, as shown in Table 7, 12 of casualties were literate and 10 were illiterate.

Marital Status	Casualties
Married	10
Single	12
Unknown	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

Table 8: Marital Status of Adult Casualties (January –December 2012)

As seen in Table 8, 10 out of the total adult casualties were married. From an analysis of INSEC's active surveillance, it can be deduced that each married casualty for the period in question had an average of 2 dependents; this includes a spouse, children or other family members. This figure demonstrates the serious and far reaching socio-economic implications that one incident may have on a larger number of people other than the victim alone.

Figure 10 (below) identifies that the Chhetri's and Madeshi's are those amongst whom the highest number of casualties occurred for the period. The second highest number of casualties occurred amongst Janjati.

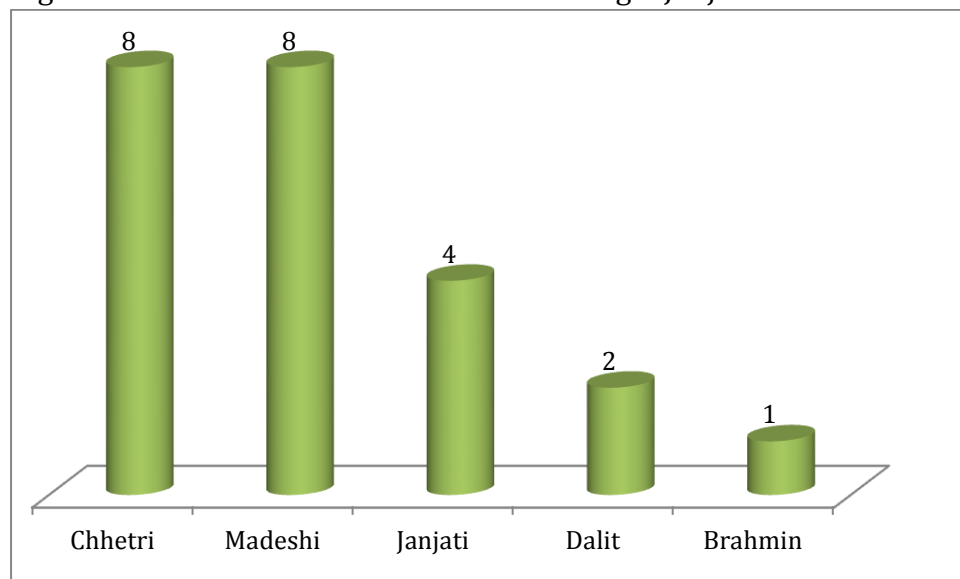


Figure 10: Caste/Indigenous group of Casualties (January- December 2012)

#### 6.4 Prior Knowledge of Casualties on Dangers

Know area was dangerous?	Adult	Child	Total
Yes	2	0	2
No	10	11	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>

Table 9: Knowledge of Table: Casualties on Danger of Area (January–December 2012)

As seen in Table 9, most of the casualties (91%) were unaware that the area where the explosion occurred posed any threat to their safety.

Know activity was dangerous?	Adult	Child	Total
Yes	4	1	5
No	8	10	18
<b>Total</b>	12	11	23

Table 10: Knowledge of Casualties Concerning Danger of Activity (January-December 2012)

Furthermore, 78% of the casualties were unaware of any danger concerning the activity in which they were engaged at the time of the incident (see Table 10).

Receive MRE prior to incident?	Casualties
Yes	2
No	21
<b>Total</b>	23

Table 11: Casualties who received MRE prior to incident (January- December 2012)

As shown in Table 11, 12 (91%) casualties had not received any MRE prior to the incidents but the same can't be said about the soldiers involved in demining. This indicates that the MRE campaigns should improve their coverage in affected areas.

## 7. CONCLUSION

In 2012, 14 incidents of Victim-Activated Explosion resulted in 23 casualties. Among them, four persons were killed and 19 people were injured. Among the deceased were a man and his wife in Baitadi who were killed as they were cleaning the house. The device is believed to a socket bomb which was left behind by the former rebels that they used as a shelter. Many such incidents have happened in the previous years too. This is a worrisome situation in Nepal in which many houses used by former rebels used as temporary or long-term shelters are contaminated with the most common weapon that the rebels used. Although, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement 2006 has expected the signing parties to inform about and be responsible in clearing the mines and ERWs, the IEDs used by rebels remain a threat.



The minefields of Nepal have been cleared on 14 June, 2011. It is also observed from the surveillance system that the trend of VAE incidents and casualties has been decreasing in the subsequent years since 2007. However, the IEDs used during conflict and those found at the neglected locations in villages, jungles and fields and those that continued to be manufactured by several armed outfits pose threats. The Baitadi incident showed that the houses still remain dangerous. There is a need to launch a campaign to raise the awareness of the people about the devices possibly lurking in corners of their homes.

The manufacturing of the devices has seeped into the splinter Madheshi groups and also the criminal groups. Six girls in Mahottari were injured when they handled a sutali bomb found hidden in a sack in a field. The innocent girls had no idea that handling such abandoned sac could have been fatal. This incident points to the fact that the MRE and emergency MRE in the affected districts should be continued so as to reduce such incident.

The prime focus of the state should be on signing and implementing the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction or the Ottawa Treaty. It will be helpful for the state to get the support to clear the areas and ensure public safety.