# Key Messages for Mine Risk Education

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Audience** | **What do they need to know?** | **What do they need to do?** |
| **Mothers** | * Landmines, hand grenades and other similar explosive devices can be hidden in the ground that you step on. * These can be activated and caused to explode by touching them, stepping on or near them, or moving them * They are very dangerous and can cause irreversible damage, such as losing a limb, and even death. * You can be at risk of being affected by one of those devices if you walk on paths that are not well used or ….. * Your children are at risk of finding these devices when they play outside in places where people don’t go. | * Avoid paths and areas that are not well used * Talk to your family and especially your children about explosive devices, their danger and impacts on lives * Ensure your children play in areas that are used by people * Inform other on how to avoid mines/UXO * Ensure that their children avoid playing with unknown and suspicious items |
| **Fathers** | * They need to understand and be able to recognise Mines/UXOs when attending MRE sessions * Mines, UXO and IED/booby traps can kill and wound over big distances.   Mines, UXO and IED can:   * Cause traumatic amputation of one or both leg * Cause multiple puncture wounds over the body * Cause traumatic amputation of one or both hands * Limit a person's physical capacities if injured after an explosion. The person might not be able to work anymore * Cause psychological distress following the trauma/ explosion. * Always use safe paths * Avoid unknown areas (specially conflict and post conflict areas) * Mines, UXO and IED/booby traps can explode if disturb or with the slightest touch. * Over time, mines, UXO and booby traps/IED can change colour and position because of the weather and can remain active during many years. * Mines, UXO and booby traps/IED are difficult to see. Mines can be buried in the ground, hidden in tall grass, beside trees, along riverbanks and even underwater. * If someone has held or moved a mine/UXO, it doesn’t mean it is safe. * People who have dropped a mine normally do not leave clear signs to indicate the presence of mines * If you are in unknown area, ask the local people about the kind of warning signs they are using in the area. * No warnings signs do not mean that areas are safe * The common signs to inform about mine affected areas are symbolised by a skull and crossbones sign in red and white with the words “DANGER”, “DANGER MINES” “MINES” or “EXPLOSIVES” in English or in the local language * There are different kinds of local warning signs such as; branches across the path, a pile of rocks, a rock painted in red, orange, white etc.), a piece of cloth hanging on a stick, a can mounted on a stick etc. Any sign or unusual item might be a local warning sign. * Typical mined location are check points, abandoned defensive positions, military installations, bridges, power lines, dams, strategic locations, borders, Mines, abandoned villages where some fighting occurred etc. * Have to be informed about dangerous places in the community where mines/UXO could be laid or found * Dead animals and unusual objects can be signs of dangerous areas. | * Avoid paths and areas that are not well used * Ensure the location you are going/farm are safe * If aware about dangerous areas Inform others * Inform others on how to avoid mines/UXO * If you are traveling in unknown areas that can be contaminated by landmines, and if you find such roadblock or signs…Do not cross/enter! * Follow the safest path; don’t try to take a short cut if you don’t know if it’s safe.   • If you find unusual items or objects do not touch them, do not pick them up or kick them. This can be a mine, an UXO or an IED. Never touch them!  • If you see a strange object, stay away, don’t touch!  • If you see a strange object stay away! Retraced your footsteps if possible and get out of the area. If you are in a safe position mark the location to protect others. |
| **Children** | What is a mine or UXO?  A mine is a device, which is designed to kill or injure the people touching it or walking on it or nearby. A UXO is a device, which is designed to explode when it hits an object or the ground or after a period of time (couple of minutes). Those found lying around have not worked properly or soldiers have left them behind. UXO can be extremely dangerous when handled.  There are many different types of mines and UXO. The mines that particularly affect children are called anti-personnel mines. These are specifically designed to explode when stepped on, picked up, set off by a tripwire or disturbed. They come in many different sizes, shapes and colours. Mines/UXO can be made out of plastic, metal and wood.   * They can look like stones, balls or boxes. * Mines/UXO are often painted in colors that are difficult to see; this may be green for forest areas, or brown or black when buried in the earth. They can also be made to attract attention. Then we will call them booby traps or IED. * Mines/UXO are often impossible or difficult to see as they are buried, half buried, hidden in tall grass, camouflaged among trees, floating on the water or lying under water. * Mines/UXO can change appearance over time.   Children are in danger from mines as they are curious and often look after animals or collect firewood and water. This can take them into the areas likely to be mined.  Children are also more likely to be playing in and exploring dangerous areas. | * Never touch suspicious items * If you see a strange object, stay away, don’t touch! * Never throw anything at a mine or suspicious object. * Do not try to get rid of mines by burning or any other method * Always stay in safe paths * Do not play in unknown areas * Do not go off a safe path (not even to go to the toilet or to follow a friend or an animal) |