

TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

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Length: 5'04"

THE TERRIBLE LEGACY OF LANDMINES IN TAJIKISTAN

VIDEO

MIRGANOV HOLDS CHILD

MIRGANOV POINTS AND TALKS

MIRGANOV AT HOME

MIRGANOV WALKS OUTSIDE

MIRGANOV TILT UP AND DOWN

LANDMINE SIGNS

AUDIO

Mirganov Algaffor's tragic story is a sad reminder of the havoc caused by landmines in the lives of people. (8")

"This is the spot where my youngest son found the object", says 59 year-old Mirganov. (5")

The child brought "the object" home. It was already too late when he realized that it was a landmine. An explosion ensued and Mirganov lost both hands. (10")

Having worked as an accountant all his life, Mirganov can no longer earn a living. (5")

"How can an accountant work without his hands?", he asks. (3")

Most landmines in Tajikistan were laid during the country's five year civil war that ended in 1997. Thousands of mines can also be found in the country's border with Uzbekistan and

Afghanistan. (12")

MOUNTAINS ETC.

Only seven percent of Tajikistan's territory is non-mountainous and just over five percent is arable land. Explosive remnants of war and landmines continue to kill and maim hundreds of Tajik citizens. (15")

DILCHOD WORKING IN THE
FIELD

School teacher, Dilchod Ibronov, like his four siblings, helped care for his parents' vegetable garden and their sheep. One day he stepped on a landmine near his home. He lost a leg and his future. (14")

DILCHOD IBRONOV ON-CAMERA

IBRONOV: (In Tajik)

"My wish was to join military school to become an army officer but the accident took my dreams away."

DEMINERS AT WORK

NARRATION

Landmines are cheap to produce. Each costs between two to five US dollars. But to remove them from the ground costs at least one thousand dollars. One of the most heavily mined regions of the country is Vanj, near the Afghan border. (16")

PREPARING EXPLOSION

Supported by the government of Tajikistan, the UN Development Programme and other international organizations, the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme is in charge of ridding the country of landmines. (12")

NARRATION

PREPARING EXPLOSION

Since 2003, Tajikistan's Mine Action Programme has cleared large swathes of land, installed thousands of warning signs in high risk areas and destroyed huge amounts of landmines and unexploded ordnance. Around these fields, in a period of just over twelve months, well over 2,000 landmines have been found, removed and destroyed. (23")

SOUND OF EXPLOSION

MUHTOJEV WALKS

Economic hardship and physical pain are not the only effects of landmines on its victims. Rustan Muhtojev was 18 when he stepped on a landmine. His mental health has deteriorated ever since...(13")

RUSTAN MUHTOJEV ON-CAMERA

MUHTOJEV: (In Tajik)

"When I was in hospital, while I slept, I kept hearing the explosion, over and over in my head..." (7")

NARRATION

RUSTAN AND FATHER

From being an outgoing, happy-go-lucky young man, Rustan changed into a totally different person. He has become an introvert, abandoned his school friends and never goes out, says his father, Maksud. (11")

MAKSUD MUHTOJEV ON-CAMERA

MAKSUD: (In Tajik)

"Before the accident my son was a nice, joyful young man. He had a very positive attitude to life. After the accident he became aggressive and

now always quarrels with his mother and siblings.” (12”)

WILLIAM ARRIVES AT TMAG

But if resources can be made available, Tajikistan will be able to rid itself of its deadly legacy. William Lawrence, Chief Technical Adviser of Tajikistan’s Mine Action Programme, firmly believes that the country is making big strides and with continuous support landmines will become a thing of the past...(19”)

LAWRENCE: (In English)

WILLIAM LAWRENCE ON-CAMERA

“The landmines problem in Tajikistan is a significant problem. But it is not insoluble. This is not Afghanistan, it’s not Angola, and it’s not Cambodia. We know what our problem is and it is solvable if we have the tools, we can fix the problem over the next five years.” (14”)

NARRATION

REHABILITATION CENTRE

At the National Orthopaedic Centre, in Tajikistan’s capital city, Dushanbe, disabled persons, including landmine victims, get general medical assistance. The Centre, supported by the UN, the Red Cross and Tajikistan’s government, has distributed 2,500 crutches, wheelchairs and limb prostheses

for amputees throughout the country free of

charge. Landmines represent an insidious and persistent danger to civilian populations already affected by war. (30")

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by the United Nations.