



Aynalem in school  
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Aynalem making injera (typical Ethiopian bread)  
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Aynalem getting a check-up at the physical rehabilitation center  
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Aynalem Zenebe from Ethiopia was seven years old when she lost her leg in an ERW incident. At the time, she was too young to realize the consequences, but now Aynalem has become an advocate for the rights of survivors. Her full story can be found in this report.

An eventful 10 years have passed since the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty, which aimed to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by antipersonnel mines. The treaty offered the fundamental promise that the lives of hundreds of thousands of survivors, their families and communities would improve. The hard work of advocates from affected communities and their supporters at the national and international levels has ensured that victim assistance has remained at the forefront of the Mine Ban Treaty agenda throughout.

*Voices from the Ground* is the first study to convey, in a systematic manner, the voices of the large, diverse group of people living with the daily impact of mines and explosive remnants of war. More than 1,500 survivors and 150 practitioners participated in the study, which was conducted in 26 affected countries which have declared not only that they have a responsibility toward the greatest number of survivors, but also the greatest needs and expectations for assistance. This study aims to improve the understanding of how those directly affected have experienced the victim assistance activities provided in their countries between 2005 and 2009. Their evaluation of the efforts by these 26 states and the international community to improve the lives of those affected should take center stage in any discussion on ensuring the effective provision of victim assistance in future.



## Voices from the Ground

Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War  
Survivors Speak Out on Victim Assistance

September 2009

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