

LANDMINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE, PEACE PROCESS, AND MINE ACTION EFFECTIVENESS IN KAYIN STATE AND ON THE THAI-MYANMAR BORDER



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ABSTRACT

Landmines have been deployed in a widespread manner throughout the past decades of ethnic conflict in Myanmar. One of the most affected areas is that of Kayin State, from where many victims cross the border in search of support on the Thai side.

This volume focuses on humanitarian aid in situations of conflict and post-conflict, examining the relationship between peace process and mine action effectiveness. It identifies the obstacles and opportunities that landmine survivors encounter when seeking assistance in Kayin State and on the Thai-Myanmar border. It also examines the impact of Myanmar's recent political changes on the effectiveness of mine action in the southeastern part of the country.

The study finds that the effectiveness (availability and accessibility) of emergency care, physical rehabilitation, and socioeconomic reintegration support for landmine survivors is significantly higher on the Thai-Myanmar border than in Kayin State. In southeastern Myanmar, access is complicated by various factors related to geography, financial cost, conflict, and ethnicity. I argue that Naypyidaw's changing approach to humanitarian affairs now offers positive prospects for mine action in Kayin State, but the effectiveness of aid projects remains dependent on a number of interrelated variables linked to the ongoing peace process and political reforms.