

From Harm to Hope: Maisone Souksy's Story



“Please stop making cluster bombs!” says Maisone Souksy, who lost her leg to a cluster bomb explosion in Houa Phan Province, Laos. “So many people have been disabled, and there are so many bombies left unexploded.”

On May 16, 2005, Souksy was gathering bamboo shoots in the forest near her village when her life changed in an instant. As she returned home, she tripped over a root – and the weight of her fall triggered a cluster bomb, which had been sitting idle in the ground since it was dropped during U.S. bombing runs some 35 to 40 years earlier. Cluster munitions scatter hundreds of small bomblets, many the size of a child’s fist, over a wide area. Some remain live in the ground, posing a deadly danger in countries from Laos to Afghanistan even decades after a conflict has ended.

Read the rest of Souksy’s story on the other side.



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Souksy lost her leg in the explosion. After medical treatment and rehabilitation with an artificial limb, she is now studying traditional Lao weaving at the Lao Disabled Women's Development Center, which receives support from Mennonite Central Committee.

The center, near the capital city of Vientiane, trains 30 women every year in sewing, weaving, computer literacy, handmade paper-making and English skills. The graduates can then return home with their newly acquired skills or continue to make handicrafts in support of the center's work. While the center serves women who struggle with many types of disabilities, there usually are several survivors of cluster bomb accidents among them.

MCC's response — For years, MCC has advocated against the use of cluster bombs, which remain a danger decades after a war ends. MCC provides assistance to survivors of cluster bomb accidents in Lebanon and Laos and continues to support efforts to ban the production and use of cluster bombs in the United States and internationally.

You can help

Give — Your contribution will provide services to cluster bomb survivors in Laos and Lebanon and support advocacy efforts in the U.S. Donate online at mcc.org or mail your contribution, marked MCC U.S. Cluster Bomb Advocacy, to MCC U.S., PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501.

- \$19 is the cost for one person to receive one week of training at the Lao Disabled Women's Development Center.
- \$50 will help provide a prosthesis and a full range of rehabilitative services for one person in Lebanon.

Learn — Order *From Harm to Hope*, a new MCC DVD and study guide on cluster bombs. Buy from mcstore.org, borrow from mcc.org/catalog or contact your MCC office. Reserve MCC's cluster bomb exhibit, *Daily Terror: Walking in War's Aftermath*, by calling MCC U.S. at 717-859-1151. Also available: *Bombies*, a documentary about cluster bombs in Laos.

Write — Join MCC's efforts to speak to lawmakers in support of a ban on making and using cluster bombs. Go to mcc.org/clusterbombs to learn more or participate in the MCC U.S. postcard campaign.



Mennonite Central Committee and MCC U.S.
21 South 12th Street, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500
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mcc.org/clusterbombs

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