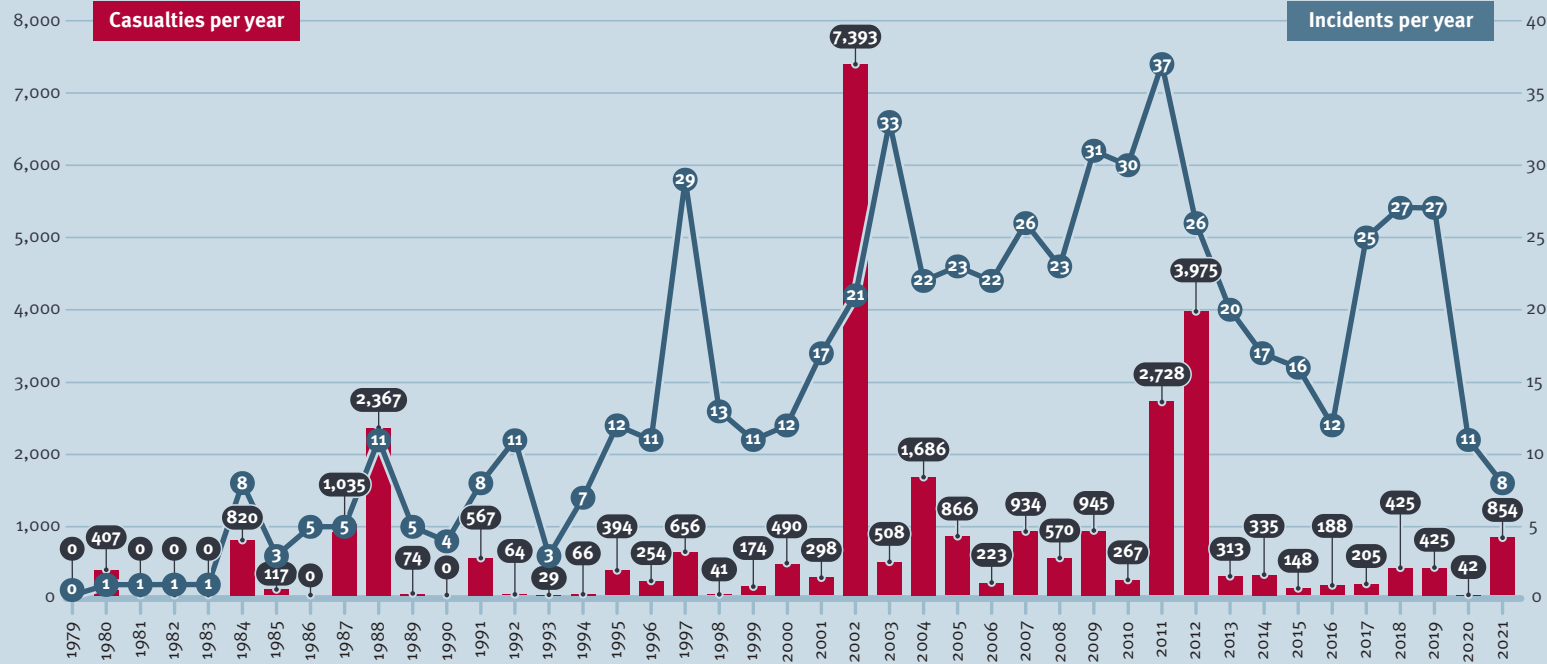


# Quick facts on unplanned explosions at munitions sites (UEMS)\*

## UEMS: Incidents and consequences

**Casualties of UEMS, 1979–2021:** During the period January 1979 to December 2021, more than 30,000 casualties resulting from UEMS incidents were recorded. The highest number of casualties was recorded in 2002, mainly due to the devastating UEMS incident that occurred in Lagos, Nigeria. Similarly, the incident in Abadan, Turkmenistan, in 2011 and the one in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, in 2012 contributed strongly to the spikes in 2011 and 2012.



**Casualties per year vs. incidents per year:\*\*** The main goal of dealing with UEMS is not to prevent incidents altogether—which is impossible—but to mitigate the consequences for the victims of these incidents.

\*\* Comparing casualties per year with incidents per year shows that the numbers do not always correlate.

**Total casualties of all UEMS incidents from January 1979 to December 2021**  
**30,883**



Number of casualties per decade	
1980s	4,820
1990s	2,245
2000s	13,913
2010s	9,009
2020s	896

### UEMS incidents with the largest number of casualties:\*\*\*



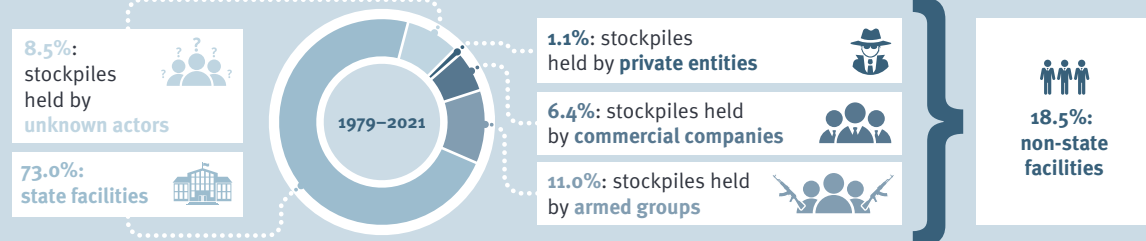
- 1st 27/01/2002 Lagos, Nigeria 6,500
- 2nd 04/03/2012 Brazzaville, Republic of Congo 3,777
- 3rd 07/07/2011 Abadan, Turkmenistan 1,482
- 4th 22/04/2004 Ryongchon, North Korea 1,460
- 5th 10/04/1988 Rawalpindi, Pakistan 1,193
- 6th 04/06/1988 Arzamas, NIZ, Russian Federation 1,091
- 7th 21/12/1987 Alexandria, Egypt 1,006
- 8th 29/04/2009 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania 726
- 9th 07/03/2021 Bata, Equatorial Guinea 705
- 10th 22/03/2007 Malhazine, Mozambique 622

**Number of UEMS incidents from January 1979 to December 2021**  
**636**

Average yearly incidents per decade	
1980s	4
1990s	11
2000s	23
2010s	24
2020s	10

\*\*\* Sex-disaggregated numbers are not available for most of the incidents, although it is clear that women, men, boys, and girls were equally among the victims in most cases, given the fact that all of the incidents happened in heavily populated residential areas.

### Percentage of UEMS incidents occurring in:



**AN AVERAGE OF 718 DEATHS AND INJURIES PER YEAR HAVE BEEN RECORDED 1979–2021**

## UEMS: Main causes

Improper physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) practices increase the probability of UEMS occurring. During the period examined (1979–2021) the main causes behind UEMS incidents were:

