Experience with Mine Survivors Assistance in South Eastern Europe

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1. OVERVIEW OF SITUATION

- Presence of mine and UXO threat after the conflicts
- First Review Conference in Nairobi, 2004, identified Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro as four of 24 States Parties with significant numbers of mine survivors and “the greatest responsibility to act, but also the greatest needs and expectations for assistance”
- Close to 8,000 mine victims (20-30% death rate)

2. ITF APPROACH TO MINE VICTIMS ASSISTANCE IN SEE

Goal:

*To provide landmine survivors with quality health services and sustainable physical and psycho-social rehabilitation, as well as economic reintegration.* (ITF Strategy 2006-2009)

*ITF aims to reach 15 percent of all expenditure to be earmarked for Mine Victims Assistance programs and projects. (6,2% in year 2006)*
2.1 DEFINE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

2.2 HOSPITAL CARE AND PREHOSPITAL CARE

2.3 REHABILITATION TREATMENT

• Following **two folded approach** (Question of the right capacities?):
  ► Rehabilitation treatment at the Institute for Rehabilitation of the Republic of Slovenia (800 mine survivors rehabilitated; most severe and difficult cases)
  ► Rehabilitation treatment in mine affected countries (127 mine survivors rehabilitated; leaving to national authorities)

2.4 PSYCHO-SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

ITF motto:

*Dignity and ordinary life... integrate into society.*

• Through ITF supported projects and programs often include more components of integration process
3. CASE STUDIES

3.1 Republic of Slovenia Institute for Rehabilitation (IRRS)

- **Center for Mine Victims Rehabilitation** established at the IRRS in May 1998 (special department with 21 bed)

- **800 mine survivors rehabilitated since 1998**

- Program of integral rehabilitation

- IRRS besides rehabilitation treatment carries out educational and research activities

3.2 Landmine Survivors Network program in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- LSN motto: "We help landmine victims get legs, get jobs and get on with their lives"

- Since 2001 in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Components of the program:
  - Health
  - Economic Opportunity
  - Human Rights

- Peer support approach

- Over 500 mine survivors included each year
4. LESSONS LEARNED

- **Integrated approach** to meet all mine survivors needs
- Need for **coordination and harmonization of efforts between stakeholders** on country and regional level
- **Complementary role** of NGOs and state institutions
- Mine survivor assistance **long-term challenge**
- From **experience** in mine survivor assistance all people with disabilities can benefit

Thank you for your attention!

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