



## ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

### Afghanistan's Statement on Victim Assistance

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Intersessional Meetings

22 June – 24 June 2021

Excellencies, Respected colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honor to attend the Intersessional Meeting Thematic Session on Victim Assistance:

In my country, victim assistance is more important than ever. Since 2009, the conflict in Afghanistan has claimed the lives of more than 39,000 people and has left more than 73,500 wounded. Over the past six years, civilian casualty rates in Afghanistan have soared to over 10,000 per year driven largely by increased ground engagements and explosive and PPIED hazards including suicide attacks and explosive remnants of war. The Afghan context presents particular challenges to fulfilling the needs of victims of conflict including ensuring women and persons living in rural communities are able to access care. Unfortunately, funding has not kept pace with the growing need and people in need are being left behind, sometimes sentenced to not being able to leave their beds and houses due to conditions that could be alleviated with access to physical therapy and other basic services.

Based on a recent survey in Afghanistan, we have 2.5M adults with severe disability which makes (13.9%) of Afghan population and 1M children with moderate and severe disabilities.

10-11% of the displaced population have a physical disability, 20% are impaired and have mental health problems, 70 to 80% of children with disabilities do not receive education 69.6% persons with disabilities are without jobs (97% of women) and only 50% have access to healthcare.

I am, however, encouraged by the renewed interest in victim assistance and Disability support in Afghanistan that is starting to take shape in the last two years;

- DMAC supported the ministry of Martyrs and Disability Affairs (MMD) in developing a 10 years national disability inclusion strategy (NDIS 2030), along with annual action plan for implementation of this strategy, both documents are awaiting for the approval of H.E. President of Afghanistan.
- 5 Sectorial taskforce meetings that represent Education, Livelihood, Health, Social Inclusion and Coordination & Management sectors are recently developed under Inter-ministerial committee chaired by H.E. First Vice President.
- A centralized database was established for the affairs and services related to victims and persons with disability, a technical working group is established to facilitate the process of all VA/Disability data transfer into National database.
- Biometric registration process of 370,000 heirs of martyrs and war survivors is on-going in the center and some provinces, which will be expanded, to all 34 provinces. By completion of the registration process, there will be a better understanding of the needs and requirements of war victims, it will help in better planning and priority setting of victim assistance, and disability related activities.
- Establishment of a Call Center as a rapid system for quick response to the needs and queries of persons with disability and the family of victims is another initiative that my ministry acquired.
- Job creation Policy for person with disability has been approved and released that create a wider opportunity, through which at least 3% of government structure will be filled by persons with disability.
- As part of the emergency response to victim during war disaster MMD is supported to co-managing the conflict Mitigation Assistance for Civilian (COMAC) project implementing by BLUMONT, since 2018 more than 10,000 Incidents investigated and more than 27,500 Immediate Assistance packages were provided to more than 18,600 families and 137,500 Individuals benefited from Immediate Assistance and 5,800 victims are provided with tailored Assistance.
- In 2020, the Ministry of Martyrs and Disability Affairs implemented the “one stop shop (single window management) system” for registration process of Heirs of Martyrs and person with disability.

It is an exciting time for victim assistance in Afghanistan, and I hope the international community will take the opportunity to join us and invest in services and capacity building, so that people victimized by war are given a fair chance and a healthy, productive life.

Thank you

Habib Khan Zazai

Head of VA Dep Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC)

