



Thematic Session on Victim Assistance: Establishing or Strengthening a Centralised Database

Tuesday, 22nd June, 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Mr. President

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Sri Lanka recorded a major casualty reduction in the last ten years and only three mine/ ERW victims were recorded in 2020 and in 2021.

Establishment of a Hospital based injury surveillance system in Sri Lanka is another milestone of the National Mine Action program especially in its victim assistance programme. Non-Communicable Disease unit (NCD) of the Ministry of Health has been leading the establishment of a Hospital based injury surveillance system during 2016 with the support of UNICEF Sri Lanka.

The objective of this system is to record all accidents reported to the hospital in any part of the country including Mine and ERW incidents as well. Currently in Sri Lanka, we are using both IMSMA and hospital based injury surveillance system to report on Mine /EREW victims and further follow-up supports. However, mine action program will be phased out in the near future but there is a possibility for Mine /ERW accidents and victims even after 10- or 20-years' time as well. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education and Victims assistance should be continued as a long time task even after the completion of the entire demining process. This hospital based injury surveillance system will help to record Mine /ERW accidents, relevant supports to victims and analysis of data at any point of time and in any part of the country. This system ensures sustainability of this program and relevant supports to Mine /ERW victims in the Long run. I can humbly say that the establishment of the Hospital based injury surveillance system was one of the success stories of the history of the Sri Lanka Mine Action programme

As per the present status, Hospital based injury surveillance system was expanded to 116 hospitals in the country and it will be further expanded to cover the whole country. This system includes both inpatient and outpatient admissions to the hospitals.

The NMAC has initiated a needs assessment survey to identify mine and ERW victims in the Northern, Eastern and North-Central provinces. As per the finding of the survey, NMAC has allocated Rs 18Mn in 2021 to provide immediate assistance to the identified mine and ERW victims. It is identified that around USD 160,000 is required for Mine /EREW victims assistance per year to provide substantive assistance to the victims and to improve their life conditions. I thank you.