

IRAQ . MOH

Dear Co-Chari

As you are aware, Iraq signed the Ottawa treaty during the year 2007, and ratified the convention during February 2008. However, there was a mine action programme, for mine/UXO clearance, Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, since 1993, through support from international agencies and NGOs.

Despite the current situation which Iraq passes through now, Iraqi government committed and hardly try to clear Iraq from mines and UXO contaminations impact, as per the available capacities and possibilities, through establishing programme and plans, for mine clearance and assist the victims, without discrimination, aiming at ending their sufferings, to reintegrate them into their societies, through health, education and socio-economic programmes. However, those mentioned programmes and plans are facing several challenges, including:

- 1- The current available capacities in terms of technical, financial and specialised personnel are not equivalent to the scope of the problem and sufferings. Therefore; the international agencies and civil society organisations' cooperation, through continuance advice and support, will play an important role in assisting Iraq, and improve its capacities and capabilities in achieving the goals in this respect, and will provide opportunity for institutional and infrastructure building.
- 2- Unavailability of comprehensive, inclusive and accurate database for number of victims and other persons with disabilities, to identify and prioritized their needs, for providing support accordingly. As response to solve the mentioned shortfall, a joint intervention started by ministry of health, ministry of Labour and social affairs, ministry of environment, ministry of defence and ministry of interior.

MoH started implementation of a national project for registering persons with disabilities in Iraq. Through successful completing of the project, number of persons with disabilities will be known and even can identify cause of disabilities, in which it helps in identifying their needs and developing plans for provision of services.

**Rehabilitation and care for persons with disabilities in Iraq, in which mine victim assistance is included:**

**Primary Estimation:**

- More than two million person with disabilities live in Iraq
- It is hard to decide details in number, type and various causes of disability, because of lack of accurate statistics.

**Health services for Persons with Disabilities in Iraq (current status )**

- 1- Rehabilitation Hospital: 2 rehabilitation hospitals, with capacity of about 280 beds.
- 2- Rehabilitations Centres: 6 Centres in Baghdad, and another 6 in other governorates.
- 3- Ortho-Prosthetic Factories: 2 in Baghdad and 10 in other governorates. The annual production of all the existing factories is estimated to be 5,000 devices, whereas the annual needs is about 20,000 devices.

**Medical Supplies and Aids:**

- Governmental sources: limited.
- NGO sources: unorganized and uncontrolled.
- MoH-Iraq Policy: create central context to dispense all the medical supplies, wheelchairs and other aids, free of charge, through authorized committee according to special criteria for each item.

**Rehabilitation staff in Iraq:**

- Rehabilitation Physicians = 130, whereas the need is 600.
- Physiotherapists = 973 , whereas the need is 6,000.
- Prosthetic and Orthotic Technicians = 180, whereas the need is 400.

**Strategic Plan/Goals for Rehabilitation in Iraq:**

- 1- To ensure effective medical and rehabilitation services for all persons with disabilities in Iraq.
- 2- To improve the medical rehabilitation services in Iraq
- 3- To minimise cause of disabilities amongst Iraqis (prevention).

**MoH-Iraq:**

- Setup plan to open Rehabilitation centres in each governorates of Iraq.
  - MoH to plan for establishing four Medical Rehabilitation Hospitals in main/large governorates.
  - MoH started national programme for registration and classification of persons with disabilities in Iraq, and to accredit it as a corner stone to draw the future plan and to make use of the database made available by the project, to meet the requirement of the ministries and other authorities in concern of care for persons with disabilities.
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