

Intersessional meeting of the Standing Committees – April, 2007

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Points for a statement by Canada

Mr. Chairman,

- Canada's specific contributions to victim assistance in 2006 totals \$1 million. This constitutes roughly four percent of CIDA's mine action programming. However, actual support is considerably greater when taking into account multi-sector, or integrated programming, which represented nearly 50 percent of CIDA's \$26 million (CAD) mine action expenditures for 2006/07.
- It becomes very difficult to apportion how much of the integrated mine action contributions to multilateral organizations is devoted to victim assistance as we generally follow principles of providing multilateral assistance in an un-earmarked way as much as feasible.
- The last progress report on the Nairobi Action Plan and work carried out by the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance point to two complementary directions: support for specialized organizations and integrated development efforts. For its part, Canada has started to move gradually to placing more emphasis on integrated programmes.
- Canada's course of action on Article 6.3 is to integrate assistance for victims of anti-personnel mines into its broader development assistance efforts in supporting priority sectors, including health.
- Our approach has concentrated on finding points of convergence between the proposed victim assistance action points in the Nairobi Action Plan and areas of concentration of Canadian ODA.
- CIDA's Mine Action Approach for 2006-2010 foresees mine action programming being developed through various delivery channels. Notably, we see bilateral development assistance as playing an expanded role in the planning and implementation of mine action, marking a gradual transition away from dedicated funding and stand-alone initiatives.
- Bilateral initiatives, are most often channelled through specialized NGO's or multilateral organizations. In some cases they are specific to victim assistance as is the case for project we funded in Sénégal, Colombia and the Middle East, in others, they form part of an integrated mine action response.

- Furthermore, we would like to suggest that the Standing Committee also consider ways and means for our members to explore how we can act constructively to influence programming for landmine survivors and other war disabled in executive board of multilateral institutions. We should probably explore better ways of programming international cooperation which is sensitive to war disabled. In turn, this would contribute to achieving sustainable means of socio-economic integration.
- We think there is an opportunity to be seized in the context of the newly established Convention on the right of people with disabilities.
- This new approach reflects Canada's view that an integrated and more comprehensive approach to victim assistance is a requirement for the sustainability and broader coherence of what we are attempting to achieve for victims of landmines.
- Mr. Chairman, we also value the role played by development NGO in the socio-economic integration of war disabled and their communities in post conflict situations. In the context of Canada's effort to mainstream mine action, CIDA is planning to support a roundtable to look at ways of including survivors in the broader development work of mainline Canadian NGOs. This event would be held in the context of the ceremonies marking the tenth anniversary of the Ottawa Convention.
- Thank you Chairman

Additional information

Some examples of CIDA funding under the Canadian landmine Fund in 06/07

New projects for 2006/07 include: a Handicap International Canada's project in Colombia aimed to strengthen the capacity of landmine survivors through improved knowledge of their rights; contributions towards the UNDP Completion Initiative in Zambia and UNICEF Zambia to assist with rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of survivors into their communities and assist the Zambia Mine Action Centre attain institutional capacity to effectively implement the victim assistance programme. In terms of bilateral programmes, CIDA will be providing funding towards a project in Jordan, Lebanon and West Bank/Gaza carried out by Collège Montmorency in 2004-2007. The project aims to improve the quality of life and the capacity to function of survivors of antipersonnel landmines in the Middle East. New funding to Afghanistan in 2007 will also contribute to victim assistance programming in the coming year.

Some examples of CIDA's bilateral cooperation in enhancing/building capacity in/delivering programmes are:

- a. Health care data collection: Since 2005, Canada's development agency, CIDA, has provided 22 million CAD to UNMAS to continue its work with the Government of Afghanistan in implementing the *Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan*. The programme includes victim and incident data collection.
- b. Emergency and ongoing medical care: Through its development agency, CIDA, Canada is funding a 2.23 million dollar project to improve the quality of life of landmine survivors in the Middle East. The "Physical Rehabilitation of Landmine Victims in the Middle East" is being implemented by the Collège Montmorency in cooperation with local partners in Jordan, Lebanon and West Bank/Gaza. Ending in 2007, the three year project will have transferred know-how related to orthopaedic and prosthetic care of amputees to national technicians and clinicians
- c. Physical rehabilitation: In 2004, the Governments of Canada and Senegal initiated a cooperation programme to increase the practical skills of medical practitioners in the region of Casamance through rehabilitation programs taught by Canadian experts. Within the context of the project, Canada's development agency, CIDA, has disbursed over 680,000 CAD towards the delivery of orthopedic devices, rehabilitation and psychological services.
- d. Psychological support and social reintegration: (*see section 3b*)
- e. Economic reintegration: In 2003, the Governments of Canada and Cambodia launched a five year initiative linking mine clearance and agricultural revival. The 5 million CAD project administered by Canada's development agency, CIDA, delivers micro-finance and training to farmers in rural communities in mine affected districts.
- f. Legal and policy frameworks to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities: This type of activity is carried out within the framework of the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (*see section 3a*).

Table 1: CIDA support to 24 States Parties with significant victims of land mines

- As things stand to-date, and since the First Review Conference, the number of States Parties receiving assistance from Canada under Article 6.3 remains unchanged, with an average of 14 States Parties receiving Canadian assistance.