

“The Cartagena Action Plan, the Vientiane Action Plan and CBR”

Firoz Ali Alizada, ICBL

Cartagena Action Plan (CAP) was adopted by the States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in Nov-Dec 2009. Actions 23 – 33 of CAP are about victim assistance. **Vientiane Action Plan (VAP)** was adopted by the States parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Nov 2010. Actions 24 – 32 of VAP are about victim assistance. There are a lot of similarities and added values in CAP and VAP. The table below shows similarities and added values in both action plans.

Key areas of VA in VAP and CAP	Cartagena Action Plan – CAP	Vientiane Action Plan – VAP
Inclusion and Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #23: Ensure the inclusion and full and active participation of mine victims ... in victim assistance related activities. - Action #29: Ensure the continued involvement and effective contribution in all relevant convention related activities by health, rehabilitation, social services, education, employment, gender and disability rights experts, including mine survivors.... - Action #41: Ensure that international cooperation and assistance, including development cooperation,... inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities, including mine survivors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #23: Integrate the implementation of the victim assistance provisions of this Convention in existing coordination mechanisms, ... establish such a coordination mechanism actively involving cluster munition victims and their representative organizations as - Action #30: Encourage and enable States Parties to include cluster munitions victims and their representative organisations in the work of the convention - Action #31: Include relevant experts, including clusters munitions survivors, and representatives of disabled persons organisations, to be part of their delegations in all convention related activities.
Focal Point and Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #24: Establish...an inter-ministerial/inter-sectoral coordination mechanism ... and ensure that this focal entity has the authority and resources to carry out its task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #21: Designate a focal point within the government ... within six months of the Convention’s entry into force for that State Party and make sure that the focal point has the authority, expertise and adequate resources to carry out its task. - Action #23: Integrate the implementation of the victim assistance provisions of this Convention in existing coordination mechanisms.... In the absence of such mechanisms, establish such a coordination mechanism...within one year of the Convention’s entry into force for that State Party.
Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #25: Collect all necessary data... make such data available to all relevant stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #22: Collect all necessary data... within one year of the Convention’s entry into force for that State Party. Such data should be made available to all relevant stakeholders
National Laws and Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #26: Develop, or review and modify if necessary, implement, monitor and evaluate national policies, plans and legal frameworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #26: Within one year of the Convention entering into force for that state, review [and adapt] national laws and policies....
VA National Plan of Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #27: Develop and implement ...a comprehensive plan of action and budget ... through objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound.... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #24: Ensure that existing ... plans can ensure fulfillment of the victim assistance obligations... States Parties that have not yet developed such a plan, should do so and ensure that a comprehensive national plan of action and budget

Availability and Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #31: Increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate services ... mine victims, by removing physical, social, cultural, economic, political and other barriers, including by expanding quality services in rural and remote areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #25: Review the availability, accessibility and quality of services in the areas of medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, economic and social inclusion... Take immediate action to increase availability and accessibility of services also in remote and rural areas....
Standards and Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #32: Ensure ... the development, dissemination and application of existing relevant standards, accessibility guidelines and of good practices to enhance victim assistance efforts. (only accessibility) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #28: Implement existing international standards, guidelines and recommendations in the [all] areas [of victim assistance].... (all areas of VA)
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #33: Raise awareness among mine victims about their rights and available services, as well as within government authorities, service providers and the general public to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities including mine survivors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #27: Raise awareness among cluster munition victims about their rights and available services, as well as within government authorities, service providers and the general public to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, including cluster munition victims.
Age and Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Point # 7 of CAP's introduction. - Introduction section of victim assistance. - Actions: 19, 29, 23, 31, 41, 52 and 55. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actions: 14, 17, 22, 23 and 30.
Capacity building and ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #30: Strengthen national ownership as well as develop and implement capacity building and training plans to promote and enhance the capacity of the women, men and associations of victims.... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #20: Increase in 2011 their capacities to assist cluster munition victims on the basis of plans and proposals presented - Action #32: Promote and enhance the capacity of women, men and organizations of survivors ... including by financial and technical resources, effective leadership and management training, exchange programmes, with a view to strengthening national ownership and sustainability.
Monitoring and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #28: Monitor and evaluate progress regarding victim assistance within broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks on an ongoing basis, encourage relevant States Parties to report on the progress made, ... also report on how they are responding to efforts to address the rights and needs of mine victims. - Action #55: Maximise and take full advantage of the flexibility of the Article 7 reporting process as a tool to assist in implementation, including through the reporting format "Form J" to provide information on ... victim assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #58: Fulfil their obligation to provide initial transparency reports under Article 7, and where relevant, include information in accordance with Article 3.8, without delay. - Action #59: Fulfil their obligations to annually update Article 7, and where relevant Article 3.8, transparency reports and maximize reporting as a tool to assist and cooperate in implementation, particularly in cases where States Parties must take action to destroy stockpiled cluster munitions, clear cluster munitions remnants, assist victims or take legal and other measures referred to in Article 9.

<p>Resources: Including national resources and international cooperation and assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #37: Promptly assist States Parties that have communicated needs for support for ... victim assistance.... - States Parties in a position to do so will: Action #34: Without delay, and no later than the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties, develop or update national plans as well as map the national resources - Action #39: Support the national efforts of those States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs to develop their capacities to provide assistance to mine victims and other persons with disabilities - Action #41: Ensure that international cooperation and assistance, including development cooperation, is ... accessible to, persons with disabilities, including mine survivors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action #29: Mobilize adequate national and international resources through existing and innovative sources of financing, bearing in mind the immediate and long-term needs of cluster munition victims. - Action #33: ... within one year after entry into force for that state party, develop or update comprehensive national plans for meeting all obligations concerning ... victim assistance, identify resources currently available to meet these obligations and identify needs for international cooperation and assistance. - Action #38: Promptly assist States Parties that have requested support for implementing their victim assistance.... - Action #41: Support, as appropriate, actions to address cluster munition contamination and victim assistance in areas where non-state actors operate, including by facilitating access for humanitarian organisations.
<p>added values in each of the two action plans</p>		
<p>CAP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate age- and gender-sensitive assistance to mine victims, through a <u>holistic and integrated approach</u> ... - Highlighting a number of important principles (equality and non-discrimination, full inclusion and participation, openness, accountability and transparency shall guide victim assistance efforts) - Insisting on monitor and evaluate progress regarding victim assistance as well as encouraging states to report - More emphasize on availability and accessibility 	
<p>VAP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time bound actions - Highlighting designation of focal point within the government. - Insisting on inclusion of survivors and their orgs as part of official delegations in Convention’s meetings. - Insisting on quality services - Encouraging the states to use international standards, guidelines and recommendations 	