

# Press Release



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ap mine ban convention

## Landmine survivors to benefit from new rehabilitation guidelines developed by WHO and partners

### WHO and partners participate in the framework of the AP Mine Ban Convention

*Geneva, 2 December 2010* – The Tenth Meeting of the States Parties (10MSP) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention began with a renewed commitment by participants to eliminate the blight of landmines globally and to assist landmine survivors.

As part of the Convention's inclusive approach to care and rehabilitation, the first two days of this year's meeting featured a parallel experts' programme on victim assistance.

The centrepiece of the programme was a launch by the WHO, the ILO, UNESCO and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), of their just released Community Based Rehabilitation Guidelines (CBR).

The launch of the guidelines, which aim to empower all persons with disabilities including landmine survivors, took place during a two-day workshop led by a team of experts from the WHO, the ILO and the IDDC.

"The CBR Guidelines are an important tool to ensure that community development programmes are inclusive of persons with disabilities and that the benefits of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities reach all disabled people including victims of landmines," said Alana Officer from the Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability Unit at the WHO.

"The IDDC and its partners across Africa, Asia and Latin America, have contributed to the development of the Guidelines," said Diane Mulligan, Programme Development Advisor at Sightsavers, one of several organizations under the IDDC umbrella.

"We are now rising to the challenge of implementing a fundamental shift toward an approach involving all parts of government in partnership with people with disabilities, their families and communities," said Mulligan.

Barbara Murray of the Skills and Employability section of the ILO, which helped develop the guidelines, led an interactive discussion during the second day of the workshop; Chapal Khasnabis of the WHO gave an overview of the guidelines to the survivors and experts on victim assistance attending the meeting.

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The experts' programme, sponsored by Australia, included a one-day field visit to Aigle, in central Switzerland, where participants had the opportunity to learn about the work of Plusport, the Swiss umbrella sports organisation for persons with disabilities.

The AP Mine Ban Convention is the first multilateral disarmament or arms control treaty to address the humanitarian needs of the victims of specific weapons systems. The framework for victim assistance developed in the context of the Convention is applicable to assisting not only the survivors but also women, men, girls and boys with disabilities.

The AP Mine Ban Convention was adopted in Oslo and opened for signature in Ottawa in 1997; it entered into force in 1999. To date 156 States are part of the Convention.

For more information on the parallel programme for victim assistance experts and on the launch of CBR Guidelines during the workshop visit: [the AP Mine Ban Convention's website](#), for pictures of the event visit: [the Convention's flickr collection](#).

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