



Talking Points for Geneva, VA Experts Meeting

Presented by Mr.Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle

National Director General of SEMA

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Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the chair of the committee of the Victim Assistance and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for organizing this crucial meeting on Victim Assistance in the margins of the convention events. We believe the Action 40 of the Oslo Action Plan is important for the states to ensure that landmines victims are not left behind in the situations of emergency caused by armed conflict and natural catastrophes.

Allow me to give a brief update of the overall victim assistance situation in Somalia. Since 2019 about 103 people fall into victims of landmines and explosives remnants of war (ERW) in Somalia which 86% of the casualties are amongst young children. Besides, IEDs continue to kill and maim civilian population quite significantly despite being not the primary targets. Only this year, about 421 civilians were killed and injured by IEDs since Jan 2020.

Somalia National Mine Action Authority (SEMA) along with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and relevant government ministries have developed the National Action Plan for victim and disability assistance in Somalia, which is currently in the final stages for endorsement by the Government of Somalia. The Action Plan outlines the provision of relevant services and emphasizes the inclusion of victim assistance into the Humanitarian Response and Disaster Preparedness plans to provide safety and protection of survivors from explosive hazards. Thus, the assistance of these victims has been highlighted in the strategic objectives as well as in the Somali Humanitarian Response Plan for 2021.

The National Mine Action Authority in Somalia is exploring collective approaches to address the needs and rights of victims and persons with disability of the country. Closer cooperation has been established with key partners such as the Child Protection AoR under the Protection Cluster and the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development (MOWHRD) to provide the necessary emergency support for victims of explosive ordnance.

We believe, the year of 2021 will be crucial for victim assistance in Somalia as we are moving towards the implementation of the National Action Plan for Victim and Disability Assistance along with the international and local partners.



To materialize this plan, we continue requesting technical and financial support from donors and international partners to meet our commitments.

I will conclude my speech by thanking to all participants in the Victim Assistance Group of Experts and looking forward to working with you. Thanks!