



Bosnia and Herzegovina update on plans to achieve aims of Cartagena Action Plan

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends.

After the Cartagena summit, the Cartagena Action plan become a base point when discussing any LMVA issue at the state level In Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Being well focused, and clearly defined, the formulation of its goals is helping significantly to spread awareness on LMVA issues at the highest authority level in BH.

As a result, several working groups aimed to strengthen Victim Assistance and Socio-economic integration activities, and Mine Action as a whole, have been held, with the aim to promote LMVA issues and Cartagena Action plan.

Wanting to expand knowledge on LMVA related matters a web portal on LMVA in BH (working version available at [HTTP://WWW. BHMAC.ORG/BHMAC](http://www.bhmac.org/bhmac)) is envisioned as a information conduit and conceptually accepted by all Stakeholders in BH.

The portal will provide mine victims and organizations with the information on ongoing programs, current needs that are to be met, current legislation. It will give an overview of mapping of all institutions that are providing any sort of help to the



LMV and it will be used as a reporting tool for all LMVA related projects. Portal will also have forum for free information exchange.

This will 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 persons with disabilities.

Web Portal will also foster exchange of information on program achievements and targeted goals and therefore act as a basic tool to monitor and report on progress and challenges regarding VA Programs.

The LMVA Coordination group, the highest coordination body for Mine Action issues is established and in function, and it is an inter-ministerial/inter-sectoral coordination mechanism for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of relevant national policies, plans and legal frameworks.

The group is composed out of representatives of 8 State Ministries, 5 NGO representatives, Local Red Cross representative and it is chaired by BHMAC.

Through their representatives, relevant Ministries are able to present their positions regarding the issues raised at the meeting and all conclusions made by working group are immediately conveyed to the relevant Ministries.

Group meetings are open and everybody is allowed to attend.

Representatives of five NGO's provide opportunity to landmine victims to have full and active participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of the VA programs.

This group works both as a State level highest forum for LMVA related matters and as a focal point on LMVA issues.

Wanting to assess the scope of the landmine victim problem BHMAC with the help of ICRC and HOPE '87 has conducted a database revision which was

completed in March 2009. As a result initial set of data containing over 12000 records was reduced to 7330.

In order to process data an information system is created with the full ability to collect data on mine victims as well as assessment of their needs and priorities. In March 2009 we finalized data entry into database.

Gathered data are then provided to all ministries and after cross-checking, a new set of information will be added to the database.

Preliminary report is available and entire system is well in use.

Ladies and gentlemen,

By following same idea, to help to those who need it the most, Bosnia and Herzegovina Sub strategy for LMVA and Cartagena Action plan are following the same basic principles.

Excellent achievements we had at he field of medical care are visible through the fact that current dataset proves that landmine victims are stressing social aspect of a problem, rather than medical. This is under any circumstances not showing that medical programs are less needed, but shows that so far made projects were well targeted and successfully implemented.

As a measure to increase accessibility of medical facilities, Centers for Mental Health which are collocated with Centers for basic rehabilitation (CBR) are situated at 62 locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and providing basic medical help to patients, free of cost.

To help our amputees to reduce phantom pain seven "Pain clinics" are created, and over one hundred medical workers fully educated to provide help.

Prostatic are available to all our amputees and state contributes to the price.

Landmine victim strategy for 2009-2019 is approved by the demining Commission and therefore become part of Mine Action strategy for 2009 2019. This sub strategy is accepted by all levels of authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and demonstrates commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities to deal with the LMV issues.

This strategic plan is a base for annual plans of action with the aim to address the needs and promote the rights of mine victims.

Since Landmine victim strategy for 2009-2019 was drafted before Cartagena conference and Cartagena action plan and its strategic goals have been recognized as well adjusted to today's standings of LMVA status in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to harmonize terminology, current strategic goals will be rephrased. Coordination group for LMVA will create team with for this task.

And to conclude, during last five years Landmine Victims and LMVA activities as a whole are recognized and accepted as a obligation by the local authorities and that is good indication that Landmine victim strategy for 2009-2019 in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be fulfilled to the full benefit of those in need.

Thank you very much.