



# **APMBC -20th MSP- GENEVA**

## **Integrating Victim Assistance, especially Rehabilitation, into Humanitarian Response**

**Nora Achkar, Senior Project Manager,**

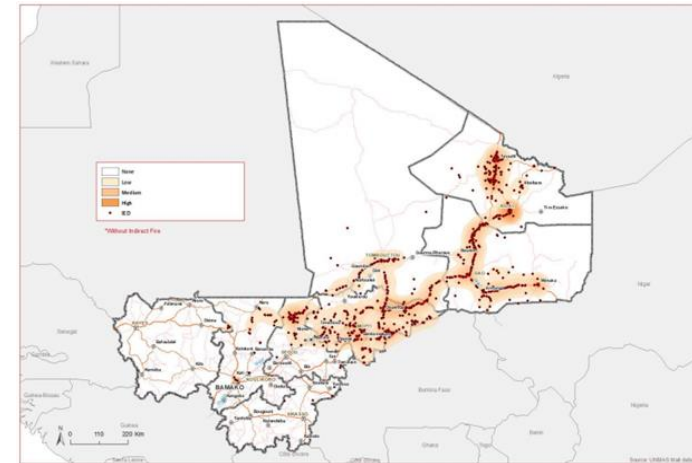
**Protection of Civilians through Mine Action, UNMAS Mali**

# Integrating VA in the Humanitarian Response: Mali

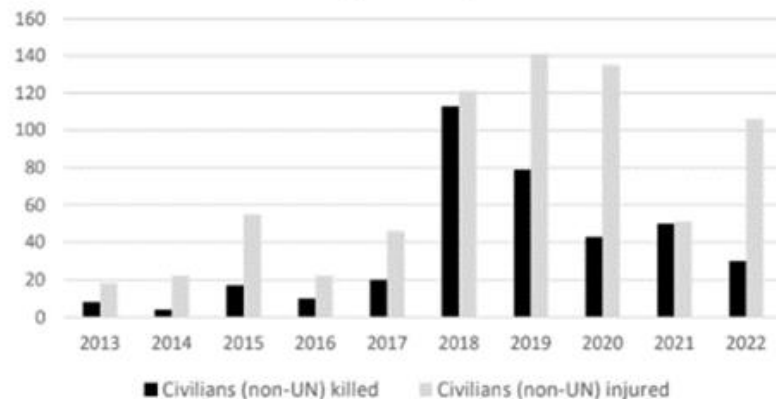
## Total civilian victims (casualties)



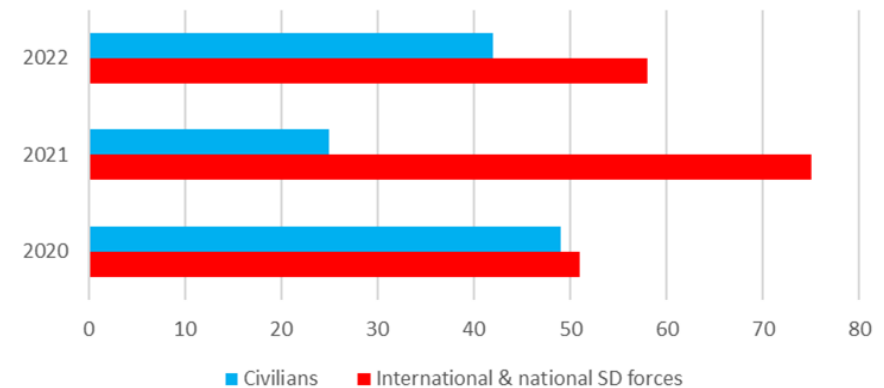
## Geographical distribution



## IED/Mines killed vs Injured (civilians)



## Percentage of civilian casualties last 3 years



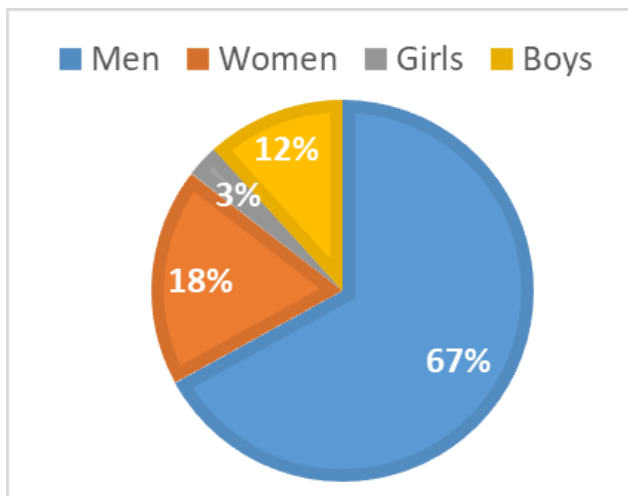
# Integrating VA in the Humanitarian Response: Mali

Programme has VA projects in Mali since 2014. Currently 2 VA projects and 2 RE projects with VA components. Multi-year funding. The projects are funded by the peacekeeping mission. There is very little funding for VA outside peacekeeping and through bilateral contributions.

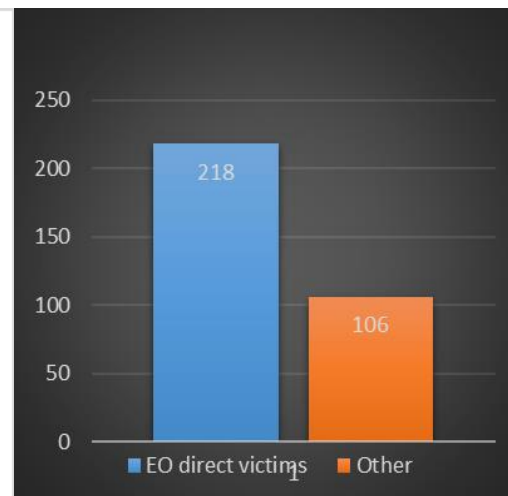
1,456: number of beneficiaries assisted by mine action actors since 2014.  
225 : number of beneficiaries assisted in 2021-2022 (ongoing projects).

## Graphs below refer to current projects

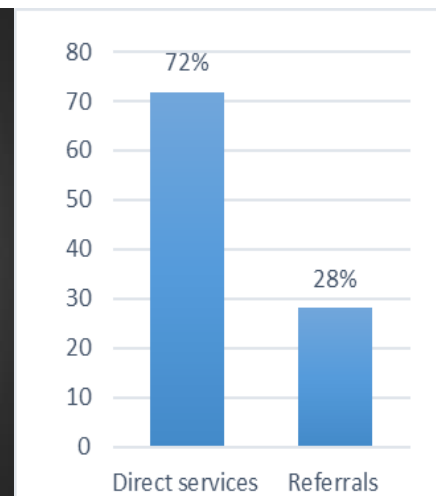
Beneficiaries by age and gender



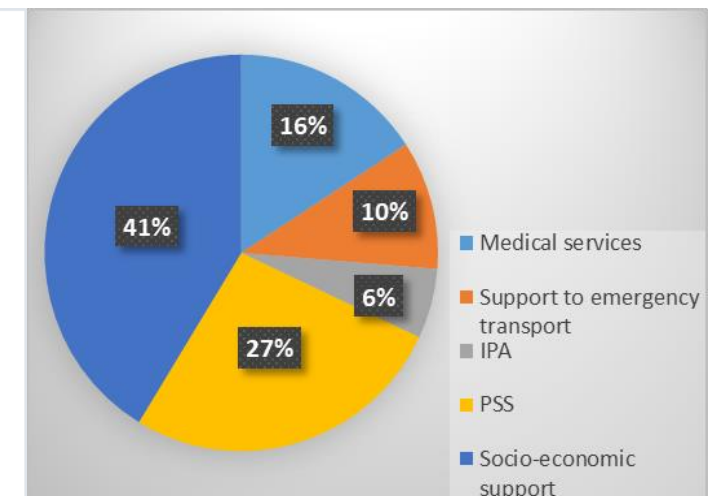
Beneficiaries by status



Services provided



Type & percentage of direct services



# Integrating VA in the Humanitarian Response: Mali

- Focus on localisation
- VA specific efforts by the mine action sector
- Increasing VA specific efforts by non VA-specialised mine action actors (data collection, identification, service mapping & referrals using established pathways)
- Provision of VA services through direct service delivery (case management)
- Liaise with rehabilitation centres for inclusion & prioritization of EO victims
- Workshops with national authorities and entities on VA principles and components
- Developing VA National Standards

# Integrating VA in the Humanitarian Response: Mali

## Rehabilitation

- **Insufficient capacity: 4 rehabilitation centres countrywide and 3 organizations**
- **Very little outreach to hard-to-reach areas and security issues (NSAG)**
- **UNMAS supports referral of victims to service providers and their transport to service points in areas where there are no other actors addressing such needs.**

## Challenges

- **Waiting lists : inclusion of EO victims**
- **Access to services ( distance and effort required)**
- **Weak economic and psycho-social support to victims' caretakers**
- **Rehabilitation limited to orthosis and prosthetics and missing other types of impairments (social, mental, hearing)**
- **Assistive devices insufficiently taken into account (lack wheelchairs and adapted equipment)**

# Integrating VA in the Humanitarian Response: Mali

## Coordination and Advocacy

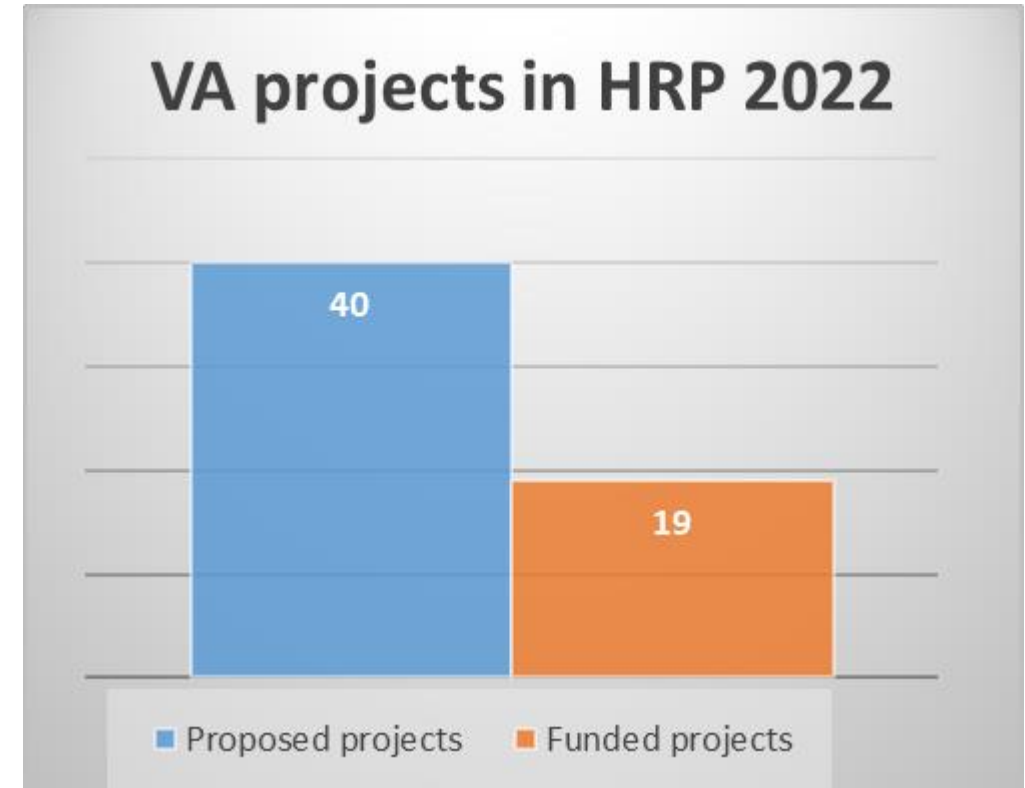
- Integration of VA in Humanitarian Programme cycle by including projects and indicators in the plans to mobilise awareness and funding.
- Enhanced inclusion of survivors, other persons with disabilities and indirect victims into broader efforts of the protection and wider humanitarian response i.e. protection monitoring, protection referral pathways, mapping of services at cluster level
- Inter-cluster and inter-sectoral coordination are facing challenges
- Inter-agency referral mechanism in place needs to be reinforced
- Service mapping coordinated by the protection cluster
- Specific VA service mapping by mine action actors



# Integrating VA in the Humanitarian Response: Mali

## VA in 2022 Humanitarian Response Plans

- Coordinating 18 MA AoR
- 7 MA AoR with VA projects
- Some VA included in protection, health and education clusters, UN Pooled Funds (CERF, VTF) and other agencies (UNICEF, UNDP).



# Integrating VA in the Humanitarian Response

## UNMAS Programmes Worldwide

- **Colombia:** support national authorities in victims related projects: database, law, referral pathways, legal status and other support as needed.
- **Syria:** referral pathways and VA working group under the MA AoR
- **Nigeria:** referral pathways
- **Sudan:** support to national disability plan, comprehensive VA projects
- **Iraq:** advocacy and coordination
- **Afghanistan:** rehabilitation with CERF funding and support to national plan
- **Mali:** referral pathways and support to emergency response, PSS and socio economic integration
- **Somalia:** disability and victim assistance national plan
- **Palestine:** data collection and referral mechanisms
- **South Sudan:** referral pathways



# Integrating VA in the Humanitarian Response

## Barriers to Access Services

- Limited services (health, rehabilitation)
- Limited access to information on services available in communities
- Persons with disabilities have difficulty to reach existing facilities
- Transportation means, costs and security
- Challenges in referrals such as eligibility criteria and follow up
- Limited funding, often short-term and not flexible
- Lack of prioritization of persons with disabilities (long waiting lists)

# Integrating VA in the Humanitarian Response

## Way Forward

- Flexible and multi-year funding to provide a continuum of multisectoral assistance (cash and voucher assistance and support to build local capacity)
- Dedicated in-country VA specialised personnel to advance compliance with IMAS 13.10
- Integrated intersectoral humanitarian approach
- Sustained coordination and quality assurance for successful referral mechanisms
- Integrate referral pathways in the inter-agency referral mechanisms with:
  - Comprehensive and integrated service mapping
  - Referral protocols for various services
  - Integration of specific VA indicators in HPC
- Disability inclusion: increased access and outreach for rehabilitation and expansion of rehabilitation services to address various types of impairments

## Other Practices

# UNMAS Syria

- **Since October 2020, UNMAS leads the Victim Assistance Working Group, composed of multi-sectoral actors.**
- **Its objective is to formalize and coordinate direct referral pathways between relevant and qualitative services in the scope of VA : medical care, rehabilitation, psychosocial support, socio-economic insertion...**
- **This mechanism is integrated into the Protection Sector Mapping of Resources.**
- **The Group contributes to the identification of resources dedicated for persons with disabilities, including EO survivors, and share the results with the humanitarian community.**
- **To follow-up on Implementing Partners' activities, UNMAS has developed an IM tool to track the provision of VA specialized services ( 32% PSS, 29% rehabilitation and 20% other services).**

# UNMAS Syria

## Syrian Arab Republic : Syria Hub Victim Assistance Working Group Dashboard under Mine Action sub-sector



### KEY FIGURES



**Governorate**  
Tout

**District**  
Tout

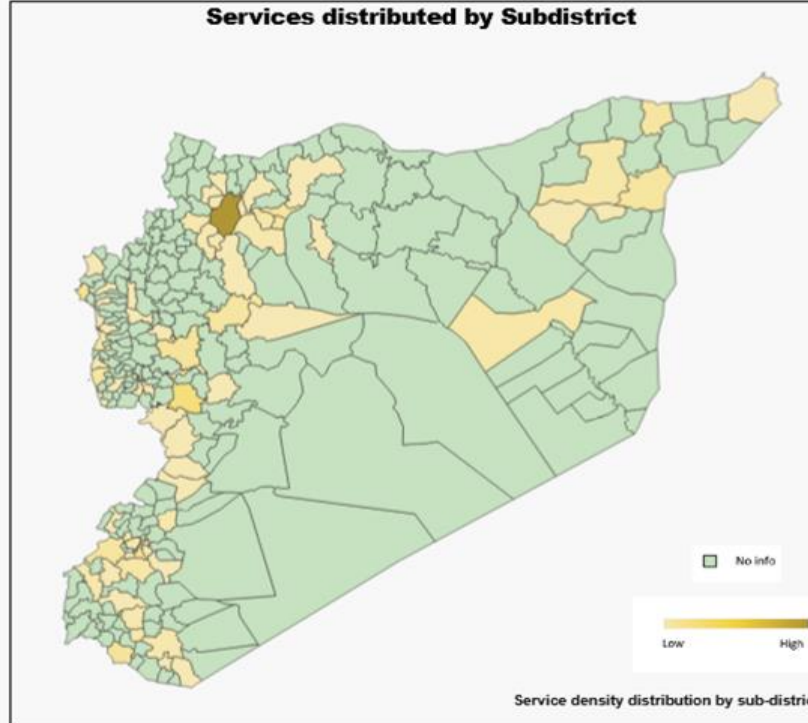
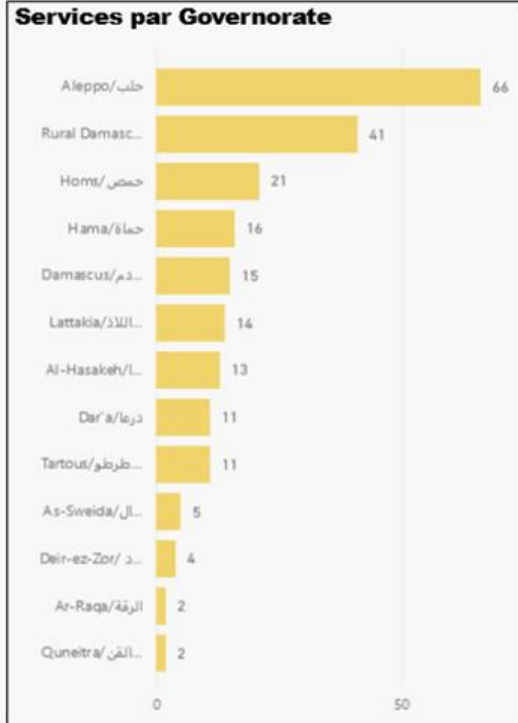
**Sub-district**  
Tout

**Implementin...**  
Tout

**Resource of ...**  
Tout

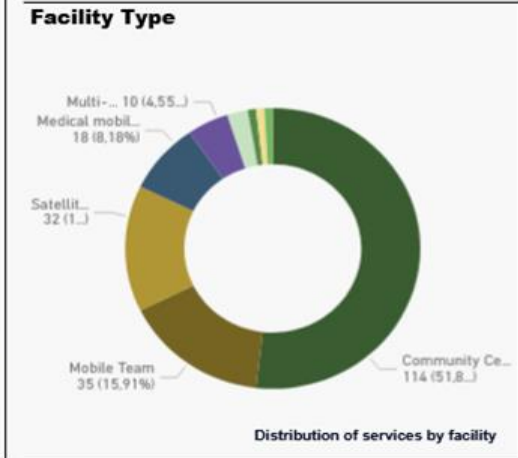
**Sector**  
Tout

**Month**  
Tout



### Disability percentage by Subdistrict

Sub-district	Moyenne de Disability %
Al Bab/الباب	24,96%
Al Makhrim/المخرم	24,96%
Al Qutayfah/القطيفة	24,96%
Al Thawra/الثورة	24,96%
Aleppo/حلب	24,96%
Al-Haffa/الحفة	24,96%
Al-Hasakeh/الجبسكة	24,96%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,96%</b>



# UNMAS Nigeria

## Dynamic & sustainable referral mechanism through coordination

- In 2021, in addition to First Aid training provided to various actors in north-east Nigeria, UNMAS supported two local NGOs to identify and refer EO victims and other persons with disabilities to available specialized services.
- The first step was mapping of services.
- Consultations with local Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) were organized in 2020 and 2021 as part of the project to strengthen links between civil society and services providers.
- UNMAS also supported public events on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2021.
- For 2022-2023, plans to conduct workshops to train and familiarize the national and state authorities on victim assistance, as part of the implementation of the National Disability Act (against discrimination of persons with disabilities) adopted in 2019.



# UNMAS Nigeria

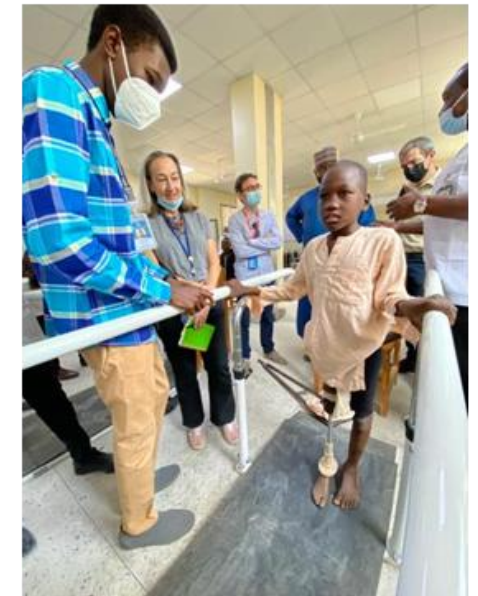
## Dynamic & sustainable referral mechanism through coordination

S/N	LGAs	Number of Service Providers	Available Services
1.	Bama	11	12
2.	Monguno	7	5
3.	Mobbar	5	6
4.	Dikwa	7	10
5.	Gwoza	7	12
6.	Ngala	8	13



**Mapping of services:  
Strengthening coordination at field level**

**Identification, Assessment and Referral:  
Ensuring effective access to services**



# UNMAS Afghanistan

- One VA project funded by the CERF supports physical rehabilitation, MHPSS, GBV awareness and signed language.
- Orthopaedic prosthetics and assistive devices.
- 3 grants to national NGOs active in 3 provinces providing VA services.
- Duration: December 2021 to June 2023.
- Beneficiaries: all disabilities
- Budget: USD 759,903
- Invest in three advisors over several years to build the national capacity



# UNMAS Somalia

- **“Disabilities and Victim Assistance National Plan of Action”** launched at the 2019 Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in Oslo.
- UNMAS provides shared data and analysis with the Government of Somalia and other stakeholders to guide and customize victim assistance activities.
- In 2021, UNMAS Somalia provided support to the national mine action authority to develop national standards for victim assistance, victim assistance policy and revised the Disability and Victim Assistance National Action Plan in line with the Oslo Action Plan adopted in late 2019.
- No implementation due to lack of funding.
- UNMAS Somalia continued advocacy for victims and included two victim assistance projects in the 2022 HRP 2022.
- Access is a serious challenge to victim identification in Somalia.
- Over 1,500 casualties in 2021. Children particularly at risk. Need for VA.
- Somalia is also facing catastrophic level of hunger.

# UNMAS Sudan

- UNMAS supports rehabilitation and other aspects of VA
- VA assessment in June 2021: main recommendations shared with UNCT
- HRP: VA language included but VA not funded and no systematic service provision
- Few rehabilitation centres and 1 National NGO (napo) partner with ICRC
- VA project : comprehensive package with identification, referrals, PSS case management and encourage IP to implement referral pathways
- Progress in identifying stakeholders and service mapping
- Need to train teams on victim identification and referrals
- Focus on data collection including of victims needs, next will be referrals
- Supporting the localization of VA

# UNMAS Iraq

- **Advocates to provide victim assistance to EO survivors.**
- **Advocated for an integrated database for victims and an enhanced referral system to existing services.**
- **Participated in the Physical Rehabilitation Working Group led by WHO which was functioning until 2020 when resources were diverted to COVID-19.**
- **Advocated to streamline the accreditation of NGOs willing to provide victim assistance in Iraq.**
- **Through the inter-cluster coordination and protection cluster, the MA AoR requests support from humanitarian actors to assist survivors.**
- **In December 2021, the MA AoR Coordinator collaborated with relevant HMA actors to organize a preparatory workshop on the development of the national mine action standard (NMAS) on victim assistance.**

# Other Examples from UNMAS

## State of Palestine

In Gaza, UNMAS has supported victims of explosive ordnance accidents since 2016. UNMAS works to provide victims with the services they require: from initial information gathering immediately after an accident to reaching out through the Mine Action Working Group in Gaza to referring them to specialized organizations. UNMAS is currently working with the members of the Working Group to formalize and improve Victim Assistance processes, particularly in the area of Protection Information Management and follow up and tracking of support provided. UNMAS supports the national authority in the West Bank (Palestinian Mine Action Centre) to implement a similar system and now maintains an injury surveillance system and survivor database. Since 2019, UNMAS has been using its network of victim assistance partners in the West Bank to enhance the database of the Mine Action Centre.

## Colombia

UNMAS Colombia provided a National Advisor on Victim Assistance to the National Mine Action Center to give strategic support to the Government for the development and launching of the Information Management System for Antipersonnel Landmine Survivors (SISMAP) – an online information management system to improve survivors' access to support mechanisms and other services offered by various state institutions, such as physical and psychological health services, land restitution, and rural family housing subsidies.