



The Role of Mine Action in Victim Assistance

14 February 2024

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production
and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction

www.apminebanconvention.org

Victim Assistance and the Convention

Determined to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines,

Wishing to do their utmost in providing assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration of mine victims,

Article 6: Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims and for mine awareness programs. Such assistance may be provided, inter alia, through the United Nations system, international, regional or national organizations or institutions, the International Committee of the Red Cross, national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and their International Federation, non-governmental organizations, or on a bilateral basis.



Ms Maria Santa with Mamadu Ba Cantre, Guinea-Bissau, father of Mamadu JR, a young landmine survivor from Guinea-Bissau at 20MSP, December 2022



Victim Assistance – Principles and understandings

Key Principles

- Non-discriminatory approach
- National responsibility
- Human Rights
- Gender and Diversity
- Development

Opportunity: Understandings and Principles are shared by all conventional weapons Disarmament Conventions.

Victim Assistance:

- Data collection
- Emergency and ongoing medical care
- Physical rehabilitation
- Psychological and psychosocial support
- Socio-economic inclusion
- Laws and policies



Zianuddin, 15 years old, lost an arm by a landmine blast on 14 August 2022, in Eshkashim, Tajikistan accompanied by his mother, attending a rehabilitation camp in Khujand province, 23 August 2023



Victim Assistance – terminology

- “**Victim**” – is a collective term referring to the individual, families and communities.
- “**Survivor**” – refers to the person injured by an anti-personnel mine.
- IMAS 13.10 describes –

“**Victim**” of EO as follows: persons, either collectively or individually:

- a. Who have experienced physical, emotional and/or psychological injury, economic loss;
 - b. recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights on an equal basis with others has been hindered; or
 - c. full and effective participation in society has been restricted by an accident with a confirmed or suspected presence of explosive ordnance
- **Direct victim:** casualty; person killed, injured and/or impaired
 - **Survivor:** direct victim who has been injured and/or impaired but not killed
 - **Indirect victim:** family members of direct victims as well as individuals and communities affected



The role of mine action in victim assistance

- All that is involved in *victim assistance* is an integral aspect of mine action and regarded as one of the five group of activities in mine action.
- Unlike most of other activities in mine action, victim assistance is a multifaceted process – not a project – requiring a long-term commitment.
- Timelines in victim assistance is different than those applied to humanitarian demining and stockpile destruction, for example.



Victim Assistance Expert of Iraq engaging the Iraqi Red Crescent society



The role of mine action in victim assistance

- Actors with responsibilities for victim assistance, including those with lead responsibility, is different than is the case with other aspects of mine action, such as humanitarian demining and stockpile destruction.
- Thus, the assignment of responsibilities is important because of the complexity of victim assistance process and because of broader contexts within which victim assistance finds itself.



Guinea-Bissau, Victim Assistance Stakeholder Dialogue



The role of mine action in victim assistance

- The role of mine action in victim assistance can be summarised as follows:
 - **Collecting and disseminating casualty data**
 - **Contribute to referrals**
 - **Raising awareness on rights, needs and challenges faced by mine victims withing ministries/national institutions**
 - **Supporting inter-ministerial/agency coordination and planning**
 - **Promoting non-discriminatory, human rights-based approach**
 - **Mobilising supports**
 - **Reporting**



Victim Assistance

- 38 States Parties - **Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niger, Palestine (State of), Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe** –reported mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control.



VA Experts Meeting, Oslo, 2019



Technical support to States Parties

- The ISU provides advice and support to individual States Parties in applying the victim assistance understandings adopted by the States Parties.
- This includes supporting States Parties in establishing or enhancing an inter-ministerial process to incorporate the Convention's promise to landmine survivors into broader approaches related to disability and human rights, and health care.



ISU's Implementation Support Officer at the Ministry of Social Action of Angola
March 2023, Luanda





The Implementation Support Unit

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