

## **Synergies to Facilitate Victim Assistance Reporting**

**Submitted by The Kingdom of the Netherlands**

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### **Introduction**

Around the world, mines and other explosive ordnances continue to cause devastating harm, with civilians – particularly children – disproportionately affected. Despite sustained international efforts, the number of casualties remains alarmingly high and continues to grow, with women and girls often affected indirectly, facing additional barriers to accessing care and support. Victim assistance, which includes medical care, rehabilitation, psychological and psychosocial support, and support for social and economic inclusion, remains a critical obligation for States Parties under several international instruments. These include the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Each of these conventions calls on States Parties to report on their victim assistance efforts or efforts to ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities in the case of CRPD. This underscores their commitment to addressing the long-term effects of explosive ordnances and contributing to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. Under Article 7 of both the APMBC and the CCM, States Parties are required to submit annual transparency reports detailing their victim assistance activities. These reporting requirements are not only important for demonstrating compliance, but also serve as key mechanisms of accountability.

Recognizing the overlapping goals and similar reporting elements across these conventions offers a powerful opportunity to streamline the process. A more integrated and consistent approach to victim assistance reporting can reduce duplication of efforts, improve the quality and comprehensiveness of information submitted, and strengthen transparency and accountability overall.

Moreover, integrated reporting could also support better coordination among national agencies, international partners, and civil society organizations, which improves the effectiveness of victim assistance programmes. Stronger coordination could lead to improved reporting which could help identify gaps, guide resource allocation, enhance support for victims and support monitoring and evaluation efforts.

### **About this guidance**

This document serves as guidance that builds on the 2014 Guidance on Victim Assistance Reporting, developed under Thailand's Chairmanship of the Victim Assistance Committee. It includes an updated overview of existing guidance on victim assistance reporting (Annex 1) and a comparison of victim assistance obligations under relevant instruments (Annex 2).

This guidance is designed as a practical tool to support States Parties in preparing victim assistance reports under multiple conventions. It seeks to support States Parties by providing a clear and practical overview of overlapping victim assistance obligations and reporting requirements under the relevant conventions. This guidance also highlights existing

complementarities and reporting principles (e.g., survivor-centred, rights-based, data-driven and integrated approach, considerations for gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors).

States Parties are encouraged to review reporting obligations and commitments and refer to the comparison table in the Annex to identify common elements across conventions. It is especially useful for Focal Points and reporting officers seeking to integrate victim assistance into broader disability and humanitarian frameworks and vice-versa. While the guidance is focused on victim assistance reporting, the thematic comparison table can enrich reporting on the CRPD. For best results, apply a survivor-centred, rights-based, and gender-responsive approach throughout all reporting processes, as promoted across the APMBC, CCM, CCW Protocol V. and the CRPD.

## **Annex 1: overview of existing reporting obligations and available guidance**

States Parties have access to a range of tools and resources designed to assist with victim assistance reporting under various international instruments. These guidance materials aim to clarify obligations, standardize data collection, and improve the consistency and quality of reporting across frameworks.

### **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)**

States Parties to the APMBC are required under [Article 7](#) to provide quality information on the implementation of the Convention and the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan by 30 April of each year, including their efforts on victim assistance. Key guidance includes:

- [Form J](#): A voluntary format added to Art. 7 reports to report on victim assistance efforts (care, rehabilitation, social integration, economic reintegration).
- 2015 [Guide to Reporting](#), which outlines the issues affected States may wish to consider in preparing a response under Form J.
- 2014 [Guidance on Victim Assistance Reporting](#) for AP Mine Ban Convention, CCM, CCW P.V. and the CRPD.
- 2025 [Victim Assistance Checklist](#).

### **Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)**

States Parties to the CCM are obligated under [Article 7](#) to submit annual reports detailing the status and implementation of fulfilling their victim assistance obligations as set out in Article 5 and the Lausanne Action Plan. To support this, the following guidance is available:

- [Form H](#), which includes a dedicated section for reporting on nine key themes (national focal point; data collection and assessment of needs; national laws and policies; national plan and budget; efforts to consult with and actively involve victims; assistance services; resource mobilization; needs for international assistance and cooperation; awareness raising) related to the VA-obligations under Art. 5.
- [2016 Guidance on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance](#). The Guidance aims to assist states to improve the quality of life and uphold the rights of victims, through the integrated approach to victim assistance: a. ensuring that specific victim assistance efforts act as a catalyst to improve the inclusion and wellbeing of survivors, other persons with disabilities, indirect victims and other vulnerable groups and ensure that broader efforts actually reach survivors and indirect victims amongst the beneficiaries.

### **Convention on certain Conventional Weapons (Protocol V) (CCW)**

States Parties to Protocol V of the CCW are strongly encouraged to provide information on efforts to assist victims in their National Annual Reports pursuant to Article 10 (2) (b) of Protocol V. Available guidance includes:

- 2014 Form E(a) of the Protocol's reporting format, which includes space to report on victim assistance on two sections: steps taken to implement relevant provisions of Article 8(2); and, other relevant information guided by [PAVAPV](#).

- 2009 Guide on National Reporting (checklist of questions to assist in fulfilling reporting obligations).
- [2015 Amendment to this Guide](#), which provides a checklist of 14 key questions across five reporting themes (data on victims, medical assistance, social and economic integration, laws and policies, focal point and inclusion).

### **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**

States Parties to the CRPD are obligated to submit “*a comprehensive report on measures taken*” to implement the Convention and progress under [Article 35](#). The initial report must be submitted within two years of the Convention entering into force for the State Party, followed by subsequent reports every four years. Guidance includes:

- The [CRPD Reporting Tools site](#), which includes reporting guidelines with the aim to advise States on the form and content of their reports, to ensure reports are comprehensive and presented in a uniform manner.

## Annex 2: comparison of victim assistance actions under relevant instruments

Theme	AP Mine Ban Convention Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan	Convention on Cluster Munitions Lausanne Action Plan	Protocol V to the CCW Victim Assistance Plan of Action under Protocol V	CRPD
<b>Data collection, including needs assessment</b>	Actions #32, #41	Actions #31, #41	Actions #2, #4(a)	Article 31
<b>Plans, policies and legislative frameworks, including referral mechanisms</b>	Actions #30, #31, #34, #42	Actions #32, #33, #34, #36, #41	Actions #4(b), #4(c)	Articles 4, 11, 32 Preamble
<b>Integration into broader frameworks</b>	Actions #30, #31, #32, #43	Actions #33, #41	Action #4(c)	Articles 4, 11, 32 Preamble
<b>Non-discrimination</b>	Actions #30, #32, #39, #43	Actions #34, #35, #39	Actions #1, #4(e), Preamble	Articles 3, 4, 5 Preamble
<b>Accessibility</b>	Actions #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #39	Actions #34, #35, #41	Action #4 (g)	Articles 3, 4, 9
<b>Access to services (medical care, rehabilitation, psychological support, social and economic inclusion, and social protection)</b>	Actions #33, #35, #36, #37	Actions #34, #35	Action #1	Articles 19-20, 24-28, 30
<b>Capacity building</b>	Actions #30, #33, #35, #36, #37	Actions #37, #39	Actions #4(c), #4(d), #4(g)	Articles 4, 32
<b>Good practice, including relevant guidelines</b>	Action #45	Actions #32, #37, #39	Action #4(h)	Articles 4, 32
<b>Inclusion</b>	Actions #30, #36, #37, #39, #43	Actions #36, #39	Action #4(h)	Articles 3, 4, 19, 29, 32, 33 Preamble
<b>Awareness raising</b>	Action #39	Actions #36, #39	Action #4(f)	Article 8
<b>Monitoring and Reporting</b>	Actions #30, #31, #32, #41, #42	Action #33	Paragraphs II, III	Article 33
<b>Coordination, including focal points</b>	Actions #30, #31, #42, #44	Actions #33, #42	Action #4(g), Preamble	Articles 33, 35
<b>Cooperation and Assistance</b>	Actions #40, #41, #43, #44 and #45	Actions #33, #36, #38, #39, #40, #41, #42	Actions #3, #4(d)	Article 32
<b>Gender and age-sensitivity</b>	Actions #30, #32, #37, #43 and #45	Actions #34, #36, #39, #41	Preamble	Articles 6, 7