Victim assistance cooperation with governments in Cambodia

Thanks Madame Chair. I am Tun Chanareth from Cambodia. I work with the Jesuit Refugee Service providing assistance to victims.

1) At the grass roots level, where VA really happens we are visiting village and commune leaders from the government structure. Some are very good and committed to improving quality of life of people with disabilities. Some still do not know about disability law and so we have asked the government for many copies and have spend time with villagers talking about the rights and needs of people with disabilities.

2) Government and NGOs are working together on the handover of rehabilitation centers which have been run and funded by international NGOs but there is a plan for the government to take over responsibility for the centers over time. However the government is having trouble finding funds.

3) There is a national coordinating committee which will review the implementation of the national plan. As NGOs we are able to participate in meetings and give input on the impact the plan has in the field, but we don’t always see our input being used.

4) We have also been working with the government to identify the needs of survivors and persons with disabilities so that then we can support them more effectively. For example, CMAA was very helpful with our booklet mapping services for mine survivors and people with disabilities across Cambodia. Especially, as government, by providing maps, data collection and ideas etc. and we implemented the project.

5) Cambodia has not yet joined the CCM, but like many States Parties here, my country has a very big plan to assist victims and not enough money to do it. I want the donors to look at the cooperation that we have the government and NGOs and to do the same. Enhance your cooperation and provide enough long-term funding so that our governments and NGOs together can implement the our plan...