
Victim Assistance

Implementation Update – Presentation by the Coordinators: Austria & Bosnia and Herzegovina
CCM comprehensive approach to victim assistance

- Victim assistance is about improving the quality of life of people injured by cluster munitions, families of survivors and persons being killed, as well as affected communities;
- Victim assistance as a human right;
- Art. 5: Victim assistance as a legal obligation for all States Parties;
- Vientiane Action Plan (VAP) of 2009 as a blueprint for implementation, calling for action on medical care, rehabilitation, psychological support and social and economic integration.
Timebound obligations

A) Policy coordination structures at national level (Focal point – 6 months/ integrated coordination structure 1 year)

• Majority of States with cluster munition victims has established coordination structures;

• Challenges include the scope of the mandate, resources, efficient functioning and effective inclusion of survivors;
Timebound obligations

B) Data collection and needs assessment (within 1 year)

• Progress with surveys and needs assessment ongoing
• Particular challenges:
  - Needs of families
  - Database maintainance
  - Funding
Timebound obligations

C) Review of national laws and policies (within 1 year) to meet the needs of victims and ensure non-discrimination

• National legislative framework should ensure the full realisation of the rights of all cluster munition victims

• Challenges:
  – Discriminatory legislation
  – Effective law enforcement lacking behind
Timebound obligations

D) Accessibility to information and services – to take immediate action to increase availability and accessibility in remote and rural areas

• Progress limited, few success stories

• Challenges:
  - Local particularities
  - Needs assessment
  - Identify the barriers
  - Enhance advocacy
Implementation: Key challenges I

- **To increase psychological support**
  - For survivors as well as for family members;
  - Despite its importance often neglected;

- **To provide for economic integration**
  - Lack of data;
  - Job opportunities;
  - Involvement of private sector;
  - Development challenges;
Implementation: Key challenges II

- Government–NGO collaboration at national and local level
  How to foster an all-stakeholder approach?
- Inclusion of survivors as experts in all aspects of VA work
- Benefiting from the collaboration among related international legal instruments
  Congruence on the ground a reality in many states – how to increase practical exchange and joint learning also on international level?
- Strengthening cooperation and assistance
  Continued financial and non-financial support is required – how to ensure adequate support?
- Appeal for increased reporting
  What is the situation of victims on the ground?
The way forward

• Increase the understanding about the situation of victims on the ground
• Sharing of information and reporting
• Measuring progress
  • What has been achieved in your country?
  • What are the major challenges and gaps in VA provision remaining?
  • What needs to be done in terms of cooperation and assistance?
• Work with all stakeholders, include survivors as experts in all aspects of victim assistance work