

# Third Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Oslo, 11-14 Sept. 2012

## 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