



## **FOURTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Zambia, 9 – 13 September 2013

### **Statement by Lebanon on Victim Assistance**

Mr. /Mrs. Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Lebanese delegation, allow me to begin the statement by thanking Zambia for hosting the 4MSP and thanking all those who coordinate Victim Assistance under the CCM.

Lebanon is heavily affected by cluster munitions. The effects of the 2006 war on Lebanon have led to more than 430 victims and continue to negatively affect our communities; the last of which fell in late July 2013.

- 80% of the victims are males and 20% are females.
- 27% are less than 18 years old.
- 87% are survivors and 13% were killed by the cluster munitions' explosion.

The LMAC manages and coordinates the implementation of mine victim assistance in Lebanon, through the Mine Victim Assistance National Steering Committee that includes both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

MVA in Lebanon is either provided directly by the Government (Ministry of Public Health or of Social Affairs) or by non-governmental organizations (local or international). Funding of local NGOs working on MVA is through international NGOs, donor countries or the Lebanese government.

It should be noted that the MVA sector suffers from severe lack of funding affected by the deteriorating socioeconomic conditions in the country and the ongoing security unrest. The recent influx of large numbers of refugees from Syria has only aggravated the problem especially that resources remain to be scarce and the assistance of the International Community to Lebanon remains relatively insignificant compared to the size of the crisis.

In Lebanon, assistance is provided using a right-based approach and in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law with no discrimination. Usually, assistance is age

and gender-sensitive and includes medical care, rehabilitation, psychosocial support as well as social and economic inclusion.

Advocacy and lobbying efforts by civil society in Lebanon led to the establishment of the National Law (220/2000) on the rights of persons with disabilities and efforts are ongoing to enforce it. To note, Lebanon has been very active in the process leading to the development of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Lebanon has signed but not yet ratified.

Advocacy and lobbying efforts continue for the purpose of mobilizing national and international resources for MVA. With funding from UNMAS and the administrative support of UNDP, efforts are also being exerted to track victims' needs and update their data. We await findings to better plan our future steps UNMAS and UNDP have also provided prosthetic services to 20 survivors. Nevertheless, needs continue to be tremendous.

Lebanon / LMAC are trying to meet MVA objectives as expressed in the Lebanon National Strategy 2011-2020. The EU is helping Lebanon meet its obligations under Article 20 of the Vientiane Action Plan where MVA funding shall be released to support mine victims.

Lebanon is looking to integrate the implementation of the CCM victim assistance provisions in existing coordination mechanisms such as the ones created for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) and the Law on the "Access and Rights of People with Disability" 220/2000. Lebanon is keen to have all victims and disabled persons in the country access with dignity quality rehabilitation, education, and employment services that meet international standards with no discrimination and based on equity and equality.

Thank you for your attention.