



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

CCM INTERSESSIONAL MEETING 2013

Geneva, 16 April 2013

Thank you Mr Coordinator.

In our effort to ensure that adequate measures for the timely provision of quality assistance to all cluster munitions and UXO victims are being taken in 2012, Croatia can report on the following.

Coordination and Planning

The National Coordinating Body for Mine and UXO Victims, which main tasks were drafting the National Action Plan for Mine and UXO Victims 2010 - 2014 and overall coordination of victim assistance system in Croatia, in 2012 did not organized any meeting which is mainly due to the fact that in December 2011 Croatia held general elections after which a new government was elected. This resulted in a number of administrative and technical changes in all spheres of governmental structure meaning new people taking over posts and duties and institutions switching responsibilities over different areas. Accordingly, there was not any revision of the the National Action Plan for Mine and UXO Victims 2010-2014 in 2012 and not any (f)actual monitoring of the Plan's implementation in 2012 apart from obligatory overview done by the relevant institutions in each of the sectors involved.

Office for Mine Action

In 2012 Croatian Government established Office for Mine Action as a governmental body in charge of expert, analytical, counseling, coordinative and other activities regarding the mine action in Croatia. As such, the Office also monitors the work, activities and operations of the Croatian Mine Action Center. One of the Office's main goals is to raise the awareness of general population about the dangers of mines and UXOs as well as to create the adequate conditions for the development of mine action in Croatia.

Croatia and CRPD

Croatia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007 and accordingly adopted National Strategy for Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2007 – 2015. Focal point for the CRPD is Ministry of Social Policy and Youth which coordinates implementation of the national policy for persons with disabilities and implementation of the CRPD. Croatia's Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities' role is more to advocate, propose measures, make recommendations, inform and to report on actions taken. In 2012 Ombudsman reported difficulties in the provision of necessary services to people with disabilities and children

with disabilities. Although the changes to ensure accessibility for PwDs are continuing, they are not developing in accordance with the set plans.

Medical assistance

In the framework of the reorganization of the Emergency Medicine in 2011 and 2012 the Croatian Institute for Health Insurance has signed contracts for the implementation of the emergency medicine activities with the County Departments of Emergency Medicine. Also, every doctor in primary health care is required to provide emergency medical assistance, and if necessary, arrange transport of the victim to the hospital. In exceptional cases it is possible to provide helicopter or ship transport of the patient.

Croatian Employment Service

In 2012 through CES mediation 1421 people with disabilities were employed. In order to increase employability in 2012 779 persons with disabilities were enrolled in some form of active employment policy, which is an increase of 25% compared to the number involved in active labor market measures in 2011.

NGO Activities and Survivor Inclusion

The Association for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities reported decrease of the services and number of people that could assist. Still they organized individual support for mine victims as a new activity in 2012. They also became a member of the working group that is drafting the Law on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities.

MineAid continued to address the needs and lack of appropriate services identified by mine/CM survivors in the past years. It provided psychological support groups for adults and children; visits by social workers to implement tailored, individual plans for improving health, education or social inclusion and financial assistance. During 2012 due to the reduction of personnel and financial capacity number of services decreased. In the same time Centre M.A.R.E. started with new activities such as workshops on psychosocial rehabilitation of mine survivors and their families which gathered 34 survivors (including children) during the summer 2012.

Survivors and their representative organizations collaborated in preparing national reports for both OTW and CCM as well CCW in 2012 but they did not participate as members of the governmental delegations to international meetings.

Mine/CM/UXO Risk Education

During 2012 mine/CM/UXO risk education programs for about 1700 elementary school students were conducted in different regions of Croatia. Different radio and TV programs hosted mine action experts thus raising the awareness of civilian population on potential risks from mine/CM/UXO. Risk education along with the precise marking of the mine suspected areas greatly contributed to the reduced number of victims in the last few years. For example, in 2011 we recorded 6 victims, while last year that number was down to 3.

Thank you Mr. Coordinator.