

CCM THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Work Plan 2023-2024

Enhancing implementation of Actions 31-37 of the Lausanne Action Plan

Austria and Panamá

Background/Context for the Work Plan:

As stated in Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), “Each State Party with respect to cluster munition victims in areas under its jurisdiction or control shall, in accordance with applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, adequately provide age- and gender-sensitive assistance, including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as provide for their social and economic inclusion. Each State Party shall make every effort to collect reliable relevant data with respect to cluster munition victims.”. To implement this on a national level, States Parties develop National Action Plans and design Focal Points within their governments.

As of November 2023, twelve States Parties reported to have obligations under Article 5: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Croatia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mauritania, Montenegro, South Sudan and Somalia.

The Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) guides States Parties in the effective implementation of the Convention and elaborates priorities, actions to be undertaken and expected results for the period of 2021 - 2026. In its Actions 31 to 37, the LAP focuses on disaggregated data collection, ensuring alignment with the CRPD and SDGs, developing national action plans and focal points, providing medical care, improving the socio-economic inclusion of victims and strengthening their inclusion and meaningful participation as well as supporting training of victim assistance professionals.

Additionally, this work plan is based on the [Guidance on an Integrated Approach on Victim Assistance](#), developed in 2016. Since its publication, the LAP as well as New International Mine Action Standards (IMAS 13.10) were developed in 2021, also focusing on Victim Assistance.

Objectives

The overarching goal is to provide an updated guidance document for States Parties on an Integrated Approach on Victim Assistance in line with the latest International Mine Action Standards and the LAP.

To do so, the coordinators aim to

- Ensure attention on the topic of Victim Assistance, especially on the Integrated Approach
- Give special attention/create awareness on the psychosocial impacts of the use of cluster munitions
- Gather information on best practices of an Integrated Approach on Victim Assistance
- Facilitate increased exchange of information on resources and good practices among key actors
- Increase coordination, possibilities for exchanges and enhance synergies with other Victim Assistance coordinators and experts in the Ottawa Convention, CCW Protocol V and the CRPD
- Enhance linkages within the CCM with other relevant facilitators such as the Gender Focal Points and the working group on international cooperation and assistance.

- Support the president of the 12th Meeting of States Parties in preparation of, and during the 12MSP.

Activities

As co-coordinators on Victim Assistance, Austria and Panamá will focus their work on

- Meeting with relevant stakeholders and gathering information on the concept of Victim Assistance and current challenges.
- Preparing a guidance document on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance
- Reaching out to States Parties with current obligations under Art. 5 as well as other relevant stakeholders and seeking their views on the draft guidance document
- Organization of side events and/or workshops on victim assistance
- Promoting the Approach on Integrated Victim Assistance among States Parties
- Supporting and assisting the Presidency in preparation of and during the 12MSP
- Supporting other activities in the framework of the 12MSP

Expected output by 12MSP

- An updated guidance document on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance for States Parties
- States Parties are aware of the tools and resources at their disposal
- Synergies have been enhanced within the Convention and with VA actions in other similar Conventions
- Assistance has been provided to the Presidency and Coordination Committee of the 12MSP

Budget, Strategy Implementers and potential implementing partners

- Limited costs to be expected
- As co-coordinators on Victim Assistance, Austria and Panamá will be the strategy implementers
- Potential Implementing Partners include the CCM Implementation Support Unit, the Presidency of 12MSP, the other coordinators in the CCM Coordination Committee, Victim Assistance coordinators in other similar conventions, CCM States Parties and Signatories with relevant obligations, Survivors and their representative organizations, civil society and international NGOs, and Donor/Partner States

Timeline

- Fourth quarter 2023:
 - Meeting with ISU and Presidency to discuss priorities
 - Meeting with relevant stakeholders to assess outline and get technical support
- First quarter 2024
 - Prepare first draft of Updated Guidance
 - Circulate the first draft to relevant stakeholders for their consideration
- Second quarter 2024
 - Meet with relevant stakeholders and seek views on first draft
 - Depending on the comments received, prepare a revised version of the draft and continue informal consultations with relevant stakeholders

- Organize side event/intersessional activity on victim assistance. This can include a meeting among VA coordinators of other conventions to have informal exchanges or consultations with affected States Parties
- Third quarter 2024
 - Present the updated guidance document on Integrated Victim Assistance