

Co-Chairs,
Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates,

Jordan last reported on its victim assistance efforts at the 11th Meeting of the States Parties, therefore we will provide a short update covering the past six month period.

On the 24th of April 2012 Jordan celebrated the International Day for Mine Awareness & Assistance to Mine Action with a big ceremony that marked the completion of its Article 5 obligation...under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Many landmine/ERW survivors attended the event. Mr. Kamil Al-Saadi one of the Jordanian landmine survivors said, "When Jordan signed the Ottawa Treaty in 1998, for us (the survivors) it was a breath-taking achievement. We felt as if our hidden cries were heard. It was a tremendous boost! We felt energized and alive again. Today, it is our victory, today our anger will vanish, our demined lands will smile again, our children will play in safety, and we, shall turn the page."

In addition to this achievement, NCDR has been working hard to meet the most pressing needs for our survivors, which are...comprehensive health care, rehabilitation and social reintegration services. These needs have been pursued in a number of ways...

FIRSTLY: By improving emergency medical care and physical rehabilitation services.

In collaboration with Polus Center for Social & Economic Development (Funded by the DoS-PM/WRA), NCDR established a new prosthetic/orthotic center in the northern part of Jordan. It was furnished with all the necessary equipment and materials, and officially opened on the 17th April 2012. The center will serve more than 450 landmine/ERW survivors and other disabled people, and is naturally in keeping with Jordan's National Disability Strategy.

SECONDLY: By expanding economic and social reintegration opportunities.

During the first half of 2012, 20 survivors received loans in the form of micro-credits that enabled them to start their own income generating projects to improve the quality of their lives. The hope is that a greater number of survivors will also be encouraged in the near future to undertake similar projects.

THIRDLY: By building capacities for VA partner institutions in Jordan.

In this regard, NCDR in collaboration with the Polus Center facilitated 3 training workshops:

- In January 2012 Invacare Corporation provided a (wheelchair fitting and cushioning) training workshop that aimed to seat patients in proper positions to avoid alignments deformities. The workshop took place at the Hashemite Committee for Disable Soldiers, and was attended by 45 participants from all VA partners in Jordan.
- Also in January 2012, a five-day training workshop was provided on orthotics & prosthetics that aimed to teach the O/P technicians the latest trends in the artificial upper and lower limbs fitting. The workshop took place at the Ministry of Health and was attended by 28 participants from all VA partners in Jordan.
- In May 2012, a four-day training workshop was provided on (Ischial Containment Socket design). The workshop took place at the National Amputee Center (Royal Medical Services), and was attended by 35 participants from all VA partners in Jordan.

In addition, Jordan's victims' assistance and disability sector is receiving continued support from Montmorency College in Canada, which aims to increase the capacity of VA partner institutions in the region. This year

Jordan will also be welcoming four young professionals through an internship program to work with VA partner organizations, as well as the Ministry of Health, Higher Council for Affairs of Persons with Disabilities, and the National Amputee Center. They will offer their expertise in the areas of social work, orthotic and prosthetic techniques, and in physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

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Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite this progress, NCDR feels that more should be done. We hope that with the continued support of States Parties and the international community, we will be able to achieve greater outcomes that reflect our responsibilities toward supporting landmine and ERW survivors.

Finally, on behalf of Jordan and Jordan's landmine survivors, I would like to thank all donors, and partners, and in particular the Implementation Support Unit for the continued support, dedication and devotion to victim assistance.

Thank you.