

From your expertise, what are the challenges faced by children who are victims?

In regards of access to appropriate physical rehabilitation services and apart of the barriers and challenges faced by all those in need of these services (lack of service providers, lack of professionals, lack of funding mechanisms to access services, etc), children faces additional challenges when try to access services.

First, children with physical disabilities (and with all form of disabilities) are often hided in many communities and for that reasons are sometime difficult to reach. In addition, children cannot access services without being accompanied by one of the parents (most often the mother). Another issues, is the need to implemented a closer follow-up of children who have received assistive devices, as they need to have their devices replaced more frequently than adults. Appropriate products (wheelchairs, prosthetics and orthotics components) also need to be available.

In regards of social and economic integration, we are more looking for access to education for the child and support to its family enabling then to face additional financial costs.

What measures and solutions as well as good practices would you propose to address the right and needs of child victims in an effective way?

When promoting access to appropriate physical rehabilitation services (and for other services within the VA pillars), it is important to ensure that not only support is provided to children to access services (i.e. transport, accommodation, etc.), but also to family members who are accompanied the child. Services providers do have to be able to answer the specific needs of children by having in stock products adapted to children needs and have to implement a follow-up system ensuring that children are seen on regular basis (both at service providers level and in their communities).

Socio and economic integration activities should aimed at ensuring children have access to appropriate education by ensuring accessibility of training facilities, by training teachers on the needs of children of disabilities, and by providing children with necessary equipment allowing them to follow class.

In addition, it is important to raise awareness (for family and decision makers) on the importance for the future of the children to receive appropriate services.

What role would you see for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and related international instruments to play in this context?

Through the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and related international instruments advocacy on the importance to ensure that children have access to appropriate rehabilitation services and to appropriate education should be highlighted. In addition, the need to support both the child and the family should also be highlighted.