

JORDAN



Intersessional Meetings of the Standing Committees

Geneva, 2-6 June 2008

Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration

Agenda Item: Update on Jordan's Progress in Improving the Status of Victim Assistance.

COMMENTS BY

Jordan Delegation

Distinguished Co Chairs,

Thank you for giving Jordan the opportunity to share with you the progress made toward improving the status of victim assistance in the Kingdom. Jordan has made a number of important developments recently that aim to improve the quality of care and assistance received by landmine survivors, as well as persons with disabilities in general in the Kingdom. I would like to provide a brief update on the latest developments affecting the status of landmine survivors in Jordan today.

Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) has recently completed compilation of a National Victims Database, which combines data on Jordanian landmine victims gathered from its local partners, including the Royal Medical Services, the Royal Engineering Corps, Jordan Red Crescent, the Hashemite Charitable Society for Soldiers with Special Needs and Landmine Survivors Network-Jordan.

To develop the Database further, NCDR's SVA department is presently carrying out visits to landmine survivors to gather further information on the nature of their accidents, injuries and needs. This data, which is also being entered into the IMSMA system, will help Jordan to plan and develop SVA programs as well as mobilize resources.

According to the National Victim Database, there have been 755 **reported** accidents (640 survivors, 115 fatalities) between 1948 and 2007. [We believe however that the actual number of landmine victims, including the un-reported cases, could be as high as 1,000].

Last year the National Center for Amputee Rehabilitation, which was built using funds solicited by NCDR, opened for business. Since then the NCDR has helped to equip and furnish the center, assisting it in becoming fully operational. NCDR also helped the Hashemite Charitable Society for Soldiers with Special Needs to purchase equipment and vehicles that will facilitate victim rehabilitation and helped the Society to expand its facilities and services.

LSN-Jordan, which has been very active in providing landmine survivors with social support, peer counseling and many other programs, will soon be transforming into another organization due to the changes that have occurred to LSN Worldwide during the last year. The new Jordanian based organization will continue to carry out the work with all the determination and tireless efforts they have demonstrated to date to assist landmine survivors in Jordan, and NCDR will continue to work hand-in-hand with them on all our SVA programs.

The Hashemite Charitable Society for Soldiers with Special Needs also has a new name, following its endorsement in April 2008, as a national authority for the care of disabled soldiers. The newly named Hashemite Commission for Disabled Soldiers has a strong cooperative relationship with NCDR, [particularly as H.R.H. Prince Mired Al Hussein also serves as Chairman of the organization.] With this recent development we foresee that the services provided to disabled soldiers will greatly improve resulting in a larger number of landmine survivors receiving better care.

Other major developments in Jordan affect not only landmine survivors but all persons with disabilities. One of these is Jordan's ratification of the UN Convention on Persons with Disabilities on the 31st of March 2008. With this in mind, last year Jordan revised its national disability legislation. Jordan's law number 31 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities came into effect in 2007. Jordan also recently drafted a National Disability Strategy.

In order to oversee all these developments, the "Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities" was established in 2007. Its responsibilities include following up the implementation of the National Disability Strategy; drawing-up and executing policies to enhance living conditions of PWD and facilitate their integration in the community; formulating a comprehensive national awareness and prevention plan to reduce occurrence of disabilities; setting quality standards for programs and services offered for persons with disabilities; and realizing the objectives of the international agreements and charters which Jordan endorsed. Its vision is to work with all the concerned institutions for a Jordanian society in which people with disabilities have access to health, education, rehabilitation, training and services facilitating equal employment opportunities and full inclusion in public life.

Distinguished Co Chairs,

Jordan is working hard to improve the situation of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities in Jordan. We have put into place national