

Measuring National and Global Needs and Capacities in Victim Assistance: Progress and Challenges

Standing Committee on Victim Assistance, Socio-Economic Reintegration and Mine Awareness

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Research Objectives: Two perspectives for measuring VA over time

- 1. MONITORING NEEDS** in mine affected countries and **IMPACT** of VA:
 - How many people are killed or injured ?
 - What are the existing services that Victims have access to? What needs are being met ?
 - What is the capacity of a country to mobilise its resources to address unmet needs?
 - How are they changing over time?

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Research Objectives: Two perspectives for measuring VA over time

2. TRACKING FUNDING:

- Evaluating donor activity: how much are States contributing to VA; and where?
- Evaluating programs implementing VA in mine affected countries – IOs, NGOs, State development Agencies.

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Challenges with researching Victim Assistance on a global or national level

- **Several sources of data collection exist producing different types of data:**
- National health authorities / IMSMA – mine incidents reports
- Medical, rehabilitation and social service providers reports
- Specific ad hoc surveys (on programmes, institutions, beneficiaries, communities)
- + secondary sources : media, IOs and NGOs reports, Landmine monitor...

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General problems with researching Victim Assistance on a global or national level

- **Difficulty in gathering raw data in a systematic way in mine affected countries**
 - **Some data does not exist**
 - **Unreliability of data that does exist:**
 - **biased sources**
 - **biased methodology: data often reflects specific programmatic priorities for which it was collected**
- **Therefore comparison over time difficult**
→ **cross country comparisons not possible**

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ASSESSING NEEDS: Developing research tools.

- **Different approaches possible**
- **LSN/HI/DFAIT**

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LSN: States most challenged to provide VA

Evaluating the Context with a focus on economic development:

- What are the country's needs?
- What is the country's capacity to fulfil that need?
 - Measured by:
 - Ability
 - Will

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LSN: States most challenged to provide VA

- What are the country's needs?
 - Measured by:
 - # Survivors
 - Proportion of survivors to population

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LSN: States most challenged to provide VA

WHAT IS THE COUNTRY'S CAPACITY TO FULFILL THE NEED?

- Ability of state to mobilise existing resources and to better utilise new resources for victim assistance.
 - Indicators:
 - govt spending on education and health
 - Literacy level
 - Military spending
 - Debt service
 - Level of income inequality
- 1/24/2005 ● Human Development Index

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LSN: States most challenged to provide VA

WHAT IS THE COUNTRY'S CAPACITY TO FULFILL THE NEED?

- Will of the state to provide for victim assistance even when resources do not exist.
 - Indicators:
 - State has ratified MBT
 - State has passed legislation and set up mechanisms protecting the rights of the disabled.
 - State has signed covenants on universal economic, social, political rights.
- 1/24/2005 ● State is not engaged in violent conflict

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LSN: States most challenged to provide VA

- Quantitative analysis
- Indicators can be scored; criteria can be weighted
- Ability to evaluate country's capacity based on many different commonly available secondary data
- Very general, looking at overall context only
- Highlights needs in low income countries engaged in armed conflict

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HI Monitoring System

Includes:

1. Countries affected by landmines
2. Countries not affected by landmines but nationals hit abroad
3. Countries funding VA

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HI Monitoring System

For evaluating countries affected by landmines and for countries whose nationals were hit abroad data is collected on:

- Victims
- Socio economic capacities (HDI), health performance (WHO)
- Existing services (all components of VA) and access (geographical and financial)
- Disability policy and practice

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HI Monitoring System

For evaluating countries funding Victim Assistance:

1. MBT status
2. Resources devoted to VA:
 - relative to GDP and population
 - 1. Resources devoted to VA relative to overseas development assistance
3. Recipient countries
4. Institutions channelling funds

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HI Monitoring System

- Quantitative analysis
- Indicators consistent with Public Health approach; criteria consistent with the MBT
- Covers all categories of countries
- Highlights needs and capacities in all the countries affected
- Highlights efforts made by donors
- Annual report

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DFAIT : Looking for priorities on VA

- **Qualitative criteria for categorising/countries**
- Is the landmine problem:
 - Geographically widespread?
 - Causing casualties on a regular basis?
 - Requiring up to a decade of action for clearance?
- These are high priority countries

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DFAIT : Looking for priorities on VA

1. Extent to which info on mine victim's demographics and needs are available
2. Extent to which programs and services exist:
 - for socio-economic reintegration
 - for medical care and rehab
3. Extent to which mine victims are protected by laws
4. Extent to which there are disability mechanisms:
 1. In the form of community advocacy networks
 2. In the form of national disability co-ordination bodies

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DFAIT: looking for priorities on VA

- Qualitative criteria : methodology for categorising countries not based on quantitative indicators
- Only states that are mine affected are scrutinised
- Analysis based on textual and statistical secondary research
- Looking for priorities

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Researching Victim Assistance on a global or national level: **What is common to all approaches?**

1. Status with regard to MBT
2. Need for VA determined by number of landmine victims and proportion of victims to total population
3. Capacity and ability of countries to provide for VA takes into account level of govt expenditures on national health and other social welfare services
4. Existence of disability laws and mechanisms recognising and addressing needs of disabled.

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Tracking Victim Assistance needs and impact over time: **Final comments**

To give the full picture:

There is a need for:

1. Evaluating VA in affected countries
2. Evaluating donors
3. Evaluating programs (efficiency, quality)

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Evaluating VA in affected countries

- National surveillance capacities
- VA providers data collection capacities

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Evaluating donors

- Mine Investment Database – self reporting mechanism for all aspects of Mine Action, including VA -- UNMAS
- “Form J” – template for states to voluntarily report on compliance to VA obligation of MBT.
- Appointment of Focal Points: increase transparency of state actions promoting VA
- More should be done to develop research tools to assess the funding situation

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Evaluating programs

- There are no tools that permit systematic evaluations of all programs that include VA on a global level
- There are evaluations done for specific programs in specific countries, often initiated by VA providers or donors.

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