



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration

Meeting of States Parties to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention

18 – 21 December 2017

Vienna, Austria

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored and privileged to present the achievements and challenges of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan regarding Victim Assistance.

Afghanistan heavily relies on agriculture and manual labor, and hence the hardship that comes with the loss of a limb is devastating. When limbs are torn, the victim's future is bleak. My country is committed to supporting, empowering and advocating for these mine and ERW victims and other persons with disabilities. The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled is the champion for persons with disabilities within Afghan government.

Some of their recent achievements include amendment of the law for persons with disabilities and barrier-free access for ministry premises. The complete amendment of the Law on the Rights and Benefits of Persons with Disabilities has been initiated to comply with the international human rights obligations.

In the Afghanistan mine action programme, a hotline number was established to allow individuals and communities to report mines and ERW accidents and hazards in need of clearance directly to the national mine action programme. The hotline number was also used by a nationwide victim assistance project for data collection purposes; this data is used to provide direct assistance package to civilians directly impacted by armed clashes which take place. Awareness of the hotline number has been raised through SMS messages, TV advertisements and hotline information cards distributed in communities.

In Afghanistan, the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination has supported the government in establishing a database to collect and store information on services provided to families of victims of conflict and people with disabilities. The database will allow the government and other stakeholders to analyze and share and report information on available services and gaps, which will allow better planning and coordination and strengthen the referral network. This will also enable us to improve our treaty reporting on victim assistance.

We have also designed a project to provide first aid and trauma management through Community Health Workers in 1,600 mine impacted communities. The Health Workers will be trained in first aid and will receive trauma kits; they will also simultaneously collect data on victims for reporting to the national victim database run by DMAC.

In Afghanistan, the government has established four mobile rehabilitation workshops in rural areas. The “mobile clinics” provide physical rehabilitation services, collect victim data for entry into a national database and spread awareness on disability rights and services. The clinics work by liaising with district health clinics, who leverage networks of community health workers to alert community members that the mobile clinic will be arriving in their area.

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the generous donors that have supported the victim assistance activities in Afghanistan. The assistance has helped improve the lives of mine and ERW victims and other persons with disabilities.

Thank you.