

Madame President
Dear Colleagues,
Zeljko and I
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

ASSISTING LAND MINE SURVIVORS

Action plan for assisting land mine survivors in Serbia and Montenegro was presented in May 2006. Ever since than nothing significant was changed and the mentioned plan of action will continue in Serbia. New information about assisting land mine survivors during the past four months are the following:

1. Ministry of Health has adopted a new Set of Rules on medical and technical devices, which are covered from Republic Health Insurance Institute.
2. Institute of Prosthetics started cooperation with Distance Learning School, with the approval from The Ministry of Health, in order to found the School for Prosthetics and Orthotics. The studying course would last for 2.5 years, which consists of five educational modules to cover important areas in the field of orthotics and prosthetics. The cover modules were designed in accordance with the requirements for ISPO category II recognized on a worldwide basis.
3. Association of land mine survivors "Goodwill" which consist of expelled people and refugees is planning to begin the pilot project "The needs of land mine survivors in Serbia". The goal of this project is to improve the quality of life of their members and other war victims.
4. Currently new legislation is being prepared for persons with disabilities and all of the ministries departments are involved.

The Set of Rules is obligatory for all persons with disabilities covered by the Republic Health Insurance Institute. The main quality is that it sets up a new way of working practice trying to implement the control of the quality in practice. Through the specially design forms it controls the doctors prescriptions of the aids. Further it controls the quality of production of aids in two ways. First, through the obligation that every technician has to issue for aid, written guarantee of quality. Second, through regular check ups of achieved functional level of rehabilitation in local branch of Republic Health Insurance Institute.

All the data gather from the forms are processed and stored in Republic Health Insurance Institute. So, on the basis of this data an accurate evaluation of number and type of disabilities, level of services and other will be possible until the end of 2008.

The disadvantage of this Set of the Rules is a large administration, which makes it difficult for persons with disables to fulfill their wrights in an

easy manner. Due to this everything is in the process of reevaluation, in order to simplify the whole procedure.

As I've mention in Zagreb, the most frequent land mine survivor is a young, unemployed man with disabilities and with a need for a high functional aid.

During the past period Serbia has suffered from the economic crisis and increasing level of poverty. This resulted in lack of funds for establishing a school for prostheticians and orthotists. However about 25 years ago that kind of school existed in Belgrade. Presently neither of the neighboring countries has this kind of school that would produce licensed technicians and be recognized worldwide.

Why is it necessary?

Because the high quality of orthopedic aid doesn't mean only high quality of components and materials, but also a licensed technicians.

Weather this can be solved through mobile teams?

This is efficient solution for short term emergency situations, it is not sufficient enough as long term solution.

The high functional level usage of aid means frequent malfunction. That need quick and quality repair in order to prevent this to cause sick leave, or prevent the person with disabilities to be self-sufficient in activity of daily living.

That is way is a licensed workshop necessary in every area.

The "Goodwill" will start the pilot project "The needs of land mine survivors in Serbia" making data base. The questionnaires have already been made. On its basis they plan to gather data for about one thousand land mine survivors in one year period. They are also planning to restart the issuing of the magazine that would help the land mine survivors and war victims to be better informed about their wrights.

I would like to point out that for the foundation of the school and the realization of the project seeking funds are necessary.

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