

Eight Meeting of the States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Jordan – Dead Sea, 18-22 November 2007



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 11. (D) CONSIDERATION OF THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION – ASSISTING THE VICTIMS

Healthcare system has been developed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and financed mostly through entities funding of health insurance, and as such can satisfy basic requirements of landmine survivors.

This healthcare system is available for all disabled persons, including mine victims. Present healthcare institutional structure include 60 centers for physical rehabilitation, 60 centers for mental rehabilitation as well as orthopedic centers through whole Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has on its disposal sufficient number of professional staff and adequate equipment, but an additional education of the staff abroad is one of the priorities.

Network of prosthetic centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been reliably organized, with standard required quality of manufactured orthopedic aids. All mine victims benefit legal rights implemented through several legal instruments regarding rights of this population category.

National centers for social assistance are located in each municipality and at local level and they can provide assistance to mine victims. Their capacities for assistance are limited due to overall economic situation in the country.

The project of improvement and revision of mine victim's database is in state of implementation. This project has been launched in order to ensure realization of country long-standing goal to create conditions for total integration of landmine survivors in social and economic environment. Aim of the project is to make mine victims data accessible to all partners engaged in assistance program and at the same time to provide information to mine victims themselves about ongoing projects. Project realization is expected until the end of 2009.

Improvements in overall coordination between governmental, non-governmental and international donor community regarding a number of projects, contributes to better accessibility, quality and effectiveness of health and social services as well as of services that enable employment or reintegration of mine victims.

In addition, comprehensive program of assistance, including medical, social and other professional assistance aimed to improve effectiveness of coordination system of ongoing activities of all organizations engaged in mine victims' assistance has been prepared. Intensive works on gathering required information regarding respective organizations and their victim assistance projects is in progress.

In addition, there are activities in progress to map institutions that can assist landmine survivors in domain of medical, social and legal services. Upon realization of these projects, victims will get access to all necessary information concerning their rights at one place, as well as information about organizations currently engaged in mine victims' assistance program.

Bosnia and Herzegovina continues with professional education and qualified trainings of mine victims, as well as with continuous work on changing attitudes towards persons with disabilities.

Using a joint effort of entity ministries, BHMIC, NGO sector and final beneficiaries, revision and drafting of new mine victims strategy paper is also in process. It can be expected that implementation of this strategy in near future will achieve equalization of the rights of all mine victims in domain of social help and healthcare as well as their other rights, throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In accordance to current entity laws, required assistance have been ensured to mine victims in domain of social and medical assistance, but this system should be further strengthened and developed.

Rights of persons with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina with reference to all victims, including mine victims, are realized through different legislative bases, applying number of legal regulations. Draft of New Mine Action Strategy for the period beyond 2009 defines, as one of priorities, activities on Law revision to improve legal framework and ensure better quality of the life to all persons with disabilities including mine victims.

Also high unemployment rate in Bosnia and Herzegovina in general, directly affects the process of reintegration of mine victims into society. Up to date, Bosnia and Herzegovina

received significant support throughout numerous mine victim assistance projects implemented by non-governmental sector. It can be expected that situation on this field will be improved in near future through implementation of new strategy plan.

We would like to use this opportunity to emphasize some of the strategic and operational goals we are focusing on, during the process of preparation of the new mine action strategy for period beyond 2009, and these are:

- Ensuring conditions for comprehensive reintegration of mine victims in community, through comprehensive assistance program including medical, social and other relevant services.*
- Providing support to development of sustainable medical and social assistance system, as well as to the activities on reintegration and employment of mine victims using projects of governmental, non-governmental and other organizations operating in this domain.*
- Further improvement of horizontal and vertical coordination with partners from governmental and no-governmental sectors, with aim to improve efficiency of mine victims' assistance activities.*
- Ensuring conditions for maintenance of stable information system for mine victims and make it available to all partners operating in this domain.*
- Providing support and ensuring realization of strategic and operational goals of mine victim assistance as part of Bosnia and Herzegovina overall mine action strategic plan.*
- Adjustment of existing and development of new laws that will regulate mine victims' assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

Significant gratitude Bosnia and Herzegovina has towards its donors that still contribute and support mine action activities. Therefore, we would like to express our gratitude to USA, Austria, Switzerland, Japan, International Trust Fund, and all national and international NGOs involved in mine victims assistance projects in our country, and many others for their continuing and generous assistance.

Thank you,