



9th Meeting of States Parties
Geneva, 24 – 28 November 2008

Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration

*Agenda Item: Consideration of the general status and operation of the
Convention (d) Assisting the Victims*

COMMENTS BY

Jordan Delegation

Distinguished Co-Chairs,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

We are honored to have this opportunity to present on the status of landmine survivors and services related to victim assistance and socioeconomic reintegration. The National Committee on Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) is currently working, in collaboration with the ISU, on launching a full report on the status of Victim Assistance in Jordan. NCDR is also currently hosting a technical advisor on victim assistance and mine risk education to support these programs .

This intervention will focus on developments between June and November 2008. We would also like to highlight, based on our experience, examples of how national legal and policy frameworks are effectively addressing the needs and fundamental human rights of mine victims and other persons with disabilities in Jordan.

Jordan has been a leading actor drafting, signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). As soon as the CRPD text was adopted, a Royal Decree was issued forming a Royal Committee mandated to develop the National Strategy on Disability which was adopted in 2007 and runs until 2015. State funds have been allocated to implement the Strategy which aims at mainstreaming disability in all relevant ministries within the Kingdom. The first outcome of the Strategy was replacing the 1993 Disability Welfare Law with the Law on Rights of Persons with Disabilities 31/2007. The Law allows for the establishment of the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities. The Higher Council is the

government coordination mechanism mandated to implement the CRPD in compliance with article 33.1.

As the focal point for policy development, the Higher Council monitors the implementation of the National Strategy, develops accreditation standards of services, provides training and capacity building, and provides advocacy and networking services. The Council also supports the cost of rehabilitation, and education services for persons with disabilities living in poverty and supports the development of disability programs in rural areas.

This month, A Jordanian representative, Mohammad Al Tarawneh, has been nominated as a member of the International Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which is mandated to monitor the implementation of the CRPD on the international level. Additionally, and in compliance with article 33.2 of the CRPD, Jordan is currently in the process of establishing an independent national monitoring committee National Centre for Human Rights which is an accredited national human rights institution.

Distinguished Delegates,

Policy developments such as the development of the National Disability Strategy, the newly enacted Disability Rights Law, the CRPD, and the Higher Council on the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities will, with no doubt, have a positive effect on persons with disabilities in general and landmine and UXO survivors in particular. The NCDR is currently discussing with the Council ways to coordinate efforts with the aim of integrating victim assistance policies with national policies and plans

ensuring the sustainability of programming and the integration of landmine survivors in Jordan.

Distinguished Delegates,

The National Victims Database, which we have unified and updated, indicates that there are 790 *reported* accidents (675 survivors, 115 fatalities) between 1948 and 2008. Due to fact that many of the accidents occur on the border and may go unreported, the total number of casualties is *estimated* to be as high as 1,000. This year we have had 18 new victims (13 UXO and 5 Landmine Survivors).

In addition to visits to survivors conducted by our NGO partners, and as reported in June this year, the NCDR conducted home visits to 270 survivors. With the support of UNICEF we are planning to introduce Epi info and the NCDR Victims Assistance Officer has attended a training in the USA for that purpose.

As we reported in June, the National Rehabilitation Center for Amputees (NRCA) was officially inaugurated and has served 2,400 military and civilian patients. Moreover, the transformation of Hashemite Charitable Society for Soldiers with Special Needs into the Hashemite Commission for Disabled Soldiers allows for annual state allocations and ensures the sustainability of programmes related to disabilities. We would like to thank South Korea for their kind support in providing vehicles to the Commission.

With regard to improving the quality of rehabilitation services, it is important to note the 2 year ISPO Cat. II training course which was established by The Rehabilitation Science College at University of Jordan has graduated the first class of students, and

another 10 students are expected to graduate in 2008. Students with high grades who choose to continue their education can undertake the Bachelor's degree course in prosthetics and orthotics at the same University. As part of a regional initiative, Canada is also supporting the capacity building efforts of the Royal Medical Services and the Ministry of Health. The 18 months project aims to train doctors and technicians on improving standards of rehabilitation services.

In the area of economic inclusion, we acknowledge NGO efforts in providing vocational training and financial assistance to set up small businesses in collaboration with micro credit organizations. We realize that the area of economic reintegration is the area where survivors have had the least support and will work on developing this area further in the future.

Distinguished Delegates,

Jordan has always endorsed the humanitarian value of this Convention and we maintained our commitment to the integration of hundreds of survivors living in the Kingdom. As we are approaching the review conference in 2009, it is important to recognize that the experience accumulated in implementing article 6.3 of the APMBC will be important as we are beginning to implement the CRPD. Both treaties will no doubt complement each other. We are proud of where we have come so far, but believe that there is still a lot of work to be done. Jordan now possesses many tools to achieve the aim of article 6.3 of the APMBC allowing for the full integration of survivors.

I thank you for your kind attention.