
**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE STATE PARTIES THAT HAVE KEPT RECORD
OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING A CONSIDERATE AMOUNT OF
ANTI PERSONAL OR UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE VICTIMS**

**Ninth Meeting of the State Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction**

November 24 through 28 of 2008

1. Could you provide specific examples of data collection methods that may supply detailed information on the number, location and needs of the antipersonnel mines and unexploded ordnance victims and which may support the needs of those who design programs and move resources for the benefit of these people?

a. Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)

The *Information Management System for Mine Action* (IMSMA, for its acronym in Spanish), developed by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), is an important tool for the collection, processing and analysis of information related to Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA, for its acronym in Spanish) in Colombia. For this reason the IMSMA has consolidated as an instrument of support for the making of public decisions and design of mine-related actions.

As part of its efforts to consolidate a solid, reliable and appropriate Information System, the Presidential Program for the Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (PAICMA, for its acronym in Spanish) has implemented version 5.02 of the IMSMA. This process has required the adjustment of certain variables in such a way as to respond to national reality. A system with such characteristics would allow the strengthening of efforts aimed to meet the

victims' needs and to maximize the impact of the interventions related to the AICMA in Colombia.

Additionally, the Presidential Program, consistent with its role as coordinator and articulator of the actions undertaken national wide in regards to the fight against Antipersonnel Mines, has established strategic alliances with the operators, allowing a better flow of information between the two parties. These alliances have made it possible to have a permanent exchange of information between the PAICMA and the organizations working in the AICMA in Colombia, allowing the parties to have a more complete and precise information on the status of assistance to the victims. The Presidential Program has signed agreements with: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Organization of American States (OAS), Handicap International, the Mi Sangre Foundation, the Integral Rehabilitation Centre of Colombia (CIREC, for its acronym in Spanish), the Colombian Campaign against Mines (CCCM, for its acronym in Spanish) and Antioquia's Governor's Office.

The information supplied by these organizations and other sources is submitted to verification processes, aiming to avoid duplicity in the registry and to make up for the shortcomings.

Likewise, it should be taken into consideration that the IMSMA has tools that allow the georeferentiation of activities related to Antipersonnel Mines, in such a way as to facilitate the identification of particular affected geographic zones.

On the other hand, the PAICMA has been looking for a link and interoperability of the IMSMA with other systems of information on violence, in such a way as to achieve different diagnosis on the situation of affectation that considers other variables that support or hamper the effectiveness of the interventions related to comprehensive action against mines.

b. Information collection tools

The PAICMA uses the following tools for the collection of relevant information related to assistance of victims:

- Record and Monitoring of Antipersonnel Mines (AP) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Victims' Form
- Location and Tracking Down of Antipersonnel Mines Events' Form
- Monitoring and Follow-up of Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines' (AICMA) Form
- Socioeconomic Characterization Form

Some of these tools have also been subject to changes and adjustments, as the previous versions did not supply the PAICMA with the required information. This is the case of the Record and Monitoring of AP and UXO Victims' Form, which has an improved version. This new version must reflect the status of the fulfilling of the Comprehensive Assistance Route for each one of the Antipersonnel Mines and unexploded ordnance victims. Overall it is important to point out that these collection tools must be flexible instruments, adaptable to the country's reality.

c. Victims' Meetings

The Antipersonnel Mines and Unexploded Ordnance Victims' Meetings allow the seizure and verification of information related to the accident (including its approximate location) and the living conditions of the affected people. However, it is worth noting that these Meetings are a comprehensive strategy aiming to satisfy other needs related to Comprehensive Action against Mines. Some of its main objectives are: to identify the realities associated to the situation of affectation of each one of the administrative departments affected; to describe the victims, including the definition of their specific needs; to promote spaces for physical and mental health, guidance and assistance on access and claiming of Rights; to provide spaces for mutual recognition between victims that allows them to generate association processes; and, finally, to establish communication channels between the victims and the Government's agencies, the Non-Governmental Organizations and the Private Sector.

In this sense, it is worth pointing out the satisfactory results of the Victims' Meeting that took place in the Department of Santander in October of 2008. This Meeting was promoted and organized by the Presidential Program for the Comprehensive Action against Mines, with the support of the department and local authorities. 105 victims attended this Meeting, and were assisted by a team of professionals of 12 different specialties in the areas of physical and mental health. Additionally, 20 public, non-governmental and private institutions also participated in this event. Currently the challenge is the systematization of the information collected during the Meeting and giving an answer to the identified necessities.

The Presidential Program has planned another Victims' Meeting for the end of year 2008 in order to gather the Antipersonnel Mines and unexploded ordnance affected population of the municipalities of Samaniego, La Llanada, Santa Cruz de Guachavez, Providencia and Policarpa. There will be a Pre Meeting before the organization of the event, where the medical evaluation of the victims will be performed. This information will be the main input for the Meeting, which is planned for December 12, 13 and 14 of this year.

d. Other associated developments

- In turn, the Ministry of Social Protection is working on the record and tracking of all disabled people in Colombia. 73% of the country's municipalities have been censused to date. The objective of this process is to make progress on the fulfilment of Decree 3990 of 2007, which establishes the need to supply the victims with prosthesis and orthosis.
- Additionally, the PAICMA has called for international cooperation, in order to request back up for the activation of an immediate response team of Assistance to AP and UXO Victims, the training of professionals in psychosocial assistance to the victims and the performance of department meetings for AP and UXO victims.
- The new PAICMA Web page (www.accioncontraminas.gov.co) has been working since October of 2008 in order to position itself as a communication channel of the action against Antipersonnel Mines' progress.

2. Could you supply specific examples of progress on the improvement of access to trauma assistance services?

a. Strengthening of the Health Assistance Services Quality Guarantee System

Since 2000 the Colombian government started the “*Evaluation and Strengthening of the **Health Assistance Services Quality Guarantee System***”, aiming to “*guarantee an excellent quality of the services [rendered] to the entire population covered by the social security system on a short term, leading to the high level of satisfaction of the users [and] to impulse the development of the quality culture in the sector*”.

As a result of this initiative:

- The basic requirements for the regulation of the operation of Health Services Institutions have been reviewed
- The Accreditation Systems of the Health Services Companies (EPS, for its acronym in Spanish), the Health Services Institutions (IPS, for its acronym in Spanish) and the Users' Information System
- A model of a Health Services Quality Audit has been defined
- Strategies have been explored on the micro management level in order to strengthen the institutions' response capacity in the face of quality incentives.

The Comprehensive Rehabilitation concept was recently adopted for the creation of Comprehensive Rehabilitation of the AP and UXO Victims' Standards. This concept foresees that both the Rehabilitation Health Services Institutions (IPS, for its acronym in Spanish) and other rehabilitation institutions that are not part of the Health Sector will render their services under the concept of integrality. This implies the strengthening of the institutions that coordinate or facilitate the access to services from other institutions, professionals or sectors in order to ensure the continuity and integrality of the rehabilitation.

b. Training of professionals from Health Services Institutions

In order to increase the guarantee of comprehensive assistance to civilian victims of AP and UXO, the Presidential Program for the Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines has been promoting training methods for the professionals from Health Services Institutions (IPS). These training processes have allowed the clearing up of the existing claiming mechanisms before the Solidarity and guaranteeing Fund – FOSYGA, for its acronym in Spanish, as well as the guarantee of the rendering of services that the victims are entitled to. As of 2008, employees from the IPS of 30 of the country's Departments have been trained. Additionally, and in some of these sessions, the participants have been taught about the Comprehensive Assistance Route to AP and UXO Victims. This was done so that these professionals, who have an important role in the fulfilment of the Route, are clear on the rights therein contained. This job should provide the affected people with a more appropriate access to the required services.

In association to the claims to the FOSYGA, the Ministry of Social Protection is working on training sessions on a department level, in an effort to reach the entire country. This is the only way that all the IPS of the country will be able to acquire the necessary knowledge regarding the national authority's requirements to be reimbursed for the corresponding services rendered. The PAICMA has established a strategic alliance with this Ministry in order to include the matter of the Comprehensive Assistance Route to AP or UXO Victims in all the training sessions scheduled. This initiative should allow the diffusion and acknowledgement of the victims' rights by said institutions.

c. Training of department and local authorities

At the same time, the department and local authorities have been trained on the Comprehensive Assistance Route to civilian Victims. These training sessions are part of the Strategy of Territorial Management, designed and implemented by the Presidential Program for the Comprehensive Action against Mines. The Strategy of Territorial Management aims to create and consolidate the capacity of the department and municipalities' authorities to face the problem of Antipersonnel Mines and Unexploded Ordnance in their own territories. Likewise, it hopes to consolidate the processes of planning, management and coordination of actions, as well as follow-up and impact measuring of the same. In 2008 the Comprehensive Action against Mines was effectively included in the 2008-2011 Development Plans for the 12 departments prioritized by the PAICMA in the country. Additionally, the Department Committees of Action against Mines were reactivated.

3. Could you supply specific examples of progress on the improvement of access to rehabilitation services?

a. Accreditation in Quality Guarantee

The *Manual of Standards for the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Services Institutions* is framed in the conceptual and instrumental guidelines of the *Quality Guarantee Accreditation System*. Now then, the requirements demanded of the health services suppliers in the rehabilitation area in order to be granted said accreditation are the following:

- To render the quality services in agreement with the policies and guidelines established by the territorial management entities
- To promote the rights and duties of the handicapped population in the services rendered
- To elaborate the comprehensive conditioning and rehabilitation plans
- To encourage the participation of users in handicapped situations and their families in the development of intervention plans
- To ensure the interdisciplinary and inter-ministerial approach of the assistance
- To be part of the territorial support network

b. Cooperation project developed with the support of Japan

On the other hand, continuity has been given to the project developed with the support of the *Japan International Cooperation Agency* (JICA), otherwise known as “Strengthening of the comprehensive rehabilitation system for handicapped people, particularly victims of accidents with Antipersonnel Mines and unexploded ordnance in Colombia”.

The creation of this project began in 2006. National authorities and from the departments of Antioquia and Valle del Cauca participated in the design, as well as Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) and Health Services Institutions present in these regions. The project was made formal in February of 2008 and will be executed along the next four years (2008-2012). Its objective is to strengthen the comprehensive rehabilitation system for people with disabilities, particularly the victims of Antipersonnel Mines. Aside from this, the project looks to improve the quality of the rehabilitation services through the strengthening of the professionals in charge of providing such services, and of the appropriate entity networks in the mentioned departments.

With the project, the following results are expected:

- The strengthening of the investment capacity by the functional rehabilitation professionals at the IPS (levels I, II and III)
- Formulation of protocols and clinical guidelines for rehabilitation professionals
- Heighten the AP/UXO victims’ access to rehabilitation services
- Diffusion of necessary first aid knowledge to mitigate posterior affection and prevent secondary disability at the regions subject matter of the project

The past month of August of 2008 saw the beginning of the project. Ever since then the planning phase is being developed, resulting on the construction of the *Action Plans* and the *Operative Plans* corresponding to the 4 years of execution of the project. At the same time, these months have seen the definition of the country’s needs for training. These needs must be satisfied with the support of Japan and Chile, States involved in the designing and implementation of the project.

The construction of said plans and the definition of training needs have happened within the framework of workshops with the participation of the parties responsible for the project. These institutions are part of the health services network of the departments of Antioquia and Valle del Cauca. More specifically, there is talk of two level III hospitals (Hospital Universitario del Valle and Hospital Universitario San Vicente de Paúl), the rehabilitation institutions of Alas de Nuevo (Antioquia) and the Ideal Foundation (Valle del Cauca), and the territorial health authorities (Secretariat of Health of Antioquia, and Secretariat of Health of Valle del Cauca). The PAICMA took on the responsibility of the coordination of the project, with the support of the Ministry of Social Protection as technical advisor.

In addition to what was previously mentioned, two projects have been submitted to the Japanese Government for their consideration. The first of them, which is aimed towards the provision of state-of-the-art technology to the Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine units of the *Alas de Nuevo and Hospital Universitario San Vicente de Paúl* institutions, is currently under evaluation by the Japanese authorities. The second project, aimed towards the construction of the Orthosis and Prosthetics Workshop of the *Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Unit* of the *Hospital Universitario de Santander*, is considerably advanced. The opening of said workshop took place in the month of November of 2008, and is set to benefit the AP and UXO victims of the departments of Santander, south of Bolívar, and south of El Cesar. These people will have a comprehensive rehabilitation process that includes the construction and adaptation of prosthesis in the same institution.

c. Cooperation project developed with the support of the European Union

Another one of the ongoing projects is the *Assistance to civilian victims of accidents due to Antipersonnel Mines and Unexploded Ordnance in Colombia*, developed by the Handicap International organization. The main objectives of this project are: i.) To facilitate the victims' access to their rights, through the active participation of the actors that make up the assistance network of the departments of Antioquia, Sucre, Santander, Norte de Santander and Bolívar; ii.) To improve the functional and psychosocial rehabilitation processes and the social and labour reintegration mechanisms of the victims.

The following achievements are expected with the project:

- The public and private institutional network knows the assistance route and begins the legal procedures for the rendering of services to AP and UXO civilian victims.
- The Health Services Institutions (hospitals, medical centres and rehab centres) have a trained staff dedicated to clinical assistance. They have comprehensive assistance guidelines and an appropriate equipment to assist the victims
- The civilian victims of accidents related to AP and UXO start their rehab processes (functional, psychological, social and labour reintegration processes) with the participation of the assistance services network
- The civilian victims of AP and UXO accidents are organized and they participate in lobbying actions in favour of their rights.

d. *Cooperation project developed with the support of the Slovenian International Trust Fund*

As a consequence of the signing of a Memorandum of Intent between the Foreign Offices of Slovenia and Colombia, and after negotiations between the PAICMA and the International Trust Fund, the *Training of Colombian Professionals on Rehabilitation of the Locomotor System* Project was implemented. This project, currently in the process of execution, consists of two training sessions by the Institute for Rehabilitation of the Republic of Slovenia (IRRS) has implemented rehabilitation programs for antipersonnel mines victims in several opportunities. These programs emphasize the role of the physiotherapists and orthopaedics technicians in the comprehensive rehabilitation processes of the Antipersonnel Mines and unexploded ordnance victims.

The first group of Colombian professionals that would be subject to training belongs to the Cardio Neuromuscular Rehabilitation Centre of the Norte de Santander and will attend the training sessions in Slovenia from November 22 to December 9th of 2008. Subsequently, an accompanying and assistance visit to the professionals at their work site on Colombian territory is expected.

The second group of professionals to be trained is part of the REI Foundation of the department of Bolivar and the date of their trip to Slovenia is yet to be determined.

a. *Cooperation project developed with the support of the Movimient Per La Pau of Barcelona*

The Colombian Campaign against Mines (CCCM, for its acronym in Spanish), with the cooperation of the Movimient Per La Pau of Barcelona, assisted and monitored 118 victims of Antipersonnel Mines and unexploded ordnance of 14 out of the 32 administrative department of Colombia. This assistance was based mainly on the localization of the affected people, the support on the necessary procedures for access to health services, humanitarian aid and compensations, transportation, accommodation and maintenance of the victims at temporary homes, and support in paperwork and transportation to medical and rehab centres.

b. *Physical Rehabilitation Project by the Organization of American States*

In 2008, the Organization of American States (OAS) provided logistic and financial support to 79 victims of Antipersonnel Mines. This support materialized in the delivery of 49 lower limb prosthesis, 5 bilateral lower limb prosthesis, 7 upper limb prosthesis, 1 upper limb prosthesis, 6 ocular prosthesis, 15 ear phones, glasses and soft materials, 9 treatments, therapies and surgeries, 1 expensive surgery and 1 wheeling chair.

c. *Technology applied to rehabilitation*

The Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centre of Colombia (CIREC) did a research on construction of orthesis and prosthesis. Starting from the obtained results, they designed a technology to produce prosthesis elaborated with Colombian material and parts, and which were functionally competitive, simple, and affordable, and which allowed an appropriate assistance.

In this regard, and in order to divulge this technology, some courses have been taught on a national and international level, aimed towards prosthetics technicians and physicians. Furthermore, the CIREC assisted the Colombian institutions in the assembly of laboratories for the construction of orthesis and prosthesis, and their initial elaboration. As far as these courses are concerned, technical updates have been planned on a yearly basis.

At the same time the CIREC has built the *Laboratory for Movement Analysis*, which has a latest technology system that records and analyzes information that characterizes the movement of human body. Starting from this information, some after-effects are diagnosed as consequences of different sorts of trauma, and the appropriate treatments for pathologies found mainly in the orthopaedic and rehabilitation fields are identified.

As of now, the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centre has the CAD – CAM Laboratory (Computer Aid Design and Computer Aid Manufacturing). With it, Colombia has become the second country in Latin America to have this system, which makes it possible to make a mould for prosthesis and orthosis through a computer scanner laser which later sends the information to a milling machine that creates the perfect model.

d. *Rehabilitation Squads*

The *Rehabilitation Squads' Program*, implemented by the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program of Colombia (CIREC, for its acronym in Spanish) is aimed to the population affected by violence in the country, such as the victims of Antipersonnel Mines and unexploded ordnance, located in remote regions and lacking access to specialized medical assistance. Their main goal is to offer the institution's rehabilitation services in agreement with the specific needs of the affected people. Thus the plan is to improve the functionality of the beneficiaries and, consequently, their quality of life.

These Squads perform legal advisory, assistance on productive projects, specialized medical assistance, psychosocial assistance and they supply the technical assistance required by the population, among other things.

e. *Advances on the fulfilment of Decree 3990 of 2007*

In the fulfilment of what was established by Decree 3990 of October of 2007, the Colombian Government has been working on the formulation and issue of a decree that regulates the conditions required for the fabrication and adaptation of medical devices regarding measurement of Prosthetics and External Orthopaedic Orthosis.

Furthermore, there has been progress in the writing of a Resolution Project that would regulate the aforementioned decree. This establishes the *Manual of Technical and Sanitary Conditions for Inscription*, the *Manual of Good Manufacturing Practices for the Fabrication and Adaptation of Medical Devices on Measurement of Prosthetics and External Orthopaedic Orthosis* and the *List of Machinery, Equipment, Tools and Specific Instruments*. The issue of the Resolution Project and of the aforementioned Decree is expected to happen before the end of 2008.

4. Could you supply specific examples of progress on the improvement of access to psychological and social support services, through the support among peers, in order to assist the mine victims and their families?

a. Psychosocial Rehabilitation Model

In Colombia, there is an ongoing progress in the design and validation of a model of psychosocial rehabilitation for antipersonnel mines and unexploded ordnance victims. The Mi Sangre Foundation is in charge of this project, in partnership with the Universidad de Antioquia, the Rotary International Foundation and the German Ministry of Foreign Relations.

To date, progress has been made on the definition of a pilot program that aims to validate the psychosocial rehabilitation process through the assistance of 147 AP and UXO victims in the department of Antioquia. Currently the beneficiaries of the project are being identified.

b. Projects developed with the support of European Union

The Antioquia's Governor's Office, with the cooperation of the European Union, is developing the project of *Institutionalization and Sustainability of Education on Mine Risk and Bio psychosocial Assistance to AP and UXO Victims through health educators and personnel in major municipalities of the Department of Antioquia*. This project, through one of its intervention lines, aims to overcome one of the Health System's largest obstacles: the absence of a basic *bio psychosocial* assistance model to assist the communities that the antipersonnel mines and unexploded ordnance victims belong to. Furthermore, the project aims to improve the coverage and the quality of the *bio psychosocial* assistance given to the AP and UXO victims in a

particularly affected territory such as Antioquia. The implementation of this model must contribute to the effective rehabilitation of the affected people and therefore to their socioeconomic reestablishment.

In order to achieve these goals it is necessary to work further on the formulation of the department and municipality health plans and programs and to achieve the qualification of the health sector's staff in the department of Antioquia. If *bio psychosocial* assistance is included in the department's health plans, it will be possible to start thinking about repeating this experience in other regions of the country.

On the other hand, the National Secretariat of Social Pastoral has been working on the cooperation project named *Education on Antipersonnel Mine Risk for vulnerable population and the assistance to victims at the South of Colombia*. One of this project's main objectives is to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the victims through psychosocial, legal and economic support. The project includes the departments of Meta, Caquetá, Putumayo, Nariño and Cauca, where it aims to improve the mental health and the protection of the beneficiary population's rights, among other things. Currently, 87 direct victims, their families and the community are being provided with psychological support.

c. Project developed with the support of the AECID and the ICRC

The Colombian Red Cross has implemented the *Strategy of Action against Antipersonnel Mines, Unexploded Ordnance and other Explosive Artefacts* in Colombia. This initiative is sponsored by the Spanish Red Cross through the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID, for its acronym in Spanish) and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The strategy aims to work for the people affected by this problem on Colombian territory through the promotion of activities on awareness and Education on Mine Risk. Furthermore, the initiative promotes methods of protection, care and assistance to the victims of this type of weapon. The Colombian Red Cross implements this strategy in 14 out of the 32 departments of the country. The institution provides psychosocial support to the AP and UXO victims in these regions.

5. Could you supply specific examples of progress on the improvement of access to programs, education, micro financing regimes and other activities that promotes the economic inclusion of the mine survivors and of other handicapped people?

Law 361 of 1997, through which the social integration mechanisms aimed towards handicapped people are established, determines the set of rights of the handicapped population and establishes interventions at prevention, education, rehabilitation, labour integration, social welfare and accessibility levels for this population. This Law allows the handicapped people to access every place, area and existing services, related to education or work, without any limitations caused by their handicapped condition.

Starting 2007, the Colombian Government has been studying the matter of handicap through the *Work table of the National Consulting Committee of People with Disabilities*, with the participation of different entities. Recommendations by the Congress of the Republic have been presented within this framework, aiming to make adjustments and modifications to the Law that fully guarantee the labour rights of this population. Currently, the Congress of the Republic is in the process of ratifying the Convention.

Finally, it is worth noting that the Colombian Government is currently in the process of ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The entrance into effect of said instrument, together with the joint efforts of the Colombian Government and other private organizations related to Comprehensive Action against Mines will allow the victims of antipersonnel mines and unexploded ordnance to fully enjoy their Rights. The Convention, aside from dealing with matters such as access to specialized health services, opportunities for a decent education, forms of labour inclusion, participation in politics and, in general, no discrimination but equality of opportunities, is a milestone in the very definition of the “handicap” term, as it focuses on Human Rights.

The Bill that regulates the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities was submitted to the Congress of the Republic in 2008.

Furthermore, there are different programs and projects in the works, with the support of International Organizations and both Government and Non-Government Organizations involved in the Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines. Among these programs are:

- ***Project of professional education, labour inclusion and enterprise creation for the survivors of the Antipersonnel Mines survivors and their families***

This project is being developed with the joint efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS), the National Training Service (SENA, for its acronym in Spanish) and the Presidential Program for Comprehensive Action against Mines (PAICMA, for its acronym in Spanish) and its main objective is to facilitate the inclusion of AP and UXO victims in respectable job activities. Its execution is done with the SENA, through training programs on basic computer science, automotive mechanics, industrial confectionery, commerce and services, agricultural and ecologic production. Currently the project has 32 beneficiaries: 9 Law Enforcement members and 23 civilians. It has the following advances:

- 1 person with undergraduate studies
- 7 people with technical studies
- 1 trained person with a short course
- 3 people working at an organization or company
- 5 people in the process of hiring
- 2 people to start the formulation of productive projects
- 12 people in the process of formulating productive projects
- 1 person who received support in the implementation and development of a productive project

- ***Brother plan***

The *Mi Sangre Foundation* will support the comprehensive rehabilitation process (functional, psychosocial and socioeconomic rehabilitation) of 100 Antipersonnel Mine survivors, particularly minors and their families.

- ***Community based comprehensive rehabilitation and protection process***

This proposal was submitted by the *Mi Sangre Foundation* and subsequently modified and evaluated by the PAICMA, the Ministry of Social Protection the Saldarriaga Concha Foundation and the Psychiatry Department of the Universidad de Antioquia. The main objective is the strengthening of the Comprehensive Assistance Route to AP and UXO Victims, and the activation of a process of inter-ministerial and comprehensive assistance oriented to their needs.

- ***Seeds of Hope Program***

In 2000, the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program of Colombia (CIREC) created the *Seeds of Hope* program as a Community-Based Rehabilitation (RBC, for its acronym in Spanish) strategy in some of the remote regions of the country. Its main objective is to promote the comprehensive development of the victims of violence, including AP or UXO victims in order to achieve the integration to family, social, school and work life. Furthermore, they look to generate local ability, with educated human resources capable of exercising citizen participation starting from actions planned and executed by social actors on a regional level.

Currently, this program operates in 9 departments and 42 Colombian municipalities, where local groups have been created who work for the development of the communities and of the affected people.

- ***Godparent plan***

The *Coltabaco* Company is contributing with 30,000 American Dollars for the first phase of a comprehensive rehabilitation project for the AP and UXO victims, including the psychosocial assistance phases, as well as the sponsoring of studies and the labour incorporation phases. Currently there are ongoing actions aiming to allow the characterization of the affected population with the support of information collected at the Department Meeting of Victims of Santander, previously mentioned in this report. This information must result in the identification of occupational profiles of the beneficiary population.

- ***Initiation study for the socioeconomic inclusion of the Antipersonnel Mines and unexploded ordnance victims.***

This project, sponsored by the European Union and managed and coordinated by the Presidential Program, is currently in the hiring process. Its main objective is the performance of a study on the possible alternatives that may encourage the socioeconomic inclusion of the AP and UXO victims.

In order to reach this objective, 4 expected results have been thus defined:

- Document of diagnosis of the current situation in regards to the socioeconomic inclusion of the AP and UXO victims in Colombia.
- Document that describes the alternatives of socioeconomic inclusion of the AP and UXO victims in the country
- Strategic Framework and PAICMA Plan of Action in regards to socioeconomic inclusion of the AP and UXO victims
- Pilot Project created to be applied in the two departments and the two prioritized municipalities by the PAICMA

6. Could you supply specific examples of the way in which national frameworks, both legal and political, are effectively improving the conditions and fundamental human rights of the mine victims and other handicapped people?

PROTECTED RIGHT	LAW	YE A R	FOUNDATION
Access to Health, Education, Humanitarian Aid, Training for work, Housing Subsidy and Credit	Law 418 Renewed, modified and complemented by laws 548 de 1999, 782 de 2002, 1106 de 2006.	1997	The present Law establishes some instruments for the search of coexistence and justice's efficiency. (Title II Assistance to victims).
			It regulates the Subaccount of the Catastrophic Risk and Car Accidents Insurance of the Solidarity and Guarantee Fund,

<p>Right to Health, Hospital, Pre-Hospital Attention and physical Rehabilitation.</p>	<p>Decree 3990</p>	<p>2007</p>	<p>(FOSYGA). It also establishes the conditions for operation of the insurance of risks caused by corporal damage to people in terrorist events.</p>
<p>Right to Comprehensive Rehabilitation</p>	<p>Law 1145</p>	<p>2007</p>	<p>The National Handicap System is organized as a set of guidelines, norms, activities, resources, programs and institution that allow the operation of the general handicap principles included in this Law.</p>
			<p>The present Law establishes the National Development Plan 2006-2010. This Law orders to see to the handicap actions in a transversal way and establishes that <i>“the process of national registry of handicap population will be continued, in order to optimize the national, department, district, municipal and sub-national articulation in the social inclusion of these people...”</i></p> <p>Regarding AP victims, the Development Plan says that</p>

Right to Comprehensive Rehabilitation and a Decent Life	Law 1151	2007	<i>“Accident survivors shall receive an appropriate and quality assistance for the promotion and restitution of their rights, and the rehabilitation of victims with physical or psychological trauma...”</i>
Right to Compensation through Administrative Proceedings	Decree 1290	2008	Individual Compensation through Administrative Proceedings for victims of Organized Armed Groups Outside the Law is created through this Decree.
International Humanitarian Law, Political Constitution	Public Policy for the AICMA	2009-2019	National policy framework that includes the different actors in the AICMA

7. Could you supply examples of the way in which the appropriate ministries have participated in the elaboration of an action plan and effectively cooperating in the application of the plan and in the supervision of its execution?

The creation of the *Handicap Framework Plan* has facilitated the harmonization of the different objectives proposed by the actors involved, and the coordination of the activities associated to its implementation. This Plan suggests a structure based on the strategic management process. The objectives that must guide the process are thereby delimited, and the goals and strategies to be followed are established. The design and execution of this Plan has particularly involved the Ministry of Social Protection, the entity responsible for the orientation of the public policy on the matter.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Social Protection has supported the development of the cooperation project with the support of the *Japan International Cooperation Agency* (JICA), otherwise known as *Strengthening of the comprehensive rehabilitation system for people with disabilities, particularly victims of accidents with Antipersonnel Mines and unexploded ordnance in Colombia*. The participation of said Ministry consists on providing technical assistance throughout the process.

Taking into account the effective regulations, the *Sub commission of Comprehensive Assistance to Victims* (composed by the Ministry of the Interior and Justice of Colombia, the Office of Public Defence, the Office of the Attorney General, the General Solicitor Office and the National Commission for Compensation and Reconciliation), has taken on the responsibility of the design of a Comprehensive Assistance Process that supplies the psychosocial and psycho-judicial orientation and the accompanying of the claim of rights, according to the victims' needs and the experiences of each one of the entities involved.

The objective of this strategy is to satisfy the demands and requirements of the victims of violence in Colombia, within the framework of the rights of truth, justice and compensation. The other objective is to further develop the inter-ministerial articulation in order to comprehensively develop the psycho-judicial orientation, psychosocial assistance, intervention in the legal process, accompanying in the process of compensation, the restoring of rights and assistance to boys and girls.

The PAICMA joined the process recently, intending to articulate the Comprehensive Assistance Route to AP and UXO Victims. This instrument would thus be integrated to the model being constructed, which would guarantee a complete orientation to the AP or UXO victims and, in general, of the political violence in Colombia.

In 2008 the PAICMA worked on the formulation of the public policy in regards to Antipersonnel Mines and Unexploded Ordnance, which represents qualitative progress for the country as it gives order and coherence to the actions undertaken within the framework of the fight against this type of weapons and their devastating effects in Colombia. The policy identifies the main problems to be solved, and which are associated to the different components of the Comprehensive Action against Mines. It defines the strategies to be followed and the actions that must be undertaken in order to develop a more effective and competent Action against Mines. It establishes the appropriate institutional arrangement for its implementation and designates concrete responsibilities to the different agencies and parties involved. It suggests mechanisms for the follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the Action against Mines in Colombia and, finally, it estimates the necessary resources for its execution on the medium and long term.



Presidential Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines

The policy document was approved by the members of the National Inter-ministerial Commission on Antipersonnel Mine Action (CINAMAP) during the second ordinary meeting of November of 2008, and is expected to be approved by the [National Council for Economic and Social Policy](#) (CONPES, for its acronym in Spanish) in December. It is worth pointing out that the Presidential Program for Action against Antipersonnel Mines bids the Colombian government's agencies, as well as the non-government organizations and international collaborators to make the pertinent commentaries and observations¹.

¹ The executive summary and the policy document approved by the Commission is available at www.accioncontraminas.gov.co