



Victim Assistance National Stakeholders Dialogue Promoting a Strategic Approach to Victim Assistance

25-27 September 2018

The Prime Minister's Guest House, Green Zone, Baghdad

Background

Iraq is one of 29 States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention reporting responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors. In its 2016 Article 7 report, Iraq reported that its Victim Assistance (VA) efforts sought to “increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims”, in line with *Maputo Action Plan* commitments. In the past couple of years, Iraq has focused its efforts on data collection and surveying, yet efforts have been hampered by the security situation.

National Stakeholder Dialogue objectives

In 2017, the Council of the European Union approved Decision 2017/1428, in support of the implementation of the Convention among States Parties currently implementing victim assistance efforts to integrate the rights of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities into wider national frameworks. EU support includes hosting national stakeholder dialogues where affected States, partners and donors can meet to advance these efforts.

The mid-September National Stakeholder Dialogue and enhanced follow-up technical support co-sponsored by the European Union's Decision could result in Iraq obtaining greater clarity as to its implementation of victim assistance aspects called for in the *Maputo Action Plan*, and integration into broader frameworks. This would also be an opportunity for Iraq to address some of the questions asked and recommendations made by the Convention's Committee on Victim Assistance.

The Dialogue in Iraq, which is also Party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), would also seek to support the victim assistance and disability rights aspects covered by all three Conventions. The Stakeholder Dialogue could also support Iraq in kick-starting the process to develop a national victim assistance action plan by identifying challenges, priorities, and mapping of resources required for victim assistance implementation. Such a plan could provide a roadmap for all relevant actors, and assist in identifying mechanisms for CRPD implementation.



Annotated Programme
Day one Tuesday 25 September
08:30-09:00 Registration
09:00 – 10:30 High-level official opening
<p><i>Understanding the place of victim assistance in empowering mine survivors and other persons with disabilities in Iraq.</i></p> <p>Official opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Her Excellency, Dr Adila Hamood Alaboudi, the Minister of Health and Environment of Iraq ▪ European Union Delegation to Iraq ▪ High Commission for Human Rights of Iraq ▪ International Campaign to Ban Landmines and representative of landmine survivors in Iraq ▪ Implementation Support Unit <p><i>Chaired by: Mr. Essa Alfayadh, Director General of the Directorate for Mine Action in Iraq (DMA) * Group photo opportunity</i></p>
<i>10:30-11:00 break</i>
11:00 - 12:00 Understanding Obligation and Challenges in Victim Assistance
<p><i>Understanding victim assistance in the context of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention; key principles attached to VA at global level and in Iraq; and, victim assistance efforts from the perspectives of rehabilitation and Law 38.</i></p>
<i>12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break</i>
13:00 – 15:15 Breakout session, identifying challenges and opportunities
<p><i>Key challenges hindering assistance to victims, and untapped opportunities in the realm of implementation support mechanisms in Iraq.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data collection and information management 2. Emergency and continuing medical care 3. Physical rehabilitation, including physiotherapy, prosthetics and assistive devices 4. Psychological support including peer support 5. Social and economic inclusion 6. The establishment, enforcement and implementation of relevant laws and public policies
15:15 – 15:30 Closing session

Day two Wednesday 26 September
09:00 – 09:30 Opening session led by DMA
09:30 – 10:30 Day one's breakout session feedback
<p><i>Challenges and opportunities.</i></p>
<i>10:30-11:00 Break</i>
11:00 – 12:30 A Strategic Approach to Victim Assistance
<p><i>Understanding the human rights approach to disability, the CRPD obligation in Iraq and synergies to victim assistance efforts. Sharing best practices in community based rehabilitation and integrated approaches to victim assistance in similar contexts as Iraq. Expert input from UNAMI, Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Handicap International (HI).</i></p>
<i>12:30 – 13:45 Lunch Break</i>
13:45 – 15:15 Breakout session, identifying objectives and actions
<p><i>Objectives and actions to implement victim assistance including through pertinent programmes and policies</i></p>

<i>on disabilities, development and humanitarian efforts.</i>
15:15 – 15:30 Closing session
17:00 – 20:00 Reception for participants hosted by the European Union and DMA (time to be confirmed)

Day three Thursday 27 September
09:00 – 09:30 Opening session led by DMA
09:30 – 10:30 Breakout session, identifying objectives and actions
<i>Objectives and actions.</i>
<i>10:30 – 11:00 Break</i>
11:00 – 12:30 Innovation and Best Practices
<i>Understanding steps and imperatives to consider in ensuring an effective implementation of the action plan including in areas of data collection, monitoring and evaluation. Learning about opportunities in broader development and gender equality requirements. With expert input of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, UNDP, GMAP and other panellists.</i>
<i>12:30 – 13:45 Lunch Break</i>
13:45 – 15:30 Ways Forward High Level Closing Session
<i>Understanding donor perspectives on national ownership and transparency, sustained commitment to landmine survivors and reporting, and how these could contribute to greater cooperation and assistance from the international community towards Iraq.</i>
Official closing remarks:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Her Excellency, Dr Adila Hamoud, the Minister of Health and Environment of Iraq ▪ Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs ▪ EU Head of Delegation ▪ Other international donors and/or partners ▪ Iraqi DPOs and landmine survivors organisation representative ▪ ISU and DMA
15:30– 15:45 Distribution of certificates