

Victim Assistance in the context of Mines and Explosive Remnants of War

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A Comprehensive Approach to Mine Action

Handicap International's originality and strength is to propose a comprehensive approach which tackles the problem in its entirety by integrating the four main pillars of the anti-landmine campaign:

- Survey and clearing the land of explosive remnants of war
- Educating at-risk populations
- Engaging in international advocacy to end the use of explosive weapons
- Providing victim assistance

Humanity & Inclusion: A long history in victim assistance

- ▶ French doctors in 1982 in Thai Cambodian refugee camps
- ▶ More than three decades of comprehensive work to prevent injuries and impairment and to support inclusion of most vulnerable
- ▶ Working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster
- ▶ Co-founder ICBL in 1992 – Nobel Peace Prize 1997
- ▶ Working on four of the five pillars of mine action
- ▶ Bearing witness and taking action to respond to their essential needs and improve quality of life

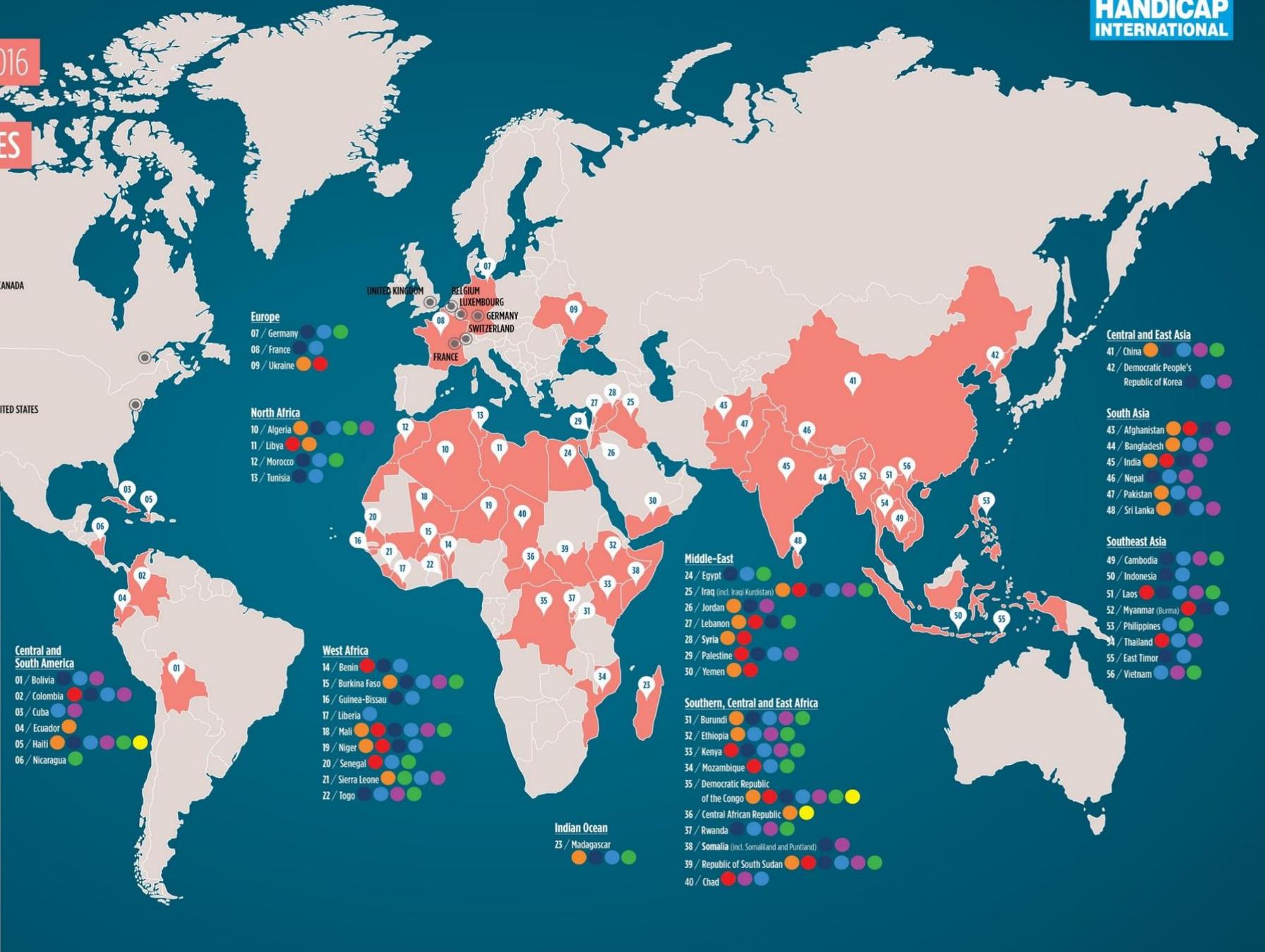
Final goal is to improve quality of life

**WORLDWIDE
PRESENCE IN 2016
337 PROJECTS
IN 56 COUNTRIES**

- Emergency response
- Mine action
- Disability rights and policy
- Inclusion
- Rehabilitation
- Prevention and health
- Logistic platforms
- Handicap International network
Germany, Belgium, Canada,
United States, France, Luxembourg,
United Kingdom, Switzerland.

- Countries where activities were started in 2016: Ecuador
- Countries where activities closed down in 2016: Cape Verde, Tanzania, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ecuador.

The borders and country names shown in this map do not imply an opinion by Handicap International as to the status of these territories.



Victim assistance & the CRPD: one and the same, or not?

- VA is obligation as part of International Humanitarian Law – which?
- Which year was this treaty ratified in Uganda? And the CRPD?
- What is the aim of VA?
- VA part of broader sectors – which ones?
- VA obligation under APMBC – requirements & opportunities in addition to CRPD. Which?

How can affected states realize the victim assistance obligations?

- ❑ States ensure broader support for victim assistance across sectors

- ❑ Government bodies in charge of coordinating victim assistance undertake specific efforts to:
 - a) fill gaps in data collection, service provision, policy & legislation
 - b) advocate for, facilitate, and monitor a multi-sector response

Examples of specific VA efforts by affected states

a) Filling gaps in data collection & service provision

- **Colombia, Cambodia Laos PDR:** casualty data collection
- **Cambodia:** Self help groups and Disability Forum

b) Facilitate broader government response

- **Afghanistan:** Building capacity of the government to address the rights of survivors in the broader context of disability
- **Cambodia:** Using casualty data to strengthen emergency case management
- **Uganda, Afghanistan, Algeria, Chad, Mozambique, Tajikistan:** national action plan on VA
- **Libya:** raising awareness of MoH and MoE of their role in ensuring medical care and inclusive education during VA seminar
- **Mozambique:** Advocacy for the availability and accessibility of affordable micro-finance services for survivors and other persons with disabilities to build livelihoods..

Examples of integrating VA into broader efforts in affected states

➤ **Cambodia**

- Additional Sustainable Development Goal specific to mine action and victim assistance
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation provides a package of emergency relief to vulnerable people and victims of disasters.

➤ **Lao PDR:** national census includes category of mine/ERW survivors

➤ **Thailand:** Emergency Medical System

➤ **Uganda:** efforts to roll out community – based rehabilitation services country – wide

Different actors – different roles on VA

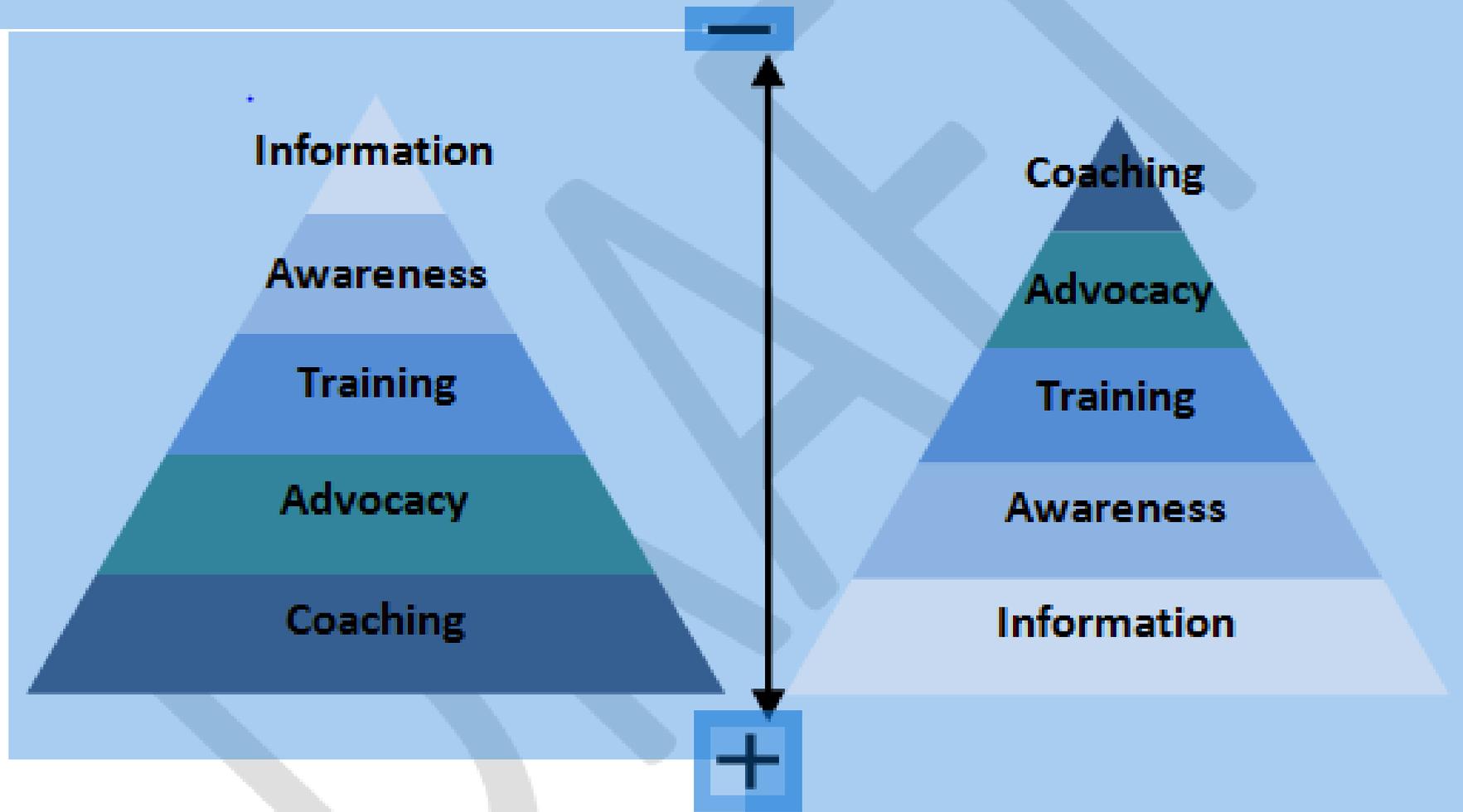
Who is responsible for what?

1. Collection of data on survivors and other PWD
2. Provision of emergency medical care
3. Provision of rehabilitation and P & O
4. Coordination & national action planning
5. Ensuring education is inclusive of children with disabilities
6. Article 7 reporting on victim assistance
7. Enforcement of 2010 Accessibility Standards
8. Enforcement of the Persons with Disabilities Act

AIATAC

Impact in sustainable change of practice and policies

Number of stakeholders you can reach





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