

Ms. President
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

The victim assistance program in Sudan is managed with the belief that VA is a set of concrete activities and strategies aimed at improving the quality of life of mine/ERW victims and persons with disabilities in the Country.

I will briefly update you on some of the **achievements** since the First Review Conference:

- A National Victim Assistance Strategic Framework and Workplan were developed and approved by the government (March – July 2007). In addition, the Victim Assistance National Work plan was reviewed and amended in Feb 2009.
- Over 25 VA related projects supported for a total of over 1,500 mine/ERW victims and persons with disabilities supported.
- Two VA/Disability working groups established in Khartoum and Juba. Both groups are chaired by the government.
- The Capacity building of national authorities working on VA has represented an ongoing process. this was done through events organized by UNMAO (e.g. training, courses, etc), regular sharing of information, field visits, meetings and discussion.
- Sudan is one of the first six signatories' countries to CRPD (March 2007). I am also glad to inform you that Sudan ratified the CRPD and its Optional Protocol on the 24th April 2009.
- 16 technicians has been trained in Prosthetic and Orthotics field (3 of them have been trained in Orthopedic technology in TATCOT – TANZANIA) and 13 have been trained internally in Khartoum under the supervision of ICRC.
- OVCI has opened BSC degree program in physiotherapy both in Khartoum in collaboration with AHFAD University and in Juba in collaboration with relevant ministries at GOSS level.
- Hope Medical City started producing orthopedic devices to mine/ERW victims free of charge as per the current legislations.
- NAPO established a mobile workshop which has already carried out a number of activities.

The most pressing **challenges** can be summarized in:

- shortage of funding;
- Insufficient data concerning landmine victims in some affected areas.

These challenges can be overcome by:

- raising the profile of Victim assistance in Sudan;
- secure more funds to face the Victim assistance activities initially from the Government and International Community
- Build centralized national data base to include data about landmine victims and persons with disabilities.

A special thank and expression of gratitude to UNMAS, UNOPS, ICRC and all national and international NGOs operating in Sudan and to the Swiss, Japanese and Canadian government for their generous support and assistance.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.