The Second Review Conference and beyond: victim assistance priorities for the region

Claude Tardif
Head of Physical Rehabilitation Programme
International Committee of the Red Cross
Geneva, Switzerland
ctrandif@icrc.org
Six areas of priorities

- Understanding the real situation
- Developing Victim Assistance programme
- Implementing Victim Assistance programme
- Monitoring and reporting
- Developing synergies between legal instruments
- Developing national capacities
Understanding the real situation (1)

- Understanding the real situation within the country in regards to:
  - The demand:
    - How many persons with disabilities, including survivors, should have access to services
  - The offer:
    - What services are available and where
  - The results:
    - How many persons do have access to services
Understanding the real situation (2)

- Understanding the real situation within the country in regards to:
  - The capacities:
    - what is the national capacities in provision of services
  - The difficulties:
    - what are the difficulties faced by persons with disabilities, including survivors, to have access to services
    - what are the difficulties faced by service providers in providing services

- Without a deep understanding of the situation, difficult to develop and implement appropriate programmes and, difficult to monitor and report the progress
Developing Victim Assistance programme (1)

- To review their actual set of SMART objectives
  - States must go through the exercise of assessing and evaluating the actual situation within their country. Without this exercise, SMART victim assistance objectives cannot be developed.

- To develop an action plan to implement the objectives
  - The development of new objectives and a national action plan for their implementation, should be based on the analysis of the current situation in 2009.
Developing Victim Assistance programme (2)

- To ensure that Victim Assistance for survivors is integrated into a national plan aiming at improving the services provided to persons with disabilities.

- While States must ensure that all VA areas are developed, it is important that States see the overall aim of VA: an improvement in the quality of daily life of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

- The six areas constitute different aspects of a process, which together will ensure that victims are fully included in society.
Implementing Victim Assistance programme (1)

- To ensure that services are accessible to survivors
- To ensure that the services are appropriate
  - quantity, quality, professionalism, etc
- To ensure that any services or activities developed are done in such a way that they will remain available as long as the victim will need them
  - Technical, managerial and financial sustainability
Implementing Victim Assistance programme (2)

- To ensure that victims are supported and guided through each phase of the process

- To enhance efforts at the national level to engage all relevant actors and set priorities for implementation, adapted to the specific national context
Monitoring and reporting

- Victim assistance has traditionally been the most difficult pillar of the Convention to monitor and measure because it is not carried out by a distinct field of professional activity like other pillars of mine action.
- States must monitor the implementation of their plans of action and should report on the implementation.
- States must also monitor and report on the real impacts for persons with disabilities including survivors.
Developing synergies between legal instruments

- The Mine Ban Convention has inspired subsequent initiatives to provide victim assistance to other survivors of other explosive munitions – the CCW Protocol and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

- Implementation of the Victim Assistance within the framework of the Mine Ban Convention can no longer be considered in isolation.

- Synergies between the three legal instruments must be utilized and duplication of efforts avoided.
Developing national capacities

- Victim Assistance programmes cannot be appropriate and sustainable if national capacities are not developed and/or strengthened.
- While supporting organizations (IOs and NGOs) can support the national authorities, the development, implementation and management of Victim Assistance remain the responsibility of State.
- National capacities have to be developed and/or strengthened at both institutional level and at service provision level.
Conclusion

- Countries have different capacities and priorities must be adapted to each context.

- A political commitment within the affected countries to support the development and the implementation of appropriate Victim Assistance Programme is essential.

- Appropriate Victim Assistance Programme cannot be developed without clear and SMART objectives, without a plan of action to implement these objectives, and without monitoring the progress.