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

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# 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



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# 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



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# 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 a 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



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# 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.



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# 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



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# 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



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# 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



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# 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



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# 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



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