

Victim Assistance in Afghanistan



Almaty – March 2007 by Mohammad Sediq - Chief of Operations

Agenda

- Extent of the Challenge
- Goals and Activities
- Capacity Development Efforts



Scope of the Challenge

- Almost 16,000 Landmine and ERW Casualties recorded in IMSMA
 - National Disability Survey: 747,500 – 867,100 people are with severe disabilities
 - 52,000 – 60,000 (6.8 percent of the total number of disables) are Landmine/ERW Survivors
 - On average there is at least one family member in every five household with disability
 - Quality of Services is low
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Components of Addressing The Rights And Needs Of Mine Survivors And Other Persons With Disabilities

- Understanding the extent of the challenge faced
 - Emergency and continuing medical care
 - Physical rehabilitation
 - Psychological support and social reintegration
 - Economic reintegration
 - Laws and public policies
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Goals for Victim Assistance in Afghanistan:

- Prevention
- Awareness Raising
- Advocacy



Prevention of new mine/ERW victims and other disability through:

- Mine Risk Education
- Public Health and Safety mechanisms
- Curriculum development and teacher training
- Mass communications
- School health programmes



Awareness Raising for disability issues through:

- Community awareness and mobilization
- Teacher training
- Mass communications
- Inter-ministerial working groups and task forces



Advocacy for the rights of landmine survivors and persons with disability through:

- Policy Development
- Inter-ministerial Coordination and Cooperation
- Advocacy Training and support to Disabled Persons Organizations



Government Capacity Development



- Key ministries to take responsibility for VA activities to include Prevention
- Inter-ministerial taskforce established
- Obligations of the Mine Ban Treaty understood and embraced

UNMACA Supports to Central and Regional Government

- Four Key Ministries Identified:
 - Ministry of Education
 - Ministry of Public Health
 - Ministry of Martyrs, Disabled and Social Affairs
 - Ministry of Information, Culture & Youth



Ministry of Education Priorities

- Technical and Financial support for the inclusion of MRE into grades 1-12 text books
 - mine risk education messages and lessons, disability/landmine survivor issues, Mine Ban Treaty, mine action history, etc.
 - Teacher Training
 - for the implementation of new MRE curriculum and awareness raising for disability issues
 - Public Health and Safety Programme
 - MRE campaigns and materials distribution
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Ministry of Public Health Priorities

- Technical and Financial support to establish a Disability Unit that integrates disability into the public health services and helps meet the MBT obligations
 - Disability taskforce for the MoPH that includes implementers of basic and mental health services
 - Enhancing national Community Based Rehabilitation networks and linking them to Ministry activities
 - Public Health and Safety Programme Coordination
 - MRE campaigns are linked to ministerial activities such as ministries of Education and Information and Culture
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Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs Martyrs, and Disables

- Technical and Financial support for a Disability Support Unit
- Support for the lead role of inter-ministerial taskforce on disability and for coordination, cooperation, monitoring and reporting of disability actions and services
- Disability Awareness training and capacity development
- Support for a NGO Coordination group
- Advocacy Activities
- Public Health and Safety Programme

Ministry of Information, Culture & Youth Priorities



- Mass Communications through Radio and TV
- Public Health and safety programmes
- Disability/advocacy and awareness programme
- Community Outreach through *Shuras (Councils)* and religious leadership

UNMACA Commitment and goals for Victim Assistance in Afghanistan

- Provide technical assistance and advice to the Government for MRE/VA /disability programmes development
- Provide financial support where appropriate, and consistent with national development plans and strategies
- Implement programme in impacted communities for continued mine/ERW risk education and advocate for the rights and dignity of people with disabilities including landmine survivors



Thank You for Your Attention



Questions