

# LESSONS LEARNED WORKSHOP

A Review of Assistance Programs for  
War-Wounded  
& other Persons with Disabilities Living  
in Mine-Affected Countries

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## Convention to Ban Landmines



### Preamble:

States parties desire  
"to do their utmost in  
providing assistance"

### Article 6.3

"each State in a position to  
do so shall provide  
assistance for the care &  
the rehabilitation, and  
social & economic  
reintegration, of mine  
victims...."

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## GUIDELINES for the CARE & REHABILITATION of SURVIVORS

- Emergency Medical Care/Continuing Medical Care
- Legislation, Advocacy and Public Awareness
- Physical Rehabilitation
- Psycho-Social Support
- Economic Integration
- Capacity Building and Sustainability
- Access to Services
- Data for Decision-Making
- Coordination

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### Lessons Learned: Emergency Medical Care & Continuing Medical Care



Overall,  
rehabilitation  
professionals  
have seen little  
lasting  
improvement  
in medical &  
surgical care.

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## Lessons Learned: Emergency Medical Care & Continuing Medical Care



The consequences are profound:  
poor medical & surgical care  
increase fatality rates & impede  
good rehabilitation.

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## Recommendations: Medical Care

- Work to institutionalize good surgical training for amputations by incorporating this aspect of surgery into medical schools' required curriculum.
- Consider having one agency take the lead in setting standards, disseminating curriculum and providing assistance in training.

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## Lessons Learned: Physical Rehabilitation



Device production is a means to an end...an improved quality of life.

Rehabilitation works best when it is comprehensive; holistic; and multi-layered....

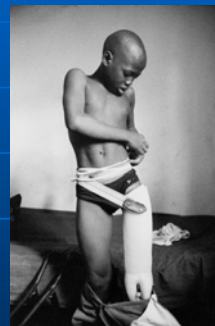
Developing physical rehabilitation programs takes a long time.

Few physical rehabilitation programs are sustainable as currently constituted.

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## Recommendations: Physical Rehabilitation

- Continue to fund physical rehabilitation programs.
- All stakeholders must coordinate resources, planning, and training.
- Link physical rehabilitation to economic integration.



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## Lessons Learned: Psycho-Social Support



Psycho-social support :

- Improves pain management
- Helps prevent domestic abuse, violence, chronic depression, substance abuse, and family disintegration &
- Plays a critical role in successful rehabilitation

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## Recommendations: Psycho-Social Support

- Incorporate peer counseling and support into all aspects of rehabilitation.
- Find and forge linkages with other groups who specialize in this work both internationally and locally.

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## Lessons Learned: Economic Integration



Concern about earning a living is far more overwhelming than concerns about medical care or mobility.

Rehabilitation NGOs lack expertise in economic integration programming.

Economic integration deserves primary focus over next five years in recognition of its paramount importance to the people the Treaty intends to help.

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## Recommendations: Economic Integration



- The primary goal for the next five years should be inclusion & mainstreaming of PwDs into financial, educational & vocational training programs already available within their communities.

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## Lessons Learned: Capacity Building & Sustainability



Capacity building is a means to an end: sustainable programs run by competent local technical & managerial staff who are recognized as such by clients, peers & government.

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## Recommendations: Capacity Building & Sustainability

- Link capacity building requests to national plans & to clear objectives.
- Coordinate resources across the sector within countries & within regions.



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## Lessons Learned: Legislation, Advocacy & Public Awareness



- Most countries have laws & regulations protecting the rights of PWDs.
- Such provisions are rarely effectively enforced.

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## Recommendations: Legislation, Advocacy & Public Awareness



- Fund implementation and enforcement of national laws relating to disability.
- Support with training and funding the creation of local self-help & advocacy groups that want to work on key issues affecting persons with disabilities.

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## Lessons Learned: Access to Services



- Persons with disabilities want access to whatever is available to the general population – education, jobs, sports, entertainment...

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## Recommendations: Access to Services

- Support PWD access to whatever services already exist rather than create new services.
- Place much greater emphasis on access to economic opportunity over the next five years.
- Multilateral organizations should promulgate best practices and standards for access to buildings and involve national architects and construction companies in implementation.

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## Lessons Learned: Data Collection for Decision Making



National institutions, NGOs & donors must coordinate closely on data standards and share the tools necessary to collect it.

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## Recommendations: Data Collection for Decision Making



- Provide expertise to national planners involved in long term planning for persons with disabilities.
- Evaluate existing data collection tools and fund the expanded use of the good ones.

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## Lessons Learned: Coordination



Cost effective & efficient programs for war wounded demand strong coordination.

Collaboration needs to take place both within and among NGOs, national institutions & donors.

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## Recommendations: Coordination

- Donors, NGOs and national institutions should all insist on country-wide coordination within the sector to develop standards, do strategic planning and to address training needs.
- The UN should consider mainstreaming disability and monitor current initiatives at the World Bank for precedent.
- Fund the development of links between NGOs and other institutional training programs and universities to help meet long term training needs.

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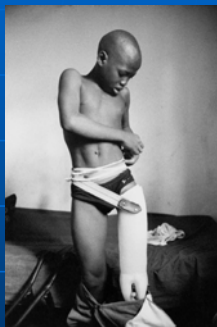
## Lessons Learned: Funding Recommendations

Fund:

- Economic integration activities;
- Expanded access to physical rehabilitation programs;
- Long term training for technical experts & managers; and
- Capacity building for national planning for local counterparts.

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Good outcomes for patients are not only possible.....



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....but profoundly liberating when done right.



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