



NINTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

9th Meeting of the States Parties

GENEVE
24-28 November 2008

Assisting Anti-Personnel Mine Survivors
in Republic of Serbia

Still the exact number of anti-personnel mine victim survivors in all municipalities in Republic of Serbia hasn't been determined.

Process of data collecting through the Ministry of Health, Health Insurances and Ministries of Social Welfares is going on.

After the year 2000. situation is much better for medical treatment and rehabilitation of landmine survivors. All landmine survivors in Serbia are enclosed with in the system of health care on all levels:

- Emergency medical care
- Treatment
- Physical therapy and rehabilitation
- Supplying with P&O aids

In every day practice they are covered with basic level treatments and P&O aids.

In Serbia, all members of rehabilitation team are educated through regular education system. P&O technicians had regular education and training through Belgrade colleges. In '70s in High medical school – 4 generations and in '90s in High mechanical engineering school - 2 generations. High medical school – P&O department, since 90's didn't continue with teaching the new students, but is not closed. After that time P&O technicians were educated through the seminars organized by GOs and NGOs and by P&O manufacturers. In 2008. P&O education will continue, through the Distance Learning School in the Specialized hospital for rehabilitation and orthopedic prosthetics, Belgrade, Serbia.

Serbian Government has adopted the strategy for fighting poverty, the strategy for the development of social care system, the law on prevention of discrimination of persons with disabilities, the law on privileges for persons with disabilities in the public transportation system.

Serbian parliament is considering the preliminary draft of law on equalization of civilian and veteran invalids.

Serbia has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. The experts from The Center for self-supported life from Belgrade and the Ministry of Work, Employment and Social Policy were actively involved in the drafting of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The ministry of work employment and social politics has also adopted the strategy for the improvement of status of persons with disabilities: it consists of goals for the period from 2005 until 2015, including defined action plans for the years to come.

The strategic aim of this document is the improvement of status of persons with disabilities, up to the point when they become equal citizens, who enjoy all their rights and share responsibilities.

The plan is to achieve the following goals until the year 2015:

- To implement the question of persons with disabilities in the general development plans including the construction of institutional frame and operationalisation of multi – sector and multi department cooperation on planning activities and monitoring of policy within this area.
- Efficient development of legal aid and conduction of plans for the prevention of discrimination of persons with disabilities, as well as plans for sensibilization of society concerning the question of invalidity.
- Social and Health care and other services based on rights and needs available to users, accordingly to modern day internationally accepted methods of evaluation of disabilities and needs.
- To develop policy measures and apply programs, especially in the areas of education, employment, work and residency, that allow persons with disabilities , equal opportunities and encourage self-support, personal development and active life in all of its segments.
- To ensure access to an urban environment, including access able public transportation, information posts, communications and other public services through development and conduction of removal of barriers and the construction of access able facilities and services.
- To insure adequate standard of living and social security for persons with disabilities.

The measures that need to be taken for every goal mentioned above have been well worked through in order for them to be achieved. Also the use of control questionnaires has been adopted; they are composed according to the model of Rapid Handicap Analysis, for creation of further plans, programs and activities.

A large obstacle for holistic model of development and monitoring of policy in the area of persons with disabilities is the shortage of data. This is why the first mission is to develop a uniform methodology and procedures in this area in order for the data used to be relevant, compatible and up to date so that the gathering of those previously mentioned is efficient..

For monitoring of achieved results the Government will form a body – The Council for implementation of strategy for improvement of status of persons with disabilities, which will have the task to prepare the summed up reports from ministries with portfolios, relevant institutions and other relevant partners about activities and achieved results in the area concerned with the improvement of status for persons with disabilities.

Republic of Serbia needs assistance for the better and more efficient rehabilitation of landmine survivors. We need to raise the level of:

- P&O services, through the licensed education,
- continuous and update education of all members of rehabilitation team,
- information system for landmine survivors.

For that purpose we need support and cooperation with GOs and NGOs.

Also, in regard that the landmine survivors in Serbia are usually young persons it is necessary to establish Income Generating Projects for their prequalification and employment.

It is necessary to improve the cooperation among the landmine survivors and professionals in all areas that are associated with the treatment and rehabilitation, in the region and in the world.

And I have to stress, that in the past period Serbia has suffered from the economic crisis and increasing level of poverty. It is urgently needed to raise funds and to contribute financially to all projects that deal with the improving the quality of life of landmine survivors in Serbia.

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