

Updates by Thailand
Progress in Achieving the Aims of the Cartagena Action Plan
Standing Committee on Victim Assistance
and Socio-Economic Integration
24 June 2010

Co-Chairs,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thailand congratulates both Turkey and Peru for their co-chairmanship this year and wishes you best success.

At the same time, we express our deep appreciation to the ISU, especially Ms. Sheree Bailey and Ms. Paramdeep Mtharu for their support and their organization of the parallel program on victim assistance over the past two days, in which I benefited greatly.

Co-chairs,

I would like to provide the following updates on our work in support of the Cartagena Action Plan.

First, on awareness-raising, during the past six months since the Cartagena Summit, we have tried to inform all agencies of the outcome of the Summit, particularly the Cartagena Action Plan on victim assistance. Based on the Action Plan, Thailand Mine Action Center or TMAC in cooperation with the UNDP are also formulating National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2010 – 2014, our broad framework on mine action and victim assistance. Such process has in turn raised greater awareness among agencies concerned, especially on their responsibilities over the next five years. At the community level, together with local governments at the district level continues to promote mine-risk education to affected communities.

Second, on planning, we are revising our Master Plan for Victim Assistance 2007 – 2011 to comply with the Cartagena Action

Plan, and particularly in consistent with the SMART objectives. The National Sub-Committee on Victim Assistance, comprising the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and relevant NGOs will collectively take a part in the revision.

Third, on coordination and involvement of relevant actors, the process of developing the National Mine Action Strategic Plan and the Master Plan mentioned earlier has led to closer coordination at the national level among government agencies, civil society, and private corporations.

At the same time, Thailand set up pilot projects to develop a guidebook on comprehensive victim assistance program: from emergency care to their socio-economic reintegration process. The original target audience of the guidebook is the practitioners of victim assistance. The main objective is to ensure comprehensive, coordinated, and coherent assistance among various public agencies, so that each survivor could receive appropriate and timely assistance.

We are also pleased to see increasing interest among local Thai NGOs on victim assistance. The Thailand Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Population and Community Development Association have expressed their interest with TMAC to cooperate on victim assistance by linking operations on victim assistance with community development projects.

Fourth, on data collection and understanding the extent of challenges, a key element in the guidebook mentioned earlier is to encourage all local authorities involved with the survivor to collect coherent data, from primary care to social services in a central database to be kept by TMAC. Such an attempt will also enhance the understanding of the extent of challenges faced.

Fifth, on emergency care and capacity building, we continue to practice simulating emergency care responses and transportation of mine victims in order to create a comprehensive

network of emergency response team. Moreover, we expand the simulation scenario to cover physical rehabilitation and psychological support.

Sixth, on rehabilitation, the government provides free prostheses and financial support to those in need while helping to redesign houses of landmine survivors to improve their post-hospital living environment.

Seventh, on community-level development, Thailand's Community Based Rehabilitation Programmes, launched six years ago in all 76 provinces, have been successful to a certain extent. Persons with disabilities are gradually regaining their livelihood in their own communities. Attitudes towards persons with disabilities in the community have gradually improved. Furthermore, TMAC is setting up a centre in the local communities to provide sustainable assistance to landmine survivors. Such a centre will provide close contact with survivors and will include participation from local authorities, interested individuals and networks. The pilot project will be established in Sa Kaew Province, one of the border areas.

Eighth, on cooperation and assistance, our prosthesis technicians have shared our experiences with technicians from Burundi during their training in Thailand. We are also looking into ways to cooperate with Lao PDR on victim assistance.

Co-chairs,

Despite the increasingly fiscal challenges as a result of the economic crisis, Thailand has strived to make progress towards the goals set in Cartagena. Much remains to be done, however. One of the major challenges is to integrate the specific needs of victim assistance within the implementation of the CRPD in the long run as we indicated in our dialogue with Professor McCallum a moment ago.

In conclusion, Thailand stands ready to share our experiences and lessons learned on assisting mine victims with interested States Parties.

Thank you.

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