

Guinea-Bissau
National Victim Assistance Strategy

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Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties

Presented by Joaozinho Indi

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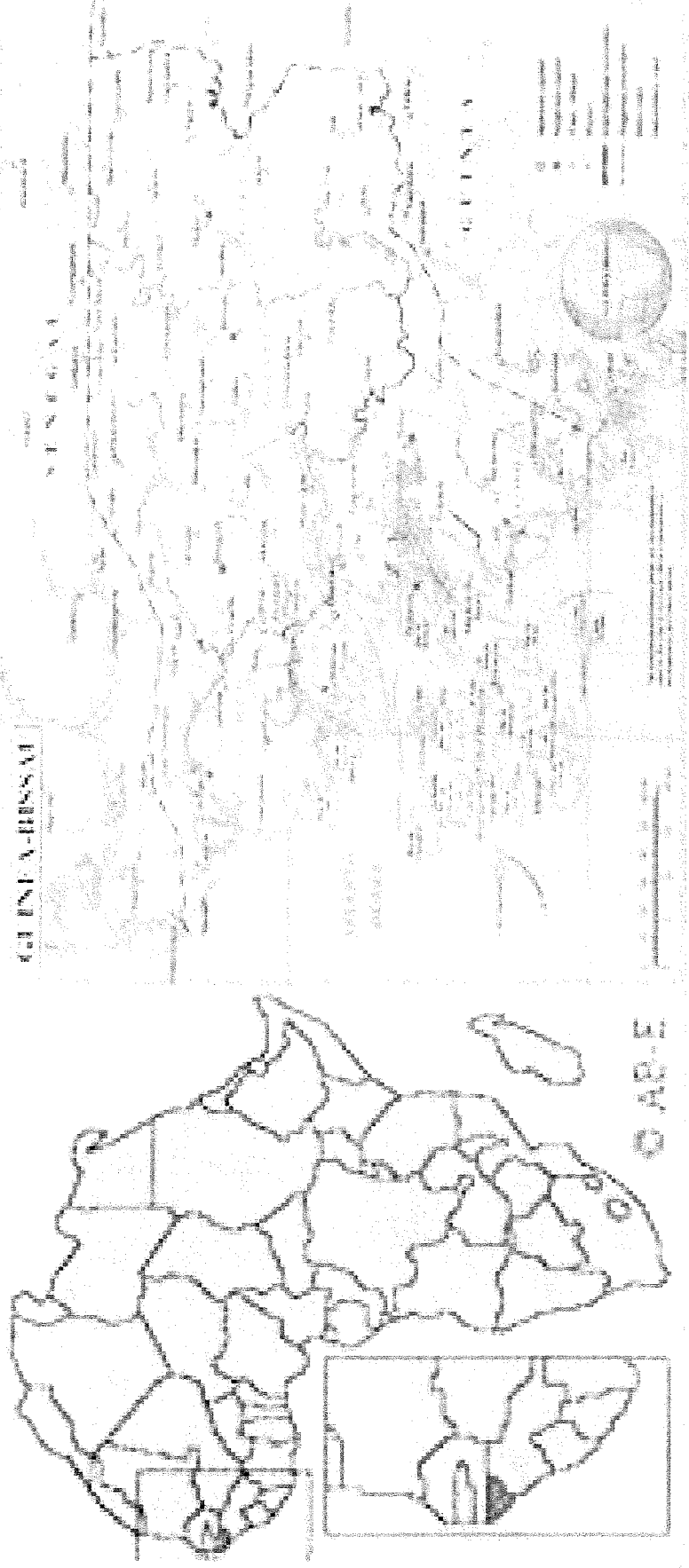


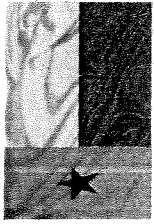
Phnom-Penh 28 November – 02 December 2011



National Victim Assistance Strategy

Guinea-Bissau has a small territory of 36,125 Km² with an exclusively agricultural economy and its estimated 1,500 million inhabitants. It is situated on the west coast of Africa, bordered by Senegal to the north, Guinea (Conakry) to the east and south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The last census of the population in 2009 revealed an average of 0,94% of the total population, which are bearers of deficiency, with a high rate of 1,25% in the Northern region and 1,75% in the Bijagos islands in the Southern region.



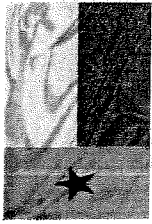


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Little progress overall has been made in improving access and quality of assistance to survivors in Guinea-Bissau in recent years due to lack of funds and of Government support.

- few facilities near mine-affected areas;
- emergency transportation was almost non-existent;
- very limited services were further hampered by a lack of communication mechanisms and roads/transport.

❖ **CAAMI is the national focal point for victim assistance, but in 2010, as in previous years, its efforts to coordinate victim assistance were largely stymied by a lack of national or international resources.**

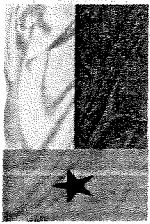


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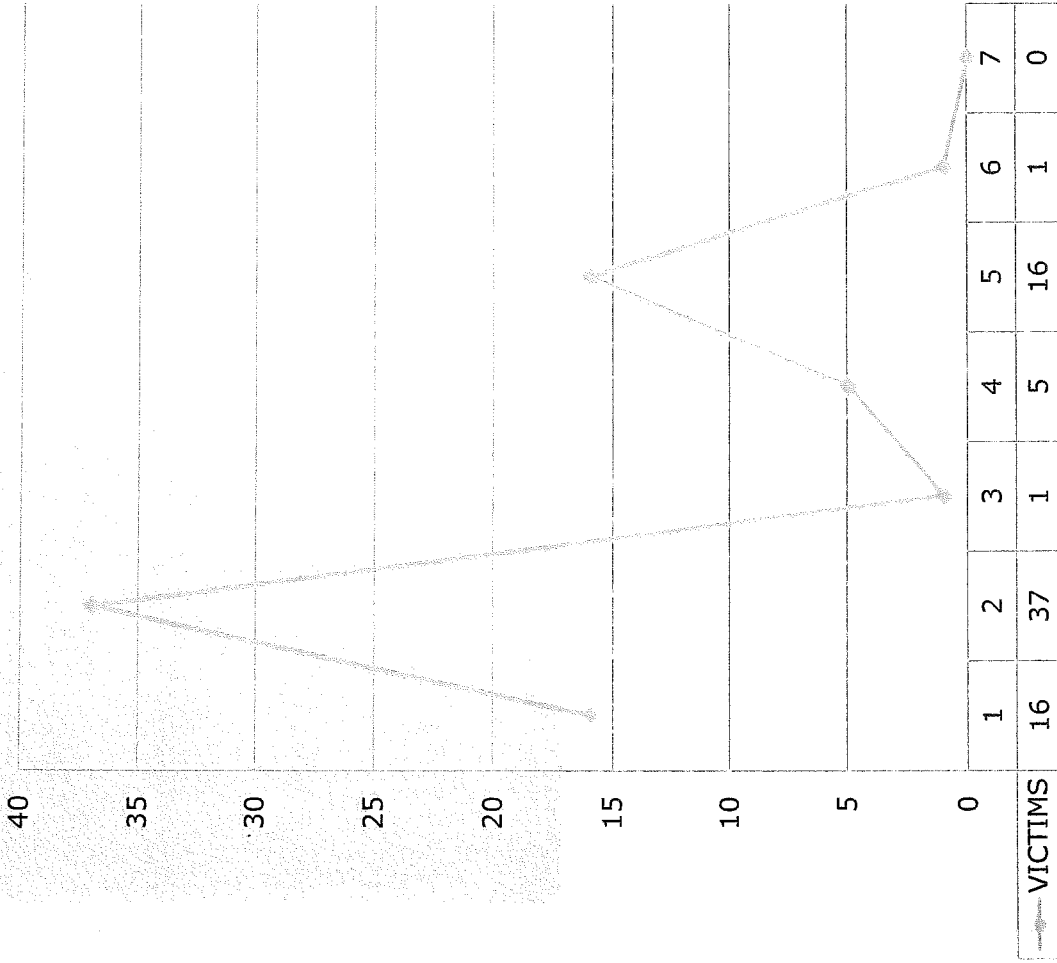


Victims Status

- There were a total of 1,217 casualties from mines/ERW recorded by CAAMI dating from 1963 through October 2011;
- The total number of mine/ERW survivors is estimated to be about 1,000 (82%). Some of these may have already died, but it is likely there are many more unrecorded;
- Over 70 per cent of victims have been male. A vast majority were farmers while 18 % of the victims are children and 12% are women.
- All recorded casualties since 2006 have been caused by ERW.

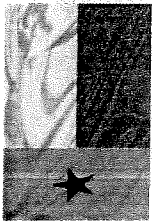


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There is a significant decrease from the 16 casualties identified in 2009 in Guinea-Bissau, can be partly explained by a single incident, which caused 10 casualties

- In 2010, the National IMACC/CAAMI recorded one casualty from explosive remnants of war (ERW) in Bissau capital and none of victims were registered this year up to mid-November.



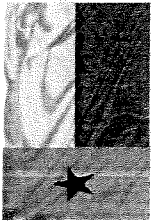
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Mine/ERW Victims Statistics in Guinea-Bissau (by Zone on November 2011)

- South (3 Regions/Provinces -13 sectors/Districts) 492 victims(40,4%)
- North (2 Regions/Provinces -11 sectors/Districts) 482 victims (39,6%)
- East (2 Regions/Provinces -11 sectors/Districts) 236 victims(19,4%)
- Center (1 Region/Province - 3 sectors/Districts) 4 victims (0,4%)
- Capital (8 sectors/Districts) 3 victims (0,3%)

Total of 1,217 victims (which represents 9% of the population bearer of deficiency)



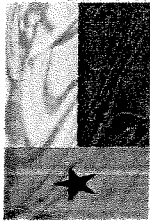
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The Vision of the MA programme in Guinea-Bissau is Equality of opportunity amongst all victims of war included the mine/ERW injured people;

- Its Mission is to promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, assisting them to develop their livelihoods and interests, and bringing about their full participatory in society.

-Article 5 of the Constitution of Guinea-Bissau prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities, but implementation was weak. There was no law mandating access to public buildings and very limited efforts were made to ensure access to buildings or streets. As of November 2011, Government approved the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which is currently at the National Assembly for approval.

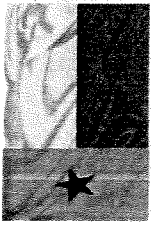


National Victim Assistance Strategy



Main objectives for a comprehensive Victim Assistance Strategy in Guinea-Bissau

- Establish a coordination mechanism on victim assistance in the country;
- Elaborate and implement a new approach on victims data collecting system to update in a more comprehensive breakdown the casualty data;
- Use of data collection gathering sources and methods;
- Strengthen a comprehensive victim assistance programme by supporting already existing initiatives and programmes (Red Cross- CRM);

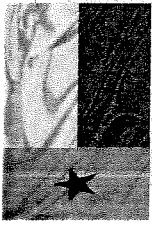


National Victim Assistance Strategy



Main objectives for a comprehensive Victim Assistance Strategy in Guinea-Bissau

- Enhance and facilitate the employment of landmines survivors at the national institutions and in the other national and international organisations;
- Promote and distribute the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Increase resource mobilization for victim assistance programmes;
- Evaluating the use of disseminated data by the stakeholders;
- Monitor and continue the efforts engaged by CAAMI in 2009 for Mine survivors to be eligible for pensions for persons with disabilities from the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Poverty Reduction (MSSPR),



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Main objectives for a comprehensive Victim Assistance Strategy in Guinea-Bissau

- In March 2011, the *Centro de Reabilitação Motora (CMR)* was officially inaugurated in Bissau to serve as the main physical rehabilitation center for the country. The renovation of the center received support from Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and ICRC.
- There is a need to continue strengthening the capacity of the CMR in order to better respond to the needs of the population bearer of deficiency.

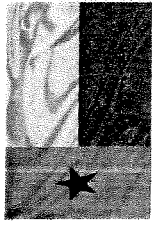


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Establish an effective victim assistance programme in Guinea-Bissau

Action	Actor
First aid: -Enhance national capacity in training trainers -Provide hospitals with needed material	International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and the Ministry of Health
Physical and mobility aid	CRM
Trauma/ psycho social assistance	Gov GB
Socio-economic reintegration Programme (Cooperative activities)	Gov Gb – International Partners- UNDP
National disability policy according to the international convention of the rights and dignity of persons with disability, has been approved by the Government recently and is in the hand of Parliament for review	Minister of Health

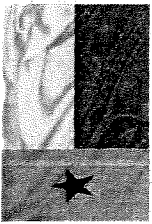


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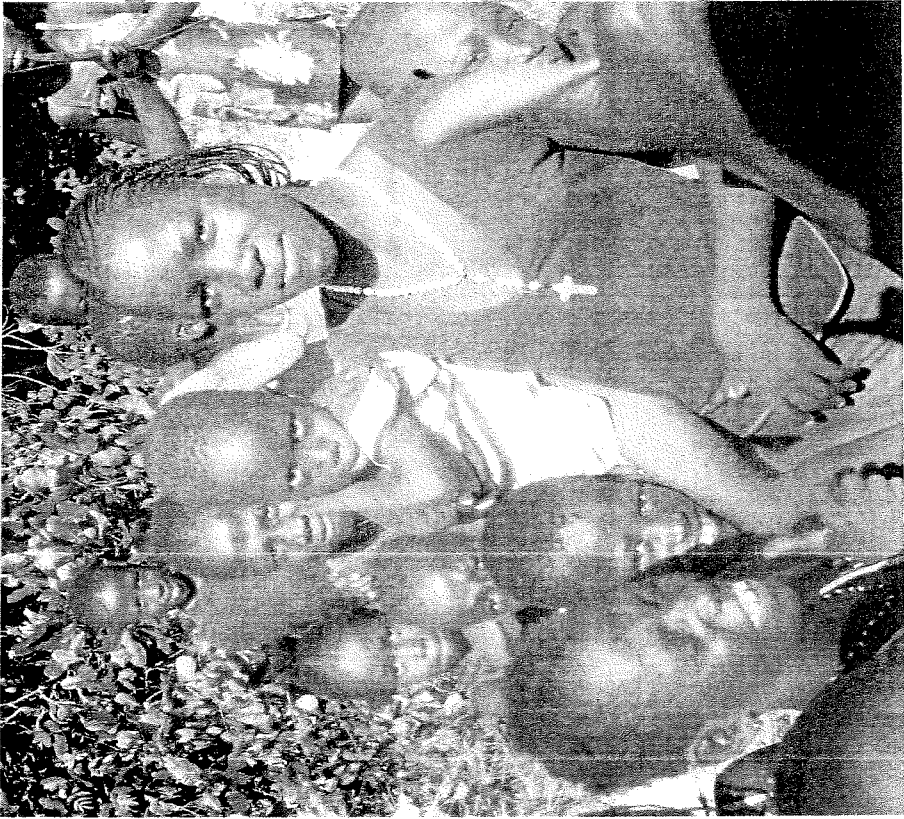


Guinea-Bissau target on VA (DENARP II 2011-2015) :

The equal opportunity for rehabilitation, rehabilitation and reintegration of ALL victims (victims of war and mines/ERW included) and their full participation in the socio-economic reconstruction to the country as an actor for development, and thus re-establish their rights and dignity.



National Victim Assistance Strategy



Thank you for your attention and kind support.