



# **After the blast**

## **Near-and long-term consequences of IED attacks**

### **Victim assistance – the Policy Perspective**

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*ROOM XXIV, Palais des Nations, Geneva*

**29 August 2017 – 10:00 to 1:00 pm**

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# Introduction

**UNMAS Commitment – Needs driven, People centered**

**No one is left behind**

**Victim Assistance - Human Rights-based approach**

**Victim Assistance - based on individual**

1. Overview of the Victim Assistance Framework
2. The UN Strategy on Mine Action and its Strategic Objective Two
3. The United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action
4. Implementation of policy guidance

# Overview of the VA framework

- Victim Assistance: one of the five pillars of Mine Action
- Obligations under IHL: APMBC (Article. 6), CCM (Article. 5), Protocol V of CCW (Article. 8)
- Resolutions of the General Assembly
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



# UN Mine Action Strategy 2013-2018

- Vision *“a world where the human rights and the needs of mine and explosive remnants of war victims are met and survivors are fully integrated as equal members of their societies.”*
- Strategic Objective Two *“Comprehensive support is provided by national and international actors to mine and Explosive Remnants of War victims within broader responses to injury and disability.”*



# United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance

- Updated in 2016, consultations within the UN system, as well as Handicap International, ICRC, ICBL-CMC;
- Consistent with requirements of relevant international law;
- Support to national authorities and other actors - capacity enhancement, inclusion of VA in socio-economic recovery and development, preparation of national plans for VA;
- 6 pillars of VA: data collection; emergency and continuing medical care; physical and other rehabilitation; psychological and psycho-social support; social and economic inclusion; establishment, enforcement and implementation of relevant laws and public policies.

# United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance

- Context of Victim Assistance: emergency, stabilization, early recovery, post-conflict and long-term development
- Definition *“the term victim shall refer to a person who has suffered physical, emotional and psychological injury, economic loss or substantial impairment of his or her fundamental rights through acts or omissions related to the use of mines or the presence of ERW. Victims include directly impacted individuals (including survivors), their families and communities affected by mines, ERW, cluster munitions or improvised explosive devices (IEDs) following conflict. The term “survivor” shall refer to a person who was harmed or injured as a result of a mine, ERW, cluster munition or IED accident and has survived the accident.”*

# Implementation

- Promote adherence to international instruments
- Provide advice and assistance in the establishment and implementation of national programmes and frameworks for persons with disabilities
- Provide practical assistance to those whose minds and bodies have been shattered by explosive hazards
- At least one form of victim assistance provided in 15 out of 18 countries/territories



# Conclusion

- UNMAS is committed to the inclusion and full participation of people with disabilities in their communities
- Support to victims and survivors should not depend on the type of device or weapon involved
- Support to victims is delivered based on a Human Rights-based approach and must be integrated with the CRPD



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