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Talking Points on Victims Assistance

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The United States is fortunate not to suffer from the impacts of explosive remnants of war (ERW). We do not have specific programs or state sponsored initiatives for victims. There is legislation regarding disabled persons that would apply.

The United States is a strong supporter of victims' assistance and provides significant support to victims' assistance programs throughout the world.

The War Victims Fund, managed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has been in operation in post-conflict and conflict-affected developing countries since 1989. The Fund was established to provide a dedicated source of financial and technical assistance for civilian victims of war who suffer from mobility-related injuries, including people who suffer from polio as a result of interrupted immunization services. In the past decade, the Fund has devoted the majority of its resources to the establishment and improvement of accessible and appropriate prosthetic and orthotic services, including physical and occupational rehabilitation services. Through U.S. Fiscal Year 2007, the War Victims' Fund has provided over \$143 million to more than 40 countries.

Additional programs have been sponsored with separate funds by the U.S. Department of State. An example of this is the "Adaptive Technology Catalogue" developed by the Mine Action Information Center at James Madison University with grant funding from the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement.

The War Victim's Fund program and any other victims' assistance programs managed by USAID and the United States Department of State do not differentiate victims by the munition that caused their injury.

For more information on the War Victims' Fund or information on the Adaptive Technology Catalogue, please see the information we have provided on the back table. We also have copies of the CD version of the catalogue.