



**A brief overview of Victim Assistance  
(in the context of Protocol V)**

Presentation by  
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**Article 8, paragraph 2 is about  
Victim Assistance !**

... but what really Victim  
Assistance is about ?  
It is first of all a concept that  
has been evolving progressively



**Protocol V: Article 8, paragraph 2**

« Each High Contracting Party in a  
position to do so shall provide  
assistance for the care and  
rehabilitation and social and  
economic reintegration of victims of  
explosive remnants of war. »



**A definition to start with:**

(Victim Assistance) Refers to all aid,  
relief, comfort and support provided  
to victims (including survivors) with  
the purpose of reducing the  
immediate and long-term medical  
and psychological implications of  
their trauma.

IMAS 04.10 (2003)



## Who is a victim?

### IMAS definition

#### Other definitions

An evolving understanding of who is a victim

### Other definitions ...

« It is now generally accepted that victims include those who, either individually, or collectively, have suffered physical, emotional and psychological injury, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights through acts or omissions related to *mine* utilisation »

The operation and status of the APMB (199-2004) Nairobi Summit (2004)

### IMAS definition of victim

« An individual who has suffered harm as result of a mine or ERW accident. »

« (I)n the context of victim assistance, the term victim may include dependants of a mine casualty, hence having a broader meaning than survivor. »

IMAS 04.10, Definition 3.269 (2003)

### Other definitions ...

« Cluster munition victims means all persons who have been killed or suffered physical or psychological injury, economic loss, social marginalisation or substantial impairment of the realisation of their rights caused by the use of cluster munitions. They include those persons directly impaired by cluster munitions as well as their affected families and communities. »

Article 2, par. 1 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008)

**Who is a victim?**

- The killed
- The injured – the survivors
- The affected families
- The affected communities

**Elements / Components of Victim Assistance**

**1. Understanding the challenges**

**Elements / Components of Victim Assistance**

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2. Emergency and continuing medical care
3. Physical rehabilitation
4. Psychological support
5. Social and economic reintegration
6. National legislation and policy

**Elements / Components of Victim Assistance**

**2. Emergency and continuing medical care**

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**3. Physical rehabilitation**



Elements / Components of Victim Assistance

**4. Psychological support**



Elements / Components of Victim Assistance

**5. Social and economic reintegration and inclusion**



Elements / Components of Victim Assistance

**6. National legislation and policy**



### Where are these elements reflected as part of Victim Assistance?

- The UN Inter-Agency Policy: (Mine Action and Effective Coordination, 2005)
- The Nairobi Action Plan for the Mine Ban Treaty (2004)
- The Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008)
- ING and ONGs policies

### Responsibility to assist victims

- Each individual state is responsible for its citizens
- « Each HCP in a position to do so (...) (Article 8, par. 2)
- « (...) through the UN system, relevant international, regional or national organizations, the ICRC, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and their International Federation, NGS or on a bilateral basis. (Article 8, par 2)

### Where else are these elements reflected?

- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and most importantly:
  - In many national victim assistance and/or disability policies, plans and programmes

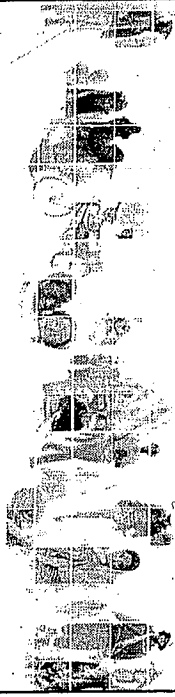
### The United Nations and Victim Assistance

- \* Victim Assistance is one of the five mine action pillars
- The UN stands ready to assist with programmes that address the needs of landmine and ERW victims preferably as part of national programmes that address the needs of all disabled people.

The UN Inter-Agency Policy (2005)



The  
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AND  
ACTION



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