

## **Mine Victim Assistance Statement**

### **CCM Inter-sessionnal April 2013**

Mr/Ms. Chairman ,

On behalf of the Lebanese delegation , I would like to express our appreciation to Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Afghanistan as Coordinators on victim Assistance.

The LMAC manages and coordinates the implementation of mine victim assistance in Lebanon, through the MVA National Steering Committee that includes both governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

MVA in Lebanon is either provided directly by the Government (Ministry of Public Health or of Social Affairs) or by non-governmental organizations (local or international). Funding of local NGOs working on MVA is through international NGOs, donor countries or the Lebanese government.

Over the last four years, MVA witnessed a major decrease in funding that froze many operations and activities. However, despite the funds decrease, LMAC secured in 2012 a grant from the Republic of China for victims of cluster munitions valued at USD \$190,000. The grant was mainly medical equipment to help victims of cluster munitions and mines and unexploded ordnance. The LMAC secured another grant of USD \$90,000 from the Marshall Legacy Institutes (MLI) and partner American Task Force for Lebanon (ATFL) for a project implemented to meet the national priorities in VA with coordination of the University of Balamand. This grant was spent for medical assistance to 30 landmine and Explosive Remnant of War survivors and to fund a computer literacy training course designed for 60 landmine/ ERW survivors.

In 2012, further efforts were undertaken to ensure eligible victims are provided with a disability card and that the law 220/2000 was further implemented. Work is currently underway to review the requirements set by the Ministry of Social Affairs for eligibility of disability cards and to compare them with the LMAC database of victims to see why some victims

are not receiving their card. Additionally, information campaigns informed victims of their rights and encouraged them to apply for a disability card. Medical assistance was provided to almost 50 ERW victims.

Mr Chairman,

Currently there is a lack of funding given for the continuous follow-up needs of victims despite a reduction in the number of casualties. According to the National Strategy 2011-2020, USD \$1.025 million should be allocated to MVA each year. In 2012, a total of USD \$ 280,000 was received for MVA assistance. The government's contribution includes emergency care, hospitalization and medical treatment provided free of charge. This overall contribution for 2012 falls very short of the funding target and resulted in resources not being available to provide key services including reintegration of victims, advocacy on implementation of disability laws, and microcredit for victims and other forms of socio-economic rehabilitation.

Currently the MVA steering committee is awaiting the results of the MVA survey that will be conducted soon. This survey will help better understand the needs of victims and accordingly the committee will revise its action plan to meet these needs. We are hoping that this exercise which is supported by both Austria and Korea be finalized by end of this year.

Thank you