

## **CCM VICTIM ASSISTANCE CONCEPT NOTE**

### **Enhancing Implementation of Action 4 of the Dubrovnik Action Plan (Victim Assistance) up to the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties (7MSP)**

#### **1. Background to Work Plan Context**

According to Article 5 paragraph 1 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), “Each State Party with respect to cluster munition victims in areas under its jurisdiction or control shall, in accordance with applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, adequately provide age- and gender-sensitive assistance, including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as provide for their social and economic inclusion. Each State Party shall make every effort to collect reliable relevant data with respect to cluster munition victims.”

In addition, in fulfilling their obligations under paragraph 1, States Parties must assess domestic needs in the above-mentioned areas and develop and enforce national policies. Also, States Parties must develop a national action plan, designate a focal point within the government for coordinating all matters relating to the issue, take steps to mobilize national and international resources, closely consult with and actively involve victims and their representative organizations and strive to incorporate relevant guidelines and good practices.

As at 12 October 2016, twelve (12) States Parties had, or had been, reported to have obligations under Article 5: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Montenegro, Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

To guide States Parties to effectively implement the Convention during the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020, at the September 2015 First Review Conference of States Parties to the CCM, States agreed to the five-year Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP). The DAP elaborates the priorities established by the States Parties through the various actions to be undertaken and the expected key results to be derived from these actions. Victim Assistance is addressed in Action 4 of the DAP, which will provide the primary basis for the objectives, activities and expected outputs outlined in this concept note.

Action 4 of the DAP encourages States Parties with victim assistance obligations to: strengthen national capacity (4.1); increase the involvement of victims (4.2); share information (4.3); and provide support, assist and cooperate (4.4).

## 2. Objectives

- Strengthen joint approaches with CCM Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance
- Increase coordination with Victim Assistance Coordinators of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) as well as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Facilitate increased cooperation for victim assistance programmes
- Facilitate increased exchange of information on good practices

## 3. Strategies, activities and timelines

- Reach out to six (6) States Parties with current obligations under Article 5 to find out the extent of the challenges and key priorities with regards to victim assistance through letters and/or emails to respective focal points by 31 December 2016;
- In close collaboration with Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance, relay States Parties requests for assistance under Art. 5 to donor States and/or organizations with relevant expertise by 31 December 2016;
- Through letters, emails or bilateral meetings, target two (2) States (Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone) that have not yet designated a national focal point for VA - which is an objective set by the DAP in Action 4.1 (a) by the end of 2016;
- Through letters, emails or bilateral meetings, target five (5) States (Afghanistan, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Montenegro and Sierra Leone) that have not yet developed a national disability or victim assistance national plan which is an objective set by the DAP Action 4.1 (c) by no later than the end of 2018;
- Organize a side event or workshop between CCM, APMBC and CCW coordinators as well as CRPD to enhance efforts to provide comprehensive victim assistance to States Parties with victim assistance obligations possibly in the margins of the 20<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors held in Geneva in February 2017;
- Promote the *Guidance on an integrated approach to Victim Assistance* amongst States Parties through existing electronic and web-based dissemination tools as well as during formal or informal fora and/or meetings with representatives of States Parties with victim assistance obligations up to 7MSP.
- Organize a side event or workshop between CCM, APMBC and CCW coordinators to promote the *Guidance on an integrated approach to Victim Assistance*, in the margins of 15MSP of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction in Santiago, Chile.

#### **4. Expected Outputs by the 7MSP**

- At least eight (6) States Parties with obligations under Art. 5 have provided detailed information with regards to challenges and key priorities in victim assistance;
- One (1) workshop or side event across Conventions was organized allowing for improved joint approaches to supporting States Parties with VA obligations;
- Two (2) States Parties with obligations under article 5 and no focal points designated yet have positively engaged in the process;
- At least two (2) States Parties that still need to develop a national plan have reported to have started the process;
- At least two (2) States Parties exchange information on good practices on an integrated approach to victim assistance;
- At least five (5) States Parties with the capacity to do so have responded constructively to requests for assistance by 30 June 2017.

#### **5. Estimated Budget**

Limited costs, depending on the strategy adopted.

#### **6. Strategy Implementers**

- Chile - Coordinator on Victim Assistance
- Italy - Coordinator on Victim Assistance
- CCM Implementation Support Unit

#### **7. Potential Implementing Partners**

- CCM Coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance
- Victim Assistance Coordinators of AMPBC and CCW
- CRPD
- CCM States Parties with obligations under Article 5
- Cluster munitions victims and their representative organizations
- Donor States
- International NGOs / operators
- Aid agencies