

LANDMINE WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: **Friday, October 09, 2009**

Venue: LSN Viet Nam office, 48 Ly Thuong Kiet, Dong Hoi City, Quang Binh Province

Hosted by: Landmine Survivors Network in Vietnam

Chaired by: Ms. Nguyen Thi Dung – LSNV’s Director
& Mr. Ho Viet Hung, Project Manager SODI

Participants: 17 participants from LSN Vietnam, VVMF (Project Renew), SODI, Clear Path International, MAG, NPA, Peace Trees Viet Nam

MAIN CONTENTS:

1. Welcome and brief introduction:

- Opening and welcome
- Self Introduction of all participants
- Review the meeting agenda

2. Update on the Workshop on Victim Assistance and International Cooperation organized by LSN-V, COMINGO and Quang Binh DOFA on 7 July 2009

On Tuesday July 7th Landmine Survivor Network Vietnam successfully co-hosted the first National Workshop on Victim Assistance and International Cooperation at Fortuna hotel in Hanoi, bringing together roughly 150 participants from Governmental Ministries, Embassies, INGOs, and many survivors. The workshop was partly funded by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and the Irish Embassy in Vietnam.

It was the first workshop of its kind in Vietnam, not only because it focused on victim assistance but also due to the workshop’s emphasis on structuring victim assistance through the rights-based framework laid out in three international conventions: the Mine Ban Treaty, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Although Vietnam is a signatory to the CRPD with plans for ratification in 2010, the Workshop provided a platform to encourage the Government towards signing the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Co-chaired by Quang Binh Province’s Department of Foreign Affairs and the People’s Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM) the workshop also brought attention to the need for development assistance in Quang Binh Province.

Workshop Objectives:

- Identify the gaps in implementation of victim assistance in Vietnam, specifically through the standard set in the three conventions including the Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Anti-personal Mine Ban Convention, and to seek way to address those gaps.
- Highlight the synergies between victim assistance and the rights of persons with disabilities and determine how these goals can be carried out in concrete programs.
- Outline initial strategies for international cooperation to support development Quang Binh province in an effective and sustainable manner.

Questions and Answers:

Question: Currently, there has been no update about CMC process in Viet Nam. What is the progress now?

Answer: The issue of CMC has been raised and the government has been in the process of studying and considering joining the convention.

3. Summary on implementation of QB action plan for supporting PWD 2009-2010 & recommendations from the ground for the draft social security system by Molisa

The Review Workshop was taken place on August 28 2009 at Sai Gon hotel, Quang Binh province, attended by around 155 representatives coming from all – level authorities, especially many representatives form DPO, ethnic groups, co-organized and co-chaired by LSNV and DOLISA QB.

The workshop aims to reach the following **objectives**:

- Promote the guidance of provincial leaders towards QBAP.
- Push up better care from all level leaders about supporting for persons with disabilities in Quang Binh.
- Review results of QBAP implementation in the first 8 months.
- Promote functional agencies, communities and society to support for persons with disabilities in the province.
- Raise awareness of local people about draft plan on Social Security System by MOLISA.
- Collect inputs from community for draft plan on Social Security system.
- Promote participation of persons with disabilities into the process of building, implementation and review related policies.

The Review workshop showed the good cooperation between LSN Viet nam and DOLISA, functional agencies, communities and local NGOs in supporting for persons with disabilities. The review workshop considerably raised awareness of local people about draft plan on Social Security System by MOLISA, collect inputs from community for draft plan on Social Security system. The workshop attracted the participation of national all – level representatives, especially of survivors/ Persons with disabilities and ethnic people. Results of the implementation of QBAP were clearly presented by DOLISA and Quang Trach BOLISA. Such workshop is a meaningful forum for Persons with disabilities and ethnic people with the active participation of 55 survivors/ Persons with disabilities and ethnic people. This was seen a good opportunity for them to raise their voice with the presence of all level representatives.

Question and Answer

Q: Why does the draft plan only focus on the rural population? How about urban population because it is proved that urban people are even poorer than rural people?

A: Most of Vietnamese people live in the rural areas and so do poor people. However, this is the MOLISA's draft plan, any questions will be submitted to them.

4. Presentation on recent EWR accidents in central Vietnam

Mr. Chi from CPI provided the updates about EWR accidents and casualties in Central Viet Nam. The first nine months of 2009 saw 15 ERW related accidents resulted in 29 casualties. Except for June and July, the situation of ERW related accidents had downward trend.

Question and Answer

Q: How does CPI collect casualty data?

A: From many sources: Local people, internet, etc.

Q: There are ERW accidents annually. Which programs does CPI have or which organizations related to MRE does CPI cooperate with to minimize annual number of accidents?

CPI has good cooperation with CRS, Renew, SODI and PTVN, however, due to low awareness of local people, despite the fact that they do know the danger of landmine, they still earn living by seeking for landmine because of good price of the cover of bombs. CPI made contact to many households and found out that many families were not poor; they wanted to earn money easily by selling cover of the big bomb. Therefore, raising awareness for local people is indispensable.

5. Information on the Cartagena Summit on a Mine Free World

From 29 November - 4 December 2009 in Cartagena city of Colombia, there will be the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World or second five-year Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty. The Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World is a milestone event where states and the mine ban community will review the status of the Mine Ban Treaty and set out steps that need to be taken to create a mine-free world. More than 1,000 participants from across the world, including numerous Ministers and Heads of State; Governments, United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and international organizations; Mine action experts, landmine survivors and campaigners gathered under the banner of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. The Summit is convened by the United Nations Secretary-General and hosted by the government of Colombia. Ambassador Susan Eckey of Norway is the President-Designate of the Summit.

In the view of the ICBL, the Cartagena Summit will be successful if it can achieve three key goals:

1. Clearly identify the progress made in meeting the treaty's objectives, as well as the remaining challenges;
2. Reaffirm States' long-term commitment to the universalization and full implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty;
3. Adopt a strong, measurable action plan for the next five years based on lessons learned since the first Review Conference in 2004.

Part 2: Discussion:

1. Since the last meeting, activity of LWG has been still the same. Therefore, further discussion and finalization on LWG's working mechanism (short-term and long-term objectives, collaboration mechanism, potential cooperation activities, etc.) was made. Here are the ideas and inputs from participants in the meeting.
 - The LWG meeting should be organized every six months. However, this issue will be put again in the next meeting with more participants.
 - Online discussion among LWG members is necessary and convenient.
 - Further discussion about organizing LWG meeting, with the focus on expectations of participants, meeting host, effectiveness of the meeting.
 - Participation from NGO Resource Centre is important. In case no organization volunteers to host the meeting, a request for NGO Resources Centre to provide a permanent meeting location for the LWG will be made at the hall room of NGO Resource Centre despite the fact that most of LWG members work in the Central region of Viet Nam.
 - In each LWG meeting, there should be combination between meeting and field trip to have further understanding about other organizations' activities.

- The next host organization should be identified at the meeting.
 - There should be the participation of governmental officers from VBMAC, MOLISA, etc. for more impacts during implementation and also further updated information. Moreover, they can give feedbacks for LWG members' answers. The problem is that it is difficult to involve their participation.
- a. Short term objectives:**
- Set up steering committee.
- In the last LWG meeting, 3 organizations were nominated as members of LWG's steering committee with their specific sectors:
- LSN Viet Nam (chairman): focal point on victim assistance
 - CRS: focal point on MRE
 - SODI: focal point on mine clearance.
- b. Long – term objectives:**
- Supporting the process of establishing national guidelines for mine action.
 - Supporting information sharing through common information/ reporting formats.
 - Sharing information through internet.
- c. Cooperation mechanism:**
- Same field of cooperation: provide mutual support.
 - Different fields of cooperation: Provide information for more understanding.
2. What activities LWG member can do together in advocacy work related to some big international conventions for mine actions (the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Mine Ban Treaty)?
- Hoa: Advocacy work is still sensitive in Viet Nam. Each organization has different approach in encouraging government to sign these conventions. In the recent years, with the support from MOFA, LSNV successfully organized Victim Assistance workshops (one in Ho Chi Minh City in 2008 and one in Ha noi in 2009). Especially, support from other civil societies play great role in advocating the government to sign these convention.
 - Andrew: MAG will be willing to share related information.
 - For advocacy work, the best persons to contact with are: Rickard from SODI, Jimmy from MAG and Nam from Project Renew.

Some updates from participants:

- In 2010, LSNV will become a local NGO. Therefore, it is necessary to nominate a chair organization as soon as possible.
- On NGO Resource Centre's website, there are corners for Working Group to update their information.

Conclusion

- Further discussion will be made in the next meeting with the participation of governmental officers.

Please find the Participants List below!

---- The End ----

Minutes taken by Nguyen Thi Linh Giang, LSN Vietnam

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Landmine Working Group Meeting
on 09th October 2009 hosted by LSN VN at LSNV office, Dong Hoi, Quang Binh

	Name of participant	Job title	Organization	Contact details
1	PETTER JO LINDHEIM	Technical Advisor	NPA	
2	DINH NGOC VU	<i>Operations Manager</i>	NPA/ RENEW EOD	Phone: 0912.123.535 E-mail: vurenw@gmail.com
3	HO SY KHUONG	<i>Interpreter</i>	NPA/ RENEW EOD	
4	PHAN VAN HUNG	Information/ Data Manager	VVMF (RENEW)	Phone : 0914 958. 939 E-mail : nguyenhungphan@gmail.com
5	ANDREW MCCALISTER	Community Liaison Manager	MAG	Phone: 0936 352 492 E-mail: mag-clm@vnn.vn
6	TRAN VINH PHONG	<i>Community Liaison Officer</i>	MAG Quang Tri	Phone: 0977.848.849 E-mail: phong.clo.mag@gmail.com
7	TRAN HONG CHI	Project Coordinator	CPI	Phone: 0905.311.666 E-mail: chi@cpi.org
8	Rickard Hartmann	Program Manager	SODI	Phone: 053 855 071 E-mail: sodi-qt@dng.vnn.vn
9	HO VIET HUNG	Project Manager	SODI	Phone: 0905.808.777 E-mail: viethungho@yahoo.com
10	LAN	Program Officer	PTVN	Phone : 053.3565.549
11	NGUYEN THI DUNG	Director	LSN Việt Nam	Phone: 0987 367 259 E-mail: thuydungqb@gmail.com
12	NGUYEN THI THANH HONG	Operations Manager	LSN Việt Nam	Phone: 0988.783.699 E-mail: thanhhongdh@gmail.com
13	NGUYEN THI KIM HOA	M&E officer	LSN Việt Nam	Phone : 0982 667 668 E-mail: ngkimhoa@gmail.com
14	NGUYEN THI LINH GIANG	Executive Assistant	LSN Việt Nam	Phone : 0983.184.727 E-mail: linhgiangdh82@yahoo.com

	Name of participant	Job title	Organization	Contact details
16	DANG THI HAI YEN	Program Coordinator	LSN Viet Nam	Phone : 0912.515.116 E-mail : dangyendh@gmail.com
17	LE THI KIM OANH	Finance Manager	LSN Viet Nam	Phone: 01689.286.936 E-mail: oanhlsnv@gmail.com

