

Victim Assistance in Honduras: then and now

Honduras	1	2	3	4	5	6
According to original study					•	•
According to LM 2002						•
According to LM 2003		•				•

Key Developments (LM 2002):

Clearance operations, originally targeted for completion in 2001, are now scheduled to be completed by the end of 2002. In April 2002, Honduras stated that the country had met 98.59 percent of its mine clearance objectives. Since September 2001, Honduras has served as co-chair of the Mine Ban Treaty Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration.

Indicator 1: The extent to which information on mine victims' demographics and needs is available.

According to original study:

LM 1999 reports that Honduran officials estimate that over 200 civilians have been killed in landmine accidents since 1990. However there are not believed to have been any new incidents during the LM 2000 reporting period. Information on the demographics and needs of mine victims is collected by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) which operates in Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. In each country the program involves assessment of the number of victims and of individual prosthetic and rehabilitation needs. IMSMA is being installed in Nicaragua as a central database for the management of mine action information, (which includes a victim data module), by the OAS's Assistance Program for Demining in Central America (PADCA) in Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. There are also plans to establish a WHO/ICRC Strategic Framework for Planning Integrated Mine Victim Assistance Programmes in Honduras, which would include the development of a system for the monitoring and surveillance of mine injuries.

According to LM 2002:

The last reported mine incident occurred on 18 March 2001, when a Honduran civilian attempting to cross into Nicaragua to hunt, lost his leg and an eye when he stepped on a landmine on the Nicaraguan side of the border.¹⁷ In September 1995, Honduran officials estimated that over 200 civilians had been killed in landmine incidents since 1990.¹⁸

Indicator 2: The extent to which a national disability coordination mechanism exists and recognizes mine victims.

According to original study:

The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) coordinates a Program for the Rehabilitation of Mine Victims in Central America established through a joint agreement with Canada and Mexico in January 1999. The program is operates in Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador and is delivered through four stages: assessing the number of victims; assessing individual's specific prosthetics and rehabilitation needs; providing for treatment and rehabilitation; and promoting victims reintegration into the workforce. The WHO plans to begin working with the government during 2000 to establish a Strategic Framework for Planning Integrated Mine Victim Assistance Programmes in Honduras.

According to LM 2002:

Handicap International Belgium (HIB) provides support to a network of prosthetic and orthotic workshops in Honduras and to organizations assisting people with disabilities, civil society coordination bodies, technical training programs, and to the creation of a national information system. While HIB does not directly provide services to disabled people, it supports more than twenty private and public Honduran institutions and five international organizations with training, technical, and financial assistance. More than 3,000 disabled persons benefited from the programs in 2001, with each patient paying for services according to their capacity. HIB activities are supported by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of the Presidency and the National Statistics Institute. The annual budget is \$230,000 and donors including the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union, Canadian Cooperation, and private donors.²²

Indicator 3: The extent to which programs and services for the medical care and rehabilitation of mine victims are available.

According to original study:

LM 2000 reports that Honduras has only made minimal efforts in addressing the needs of landmine survivors and providing them with adequate treatment. The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) coordinates a Program for the Rehabilitation of Mine Victims in Central America established through a joint agreement with Canada and Mexico in January 1999. The program is operates in Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador and is delivered through four stages: assessing the number of victims; assessing individual's specific prosthetics and rehabilitation needs; providing for treatment and rehabilitation; and promoting victims reintegration into the workforce.

According to LM 2002:

With respect to the treatment of mine-related injuries, Honduras provides programs, training, equipment and transportation to medical care. The Secretary of Health of Honduras (Secretaria de Salud de Honduras) through the National University of Honduras (UNAH, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras) is working on developing information systems on the rehabilitation of disabled persons, community-based rehabilitation programs, economic reintegration programs, studies on prosthetic and orthotic services, and developing resources such as seminars and workshop. There are prosthetic workshops at the Honduras Social Security Institute (Instituto Hondureño de Seguro Social) in Teleton and the general hospital in San Felipe.¹⁹

In 2001, the orthopedic workshop at the San Felipe General Hospital in Tegucigalpa produced or repaired 470 prostheses. A new orthopedic workshop in San Pedro Sula, created and equipped by the Teleton Foundation, commenced production in August 2001.²⁰

The Canada-Mexico PAHO is supporting the Department of Health General Hospital regarding the rehabilitation program for survivors and the manufacture of prostheses.²¹

In Danli, the Gabriela Alvarado Rehabilitation Center continues to support disabled people with a wide range of services including physical rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration.

Indicator 4: The extent to which programs and services for the social and economic reintegration of mine victims are available

According to original study:

The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) coordinates a Program for the Rehabilitation of Mine Victims in Central America established through a joint agreement with Canada and Mexico in January 1999. The program is operates in Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador and is delivered through four stages: assessing the number of victims; assessing individual's specific prosthetics and rehabilitation needs; providing for treatment and rehabilitation; and promoting victims reintegration into the workforce.

According to LM 2002:

The Secretary of Health of Honduras (Secretaria de Salud de Honduras) through the National University of Honduras (UNAH, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras) is working on developing information systems on the rehabilitation of disabled persons, community-based rehabilitation programs, economic reintegration programs, studies on prosthetic and orthotic services, and developing resources such as seminars and workshop.

The Honduran Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled (FUHRIL- Fundación Hondureña de Rehabilitación e Integración del Limitado) and NGOs, as well as the Mexican government, were involved in the economic reintegration of mine survivors.

In Danli, the Gabriela Alvarado Rehabilitation Center continues to support disabled people with a wide range of services including physical rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration.

Indicator 5: The extent to which mine victims are protected and supported by effective laws and policies.

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

Honduras has laws on the rights of disabled persons.²³

Indicator 6: The extent to which there is a disability community advocacy network.

According to original study:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

No information available.

Endnotes:

¹⁷ See *Landmine Monitor Report 2001*, p. 352.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Article 7 Report, Form J (for the period from 1995 to August 2001), 10 August 2001; see also *Landmine Monitor Report 2001*, p 353.

²⁰ Handicap International Belgium Activity Report 2001.

²¹ Telephone interview with Lic, Octavio Salomon Nuñez, Director of Special Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 14 February 2002.

²² Thierry Gonthier, Program Director, Handicap International Belgium, response to Landmine Monitor Survivor Assistance Questionnaire, 30 June 2002.

²³ *Landmine Victim Assistance World Report 2001*, Handicap International, Lyon, December 2001, p. 306.