

### Victim Assistance in Panama: then and now

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

#### **Key Developments (LM 2002):**

None

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

##### **According to original study:**

According to Canadian mine action program coordinators, there is not presently a need to collect data on the demographics and needs of mine victims in Panama.

##### **According to LM 2002:**

There were no reports of mine or UXO casualties in 2001 or the first half of 2002.<sup>10</sup> Panamá has stated that at least twenty-one people have been killed by UXO since 1940, while the US gives a figure of seven fatalities since 1984.<sup>11</sup>

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

##### **According to original study:**

No information available.

##### **According to LM 2002:**

No information available.

#### **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 those injured by mines/UXOs can obtain rehabilitation services at various public and private hospitals. Most of these are in Panama City, but there are 1,175 health clinics around the country, one university hospital, nine public integrated hospitals, and also private clinics.

##### **According to LM 2002:**

No information available.

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

##### **According to original study:**

No information available.

##### **According to LM 2002:**

People that were injured inside the ranges as a result of coming into contact with UXO were reimbursed in cash or in kind by the US government during the period of US control of the installations of Empire, Piña and Balboa West, even in cases where entrances to the area were restricted.<sup>13</sup>

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

##### **According to original study:**

LM 2000 reports that there is a "Plan for the Development of the Disabled," under the coordination of CONADIS (National Congress of the Disabled). According to an official at the Ministry of Health does not make reference to assistance for employment and socio-economic reintegration of the disabled.

##### **According to LM 2002:**

There are no disability policies that specifically address UXO survivors in Panamá.<sup>12</sup>

**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:**

<sup>10</sup> Interview with Angela Healy, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 15 February 2002.

<sup>11</sup> Andrea Stone, "Deadly Reminders of US in Panama," *USA Today*, 9 August 1999, p. 7.

<sup>12</sup> No policies were discovered during Landmine Monitor research at the Ministry of Health, at the Center of Legal Research, Panama University, or at the Legislative Archives, November 201-February 2002.

<sup>13</sup> Telephone interview with Lourdes Lozano, Institute of National Studies, University of Panama, 18 February 2002.