

Victim Assistance in Syria: then and now

Syria	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:

No information available.

According to LM 2002:

Mine casualty data is not systematically collected in Syria. There are no records on mine casualties at local health care centers and some victims go directly to Damascus hospitals (some 40-50 kilometer distance) to get emergency services. On 4 January 2002, two 10-year-old boys were killed by a landmine according to the Director of Health in the Bordering Areas (Golan).⁶ There were no reports in the Syrian media of mine incidents in 2001, but on 19 March 2001, three Syrian workers were injured by a mine while working on a building site in Beirut, Lebanon.⁷ The only known incident in the Golan occurred on 6 June 2001, in the area of Ain Al-Hamra, when a 73-year-old shepherd was killed by a mine.⁸

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 basic health and social services are provided free of charge and most mine victims receive emergency medical care, amputation surgery and post-operative care, prosthetic devices, physical rehabilitation, wheelchairs, and special education.

According to LM 2002:

There have been few changes in the services for mine survivors in Syria during the reporting period.⁹ People in the mine-affected Golan must travel to Damascus to receive specialized medical care, surgery, physical rehabilitation, prosthetics, wheelchairs, and special education. To remedy this lack of facilities, the government health program opened a new physiotherapy center in Khan Arnaba on 8 March 2002. Also a new 120-bed hospital will be opened in 2003 in Khan Arnaba.¹⁰

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

According to original study:

LM 2000 reports that socio-economic reintegration programs are available in Syria.

According to LM 2002:

No information available.

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:

There are no laws or decrees to aid landmine survivors or the disabled in Syria.

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

According to original study:

LM 2000 reports that there are several NGOs located in Damascus involved in the assistance of people with disabilities.

According to LM 2002:

No information available.

Endnotes:

⁶ Meeting with health officials in Khan Arnaba Health Center, 10 February 2002.

⁷ "Mine wounds three Syrian workers in Beirut," *Reuters* (Beirut), 19 March 2001.

⁸ Al-Haq, Press Release 92, 7 June 2001.

⁹ For details of the situation, see *Landmine Monitor Report 2001*, pp. 1043-1044.

¹⁰ Interview with the assistant director of Quneitra Health Directorate, 7 February 2002.