

# Regional Workshop

Novotel Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand  
28-30 May 2024



under the project  
Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States  
**28-30 May 2024**  
Bangkok, Thailand



## Promoting the Execution of the Regional Victim Assistance Network and Establishment of the Regional Guideline to Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Region

under the project  
Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the ASEAN–Korea Programme Management Team (AKPMT) and ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) for their consistent support, coordination, and oversight in monitoring the project’s implementation.

Our deepest appreciation goes to the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand for hosting this regional workshop in Bangkok and for their invaluable support in facilitating the event. The welcoming remarks and participation of their representatives significantly contributed to the workshop’s success.

We acknowledge the significant contributions of the delegates from the ASEAN Member States, including representatives from National Mine Action Authorities, Government Ministries, Agencies, and other relevant stakeholders, who actively participated in the discussions and shared their valuable insights and experiences. Their commitment to enhancing victim assistance in the region is commendable.

Our gratitude is extended to the technical partners and stakeholders, including Humanity and Inclusion (HI), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The HALO Trust, Mine Advisory Group and other international and national non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, and academic institutions, for their presentations, expertise, and active engagement in the workshop.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the explosive ordnance (EO) survivors whose lived experiences provided crucial insights and a guiding force for the discussions aimed at enhancing victim assistance programs. Their voices remain central to our collective efforts.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Workshop on Promoting the Implementation of the Regional Victim Assistance Network and the Establishment of the Regional Guideline to Enhance Victim Assistance Programme was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 28–30 May 2024. Organized by the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) under the “Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States” project, with support from the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) and the host authority, the workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from ASEAN Member States, international and national NGOs, UN agencies, and other relevant organizations. The primary objectives were to introduce the finalized Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN), draft the VAN workplan, and facilitate the development of a regional guideline for enhancing victim assistance programs.

The three-day event included in-depth discussions on the VAN TOR and workplan, the integration of national and international standards in victim assistance, and the collaborative development of regional guidelines. Participants actively engaged in group discussions to formulate the VAN action plan and provide inputs to the zero draft of the Regional Victim Assistance Guideline in Mine Action.

Additionally, side events and exhibitions showcasing available resources and support programs were also organized. A field visit to physical rehabilitation and emergency medical service facilities offered practical insights into service provision for EO victims and persons with disabilities.

### Key outcomes of the workshop include:

- **Presentation and discussion of the finalized Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN).**
- **Drafting of a strategic workplan for the VAN**, outlining priority areas and collaborative activities.
- **Gathering of comprehensive inputs for the development of a regional guideline to enhance victim assistance programs**, incorporating international standards and best practices.
- **Enhanced understanding of relevant national and international standards and legal frameworks** in victim assistance, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
- **Update on the progress of the Country Profile Sheet** for each EO affected country.
- **Identification of potential structures and functions of the Regional VAN.**
- **Increased awareness and networking among victim assistance stakeholders** across the ASEAN region.

The workshop concluded with a clear way forward, including the finalization of the VAN workplan and the regional guideline, and continued efforts in developing country profiles to strengthen victim assistance programs across the ASEAN Member States.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION



## 1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

Explosive ordnance (EO), including landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), continues to pose serious threats to safety, peace, and development across the ASEAN region. These hazards lead to long-term casualties, disabilities, and profound socio-economic consequences for affected communities.

In response, the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), with funding support from the Government of the Republic of Korea through the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF), launched the three-year initiative titled “*Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States*”—hereafter referred to as the Victim Assistance (VA) Project.

The VA Project seeks to strengthen the collective capacity of ASEAN Member States (AMS) in delivering holistic and integrated support to EO victims and persons with disabilities (PWDs). Through the development of regional mechanisms, national consultations, and multi-sector partnerships, the project promotes a sustainable, inclusive, and coordinated approach to victim assistance across the region.



## 1.2 PURPOSE OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The Regional Workshop on Promoting the Implementation of the Regional Victim Assistance Network and the Establishment of the Regional Guideline to Enhance Victim Assistance Programme was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 28–30 May 2024. It served as the **third** regional workshop under the VA Project—following earlier workshops held in **Bali, Indonesia** and **Seoul, Republic of Korea**.

**This workshop aimed to:**

- Finalize the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN);
- Initiate and gather inputs for the development of a regional guideline to enhance victim assistance;
- Facilitate technical and policy dialogue among ASEAN Member States and key partners; and
- Strengthen collaboration through interactive group discussions, survivor testimonies, and expert presentations.

## 1.3 LINK TO THE BROADER PROJECT TIMELINE

The Bangkok workshop marked a critical milestone in the progression of the VA Project. It built upon the outcomes of national consultative meetings and the two earlier regional workshops (Bali and Seoul), which laid the groundwork for regional consensus on the structure and scope of a coordinated victim assistance network.

Key deliverables from this third regional workshop—including the finalized VAN TOR, the draft VAN workplan, and preliminary inputs to the regional guideline—will inform the final phase of the project. This includes the preparation of national country profile sheets, the continued refinement of the regional guideline, and the convening of the final wrap-up workshop.

## 2. BACKGROUND



### 2.1 ERW/MINE CONTEXT IN ASEAN

A number of ASEAN Member States continue to face profound challenges due to the widespread contamination from explosive ordnance (EO), including landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). These dangerous remnants not only cause immediate fatalities and injuries but also have far-reaching effects on the socio-economic development of affected communities. The presence of EO severely restricts access to land, hampers agricultural productivity, limits the use of natural resources, and disrupts infrastructure development.

The continued presence of EO underscores the urgent need for comprehensive mine action efforts, which include the clearance of hazardous areas, risk education, and, most critically, victim assistance. The needs of EO victims, survivors, their families, and communities are vast and multifaceted, requiring an integrated approach that goes beyond immediate medical care. Long-term solutions must include physical rehabilitation,

psychosocial support, and the reintegration of victims into their communities, enabling them to regain their livelihoods and participate fully in social and economic life.

Addressing these challenges calls for a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach that brings together national governments, local communities, international organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure a holistic and sustainable support system for all those affected by explosive ordnance.





## 2.2 PROJECT INCEPTION AND PURPOSE

In recognition of the transboundary nature of the challenges posed by explosive ordnance (EO) and the critical need for regional cooperation, the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) launched the “Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States” project. The primary objective of this initiative is to strengthen victim assistance programs across the ASEAN region by fostering collaboration, sharing best practices, and developing regional frameworks to address the comprehensive needs of EO victims. A central focus of the project is the establishment of a Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) and the development of a regional guideline, both of which aim to enhance coordination, promote unified approaches, and ensure that victims of explosive ordnance receive integrated and sustained support.

The project envisions fostering a collaborative, region-wide effort that not only addresses immediate victim needs but also builds long-term, sustainable capacity across ASEAN Member States to better respond to the impact of explosive ordnance.



## 2.3 ARMAC’S MANDATE AND INVOLVEMENT

The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) was established by the ten ASEAN Member States as a center of excellence dedicated to addressing the persistent challenges posed by explosive ordnance (EO). ARMAC’s mandate is to encourage and facilitate collective action among ASEAN Member States and relevant international institutions, focusing on comprehensive solutions to mitigate the impact of EO. As the lead agency for the “Enhance Victim Assistance Programme,” ARMAC plays a critical role in coordinating regional efforts, facilitating the development of the Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN), and ensuring the creation of the regional guideline.

ARMAC’s involvement extends beyond coordination to include providing technical expertise, supporting capacity-building initiatives, and offering guidance to ASEAN Member States to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of their victim assistance programs. Through these efforts, ARMAC strives to support ASEAN Member States in strengthening their responses to the needs of EO victims, thereby contributing to a safer, more inclusive, and resilient region.



## 3. MEETING OVERVIEW



### 3.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The Regional Workshop on Promoting the Implementation of the Regional Victim Assistance Network and the Establishment of the Regional Guideline to Enhance Victim Assistance Programme had the following primary objectives:

- **Finalization of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Regional VAN:** To present and validate the TOR, clarifying the roles, responsibilities, and communication mechanisms of the network.
- **Development of the VAN Workplan:** To outline the strategic framework for the VAN's activities over the coming year, including identifying priority areas, setting achievable goals, and fostering collaboration across stakeholders.
- **Creation of the Regional Victim Assistance Guideline:** To facilitate the development of a regional guideline designed to enhance victim assistance programs across ASEAN Member States, ensuring alignment with international standards and best practices.

### 3.2 DATE, TIME, VENUE

The workshop took place from **28 to 30 May 2024** in **Bangkok, Thailand**. The venue for the primary sessions and exhibitions on 28–29 May was a designated meeting facility in central Bangkok.

On 30 May, participants visited the **Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Institute (SNMRI)** and the **National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM)**, providing firsthand exposure to the delivery of victim assistance services in Thailand.

### 3.3 FORMAT

The workshop was organized in a hybrid format, combining in-person and virtual participation to ensure broad engagement from stakeholders. The sessions included:

- **Plenary Sessions:** Keynote addresses and presentations on the finalized TOR for the VAN, national victim assistance programs, and international standards in victim assistance.
- **Interactive Group Discussions:** Collaborative sessions focused on refining the VAN workplan and providing feedback on the draft regional victim assistance guideline.
- **Side Events and Exhibitions:** Showcasing various victim assistance initiatives, available resources, and survivor stories to inspire and inform attendees.
- **Field Visit:** A guided visit to relevant facilities, including rehabilitation centers, where participants observed victim assistance services in action.

### 3.4 OPENING CEREMONY SUMMARY

The opening ceremony on 28 May 2024 formally marked the start of the Regional Workshop on Promoting the Implementation of the Regional Victim Assistance Network and the Establishment of the Regional Guideline to Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in ASEAN Member States.



**Ms. Chanthana Sengthong, Project Manager at ARMAC**, delivered the opening overview. She outlined the objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop, including the finalization of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Regional VAN, the drafting of its workplan, and the initiation of a regional guideline to enhance victim assistance programming in the ASEAN region. She also expressed gratitude to all participants and partners for their continued collaboration and support.



**H.E. Varawut Silpa-archa, Minister of Social Development and Human Security of the Kingdom of Thailand**, delivered the keynote address, reaffirming Thailand's commitment to supporting persons with disabilities and survivors of explosive ordnance. He emphasized the importance of regional solidarity in addressing the enduring impacts of armed conflict and building inclusive recovery mechanisms.

**Ms. Rothna Buth, Executive Director of ARMAC**, emphasized the significance of this third regional workshop as a critical milestone in strengthening institutional frameworks for victim assistance. She highlighted the journey of the VA Project from national consultations to this regional platform and called for sustained regional commitment and shared responsibility in supporting survivors across ASEAN.



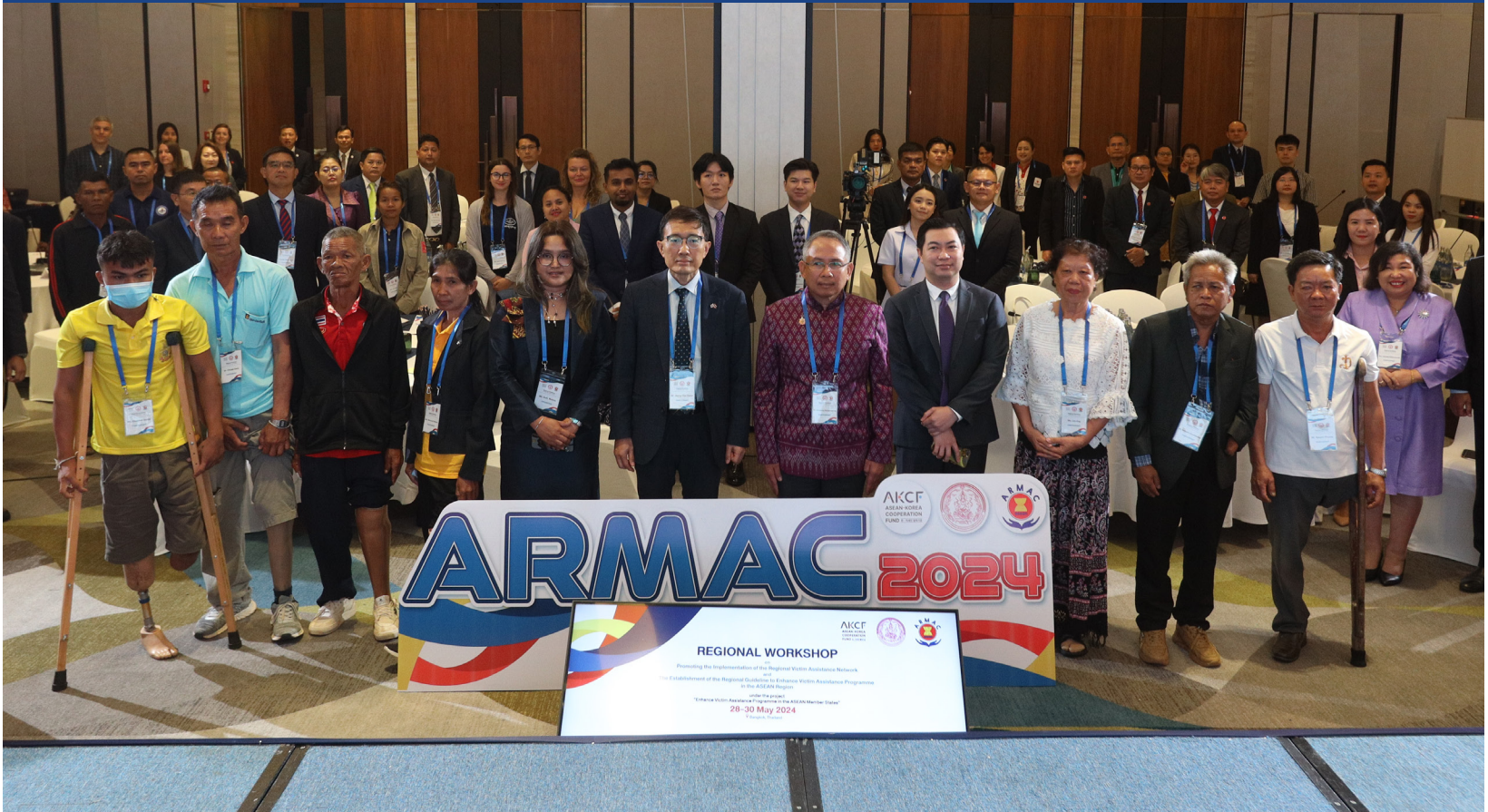
**Mr. Jeong-Han Hahm, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Kingdom of Thailand**, delivered remarks on behalf of the donor. He underscored the Republic of Korea's longstanding support to ARMAC through the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) and reflected on Korea's own historical experience with war and landmines. He encouraged participants to engage in open and collaborative dialogue toward tangible solutions for victims.



**Mr. Soulikone Samounty, First Secretary at the Embassy of the Lao PDR to the Kingdom of Thailand** and Alternate Representative of the ARMAC Steering Committee, reaffirmed the Steering Committee's support for the workshop and ARMAC's broader mandate. He emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement and welcomed the progress made toward operationalizing the Regional VAN.

The ceremony concluded with a group photo, symbolizing a shared commitment to advancing victim assistance through regional collaboration and solidarity.

## 4. PARTICIPANTS



### 4.1 TOTAL NUMBER

The Regional Workshop convened a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from ASEAN Member States (AMS), National Mine Action Authorities (NMAAs), government agencies, national and international partners, and civil society organizations. A total of **125 participants**, including **62 women**, attended the workshop sessions held on 28–29 May 2024. Participants came from AMS including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam, as well as from the ASEAN Secretariat, the Republic of Korea, and various organizations working on explosive ordnance (EO), disability inclusion, and victim assistance. The field visit conducted on 30 May 2024 engaged 60 participants, including 27 women, further enriching the practical learning experience through on-site exposure and peer exchange.

### 4.2 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

The participants represented a broad spectrum of stakeholder groups, reflecting the multi-sectoral and inclusive approach to strengthening victim assistance in the ASEAN region. These included:

- **Government ministries and agencies** from ASEAN Member States responsible for victim assistance, social welfare, health, and disability affairs, including Thailand's **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP)** under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.
- **National Mine Action Authorities (NMAAs)** and **National Mine Action Centres (NMACs)** from explosive ordnance (EO)-affected ASEAN countries.
- **International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** engaged in mine action, victim assistance, disability inclusion, and humanitarian support.
- **ASEAN-Korea Programme Management Team (AKPMT)** and **ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC)**.

- **United Nations agencies** involved in humanitarian mine action, development, and disability-inclusive programming.
- **Academic and research institutions** with expertise in physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, and inclusive development.
- **Representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea** to the Kingdom of Thailand.
- **Representatives from the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic** to the Kingdom of Thailand.
- **National institutions from Thailand**, including the **Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Institute (SNMRI)** and the **National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM)**.
- **Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), explosive ordnance survivors, and civil society organizations (CSOs)**.
- **Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) operators** supporting victim assistance and field implementation across the region.

perspectives and expertise that enriched the discussions and contributed to the development of a comprehensive regional approach. This broad representation was crucial in ensuring that the Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) and its future plans are inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of all ASEAN countries.



#### 4.4 ATTENDANCE MODE

The workshop was primarily held in person, offering participants a valuable opportunity for face-to-face interactions, networking, and the fostering of collaborative discussions. The in-person format allowed for a deeper exchange of ideas, more dynamic debates, and stronger relationship-building among stakeholders. Although the main workshop sessions were conducted in person, hybrid formats were implemented for certain parts of the workshop. For example, Humanity and Inclusion (HI) delivered a key presentation online, and the presentation from the Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Institute was shared in video format. This combination of in-person and virtual elements ensured that all relevant stakeholders, regardless of their location, could contribute and engage meaningfully in the discussions. The hybrid format also demonstrated flexibility and adaptability, allowing for broader inclusion of remote participants and ensuring continuity in the sharing of vital information.



#### 4.3. GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

The workshop achieved strong geographic representation from across the ASEAN region, including active participation from both explosive ordnance (EO)-affected and non-affected Member States. Representatives from countries severely impacted by explosive ordnance, such as Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, shared valuable national experiences, lessons learned, and challenges faced in victim assistance and mine action. These contributions provided important insights into the ongoing needs and gaps in victim support. In addition, delegates from other ASEAN Member States, as well as representatives from international organizations, brought diverse



## 5. TECHNICAL AND THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS



### 5.1 OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL VA PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES

A substantial portion of the workshop was dedicated to understanding the current landscape of national victim assistance programs and services within the ASEAN region. Representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam provided in-depth overviews of their respective national guidelines, standards, legal frameworks, and implementation processes related to victim assistance (VA). These presentations underscored the significant efforts underway within these countries to address the diverse needs of explosive ordnance (EO) victims and integrate them into broader socio-economic systems.

- **Cambodia** presented on the development of the **Cambodian Mine Action Standard on Victim Assistance (CMAS-VA)**, outlining objectives such as providing **immediate medical care, rehabilitation including prosthetics, psychological support, and socio-economic reintegration**. They discussed challenges in **coordinating with existing services, addressing the diverse and complex needs of victims, and ensuring sustainable long-term support**. Lessons learned included the importance of **comprehensive needs assessments, interagency collaboration, and strong policy frameworks** to deliver effective victim assistance.

- **Lao PDR** provided an overview of their (draft) **National Mine Action Standard (NMAS) on Victim Assistance** and related **legal frameworks**, noting the planned **revision of the standards created in 2009**. They described their **standards development process**, which includes establishing a **technical committee, reviewing lessons learned and best practices, and ensuring compliance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)**. The **National Regulatory Authority (NRA)** also detailed their role in **accreditation, strategic planning, monitoring, and advocacy for victims' rights**, while highlighting challenges such as **cross-cutting responsibilities and gaps in knowledge among local authorities**.



- **Myanmar** shared insights into their **(draft) National Mine Action Standard (NMAS) on Victim Assistance** and related **legal frameworks**. They highlighted key provisions under the **Child Rights Law** and the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law**, covering **protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration** of children affected by **armed conflict** and **explosive ordnance survivors**. Myanmar also outlined **criteria for cash transfers**, challenges in providing **assistive devices** and **vocational training**, and the need for **more comprehensive standards** and **technical support**.
- **Thailand**, through the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP)**, presented their background and relevant **national frameworks**, including their vision to **empower persons with disabilities to access rights and welfare equally**. They described key legislation such as the **Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act** and detailed services covering **housing renovation, assistive devices, vocational training, and legal protection**. Challenges included **disability detection, regulatory limitations, and gaps in employment support**. The **Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC)** also provided their background information. Additionally, the **National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM)** introduced its role in ensuring access to **high-quality emergency medical services** nationwide, including policies to **standardise emergency care** and **leverage technology** to reduce mortality and disability.
- **Viet Nam** presented on their efforts to develop **National Standards on supporting landmine victims**, emphasising the necessity for **consistent direction, management, and quality control**. The draft **TCVN standard** sets out requirements for **planning, implementing, and monitoring victim assistance**, covering **medical, psychological, educational, and financial support**. The **development process** involves **stakeholder consultation** and alignment with **international standards**, and is expected to be completed by the **end of 2024**.
- **The Republic of Korea (ROK)** shared their experience and challenges related to **mine victims**, even while **not being a signatory to the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty**. They described the **Special Act on Compensation for Civilian Mine Victims** and the process that led to its adoption, highlighting issues such as **compensation gaps** between earlier and more recent victims, and

**insufficient medical support provisions**. Korea also underscored the importance of **revising legislation** to increase **fairness and coverage**, while continuing **international contributions** to **demining and victim assistance**.

- **INGOs/NGOs/UN Agencies** like **UNDP Viet Nam** shared their perspectives on **victim assistance programmes** and their alignment with **regional guidelines**. **UNDP Viet Nam** presented the **Global Theory of Change on Victim Assistance**, which integrates **economic empowerment, social protection, and advocacy** to improve **quality of life** and reduce **discrimination**. **Humanity and Inclusion (HI-Online)** revisited the concept and content of **IMAS 13.10 and Guidance on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance**, explaining the distinction between **victim assistance-specific efforts** and broader **disability inclusion services**, and providing **recommendations for coordination mechanisms** and **referral systems**.



## 5.2. CHALLENGES AND GAPS

The workshop discussions and presentations provided a comprehensive examination of the persistent challenges and gaps in national victim assistance programs across the ASEAN region. These insights were pivotal in identifying key areas requiring urgent attention and improvement, and they will guide future regional efforts to enhance victim assistance. The following challenges were highlighted:

- **Diverse and Complex Needs:** EO victims present a wide range of needs that demand a holistic, multi-faceted approach. Victim assistance programs must address not only immediate physical rehabilitation but also long-term psychological support, social integration, and economic inclusion.

- **Coordination and Collaboration:** Effective coordination among various stakeholders—government bodies, NGOs, international organizations, and the private sector—remains a significant challenge. Clear roles and responsibilities need to be defined to avoid fragmentation of services and ensure that victims receive comprehensive care.
- **Sustainable Funding:** The long-term sustainability of victim assistance programs is contingent upon securing consistent and adequate funding. The workshop discussions emphasized the importance of developing financing strategies that ensure continuous support for victim assistance efforts.
- **Integration of Standards and Frameworks:** There is a need for better integration of both national and international standards and legal frameworks into national victim assistance efforts. Alignment with international norms, such as the IMAS and the CRPD, will enhance the effectiveness and consistency of victim support services across the region.
- **Referral and Intake Mechanisms:** Developing effective referral and intake mechanisms is essential to ensure that victims are directed to the appropriate services, especially in regions with limited access to specialized care.
- **Social and Institutional Barriers:** Many EO victims and persons with disabilities face significant social and institutional barriers to accessing care. Efforts must be focused on breaking down these barriers to ensure that all individuals can access the support they need.
- **Information Management Systems:** Robust data collection, tracking, and reporting mechanisms are critical to monitor the progress of victim assistance programs. Establishing standardized information management systems across the region will enable better planning and resource allocation.
- **Professional Capacity Building:** There is a pressing need to enhance the professionalism of healthcare providers, particularly in the psychosocial support field. Capacity-building initiatives should focus on equipping local practitioners with the skills needed to address the specific challenges faced by EO victims.
- **Economic Inclusion:** Economic inclusion remains a challenge for EO victims, as many face barriers to employment and livelihood opportunities. Programs that focus on the socio-economic integration of victims are essential for

empowering survivors and ensuring long-term rehabilitation.

- **Harmonization of Services:** There is a need to harmonize procedures and practices across various victim assistance services to ensure consistency, efficiency, and accessibility for victims across ASEAN Member States.

These identified challenges are essential for informing the next phase of the Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN). Overcoming these barriers will require coordinated action, innovative solutions, and sustained commitment from all stakeholders involved in victim assistance.



### 5.3 REGIONAL/GLOBAL TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

The workshop reinforced the critical importance of integrating regional and global technical guidelines into national victim assistance programs. By aligning national efforts with international standards and frameworks, ASEAN Member States can ensure that victim assistance programs are effective, comprehensive, and sustainable. Several key regional and global documents were referenced during the discussions:

- **International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) 13.10 on Victim Assistance:** This standard is fundamental in guiding victim assistance programs, providing clear recommendations on the roles and responsibilities of mine action organizations in supporting victims. IMAS 13.10 serves as the backbone for integrating victim assistance into mine action operations.
- **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):** The CRPD promotes the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, including EO victims with disabilities. By aligning victim assistance programs with the

CRPD, ASEAN Member States can ensure that all persons with disabilities, including survivors, receive the support they are entitled to.

- **ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism:** This regional framework includes aspects of victim support relevant to explosive ordnance, providing a broader context for victim assistance in the ASEAN region.
- **Oslo Action Plan, Article 7:** Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty specifically addresses the obligations of states to provide victim assistance, highlighting the importance of a coordinated and well-resourced approach to meeting the needs of victims.
- **ASEAN Enabling Master Plan 2025 – Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:** This regional plan aims to advance the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities within ASEAN, directly supporting the broader objectives of victim assistance and ensuring that persons with disabilities are integrated into society.
- **Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Amended Protocol II (CCW APII):** This protocol defines specific types of explosive ordnance and sets out international rules governing their use, underscoring the importance of adhering to these guidelines in victim assistance efforts.

The integration of these technical guidelines and frameworks into national victim assistance efforts will ensure that ASEAN Member States adopt a cohesive, coordinated, and internationally recognized approach to supporting victims. This alignment is crucial for fostering the long-term sustainability and success of victim assistance programs across the region.



## 5.4 SURVIVOR TESTIMONIES

The Regional Workshop provided a poignant reminder of the human cost of explosive ordnance through the powerful voices of survivors. While specific written testimonies were not included in the report, the workshop made it clear that the stories of victims are at the heart of any meaningful victim assistance program. Throughout the discussions, the lived experiences of survivors were consistently highlighted, emphasizing the profound impact that explosive ordnance has on the lives of individuals, families, and communities.

The survivors who shared their stories, whether through formal presentations or informal conversations, gave voice to the struggles they face every day. These stories of resilience, courage, and recovery served as a powerful call to action for all stakeholders involved in victim assistance. Their testimonies underscored the urgent need for a coordinated, comprehensive approach to supporting survivors—one that not only addresses their immediate physical needs but also provides long-term emotional and socio-economic support.

The exhibition dedicated to showcasing the inspiring journeys of recovery further reinforced the importance of centering victims' voices in the development of regional guidelines and victim assistance strategies. These stories are not just accounts of pain—they are stories of survival, strength, and the relentless pursuit of a better life despite overwhelming adversity.

As we move forward in developing victim assistance programs and regional frameworks, these voices remain our guiding light. They remind us that the work we do is not just about policies and frameworks—it's about the lives we can help transform. The survivors' resilience fuels our collective resolve to ensure that no one, no matter where they are, is left behind. Their courage compels us to do more, to be better, and to never forget the real human cost behind every statistic.

## 6. REGIONAL VAN DISCUSSION

### Value and Ethic Q1

**ETHICAL STANDARDS**  
The following ethical standards are relevant to the professional activities of VA service providers including:

**ETHIC # 1 VA SERVICE PROVIDERS' ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO EO VICTIMS/SURVIVORS AND PWDs.**  
Should provide the well-being of EO victims/survivors and PWDs, their safety and best interest are the primary focus. Respect and provide the right of EO victims/survivors and PWDs, avoid them to act all the good, informed consent, respect their right to privacy and apply the standards of confidentiality. VA service providers may disclose confidential information when appropriate with consent from EO victims/survivors. Furthermore, VA service providers will protect EO survivors' confidentiality and not disclose information that may cause harm to and the EO victims/survivors and PWDs, into the danger, no circumstances engage in sexual exploitation and harassment, should refer EO victims/survivors and PWDs to other professional when the other professional's specialized knowledge or expertise is needed to fully serve.

**ETHIC # 2 VA SERVICE PROVIDERS' ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO COLLEAGUES.**  
Should respect and support each other, especially when the need of support to EO victims/survivors and PWDs in any specific circumstances.

**ETHIC # 3 VA SERVICE PROVIDERS' ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN PRACTICE SETTINGS.**  
Should receive supervision and consultation, obtain education and training for specialty and upskilling.

**ETHIC # 4 VA SERVICE PROVIDERS' ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES AS PROFESSIONALS.**  
Should not practice, ignore, facilitate, or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, political belief, religion, immigration status or ancestral ability.

**ETHIC # 5 VA SERVICE PROVIDERS' ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION.**  
Should work toward the maintenance and promotion of high standards of practice. Should uphold and advance the values, ethics, knowledge, and reputation of the profession. Should protect, enhance, and improve the integrity of the profession through appropriate study and research, active discussion and innovative criticism of the profession. Should act to prevent the unprofessional and unqualified practice of social work/victim assistance. Should monitor and evaluate policies, the implementation programs, and practice interventions.

#### Ethical Standards

1. VA Services Providers' Ethical Responsibilities: 1) To EO Victims/Survivors and PWDs; 2) To Colleague; 3) In Practice Setting
2. VA SERVICE PROVIDERS' ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES AS PROFESSIONALS:
3. VA SERVICE PROVIDERS' ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION:
4. VA SERVICE PROVIDERS' ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE BROADER SOCIETY:

### 6.1 RATIONALE AND PROPOSED FUNCTIONS

The establishment of the Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) is a pivotal initiative to enhance victim assistance in the ASEAN region. The rationale behind the VAN is to ensure multi-sector efforts are applied and implemented at both national and regional levels, addressing the challenges faced by EO-affected states in providing adequate services due to technical and financial constraints. The VAN aims to serve as a central hub connecting ASEAN and non-ASEAN stakeholders to share information, materials, and networks to expedite needed support for EO victims and persons with disabilities, ultimately contributing to the sustainability of victim assistance services.

mechanism

5. Health Care/ Aim of the Guideline/ How NMAA involve in

Physical health support

- Service is not available
- Transportation
- Costs

Barriers

6. Need Assessment of EO survivor and family

Why we need to do need assessment of EO survivor and family

This to change Need Assessment of EO survivor and family practices and case studies

7. & 8. Both socio-economic inclusion (7) and IM (8) move 6 elements of VA

#### The proposed key functions of the VAN include:

- **Regional and National Coordination:**  
Facilitating collaboration and information exchange among member states and stakeholders.
- **Fostering Partnership:**  
Encouraging the engagement of EO-affected and non-affected states, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations, in supporting EO victims.
- **Knowledge Gathering and Sharing:**  
Promoting the exchange of best practices, policies, research studies, guidelines, and other relevant materials.
- **Capacity Building through Trainings and Events:**  
Organizing joint training programs, workshops, and other events to enhance the skills and knowledge of victim assistance providers.
- **Joint Outreach and Awareness-Raising:**  
Developing common messages to promote understanding and generate support for victim assistance efforts across the region.



## 6.2. GROUP DISCUSSIONS SUMMARY

The workshop's group discussions were an essential component of the meeting, focused on shaping the VAN action plan, refining the VAN structure, and detailing specific activities for the short, medium, and long term.

Participants were divided into smaller groups to ensure focused and dynamic discussions on the four key functions of the VAN. The feedback provided helped crystallize a comprehensive action plan with concrete activities, expected outcomes, and indicative timelines.

### Key areas of discussion and proposed activities included:

- Regional and National Coordination:**  
 Establishing a **peer body** to monitor and guide victim assistance efforts, **mapping information management processes**, engaging **donors**, improving **registration systems** for victims, and holding **regular technical working group meetings** to ensure continuous collaboration and alignment across all stakeholders.
- Fostering Partnerships:**  
 Developing a **roadmap on victim assistance** that will help guide future efforts in both EO-affected and non-affected AMS, learning from the experiences of non-affected countries, ensuring **participation of UXO survivors' groups**, and developing **survivor protection** policies to safeguard vulnerable populations.
- Knowledge Gathering and Sharing:**  
 Creating a **robust data collection** system for monitoring victim assistance activities, **mapping victim assistance (VA) service systems** across countries, establishing **communication mechanisms** to keep all stakeholders informed,

providing **technical support** to enhance implementation, and fostering **bilateral cooperation** to improve service delivery.

- Capacity Building via Training and Events:**  
 Developing structured mechanisms for **knowledge sharing**, conducting **needs assessments** to tailor training to national requirements, creating comprehensive **guidelines and dashboards**, developing **e-learning resources**, mapping **expertise** across the region, and assembling **training packages** to ensure the consistent quality of victim assistance services.

These group discussions resulted in a more refined and practical approach to the implementation of the Regional VAN, ensuring that the proposed activities are achievable, relevant, and aligned with the diverse needs of ASEAN Member States.



## 6.3 STAKEHOLDER ROLES

The Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) is designed to facilitate coordinated, multi-sectoral efforts to improve victim assistance across the ASEAN region. The network will consist of key roles such as Chair, Co-Chairs, and Members, ensuring that responsibilities are shared, leadership is rotating, and coordination is efficient at both the regional and national levels.

- Chair:**  
 The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) will serve as the Chair of the Regional VAN, responsible for the overall leadership, strategic direction, and operational coordination of the network. As Chair, ARMAC will ensure the network's alignment with regional priorities, oversee communications, and provide guidance on initiatives that aim to strengthen victim assistance in the ASEAN region.



• **Co-Chairs:**

The Co-Chairs will be selected from both EO-affected and non-affected ASEAN Member States (AMS), with the role of rotating leadership every two years. The Co-Chairs will work together to ensure that the network remains responsive to both regional needs and national contexts.

• **Co-Chair 1 (Non-affected AMS):**

The first Co-Chair will be selected from an ASEAN Member State that is not directly affected by explosive ordnance. Selection will be based on:

- Commitment to disability rights and victim support frameworks.
- A strong legal and policy framework addressing the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs).
- Availability of rehabilitation centers or successful models for victim assistance.

• **Co-Chair 2 (EO-affected AMS):**

- Expertise in mine action and victim assistance, including relevant experience in the sector.
- Demonstrated engagement in regional mine action efforts and workshops.
- Strong relationships with donors and collaborative international partners to support victim assistance efforts.



• **Members:**

The Members of the Regional VAN will include a broad spectrum of stakeholders, such as:

- Government Ministries (e.g., Ministries of Health, Education, Social Welfare) from ASEAN Member States.
- National Mine Action Authorities and relevant government agencies in the region.
- International and National NGOs involved in victim assistance, rehabilitation, and mine action.
- UN Agencies, bilateral donors, and academic institutions providing technical support and expertise.



• **Inclusion of EO Victims:** It was also agreed that explosive ordnance victims should play an integral role in the leadership and decision-making processes of the VAN. This inclusion ensures that the network’s strategies and actions remain deeply informed by the lived experiences and needs of those most directly affected by explosive ordnance.



## 6.4. COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION MECHANISMS

To ensure effective implementation and sustainability of the Regional VAN, robust coordination and clear communication mechanisms are essential. Recognizing the diverse stakeholders involved, the following mechanisms were proposed to facilitate seamless collaboration, knowledge exchange, and joint action:

- **Regular Regional Meetings:**

The Regional VAN will convene at least twice annually, fostering continuous dialogue, technical cooperation, and strategic planning among members. These meetings, held in a hybrid format (combining in-person and virtual participation), will provide platforms for technical discussions, experience sharing, and donor engagement.

- **Centralized Information Sharing via ARMAC Platform:**

To enhance transparency and accessibility, network members will share relevant updates, policy documents, research studies, guidelines, and best practices with ARMAC's Victim Assistance (VA) project focal point. ARMAC will subsequently disseminate this information through its official website, ensuring all stakeholders remain informed of the latest developments and available resources.

- **Social Media and Online Engagement:**

To facilitate continuous interaction and timely communication, social media and online platforms—including Telegram, Email, Meta (Facebook), and LinkedIn—will be actively utilized. These platforms will enable network members to engage in real-time discussions, exchange urgent updates, and maintain regular communication outside of formal meetings.

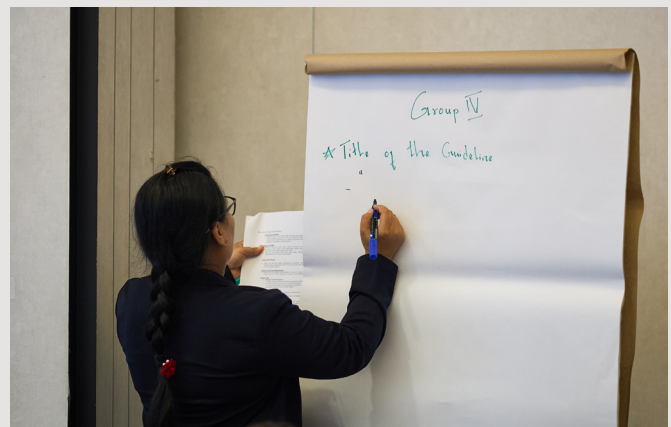
- **Common Framework and Information Management:**

A standardized framework for managing activities, data collection, and information dissemination will be established. This common framework will prevent duplication of efforts, enhance efficiency, and ensure all stakeholders have unified guidance for implementing and reporting on victim assistance activities.

- **Technical Working Groups:**

ARMAC will initiate and coordinate dedicated Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings at least twice per year to operationalize the network's activities. These working groups will address specific thematic areas, streamline coordination, and facilitate collaborative planning and execution of priority tasks identified within the VAN.

Collectively, these coordination and communication mechanisms will strengthen regional cooperation, promote transparency, and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of victim assistance initiatives across the ASEAN region.



## 7. MEETING OUTCOMES



### 7.1 FINALIZED VAN TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

A significant outcome of the workshop was the successful introduction and finalization of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN). The TOR provides a comprehensive outline of the network's background, objectives, organizational structure (including the roles of the Chair, Co-chairs, and Members), functions, planned activities, and communication mechanisms. The finalized TOR and workplan will be circulated to delegates for additional feedback before being submitted to the ARMAC Steering Committee for final approval.

### 7.2 DRAFT VAN WORKPLAN

During the workshop, participants actively contributed to the drafting of the VAN workplan, creating a strategic framework for the network's activities over the next year. The workplan identifies priority areas that align with the key functions of the VAN, sets clear and achievable goals, and outlines collaborative activities for the network's member states. The workplan includes activities categorized by short-term (0-1 year), medium-term (1-2 years), and long-term (3+ years) timeframes, with specific expected outputs and outcomes. The draft workplan, along with the finalized TOR, will be submitted for approval to ensure alignment with regional goals and priorities.



### 7.3 INPUTS FOR REGIONAL VICTIM ASSISTANCE GUIDELINE

A significant outcome of the workshop was the **gathering of comprehensive inputs for the development of a regional guideline to enhance victim assistance programs**. Building upon previous discussions, participants engaged in group sessions to review and provide feedback on the zero draft of the Regional Victim Assistance Guideline in Mine Action. The discussions covered key aspects of victim assistance, including:

- **Information Management**
- **Medical Care**
- **Physical Rehabilitation**
- **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support**
- **Referral and Intake Mechanism**
- **Needs Assessment**
- **Socio-Economic Inclusion**
- **Monitoring & Evaluation**
- **Case Closure and Termination**
- **Values and Ethics**

Participants provided comprehensive comments and suggestions for refining the guideline, enhancing its clarity and comprehensiveness. A poll was conducted to decide on the most appropriate title for the guideline, with “Regional Victim Assistance Guideline in Mine Action” emerging as the preferred choice. The finalized version of the guideline is expected to be completed during the third regional workshop in Cambodia.



### 7.4 ENHANCED UNDERSTANDING OF STANDARDS AND FRAMEWORKS

The workshop provided a critical platform for enhancing understanding of the national and international standards and legal frameworks that guide victim assistance efforts. Presentations and discussions focused on how these frameworks can be effectively integrated into national victim assistance programs. Key frameworks discussed included the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and various national guidelines and standards from ASEAN Member States. The session revisited the content and concepts of IMAS 13.10 and the Guidance on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance, emphasizing their relevance and application to the ongoing development of victim assistance strategies.

### 7.5 PROGRESS ON COUNTRY PROFILE SHEETS

Participants received an update on the progress of the Country Profile Sheets for each EO-affected country. The Country Profile Sheets aim to provide a structured and comprehensive overview of the explosive ordnance context and the current victim assistance efforts in each ASEAN Member State. During the workshop, participants discussed the adaptation and refinement of the profile templates, ensuring that the information captured will be accurate and relevant for each country. Moving forward, Cambodia will share its draft profile with relevant counterparts for review, and consultations will continue to develop drafts for other EO-affected ASEAN Member States. The goal is to finalize these documents, with an intention to share them across the region to enhance coordinated efforts in victim assistance.

## 8. GOOD PRACTICES AND SUCCESSES



### 8.1 INTEGRATION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

The workshop underscored the significant progress ASEAN Member States are making in integrating both national and international standards into their victim assistance programs. Discussions highlighted the importance of aligning with established international conventions and policies to ensure accountability, interoperability, and quality assurance. Presentations from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam showcased the efforts being made to implement these standards and the tangible progress that has been achieved in this vital area. This integration not only strengthens victim assistance efforts but also aligns with global best practices, ensuring more consistent and effective support for victims across the region.

### 8.2 COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL GUIDELINES

One of the standout successes of the workshop was the collaborative process of developing regional guidelines for victim assistance programs. The active involvement of delegates from all ASEAN Member States and key stakeholders in reviewing and providing input to the zero draft of the guidelines demonstrated a collective commitment to a unified regional approach. The process of discussing and reaching consensus on key aspects of victim assistance, and even the preferred title for the guidelines, reflects the power of collaboration in creating practical, actionable frameworks. This collaborative effort is essential for ensuring that the regional guidelines are both comprehensive and applicable across the diverse contexts within ASEAN.



### 8.3 MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A core strength of the workshop was its ability to bring together a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including government representatives, mine action authorities, NGOs, UN agencies, donors, and academic institutions. This inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach enabled dynamic discussions, facilitated the sharing of diverse expertise, and fostered new partnerships. The collaboration among such a wide range of participants was crucial in creating a comprehensive and cohesive strategy for victim assistance. The level of engagement and the active participation of all stakeholder groups in discussions and working sessions were key drivers of the workshop's success and its ability to deliver valuable outcomes.

### 8.4 SHOWCASING SUPPORT PROGRAMMES AND SURVIVOR STORIES

The exhibition held alongside the workshop served as an invaluable platform for showcasing the diverse range of victim assistance programs, highlighting the immense efforts being made to support those affected by explosive ordnance. This exhibition not only raised awareness but also provided a direct connection between stakeholders, service providers, and government agencies, creating a meaningful exchange of knowledge and resources. Exhibitors such as ARMAC, CMAA, TMAC, TDA, NRA, DOR, and DEP presented their initiatives, offering valuable insights into the wide variety of services available to explosive ordnance survivors and persons with disabilities (PWDs).



Through interactive displays and informative presentations, attendees were able to better understand the impact of various programs, gain insight into the resources available to victims, and explore innovative approaches to victim assistance. One of the key features of the exhibition was the emphasis on survivor stories, which were shared through visual displays, written materials, and video presentations. These narratives, representing the lived experiences of explosive ordnance victims, were a poignant reminder of the human cost of conflict and the transformative role that victim assistance programs play in their recovery. These stories were more than just personal accounts; they highlighted the resilience, courage, and determination of survivors to rebuild their lives and contribute to their communities, despite the challenges they face.

For the donors and stakeholders in attendance, the exhibition offered a direct, emotional connection to the people they are supporting. It reinforced the critical need for sustained funding and collaboration to ensure that such assistance continues to reach those who need it most. The impact of these survivor stories not only underscored the importance of comprehensive victim assistance but also served as a call to action for increased investment and collaboration within the ASEAN region and beyond. By bringing the voices of victims to the forefront, the exhibition emphasized the tangible results of donor support and the crucial role that these contributions play in improving the lives of victims, fostering resilience, and driving long-term social change.

Moreover, the exhibition's focus on survivor empowerment and community reintegration aligned directly with the broader goals of victim assistance, including economic inclusion and psychosocial support.

It highlighted the importance of integrating victim assistance into broader social, economic, and health systems, ensuring that victims are not only provided with immediate relief but also given the tools and opportunities to thrive in the long term. For donors, this served as a powerful reminder of the lasting impact their contributions can have when aligned with comprehensive, holistic support systems that address both the immediate and long-term needs of victims.



## 8.5 FIELD VISIT TO REHABILITATION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The field visit on the final day of the workshop to the **Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Institute (SNMRI)** and the **National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM)** was a pivotal moment in the workshop, offering participants a unique, firsthand look at the comprehensive and integrated services provided to landmine/UXO victims and other persons with disabilities in Thailand. This visit was instrumental in deepening participants' understanding of the practical realities of delivering victim assistance and showcasing the critical role that rehabilitation and emergency medical services play in the lives of survivors.

At both SNMRI and NIEM, participants observed how multidisciplinary approaches, combining medical care, physical rehabilitation, and psychosocial support, are delivered in a seamless and effective manner. The visit not only allowed participants to see how these services are structured but also highlighted the direct impact on victims and their families.

This exposure to the realities of service delivery provided valuable lessons on best practices, enabling participants to envision how similar models could be replicated or adapted to suit the specific needs of other ASEAN Member States.

The visit emphasized the importance of timely medical care and long-term rehabilitation in the recovery process of victims, underscoring the critical need for infrastructure, trained personnel, and specialized services. It also offered key insights into the integration of emergency response mechanisms, showing how immediate medical intervention plays a pivotal role in preventing further harm and enabling the survivors to access rehabilitation services quickly.

For stakeholders, donors, and partners, the field visit was a stark reminder of the lasting impact their support can have on shaping high-quality services that not only address the immediate medical needs of victims but also help them reintegrate into their communities. The visit reinforced the importance of investing in rehabilitation centers, emergency medical facilities, and victim-centered care models that provide holistic support for survivors. By experiencing these services firsthand, participants were able to better grasp the challenges, identify gaps, and recognize opportunities for improving victim assistance efforts at both national and regional levels.

This visit not only provided practical exposure but also served as an emotional and transformative experience, allowing participants to connect with the human stories behind the statistics and further understand the life-changing impact that coordinated victim assistance services can have. The lessons learned from this field visit are crucial in shaping future initiatives, ensuring that victim assistance programs are not only effective but also empathetic, comprehensive, and sustainable.



## 9. LESSONS LEARNED



The Regional Workshop provided critical reflections and valuable insights that will guide ongoing and future efforts to enhance victim assistance programs within the ASEAN region. Key lessons include the following:

### 9.1 MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION AS A CORNERSTONE

The workshop underscored that effective victim assistance can only be achieved through robust multi-sector collaboration. The active engagement and meaningful contributions from diverse sectors—such as government ministries, national mine action authorities, healthcare providers, social welfare agencies, non-governmental organizations, international agencies, and civil society—demonstrated the profound impact of coordinated, collective action. These collaborative efforts are essential in addressing the multifaceted and interconnected challenges faced by explosive ordnance (EO) victims, ensuring more holistic, efficient, and sustainable outcomes.

### 9.2 TAILORED RESPONSES TO THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF VICTIMS

Participants recognized the necessity of tailored, victim-centered approaches to adequately respond to the diverse and often complex needs of EO survivors. Discussions reinforced the importance of integrating medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, economic empowerment, and legal assistance into comprehensive victim assistance frameworks. By acknowledging the uniqueness of each victim's experience and need, national programs and regional guidelines can better deliver inclusive, accessible, and equitable support.

### 9.3 CENTRALITY OF SURVIVOR VOICES AND LIVED EXPERIENCES

The workshop powerfully reinforced that survivor voices and lived experiences must remain central to all victim assistance efforts. While direct survivor testimonies provided impactful insights, the broader discussions also highlighted the invaluable perspectives and resilience of EO survivors.



Their experiences emphasized the critical importance of meaningfully including survivors and organizations representing persons with disabilities throughout the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of victim assistance initiatives. Genuine engagement with survivors not only enriches program effectiveness but also ensures dignity, respect, and responsiveness in service delivery.

networks are instrumental in strengthening capacities, streamlining resource mobilization, and harmonizing standards, thus contributing to a unified, strategic, and impactful response to the needs of EO victims across ASEAN Member States.

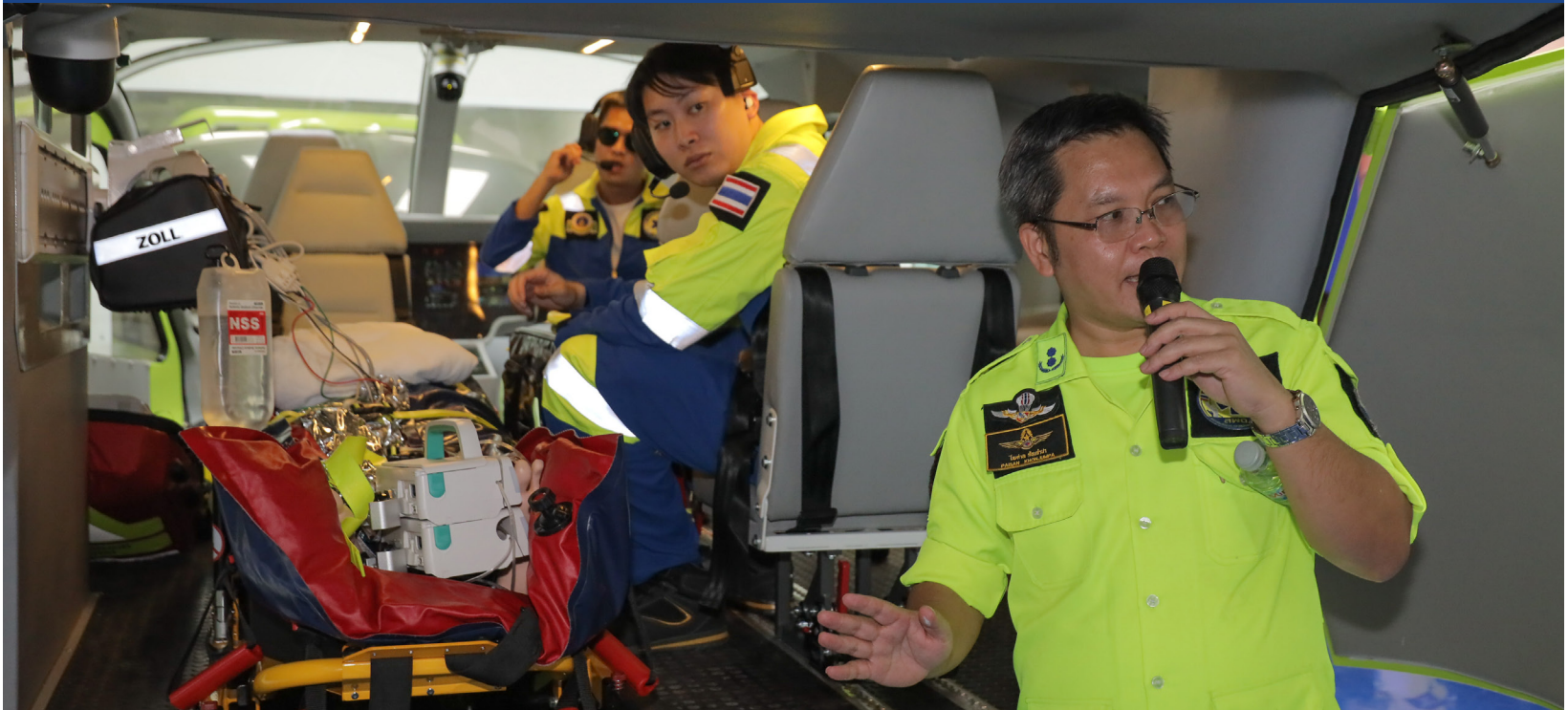
The lessons captured through this workshop will continue to shape and guide regional cooperation and national victim assistance initiatives, ensuring that programs remain effective, responsive, sustainable, and firmly grounded in human rights principles.

## 9.4 REGIONAL COORDINATION ENHANCING COLLECTIVE IMPACT

The establishment and implementation of the Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) and the development of regional guidelines reinforced the substantial benefits of regional coordination. Through collaborative knowledge sharing, best practice exchanges, and coordinated advocacy efforts, regional initiatives significantly amplify the effectiveness of national efforts. The workshop demonstrated that regional frameworks and



## 10. RECOMMENDATIONS



The following recommendations are designed to ensure continued progress and sustainability of victim assistance programs, strengthening capacities at national and regional levels, and promoting enhanced coordination, collaboration, and effectiveness in supporting explosive ordnance (EO) victims and persons with disabilities.

### 10.1 FOR NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

National stakeholders, including government ministries, national mine action authorities, and related agencies, play a critical role in providing comprehensive support and fostering enabling environments for victim assistance. To strengthen their national victim assistance efforts, it is recommended that national stakeholders:

- **Strengthen national legal frameworks and policies** to align closely with international conventions and standards, particularly the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) 13.10.
- **Develop and implement comprehensive national action plans** for victim assistance, clearly outlining objectives, responsibilities, roles, timelines, and dedicated resources.

- **Establish and strengthen national coordination mechanisms** ensuring effective collaboration among relevant government agencies, national mine action authorities, NGOs, and other pertinent stakeholders.
- **Implement standardized data collection and information management systems** to improve the tracking, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of victim assistance efforts, ensuring accurate, reliable, and comprehensive information.
- **Invest in targeted capacity-building programs** for professionals involved in victim assistance services, including healthcare providers, rehabilitation experts, psychosocial counselors, and social workers.
- **Ensure active and meaningful participation of EO survivors and organizations representing persons with disabilities** in all phases of program development, implementation, and evaluation.
- **Develop clear and effective referral pathways and intake mechanisms**, ensuring EO victims have timely access to appropriate and specialized services according to their specific needs.
- **Promote socio-economic inclusion** of EO victims through enhanced educational opportunities, vocational training programs, employment support, and social protection schemes that encourage their integration into community life.



## 10.2 FOR ARMAC/REGIONAL ACTORS

ARMAC and regional actors are essential for establishing robust regional frameworks, facilitating coordination, and ensuring alignment among ASEAN Member States. To enhance regional cooperation and strengthen victim assistance initiatives, it is recommended that ARMAC and regional actors:

- Finalize and disseminate the Regional Victim Assistance Guideline in Mine Action as a key resource to standardize and enhance victim assistance efforts throughout ASEAN.
- Facilitate the formal establishment and operationalization of the ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN), clearly defining roles, responsibilities, and communication channels for all members.
- Support the strategic implementation of the VAN workplan, providing necessary technical assistance and coordination for collaborative activities, ensuring that short-term, medium-term, and long-term objectives are effectively realized.
- Encourage regular knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices among ASEAN Member States through structured regional workshops, seminars, and digital platforms.
- Organize and facilitate regional capacity-building initiatives, including joint training programs, workshops, and the development of accessible training materials and resources.
- Assist Member States in the completion and dissemination of Country Profile Sheets, ensuring these documents serve as useful references for monitoring and enhancing victim assistance programs at national levels.

- Explore opportunities for regional advocacy and awareness-raising, mobilizing support and resources at national, regional, and international levels to sustain and expand victim assistance programs.
- Implement regular monitoring and evaluation of the VAN and the regional guideline implementation, adjusting strategies proactively to ensure effectiveness and sustainability.

## 10.3 FOR TECHNICAL AND FUNDING PARTNERS

Technical and funding partners are crucial in providing the resources and expertise required for sustained victim assistance efforts. To maximize their contribution and impact, it is recommended that technical and funding partners:

- **Maintain and enhance financial and technical support** for the “Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States” and similar initiatives, ensuring long-term sustainability and effectiveness.
- **Provide technical expertise and specialized guidance** to ASEAN Member States in the development, implementation, and enhancement of national victim assistance programs, leveraging international best practices and evidence-based models.
- **Support comprehensive capacity-building initiatives** for victim assistance providers through specialized training sessions, skill-development workshops, and regional exchange programs.
- **Facilitate research and data collection** activities focused on the evolving needs and challenges faced by EO victims, ensuring that future victim assistance initiatives are responsive, targeted, and evidence-based.
- **Encourage and fund initiatives promoting the socio-economic empowerment** and inclusion of EO victims and persons with disabilities, helping to build resilience and self-reliance within affected communities.
- **Strengthen collaboration and coordination** efforts among international, regional, and national organizations working in victim assistance, ensuring maximum efficiency, eliminating redundancy, and amplifying collective impact.

## 11. WAY FORWARD



The outcomes of the Regional Workshop on Promoting the Implementation of the Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) have set the stage for the next critical steps in strengthening victim assistance in the ASEAN region. The following actions will guide the continued momentum of this effort:

### 11.1 FINALIZATION OF VAN WORKPLAN AND REGIONAL GUIDELINE

Following the workshop, the next immediate steps involve **consolidating the inputs and comments received on the draft VAN workplan and the zero draft of the Regional Victim Assistance Guideline in Mine Action**. The final drafts of these documents will be shared with delegates for further input before being submitted to the ARMAC Steering Committee for approval. The Regional Victim Assistance Guideline is expected to be finalized during the third regional workshop in Cambodia, ensuring it aligns with the region's unique needs and priorities.

### 11.2 DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY PROFILES

The development of **Country Profile Sheets** for each Explosive Ordnance (EO)-affected ASEAN Member State is a critical next step in advancing the objectives of the Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN). These profiles are intended to serve as comprehensive, living documents that provide an in-depth analysis of each country's unique context regarding explosive ordnance contamination, national victim assistance frameworks, and existing service provisions for victims.

**The Country Profile Sheets will be designed to:**

- **Provide a Comprehensive Overview of National Contexts:** These profiles will include essential information on the extent of explosive ordnance contamination in each country, mapping areas most affected by landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and other remnants of war. Additionally, they will contain details on the legal and policy frameworks governing victim assistance, as well as the current infrastructure available for providing medical care, rehabilitation, and psychosocial support to victims.

- **Identify Gaps in Services and Resources:** Each Country Profile will be a critical tool for identifying gaps in the provision of victim assistance services and the challenges faced by each country. This will include identifying geographical regions with limited access to victim services, tracking the availability of specialized rehabilitation programs, and assessing the quality of healthcare systems, especially in rural or conflict-affected areas. The profiles will also help identify gaps in human resources, including the lack of trained professionals in victim assistance roles such as psychologists, rehabilitation specialists, and social workers.
- **Facilitate Regional Coordination and Data Sharing:** With the use of **advanced data management systems**, the profiles will enable ASEAN Member States to efficiently share data and coordinate efforts on victim assistance. These systems will utilize platforms such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to track contamination levels and service availability in real-time. The profiles will also incorporate **data visualization tools** to provide a clear picture of the challenges and needs across countries, facilitating effective decision-making. Integration with **data-sharing platforms** will ensure that all stakeholders, from national governments to NGOs and UN agencies, can access the most up-to-date information, minimizing duplication of efforts and optimizing the allocation of resources.
- **Provide a Resource for Policy Development and Advocacy:** The profiles will serve as a foundational tool for policy-makers, enabling them to base decisions on accurate, country-specific data. This will also allow for the development of targeted victim assistance programs tailored to the needs of each country. Additionally, these profiles will be critical for advocacy, as they provide a clear narrative of the challenges faced by EO victims, serving as evidence to attract international funding and political support for victim assistance programs.
- **Track Progress and Monitor Outcomes:** Each Country Profile will function as a living document, continuously updated to reflect the evolving landscape of victim assistance. This will allow for **monitoring and evaluation** of the progress made in each country, especially in areas such as service delivery, victim rehabilitation, and socio-economic reintegration. These profiles will include established **indicators and benchmarks** that will allow stakeholders to track measurable progress and assess the impact of victim assistance initiatives over time. This real-time monitoring will

ensure that resources are being used effectively and that interventions are making a tangible difference in the lives of victims.

- **Facilitate Resource Mobilization:** By consolidating information about national victim assistance programs and identifying resource gaps, the Country Profile Sheets will also act as a **fundraising tool**, helping to mobilize resources from international donors and development partners. This will be particularly important for underfunded countries that face significant barriers to providing comprehensive victim assistance. Donors will be able to use these profiles to understand the specific needs of each country and prioritize their contributions accordingly.
- **Support Customization of Regional Strategies:** The development of these profiles will also enable **ARMAC** to tailor regional strategies to the specific contexts of each ASEAN Member State. The profiles will inform the **Regional Victim Assistance Guideline**, ensuring that regional initiatives are aligned with the local needs of each country. This will enable the Regional VAN to be flexible and adaptable, ensuring its effectiveness and relevance in addressing victim assistance challenges across ASEAN.



### 11.3 FUTURE REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Looking ahead, future regional consultations will play an instrumental role in advancing the work initiated during the current workshop, particularly with respect to the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) and the development of the Regional Victim Assistance Guideline. These consultations, including the upcoming regional workshop in Cambodia in December 2024, will be pivotal in:

### **1. Refining and Finalizing the VAN Implementation:**

Future consultations will focus on fine-tuning the operational structure and workplan of the Regional VAN, ensuring that the network is responsive to evolving needs, incorporates feedback from stakeholders, and effectively addresses the challenges identified during the initial stages. This will include finalizing leadership roles, operational mechanisms, and defining the responsibilities of key actors within the network. The progress made through these consultations will ensure that the Regional VAN is fully operational and capable of providing meaningful support to EO victims and affected communities.

### **2. Expanding and Updating Country Profile Sheets:**

These consultations will also provide the necessary platform to update the Country Profile Sheets based on new data, experiences, and lessons learned. The feedback gathered will allow for a more comprehensive and accurate representation of the victim assistance landscape in each ASEAN Member State. This will ensure that the country profiles remain relevant and continue to serve as a critical resource for data-driven decision-making, resource allocation, and policy development. Regular updates will help monitor the progress of national victim assistance efforts and provide the foundation for future initiatives.

### **3. Strengthening Knowledge Sharing and Best Practice Exchange:**

The consultations will serve as a continuous knowledge-sharing platform where ASEAN Member States can exchange best practices, lessons learned, and successful case studies in victim assistance. This collaborative approach will help identify innovative solutions, refine strategies, and promote the adoption of international standards and guidelines tailored to the ASEAN context. Through such exchanges, countries can adopt strategies that have been proven successful in other regions, accelerating progress toward comprehensive victim support.

### **4. Monitoring Progress and Ensuring Accountability:**

The consultations will also provide opportunities to monitor the progress made in implementing victim assistance programs, the operationalization of the Regional VAN, and the development of

regional guidelines. Regular assessments will ensure that efforts are aligned with the set objectives and that the regional framework is being executed effectively. Accountability mechanisms will be strengthened, ensuring that stakeholders stay committed to their roles and responsibilities in providing victim assistance.

### **5. Facilitating Continuous Stakeholder Engagement:**

Ongoing regional consultations will offer stakeholders an opportunity for continued engagement in the implementation of victim assistance strategies. These consultations will act as a feedback loop, allowing all participants to contribute to the evolving strategy, ensuring that it remains aligned with national priorities while maintaining its regional impact. Through sustained dialogue and active participation, a shared commitment to supporting EO victims will be nurtured, fostering long-term collaboration and partnerships across the ASEAN region.

### **6. Fostering Regional Advocacy and Resource Mobilization:**

The upcoming consultations will also be crucial for advocacy efforts aimed at raising awareness of victim assistance needs and mobilizing resources. These forums will provide an opportunity to engage potential donors, development partners, and international organizations in discussions on funding opportunities and resource mobilization strategies. Ensuring that the Regional VAN has the necessary financial backing and political support will be critical for its long-term sustainability and success.

The future regional consultations will be a cornerstone in the development of a coordinated and sustainable approach to victim assistance across the ASEAN region. By maintaining a consistent focus on collaboration, data-sharing, monitoring progress, and advocacy, these consultations will provide the foundation for strengthening victim assistance programs, ensuring that no one is left behind, and ultimately improving the lives of EO victims in the region.

# CONCLUSION



The **Regional Workshop on Promoting the Implementation of the Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) and the Establishment of the Regional Guideline to Enhance Victim Assistance Programme** successfully met its primary objectives. The workshop has made significant strides toward **enhancing victim assistance in the ASEAN region** by facilitating the **finalization of the VAN Terms of Reference (TOR)** and the drafting of the **VAN workplan**. These foundational documents set the stage for a **coordinated regional effort** to address the complex and urgent needs of explosive ordnance (EO) victims and persons with disabilities (PWDs) across ASEAN Member States.

The **comprehensive inputs** gathered for the **Regional Victim Assistance Guideline** are expected to result in a **practical, actionable framework** that will guide the implementation of victim assistance programs in ASEAN. These guidelines will reflect **international standards** while being tailored to the unique needs and capacities of each ASEAN Member State, ensuring that the regional response to victim assistance is both **contextually relevant** and **sustainable**.

The **active participation and engagement** of a **diverse range of stakeholders** demonstrated the **collective commitment** to addressing the needs of EO victims in the region. This collaborative spirit not only **strengthened relationships** among key actors but also helped to **identify solutions to existing challenges**, paving the way for **targeted actions** in the future. The discussions during the workshop highlighted the **progress made** in victim assistance efforts but also underscored **ongoing challenges** that must be addressed as the region moves forward in its efforts to improve the lives of EO victims.

As outlined in the **recommendations and way forward**, the next steps include finalizing the **VAN workplan**, continuing the **development of country profiles**, and refining the **Regional Victim Assistance Guideline** through continued consultations. These actions will ensure that the ASEAN region remains **on track** in achieving its goal of providing **comprehensive, coordinated, and sustainable victim assistance** across its Member States.

The workshop marked a **crucial step** toward a **more coordinated, integrated, and sustainable approach** to victim assistance in ASEAN. With the foundation laid, the continued **collaboration and engagement** of all stakeholders will be critical in ensuring that the **Regional VAN** becomes a **fully operational platform** that can address the **diverse needs** of EO victims and **persons with disabilities** across the region. Ultimately, the workshop reinforced the **shared commitment** to improving the lives of those affected by explosive ordnance, ensuring that no one is left behind in the path towards recovery, **dignity**, and **inclusion**.

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## ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC)



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