



**Thematic Session on Victim Assistance: Establishing or Strengthening a Centralised Database Tuesday, 22nd June, 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm**

Madam Chair,

On behalf of Sri Lanka's national mine action center allow me to share some details on the Hospital based injury surveillance system in operation in Sri Lanka with regard to mine victims.

Sri Lanka experienced a major reduction in mine accidents during the last ten years with only three mine related accidents recorded in 2020 and in 2021 so far.

The Establishment of a Hospital based injury surveillance system in Sri Lanka is considered a milestone of the National Mine Action program. Non-Communicable Disease unit (NCD) of the Ministry of Health initiated the establishment of a Hospital based injury surveillance system during 2016 with the support of UNICEF Sri Lanka.

The objective of this system is to record all accidents reported to hospitals in any part of the country including Mine and ERW incidents. Currently in Sri Lanka, we are using both IMSMA and hospital based injury surveillance system to collect information on Mine victims and to provide further follow-up support. Even though the mine action program will be phased out in the near future upon completion of mine clearance there is a possibility for Mine /ERW accidents and victims long after completion. Therefore Explosive Ordnance Risk Education and Victims assistance should be continued as a long time task even after the completion of the entire demining process. This hospital based injury surveillance system will help to record Mine /ERW accidents, and to ensure provision of relevant support to victims and analysis of data at any point of time and in any part of the country. This system ensures sustainability of this program and relevant supports victims in the Long run. Therefore we consider the Hospital based injury surveillance system as one of the success stories of Sri Lanka's Mine Action programme

As per the present status, Hospital based injury surveillance system was expanded to 116 government hospitals in the country and it will be further expanded to cover the entire country. This system includes both inpatient and outpatient admissions to the hospitals. Sri Lanka has a free and universal health care system. It scores higher than the regional average in healthcare

The NMAC has initiated a needs assessment survey to identify mine and ERW victims in the Northern, Eastern and North-Central provinces. As per the finding of the survey, NMAC has allocated Rs 18Mn in 2021 to provide immediate assistance to the identified mine and ERW victims. I thank you