



Assisting landmine survivors and their communities

Estimating the number of landmine survivors in the world continues to be an inexact science. What is known, however, is that AP mines have significantly added to the number of persons with disabilities and that most of these landmine survivors live in countries that lack the means to effectively provide assistance and social and economic rehabilitation services.

While complying with the Convention's obligation to assist landmine survivors continues to be a daunting task, important developments have taken place in 2000. At the international level, the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration promoted the use of voluntary annual reporting by States Parties on means taken to meet states' obligations to landmine survivors. Over the past year, Canada was one of 11 states that provided such a voluntary report using the Canadian-initiated "Form J" attachment to the Convention's Article 7 reporting format.

In 2000, Canada served as the Co-Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration. In this capacity, it assisted committee Co-Chairs Japan and Nicaragua in the production of *Providing assistance to landmine survivors: A collection of guidelines, best practices and methodologies*. In addition, through the innovative *Raising the Voices of Landmine Survivors* project, the Standing Committee took steps to increase the participation of landmine survivors in matters that affect them. Canada became committee Co-Chair in September 2001, and is committed to continuing to deepen the role of landmine survivors and to identifying practical means for States Parties to meet their

commitments to them.

Canada provides support for the full range of assistance required by those who have fallen victim to landmines, including surgery and hospital care, orthopaedics, peer counseling, support networks, vocational training, community-based rehabilitation, improvement of care facilities, building the expertise of medical practitioners and improving coordination of assistance and assistance-related information systems. During fiscal year 2000, Canada's programming reflected the need to assist in these priority areas.

Afghanistan

The CIDA Multilateral Institutions Program provided \$300,000 to support the orthopaedic component of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Comprehensive Disabled Afghan Program, as part of a three-year, \$708,000 contribution. Canada's funding helped provide salaries for orthopaedic technicians, raw materials for orthopaedic devices and training sessions and national seminars on the standardization of orthopaedic technology and physiotherapy training. Through the program, disabled Afghans received more than 4,700 orthopaedic appliances, including prostheses, orthotics, technical aids and wheel chairs.