

for Landmine Survivors which recognizes a victim's right to comprehensive rehabilitation, education, employment and social support.

Canada's efforts in this area support the full range of survivor needs, from initial treatment to long term care and rehabilitation. Many of Canada's contributions to victim assistance in 1998-99 were funded through CIDA's Tapping Canadian Creativity Program (TCCP), which supports partnerships between Canadian and overseas NGOs delivering projects adapted to local needs.

## Afghanistan

Continuous conflict since the mid 1970s has left Afghanistan one of the countries most seriously affected by mines. No precise number

can be placed on the extent of contamination because the use of landmines has been so pervasive and indiscriminate. Estimates range from 5 to 10 million implanted mines, with devastating effects on a society already exhausted by years of strife. Mine incidents are extremely common, involving one adult male in 10.

In 1998-99 CIDA responded by funding two initiatives in Afghanistan that focus on victim assistance. A total of \$108,000 was allocated to support national capacity for victim assistance through a program implemented by the Afghan agency, Comprehensive Disabled Afghans Program (CDAP). This program trains field workers in basic rehabilitation skills and supports community-based management of the program. This funding will also assist in the socio-economic integration of vulnerable groups and support advocacy for the rights of the disabled.

Another CIDA-funded victim assistance project in Afghanistan provided \$92,000 for the Afghan non-governmental Guardian Institute of Orthopaedics in Kandahar. This new program aims to provide the disabled with orthopaedic appliances and prostheses, walking aids and wheel chairs. It also seeks to ensure proper physiotherapy for mine victims.

As in most CIDA projects, developing indigenous capacity is important. It is provided here by training technicians in prostheses, orthotics and language skills and through development of a female orthopaedic section that advances self-reliance of female technicians. Finally, the project seeks to establish a referral system in the Kandahar area since many mine victims do not receive help because they are not aware it is available.

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*With support from the Canadian Landmine Fund, World Vision is helping the landmine-disabled acquire new skills and means of income through the Vocational Skills Training Centre in Battambang, Cambodia. Students are taught welding along with radio, television and motorcycle engine repair. Program graduates may also apply for low-interest credit to set up businesses.*

