VICTIM ASSISTANCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

PROJECT: Rehabilitation and Reintegration for Landmine Survivors

AREA COVERED: Central America (Honduras/Nicaragua)

PARTNERS: National Center for Prosthesis and Orthosis (CENAPRORTO); Polus Center; National Technological Institute (INATEC)

EXECUTING AGENCY: Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Landmines (AICMA)

PERIOD: January - December 2010

TOTAL COST: US$ 455,897.00

Objective

Reduce the effects of physical, psychological, and economic injuries suffered by male and female landmine survivors.

Description of Affected Areas

In Nicaragua, at the end of June 2009, there were 1,245 registered antipersonnel mine victims, 1,154 of which are survivors. Of the total survivors 90% are male and 10% are female, heads of family between the ages of 17 and 76. Available information indicates that the majority of accidents occurred while victims were carrying out agricultural activities. The survivors in Nicaragua are from predominantly rural communities, suffer from multiple disabilities, are not home owners, and the majority carry out informal economic activities in order to survive. In the case of Honduras, 58 mine victims have been recorded as of December 2008, of which 48 have survived.
Methodology

The AICMA Program seeks to attend to the necessities of affected communities providing survivors with:

- Transportation from their communities to a rehabilitation center or other specialized treatment centers, as well as to vocational training centers.
- Lodging and food during their treatment or training.
- Prosthesis.
- Psychological attention.
- Therapeutic services.
- Surgical services and other specialties.
- Medicines.

In 2002, the AICMA-OAS Program launched the Social Reintegration component of its victim assistance program. In collaboration with INATEC, AICMA developed a working concept for post-rehabilitation training. The objective of the project has been to offer technical vocational training and micro-enterprise grants and assistance for mine survivors who have received physical and psychological rehabilitation through the OAS program, adding another dimension to the concept of comprehensive assistance for survivors.

During training, survivors remain as student-residents for nine months in one of INATEC’s specialized centers. Throughout the training provided by INATEC, AICMA provides medical assistance and physical and psychological rehabilitation on a continual basis. AICMA also assumes responsibility for lodging and meals, as well as providing a small monthly stipend and transportation to the students’ homes once a month.

In the case of micro-enterprise support, AICMA also provides the appropriate training, monitoring and psychological support. Grants may also be made for development of micro-enterprises for landmine survivors to support themselves and their immediate family through small businesses including mills, livestock, agricultural cultivation, or small retail stores.

Gender Consideration

AICMA-OAS, through its victim assistance program, offers equal opportunities to male and female survivors. Likewise, AICMA acknowledges the importance of United Nation’s resolution 1325 (2000), which states “the need for all parties to ensure that mine clearance and mine awareness programs take into account the special needs of women and girls”. AICMA has identified 91 female landmine survivors in Central America, 82 in
NICARAGUA and 9 in Honduras, all of whom have participated in a new vocational diagnostic for their social reintegration.

**Planned Activities**

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<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Quarter</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Quarter</th>
<th>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Quarter</th>
<th>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Quarter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical and Psychological rehabilitation of 200 male and female survivors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnostic evaluations of 70 survivors (20 women and 50 men).</td>
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<td>Micro-enterprise project development for 60 survivors.</td>
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<td>Vocational Training for 10 survivors.</td>
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<td>Post-training support for 10 survivors.</td>
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**Risks and Mitigation Strategies**

The diagnostic which is implemented as a first step is critical to ensure the success of vocational training and micro-enterprise grants. Likewise, the creation of the Occupational Employment Evaluation Unit will complement the diagnostic evaluations that measure the victim’s capabilities, challenges, motivations, and interests in order to match male and female survivors to appropriate employment.

The AICMA-OAS Program permanently monitors the training process, as well as the execution of micro-enterprises supported. In the case of micro-enterprise grants, this mechanism includes consultative visits by technical specialists.

**Human Resources**

The Program will work with national counterparts in charge of vocational training. The Program will also utilize national rehabilitation infrastructure, as it does in Nicaragua with CENAPRORTO, and with Polus Center in Honduras.

The project will also be monitored by local AICMA staff, including a victim assistance coordinator, an assistant and a driver, who support the execution of the projects.
Monitoring and Evaluation

Concerning the physical rehabilitation component, the AICMA-OAS Program carries out monitoring through diverse tools, including software developed for this purpose. In regards to the social reintegration component, particularly in the follow up of micro-enterprises, support is provided by the national institutions in charge of vocational training. Furthermore, the National Mine Action Authority, through the National Demining Commission, plays a relevant role in the evaluation of the projects.

Reports

The AICMA Regional Coordinator will provide quarterly progress reports and other information, as required, to AICMA-OAS for evaluation and subsequent reporting to project donors.

Expected Short and Medium Term Results

- 200 female and male survivors assisted as often as needed in completing their physical rehabilitation.
- 20 female and 50 male survivors supported on their social reintegration through vocational and/or micro-enterprise assistance.
- 100% of newly identified survivors receive support for physical and psychological rehabilitation

Expected Project Results

- Reduce the impact caused by antipersonnel mines in the lives of 270 landmine survivors.

Project Innovation

The AICMA Program maintains a registry of survivors, which includes information including personal identification, community of origin, type of injury, type of prosthesis, background of accident and photographs of the victim.

Through this program, support has been given to people who would otherwise not have the possibility of receiving rehabilitation and reintegration into the productive life of their communities. The Program has also developed software to facilitate the provision of support to survivors. The program management functions and databases, currently handled
within the AICMA office in Managua, are entirely transferable to national authorities upon conclusion of OAS support.

Project Impact

The project not only seeks to alleviate the physical, psychological, and social suffering of the survivors but also seeks to be a positive force in the well being of their families and communities.

Budget Summary

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<tr>
<th>Direct Costs</th>
<th>US$</th>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>55,650.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical and Psychological Rehabilitation Support</td>
<td>220,000.00</td>
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<td>Vocational Training and Socioeconomic Reintegration Support</td>
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<td>Logistical and Administrative Support</td>
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<tr>
<th>Indirect Costs</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Indirect Costs</strong></td>
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**PROJECT TOTAL** **455,897.00**