



# **2021 VA Experts Meeting Programme**

**Wednesday 10 November 2021**

**Virtual**

**10:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00 CET**

**Presented by: Abdulkadir Ibrahim Mohamed**

Somali Victim Assistance Updates. Years of armed conflict in Somalia has resulted in widespread explosive hazard contamination including mines, IEDs and Explosives Remnants of War (ERW) which has negatively impacted the lives of many from the civilian population. Landmines across the border between Somalia and Ethiopia continue to threaten the safety of the local population and their livelihoods, while ERW contamination exists in many parts of the country due to the re-occurring armed conflict and the legacy of the long war. Despite years of clearance efforts by the Mine Action partners in Somalia, landmines, ERW and IEDs remain safety concerns endangering lives, hampering Humanitarian assistance, Developmental and Peace process of the country.

As a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Somalia has a responsibility to address the rights and needs of mine victims, and victims of other indiscriminate weapons such as cluster munitions under the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Oslo Action Plan requires Somalia and other state parties with victim assistance responsibility to carry out multi-sector efforts to ensure the needs and rights of survivors are effectively addressed through national policy and legal frameworks. Somali is exerting efforts to recovering from a long civil war and still faces the dangers of terrorist groups. In this regard, the limited resources available to the government is drained by the emphasis on other priorities such as security. Despite these challenges, the Government of Somalia along with international partners continues to work together to address the needs and rights of survivors and persons with disability.

The Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) under the Ministry of Internal Security of Federal Government of Somalia is closely working with key government ministries, agencies, UN, civil society organization and mine action partners to ensure the rights and needs of survivors are streamlined in the ongoing efforts including plans, legal frameworks, and policies. A good example is the development of the national action plan for victim and disability assistance for Somalia 2020-2025. Also, in collaboration with UNMAS, Victim Assistance has been included as a key objective in the Humanitarian Response Planning (HRP) for 2021.

SEMA and other mine action partners are working on consolidating the national IMSMA database including victims data to ensure an accurate survivors' number is established. With generous support from the EU delegation in Somalia, SEMA has managed to make some tangible progress on producing VA related strategic and thematic key documents including (National VA Standards, VA Policy, resources mobilization concept papers and revised national action plan). Besides, SEMA has developed need

assessments tools, referral pathways and received capacity building training for all SEMA staff working on victim assistance.

Thus, our forward focus will be strengthening the VA data management, implementing the VA action plan, mobilize resources and strengthen our coordination with various sectors to address the immediate and long-term needs of survivors and persons with disabilities in Somalia.

I thank you