

**MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION TO THE CONVENTION ON
THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND
TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Geneva, Switzerland, 25-29 may 2009

Assisting the Victims

Statement by Tajikistan

Mr. Chairman, Co-Chairs, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to present the Victim Assistance program in Tajikistan and let me briefly acquaint you with the most significant achievements of Tajikistan Victims Assistance Programme since 2004:

- In 2006 was established VA inter-ministerial coordination group which met on regular basis to discuss VA challenges and coordinate the work of all relevant government ministries and integrate their work into wider government programs .
- «The Government of Republic of Tajikistan’s revised victim assistance objectives and plan of action for the period 2006-2009” was approved by the Government of Tajikistan and presented at the 9th Meeting of the States Parties.
- Was conducted Needs Assesment for better knowledge of the status of survivors, for identifying of the gaps in the servises and for setting priorities for their future assistance.
- National Ortho Center (NOC) was fully handed over by ICRC to the MLSPP from 1 January 2009.
- TMAC together with its partners wrote a range of projects designed to give mine/ERW survivors the opportunity to engage in the income generating activities and thanks to the donors support 194 victims have already received means of IG from the beginning of the VA Program. In cooperation with the local authorities in 2009 we started implementation of the projects “Community Income Generation Initiatives for Mine Victims” (Belgium) for 72 families of survivors and “Mine/SALW victims social and economic rehabilitation” (Canada) for 30

vulnerable families of landmine/UXO survivors. Implementation of such kind of projects for survivors helps to generate their own funds so they can (in part) support their long term medical and economic needs and reduce their social vulnerability and improve the economic condition of survivors. This also increases the personal confidence and self esteem of survivors.

- TMAC staff successfully completed training course on “Team building and communication skills with landmine survivors”, which was conducted by professional psychologist during two weeks in January 2009. The training aimed to develop knowledge and skills in communication with landmine/ UXO survivors.
- Guideline “Psycho-social assistance for the landmine survivors” in tajik language is developed and will be published soon.
- At the present time CRPD is under the consideration of the Government of RT and will be passed to the Parliament for ratification soon, possibly in June 2009.
- At the present time new version of the Law on Social Protection of PwDs from 1991, where all articles of CRPD are reflected, developed by MLSPP and is under the consideration of the Ministries.

TMAC VA Program work with the government, NGOs, DPOs, coordinate all VA work in the country and mobilize donor’s support. Government of Tajikistan tries to do their best within the framework of tajik legislation and according to the Plan of Action to provide assistance for victims’ families and survivors. Now we are in progress of working on review of Status of VA for presentation at the Second Review Conference, this has generated new information on the statistical data and provided services.

Now let me turn to the most significant remaining challenges in VA:

- Statistical data on victims still is not fully achieved.
- In 2008 and 2009 in the NOC there was formed a waiting list for the obtaining prosthesis due to lack of prosthetics-technicians working in the Center.
- In the past period Tajikistan has suffered from the economic crisis and increasing level of poverty and is urgently in need to raise funds and contribute financially

to all projects that deal with the improving the quality of life (QoL) for landmine survivors in Tajikistan. Despite of the received support still part of survivors and victims families are not covered by IG Program.

- Every summer TMAC together with its partners organizes summer camps to help the physical and psychological rehabilitation of a small group of survivors. During the 2005-2008 we were able to provide psychological support totally for 110 survivors. In 2009 we also planned to conduct Summer Camp for 30 survivors. This project was included into TMAC budget, but at the present time unfortunately funding was not confirmed. This project is of high importance because of the very valuable benefits to survivors to raise their confidence and self esteem. I am concerned about how disappointed they will be if we have to cancel. Taking this opportunity, I'm urgently appealing for donor's support!

Our priorities for 2010-2014 remain physical and economic rehabilitation, accessibility to the services, trainings for specialists in the rehabilitation field, capacity development, psycho-social support, data collection, mobilization of resources and long-term sustainability. Tajikistan is in need of assistance for the more efficient comprehensive rehabilitation of landmine survivors.

Taking this opportunity I would like to express my gratitude and thank to all our donors for their support –UNDP, Canadian government, Belgium, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, ICRC Special fund for disabled, US Embassy, ITF, Slovenian Institute for Rehabilitation, US College Preparatory School and individual donors. We hope in the future continue to work in close cooperation with our partners and donors.

Lastly I would like to reaffirm the commitment of Tajikistan to ensure the well-being of tajik survivors injured by mines and ERW and to our work forward to achieve the best possible quality of life for landmine survivors.

Thank you for the attention!