

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Mozambique, Belgium, Chile and Italy)**

Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019

Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Bosnia and Herzegovina of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2018 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

Mine Casualties

2. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported four casualties including one killed and three injured by two different incidents in the regions of Vozuća and Kasetići, Hadžići. In addition, the report stated 16 sheep got wounded by a PROM-1 accident in Gornji Skipovac-Topalović Vis.

Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)

3. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that BHMIC continuously updated its database in 2018 and shared the data with all interested actors, upon receiving official requests, in accordance with the Law on Protection of Personal Data. The report also stated that with the support of the EU, needs assessment was carried in 11 local communities and those in need were provided with training on business plans. The Committee would welcome further information on the availability and gaps in mainstream and specialised services in the country.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina did not report on progress or efforts to implement action 13 and encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop and implement time-bound and measurable objectives on victim assistance, ahead of the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention.

Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including the allocation of budgets for their implementation (Action #14)

5. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina did not report on progress on action 14 and would welcome information in this regard.

Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)

6. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina was implementing aspects of action 15 to increase the availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services and economic opportunities, as follows:
 - a. In 2018, the Ministry of Defense for War Veterans/Soldiers of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton allocated BAM 19,153 for 11 mine victims to assist with orthopedic aids;
 - b. 32 victims received one-time financial assistance for which 7,700 KM was allocated and 18 beneficiaries were sent to spa-climate treatment;

- c. Germany allocated 200,000 euros for production and repair of prostheses and procurement of other assistive devices for about 45 mine victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
 - d. In 2018 the EU sponsored project "Social and economic empowerment of mine victims and their families through the procurement of tools, technical equipment, training in small business and technical support" with the value of 388.830 euros was continued in municipalities of Konjic, Lukavac, Travnik, Donji Vakuf, Bihać, Velika Kladuša, Doboje, Stanari, Zvornik, Čajnice and Bosanka Krup. The project has been implemented by the World Vision and the Association of Amputees of RS "UDAS" to benefit 50 direct beneficiaries of mine/ERW/cluster munition victims;
 - e. Also in 2018, the NGO "Posavina without mines" implemented one project related to mine victims to help victims overcome barriers facing them;
 - f. 24 mines/UXO victims have been provided with quality prostheses and other devices by the Mine Detection Dog Training Centre, with the financial support of the U.S. State Department.
7. The Committee encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to increase national efforts to implement all aspects of action 15 and the Committee would welcome further information - disaggregated by gender and age – on all victims that have received support in 2018.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

- 8. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2018 the Coordination Body established by decision of the Council of Ministers to coordinate mine action activities, raise awareness on challenges and needs of mine/ERW/cluster munition victims, design projects, plans, and pursue initiatives to improve the social inclusion of the victims.
- 9. The Committee would welcome additional information on the activities of the Coordination Body in 2018 and on efforts for enhancements of local capacities related to victim assistance programmes and policies in accordance with Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Action #16)

- 10. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina did not report on efforts to implement Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)

- 11. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported efforts in raising awareness in Brcko district on mine victims' rights under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and it would welcome information on other efforts to remove barriers, including physical barriers in the country.

Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)

- 12. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported progress in certain areas of victim assistance in 2018, but the report did not provide information on specific measurable improvements made last year, neither it provided information on remaining challenges or the country's priorities on the implementation of victim assistance aspects of the Maputo Action Plan.
- 13. The Committee encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to increase efforts including by identifying any remaining challenges and areas of priorities to achieve the objectives of actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan by the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention in November 2019.