

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

TAJIKISTAN

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Italy, Slovenia, Uganda (Chair) and Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings

19-21 June 2023

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Tajikistan of updated information on its victim assistance activities.
2. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

Mine casualties

3. Tajikistan reported 2 casualties in 2022, including a boy and a man, both injured, bringing the total number of registered mine and explosive remnants of war casualties to 887, of which 537 have survived and 350 have been killed, 30 percent of which are children. Tajikistan reported that it has not collected data on indirect victims.
4. The Committee would welcome further information on registered victims, disaggregated by gender, age and disability.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIONS:

Strengthen partnerships and integrate victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and designation of a government entity to oversee the integration (Action #33 and also Actions #1 and #6)

5. Tajikistan reported that the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) remains the government's entity with responsibility to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including to coordinate victim assistance efforts with relevant national ministries and stakeholders. Tajikistan reported that NMAC leads a Victim Assistance Technical Working Group (VATWG), which includes representatives from all relevant ministries and other stakeholders and holds regular meetings in the capital and regions.
6. Tajikistan reported that the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MOHSPP) is responsible to fulfil Tajikistan's Victim Assistance obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and that it provides tangible support to mine victims, such as rehabilitation and has taken measures to remove barriers to improve social inclusion of persons with disabilities and mine survivors.

Develop and implement measurable, realistic and time-bound national action plan (Action #33 and also Action #2)

7. Tajikistan had reported that its national mine action strategy for 2021-2030 includes victim assistance with specific, measurable, realistic and time-bound objectives and that the Strategy was being translated into English.

8. Tajikistan also reported the inclusion of victim assistance into disability and rehabilitation plans as well as into accessibility policies and programmes.

Removing barriers including physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to access such services (Action #33)

9. Tajikistan reported that in June 2022, the government adopted the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination” which contains provisions on disability.

10. Tajikistan reported that the government continued to implement the national programme “Accessible Environment 2021-2025” launched in 2021 which aims to remove physical barriers faced by persons with disabilities including mine survivors. Tajikistan reported that the MOHSPP together with the National Association of Persons with Disabilities continue monitoring the implementation of the accessibility programme at regional and district levels and that an annual review has been conducted to ensure implementation.

11. Tajikistan had also reported that the decree on accessibility requires various government entities and other stakeholders to implement the programme and that the government’s Committee for Architecture and Construction has the responsibility to provide annual progress reports by 20 December.

Applying multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Action #34)

12. The Committee recalls that Tajikistan had reported on the continued engagement of different sectors including with MOHSPP, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labour, Local Authorities, UN agencies, Red Crescent Society Tajikistan (RCST) and NGOs, including public organisations of persons with disabilities and landmine survivors, through their memberships to TNMAC’s VATWG.

13. While currently being a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Tajikistan reported making efforts to align efforts with provisions of the CRPD, and in 2022 the Working Group on ratification of the CRPD reviewed and analysed 12 existing laws to ensure compliance with provisions of the CRPD.

Establish or strengthen of a centralised database / national information management system (Actions #9 and #35)

14. Tajikistan reported that more than 90 percent of accurate and reliable data collected by the ICRC and Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) have been included in the NMAC’s casualty database.

15. The Committee recalls that Tajikistan had reported on a centralised national disability database is in place and contains all disability related data including the number of all persons with disabilities categorised by severity of impairments. The report stated that the database does not include a separate category for “landmine survivors” instead they are categorized according to the degrees of their impairments and that it is maintained by the State Service of Medical and Social Expertise.

16. The Committee would welcome information on efforts ensuring the inclusion of the mine/ERW survivors into the national centralised disability database.

Access to first aid and ongoing emergency medical care (Action #36)

17. Tajikistan reported that all mine victims have received first aid or medical support on the basis of the "Procedure for the provision of medical and sanitary services to citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan in institutions of the state healthcare system". Tajikistan also reported that a new edition of a manual "on the procedure for conducting a medical and social examination" was developed and adopted in 2022.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

18. Tajikistan had reported on the existence of a national referral mechanism and a comprehensive directory of services used to facilitate access to services which is maintained by TNMAC in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MOHSPP) with the support of NGOs and public organisations of persons with disabilities and landmine survivors.

Access to rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, assistive devices and occupational therapy (Action #38)

19. Tajikistan reported that rehabilitation services are made available by followings:

- The MOHSPP operates 6 boarding houses, 2 rehabilitation centres for children with disabilities, 40 branches of home-based social services, 16 service centres for the elderly and persons with disabilities, 16 day-care centres for children with disabilities and 4 medical sanatoriums for veterans of war.;
- Prosthetic and Orthopaedic Centre in Dushanbe with branches in the cities of Kulab, Khorog and Khujand under the MOHSPP provides prostheses, orthoses and assistive devices to persons with disabilities including mine victims. In 2022, 14 mine victims – 13 men and 1 woman were provided with assistance with their prostheses and 5 mine victims received wheelchairs;
- In 2022 the branch of prosthetic and orthotic workshop in Khorog was renovated and equipped with support of the ICRC and the Government of Japan and it will be opened in January 2023.
- With support of its partners, such as the ICRC and POLUS Centre, Tajikistan trained rehabilitation staff and supplied necessary equipment and materials; and
- The Research Institute for Medical and Social Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities (NIIEVTIN) provides medical and rehabilitation assistance to children and adults with disabilities, including mine victims.

Access to psychological and psychosocial services including peer-to-peer support (Action #38)

20. Tajikistan reported that mine survivors are supported through the provision of medical and psychosocial assistance and rehabilitation services on an equal basis with other persons with disabilities.

21. Tajikistan reported that TNMAC with support of the MOHSPP organised a summer camp for 33 mine victims on 1 to 9 August 2022, where the victims received rehabilitation support including psychosocial assistance.

22. Tajikistan also reported that the challenges created by the COVID 19 pandemic for mine victims and their impact was discussed by the VATWG meetings in 2022.

23. The Committee would welcome additional information on the availability of peer-to-peer support services, including in rural and remote affected areas.

Access to social and economic inclusion services, including in rural and remote areas (Action #39)

24. Tajikistan reported that 16 affected families were provided with social benefits in accordance with a 2020 Decree “on the introduction of a mechanism for assigning and paying social benefits in the Republic of Tajikistan” and that socio-economic support and legal assistance were available to mine victims on an equal basis with other persons with disabilities.

25. Tajikistan also reported that in 2022, 7 mine survivors were provided with professional training in massage by the Republican Centre “Tibbi Khalki” which operates under the MOHSPP.

Taking measure for safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies (Action #40)

26. The Committee recalls that Tajikistan had reported on the inclusion of the needs of persons with disabilities, including mine survivors, into the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2019-2030. Tajikistan reported on efforts to ensure the safety of persons with disabilities, including mine victims, during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a by hosting a national conference in December 2021 to discuss “Leadership and participation of people with disabilities in building an inclusive, accessible and sustainable world after COVID-19”.

Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them (Action #41 and also Action #4)

27. Tajikistan reported that mine survivors and their representative organisations continue to participate in the work of the VATWG and in other relevant efforts and events.

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including [...] by making financial and other commitments to implementation (Action #1)

28. The Committee would welcome information on national financial commitments to assist mine victims, from the reported amounts or other financial sources.

Ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered (Action #3)

29. Tajikistan reported that women, girls, boys and men have equal opportunities to benefit from and contribute to mine action activities, including victim assistance activities.

Challenges in implementation of Victim Assistance Commitments (Action #8)

30. Tajikistan reported the following challenges facing its victim assistance efforts in in 2022 and in 2021:

- The number of people in need of prosthetic and orthopaedic products is increasing. Every year, the Dushanbe Prosthetic and Orthopaedic Workshop serves on average about 20 mine victims in need of prosthetic and orthopaedic services. The prosthetic and orthopaedic workshop in Dushanbe is currently experiencing financial and technical difficulties and, within the

framework of budgetary funds, is not able to purchase semi finished products to meet the needs of all those in need;

- Despite the improvement in the quality of diagnosis and treatment of mine victims, there is still a shortage of experienced specialists in the field of rehabilitation, advanced medical and diagnostic equipment and assistive devices; and
- Rural areas are still in great need of financial and technical support to improve the provision of emergency medical care to meet the ongoing needs of mine survivors.

31. The Committee would welcome information on progress made in overcoming challenges reported in 2022 and how the international community and the Committee on Victim Assistance can be of further support to Tajikistan's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Tajikistan

Actions	Indicators						Additional information request by the Committee
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						
	# States Parties that have national action plans in place containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound objectives and related indicators						
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks						
#35	# States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems						The Committee would welcome information on efforts ensuring the inclusion of the mine/ERW survivors into the national centralised disability database.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						The Committee would welcome further information on registered victims, disaggregated by gender, age and disability.
#36	# States Parties reporting on efforts to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to mine accidents						
#37	# States Parties that report having a national referral mechanism						
	# States Parties that report having a directory of services in place						
#38	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive rehabilitation services						
	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services						
	# States Parties that have established peer-to-peer services within their national healthcare system						The Committee would welcome additional information on the availability of peer-to-peer support services, including in rural and remote affected areas.
#39	# States Parties reporting on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims						
#40	# States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans						
#41	# States Parties that report that they include victim representatives or their organizations in victim assistance planning at the national and local level						
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS							
#1	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans,						

	poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						The Committee would welcome information on national financial commitments to assist mine victims, from the reported amounts or other financial sources.
#3	# mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						The Committee would welcome information on progress made in overcoming challenges reported in 2022 and how the international community and the Committee on Victim Assistance can be of further support to Tajikistan's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.