



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION BUILDING IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
On 18-20 June 2024

H.E. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to share the progress Cambodia has made in fulfilling its commitments to assist mine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims as outlined in the Oslo Action Plan. I would also like to extend my congratulations to Slovenia and Zambia for their roles as chairs, and to Burkina Faso and Netherlands for their achievements as the Committee on Victim Assistance.

Action #33

The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) plays a crucial role in strengthening coordination, mobilizing resources, and providing technical assistance to support Mine/ERW survivors and their families. Through this mechanism, relevant government ministries, subnational authorities, NGOs, and the private sector actively participate in victim assistance activities. These activities include providing emergency response assistance and ongoing medical care to victims, as well as medium to long-term rehabilitation, psychological and socio-economic support, vocational training, job placement, and addressing the rights and needs of persons with disabilities.

Action #34

As a State Party to the Convention, Cambodia has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for survivors. The Royal Government of Cambodia has established various legal and operational frameworks to support mine and ERW victims as well as persons with disabilities. The Cambodian Mine Action Standard on Victim Assistance was adopted and amended in 2024, and the Victim Assistance Practice Guideline is currently being developed and will be completed by the end of this year. These frameworks provide comprehensive roadmaps for supporting both direct and indirect victims of mines and ERWs.

Action #35

The Cambodian Mine Victim Information System (CMVIS) has recorded 65,037 casualties from 1979 to December 2023. From January 1 to December 31, 2023, a provisional total of 32 mine/ERW casualties were recorded by the CMAA. Among these, 17 casualties were due to mine accidents, and 15 were due to ERW incidents. The incidents resulted in 4 people being killed, 18 injured, and 10 amputated. In 2023, 25 volunteer survivor networks were conducting the Quality of Life Survey (QLS) for mine survivors and individuals with disabilities. The survey comprehensively covered 276 villages, 55 communes, and 25 districts in 3 provinces, reaching a total of 4,175 persons with disabilities, including 702 women. Among the participants, 3,206 were landmine/ERW survivors, with 273 women actively engaging in direct interviews.

Action#36

A total of 27,352 people with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors, have received medical care services, which include physiotherapy and surgical interventions. Physiotherapy Patients: 11,208 individuals underwent physiotherapist assessments and 96,146 individuals received physiotherapy treatment.

H.E. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Action #37

Currently, the CMAA is developing a Referral Mechanism and service directories. On June 5-6, 2024, the CMAA organized the National Victim Assistance Workshop, inviting all relevant stakeholders to discuss and provide input on these documents. Both the Referral Mechanism and service directories are expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Action #38

In the field of physical rehabilitation, a total of 25,260 persons with disabilities, including 8,630 mine/ERW survivors, have received services from Physical Rehabilitation Centers (PRCs). These services encompass the provision and repair of various assistive devices, including prosthetics, orthotics, wheelchairs, tricycles, and walking aids such as crutches, canes, and walking frames. Moreover, production at PRCs involved the creation and repair of a total of 23,974 products. The CMAA, in collaboration with the ARMAC, conducted Psychological Social Support Training for 100 trainees.

Action #39

A total of 411 children with disabilities, including 124 mine/ERW survivors, were enrolled in primary school, while 287 persons with disabilities attended public schools. Additionally, vocational training was provided to 156 persons with disabilities, with 50 being mine/ERW survivors trained at vocational training centers. Furthermore, 36 persons with disabilities received training on starting small businesses from Physical Rehabilitation Centers. Moreover, 81 persons with disabilities were referred to other NGOs or service providers, while 378 persons with disabilities underwent interviews for potential referral to other service providers. Additionally, 16 small businesses were supported by clients, and 17 individuals received job placements. Furthermore, 33 females with disabilities participated in sports events, and 45 bicycles were provided to persons with disabilities.

Action #40

The National Committee for Disaster Management has developed an action plan to enhance preparedness, safety, and protection for the Cambodian people. This plan specifically includes provisions for the inclusion of landmine survivors in situations of risk, encompassing armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies, and natural disasters. These efforts align with relevant international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as international guidelines, reflecting a commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all citizens, particularly those most vulnerable to the impacts of disasters and conflicts.

H.E. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Challenges

Despite notable achievements, Cambodia still grapples with critical challenges. Foremost among these is the inadequate resourcing in emergency support, ongoing medical care, rehabilitation services, psychological and psychosocial support, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, vocational training skills,

and community services. Additionally, there is a pressing need to enhance the capacity and cooperation of stakeholders involved in victim assistance in terms of data reporting. Hence, I seize this opportunity to appeal for technical and financial assistance from all development partners. By joining forces, we can surmount these challenges and ensure that every member of our community can lead a life marked by dignity and equality.

Way forward

Cambodia's unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for mine/ERW survivors and persons with disabilities is evident through the highlighted efforts. These commitments are reaffirmed annually, showcasing the nation's dedication to this cause. For instance, Cambodia will collaborate with the UN/ISU to organize the fifth Review Conference, scheduled to take place from November 25th to 29th, 2024, in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia.

Conclusion

Finally, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to all development partners, particularly the Implementation Support Unit of this convention, Australia, Canada, Exceed Worldwide, Humanity & Inclusion, ICRC, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, and others who may not be mentioned here, for their invaluable collaboration and contribution to Cambodia in fulfilling its obligations to mine/ERW survivors and other persons with disabilities. Your support has been instrumental in our efforts, and we deeply appreciate your continued partnership and commitment to this important cause.

Thank you.