

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

ALBANIA

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Burkina Faso, the Netherlands, Slovenia (Chair) and Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings

18-20 June 2024

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

Mine casualties

3. Albania did not report casualty in 2023. The Committee recalls that in 2019, Albania reported a total of 1,003 mine victims and that the data was disaggregated by age and gender.
4. The Committee would welcome an update - disaggregated by gender, age, and disability - on all mine casualties registered in Albania.

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 Actions #1 and #6)

5. Albania reported that the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP) is responsible for integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks.

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

6. Albania reported that a bio-psycho-social assessment of disability was conducted for adults and children to guarantee social services and assistance are provided.
7. The Committee recalls that in 2022, Albania reported having developed a National Action Plan for Persons with Disability for the period of 2021-2025, in accordance with the Law (No. 93/2014) "On the Inclusion of and Access for People with Disabilities," which is aligned with Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD's) principles and definitions.
8. The Committee welcomes information from Albania on the place of victim assistance in the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities.

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

9. Albania reported that in accordance with Law No. 93/2014 “On Inclusion and Accessibility of Persons with Disabilities”, multi-sectoral and coordination are required to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all areas of life.
10. Albania reported improvements in accessibility of central and local government infrastructures, where local plans for accessibility of services and inclusion of persons with disabilities were being implemented.
11. The Committee would welcome further information on progress made with regards to lifting barriers in 2023.

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 last year Albania reported that as per national Law No. 57/2019 “On Social Assistance in the Republic of Albania” and national Law No. 121/2016 “On Social Care Services in the Republic of Albania” includes the needs of persons with disabilities and that the latter requires all municipalities to draft Social Plans, conduct needs analysis for social integrated services in the community and, to identify vulnerable groups and services required.
13. The Committee recalls that in 2023 Albania reported that the MOHSP works in collaboration with relevant institutions, persons with disabilities and civil society organisations to implement victim assistance, and that the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities is developed in line with the CRPD.

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

14. The Committee would welcome information on the availability of, or plan to establish a national centralised database to consolidate and maintain information on mine victims and others, such as persons with disabilities, and to make information on mine victims available to relevant stakeholders.

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

15. Albania reported healthcare services and rehabilitation programme benefited from an improved infrastructural health facility at national level, and persons with disabilities including mine survivors have access to healthcare and rehabilitation services at all levels.
16. The Committee recalls that last year Albania reported that the MOHPS provides universal health coverage for all categories of population without any discrimination and that national Law No. 10107 guarantees access to health care for all. Albania reported that the National Health Strategy 2021-2030 “On the approval of National Strategy for Health” aims to provide health services, accessible and affordable for the entire Albanian population, and that the National Primary Health Care Strategy 2020-2025 has been developed to increase the coverage of primary health care services, supporting persons with disabilities and addressing needs and requirements for health services.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

17. The Committee would welcome information on existing national referral mechanisms and national directory of services to facilitate access to services.

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

18. Albania reported specialised services to persons with disabilities were made available through the University Hospital of Trauma in Tirana and 11 regional hospitals, including orthopaedics, physiotherapy, and prosthesis.
19. The Committee recalls that in 2023 Albania reported that the MOHPS has continued conducting improvements to health care facilities and infrastructures through reconstruction [refurbishment] of 340 healthcare centres, hospitals and polyclinics and improved infrastructure in primary health care. Albania indicates that this has been accompanied by accreditation of more than 260 health institutions.

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

20. The Committee recalls that in 2023 Albania reported that the MOHPS, in collaboration with its partners such as the UNDP, Caritas Albania and Albanian Red Cross, conducted efforts to strengthen resilience among persons with disabilities, by enhancing mental health and psychosocial healthcare.
21. The Committee would welcome further information on availability of peer-to-peer support, and its integration into healthcare systems, and an update on the above.

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

22. Albania reported that the government approved legal framework for Social Employment Fund which enables the provision and administration of financial mechanisms for promotion of employment, integration, and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.
23. Albania reported that social protection programme is in place to fulfil the needs of survivors and other persons with disabilities and activities were carried out by the MOHPS in collaboration with the Ministry's partners in all areas of social support, employment, housing, and access to justice.
24. The Committee welcomes Albania to provide information on mine victims benefited from the social protection schemes and other socio-economic services in 2023.

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

25. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies in Albania.

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

26. Albania reported that persons with disabilities, their representative organisations and other civil society organisations participate in relevant activities and programmes including the first national conference on assistive devices held in March 2023 in Albania.

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

27. The Committee would welcome information on national commitments including allocation of financial resources by the Government of Albania for victim assistance implementation.

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

28. The Committee would welcome information on consideration of gender and diverse needs and experience of mine victims in relevant policies and programmes, including in the National Action Plan for Persons with Disability for the period of 2021-2025.

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

29. The Committee recalls that Albania had reported several challenges facing its victim assistance activities, such as the followings:

- although persons with disabilities benefit from the coverage of medical insurance, but they encounter difficulties due to insufficient assistive technologies; and
- 61 municipalities have developed social plans, supported by UNDP, but the plans do not include comprehensive measures for persons with disabilities.

30. The Committee would welcome an update on challenges to be addressed and on progress made in overcoming the above challenges.

31. The Committee would also welcome information on how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can support Albania to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Albania

| Actions | Indicators | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | Additional information request by the Committee |
|---------|--|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| #33 | # States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities | | | | | | The Committee welcomes information from Albania on the place of victim assistance in the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities. The Committee would welcome further information on progress made with regards to lifting barriers in 2023. |
| | # 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 the availability of, or plan to establish a national centralised database to consolidate and maintain information on mine victims and others, such as persons with disabilities, and to make information on mine victims available to relevant stakeholders. |
| | # States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age, and disability | | | | | | The Committee would welcome an update - disaggregated by gender, age, and disability - on all mine casualties registered in Albania. |
| #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 | | | | | | The Committee would welcome information on availability of a national referral mechanism. |
| | # States Parties that report having a directory of services in place | | | | | | The Committee would welcome information on the development national directory of services. |
| #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 | | | | | | The Committee would welcome an update progress made in psychosocial support in 2023. |
| | # States Parties that have established peer-to-peer services within their national healthcare system | | | | | | The Committee would welcome further information on availability of peer-to-peer support, and its integration into health systems. |
| #39 | # States Parties reporting on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims | | | | | | The Committee welcomes Albania to provide information on mine victims benefited from the social protection schemes and other socio-economic services in 2023. |

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| #40 | # States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans | | | | | The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies. |
| #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 | | | | | The Committee would welcome information on national commitments including allocation of financial resources by the Government of Albania for victim assistance implementation. |
| | % mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention | | | | | |
| #3 | # mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place | | | | | The Committee would welcome information on consideration of gender and diverse needs and experience of mine victims in relevant policies and programmes, including in the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities. |
| | # women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings | | | | | |
| #8 | # States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting | | | | | The Committee would welcome an update on efforts made to address challenges reported in 2022. The Committee would also welcome information on how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can support Albania to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP. |
| | # States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings | | | | | |