

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

### ALGERIA

#### 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 Algeria of updated information on its victim assistance activities and appreciates the comprehensive information provided.
2. Based on the information provided, including the additional information Algeria provided in response to preliminary observations of the Committee in 2023, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### Mine casualties

3. Algeria reported that no casualty was recorded in 2023. Algeria reported a total of 7,255 casualties due to mines and explosive remnants of war have been recorded. Algeria reported that 92% of direct victims are male and 81% of indirect victims are female.

#### 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)**

4. Algeria reported that the Inter-ministerial Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, which is composed of representatives from all relevant ministries, is the entity responsible for overseeing the integration of Victim Assistance into broader national policies, plans, and legal frameworks.
5. The Committee recalls that Algeria had reported that the Ministry of Mojahedin and Rights Holders (MOMRH) is responsible for the implementation of victim assistance and works with other ministries and national agencies to integrate the needs of mine victims into broader frameworks.

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

6. Algeria reported that in addition to specific assistance provided to mine survivors, and that in accordance with Articles 32 and 72 of the Constitution, they have the right to benefit from services available to persons with disabilities. The Committee recalls that Algeria had reported implementing plans and programmes that are inclusive of the needs of victims and that national budgets are allocated for implementation on an annual basis, including for pensions, social and health insurance, and other purposes to assist mine victims.

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

7. Algeria reported on extensive activities conducted by the Accessibility Commission for Persons with Disabilities, composed of 33 members including 19 government representatives. The Commission has been active since 2012 and works to promote accessibility to services including physical, social, economic, cultural, and environmental. Algeria reported that as per its 2023 action plan, the Commission held a national awareness day on 18 April 2024 to present achievements and needs of access to services in the country.
8. The Committee recalls that Algeria also reported that the Law on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2002) requires all efforts to be provided in a non-discriminatory manner.

**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)**

9. Algeria reported on existence and operation of national implementation mechanisms such as inter-ministerial commission and national commission on promotion of accessibility which shows Algeria has been applying a multi-sectoral approach in its efforts to address the rights and needs of persons with disabilities including mine victims.
10. Algeria reported that the ministries of Mujahideen, Health and National Solidarity, each in their respective capacity and mandate, continue to ensure the sustainability of State services to mine victims. Algeria reported progress in making multi-sectoral efforts, including through the work of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities and through the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

11. Algeria reported that the Inter-ministerial Committee has a database and that data on mine victims has been included in a disability database that is maintained by the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Women.

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

12. Algeria reported that healthcare services available across the country, including in rural and remote areas and offer services to all citizens without discrimination. Algeria also reported on availability of Specialised Hospital Establishment (EHS) that provides specialised healthcare services to persons with disabilities including mine victims.
13. The Commission recalls that also Algeria had reported that first-aid is provided by the civil protection units to new casualties, and that mine victims benefit from public healthcare services available across the country, without discrimination. Algeria also reported that medical care is provided free of charge, and that the MOMRH is working on an agreement with social security sector to ensure mine victims' access to private hospitals and by doing so to enable them to enjoy full insurance.

**Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)**

14. Algeria had reported that a referral guide (or "Guide to assistance services in Algeria") is available and it includes list of all services available for mine victims and other persons with disabilities.

15. The Committee would welcome information on national referral mechanism that facilitate mine victims' access to services.

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

16. Algeria reported that mine survivors have access to rehabilitation services made available by the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities and Victims of the National Liberation Revolution in Douera or one of its 6 branches (in Oran, Algiers-East, Ain-Temouchent , Naama, Guelma and Tebessa). They also benefit from the services and products made available by the National Office of Assistive Devices and Accessories for Disabled People (known as ONAAPH) which has 104 structures [branches] throughout the country.

17. Algeria reported 142 victims including 137 men and 5 women were provided with rehabilitation services in 2023. Algeria reported that one mine survivor from Mauritania was provided with prosthesis and that in the past rehabilitation services provided to mine victims from Angola, Namibia, and Mozambique.

18. The Committee recalls that Algeria had also reported on availability of physical rehabilitation services throughout the country providing prostheses, physiotherapy, and assistive devices such as motorcycles, wheelchairs, hearing aids and other kinds of assistive products, and that through the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities and Victims of the Revolution of National Liberation. Algeria highlighted in its report the following services:

- production and assembly of prosthesis, other orthopaedic items, and necessary accessories;
- production and supply of assistive devices such as wheelchairs, hearing equipment and accessories for vision and dentures;
- medical follow-up by specialists;
- management of functional rehabilitation, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy; and,
- provision of accommodation and food to beneficiaries coming from remote and rural areas.

19. Algeria reported that it would be desirable for its rehabilitation programme to benefit from cooperation in technical supports in areas of assistive technology and functional rehabilitation to better assist mine victims and persons with disabilities.

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

20. Algeria reported that psychological support was available for everyone in need without discrimination, including for mine victims and that these services are provided by psychologists, social workers and the 275 Local Units.

21. Algeria reported that associations of victims and persons with disabilities contributed to social inclusion of the victims by offering peer support.

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

22. Algeria reported conducting several national programmes to assist with socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities, including mine victims, such as:

- Over 2,000 projects provided to assist with socio-economic inclusion and financial autonomy of persons with disabilities including mine victims, including to create small businesses by offering credits.

- Free of charge or subsidised transportation are available for persons with disabilities and mine survivors;
- Social insurance for those with no professional activity [income]; and
- Allocation of at least 1% of jobs for persons with disabilities by all employers;

23. The Committee recalls that in 2023 Algeria reported that various types of mechanisms and measures are put in place to ensure the social and economic inclusion of mine victims in each municipality and that social support includes assistance for housing, employment and free transportation and discounts for some public services.

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

24. Algeria reported that the needs of mine victims are integrated into national measures in place to prevent and manage risks under the National Authority for Major Risks.

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

25. Algeria reported that mine survivors and their representative associations are included in the design of national policies, awareness raising efforts and other activities such as those related to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Algeria reported that following 9 representative associations of or for mine survivors / persons with disabilities are active in the country:

- Association of persons with disabilities of Igli of the wilaya of Bechar;
- Cultural association for the integration of persons with physically disabilities in the wilaya of Bechar;
- Association Promotion of persons with disabilities of Ain-Kechra in the wilaya of Skikda;
- Solidarity Association of persons with disabilities and Mine Victims of the wilaya of El Tarf;
- National association for the defense of mine victims, wilaya of Biskra;
- Association of the persons with disabilities of the wilaya of Nâama;
- Association of victims of civil mines and explosive devices in the wilaya of Souk-Ahras;
- El Hayat Association for persons with physically disabilities in the wilaya of Tlemcen); and
- Mechâal El Chahid Association.

**CROSS – CUTTING ACTIONS:**

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

26. Algeria reported that the implementation of the Convention including mine clearance which has been completed has been entirely funded by the national budget, and assistance to victims that have been integrated into different departments of the government is resourced through respective departments on an annual basis.

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

27. Algeria reported that by virtue of its Constitution and in line with national legislations, the different needs and perspectives of the population including those of mine survivors are considered and that the government ensures considerations of gender and age. Also, Algeria reported that 2/3 of the

Inter-ministerial members are women and that 30% of associations of mine action and victim assistance active in the field are led by women.

28. Algeria reported that the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (2002) guarantees equality and prohibits any forms of discrimination based on disabilities, gender, or age.

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

29. Algeria reported that it would be desirable for its rehabilitation programme to benefit from cooperation in technical supports in areas of assistive technology and functional rehabilitation to better assist mine victims and persons with disabilities.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Victim Assistance**  
**Algeria**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested by the Committee
#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						
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data 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						The Committee would welcome information on national referral mechanism that facilitate mine victims' access to services.
	# 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						
#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						
<b>CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS</b>							
#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						
#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						