

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

#### 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina of updated information on its victim assistance activities.
2. Based on the information provided, including additional information provided in 2023 in response to Committee's observations, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### Mine casualties

3. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported 1 new casualty in 2023. In total and for the period of 1996-2023, Bosnia and Herzegovina reported 1,781 casualties due to anti-personnel mines and other explosive ordnances (ERW). Bosnia and Herzegovina provided the following information on the 1,781 mines and ERW victims reported:
  - Women: 156 are women
  - Men 1,625 are men
  - Children: 252
  - Adults (from 19 to 39) 748, adults from (40 to 60) 524, seniors (over 60 years) 157, unknown 100
  - Died: 624
  - Serious and minor injuries: 809
  - Unknown injuries: 348
4. The Committee appreciates that some data were disaggregated by gender and age and it encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to further refine the disaggregated data collection and information on indirect victims such as affected families.

#### 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. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the mandate of the Victim Assistance "Coordination Body" which was the entity responsible for overseeing victim assistance implementation, came to an end in 2022, and that it will be renewed in 2024.
6. The Committee would welcome further information on coordination and overseeing of integration of victim assistance in 2023 and in absence of the Coordination Body.

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

7. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the need for adoption and domestication of the International Mine Action Standard 13.10 (IMAS 13.10) on Victim Assistance was assessed and concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to adopt IMAS 13.10 to revise the roles and responsibilities of mine action in victim assistance.
8. The Committee recalls that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the country's Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 includes victim assistance as well as the 17 goals of the sustainable development.

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

9. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in lifting barriers that may hinder full inclusion and participation of mine victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**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)**

10. The Committee recalls that Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported on inclusion of victim assistance into broader frameworks, such as medical care and social protection, and areas that would need to be improved including accessibility, employment, health, training and recovery, independent living and support to women and children with disabilities.
11. The Committee would welcome an update on progress achieved in the integration of mine victims' needs and rights into broader national frameworks including national frameworks related to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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

12. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that BHMIC is in process of creating a new, more stable and more accessible BHIMSMA information system on the IMSMA CORE platform to enable efficient access to the data, taking into account the high protection of personal data of mine victims.
13. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that BHMIC has a database of mine victims for the entire area of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including entity and canton levels, with data disaggregated by age, sex, and type of injury and that the data is made available to all relevant ministries and stakeholders. A separate data exists for after-war victims and casualties.
14. The Committee would welcome information on availability of a national centralised national database, such as a database on issues related to disabilities and/or health injury surveillance, and information on the inclusion of mine victims' data into such database(s).

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

15. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that emergency medical services are available across the country 24/7. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the country has a well-developed system of healthcare system, with well-established clinics, specialised semi-clinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres.

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

16. The Committee recalls that Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported having a referral mechanism and directory of services in place.

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

17. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on availability of comprehensive rehabilitation services including physical, psychological and social support services within the secondary and tertiary social welfare levels. Individual support is also available within the state system of social welfare, where women and children are a priority. Also, Bosnia and Herzegovina reported with the aim of increasing the availability of services in local communities, more Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) as well as Centres for Mental Health (CMZ) have been opened in more than 60 separate locations.

18. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in that in 2023 a total of 19 were assisted with prosthesis, through a project implemented by Mine Detection Dog Centre (MMDC).

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

19. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on availability of psychological support to mine victims and persons with disabilities.

20. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in provision of peer-to-peer support to mine victims in 2023.

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

21. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on the following activities related to the provision of services to assist the economic empowerment of mine victims carried by the "Organization of amputees UDAS Republic of Srpska":

- In March 2023, UDAS opened a Beekeeping Centre for mine victims in Banja Luka to train mine survivors on beekeeping, with support of ITF Slovenia, Beekeeping Academy of Slovenia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Srpska;
- 52 persons including 42 mine victims were provided with training on small businesses including beekeeping; and
- 17 mine victims were supported were provided with tools for agriculture.

22. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that efforts were made to revise legal framework for the professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities.

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

23. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on availability of national humanitarian response ensuring the safety and protection of mine victims in situations of emergency.

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

24. The Committee would welcome updated information on efforts made to enhance participation and inclusion by mine victims and their representative organisations.

**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:**

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

25. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the country's national strategic mine action plan includes assistance to mine victims.

26. The Committee would welcome information on national financial commitments made in 2023 for victim assistance efforts.

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

27. The Committee would welcome updated information about the way gender, age and different needs of mine victims are addressed in the implementation of BHMIC's strategic and work plans.

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

28. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the Victim Assistance Coordination Body that was created in 2018, was not in action in 2023, and in previous years it had faced limitations, such as the impossibility of making decisions due to the lack of a quorum. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported a decrease in international cooperation for victim assistance.

29. The Committee welcomes Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide information on how the international community and the Committee on Victim Assistance can be of further support to Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Victim Assistance**  
**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						The Committee would welcome further information on coordination and overseeing of integration of victim assistance in 2023 and in absence of the Coordination Body.
	# States Parties that have national action plans in place containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound objectives and related indicators						The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in lifting barriers that may hinder full inclusion and participation of mine victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks						The Committee would welcome an update on progress achieved in the integration of mine victims' needs and rights into broader national frameworks including national frameworks related to the implementation of the <u>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</u> .
#35	# States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems						The Committee would welcome information on availability of a broader centralised database, such as database on issues related to disabilities and/or health injury surveillance, and information on inclusion of mine victims' data into such database(s).
	# 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						The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in provision of ongoing emergency medical care to mine victims.
#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						The Committee welcomes Bosnia and Herzegovina to share further information on integration of the rehabilitation needs of mine victims into broader national rehabilitation and public healthcare programmes and policies.
	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services						The Committee would welcome an update on provision of peer-to-peer support to mine victims.
	# 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						The Committee would welcome an update on efforts made to enhance participation and inclusion by mine victims and their representative organisations.
<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						The Committee would welcome information on national financial commitments made in 2023 for victim assistance activities.
	% 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 updated information about the way gender, age and different needs of mine victims are addressed in the implementation of BHMIC's strategic and work plans.
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						The Committee welcomes Bosnia and Herzegovina on how the international community and the Committee on Victim Assistance can be of further support to Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						