

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

### CAMBODIA

#### 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 Cambodia of updated information on its victim assistance activities.
2. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

##### **Mine casualties**

3. Cambodia reported 32 new casualties in 2023 showing a decrease of about 30% in comparison to casualties reported in 2022 and marking 3 subsequent years of decrease in new casualties. Of the 32 new casualties 4 persons were killed the rest have survived including 10 persons who have lost limbs. Cambodia also reported that the 32 casualties included 25 men, 6 boys and 1 woman.
4. Cambodia reported that 4,175 persons with disabilities including 3,206 mine survivors were surveyed through a project entitled Quality of Life Survey (QLS). Cambodia reported on QLS for several years.
5. The Committee encourages Cambodia to provide further information on indirect victims, such as family members affected by mines.

##### **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 (Actions #1, #6 and #33)**

6. Cambodia reported that the responsibility for the provision of victim assistance is mandated to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSVY), with the Disability Action Council (DAC) Secretariat serving the MOSVY in general disabilities. Cambodia reported that the Department of Victim Assistance of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) is working with the MOSVY and DAC on implementation of victim assistance.
7. Cambodia reported that a Technical Working Group, endorsed by the Prime Minister, has been working since 2014 under CMAA's leadership and together with MOSVY, DAC, Persons with Disabilities Foundation, and heads of 11 physical rehabilitation centres in the country to oversee the operation and integration of victim assistance in the country. Cambodia reported that the roles of the CMAA have been crucial in coordinating relevant efforts with stakeholders and preparing annual reports on victim assistance.
8. Cambodia reported that the 2009 national Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities guide the implementation of victim assistance and ensures equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

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

9. Cambodia reported that victim assistance is included in the national strategies and plans:

- 2022 Cambodian Mine Action Standard on Victim Assistance
- 2024-2025 Implementation Plan
- 2023 Pentagonal Strategy-Phase I
- 2019-2023 National Disability Strategic Plan
- 2018-2025 National Mine Action Strategy
- 2022-2023 Mine Action Implementation Plan
- 2019-2023 National Strategic Development Plan

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

10. The Committee noted that Cambodia had not reported on implementation of one aspect of the Action #33 and would welcome information on efforts made to lift physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to enhance participation and inclusion of mine victims in relevant programmes and policies.

**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)**

11. Cambodia reported on alignment of victim assistance with national frameworks such as the national Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the National Disability 2019-2023, as well as the provisions of the CRPD. Cambodia reported applying a multi-sectoral approach by engaging various ministries and other national stakeholders through a technical working group and annual national dialogues on victim assistance.

12. Cambodia reported that in 2022 the Cambodian Mine Action Standard on Victim Assistance was adopted to create a roadmap to all stakeholders' efforts and assistance to mine victims.

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

13. In 2023 Cambodia reported that it has a data collection system in place with capacity to disaggregate the data by gender, age, and types of injuries. Cambodia reported that mine victims' data have been regularly shared with relevant national stakeholders.

14. Cambodia reported providing training to 278 chiefs of communes and villages in Veal Veng and Bakan districts in Pursat province to engage them in data collection efforts including on their use of forms provided by the CMAA.

15. The Committee encourages Cambodia to integrate casualty data into a centralised database, such as a disability database or national injury surveillance system.

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

16. Cambodia reported that 27,352 people with disabilities, including mine survivors received healthcare service, including physiotherapy and surgeries.

17. In 2023, Cambodia reported that first-aid training provided to over 1,500 people including to organisations of persons with disabilities and community/village leaders.

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

18. Cambodia had reported that mine survivors benefit from referrals to services provided by community-based rehabilitation and 518 self-help groups in 25 provinces,

19. The Committee would welcome information on the existence or progress in developing a directory of services, to ensure access to services.

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

20. Cambodia reported that 25,260 persons with disabilities and 8,630 mine/ERW survivors were provided with physical rehabilitation services by the Physical Rehabilitation Centres (PRCs) which included provision of new or repairing of existing prosthetics, orthotics, wheelchairs, tricycles and walking aids including crutches, cans, and walking frames. Cambodia reported that the 5 PRCs produced or repaired the following items in 2023:

- 3,212 prosthetics
- 2,560 orthotics
- 37 seating systems
- 1,043 wheelchairs
- 47 tricycles
- 691 non-orthopaedic procedures
- 3,671 walking aids
- 12,715 repairs
- 45 bicycles

21. Cambodia reported that 11,208 physiotherapy assessments were conducted, and 96,146 physiotherapy treatments were conducted.

22. Cambodia reported that Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) services are available in 25 provinces, and they support 21,688 persons with disabilities through a range of activities aiming to enhance their overall well-being and inclusion.

23. The Committee would welcome information on availability of or plans to make occupational therapy available to mine victims in Cambodia.

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

24. Cambodia reported that 1,706 individuals were provided with peer-to-peer support and counselling, which aimed at meeting the psychological needs and providing a supportive environment for mental health.

25. Cambodia reported that 100 persons were provided psychological support training to teach them necessary skills to provide psychological support and to enhance a network of trained professionals in the field. Cambodia reported that the initiatives in this regard reflect a holistic approach to

mental health and well-being, both in providing direct support to individuals through counselling and consultations and in building a cadre of trained professionals capable of offering psychological social support to those in need. The combination of direct interventions and training programs contributes to a more comprehensive and sustainable mental health support system.

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

26. Cambodia reported on the provision of social and economic supports to persons with disabilities including mine survivors in 2022 as follows:

- **Education:** 411 children with disabilities, including 124 mine/ERW survivors were enrolled into primary school. 287 persons with disabilities gained admission to public schools.
- **Vocational training:** 156 persons with disabilities including 50 mine survivors were provided vocational training; 36 persons with disabilities received training on establishing small businesses through programmes conducted by the PRCs.
- **Referrals:** 81 persons with disabilities were referred to NGOs and service providers for advanced vocational training and 378 individuals were interviewed for potential referrals to service providers.
- **Social inclusion:** 33 females with disabilities attended in sport events and Cambodia reported that 36 persons with disabilities were provided with training on small business.
- **Economic inclusion:** interest free loans were provided to 554 mine survivors; 17 persons with disabilities found jobs and 16 small businesses have been supported by clients, showcasing the success of entrepreneurship initiatives by persons with disabilities and mine survivors; and 6,299 persons with disabilities directly benefit from mobile repair services.

27. Cambodia reported that the results of the QLS which surveyed 4,175 persons with disabilities including 3,206 mine survivors in 276 villages, 55 communes and 25 districts indicated that the majority of survivors received assistance, highlighting positive outcomes and some individuals faced challenges in accessing services, emphasizing the need for continued support and improvement in service accessibility.

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

28. The Committee recalls that Cambodia had reported that the 2009 Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the National Disability Strategic Plan 2019-2023 address the needs of persons with disabilities including mine victims.

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

29. Cambodia reported activities such as supporting self-help groups of persons with disabilities, trainings and assessment of the process and implementation of self-help groups which include representative of mine survivors, which indicate progress in strengthening inclusion and participation of mine survivors and their representative organisations.

#### **CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:**

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

30. Cambodia reported that a total of \$150,000 from national funds allocated annually for operation of the CMAA, including its victim assistance activities.

31. Cambodia reported efforts at policy and programme levels and other activities [such as hosting of a global conference on victim assistance in 2023] that demonstrate a high level of national ownership with regards to victim assistance implementation.

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

32. Like in 2023, Cambodia reported that gender and diversity have been considered throughout the mine action programmes including in the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 which aims to address the needs of women, girls, boys, and men through a range of activities such mine clearance, risk education, survey, and victim assistance.

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

33. Cambodia reported that persons with disabilities including mine survivors in rural areas face challenges in accessing services.

34. The Committee would welcome further information on challenges faced and an update on steps taken by Cambodia to address the challenges identified. The Committee would also welcome information on how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Cambodia to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

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

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 noted that Cambodia had not reported on implementation of one aspect of the Action #33 and would welcome information on efforts made to lift physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to enhance participation and inclusion of mine victims in relevant programmes and policies.
	# 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 encourages Cambodia to provide further information on indirect victims, such as family members affected by mines.  The Committee encourages Cambodia to integrate casualty data into a centralised database, such as a disability database or national injury surveillance system.
	# 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 the existence or progress in developing a directory of services, to ensure 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						The Committee would welcome information on availability of or plans to make occupational therapy available to mine victims in Cambodia.
	# 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						The Committee would welcome information on steps taken by Cambodia to address the challenges reported last year, and information on how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can assist Cambodia to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

