

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

IRAQ

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

Mine casualties

3. Iraq reported 56 new casualties in 2023 including 32 injured and 24 killed, showing an increase from 50 in 2022 and 45 in 2021. In total, Iraq has registered 34,194 mine victims. Iraq provided information disaggregated by gender and age of the victims as well as locations of incidents.
4. The Committee would welcome 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. Iraq reported that the Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs, which oversees the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), is the government entity that ensures the integration of victim assistance into broader programmes and legal frameworks. The Committee recalls that Iraq had reported that the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) is responsible and coordinates victim assistance efforts with relevant ministries and authorities in the country.
6. Iraq reported that all ministries integrate the needs of mine victims in their policies and frameworks and that 12 ministries are members of the Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs.

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

7. Iraq reported in August 2023. DMA and the Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs hosted a national dialogue with support of the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention to bring together relevant ministries and experts to discuss and draft national strategic plan on disabilities for the period of 2024-2027.
8. The Committee would welcome information on the development and adoption of the national action plan on disabilities.

9. The Committee recalls that Iraq reported that in 2022 the Directorate of Mine action (DMA) developed a national standard on Victim Assistance in line with International Mine Action Standard 13.10. relevant ministries and other national and international stakeholders participated and supported the development of the national standard.

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

10. Iraq had reported that the Law for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs No. 38, ensures the needs and rights of all persons with disabilities, including victims of mines and explosive remnants of war, and their access to health, education, employment and development services.

11. The Committee would welcome information on measures in place and progress made in 2023 to lift barriers that hinder the social and economic inclusion and participation of mine victims in Iraq.

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. Iraq reported that efforts in Victim Assistance and disabilities are aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and domesticated by the Law for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs No. 38, which guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities. Iraq reported undertaking multi-sectoral efforts with the aim to develop a unified approach and a plan of action that is inclusive of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities and mine victims.

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

13. Iraq reported that efforts to create a unified database to bring together all relevant data including those of mine victims, has continued in 2023 among DMA and several ministries and authorities in collaboration with the National Data Centre Department of Iraq.

14. The Committee would welcome information development made to create a centralised database.

15. Iraq also reported that the DMA continued collecting and registering data on mine victims in its database and efforts were made to improve data collection through field surveys and follow ups of emergency injuries.

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

16. Iraq reported that first aid and medical care are provided in an effective and efficient manner through public hospitals located close to affected communities.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

17. Iraq reported that efforts have been underway to develop a referral system to facilitate access to emergency medical care, rehabilitation and all other relevant services. The Committee also recalls that Iraq had reported on the availability of a referral system among public hospitals.

18. Iraq reported that a guide to facilitate access to emergency medical services was prepared and printed as a result of cooperation between DMA and Operations and Emergency Medical

Services/Department of Rehabilitation and Prevention of Disability for all disabled victims of mines and war remnants, with support of Handicap International.

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

19. Iraq reported that the Ministry of Health (MOH) activated community-based rehabilitation centres to ensure the provision of different services to mine victims including rural and remote areas, with the first phase having begun in Baghdad. Iraq reported that each community-based rehabilitation centre includes a physiotherapist, a prosthetic limb technician and a representative of the Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs.

20. Iraq reported that in 2023 DMA through the Ministry of Health over 2,000 items of assistive devices and medical assistance were provided to mine victims.

21. Iraq reported that the ICRC's Prosthetic Rehabilitation Centre was accredited by the mine action centre (IKMAA) to provide high quality rehabilitation service to mine victims.

22. The Committee would welcome further information on the number of mine victims received rehabilitation services in 2023.

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

23. The Committee would welcome information on the availability of psychological and psychosocial services including information on the provision of peer-to-peer support in meeting the psychological needs of mine victims in Iraq.

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

24. Iraq reported that in 2023 DMA through the Authority for Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs provided socio economic assistance such as pensions, sabbatical employment, cars, fees for schools, jobs and training courses to over 18,055 victims, including 8,054 girls and women.

25. The Committee would welcome further information on progress achieved to include the needs of mine victims in national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other national policies and programmes of Iraq.

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

26. The Committee recalls that Iraq had reported that, in accordance with Law 38, specific measures have been taken by various national ministries to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors.

27. The Committee would welcome further information on measures undertaken to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies.

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

28. Iraq reported that mine victims and members of their representative organisations participate in the development of relevant policies and programmes including through their participation within the Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs.

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

29. The Committee would welcome further information on the inclusion of victim assistance in the Iraq Vision 2030 framework and information on financial commitments made by the government of Iraq to address the needs of mine victims.

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

30. Iraq reported that gender and diversity are considered in mine action, with women actively taking part in various mine action activities carried out by the DMA and its partners.

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

31. The Committee would welcome information on challenges Iraq encountered in delivering victim assistance and information on how the international community could be of support to Iraq's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker

Victim Assistance

Iraq

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						
	# States Parties that have national action plans in place containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound objectives and related indicators						<p>The Committee would welcome information on the development and adoption of the national action plan on disabilities.</p> <p>The Committee would welcome information on measures in place and progress made in 2023 to lift barriers that hinder social and economic inclusion and participation of mine victims in Iraq.</p>
#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 development made to create centralised database.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						The Committee would welcome information on indirect victims, such as affected families.
#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						
#37	# States Parties that report having a directory of services in place						The Committee would welcome further information on the efforts made to develop a national directory of services to facilitate access to services.
#38	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive rehabilitation services						The Committee would welcome further information on number of the mine victims received rehabilitation services in 2023.
#38	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services						The Committee would welcome information on availability of psychological and psychosocial services including information on the provision of peer-to-peer support in meeting the psychological needs of mine victims in Iraq.
#38	# 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						The Committee would welcome further information on progress achieved to include the needs of mine victims in national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other national policies and programmes of Iraq.

#40	# States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans								The Committee would welcome further information on the measures undertaken 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 further information on the inclusion of victim assistance in the Iraq Vision 2030 framework and information on financial commitments made by the government of Iraq to address the needs of mine victims.
	% 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 challenges Iraq encountered in delivering victim assistance and information on how the international community could be of support to Iraq's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.