

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

TAJIKISTAN

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

Mine casualties

3. Tajikistan reported 3 casualties in 2023, two injured, bringing the total number of registered mine and explosive remnants of war casualties to 890, of which 539 have survived and 351 have been killed, 30 percent of which are children. Tajikistan reported that it has not collected data on indirect victims.

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. Tajikistan reported that the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) remains the government's entity with responsibility to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including to coordinate victim assistance efforts with relevant national ministries and stakeholders. Tajikistan reported that TNMAC leads a Victim Assistance Technical Working Group (VATWG), which includes representatives from all relevant ministries and other stakeholders and holds regular meetings in the capital and regions.
5. Tajikistan reported that the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MOHSPP) is responsible to fulfil Tajikistan's Victim Assistance obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and that it provides tangible support to mine victims, such as rehabilitation and has taken measures to remove barriers to improve social inclusion of persons with disabilities and mine survivors.

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

6. Tajikistan had reported that its national mine action strategy for 2021-2030 includes victim assistance with specific, measurable, realistic, and time-bound objectives and that the Strategy was being translated into English.
7. Tajikistan also reported the inclusion of victim assistance into disability and rehabilitation plans as well as into accessibility policies and programmes.

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

8. The Committee recalls that in 2023 Tajikistan reported on adoption of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination” which contains provisions on disability.
9. Tajikistan reported that the MOHSPP together with the National Association of Persons with Disabilities in 2023 continued monitoring the implementation of the accessibility programme at regional and district levels and that an annual review has been conducted to ensure implementation, on the basis of the national programme “Accessible Environment 2021-2025” launched in 2021 which aims to remove physical barriers faced by persons with disabilities including mine survivors.
10. Tajikistan had also reported that the decree on accessibility requires various government entities and other stakeholders to implement the programme and that the government’s Committee for Architecture and Construction has the responsibility to provide annual progress reports by 20 December.

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. The Committee recalls that Tajikistan had reported on the continued engagement of different sectors including with MOHSPP, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labour, Local Authorities, UN agencies, Red Crescent Society Tajikistan (RCST) and NGOs, including public organisations of persons with disabilities and landmine survivors, through their memberships to TNMAC’s VATWG.
12. Tajikistan reported that in 2023, the topic of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) continued to be discussed. The Committee recalls that Tajikistan reported in 2022 the Working Group on ratification of the CRPD reviewed and analysed 12 existing laws to ensure compliance with provisions of the CRPD.
13. Tajikistan reported that a law is drafted on the rights of persons with disabilities and their social inclusion by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MOHSPP) has been under consideration and approval by relevant ministries and authorities.

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

14. Tajikistan reported that more than 90 percent of accurate and reliable data collected by the ICRC and Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) have been included in the NMAC’s casualty database.
15. The Committee recalls that Tajikistan had reported on a centralised national disability database is in place and contains all disability related data including the number of all persons with disabilities categorised by severity of impairments. The report stated that the database does not include a separate category for “landmine survivors” instead they are categorized according to the degrees of their impairments and that it is maintained by the State Service of Medical and Social Expertise.
16. The Committee would welcome information on efforts ensuring the inclusion of the mine/ERW survivors into the national centralised disability database.

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

17. Tajikistan reported that all mine victims received medical assistance, including first aid throughout the year 2023 and information and guidance on provision of first aid including to mine victims have been published and provided to relevant personnel. Tajikistan reported that on average 2,500 persons with disabilities including mine victims benefit from medical services.

18. Also, Tajikistan healthcare is provided based on the "Procedure for the provision of medical and sanitary services to citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan in institutions of the state healthcare system". Tajikistan also reported that a new edition of a manual "on the procedure for conducting a medical and social examination" was developed and adopted in 2022.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

19. Tajikistan had reported on the existence of a national referral mechanism and a comprehensive directory of services used to facilitate access to services which is maintained by TNMAC in cooperation with the MOHSPP with the support of NGOs and public organisations of persons with disabilities and landmine survivors.

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

20. Tajikistan reported that in 2023 11,958 persons were supported by the prosthetic and orthopaedic centre in Tajikistan, including 15 mine victims provided with prosthesis and 27 mine victims supported by repairing their mobility aids.

21. Tajikistan reported that rehabilitation services are made available to all people in need by the followings:

- The MOHSPP operates 6 boarding houses, 2 rehabilitation centres for children with disabilities, 40 branches of home-based social services, 16 service centres for the elderly and persons with disabilities, 16 day-care centres for children with disabilities and 4 medical sanatoriums for veterans of war.;
- Prosthetic and Orthopaedic Centre in Dushanbe with branches in the cities of Kulab, Khorog and Khujand under the MOHSPP provides prostheses, orthoses and assistive devices to persons with disabilities including mine victims.
- In 2023, two students started their 18-month training in prosthesis and orthosis in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which will increase national rehabilitation capacity.
- In 2023 with support of the ICRC a training was conducted on prosthesis below knee to enhance technical capacity in rehabilitation programme of Tajikistan; and
- In 2022 the branch of prosthetic and orthotic workshop in Khorog was renovated and equipped with support of the ICRC and the Government of Japan and since January 2023 with support of the ICRC experts, production of prostheses and orthosis has also begun in Khorog Thus.

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

22. Tajikistan reported that in 2023, a summer rehabilitation camp was held and benefited 40 mine victims including 31 men and 9 women. The two weeks camp included various types of treatment and psychological support as well as cultural events. Tajikistan reported that since 2005, over 600 mine victims have received psychological support by taking part in summer rehabilitation camp and follow up efforts.

23. Tajikistan reported that in 2023 a decree was issued on establishment an information and research centre on social protection to improve services provided through social protection.

24. The Committee would welcome information on progress made in peer to peer support in particular in rural and remote areas, and its integration into national health system.

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

25. Tajikistan reported that 16 affected families were provided with social benefits in accordance with a 2020 Decree “on the introduction of a mechanism for assigning and paying social benefits in the Republic of Tajikistan” and that socio-economic support and legal assistance were available to mine victims on an equal basis with other persons with disabilities.

26. Tajikistan reported that in 2023, 7 mine survivors were provided with professional training in massage by the Republican Centre “Tibbi Khalki” which operates under the MOHSPP.

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

27. The Committee recalls that Tajikistan had reported on the inclusion of the needs of persons with disabilities, including mine survivors, into the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2019-2030. Tajikistan reported on efforts to ensure the safety of persons with disabilities, including mine victims, during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a by hosting a national conference in December 2021 to discuss “Leadership and participation of people with disabilities in building an inclusive, accessible and sustainable world after COVID-19”.

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

28. Tajikistan reported that mine survivors and their representative organisations actively participate in the work of the VATWG and in other relevant efforts and events.

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

29. Tajikistan reported making progress in building national capacity on rehabilitation and other aspects of victim assistance, showing national commitments and national ownerships with regards to victim assistance implementation.

30. The Committee would welcome information on national financial commitments to assist mine victims, from the reported amounts or other financial sources.

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

31. Tajikistan reported that women, girls, boys, and men have equal opportunities to benefit from and contribute to mine action activities, including victim assistance activities.

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

32. Tajikistan reported that limited resources hinder the implementation of victim assistance, whereas most of mine victims live in rural and remote areas.

33. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community and the Committee on Victim Assistance can be of further support to Tajikistan's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Tajikistan

Actions	Indicators						Additional information request by the Committee
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
#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						The Committee would welcome information on efforts ensuring the inclusion of the mine/ERW survivors into the national centralised disability database.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age, and disability						The Committee would welcome further information on registered victims, disaggregated 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						
	# 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						The Committee would welcome information on progress made in peer to peer support and its integration into national health 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						
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						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						The Committee would welcome information on national financial commitments to assist mine victims, from the reported amounts or other financial sources.
#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 how the international community and the Committee on Victim Assistance can be of further support to Tajikistan's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.