

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

THAILAND

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 Thailand of updated information on its victim assistance activities and appreciates the comprehensive information provided.
2. Based on the information provided in Thailand's Article 7 report as well as additional information provided in 2023 in response to Committee's observations, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

Mine casualties

3. Thailand reported 6 casualties in 2023 including 1 man killed, 1 woman and 4 men wounded, which has increased the total of mine victims to 760, of which 60 are female and 700 are male.
4. Thailand provided information on mine survivors disaggregated by gender, age and disability, which shows 667 persons acquired mobility impairment, 11 persons acquired hearing impairment, 27 persons acquired visual impairments, 19 persons acquired multiple impairments, 2 persons acquired mental impairment and 2 persons have fully recovered of injuries they sustained by mine accidents. The Committee appreciates Thailand's efforts in disaggregating the data by gender, age and disability.
5. The Committee would welcome further information on mine victims that may have been killed and information on indirect mine victims, such as affected families, which include family members of survivors and those individuals who have been killed due mine incidents.

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)

6. Thailand reported that the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) is the entity in charge of national policies and programmes for mine victims and that the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM) remain responsible for provision of emergency assistance and medical care.
7. Thailand reported applying a holistic approach to assist mine victims in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which entails the integration of victim assistance into the broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks, including those related to disabilities.

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

8. Thailand reported that the 6th national action plan on empowerment of persons with disabilities for the period of 2023-2027 was being drafted and that the plan will provide policy framework for various agencies to address the needs and rights of persons with disabilities including mine victims, in line with the CRPD and the Oslo Action Plan.

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

9. Thailand reported making significant efforts to remove physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers, to enable mine victims to access services, including by placing emergency teams in affected areas to provide first aid and evacuate new mine casualties and by raising public awareness on the rights of mine victims.

10. Thailand also reported that efforts were made to ensure that mine victims, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are not denied their basic rights, regardless of their gender, age and disability, as well as their socio-economic, cultural or political backgrounds.

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. Thailand reported applying a multi-sectoral approach through implementation of various policies and legal frameworks in place, such as the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, in relation to health, education, employment development and poverty, with an emphasis on the rights of persons with disabilities.

12. Thailand reported on efforts made by various national agencies contributing to victim assistance, that includes domains such as social protection, health, emergency and mine action among others.

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

13. Thailand reported on the availability of a national database, managed by the DEP, consolidating information on persons with disabilities including mine survivors and information is disaggregated by gender, age, disability, occupation, income and location of persons with disabilities including those whose impairments have been caused by mines. The database is managed by the DEP and information is made available online.

14. Thailand reported that the data is shared with relevant government agencies, such as the Ministry of Interior – for the purpose of distribution of disability allowance, the Ministry of Public Health – for medical treatment and rehabilitation services, and the Ministry of Labour – for job training and employment.

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

15. Thailand reported on availability of an efficient emergency response programme, delivered by 1,467 emergency medical service agencies and emergency medical responders in mine contaminated provinces. Thailand reported that in preparation for transportation in case of emergency, aeromedical evacuation and the referral system are available for critical patients free of charge, which helps to enhance chances of survival of patients in remote areas. This service is linked with ground transportation, i.e. ambulance services, in order to provide seamless care.

16. Thailand reported that further medical supports are provided through the Universal Coverage for Emergency Patients (UCEP) which includes referral system to ensure appropriate services provided.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

17. Thailand reported on availability of a referral system at hospitals facilitating patients' access to appropriate treatment, including with the support of 3,655 service centres active in 77 provinces across the country.

18. Thailand reported that information on relevant available services is published online and persons with disabilities including mine victims are provided with personalised guidance and support to access services by the 9 Centres for Empowerment and Vocational Development of Persons with Disabilities that operate under the DEP.

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

19. Thailand reported that rehabilitation has been integrated into national Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC) along with other essential medical services, such as preventive, curative and palliative health services.

20. Thailand reported that mine victims that have acquired impairments and are registered with the DEP are entitled to rehabilitation services, expense for medical treatment, equipment cost and assistive devices for their physical, mental, emotional, social and behavioural rehabilitation, as well as for their intellectual and learning abilities, in accordance with the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Acts of 2007 and 2013.

21. Thailand also reported promoting accessibility to healthcare services, in coordination with the MOH by establishing "One Stop Service" for persons with disabilities in hospitals to allow persons with disabilities register for disability ID cards and reviewing disability assessment and diagnosis guidelines.

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

22. Thailand reported on availability of psychological services for persons with disabilities through public hospitals in every province and sub-provinces in the country, with 131 psychological support centres operating under the department of psychiatry and drug dependence, supplemented by 12 centres assisting people with mental health conditions, with support of civil society organisations.

23. Thailand also reported that peer to peer support is provided to mine victims with the support of the Humanitarian Mine Action Units (HMAU), which provides targeted support to every single mine victim.

24. The Committee would welcome further information on provision of peer-to-peer support to mine survivors and affected family members in 2023, and information on integration of this approach into public healthcare system.

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

25. Thailand reported on services available to meet the social and economic needs of mine victims and other persons with disabilities including through the 3,655 service centres for persons with disabilities, and by the followings activities:

- Ensuring access to special and mainstream education;
- Providing vocational rehabilitation, services, labour protection, measures for employment opportunity, promotion of independent occupation, media services, technology facilities and any other assistance to support their work and occupation;
- Ensuring equal participation in social, economic and political activities in a full and efficient manner;
- Providing assistance to ensure that they have access to policies, plans, projects, activities, development, public services, products necessary for their livelihood, as well as legal assistance and provision of lawyers to represent them in legal cases;
- Ensuring access to information, communication, telecommunication services, information and communication technology, and media;
- Making sure they have access to sign language interpreters;
- Providing the right to bring any guiding animal, guiding tools or equipment or assistive devices on any vehicles or in public places, and right to access public facilities without any additional charges or fees;
- Raising awareness on the rights of mine victims;
- Providing welfare allowances (ranges from 800 Baht per month to 1,000 Baht per month);
- Adjusting housing environment, as well as access to caregivers and other welfare services; and
- The DEP regularly reach out and visit mine victims in rural and remote areas to provide supports they need, and to gather first-hand information.

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

26. The Committee would welcome an update on implementation of the Disaster Management Plan for Persons with Disabilities and Action Plan for Disaster Management reported in 2021.

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

27. Thailand reported that the 65,144 Social Development and Human Security Volunteers (SDHDV) created by DEP, provide a platform to communities to participate in activities carried out by the government and that efforts were made to address social problems in the community, to enhance participation by the private sector and to increase community-based welfare.

28. The Committee would welcome information on participation of mine survivors or their representative organisations in victim assistance related policies and programmes.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

29. Thailand reiterated commitment to meet the needs of mine survivors in accordance with the relevant national policy and legal frameworks, in line with CRPD obligations. Thailand reported carrying out comprehensive socio-economic, rehabilitation and healthcare activities through national ministries and agencies funded by the national government. Thailand also reported provision of targeted assistance to mine victims by the national mine action authorities.

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

30. Thailand reported taking a non-discriminatory approach in victim assistance to ensure mine survivors, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are provided with support regardless of their gender, age, disability, or socio-economic, cultural and political backgrounds.

31. The Committee would welcome further information on all areas of the Convention implementation related to the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys, and men

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

32. The Committee would welcome information on challenges faced by Thailand in meeting the needs and rights of mine victims, and any support it may require from the international community, to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Thailand

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						
#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						The Committee would welcome further information on mine victims that may have been killed and information on indirect mine victims, such as affected families, which include family members of survivors and those individuals who have been killed due mine incidents.
#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 further information on provision of peer-to-peer support to mine survivors and affected family members in 2023, and information on integration of this approach into public 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						The Committee would welcome an update on implementation of the Disaster Management Plan for Persons with Disabilities and Action Plan for Disaster Management reported in 2021.
#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 information on participation of mine survivors or their representative organisations in victim assistance related policies and programmes.
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						
#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 further information on all areas of the Convention implementation related to the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys, and men
	# 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 faced by Thailand in meeting the needs and rights of mine victims, and any support it may require from the international community, to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.