

Dear Excellencies, Colleagues and friends,

First of all, using the opportunity, I would like to thank Implementation Support Unit for organizing this important event. This is a great moment to update you on victim assistance programme of the Tajikistan National Mine Action.

Republic of Tajikistan is both a party to the AP Mine Ban Convention (since 1 April 2000) and a Member State of the UN ESCAP for more than 20 years (since 31 July 1992). In relation to victim assistance Tajikistan has reported its responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors.

Tajikistan is one of the 26 States Parties (VA26) having declared a 'significant' number of mine survivors. Since 1992 the total number of casualties as the result of mine accidents is as follows: 483 injuries, 368 deaths; totally 851 people. Approx 30% of mine survivors were children at the time of accidents. TNMAC is responsible for coordinating and monitoring of all mine action activities, including victim assistance in Tajikistan.

The Goal our Victim Assistance Program /Disability Support Unit is to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including mine victims, boys and girls, men and women, have equal and proper access to adequate medical and physical rehabilitation and psychosocial support as well as to socio-economic and legal assistance and inclusive education.

Specific Objectives include the following:

1. National capacities for physical rehabilitation of persons with disabilities/mine victims are reinforced through provision of training, technical assistance and delivery of equipment to the national orthopaedic centre, to national research institute for rehabilitation and to the 3 regional satellite workshops.
2. Psychosocial assistance is provided to persons with disabilities/survivors through the organization of summer camps.
3. Income generation and socio-economic support is provided to persons with disabilities/mine victims through UNDP, WFP, FAO, NSoD, AAR, AKF, HI and other agencies projects and activities.

4. The Victim Information System (VIS) is reviewed and made reliable, systematic and comprehensive; the VIS is also made compliant with IMSMA.
5. The Victim Assistance (VA) sector reinforces advocacy for the benefits of policy makers and civil society organizations to encourage Tajikistan signature and ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) awareness is raised among persons with disabilities/victims and survivors about their rights, privileges and available services.

VA Achievements in 2014:

- 442 blind persons (225 – boys and 100 girls; 69 – men and 48 – women) received 1805 school-books for 7-9 grade of secondary school and have improved their access to the education.

- 114 people attended seminars aimed at raising awareness on the rights of the persons with disabilities and CRPD at regional and national level (among participants: 51 –men; 63- women). More than 80 people were covered by three regional seminars (42- men and 41- women; 42 were people with disabilities and parents' of children with disabilities). Seminar in Dushanbe gathered 31 participants (9 men and 22 women).

- 72 people with disabilities in Sugd region and Rasht valley received micro-credits through two micro-credit funds supported by UNDP and improved their economic conditions and quality of the life.

- More than 500 patients of the trauma/surgery departments of district hospitals were provided with first psychological aid which helped them to overcome psychological trauma due to received physical trauma/amputations and finally to be reintegrated to the society.

- 160 landmine survivors and families of victims in Tavildara, Darvaz and Garm districts received micro-grants through the Micro-Economic Initiatives (MEI) projects of ICRC in 2014.

Plans for 2015

Continue accessibility project:

1. Adaptation of three nominated sites: a) outpatient "State Service Medical labor expertise at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan, b) Dushanbe Circus and c) Research Institute of Medical and Social Expertise and Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities to make them physically accessible for Persons with Disabilities.
2. To provide support through organizing capacity building for local architectures and designers

Undertake an external evaluation of the mirco-credit projects implemented in 2013-2014 in Sugd region and Rasht valley prior to possibly expanding the project.

Provide income generation support for the families of landmine survivors and victims in Central region through the ICRC Micro-Economic Initiatives project.

Undertake an evaluation of the psycho-social support projects and continuation/expansion of the "peer to peer support" training with CISR support and extension of the training package on psycho-social care for public health workers.

Undertake activities to enhance awareness on disability, inclusive development, Maputo and Cartagena Action plans, CRPD etc.

Continue South-South Cooperation on issues related to Victim Assistance and Disability

To conduct follow up activity with Implementation Support Unit

Thank you for your attention!