

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)**

Intersessional Meetings 7-8 June 2018

Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Cambodia

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Cambodia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

Mine casualties

2. The Committee observed that Cambodia provided an update on the number of new mine victims with 56 victims registered in 2017, including 5 women, 35 men, 4 girls and 13 boys. Of this total, 10 persons were killed and 48 persons were injured, with 13 of the injured suffered amputations.

Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)

3. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported on a primary data collection or Quality of Life Survey (QLS) of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities, covering 652 villages, 124 communes, 50 districts in 25 provinces, with direct interview conducted with 4,862 persons with disabilities (1,635 women) including 1,066 mine/ERW survivors (88 women). The report indicated that the survey found that most of the survivors met received assistance and few of them lack access to services.
4. The Committee welcomes a clarification on whether the 4,862 persons with disabilities interviewed by the QLS, is in addition to 7,860 persons with disabilities reported last year, or additional. Also, the Committee would welcome further information on the number of mine victims, and persons with disabilities lacking access to services, and information on assessment of gaps in mainstreaming and specialised services.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

5. The Committee observed that Cambodia is acting upon its commitments under Action 13, by reporting the followings:
 - a. A National Disability Strategy Plan for the period of 2018-2022 was developed and it will be adopted in 2018;
 - b. The 2009 Law on the protection and the promotion of the right of persons with disabilities guarantees the rights of all persons with disabilities in the country;
 - c. The National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 which was adopted in 2017 contains objectives in relation to survivors of mines and explosive remnants of war as well as indirect victims, ensuring adequate and gender-sensitive medical and psychological care and physical rehabilitation;
 - d. The National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 emphasizes institutional capacity development, knowledge, professional skills, job creation, and a gradual move towards elimination of all forms of discrimination and abuse against persons with disabilities, and responsibility of institutions in charge of implementation at both national and sub-national levels.

6. The Committee welcomes copies of the action plans and the law in electronic format.

Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)

7. The Committee observed that Cambodia is implementing aspects of Action 14, including by embedding victim assistance into disability and development laws and plans, and by highlighting victim assistance in the National Mine Action strategy 2018-2025, and welcomes information on allocation of budgets for their implementation.

Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)

8. The Committee observed that Cambodia is acting upon commitments under Action 15 by reporting on assistance provided to survivors and persons with disabilities in areas of health, rehabilitation, psychological recovery, social and economic inclusion, as follows:
 - a. Medical care and rehabilitation support provided to survivors of mines and explosive remnants of war and persons with disabilities, including physiotherapy and surgery, provided to 10,488 persons; delivery of physical rehabilitation assistance such as prosthetics, orthotics, wheelchairs, tricycles and walking aids including crutches canes and walking frames provided to 27,111 persons,
 - b. Physical Rehabilitation Centres produced and repaired 26,185 assistive products;
 - c. Community-based psychological rehabilitation provided to 14,524 persons with disabilities, those in need were referred to services such as education, healthcare, disability empowerment, prostheses, orthotics, and wheelchairs/tricycles distributed and repaired, gender training, job placement, small business management, formation of self-help groups and provided with small grants;
 - d. Training and access to education activities for 232 children with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors enrolled to primary schools; 71 persons provided with vocational training; 17 persons trained on management of small business; 35 survivors were selected for vocational training coordinated by the CMAA, and;
 - e. Social and economic support for persons with disabilities and survivors resulted in 45 persons receiving support in participating in sports and other community activities, 20 persons receiving grants to create their small business.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

9. The Committee observed that Cambodia has undertaken activities to improve national capacities and coordination in relation to assistance to mine victims, by reporting the followings:
 - a. Training provided to 176 persons in Kep and Svay Rieng provinces to improve data collection when registering or surveying persons with disabilities;
 - b. Equipment and training to 48 survivor networks' volunteers to support data collection, policy development and planning, coordination and peer support among volunteers with funding provided by Canada;
 - a. Training provided to survivors to enhance job and work skills;
 - b. CMAA continued playing an important role to coordinate with relevant stakeholders any support provided to mine/ERW survivors;
 - c. Disability Action Council (DAC) and the Ministry of Social Affairs Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation continued being key to coordinate with persons with disabilities including mine/ERW survivors, and;

- d. CMAA helped in establishing a coordinating body at the sub-national level, and creating working groups on disabilities at relevant ministries and institutions in order to promote the enforcement of regulatory framework relating to disabilities.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

10. The Committee observed that Cambodia had not reported on the participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation, and welcomes information on this matter.

Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)

11. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported on efforts to raise awareness at national and sub-national levels, including raising awareness among 134 mine/ERW survivors and persons with disabilities, and welcomes information on activities that help to remove barriers facing mine victims.

Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)

12. The Committee noted that Cambodia reported measurable improvements in the delivery of assistance to survivors and persons with disabilities, and welcomes information on remaining challenges and priorities in advance of the upcoming Review Conference.
13. The Committee observed that Cambodia remains committed to providing financial support to CMAA, especially to the Victim Assistance Department with an amount approximately \$250.000 each year for the implementation of the following activities:
 - a. Quality of Life Survey (QLS) through 48 volunteer survivor networks;
 - b. Public disability forum to promote the rights and address the needs of persons with disabilities include mine/ERW victims;
 - c. Disaggregated data on mine/ERW victims, including services received from physical rehabilitation centres to be recorded in the CMAA database;
 - d. Engagement with local authorities to promote disseminating the law on the protection and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and other government policies supporting persons with disabilities;
 - e. Case study and assessment of the process and implementation of the self-help group which are persons with disabilities includes mine/ERW victims, and;
 - f. Emergency response to mine/ERW victims.