

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Mozambique, Belgium, Chile and Italy)**

Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019

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 2018 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 reported that despite increased preventive efforts being undertaken by Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), women, girls, boys and men still fall victim to mines, with 58 casualties recorded in 2018, of which, 1 woman, 3 boys and 6 men were killed and 5 women, 2 girls, 11 boys and 30 men were injured.

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

3. The Committee observed that Cambodia continued assessing the situation of mine/ERW survivors by reporting completion of Quality of Life Surveys with 4,862 persons with disabilities/survivors, consolidating disaggregated data on mines/ERW victims into CMAA's database and undertaking case studies on self-help groups of persons with disabilities/survivors.
4. The Committee commends Cambodia's efforts in assessing the needs of survivors/persons with disabilities and would welcome further information on the availability of or gaps in mainstream and specialised services.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

5. The Committee observed that Cambodia is meeting its commitment under action 13 by reporting, in addition to measures reported in 2018, that a National Disability Strategy Plan for the period of 2019-2023 was developed and that it will be adopted in 2019 and would welcome information on the review of victim assistance aspects of the National Mine Action Strategy's action plan.

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

6. The Committee observed that Cambodia is acting upon its commitments under action 14 by reporting increasing efforts to integrate victim assistance into national plans and policies such as disability and development laws and plans and that Cambodia provides annual financial support of approximately 250.000\$ to victim assistance.

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)

7. The Committee observed that Cambodia is implementing action 15 by reporting the following services to persons with disabilities including mines/ERW survivors in 2018:
- a. 11,059 persons received physiotherapy and surgery assistance;
 - b. 28,028 persons received physical rehabilitation such as prosthetics, orthotics, wheelchairs, tricycles and walking aids including crutches cans, and walking frames and maintenance/repairing assistance;
 - c. Physical Rehabilitation Centres produced or repaired 26,345 products, including 3,032 prosthetics (2,968 Lower Limbs, 64 Upper Limbs), 3,377 Orthotics (3,202 Lower Limbs, 62 Upper Limbs and 113 Spinal), 22 Seating Systems, 1,287 Wheelchairs, 72 Tricycles, 1,273 Non-Orthopaedic Procedures, 2,120 Walking Aids and 15,162 repairs;
 - d. Through community-based rehabilitation various types of rehabilitation and socio-economic inclusion supports including referral assistance provided to 16,758 persons in 25 provinces;
 - e. 539 self-help groups have been created;
 - f. 281 children with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors, enrolled in primary schools;
 - g. 107 persons provided with vocational training;
 - h. 64 persons received training on the process of how to create a small business;
 - i. 27 survivors from Preah Vihear province and 18 mines/ERW survivors from Svay Rieng province were selected to receive vocational training from the Banthey Preap Vocation Training Centre through coordination of the CMAA;
 - j. 36 persons benefited from sports and other activities in the community through the CBR programs;
 - k. 61 persons received grants to create small business generating incomes;
 - l. Rapid emergency aids provided to new mine/ERW victims.
8. The Committee would welcome further information on measures that have been taken to increase access to services including of the 730 persons with disabilities/survivors that have lacked access to services as reported by Cambodia in 2018.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

9. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported activities to improve national capacities including training to 234 persons including chiefs of communes and villages in Takeo and Svay Rieng provinces as an effort to improve data collection. The report also states that the CMAA continued playing a lead role in coordination, reporting and monitoring in victim assistance through a team of experts at the CMAA and a technical working group in collaboration with relevant ministries and institutions.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Action #16)

10. The Committee observed that mine survivors have been included in various activities in 2018, however, the report did not provide specific information in this regard and the Committee would welcome information in this matter.

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

11. The Committee observed that Cambodia continued to raise awareness on the rights and needs of mine victims/persons with disabilities including through a sub-national forum with participation of 248 mine/ERW survivors/persons with disabilities including 56 women.
12. The Committee would welcome information on activities that helped to remove barriers such as physical obstacles or increasing services in remote areas to enhance survivors/persons with disabilities access to services.

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

13. The Committee observed that the information provided by Cambodia shows the country's commitments in implementing victim assistance as indicated by the new improvements achieved in 2018 benefiting hundreds of more mine/ERW survivors and persons with disabilities and that Cambodia has put in place various plans and mechanisms to meet the victim assistance objectives of the Maputo Action Plan.
14. The Committee encourages Cambodia to continue meeting the needs and protecting the rights of mine/ERW and persons with disabilities and to increase efforts in advance of the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention and beyond.