

**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 Tajikistan

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Tajikistan 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 conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported two men were killed by mines in 2018, showing a 50% decrease in casualty than in 2017, reaching the total number of registered casualties to 870 with 492 injured and 378 killed, with 30% of all being children. Tajikistan does not record indirect victims, the report indicated.

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

3. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported consolidation of gender- and age-disaggregated data provided by the ICRC and PTAA into NMAC's database with 90% of accuracy and reliability and would welcome further information on the availability and gaps in services as concerned mine victims and persons with disabilities in Tajikistan.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. The Committee observed that Tajikistan did not provide an update on any new developments with regards to action 13, as it did in its last year's report indicating the existence of a plan of action inclusive of victim assistance which the Committee had welcomed receiving a copy of the plan. The Committee would welcome update in this regard along with an electronic copy of the action plan.

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

5. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 22 March 2018 and subsequently a working group with wide-representation of ministries and national institutions was created to develop a national plan of action on the implementation of the CRPD.
6. The Committee encourages Tajikistan to ensure full integration of victim assistance in the CRPD's action plan and other broader policies and programmes.

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 Tajikistan is acting upon its commitments under action 15 by reporting the following progress in 2018:
 - a. Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population continued to address health and rehabilitation needs of mine victims through its health care and rehabilitation services, in 2017-2018 a total of 24 mine affected persons including 20 men, 2 boys and 2 women benefited from physical rehabilitation and an average of 20 mine victims receive rehabilitation support each year;
 - b. In 2018, 20 wheelchairs were purchased and provided to victims of all four regions of Tajikistan;
 - c. 25-30 mine received psychological support through the summer camp held by NMAC which has benefited 481 persons between 2005 to 2018;
 - d. 145 mine/ERW affected persons in the Sughd region received medical treatment and psychological support in 2017-2018 summer rehabilitation workshops/seminars with the supported US Department and UNDP;
 - e. Microloans being provided to mine/ERW victims in Sughd and Rasht in 2018-2019, in addition to 265 victims who have received microloans in the previous years;
 - f. And victim assistance is included in the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities 2017-2020 with the main purpose of improving persons with disabilities' access to healthcare.
8. The Committee would welcome further information disaggregated by age and gender of the mine/ERW survivors that have benefited from the reported progress.
9. The Committee recalls that in 2018 Tajikistan had reported approximately 700 persons with disabilities/survivors were waiting to receive rehabilitation support in 2017 and would welcome information on efforts that have been made to address the matter.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

10. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported that TMAC continues to hold responsibility for the coordination and monitoring of all mine action, including victim assistance and that victim assistance has been increasingly integrated into the mandate of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population in meeting the needs of mine victims according to requirements of the AP Mine Ban Convention. The report also stated that as an effort to enhance coordination and the integrated approach in victim assistance, in 2017-2018, TMAC convened eight meetings of the Technical Working Group in four regional centres (Khujand, Khorog, Kurgan-Tube and Garm as well as in Dushanbe) and 78 of the 238 the participants were mine-affected.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

11. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported on inclusion of mine victims in TMAC's Victim Assistance Working Group which as key members in all aspects of the group's activities and that the country recognises inclusion and participation as central to victim assistance efforts by promoting the theme of "Nothing About Us, Without Us".

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

12. The Committee observed that Tajikistan is meeting its commitments under actions 15 and 17 by making progress in removing barriers and increasing understandings on the rights and needs of mine/ERW victims/persons with disabilities, as follows:
- g. More training on accessibility standards was held in Dushanbe and Kurgan-Tyube areas of the Rasht region and GBAO, where 90 local architects and designers were trained and gained knowledge on the accessibility standards;
 - h. The Research Institute of Medical and Social Expertise and Rehabilitation of the Disabled (NII EVTIN) continued to invest efforts to promote the notion of accessibility including by adapting public toilets and bathrooms enhancing their use by persons with limited mobility, for example;
 - i. As a result, over 2,600 persons with disabilities/survivors have accessed medical services or attended cultural events held in Dushanbe's circus;
 - j. TMAC has engaged a wide range of actors through different types of activities conducted in 2018 including summer rehabilitation workshops, technical working group meetings and training of relevant local authorities.

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

13. The Committee observed that Tajikistan continues to report measurable improvements in areas of rehabilitation, socio-economic inclusion and psychological support. The report, however, did not provide an update on the remaining challenges that will need to be met according to the action 18 of the Maputo Action Plan in advance of the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention.
14. The Committee would welcome information on remaining challenges and priorities of the victim assistance programme of Tajikistan and encourages TMAC to enhance efforts to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan by the Oslo Review Conference.