

MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

Geneva, Switzerland, 20-24 June 2011

Assisting the Victims

Statement by Tajikistan

Distinguished chairperson, Co-chairs, Excellencies, dear Friends and colleagues!

Allow me firstly to express my pleasure to address Meetings of the Standing Committees on behalf of the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme and to reconfirm the strong will and commitment to continue the progress in our efforts to raise awareness of the CAP and ensure applications of various relevant actions in the Cartagena Action Plan in Mine Victim Assistance in Tajikistan.

Cartagena Action Plan has been translated into national language and awareness about CAP in Tajikistan is rising on the constant basis: through mass-media activities, during inter-agency Victim Assistance Coordination group meetings, summer camps, meetings with survivors, International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance to Mine Action and other advocacy events of TMAC and its partner organizations.

Since 10 MSP the following progress has been made on specific actions in the CAP:

Tajikistan has undertaken efforts related to the inclusion, full and active participation of mine victims and their representative organizations in VA related activities: survivors and their organizations usually participate in the inter-agency VA coordination group meetings; assistant of VA Program is a mine survivor, in 2011 he participated in the Monitoring & Evaluation training in Kabul, Afghanistan; disabled people organizations participated in the planning of VA projects and their implementation. TMAC is supporting capacity building of two new established NGOs of survivors – English and computer trainings are underway for DPO leaders, exchange programme is being developed for them. This year they already started their own activities: prepared project proposals, they are raising awareness on CAP, collecting information about survivors and facilitating the receiving compensations and subventions guaranteed by tajik legislation to survivors.

TMAC maintains an up-to-date database on landmine/ERW casualties in Tajikistan. Since landmines were first laid in Tajikistan, there has been 467 injuries and 364 deaths connected with landmines/ERW. In 2011 we registered 3 casualties: 1 injured & 2 killed (there were two children among victims – one killed and another - injured).

The new Law on Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities was signed by President of RT on 29 December 2010 and entered into force in the beginning of 2011. The Social Protection law foresees the establishment of a coordination council on disability issues and includes provisions regarding accessibility, for example: physical accessibility of social infrastructures and public transportation, access to information, inclusive education, employment quotas for PWDs established as not less than 5 % for the organizations with number of workers more than 20.

TMAC are continuing collaboration with the UNDP Community Program, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan and Handicap International. 30 PWDs including 4 members of victims' families successfully completed second "Dressmaking course" organized by AAR, Japan, on April 2011. AAR supported establishment of the "Educational Center" in Dushanbe in cooperation with National Union and Society of PWDs "Imkoniyat" which provides different types of vocational training, art-therapy and adaptive sportive training for PWDs.

We are strengthening the referral network between service users and service providers; "Information referral guideline for persons with disabilities" was developed and published in 2011.

From January 2011 till now 13 survivors obtained 14 prosthesis at the National Orthopedic Center (NOC) and 12 survivors obtained Medical Care in the National Research Institute for Rehabilitation. NOC in Dushanbe continue receiving support from ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD). Two prosthetics-technician P/O Cat.II received one month training in January 2011 in Tegeran, Iran, and 3 new students will be send for 3 year study course to Vietnam in October 2011 with ICRC SFD support. As in the previous year, the NOC and its three satellite workshops had a waiting list for prostheses due to a lack of specialists working in the center.

3-days seminar focused on the surgery for people injured by weapons was organized by ICRC in cooperation with ministry of health in April. Seminar was facilitated by two ICRC senior surgeons, having 25 years of experience in war and emergency surgery, and brought together 50 surgeons from tajik ministry of health, ministry of defense, emergency committee, ministry of internal affairs, state committee for national security.

Recently opened Handicap International office in Dushanbe, Tajikistan has been implemented the following projects: KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practice) survey assessing the impact of the mine risk education in Sughd Region, strengthening the skills of social workers providing centre- and home-based cares in rural areas in the Khatlon region; training for medical professionals and other community key actors in developing a Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) model to limit polio- physical effect and social exclusion.

Handicap International Federation, in cooperation with TMAC organized a Regional workshop on Victim Assistance in, Dushanbe, on May 24-26, 2011. Mine/ERW survivors, disability advocates, government representatives and the donor community, active in the field of disability and victim assistance, from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan were brought together. During 3 days we shared best experience, gave our recommendations, and learnt how to improve our actions via Regional efforts in terms of national action planning and coordination for Victim Assistance and Disability in general. We welcome continued cooperation with HI to strengthen Victim Assistance, and broader disability efforts, in Tajikistan.

In the framework of strengthening of Regional cooperation and assistance six experts from Tajikistan attended First inter-country conference on psychosocial rehabilitation in Kabul, Afghanistan, on December 14-15, last year. Outcomes of the Regional cooperation event were reflected in the "Symposium on enhancing cooperation and assistance in the pursuit of victim assistance aims of the AP MBC" in Tirana, Albania, where the first steps of Tajik-afghan cooperation in the field of psycho-social assistance were presented.

TMAC planned to continue Tajik-Afghan cooperation in the area of psychosocial support and organize Second Inter-country psycho-social conference in October 2011 in Tajikistan. Taking this opportunity I am inviting all interested sides to take part in the Conference in Dushanbe, which is practical example of cooperation and assistance in the area of psychosocial rehabilitation and peer support.

To ensure the application of the VA provisions contained within the CAP Tajikistan VA Program guided by the 5-years Tajikistan National Mine Action Strategic Plan and AWP 2011 plans the following: to organize the Summer Rehabilitation camp for 25 survivors in July; to conduct advocacy campaign in favor to accept CRPD and CCM, support income generating projects and capacity building for new established mine survivors organizations, to conduct "Needs assessment survey of landmine/ERW victims in mine affected districts of Tajikistan" with the main goal - to establish a functional Victim Information System (VIS), which would comply with Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) standards and become a systematic and reliable mechanism at the district and oblast level.

Dear Excellencies, colleagues and friends! Despite of our achievements, Victim Assistance still remains the less funded pillar of Mine Action; we have need for reinforcement of physical rehabilitation facilities, capacity building for rehabilitation specialists, peer-to-peer-support and psycho-social rehabilitation, socio-economic reintegration, support activities of new established DPOs and strengthening of regional cooperation. Tajikistan

has greater need for support to VA Programme and disability in general. Taking this opportunity I express gratitude to all our donors and appeal to expand support and encourage new donors support Tajikistan!

Thank you very much for your attention!