

AP Mine Ban Convention meeting of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration, 23 and 24 May 2012
Assisting the Victims Plenary session

Statement by Tajikistan

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Since the 11th MSP the following progress has been made on specific actions in the CAP in Tajikistan: Tajikistan has undertaken efforts for the inclusion and full and active participation of mine victims and their representative organizations in all VA related activities: two landmine survivors participated in the 11 MSP, survivors and their organizations usually participated in the inter-agency VA WG coordination group meetings; The assistant of our VA Program is a mine survivor himself.

To ensure the application of the VA provisions contained within the CAP, our Program is guided by the 5-years Tajikistan National Mine Action Strategic Plan and Annual Work plan.

In the end of last year a Disability coordination council on social protection of PWDs has been established by the Governmental decree, Council is chaired by the Deputy of Prime Minister, different ministries and agencies, including financial structures, DPOs and TMAC are the members of a Council.

In 2012 TMAC continued its support to the new established NGOs of survivors: 9 leaders of NGOs are continuing their English and computer training in the training centers (7 NGOs from Sugd and 2 from NGO “Taqdir”); IT equipment was purchased and distributed to NGOs of survivors; TMAC organized two capacity building trainings:

1. on “Writing of Project Proposals, Resource mobilization and Negotiations with donors” for the public organizations working with landmine and ERW survivors: one in Dushanbe and other in Khujand (February-march 2012).
2. on “Advocacy and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” was organized for NGOs of survivors on April 3-4, followed by organizing of advocacy events in four regional centers – Khujand, Khorog, Garm and Kurgan-Tube in May 2012.

A national capacity building consultant for public organizations working with landmine/ERW victims was hired. This Consultant will conduct capacity needs assessment of the public organizations working with landmine/ERW survivors and families of victims and identify the areas where the assistance and support is required; she will also strengthen the capacity of public organizations based on the results of assessment by means of conducting the trainings, learning sessions and other capacity-building activities. The NGO of survivors “Taqdir” organized three workshops with financial support of the Abilis foundation in the Hamadoni, Farkhor and Pyanj districts of Khatlon region. In total 53 participants attended one-day learning workshops (19 women and 30 men). These Workshops were devoted to the awareness rising on Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and rights and privileges of PWDs in Tajikistan. A book with the title “The Law on social protection of population of RT”, 200 p. was published and distributed during the events.

TMAC maintains a database on landmine/ERW casualties in Tajikistan. Since landmines were first laid in Tajikistan, there have been 474 injuries and 367 deaths as a result of landmines/ERW. In 2012 we registered 7 casualties: 4 injured & 3 killed (there were two children among victims – one killed and another- injured).

TMAC is conducting Quality Assurance of Needs Assessment Survey to be entered into IMSMA NG database for the subsequent evaluation and prioritization of victims' needs and to establish a functional Victim Information System (VIS).

4 newly injured survivors from the Vahdat district received emergency medical care in the Medical facilities under the MoH; 9 survivors received rehabilitation in the National Research Institute for Rehabilitation of PWDs and 5 landmine survivors received 5 prosthesis in the SUEPOP/ National Orthopedic Centre (4 lower limb and one upper limb, all 5 – male).

Handicap International in cooperation with TCBL&CM and TMAC organized a Regional round table on UN CRPD in Dushanbe, on April 24, 2012 aimed to address the concerns of the Tajik government in regards to signing and ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and use lessons learned by other countries to address these concerns with participation of government ministries, Ambassadors of Germany and France, representatives of the UN and international organizations and DPOs discussed what needs to be done and obstacles to be removed by Tajikistan to sign the convention. During the round table the best experiences of Bangladesh and Kirghizstan was shared with Tajikistan. HI is continuing implementation of the project on Capacity Building for DPOs to implement effective advocacy and raise awareness on disability as a human rights issue.

This year UNDESA started their consultancy project aimed to conduct analysis of Tajik Legislation with UNCRPD provisions.

International consultant will be hired soon for institutional capacity assessment, identification of gaps and provision of recommendations on how to strengthen the capacity, and enhance the coordination among the national and international agencies involved in the disability issues.

Three students continue their education in Hanoi (Vietnam) on P&O, with support provided by ICRC SFD. ICRC started needs assessment survey of ex-deminers/landmine survivors aimed to include them to the socio-economic support project for 50 PWDs. TMAC announced call for proposals for Small grants for landmine survivors, members of Small Grant committee were established and so far we received 5 project proposals for review and analysis.

The TMAC VA Officer participated in the UNESCAP- LCD Conference on Disability-Inclusive MDGs and Aid Effectiveness, held in the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok (Thailand) on 14-16 March 2012 and made a presentation on the “Review of the national Law on social protection of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan, compared with international law”.

We already established a good cooperation with Afghanistan Disability Programme and this year we planned organizing peer-to-peer support with participation of trainers from ALSO, follow up visit of tajik experts and organizing of International Summer Camp in august.

Dear Excellencies, colleagues and friends! Despite of our achievements, Tajikistan encountered a few challenges in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan: there is a lack of accessibility and awareness on rights of PWDs in our country. In terms of resource mobilization - 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.

The steps Tajikistan is taking to address these challenges in through the development of a new Plan of Action. A range of Victim Assistance workshops with participation of the VA main partners and survivors were organized by TMAC and HI's consultant to develop the Long-term action plan for landmine survivors and other PWDs for 2012-2015. The First draft of Plan of actions is ready; comments were collected and are being incorporated these days. The plan will take into account the CAP and UNCRPD. We understand, and discussed in the parallel programme yesterday, the importance of a Plan of Action that can be monitored. Therefore, we will be considering this carefully with respect to any new plan that is adopted.

Taking this opportunity I would like to express my gratitude to ISU for constant support and assistance, to all our partners and donors supporting VA projects in Tajikistan and our regional initiatives – UNDP, DFAID Canada, BCPR, UNMAS-Australia, US Embassy, Belgium, ICRC and its SFD, HI, AAR and Government of Japan. With your continued support and assistance we hope to meet the main objectives in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan.

Thank you very much for your attention!