

## **Tajikistan**

### **Victim Assistance**

Distinguish Chairperson Ladies and Gentlemen :

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to present the Victim Assistance program in Tajikistan.

On 8-9 April, 2008 the Second National Victim Assistance Workshop was held in Dushanbe. National and regional representatives of relevant governmental ministries and agencies, GICHD, Landmine survivors and mass-media took part in the workshop.

The main objective of the Workshop was to review Government of Tajikistan's VA objectives and plan of action for the period 2005-2009, which was approved in 2006 by the Government of Tajikistan\Commission for Implementation of International Humanitarian Law.

The Key Elements of Victim Assistance were updated by the relevant ministries and participants. Participants highlighted the current activities and coordination with the Ministries and partners.

One month after circulating the POA, the updated document will be send to the relevant Ministries for their final review. After the formal approval by the Government, it will be presented at the 9th Meeting of the States Parties in November 2008.

The New POA will help us reach the main goal of our VA Program – to achieve the best possible Quality of life for the landmine survivors as well as for all PwDs.

The second day was devoted to the new developments in Psycho-social support of landmine survivors\PwDs.

Detailed written presentation is available for your attention at the entrance hall.

In March 2008, two teams of experts, including representatives of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population conducted Needs Assessment Survey in all mine-affected areas. This survey project was financially supported by Canada.

Collected victim's data has been entered into TMAC IMSMA and Needs Assessment database.

It was revealed that more than 90% of survivors urgently in need of economic rehabilitation and psycho-social support, 80% in long-term medical care and rehabilitation.

According to the results, the physical, psycho-social rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration projects for the victims in the surveyed districts are being developed.

The survey result substantially enlarged TMAC VA database.

This slide shows you the statistical data on mine victims in Tajikistan. Since landmines were first laid in Tajikistan, there has been 425 injuries and 346 deaths connecting with landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

Regrettably, the amount of accidents, connecting with landmines and CMs, is decreasing rather slowly. In 2007, there were 19 casualties: 10 injured & 9 killed.

Approximately 30 percent of injured and/or killed are children.

**This slide shows the progress made by Tajikistan in providing emergency and long-term medical care for landmine survivors.**

-MoH is implementing National Strategy on Health. This includes transition into family doctor practice, strengthening of capacity, trainings for staff and paid medicine. There will be several exceptions to pay medicine including persons with disabilities and emergency cases.

-Project of WHO "Assesment of the preparedness of the local medical facilities to provide emergency medical care" is going on.

**35 survivors received treatment in different hospitals in 2007 :**

Emergency Medical Care – 10

Continuing Medical Care – 25 survivors.

TMAC (Tajikistan Mine Action Centre), in cooperation with the MoH and with support of ITF (International Trust Foundation), conducted a six-days training on "Rehabilitation of the Patients with Trauma Amputation of the Limbs" in May 2008 in Dushanbe. 20 Doctors – surgeons, trauma specialists and physiotherapists from the mine-affected districts as well as specialists from NRIRD and national Ortho-Centre have attended the training.

The training course was conducted by a team of Professors and Lectures from the Slovenian Institute for Rehabilitation and consisted of theoretical and practical aspects. This is the first course of its type being conducted in Tajikistan and was considered as very relevant and actual for Tajikistan.

The Lecturers introduced the participants with key areas of development and achievement in the European rehabilitation medicine, modern technology in the area of rehabilitation and prosthesis, principals of physiotherapy and many other aspects related to complex rehabilitation and assistance to the people with amputated limbs.

Most landmine survivors have access to physical rehabilitation services at the NOC in Dushanbe run by the MLSP in cooperation with the RCST with ICRC financial and technical assistance.

Survivors are provided with free transportation, accommodation & 3 hot meals at the Center during their stay.

In 2007 – 42 mine/CM survivors obtained prosthesis at the National ortho center.

Starting from 2007 ICRC started gradually hand over National Ortho Centre to the MLSP. For example, starting from 2007 ICRC managerial issues started hand over and components and raw-materials partially order from MLSP. According to the agreement 31 December 2008 the National Ortho Center will be fully handed over to the MLSP.

Most of landmine survivors are people in rural areas where there is no psychological support. Therefore every summer TMAC together with its partners organizes a summer camp to help the physical and psychological rehabilitation of a small group of survivors.

In 2008, together with Afghan colleagues we planned to conduct International Summer Camp for the afghan and tajik landmine survivors and we urgently need donors support.

Access to employment for the landmine survivors is exacerbated by high unemployment in Tajikistan. Poverty and lack of development in affected communities continue to hinder the

economic reintegration of persons with disabilities. Cold winter 2007-8 and electricity problem aggravated economic situation of the poor villagers. DISABILITY PENSIONS are still very small – 25 somoni, less than 10 US\$.

In the frameworks of the Project named “Socioeconomic Reintegration of Landmine Survivors” 50 most vulnerable families of survivors have already been selected to participate in the Beekeeping project in Tavildara and Sagirdasht districts with Canadian support. As of now, the tender has been announced and within one week we will select a company to purchase beekeeping equipment

Tajikistan has legislation protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, including mine survivors, to medical care, physical rehabilitation, socioeconomic reintegration and pensions. Ratification of UN Disability Rights Convention with financial support of US Embassy is going on.

The second Final Round Table titled “On necessity to join to the UN Disability Rights Convention” co-organized by the MLSP and TMAC with financial support of US Embassy was conducted on 30 May 2008. All participants from relevant government Ministries, National Union of Disabled, as well as mass-media and NGOs working in disability sector accepted the Recommendations for the Government of Tajikistan “On necessity to join to the UN Disability Rights Convention” .

**On April 1st, 2008 a Workshop on Banning Cluster bombs with support of Diana Foundation took place in Rasht Valley.**

Tajik Victim Assistance team actively participated in the Sharing Experience Programme in Kabul, Afghanistan, where during two weeks we visited all structures involved in VA. In our turn we planned to invite MREVA Afghan team to Tajikistan to brief them with our achievements and developments.

Together with Afghan colleagues we also planned to conduct International Summer Camp for the tajik and afghan survivors in one of the resort areas of Tajikistan. Taking this opportunity I call to the donors to support the First International Summer Camp in our region!

VA program work with the government and NGOs and coordinate all VA work in the country. We offer support for the implementation of all VA projects and finally we mobilize donor support!

Government of Tajikistan try do their best within the framework of Tajik Legislation to provide assistance for victims’ families and survivors but problems including budget shortages force us to ask for funding from donors states. At the present time inter-ministerial VA Coordination group are working under the 2009 Portfolio of Mine action projects.

Thank you for attention!