

Geneva, Switzerland, 29 November -3 December 2010

Assisting the Victims

Statement by Tajikistan

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Allow me firstly to express my pleasure to address 10 MSP on behalf of the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme and to reconfirm the strong will and commitment to continue the progress in our efforts to apply various relevant actions in the Cartagena Action Plan in Mine Victim Assistance in Tajikistan.

Tajikistan Mine Action Centre presents its highest compliments to AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit for organizing the Review of Victim Assistance Program in Tajikistan. We highly appreciate highlighting of TMAC's VA Program achievements made during 2006-2009 and we accept conclusions and recommendations on the future victim assistance-related activities presented in the document. Review of VA Program is very useful document for further efforts of VA Program to address the rights and needs of survivors, the families of those killed or injured, and other persons with disabilities in Tajikistan.

Tajikistan has undertaken efforts related to the inclusion, full and active participation of mine victims and their representative organizations in victim assistance related activities: survivors usually participate in the inter-agency VA coordination group meetings; assistant of VA Program is a mine survivor; disabled people organization – National Association/Society of Persons with Disabilities – participated in the implementation of the VA projects.

Inter-agency coordination group meets on a regular basis to improve coordination, planning and decision making among all relevant actors, to avoid duplication in the delivery of victim assistance and other disability services.

TMAC maintains an up-to-date database on landmine/ERW casualties in Tajikistan. Since landmines were first laid in Tajikistan, there has been 463 injuries and 360 deaths connected with landmines/ERW. In 2010 we registered 5 casualties: 3 injured & 2 killed (among three injured persons two were deminers and one child; there were two children killed).

According to recommendations made by the ISU, TMAC is advocating for the inclusion of the category of mine/ERW survivor in the MLSPP database and will continue to review and update TMAC VIS with a view to integrating data into broader national injury surveillance and other relevant data collection systems.

The 1991 Law on Social Protection of Disabled Persons has been revised and is approved by Tajikistan Parliament on October 1, 2010, which is currently with Tajikistan President for signing. The new law foresees the establishment of an inter-ministerial disability coordination council.

At present the VA Program is guided by the Annual Work Plan and five-year Tajikistan Mine Action Strategic Plan. Tajikistan reports on the progress made, including resources allocated to implementation and challenges in achieving their objectives.

We are proud to inform that since the Cartagena Summit:

1. TMAC has already supported establishment of two NGOs of survivors to promote peer support, advocacy for their rights, capacity building of survivors, and income generating opportunities;

2. We are strengthening collaboration with the UNDP Community Program and Association for Aid and Relief, Japan to promote the inclusion of survivors and the families of those killed or injured in vocational training, microcredit schemes and other income generation opportunities (Two "Dressmaking courses" were organized by AAR, 14 landmine survivors received different donations and around 80 mine/ERW victims and their family members were involved in different schemes of CP;

3. We are strengthening the referral network between service users and service providers; during 10 month of 2010 - 12 survivors obtained prosthesis at the National Orthopedic Center; 22 survivors obtained Medical Care in the National Research Institute for Rehabilitation. Special Fund for Disabled provided training for 4 prosthetics-technician from National Orthopedic Centre in Teheran, Iran: one training was conducted in January and another planned on December 2010.

4. TMAC organized the Summer Rehabilitation camp for 25 survivors;

WHO in cooperation with Ministry of Health (MoH) supported one-week training "Psychological support for landmine survivors"; MoH with support of WHO and USAID conducted 5-days training "Psychological support during emergency situations" for social workers.

5. Were organized Camping Advocacy & Awareness Raising Training for the group of Landmine/ Cluster Munitions Survivors and Round Table celebrating the 1 August, the day of Entry into force CCM;

6. TMAC supported 20 mine victims from the border with Afghanistan districts to adopt a viable and sustainable means of generating income through bee-keeping activities; in 2010 – four Individual income generation projects were supported by individual donors and three - by ICRC.

Cartagena Action Plan has been translated in tajik language and awareness about CAP was raised during inter-agency VA Coordination group meetings, summer camp, meetings with survivors and other advocacy events.

"Guideline on psycho-social support for landmine survivors", "Medical and Social Diagnostic Guideline" and reference book "Rights and Privileges of Persons with Disabilities" were published by TMAC's VA Program in 2010.

VA program participated in the 5th South Asian CBR Network Conference in Kabul and plan to participate in First International Psycho-social conference in Kabul. TMAC keeps contact with Afghanistan Mine Action Coordination Centre and the ITF regarding bilateral exchanges programs and projects.

In 2011 VA Program plans to conduct workshops/training on disability and rights of persons with disabilities, training for medical staff of district hospitals, Summer Rehabilitation Camp, IG projects, and support projects and capacity building for new established mine survivors organizations.

Implementing of VA projects highly depends on funding. Lack of funds to implement disability related activities remain a most significant challenge in Tajikistan.

We included six projects totalling more than \$160 thousand dollars in the 2011 portfolio of mine action projects. Taking this opportunity I would like to express my gratitude to all our donors for their previous support and again appeal to donor countries to support VA projects in Tajikistan!

Thank you for the attention!