

# 11 MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 28 November -2 December 2011

## Assisting the Victims

### Statement by Tajikistan

Mr. President, Co-chairs, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Allow me firstly to express my pleasure to address 11 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 raise awareness of the CAP and to implement the victim assistance provisions of the Cartagena Action Plan in Tajikistan.

#### **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 survivors and their representative organizations in all VA related activities: two landmine survivors are participating in the 11 MSP, landmine survivor is a part of Government delegation of Tajikistan, survivors and their organizations usually participate in the inter-agency VA coordination group meetings; assistant of VA Program is a mine survivor.

In 2011 TMAC continued its support to the new established NGOs of survivors: leaders of NGOs are continuing their English language and computer training; information materials and books were purchased and distributed to NGOs of survivors; capacity building workshop was organized for them in Khujand, Sugd region. This year both NGOs already started their own activities and I am glad to inform you that we have two projects are now being implemented by NGO survivors that are supported by US Embassy and Abilis Foundation (Finland) accordingly.

In the framework of the Regional cooperation exchange experience training on “Peer to Peer Support” with Afghanistan Landmine Survivors Organization (ALSO) was organized for tajik team during one week in Kabul, Afghanistan on September 2011. The 2-nd Regional Psychosocial Rehabilitation Conference was organized by MLSP of RT in cooperation with Tajikistan Mine Action Centre (TMAC) and Afghanistan Disability Support Programme (ADSP) on 19-20 October 2011 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The main objective of the high-level conference was to understand the progress and developments on psychosocial rehabilitation services in Afghanistan and Tajikistan after the 1st Conference last year in Kabul. More than 60 participants from MoH, MLSP and other relevant departments and institutions from Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran exchanged experiences and opinions, reviewed the current situations and new developments of psycho-social problems, rehabilitation services and opportunities available for PwDs, identified the available resources in their countries and agreed on the supporting and sharing mechanisms. Working committee from experts, professionals and key people from three countries line Ministries to work on the implementation of the Conference recommendations, report to the next conference and work together for resource mobilization was formed. The following projects: organizing joint summer rehabilitation camp for tajik and afghan landmine survivors, organizing of Peer to Peer Support Training and establishment of peer-support programme in Tajikistan in cooperation with ALSO (Afghanistan) are already included in TMAC Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2012.

TMAC maintains an up-to-date database on landmine/ERW casualties in Tajikistan. Since landmines were first laid in Tajikistan, there has been 470 injuries and 364 deaths connected with landmines/ERW. In 2011 we registered 6 casualties: 4 injured & 2 killed (there were two children among victims – one killed and another- severely injured). Needs Assessment Survey project was implemented by districts departments of social protection of population of the MLSP in all mine affected districts of Tajikistan. At the present time IMSMA and Needs assessment questionnaires are collected from districts and are being entered into IMSMA NG database for the subsequent evaluation, prioritizing of victims’ needs and establishing a functional Victim Information System (VIS).

From January 2011 till now 22 survivors obtained 24 prosthesis at the National Orthopedic Center (NOC) and another 16 survivors received medical treatment and rehabilitation services through different hospitals run by Ministry of Health (MoH) and National Research Institute for Rehabilitation of PwDs. The ICRC Special Fund for Disabled (SFD) is continuing capacity building support to the NOC: 2 P&O specialists received one-month training in Iran and 3 students were selected by SFD and MLSP for three years training course on P&O in Hanoi (Vietnam), the course started at the beginning of October 2011.

TMAC are continuing collaboration with the UNDP Community Program, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan and Handicap International. 87 victims of landmines/ERW and members of their families were supported through UNDP CP during two quarters of 2011. AAR in cooperation with the Society of PWDs “Imkoniyat” supported establishment of the “Educational Center” in Dushanbe which provides different types of vocational training, art-therapy and adaptive sport for PWDs. AAR started its projects “Strengthening of wheelchairs production” and “Repair of facilities of Boarding schools for children with disabilities” in the end of October 2011. The project is funded by Government of Japan.

Handicap International (HI) Federation, in cooperation with TMAC organized a Regional workshop on Victim Assistance in, Dushanbe, on May 24-26, 2011 aimed to improve our actions via Regional efforts in terms of national action planning and coordination for Victim Assistance and Disability in general. HI office in Dushanbe is continuing implementation of the following projects: strengthening the skills of social workers providing centre- and home-based care in rural areas of the Khatlon region; training for medical professionals and other community key actors in developing a CBR- model to limit polio- physical effect and social exclusion, emergency response to polio out-break, and project on Capacity Building for DPOs. HI’s consultant is continuing her support mission aimed developing of the long-term action plan for VA in Tajikistan.

In 2011 the Small Grants project for socio-economic reintegration of survivors covered 25 landmine survivors and families of those killed: they received breeding cows or sewing machines; and one young survivor received personal computer with support of individual donor.

TMAC in cooperation with the Society of PwDs and with DFAID Canada support organized summer rehabilitation camp for 25 survivors. During 2005-2011 totally 185 landmine/ERW survivors improved their physical and psychological well-being in summer camps.

TMAC in close collaboration with the MLSP of RT organized three round tables devoted to the advocacy in favour of Tajikistan joining to UN CRPD and Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in three regional centers - Garm, Kulyab and Kurgan-Tube. More than 90 participants, including heads and specialists of districts departments of social protection of population, landmine survivors and persons with disabilities and representatives of RCST participated in the round tables.

“Information referral guideline for persons with disabilities” and “Source-book on standard legal documents on social protection and social services for population of Tajikistan” were developed, published and distributed in 2011.

**To ensure the application of the VA provisions contained within the CAP Tajikistan VA Program is guided by the 5-years Tajikistan National Mine Action Strategic Plan and TMAC’s AWP. A range of Victim Assistance workshops with participation of the VA main partners and survivors were organized by TMAC in cooperation with HI to develop the long-term VA action plan for 2012-2015.**

Dear Excellencies, colleagues and friends! Taking this opportunity I express gratitude to all our partners and donors supporting VA projects in Tajikistan and our regional initiatives – UNDP, DFAID Canada, Australia, US Embassy, Belgium, ICRC and its SFD, HI, AAR and Government of Japan, Abilis Foundation , and hope for our future cooperation!

Thank you very much for your attention!