

Thailand's Intervention
Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention
Victim Assistance
18th Meeting of the State Parties
... November 2020

Mr. President,

Victim Assistance is one of the core objectives of the Convention. Thailand puts high priority on victim assistance in our effort to implement the obligations under the Convention.

Today, Thailand would like to share the progress of our victim assistance endeavours.

Mr. President

Mine Risk Education (MRE) remains one of our top priorities in mine-related activities since it can prevent new accidents and save people's lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed constraints on the Thai authorities in carrying out MRE operations since some of the projects require face-to-face participation or community gatherings. Nonetheless, the agencies concerned have explored alternative approaches to continue MRE works during the COVID-19 situation by seeking assistance from the Village Health Volunteers (VHV) established since 1977 by the Ministry of Public Health. In response to the spread of Covid-19, VHV teams have been dispatched daily to perform inspection and health checks on members of the community. At the same time, officers from TMAC would accompany the VHVs to perform MRE operations during the daily visit. MRE pamphlets were also distributed, along with direct discussion with the communities.

Mr. President,

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) and the Ministry of Public Health continue their close collaboration to ensure that all mine victims have equal access to healthcare and services provided by the Government and to ensure that victim assistance measures are implemented in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Mine victims who become disabled will be protected and granted the rights provided by the Empowerment of Persons with Disability Act.

Since landmines are mostly placed in rural and remote areas, the Government has to ensure that persons with disabilities, especially those who live in remote

areas, have access to the services provided by the Government. The concerned agencies also encourage local communities to take part in mine victim assistance in their own areas by promoting peer-to-peer assistance programmes and supporting the participation of local health volunteers. A One Stop Service for Persons with Disabilities Centre has also been set up in every public hospital.

The policies and implementation of mine victims assistance and persons with disabilities support are continuously evaluated and developed. The Government takes every effort to ensure that all sectors in the society, especially mine victims, can participate in the policy making process in order to offer effective victim-related programmes and measures.

Last but not least, Thailand wishes to reiterate our readiness to work with all States Parties and the Committee to improve victim assistance work.

Thank you.

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