

NINTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

Geneva, Switzerland, 24-28 November 2008

Assisting the Victims

Statement by

Tajikistan

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

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

TMAC continues collecting statistical data together with its partners – Red Crescent Society Tajikistan, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population. Since landmines were first laid in Tajikistan, there has been 442 injuries and 351 deaths connected with landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

The amount of accidents, connected with landmines and CMs, is decreasing: in 2008, there were 12 casualties: 8 injured & 4 killed. Among them 3 injured and 2 killed were children.

TMAC collects data on mine casualties in cooperation with the ICRC and Red Crescent Society, by requesting information from official sources and interviewing people in mine-affected communities. Approximately 25 percent of injured and/or killed were children at the time of incident.

30 survivors received treatment in different hospitals in 2008 : 8 newly injured landmine survivors received Emergency Medical Care in the hospitals run by the Ministry of Health and 22 survivors obtained Continuing Medical Care in the National Research Institute for Rehabilitation of PwDS.

Information letter "On improving referral system of amputees to the Orthopedic Centre by Primary Health Care workers" which prepared by TMAC was accepted by Ministry of health on 26 August 2008.

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation donated 6 mobile hospitals to the Ministry of Health which were distributed than to the main Oblast Hospitals – Sugd, Hatlon, Rasht, GBAO and two to the National Medical Center in Dushanbe.

And 3-days training course for the Medical personnel named "Preparation for the emergency situations through the mobile hospitals" was conducted in cooperation of the SDC, Ministry of Health and RCST in August 2008.

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

In 2008 most landmine survivors continue to 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 continue to be provided with free transportation, accommodation & 3 hot meals at the Center during their stay. In 2008 – 22 mine/CM survivors obtained 24 prosthesis at the National ortho center.

Unfortunately, in 2008 in the National Ortho Center there was formed a waiting list for the obtaining prosthesis due to lack of prosthetics technicians working in the Center. For time being only two technicians working at the NOC. One of them have ISPO certificate, other one –worked for a long time and was trained at the working place on PP technology.

Most of landmine survivors are people in rural areas where there is no psychological support. Therefore every summer TMAC together with its partners organizes summer camps to help the physical and psychological rehabilitation of a small group of survivors. This includes psychology individual and group sessions, art-therapy and so on.

In 2008 we were able to provide psychological support in two Summer Camps totally for 34 survivors: 22 had a rest and rehabilitation in the rest house "Sadbarg" during two weeks with Canadian Government support.

And additionally for 10 survivors, who are living in the remote villages of Ayni and Panjakent districts was organized another Rehabilitation Camp during ten days in the picturesque mountainous area of Artuch, Panjakent district under the care of qualified doctor and psychologist in the framework of Mine Risk Education Project funded by the Community Project of UNDP.

In 2008 in the frameworks of professional rehabilitation: four survivors - entered into high schools and one - continue studying in the special boarding school for disabled.

Access to employment for the landmine survivors still continues to be exacerbated by high unemployment in Tajikistan. Disability Pensions are very small - from June 2008 minimal is equal to 60 somoni, less than 20 US\$ and social 30 somoni (less than 10\$).

In the frame of the Project named "Socioeconomic Reintegration of Landmine Survivors" 56 most vulnerable families are participating in the Beekeeping project in Tavildara and Sagirdasht districts with Canadian Government support. As of now, the first bee-keeping products have already been received by some of beneficiaries.

After a range of round tables co-organized by the MLSPP and TMAC in 2007-2008 years the process of Ratification of Convention was continued on the Governmental level.

International Forum of the Organizations of the PwDs of Central Asian Countries and Iran, which took place from 20 until 22 August resulted in the developing of the Appeal to the Governments "On necessity to accelerate the signing and ratification of the Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities".

At the present time the Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities is on the Consideration of the Government of RT and will be passed to the Parliament for ratification soon.

VA Officer participated in the 5th ISPO Conference and ITF Workshop with support of International Trust Fund where was made presentation about the National Rehabilitation System in Tajikistan with emphasize on the Training Needs. It was recognized that the training on rehabilitation problems still remain very relevant and actual for Tajikistan.

The new revised tajik VA Plan of Action 2006-2009 has received formal approval by Government. It is available for your attention. The New POA aimed to achieve the best possible Quality of life for the landmine survivors as well as for all PwDs.

The VA program continues to 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.

The governmental inter-ministerial VA coordination group discusses VA challenges on regular basis and integrates their work into wider government programs. 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 prepared 2009 Portfolio of Mine action projects. We included four VA projects totalling about (399.758 \$) four hundred thousand dollars in the 2009 portfolio of mine action projects. These proposals are all in the portfolio for you consideration.

Thank you for attention!