

Speech Director 7-8 June, Geneva

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, using the opportunity, I would like to thank the ISU, GICHD and the Committee on Victim Assistance for organizing this meeting.

Tajikistan National Mine Action Center (hereinafter TNMAC) with cooperation UNDP Programme is doing remarkable progress in Victim Assistance related activities. Victim Assistance is mainstreamed into national and UN programs. TNMAC during 2017-2018, with the financial contribution of the US DOS, technical support of UNDP, willingness of the Government of Tajikistan has undertaken the following activities in Victim Assistance component to fulfil the Maputo Action Plan's victim assistance commitments contained in Actions 13-18:

A needs assessment survey:

From 1992 to September 2017, a total of 868 landmine/ERW victims (492 survivors, 376 fatalities) have been recorded. Approximately 30 percent of mine survivors were children at the time of their accidents, mainly boys. A needs assessment of all victims and their families was undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the national Red Crescent Society in close collaboration with TNMAC. The ICRC survey was completed in the end of 2016, as result all information has been entered into IMSMA and online Mine Action Intelligence Tool is displaying analytical result based on collected information.

Psychological rehabilitation and reintegration:

- A two week summer rehabilitation workshop for 75 mine/ERW survivors was organized with cooperation International NGO "Polus Center" in 2017. In the workshop different kind of supports (psychosocial, psychological, physical rehabilitation as well as capacity building, including promotion of the rights of people with disabilities) were provided to mine/ERW victims and other people with disabilities. This year summer rehabilitation programme for landmine/ERW survivors was organized in the new format: in addition to the rest and rehabilitation, landmine survivors have opportunity to learn. Sessions on "wheelchairs", "prosthesis and orthosis" were organized by INGO "Polus Center" and sessions on "Stress management" were organized by Tajik psychologists; Since 2005 more than 400 landmine survivors benefitted from summer camp project;
- From 26 February -2 March 2018 in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of population of RT (MHSP) and UNDP STMAP TNMAC organized a 5-days professional certification training for 21 doctors from mine-affected districts. Training was conducted by the International consultant in conjunction with the national facilitator and devoted to provision of the first psychological aid and psycho-social support to landmine survivors and PWDs in crisis situations.

Accessibility:

- TNMAC in cooperation with UNDP introduced physical accessibility solutions in Tajikistan, based on international and Tajik accessibility standards and raising awareness on disability and accessibility. In total five accessibility construction cases were completed in Dushanbe:
 1. Dushanbe Circus

2. Children's out-patient
3. Central Mosque
4. Out-patient for Persons with Disabilities
5. Governmental Institution "Research Institute of the medical-social expertise and rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities".

Renovation and adaptation of these sites, including adaptation of toilet facilities of which contributed to increased public acceptance and understanding of disabilities. These activities were completed in 2017, and as the result five important sites became completely accessible for PWDs.

- Additionally, TNMAC in close cooperation with UNDP and the Committee of Architecture and Construction (CAC), the Research Institute of Architecture and Construction and local governments, organized five regional trainings on "Tajikistan standards for accessibility to buildings and constructions for Persons with Disabilities" in five biggest cities of Tajikistan: Khujand, Khorog, Garm, Kurgan-Tube and Kulob. Thus, in the result, more than 120 local architects and designers from Dushanbe, Sughd and Khatlon regions, GBAO and Rasht valley were trained on Tajikistan standards for accessibility to buildings and constructions for Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the Government of RT and benefited from these trainings.

117 families of landmine survivors and victims' families received micro-credits through two Micro Credit Funds in 2017;

Legislation:

In 2015, Victim Assistance started to be mainstreamed into activities related to Access to Justice and Rule of Law and the United Nations Country Team joint project entitled "Building and Strengthening Alliances for Inclusive Policies and Communities for Persons with Disabilities in Tajikistan" which is supported by the UN Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) Trust Fund.

In the framework of Mine Action, advocacy to sign UN CRPD in cooperation with main partners started in 2007. A comprehensive analysis of disability issues, including analysis of economic, legislative and functional analysis of Tajikistan joining CRPD was carried out providing case scenarios for joining, accessing or ratifying the CRPD. This resulted in two historical transformations:

1. Unlike its predecessor, the new National Development Strategy (2016-2030) and its action plan reflect the issues of disability;
2. The Governmental Working Group was established to work on the analyzing all the legal documents related to the UNCRPD, as well as studying the experience of other countries, development and submission of the detailed comprehensive report for the Government of Tajikistan to join the UNCRPD. As the result, on 22 March 2018 the UNCRPD was signed by the President of Tajikistan.

Coordination and participation:

- From the beginning of 2018 four Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings on Victim Assistance and Disability Support were conducted for staff of departments of social protection of population, representatives of Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in Dushanbe and regional centers. Tajikistan

provided equal and effective participation of landmine survivors, persons with disabilities and their organizations in the meetings.

Physical rehabilitation:

- International Expert on Prosthetics and Orthotics Mr. David Evans (from International NGO “Polus Center”) provided on-the-job capacity building training for P/O technicians in the SUEPOP from 1 February until 1 March 2018.
- 20 wheelchairs were purchased in 2017 and are being distributed to landmine survivors based on their needs before the end of 2018. So far, 8 wheelchairs were distributed to 8 landmine survivors with low mobility (double amputees etc) living in the Rasht valley, Dangara, Sh. Shohin districts and Khorog and Khujand cities in accordance with the list of beneficiaries jointly developed by TNMAC and STMAP.

Economic reintegration:

Micro-Credit Funds (MCFs) “Rushdi Sugd” and “Fayzi Surkhob” continue provision of micro-credits to landmine survivors and their family members in accordance with the Grant Agreement between UNDP and these MCFs. By the end of 2017 both institutions served 265 landmine survivors and their family members and continued their activities in 2018.

South-South Cooperation:

- From 27-30 March 2018, 3 Victim Assistance/MRE experts from Armenian Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE) visited Tajikistan Mine Action Programme. By the CHDE request, TNMAC and UNDP in cooperation with the MHSPP and ICRC provided technical support: the visit programme and presentations were developed for Armenian visitors, a range of meetings in the TNMAC, ICRC, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of population, National Orthopaedic Centre, National Research Institute for Rehabilitation and Expertise of PWDs, meeting with landmine survivors – beneficiaries of income generation projects were organized
- Victim Assistance remains one of the most important components of Mine Action that requires special attention and care and Tajikistan Mine Action Programme is doing all the best to provide various support to this component.

In the end, on behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to thank all our donors (US DOS and UNDP and our partners for their great contribution to VA related activities in Tajikistan). Also we present our highest gratitude and appreciation to the international agencies that have been involved in implementation of VA related in Tajikistan.

Thank you for your attention!