

**Thematic Session: Victim Assistance:  
Establishing and Strengthening a centralized database  
Tuesday, 22 June 2021, 13:30 – 15:00  
Tajikistan interventions on Action #35**

Dear Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me share the information on the status of implementation of Action# 35 of OAP and share our experience and challenges we were facing in achieving the objectives of this action.

When the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme was just initiated, only limited information on mine casualties was available through Tajikistan Red Crescent Society and its local branches. IMSMA forms did not include victims needs assessment part, IMSMA casualty form just included very general information about mine casualty.

We were in great need of Victims Data, specifically, needs and challenges facing by landmine survivors and families of victims in order to assess situation and have a foundation on which we could set priorities, develop plans and services based on identified needs.

Taking into account that different types of data were necessary to address not only the immediate needs of casualties, but also the long-term rights and needs of survivors and affected families, therefore at the VA Technical Working Group meeting we discussed with VA stakeholders on the type of data that is to be collected, how it will be collected and updated, and most importantly what it will be used for.

In 2012, TNMAC started close cooperation with ICRC and RCST for Data collection. A data set with number of questions to record landmine/ ERW casualties and to assess and monitor the needs of survivors was created as part of Tajikistan IMSMA. TNMAC in cooperation with ICRC developed Victim Data and Needs Assessment questionnaire in Tajik language (based on existing questionnaires by their adaptation to the Tajikistan reality). To ensure confidentiality and respect for privacy couple of additional questions were included – if survivors agree that their data will be shared with VA IPs, Government etc.

Then, data collectors among RCST volunteers living close to casualties' places were chosen.

Remembering that data, it is not just about statistics, but it is about people, thus, we conducted 3-days training on data collection for RCST volunteers. Training agenda also included information about rights, needs and capacities of

survivors, sensitivity to possible psychological trauma caused by landmine or ERW explosion.

All obtained by RCST information after review and validation by TNMAC VA Officer was entered into IMSMA Core database. Thus, TNMAC has developed a centralized database IMSMA Core that includes information on persons killed by mines as well as on persons injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and types of disability.

TNMAC is maintaining database IMSMA on regular basis: we enter all new information timely after visiting new casualties and filling in IMSMA Victims and Needs Assessment forms.

Since 1992 the total number of casualties resulting from accidents with mines and explosive remnants of war is 884 landmine/ERW victims (534 survivors, 350 fatalities). In 2021 - 2 casualties were registered: 1 shepherd (man) was injured and other man was killed in the result of ERW explosion. Approx. 27% of mine survivors were children at the time of their accidents.

One of the positive sides of ICRC Data Collection project that right after conducting Needs Assessment, ICRC in the frameworks of its Micro Economic Initiatives (MEI) project provided support to casualties on the basis of

identified needs. Most of survivors and families of victims received means of economic reintegration to start their own income generation, some were provided by medical assistance, roof repair etc.

TNMAC is making this information available to all relevant stakeholders (local departments of social protection, RCST etc) upon request to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing the needs of mine victims, especially during pandemic period.

Thank you for your attention!