

Submission of information for the Convention's website

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings | 30 June – 2 July
2020**

Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre

Tajikistan up-dates

Matters related to Victim Assistance implementation

Tajikistan as a State Party implementing Victim Assistance (VA) activities is providing below updated information on all related actions of the OAP (Action #33 – Action #41):

1. Information on the government entity assigned to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks. (OAP Action #33)

Tajikistan is one of the States Parties to the AP Mine Ban Convention having declared a 'significant' number of mine victims/ survivors has obligation to provide Victim Assistance in the country. In accordance with the OAP Action #33, Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) the government entity **assigned to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks**. TNMAC is responsible for coordinating and monitoring of all mine action activities, including victim assistance in Tajikistan.

Every year TNMAC regularly (at quarterly basis) organizes Victim Assistance Technical Working Group (TWG) coordination meetings in Dushanbe and regional centres with participation of representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MoHSPP), Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), ICRC MoveAbility Foundation, Tajikistan Red Crescent Society, UN agencies, departments of social protection, local Hukumat, landmine survivors and their representative organizations.

TNMAC is providing different support and assistance to landmine survivors and families of those killed by landmines:

1. facilitating and providing referral for getting medical care;
2. facilitating physical rehabilitation through capacity building of the State Enterprise Orthopedic Plant (SEOP) staff;
3. providing psychological support through organizing summer rehabilitation camps and provision of the first psychological aid by doctors and nurses in the Central District Hospitals;

4. Providing opportunities for economic reintegration of landmine survivors and families of killed through provision of micro-grants and micro-credits;
5. Facilitating and providing referral for vocational education of young survivors;
6. Facilitating and providing referral for legislative support.

2. *Progress made in developing an action plan containing specific, measurable, realistic and timebound objective to support mine victims (OAP Action #33).*

Starting from the beginning of the Mine Action Programme in Tajikistan, Victim Assistance was in the Centre of all developed strategies and Mine Action Plans of Actions. All Mine Action Strategic documents developed so far also included VA component and contained specific, measurable, realistic and timebound objectives to support mine victims in accordance with OAP Action #33:

- In 2006 TMAC in cooperation with its VA partners and VA stakeholders developed the first Victim Assistance objectives and Plan of Action 2006-2009 approved by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.
- The Law of RT on humanitarian mine action was approved and signed by the parliament and the President of RT in July 2016. A separate article (article 12) in the MA Law is devoted to Victim Assistance.
- The Tajikistan National Program on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (2017-2020) was approved by the Government of RT in October 2016.
- Presently, we are guided by the National Strategy of the RT on humanitarian MA for 2017-2020 approved by the Government of RT which contains specific, measurable, realistic and timebound objective to support mine victims
- In 2020, Tajikistan started development of the new medium-term National Strategy for Mine Action 2021-2025 which will be in line with Action #33 of the OAP.

3. *Efforts to ensure that your State's VA efforts are inclusive of gender, age and disability and takes diverse needs into account in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all programmes. (OAP Action #33)*

According to the OAP Action #33 Tajikistan is making all efforts to ensure that Victim Assistance efforts are inclusive of gender, age and disability and takes diverse needs into account in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all programmes.

All VA Plans of Actions and other program/project documents are inclusive of gender, age and disability. New medium-term National Strategy for Mine Action 2021-2025 which is under development by the Government of RT now, will include gender, age and disability provisions.

Plan of activities of the Current “National Strategy of the RT on humanitarian Mine Action for 2017-2020” includes following activity: Developing a policy of gender and diversity in Tajikistan’s humanitarian mine action.

During the implementation of VA projects TNMAC always includes women and girls, men and boys and takes diverse needs into account.

4. Progress in carry out multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed. (OAP Action #34)

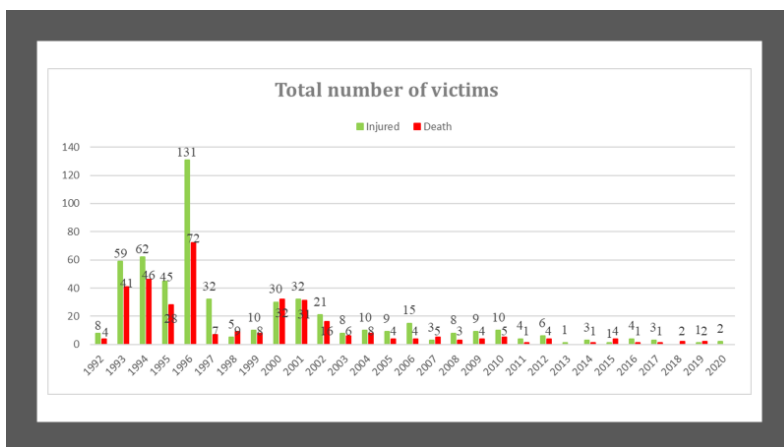
In accordance with the OAP Action #34 Tajikistan carries out multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed.

In order to achieve this, Victim Assistance Technical Working Group includes representatives of the relevant ministries: Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labor, Local Hukumat, UN agencies, Tajikistan Red Crescent Society and NGOs, including public organizations of persons with disabilities and landmine survivors.

5. Progress in developing/maintaining a centralized database 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 disability, and in making this information available to relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing the needs of mine victims. (OAP Action #35)

In accordance with the OAP Action #35, TNMAC has developed and is maintaining a centralized database 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 disability, and in making this information available to relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing the needs of mine victims.

Since 1992 the total number of casualties resulting from accidents with mines and explosive remnants of war is 881 landmine/ERW victims (532 survivors, 349 fatalities). In 2020: 2 deminers (men) were injured by landmines. Approx. 27% of mine survivors were children at the time of their accidents (See the table below).



7. Progress in ensuring (OAP Action #36-#38) :

All landmine and ERW survivors in Tajikistan have:

- ✓ **Access to the effective and efficient free first aid** in the medical institutions located in mine-affected communities, as well as other medical emergency services, and by ongoing medical care.
- ✓ **Access to comprehensive rehabilitation services and psychological and psychosocial support services**, including through the provision of outreach rehabilitation service, where necessary, while paying particular attention to the most vulnerable. This includes the provision of assistive devices, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and peer-to-peer support programs.
- ✓ **Access to Physical rehabilitation:**

Public provision of assistive products (AP) in Tajikistan is centralized under the State Enterprise Orthopaedic Plant (SEOP) under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSPP), which is providing prosthetic and orthopedic services and technical means of rehabilitation to persons with disabilities and other persons who need them, including landmine/ERW survivors through the provision and adaptation of priority assistive devices in accordance with the Governmental Decree № 604¹.

In addition to the SEOP located in Dushanbe, there are three regional branches, located in the cities of Khujand, Kulyab and Khorog. Regional centers are mainly engaged in minor repairs of prosthetic and orthopedic products.

SEOP focuses on mobile devices (prostheses, orthoses, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and orthopedic shoes), which are currently available at the national and regional level. Until recently, only mobility products were available, but in 2015 NOC started providing hearing aids, white canes and some other assistive products.

¹ Decree of the Government of RT # 604 "Rules on provision of assistive devices to people with disabilities"

- Landmine survivors with limb amputations continue to be provided by free prosthesis and orthosis in the SEOP located in Dushanbe and repair in three satellites located in Khujand, Kulyab and Khorog.
- Landmine survivors with low mobility (double amputees etc) living in mine-affected districts continue using 20 wheelchairs distributed in 2018.
- National Priority Assistive Products List (APL) was adopted by all stakeholders at the Consensus Meeting of the MHSP of RT (2018) and Governmental Decree on Assistive Products which includes Tajikistan APL list was approved by the Government of RT in October 2019.
- WHO continues its 2-years Pilot initiative of 1stop assistive products service provision in Tajikistan (1200 assistive devices will be service provided in Dushanbe and Rudaki districts).
- Assistive products Procurement Workshop was organized in 2019 aimed to Build capacity of the procurement unit to procure high quality, affordable assistive products from the National APL.

✓ **Access to psychological rehabilitation:**

- Every year TNMAC organizes Summer Rehabilitation Workshops in the sanatoriums. Workshop’s programme focused not only to medical treatment, but also to psychological rehabilitation and trainings. Since 2005 more than 700 landmine survivors benefitted from the summer rehabilitation workshops activities; e.g., in 2019 workshop was organized for 76 mine victims (65 man and 11 women) in the sanatorium “Bahoriston” (Sughd oblast).
 - Provision of first psychological aid to landmine survivors in the Central District Hospitals by trained doctors and nurses in mine-affected districts;
 - Since 2012, Peer to Peer support programme was established in four regions of Tajikistan.
- ✓ Since 2014 a national referral mechanism to facilitate access to services for mine victims by creating and disseminating a comprehensive list of organizations and institutions/directory of services was established. It is maintained by TNMAC in cooperation with Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of RT, NGOs and public organizations of persons with disabilities and landmine survivors.

8. *Progress in ensuring the social and economic inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organizations in all matters that affect them, including in rural and remote areas (OAP Action #39 and Action #41).*

So far, economic inclusion of landmine/ERW victims in Tajikistan was ensured through: Income-generation project of the RCST in 3 cities and districts of Sugd region and Rasht region, TNMAC income-generation projects, ICRC microeconomic initiatives project, low

interest loans secured for landmine survivors through micro-credits organizations. In general, within the framework of implemented projects and initiatives, more than 800 landmine victims were provided with social and economic assistance so far. However, current COVID-19 crisis is negatively influencing to economic condition of landmine survivors and families of victims in Tajikistan.

Every year TNMAC regularly (at quarterly basis) organizes VA TWG coordination meetings in Dushanbe and regional centres with participation of representatives of the relevant ministries, ICRC MoveAbility Foundation, Tajikistan Red Crescent Society, local Hukumat, departments of social protection and Disabled People Organizations, and landmine survivors. Landmine survivors and their representative organizations always participate in TWGs and take part in in all matters that affect them, including in rural and remote areas. In 2020, two Victim Assistance TWGs were organized: one in Bokhtar city (Khatlon region) and other – in Khujand city (Sugd region). In accordance with the TNMAC Annual Work Plan two VA TWG meetings (in Raht region and GBAO) will be organized this year.

Landmine survivors and their representative organizations took part in the International Disability Forum which was hosted by the MoHSPP in October 2019. The National Program on Rehabilitation Persons with Disabilities for 2017-2020 and the status of implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Tajikistan were reviewed as well as the progress made towards its ratification. The participants discussed disability sector priorities for the next 10 years in line with national priorities and the SDGs. The primary outcome of the Forum was the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration on Disability Issues, which represents the basis for the development of the follow-up to the National Program on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities.

8. Progress in ensuring that relevant national humanitarian response and preparedness plans provide for the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk (OAP Action #40).

In accordance with the OAP Action #40 Tajikistan is applying an integrated approach to achieve the objectives of Action #40 and its national humanitarian response and preparedness plan provides for the safety and protection of persons with disabilities including landmine survivors in situations of risk. «National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2019-2030» was adopted by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan No.602 of 29 December 2018. Among the objectives is to “develop disaster preparedness plans and interventions at local and regional levels with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and with due regard for the particular needs of women and children, elderly persons, people with disabilities and other populations at risk”.

The gender approach was adopted across all stages of disaster risk reduction with a focus on two main areas: special needs and requirements of men and women and other most at risk social groups, including persons with disabilities, the elderly, etc., must be considered taking into account different types of vulnerability and actual capacities. Action in the following areas shall be taken: Broaden participation of women, people with disabilities and other most at risk populations in decision making pertaining to disaster risk reduction at all level (§2.p.62).

Landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities, can be disproportionately affected in the situations of current crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, accessible information about prevention of the COVID-19 with focus on the Persons with Disabilities was developed by the National Association of Persons with Disabilities in cooperation with the MoHSPP and WHO. Since 22 June 2020 this short video is being transmitted in the Dushanbe TV on the daily basis.

9. Financial commitment made by your State for implementation of its VA commitments.

Landmine survivors with established degrees of disability receive governmental pensions, families of victims with low income receive governmental financial support, landmine survivors are provided by free first aid and free rehabilitation services in the National Research Institute for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, survivors with limb amputations are usually provided by free prosthesis, orthosis and wheelchairs.

Matters related to Article 5 Implementation

States Parties implementing Mine Clearance and Mine Risk Education and Reduction Activities are invited to provide updated on all related actions of the OAP (Action #18 – Action #27) including the following:

1. Status of efforts to identify the precise perimeter, to the extent possible, and establish an evidence based, accurate baseline of contamination. (OAP Action #18)

Preliminary level of mine contamination in Tajikistan

Districts	Remaining MF #	Remaining MF m ²	Remaining BAC #	Remaining BAC m ²
Darvoz	14	960274	6	762231
Farkhor	6	96800		
Hamadoni	3	80772		
Khovaling	2	120000		
Panj	24	1563484		
Rasht		0	3	531000
Sh. Shohin	96	3750243	1	60000
Shahritys	1	30000		
Shughnon	3	56000		
Tavildara	1	50000	1	200000
Vanj	6	908119		
Jaykhun	8	135636		
TOTAL	164	7751328	11	1553231

2. Update on progress and challenges in addressing mined areas since the Fourth Review Conference, including the number of mined areas and amount of areas addressed disaggregated in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance). (OAP Action #22)

From the beginning of current demining season (April 2020) till the date (24 June 2020) 56,000 m² was canceled, 135,088 m² reduced, 124,198 m² cleared and 651 landmines, 9 UXOs, and 121 small arms munitions destroyed during clearance. Mine clearance operations have been conducted in two districts taking into account weather conditions (hot season); the demining teams will start mine clearance in colder areas like Sagirdasht and Shughnov from 1 July 2020. Also, we have request from Tavildara Local Authority to conduct clearance of the dangerous area where electricity lines are located.

3. Information on the remaining implementation challenge, presented in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (i.e. disaggregating by ‘suspected hazardous areas’ and ‘confirmed hazardous areas’ and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination.) (OAP Action #22)

Districts	CHA				SHA		
	Remaining MF #	Remaining MF m ²	Remaining BAC #	Remaining BAC m ²	Remaining Minefield Records (MFR) #	Un-surveyed MFRs m ²	SHA m ² Remained
Darvoz	14	960274	6	762231	2	20000	2063138
Farkhor	6	96800			1	8000	
Hamadoni	3	80772			5	177000	
Khovaling	2	120000			1	30000	
Panj	24	1563484			3	38000	
Rasht		0	3	531000			
Sh. Shohin	96	3750243	1	60000	1	15000	
Shahritus	1	30000					
Shughnon	3	56000					
Tavildara	1	50000	1	200000	1	50000	
Vanj	6	908119					
Ishkoshim		0			1	5000	
Jaykhun	8	135636			6	307000	
TOTAL	164	7751328	11	1553231	21	650000	2063138

4. Projections of the number of areas and the amount of mined area to be addressed annually to achieve completion and information on how priorities have been established. (OAP Action #19, Action #20)

Districts	2019	2020	2022	2023	2021	2024	2025	Total (in m ²)
Darvoz	203800		230000	770800				1204600
Farkhor					104800			104800
Hamadoni					257772			257772
Ishkoshim					5000			5000
Jaykhun	132936	309700						442636
Khovaling	150000							150000
Panj		905991			898594			1804585
Qubodiyon		0						0
Sangvor	100000							100000
Sh. Shohin	956843	295850	266000	719855	165500	1414800	140000	3958848
Shahritus		30000						30000
Shughnon					56000			56000

Vanj			908119					908119
Total (in m²)	1543579	1541541	1404119	1490655	1487666	1414800	140000	9022360

* The information provided in the above Table was extracted from the Second Extension Request of the Republic of Tajikistan presented at the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo (November 2019) and includes also the information related to 2019.

5. Efforts made to ensure a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, discovered following completion. (OAP Action#26)

The TNMAC continuously develops the capacity of national staff involved in conducting NTS/TS. Based on annual capacity development plan 50 persons passed 21-days NTS/TS trainings, 96 persons passed 28-days basic demining course. Also, MRE sessions were delivered to 758 persons throughout the country to raise the awareness of local communities.

Tajikistan Mine Action Program (TMAP) has experience in identification of previously unknown mined areas; e.g. in 2019 the NTS teams found more than 2 km² unknown mined areas.

6. Efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered in planning and implementation of mine clearance activities.

Tajikistan is making all efforts to ensure that Mine clearance activities are inclusive of gender, age and disability and takes diverse needs into account in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all programs.

All mine clearance plans of actions and other program/project documents are inclusive of gender, age and disability. New medium-term National Strategy for Mine Action 2021-2025 which is under development by the Government of RT now, will include gender, age and disability provisions.

Plan of activities of the Current “National Strategy of the RT on humanitarian Mine Action for 2017-2020” includes following activity: Developing a policy of gender and diversity in Tajikistan’s humanitarian mine action.

During the implementation of mine clearance projects TNMAC always includes women and girls, men and boys and takes diverse needs into account.

7. Efforts to integrate mine clearance activities into other frameworks such as development plans, poverty reduction strategies and humanitarian response plans. (OAP Action #1)

Mine action is integrated into the operational plan for the construction of roads in the border troops in the border zone, land clearance, gardening, pasture, firewood collection that positively effect the reduction of poverty in the country.

The difficult terrain has many other problems related to food security and poverty, water supply and sanitation, poor road infrastructure, vulnerability to natural disasters, instability and lack of development projects.

8. Financial commitment by your State for the implementation of this aspect of the Convention. (OAP Action #1)

The TNMAC cooperates closely with all of the Implementing partners, stakeholders, donors, governments of the foreign countries and provides assistance and support in all issues related to the implementation of its obligations under the Convention. The Government of RT provides financial support in terms of paying salary, purchase of fuel, stationary, furniture, paying for communication purchase of office equipment. Valuable support from the side of Government was also provided in the form of in-kind assistance, which includes involving all the relevant ministries and authorities in all levels of the Government.

9. Efforts made to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by promoting the research, application and sharing of innovative technological means to this effect. (OAP Action #27)

In order to improve safety and reduce the working time of deminers, a mechanical demining machine (MDM) was used to prepare lands for manual clearance. From the beginning if the current demining season 23,658 m² land was prepared by MDM. Also MDM is use by all demining organizations (i.e. by Humanitarian Demining Company of the Ministry of Defense and Norwegian People's Aid) during mine clearance operations. The MDM process significantly contributes to the increase of the effectiveness and efficiency of manual clearance operations.

Mine Risk Education and Reduction

1. Efforts to Integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities. (OAP Action #28)

According to the annual work plan, the NTS and TS groups, before starting practical field operations, conduct MRE sessions and inform nearby communities about the danger of mines and UXOs. From the beginning of the demining season this year, relevant MRE

sessions and discussions were conducted in 6 schools, 3 villages, 9 mosques and 4 military units of the military and security structures of Panj and Sh. Shohin districts.

2. Efforts to ensure that mine risk education and reduction programs are context-specific to all affected populations and groups at risk and are developed on the basis of a needs assessment. (OAP Action #29)

MRE sessions for teachers and community members of mine risk areas located within Tajikistan is conducted every year for distribution of knowledge among at-risk population residing close to contaminated areas. MRE is one of the important parts of activities performed by Tajikistan National Mine Action Center (TNMAC), which significantly reduces the risk of injury or death from a landmine/UXO explosion. These sessions are conducted by relevant staff members of TNMAC using presentations, banners, brochures, special books and etc.

3. Efforts to priorities people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programs and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, an understanding of the affected population's behavior, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements. (OAP Action #30)

In order to reduce the risk of mine danger during awareness-raising events, MRE was conducted for various groups of the population, taking into account the gender balance and age categories, with civilian population, communities, shepherds, tourists and others. Regardless of the task, the demining teams are required to carry out MRE with the population.

4. Efforts to build the national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programs. (OAP Action #31)

According to the annual work plan and the requirements of the TNMAC, during the survey of mine fields, including minefields without minefield records, the MRE sessions/discussions are held to inform the population about mine danger. To date, information has been provided in six schools, 9 mosques, and three jamoats and in 4 military units of the military and security structures with a total number of 758 people involved.

5. Information on methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. (OAP Action #32)

Information is provided through the presentation and dissemination of handouts (booklets, brochures, banners) in schools involving schoolchildren (boys and girls), in villages - a

target group of men and women aged 20 and above, in mosques - a target group of men aged from 18 and above, in military units - a target group consisting of military personnel.

Matters related to Cooperation and Assistance

Affected States Parties and States in a position to provide assistance are invited to provide updated information on all aspects of implementation of the Cooperation and Assistance related actions of the OAP (Action #42 – Action #47) including the following:

For affected States:

1. Efforts to strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention. (OAP Action #44)

Annual meetings of the Commission for Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (CIIHL) are devoted to Mine Action reporting and planning with participation of Governmental ministries, agencies and international stakeholders (OSCE, NPA, FSD) and UN agencies (UNDP, WHO). CIIHL meetings ensure regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention.

Since the beginning of this year, 2 meetings devoted to the development of the New Mine Action Strategy for the period 2021-2025 were organized with participation of all relevant stakeholders, including representatives of the Executive Office of the President of RT, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defense, ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population, Ministry of Education and Science, international MA stakeholders and other relevant entities.

2. Efforts to establish an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders. (OAP Action #44)

On 3 October 2019, TNMAC with the financial support of the US Department of State, organized and conducted the **Mine Action Forum** which was aimed at bringing together partners for regional cooperation, the donor community, mine action operators and other stakeholders to hold a frank and open discussion on the current status of Tajikistan national mine action programme. This is an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders in Mine Action.