

The speech of the Director of Tajikistan Mine Action Centre in the 16th Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, Vienna , 2017

Victim Assistance!

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, using the opportunity, I would like to thank the Austria for warm hospitality. Also, I would like to thanks the ISU, GICHD and UN for their contribution in organizing this meeting.

Tajikistan Mine Action Programme is doing remarkable progress in Victim Assistance related activities. Victim Assistance is mainstreamed into national and UN programs.

During 2017, with the financial contribution of the US DOS, technical support of UNDP, willingness of the Government of Tajikistan and leadership of Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) the following activities were undertaken in Victim Assistance component:

- A two week summer rehabilitation workshop for 69 mine/ERW survivors was organized with cooperation International NGO “Polus Center” where different kind of supports (psychosocial, physical rehabilitation as well as capacity building including promoting the right of people with disability) were provided to mine/ERW victims and other people with disabilities. This year summer rehabilitation workshop 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;
- 20 wheelchairs are purchased and will be distributed to landmine survivors based on needs before the end of this year.

- Two regional trainings on “Tajikistan Standards for physical accessibility to buildings and constructions for Persons with Disabilities” were organized. As a result, from the beginning of training 125 local architects and designers obtained sufficient knowledge on accessibility standards;
- UNDP with cooperation of TNMAC, continued introducing physical accessibility solutions in Tajikistan, based on international and Tajik accessibility standards and raising awareness on disability and accessibility. The 5-th construction case in the National Research institute for Persons with Disabilities was completed in 2017;
- More than 120 staff from districts departments of social protection and landmine survivors participated in the regional workshops devoted to the Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance, advocacy campaign in favour of acceding to UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- 117 families of landmine survivors and victims’ families received micro-credits through two Micro Credit Funds in 2017;
- Through Policy Dialogue Platform (including Forums), Tajikistan joining UN CRPD is promoted with active participation of Organizations of People with Disabilities, including regional landmine survivors and other PWDs NGOs. The final package of documents "On Tajikistan accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" circulated among relevant ministries/agencies and was sent to Government of the RT in the fourth quarter 2017.

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, ICRC 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!