



The Republic of Tajikistan



6th Meeting of the
States Parties
Zagreb, Croatia
28.11 – 02.12.2005.



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Mine Victim Assistance

Distinguished Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Unfortunately, local population continues suffering from mine incidents. So far there were 17 casualties this year. 10 of these casualties were caused by mines laid by Uzbekistan, which resulted in 4 dead and 6 injuries. The remainder occurred in the Central area (1 dead and 6 injured).

The Government of Tajikistan is taking care of the mine victims in accordance to its capabilities. A number of measures to support survivors of landmine accidents and jobs continue to be sought for them, so far with limited success. There is a functioning Orthoclinic in the capital city of Dushanbe, supported by ICRC and Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population (MLSPP) of the Republic of Tajikistan, where mine victims and other disabled people are provided with free prostheses, outhouses, wheelchairs and other supportive devices. They are provided free return transportation to Dushanbe, together with one member of their families, from remote areas and accommodation and three meals per day for patients under treatment are also provided. On December 15, 2004, MLSPP signed an Agreement with UNDP which resulted in financial assistance of \$34,000 by UNDP and the Government of Italy to the Orthoclinic for 2005. This year the Orthopedic Clinic provided the mine victims with 25 prostheses and orthosis.

This national Orthoclinic has 3 satellite workshops in major towns around the country – in Khojand, Khorog and Kuliab. These satellite workshops provide minor repair of the prostheses and make special shoes for the inhabitants of these regions who need such services. However, the workshops do not have sufficient tools and materials necessary for repair and maintenance of artificial limbs and supportive devices. We have prepared a proposal for support to these satellites and submitted it as part of the UN Portfolio of Mine Action Projects for 2006 and hope it will be supported.

In accordance with the Agreement between UNDP and RCST dated 26 January, 2005, an Income Generation Project has been undertaken for the first time in 6 districts of the country (3 districts in Soghd region and 3 districts in Rasht valley) to support the

most vulnerable mine victims. The project has focused on providing support to this category of people and its budget is about \$20 000. 72 mine victims and their families have each been given 2 sheep/goats and the intention is that one offspring will be returned to RCST to redistribute. In order that more mine victims could benefit from this project, we have submitted a project proposal to expand it.

In cooperation with the MLSPP of RT, TMAC, UNDP, Canadian Mine Action Centre and local NGO "Harmony of the World", RCST arranged a summer camp for 32 mine victims. The mine victims enjoyed a short period of rest and recuperation and a number of different activities were arranged for them, including instruction in arts and crafts and a sightseeing tour of the capital city. The participants were very pleased, thanked the organizers and expressed a desire to have more such camps in future.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all international organizations that feel sympathy to mine victims and support them.

**Qimat Rustamova,
Deputy Minister of Labour and Social
Protection of the Population in the
Republic of Tajikistan**