

The speech of the Director of Tajikistan Mine Action Centre in the 15th Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, Santiago, Chile 2016

Victim Assistance!

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

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

Tajikistan is one of the VA countries with significant number of mine/ERW victims. In 2016, 6 people were involved in mine/ERW accidents, out of which 5 injured and 1 died. Two of them are children. Based on the available statistics since 1992, 864 people were involved in mine/ERW accidents, out of which 489 people were injured and 375 people died. More than 30% of the overall victims were children at the time of the accident, mostly boys.

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

During 2016, 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 camp for 75 mine/ERW survivors was organized where different kind of supports (psychosocial, psychological, physical rehabilitation, reintegration as well as capacity building in various areas such as on developing project proposal and promoting the right of people with disability) were provided to mine/ERW victims and other people with disabilities;
- Three regional trainings on “Tajikistan Standards for physical accessibility to buildings and constructions for Persons with Disabilities” were organized. As a result, 60 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. Two construction cases are implemented in 2016;

- Based on needs assessment survey results conducted by ICRC, assistance was provided to 170 families of victims through Micro Economic Initiatives project;
- Cooperation with International NGO "Polus Center" working in the field of Victim Assistance continued in 2016. "Polus Center" organized 2 trainings on "wheelchair-fitting and sitting": one in the Rasht Central District Hospital (CDH) and other in the National Orthopedic Center; 3 wheelchairs were donated to the Central District Hospital; direct economic support (grants) were provided to 7 landmine/ERW survivors; capacity building support was provided to National Orthopedic Center 's technicians.
- Victim Assistance component also benefited from the regional and south-south cooperation supported by UNDP and US DOS. VA was one of the main topics discussed during the exchange experience visit to Cambodian Mine Action Centre. Using the opportunity, I would like to thank Cambodian Mine Action Authority and Centre for receiving our delegation to share their experience and best practice in mine action. In addition, the experience of TMAP in VA was used for other programs in the region, an example of the Armenia VA staff visit to Tajikistan for an exchange programme.
- 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.
- With the financial commitment of the UNDP and US DOS as well as the support of the Government of Tajikistan, the Gender in Mine Action Programme (GMAP) was involved to conduct gender and diversity assessment and regional workshop where representatives from Ukraine, Armenia, Afghanistan and Tajikistan participated, contributed and benefited from the workshop. As a result of these activities we plan to develop the gender and diversity guidance and strategy for Tajikistan Mine Action Programme in coming year.

In MRE, the following activities were conducted in 2016:

- MRE activities are conducted in 34 mine/ERW-affected districts of Tajikistan.
- RCST MRE Volunteers were involved in collecting the field data about MRE activities: As a result, app. 45,000 people were covered by MRE in 2016.
- MRE integrated into the school curriculum.
- With the support of the US DOS, MRE was conducted for 300 Officers staff of the Tajik Border Forces.

- Integrated MRE with NTS was conducted in the border area of Tajik-Afghan and Tajik -Uzbek border. During these activities mine/ERW warning signs were installed.
- MRE was conducted in the military Polygons.
- In 2016, due to MRE communities and schools based activities the number of mines/ERWs casualties has significantly decreased **from 83 persons in 2000 to 6 persons in 2016.**

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!