

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – ALGERIA

#### COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Algeria, Ecuador, Sweden and Thailand)

Intersessional Meetings

22-24 June 2021

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Algeria of updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### Mine casualties

2. The Committee observed that Algeria reported a total of 7,248 civilian mine victims (survivors, widows and other family members of victims), which shows that in 2020 there are 12 more mine victims in comparison to 2019. Algeria reported that of the total casualties 5,505 persons have survived. The Committee appreciates Algeria's efforts to disaggregate the latest recorded casualties by gender and would welcome additional information – disaggregated by age and disabilities - on mine survivors.

#### VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIONS:

#### **Strengthen partnerships and integrate victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and designation of a government entity to oversee the integration (Action #33 and also Actions #1 and #6)**

3. The Committee observed that Algeria reported that the Ministry of Mojahedin and Rights Holders (MOMRH) is responsible for the implementation of victim assistance and works with other ministries and national agencies to integrate the needs of mine victims into broader frameworks. Algeria reported that the National Council of Persons with Disabilities is the responsible entity for all issues related to disabilities.

#### **Develop and implement measurable, realistic and time-bound national action plan (Action #33 and also Action #2)**

4. The Committee observed that Algeria reported implementing plans and programmes with regards to provision of assistance to mine victims. This includes allocating budget on an annual basis for pension, social and health insurance, and other purposes to assist mine victims.

#### **Removing barriers including physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to access such services (Action #33)**

5. The Committee observed that Algeria reported that a national Accessibility Committee, founded in accordance with the Article 30 of the Law n° 02-09, has been working to ensure accessibility of built environment; accessibility of infrastructure and means of transportation; and accessibility of means of communication and information. Algeria reported that the Accessibility Committee includes memberships from relevant ministries, and that it has been making steady progress.
6. Algeria reported that the Law on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2002) requires all efforts to be provided in a non-discriminatory manner.

**Applying multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Action #34)**

7. The Committee observed that Algeria reported progress in making multi-sectoral efforts, including through the work of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities and through the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Algeria reported the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities also ensures the rights of mine victims with disabilities are aligned with the provisions of the CRPD. In addition, Algeria reported that the consideration of a multisectoral approach in disability and victim assistance has been further strengthened following the Prime Minister's instruction in 2013.

**Establish or strengthen of a centralised database / national information management system (Action #35 and also Action #9)**

8. The Committee observed that Algeria reported that several databases on disabilities and mine victims have been developed, in accordance with Law n° 63-99 and the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Persons with Disabilities (2002).

9. The Committee would welcome further information on the integration of mine victims' data into disability databases and on mechanism in place to ensure data is shared with relevant stakeholders.

**Access to first aid and ongoing emergency medical care (Action #36)**

10. The Committee observed that Algeria reported that healthcare and rehabilitation services are available to mine victims and MOMRH has been working with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) to further facilitate mine victims' access to healthcare services.

11. The Committee would welcome information on progress made in providing emergency response and efforts to ensure mine victims' access to healthcare, including in rural and remote areas.

**Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)**

12. The Committee observed that Algeria reported that a referral guide is available for services made available through the MOMRH.

13. The Committee would welcome additional information on availability of national directory of services to facilitate mine victims' access to services.

**Access to rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, assistive devices and occupational therapy (Action #38)**

14. The Committee observed that Algeria reported the availability of physical rehabilitation services throughout the country providing prostheses, physiotherapy and assistive devices such as motorcycles, wheelchairs, hearing aids and other kinds of assistive products. Algeria reported that mine victims, like other persons with disabilities also benefit, free of charge, from services provided by the Office of National Equipment and Accessories for Persons with Disabilities (ONAAPH) through its 74 branches across the country, as well as through hospitals specialising in functional rehabilitation and some private orthopaedic workshops. Algeria reported that social insurance is available to persons with disabilities and mine survivors covering 80% of their rehabilitation and other healthcare expenses.

15. Algeria reported on availability of the following rehabilitation and medical care through the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities and Victims of the Revolution of National Liberation:

- production and assembly of prosthesis, other orthopaedic items, and necessary accessories;
- production and supply of assistive devices such as wheelchairs, hearing equipment and accessories for vision and dentures;
- medical follow-up by specialists;
- management of functional rehabilitation, physiotherapy and occupational therapy; and,
- provision of accommodation and food to beneficiaries coming from remote and rural areas.

16. To better meet rehabilitation needs of all mine victims and persons with disabilities, Algeria also reported plans to improve quality and quantity of physical rehabilitation services.

#### **Access to psychological and psychosocial services including peer-to-peer support (Action #38)**

17. The Committee observed that Algeria reported that psychological support is provided to mine victims, including through the following programmes:

- identification, guidance and support by the Social Development Agency (ADS) by the through its branch teams, each comprising at least one psychologist;
- consultation on health care services;
- peer support by mine victims and their associations; and,
- twelve psychologists were trained by the Algerian Research Society in Psychology (SARP) to provide appropriate psychological support to victims of traumatic mines.

18. Algeria reported plans to increase efforts by deploying social workers to assist in providing psychological support, in coordination with respective local authorities, health departments and social action departments.

19. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Algeria reported that a study was to be conducted to assess the needs, challenges and status of psychological services in the country, and it would welcome an update on findings and measures taken following the assessment.

#### **Access to social and economic inclusion services, including in rural and remote areas (Action #39)**

20. The Committee observed that Algeria reported efforts in meeting the social and economic needs of mine victims, including through the followings:

- 590 women mine victims/persons with disabilities provide with microcredit scheme funds by the National Microcredit Management Agency (ANGEM), for income-generating activities in craft industry, agriculture and trade;
- at least 1 % percent of jobs opportunities devoted to persons with disabilities;
- social insurance provided in accordance with Law n° 83-11 to persons with disabilities who are not employed;
- subsidized or free transportation available;
- 5% of assistance provided through national solidarity programme allocated to mine victims/persons with disabilities; and
- other specific/targeted programmes carried out in favour of social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities.

#### **Taking measure for safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies (Action #40)**

21. The Committee observed that Algeria reported that the needs of mine victims have been prioritised in COVID-19 preventive measures undertaken by the MOPH to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable members of the society.

**Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them (Action #41 and also Action #4)**

22. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Algeria reported that mine victims and persons with disabilities had been consulted in relevant activities and policies. The Committee further observed that Algeria reported that mine victims including through the National Council of Persons with Disabilities participate in relevant activities to voice their viewpoints and concerns.

**CROSS – CUTTING ACTIONS:**

**Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including [...] by making financial and other commitments to implementation (Action #1)**

23. The Committee observed that Algeria reported that despite constraints in financial resources and the impact of COVID-19, the government is committed to overcome difficulties to fulfil its victim assistance commitments and to improve all aspects of victim assistance.

**Ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered (Action #3)**

24. The Committee observed that Algeria reported that the needs of mine victims with disabilities, and other persons with disabilities is addressed in accordance with the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (2002) which guarantees equality and prohibit any forms of discrimination on the basis of disabilities, gender or age.

**Challenges in implementation of Victim Assistance Commitments (Action #8)**

25. The Committee observed that Algeria reported experiencing challenges in areas of financial resources, and that efforts are made to overcome the challenges to ensure mine victims support will be met.

26. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community could be of further support to Algeria's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.