

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – CAMBODIA

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Algeria, Ecuador, Sweden and Thailand)
Intersessional Meetings
22-24 June 2021

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Cambodia 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 Cambodia reported recording a total of 65 mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) casualties in 2020, including 42 men, 16 boys, 4 women and 3 girls.

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 Cambodia reported that the CMAA remains the entity responsible for victim assistance and has a dedicated department for victim assistance, working with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSAVY) which is responsible for the provision of assistance to all persons with disabilities including mine survivors in the country. The report also stated that the rights of mine and ERW victims are protected by the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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

4. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported that victim assistance efforts have been guided by and implemented through the National Disability Strategy Plan 2019-2023, the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, with annual victim assistance work plans developed and executed by the CMAA in coordination with other ministries and stakeholders in the country.

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

5. The Committee would welcome Cambodia reporting on measures in place and progress made to remove any barriers that may hinder social and economic inclusion and participation of mine victims in Cambodia.

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)

6. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported alignment of the national frameworks such as the National Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and

the National Disability 2019-2023, with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

7. The Committee recalls that in 2020, Cambodia had also reported that a Technical Reference Group on Victim Assistance (TRG-VA) was created to monitor and evaluate victim assistance activities composed of representatives of the CMAA, the MOSVYR, Disability Action Council (DAC), Persons with Disabilities' Foundation (PWDF), the Ministry of Health, and other relevant ministries, national/international organizations including the physical rehabilitation centres.

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

8. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported collecting casualty data, disaggregated by gender, age, type of injuries and activity at time of accident, and have made them available to relevant stakeholders.
9. The Committee would welcome further information on the availability of, or plan to establish a centralised database, such as national disability database or national injury surveillance system, with capacity to integrate, maintain and disseminate data on mine victims.

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

10. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported the availability of first aid including through the training of villagers and making means of transportation available in or in the vicinity of mine affected communities. Cambodia also reported that 16,925 persons with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors have received healthcare services in 2020.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

11. The Committee would welcome information on the existence of, or plan to develop a national referral mechanism and directory of services to facilitate mine victims' access to services.

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

12. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported, as in previous years, that physical rehabilitation, assistive devices, and physiotherapy continued to be made available through 11 Physical Rehabilitation Centres (PRC), one spinal cord injury centre and three repairing workshops throughout the country. The reported also indicated that collectively the PRCs have produced or repaired 17,989 products including 2,099 prosthetics, 1,999 orthotics, 13 seating systems, 848 wheelchairs, 52 tricycles, 673 non-orthopaedic procedures, 2,340 walking aids and 9,993 assistive devices (repaired) benefiting 18,198 persons with disabilities including mine/ERW survivors in 2020.

13. The Committee would welcome further information on availability of occupational therapy in Cambodia.

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

14. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported that psychological and psychosocial support including peer counselling were provided through PRCs, national healthcare centres and by 48 Volunteer Survivor Networks of 3,673 persons (1,670 men, 896 women, 730 boys and 377 girls).

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

15. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported that various types of services and opportunities facilitating the social and economic inclusion of mine/ERW survivors and other persons with disabilities are available, and that the following progress have been made in 2020:

- 230 mine/ERW survivors including 78 men, 36 women, 70 boys and 46 girls have benefited from vocational trainings, job placements, referrals, and grants for income-generating businesses;
- 9,147 persons with disabilities have benefited through community-based rehabilitation services in 25 provinces from mobile repair services, referrals, education, healthcare, empowerment trainings, rehabilitation, gender training, job placement, and small business management courses;
- 113 children with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors were enrolled into primary school;
- 126 persons with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors received vocational trainings;
- assistance provided for creation/strengthening of 1,092 self-help groups;
- 50 persons with disabilities have received training and started small income-generating businesses; and
- 372 persons with disabilities have benefited from sports and other enabling activities.

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

16. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported that the 2009 Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the National Disability Strategic Plan 2019-2023 address the needs of persons with disabilities including mine victims.

17. The Committee would welcome information on any measures undertaken to meet the specific needs of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

18. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported that the participation and inclusion of mine victims and their representative organisations is guaranteed by the national disability law and promoted through national disability strategic plan. Cambodia further reported that mine/ERW survivors and their representatives actively participated in victim assistance planning, at national and community levels.

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

19. The Committee would welcome information on financial commitments of the government of Cambodia has allocated, such as financial budgets made available, to assist mine victims.

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

20. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported that gender and diversity have been considered in the country's National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 (NMAS) which aims to address the needs of women, girls, boys and men through a range of activities such mine clearance, risk education,

survey, victim assistance and other efforts undertaken by the Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA).

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

21. The Committee would welcome information on challenges faced by Cambodia in meeting the needs and rights of mine victims, and any support it may require, including from the international community, to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.