

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – TURKEY

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

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Turkey 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 Turkey reported 67 casualties in 2020 of which 55 persons have survived (50 men, 4 boys and 1 woman) and 12 persons have been killed (all men), showing a decrease of 33 % from 2019. Turkey reported that 26 of the casualties were civilians and 41 were soldiers. The Committee would welcome additional information on impairment/disability of the mine victims.

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 recalls that in 2020 Turkey reported that the TURMAC worked in coordination with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MOFLSS) to ensure inclusion/reintegration of mine victims and in 2019 Turkey reported that there was a plan to develop/strengthen “technical and legal infrastructure” for the provision of assistance to mine victims in an integrated manner.
4. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made with regards to the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies and programmes.

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

5. The Committee recalls that in 2019 Turkey reported victim assistance was included in the Strategic Plan (2018-2022) of the MOFLSS. The Committee would encourage the inclusion of OAP’s victim assistance commitments in the Strategic Plan, if not already considered.

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

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

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 recalls that Turkey reported that the MOFLSS has been involved in victim assistance, and it would welcome information on progress made to enhance the application of multi-sectoral efforts to meet the needs and rights of mine victims in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

8. The Committee would welcome information on availability of a national centralised database with capacity to consolidate information on mine victims and others, such as persons with disabilities, or plan to establish such a database. The Committee would also welcome information on how the data on mine victims are made available and shared with relevant stakeholders.

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

9. The Committee would welcome information on progress made to increase access to first aid or emergency response and medical care for mine victims in 2020.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

10. The Committee would welcome information on strengthening or developing a national referral mechanism and a national directory of services to ensure mine victims' access to services including in rural and remote areas.

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

11. The Committee observed that Turkey reported that there were no changes in 2020. The Committee recalls that in 2019 Turkey reported that emergency care, healthcare, physical rehabilitation and psychological support are made available through private and State funded rehabilitation centres in accordance with Act No. 2828 i.e. Social Services Act and Act No. 5378 i.e. Disability Act.

12. The Committee would welcome further information on efforts made to provide physical rehabilitation including physiotherapy, assistive devices and occupational therapy to mine victims including in rural and remote areas.

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

13. The Committee recalls that in 2019 Turkey reported the availability of psychological support in accordance with national laws, such as the Social Services Act and the Disability Act.

14. The Committee would welcome additional information on the availability of psychosocial and peer-to-peer support programmes for mine victims.

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

15. The Committee observed that Turkey reported that 360 mine victims have received social and economic support. The Committee would welcome additional information on progress made to enhance mine victims' access to education, capacity-building, employment referral services, microfinance institutions, business development services, rural development and social protection programmes, including in rural and remote areas.

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

16. The Committee would welcome information on measures in place and progress made in 2020 to ensure the safety and protection 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)

17. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made and progress achieved in strengthening participation and inclusion of mine survivors and their representative organisations into relevant policies and programmes.

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

18. The Committee would welcome information on allocation of national financial resources and other commitments the government of Turkey has made to implement victim assistance.

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

19. The Committee observed that Turkey reported that gender and diversity are taken into consideration in all mine action activities, and efforts are made to strengthen efforts in this regard, as follows:

- data are disaggregated by age and gender;
- 45% of the Turkish Mine Action Centre's (TURMAC) personnel are female;
- civilian contractors of TURMAC are encouraged to employ female staff;
- the demining and border management projects are designed to promote equality and combat discrimination; and
- TURMAC's personnel will be trained in gender mainstreaming in 2021.

20. The Committee would welcome further information on consideration of gender equality and diversity in victim assistance related activities.

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

21. The Committee would welcome information on challenges faced by Turkey 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.