

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – YEMEN

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

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Yemen 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 Yemen reported that while casualty data for 2020 is under review, a total of 532 registered mine and ERW casualties have been recorded including 490 males and 42 females. The figure shows a significant decrease from 1,050 casualties Yemen reported in 2019, however, the actual number of casualties is believed to be higher than those registered. The Committee encourages Yemen to also consider age and disability in data collection.

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 Yemen reported that in the past, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs along with international organisations have provided assistance to mine victims, while currently efforts are limited to activities carried out by YEMAC, which has been focused on data collection.
4. The Committee would welcome further information on progress achieved in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, such as Yemen's humanitarian response plan.

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

5. The Committee observed that, as in 2020, Yemen reported that YEMAC's objectives are to collect data on mine victims, ensure victims' access to emergency healthcare and rehabilitation services, and that due to challenges and shortages of resources YEMAC's efforts have remained limited to data collection over the past two years.

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

6. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to remove barriers to enhance participation and inclusion of mine victims in their communities.

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 in 2020, Yemen reported that it was not possible to carry out national efforts and that, in light of the situation, initiating an inter-ministerial coordination would be perceived as a “problematic” effort. Yemen reported that the situation in 2021 remains the same.
8. The Committee encourages Yemen to take the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) into consideration in its victim assistance efforts and ensure creating a sustainable mechanism, considering the life-long needs of mine survivors.

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

9. The Committee observed that Yemen reported a lack of a centralised database or comprehensive surveillance to collect and manage data on mine victims, for various reasons including conflict, COVID-19 pandemic, lack of resources and restricted access and movements.
10. The Committee would welcome further 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)

11. The Committee observed that Yemen reported that while access to emergency and medical care is one of three priorities of YEMAC, progress has been mainly made in data collection. Yemen reported the provision of assistance to mine victims, including medical care, by nongovernmental organisations such as the Red Cross and the Doctors Without Borders (MSF).

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

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

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

13. The Committee would welcome information on availability of rehabilitation services and the challenges in the provision of these services.

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

14. The Committee would welcome information on the availability of psychological support, and peer to peer support or plans to provide these services including through humanitarian response which Yemen implements in partnership with international humanitarian actors.

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

15. The Committee would welcome information on availability of social and economic opportunities, and YEMAC’s plan to increase services to meet the social and economic inclusion needs of mine victims.

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

16. The Committee would welcome information, including plans, that Yemen may have to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors during the conflicts and other situations of crisis, such as 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 inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in relevant activities, such as mine action planning 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 observed that Yemen reported allocation of \$3 million on an annual basis to mine action activities by the government of Yemen prior to the current conflict and that currently mine action is resourced solely through international cooperation.

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

19. The Committee observed that Yemen reported that the Yemeni Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) and its partners are aware of the different needs of girls, women, boys and men and within their planning these considerations are taken into account, including in victim assistance efforts. Yemen reported employing over 25 women in mine action centre.

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

20. The Committee observed that Yemen reported the same types of challenges as it had reported in 2020, as they continue to hinder provision of assistance to mine victims:

- increased areas of contamination and conflicts;
- lack of sufficient resources for victim assistance;
- difficulty to reach out to and support new increasing casualties in areas under conflicts; d) high rate of fatality among new casualties;
- poverty;
- impact of conflicts on healthcare facilities, such as hospitals; and
- restrictions of movement.

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