

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Algeria, Ecuador, Italy and Uganda)

Intersessional Meetings

20 – 22 June 2022

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

I. Activities of the Committee

1. On 9 December 2021, the Committee held its first meeting, to revisit the mandate of the Committee and to discuss its 2022 work plan, according to its priorities presented at the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP). In preparation for 2022 activities, the Committee reviewed information on the status of implementation of Victim Assistance (VA), in relation to progress in achieving the objectives of relevant actions of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP's), and the challenges expressed by the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities.
2. On 14 January 2022, the Committee held a planning meeting to discuss activities, priorities and the calendar for the first quarter of 2022.
3. On 19 January, the Committee hosted the 2022 Victim Assistance retreat with participation of VA and Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), VA Coordinator of Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM, the Secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities/the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), representative of the UN Special Rapporteur for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and Humanity & Inclusion. The Victim Assistance retreat is an annual meeting of Geneva based victim assistance and disability rights stakeholders, organised by the Committee on Victim Assistance to further harmonize implementation of Victim Assistance efforts. The retreat provided an opportunity for the different organization to share their activities and priorities for 2022 as well as exchange other relevant information. The participants encouraged such efforts to continue in recognition of the importance of promoting a common understandings and cohesive approach in Victim Assistance and its integration into broader frameworks.
4. On 25-27 January 2022, support was provided to Guinea-Bissau in hosting a National Stakeholder Dialogue on Victim Assistance and Disability: *"Leaving No One Behind"*. The Dialogue was hosted by the National Mine Action Centre (CAAMI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Cohesion, and the Ministry of Public Health of Guinea-Bissau. The Dialogue held with the financial support of the European Union (EU) through the EU Council Decision (2017/1428), and with technical assistance of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention, in collaboration with the Committee. The Dialogue focused on integration of Victim Assistance into a recently developed five-year National Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities that was pending adoption. The Strategy was shared with participants to provide input and recommendations for its effective implementation. In line with its theme to *"Leaving No One*

Behind”, the Dialogue was attended by representatives of ministries, representative organisations of mine victims, persons with disabilities including from rural and remote areas, civil society organisations and other national and international stakeholders.

5. On 17 February 2022, the Committee hosted a side event, entitled *“Victim Assistance: The Importance of Inclusion in Broader Frameworks Including in Situations of Risks, Crises and Humanitarian Emergencies” on the margins of the Global Disability Summit 2022 (GDS)*. The side event provided an opportunity for the disability rights community and other participants of the GDS to learn more about the work of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and to exchange information strengthening the inclusion of persons with disabilities, including explosive ordnance survivors in situations of risk, including, situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters. The Committee was joined on the panel by Victim Assistance and disability rights experts presenters from Humanity & Inclusion, the ICRC, Afghan Landmine Survivors Organization, Office of the UN Secretary General Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility and the UNICEF. Over 70 persons attended in the virtual side event. International sign language and Spanish and English simultaneous interpretation was provided to increase access to the event.
6. On 24 March 2022, the Committee met to discuss its annual theme. Following in-depth discussion within the Committee, including with Committee Observers (i.e. ICBL and ICRC) and other partners, the Committee decided to focus its efforts on the issue of rehabilitation. Rehabilitation was also viewed as an area where the Committee would have a positive impact by highlighting its importance to mine victims and drawing attention to challenges in providing rehabilitation in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner. The Committee also decided to host a panel on rehabilitation at the 2022 Intersessional Meetings, and to host a Victim Assistance Experts Meeting on the margins of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) in November 2022.
7. On 7 March 2022, the Committee delivered a statement at the opening of the 26th session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee). The Chair provided an update on the work of the Committee on Victim Assistance and highlighted the importance of integrating Victim Assistance into the CRPD implementation frameworks in accordance with Action #34 of the OAP. The Chair commended the CRPD Committee for their work on drawing attention to the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities, including mine survivors, and stressed the need for increased efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on persons with disabilities and mine victims. The Committee on Victim Assistance also encouraged the CPRD Committee to consider the inclusion of questions in the list of issues regarding the situation of mine survivors and their inclusion and participation in the CRPD frameworks for all States with Victim Assistance responsibilities.
8. On 14 March 2022, the Committee delivered a statement at the 49th Session of Human Rights Council during their annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities. In his statement on behalf of the Committee, the Chair focused on the fact that increased casualties due to mines and other explosive ordinances, protracted conflicts, poverty and various forms of humanitarian and health crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic have been exacerbating mental health challenges in mine affected and developing countries, and in this respect welcomed the UN High Commissioner for Human Right’s report on the need to harmonise national legal frameworks concerning mental health. In line with Action #38 of the OAP, the Chair stated that psychological and psychosocial support are among the key elements of Victim Assistance and are considered a foundation for the successful socioeconomic reintegration? of mine survivors. The Committee also welcomed the report and recommendations presented by the UN Special Rapporteur on

Persons with Disabilities to ensure the artificial intelligence is inclusive of the needs and rights of persons with disabilities.

9. During the months of March, April and May, the Committee along with other Committees and the Presidency of the Convention held bilateral with *Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Croatia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe*. The purpose of the bilaterals was to exchange information on implementation of the OAP, to encourage reporting on Victim Assistance and to offer assistance, in accordance with the mandate of the Committee.
10. On 26 May 2022, the Committee submitted a written statement at the World Health Assembly concerning assistive technology. The Committee welcomed the first Global Report on Assistive Technology by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations International Children Emergency Funds (UNICEF) and supported the recommendations and messages included in section 5 of the report on “preparing for assistive technology in humanitarian crisis” in section. The Committee shared information on its Victim Assistance efforts and encouraged increased efforts by the international community in ensuring that assistive technology is made available in an affordable and accessible fashion in all situations, including in times of humanitarian crisis.
11. Since 30 April 2022, the Committee has been analysing victim assistance information submitted by the States Parties to develop preliminary observations on the implementation of their victim assistance commitments.

II. Methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations

12. The Committee is mandated, in part to “review relevant information provided by the States Parties on the implementation of the commitments contained in the OAP” and to “consider matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work.” In preparing its observations, the Committee drew upon information submitted by States Parties through Article 7 reports or directly to the Committee, on their efforts in implementing Victim Assistance in 2021.
13. Given the subject matter covered in Actions #33 to #41, the Committee proceeded to prepare preliminary observations on the following matters:
 - Designation of a Government entity to oversee the integration
 - Integration of Victim Assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks
 - Development and implementation of a national action plan
 - Removal of barriers
 - Application of multi-sectoral efforts
 - Establishment or strengthen of a centralised database
 - Access to first aid, ongoing emergency medical care
 - National referral mechanisms and directory of services
 - Access to rehabilitation services, psychological and psychosocial services, peer to peer support and social and economic inclusion services
 - Measures to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors
 - Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them
 - Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including [...] by making financial and other commitments to implementation

- Ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered
 - Challenges in implementation of Victim Assistance commitments
14. Given the multifaceted requirements articulated in some of the OAP's actions, such as Action #33 and Action #38, the Committee unpacked these actions in its preliminary observations to capture the full breadth of the respective States Parties' commitments and efforts in implementation. The multi-layered commitments in these and other actions can be seen in the list of indicators annexed to each respective preliminary observation.
 15. In addition to observing information in accordance with Victim Assistance Actions (#33 - #41), like in 2021, the Committee integrated some of the cross-cutting Actions, such as Actions #1, #2, #3, #4, #6, #8 and #9 of the OAP in its preliminary observations due to their intersectional dimensions and relevance to Victim Assistance, to ensure they are included and counted when measuring and tracking the OAP's indicators.
 16. The Committee included information on casualties in its preliminary observations to create an understanding of progress made in reduction of casualties in some cases, and challenges due to ongoing casualties in other cases.
 17. The Committee also included a table (the OAP country reporting tracker) on status of reporting by the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities on implementation of the Victim Assistance commitments of the OAP, for 2021 and 2022.

III. Information provided by the States Parties on Victim Assistance Implementation

18. At the close of the 19MSP of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 30 States Parties had reported significant number of mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control. Of these, as of 10 June 2022, 20 had submitted Article 7 reports: Angola, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
19. Of these States, 17 submitted updated information on Victim Assistance activities in their Article 7 reports: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
20. One of the States Parties provided information on Victim Assistance implementation directly to the Committee on Victim Assistance: Uganda.
21. Of the 30 States Parties that have reported significant numbers of mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control, as of 10 June 2022, 11 had not submitted updated information on efforts to implement Victim Assistance commitments: Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Serbia, Somalia and Sri Lanka.
22. Three additional States Parties – Algeria, Chile and Türkiye – submitted information through Article 7 reports on their efforts to implement Victim Assistance commitments.

PART 2: OBSERVATIONS

I. OBSERVATIONS OF A GENERAL NATURE

1. The Committee would like to thank the States Parties with significant number of mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe - as well as other States Parties - Algeria, Chile and Türkiye- that have provided information on implementation of their Victim Assistance commitments. The Committee is also grateful to the States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe – that have provided clarifications or further information in response to preliminary observations and/or conclusion provided by the Committee on Victim Assistance in 2021.
2. The Committee encourages other State Parties with significant number of mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control - Angola, Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Serbia, Somalia and Sri Lanka - that have not submitted Article 7 Reports or did not include information on victim assistance in its Article 7 Report, to provide information to the Committee on their implementation efforts as soon as possible. The Committee would also like to encourage other States Parties which have previously reported casualties and/or implementing victim assistance and have not done so this year to provide updates on their victim assistance efforts, as soon as possible.
3. The Committee observed that of the 21 States Parties that have reported on their victim assistance efforts, 9 States Parties – Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Thailand and Uganda – have not reported new casualties in 2021. The Committee commends efforts made by these States Parties to prevent new casualties, thus making tangible progress towards ending casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.
4. The Committee observed that 12 States Parties – Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe – reported new casualties in 2021, with higher casualties reported by Yemen (532), Colombia (167), Türkiye (67), Cambodia (65), Iraq (38) and South Sudan (37). The Committee observed that while anti-personnel mines and other explosive ordinances continue taking a heavy toll, the number of new casualties has been reducing overall. The Committee encourages States Parties to increase efforts to end new casualties as soon as possible, as stressed by the OAP.
5. The Committee observed that data on mine affected families and communities is not collected or reported in most cases, therefore, it encourages the States Parties with mine victims under their jurisdiction or control to take this matter into consideration to ensure meeting the needs of all mine victims, including mine survivors, affected families and communities.
6. The Committee observed that the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities have shown progress with regards to implementation of Action #33 of the OAP. All the 21 States Parties that provided information on Victim Assistance - Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported that specific national entity(ies) are mandated to coordinate victim assistance related activities including its integration into broader national frameworks. The Committee also noted that in some cases the roles and responsibilities of coordinating entity(ies) may need to be clarified. In this respect, also the Committee welcomes the adoption of the International Mine Action Standard (IMAS 13.10¹) on Victim Assistance.

¹ IMAS 13.10 can be found online in multiple languages at <https://www.mineactionstandards.org/en/news/news-detail/controller-now-available-imas-victim-assistance-in-mine-action/>

7. Like in 2021, the Committee observed a steady progress by the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities in integrating Victim Assistance commitments into broader policies and programmes in conjunction with the provisions of the CRPD, with 19 of the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities that reported this year - Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda and Zimbabwe having provided information in this regard. The Committee appreciates the approach taken by the national mine action centres in staying actively involved, while continue to advocate for the strengthening of the role of national health, social affair and disability authorities. Such an approach is important for the sustainability of assistance to mine victims and in fulfilling the States Parties' commitments under the Actions #33 and #34 of the OAP. To maintain and enhance integration of Victim Assistance in broader frameworks the Committee encourages the States Parties with significant number of mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control to report on their efforts in mobilising further financial and technical support to ensure timely efforts are made to achieve the objectives of the OAP on Victim Assistance.
8. The Committee would like to draw attention to the removal of barriers that hinder participation and inclusion of mine survivors into their society, which is one of the key commitments under Action #33 and encourages States Parties to step up efforts and to provide information on progress made and remaining challenges in this regard. The Committee appreciates the following 12 States Parties - Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Zimbabwe – that provided information in this regard.
9. Like in the previous years, the Committee once again would like to highlight the importance of developing and implementing measurable, realistic and time-bound national inclusive plans, sensitive to diverse needs and situations of all mine victims including men, women, boys, girls living in remote and rural areas, and encourages the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities to do more in this regard in accordance with their commitments under Actions #33 and #34 of the OAP.
10. The Committee observed that of the 21 States Parties that reported on Victim Assistance efforts, 20 States Parties - Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda and Zimbabwe - reported applying multi-sectoral approach in accordance to their national contexts and policies, hence making progress towards achieving the objectives of Action #34. Also, most of the States Parties reported that they have taken steps to align victim assistance activities with the provisions of the CRPD as required by Action #34, often by enacting national laws, policies and inclusive action plans.
11. The Committee observed that while currently not party to the CRPD, Tajikistan and South Sudan reported making efforts to align victim assistance activities with the CRPD and both States reported undertaking national process towards ratification/accession of the CRPD. Currently 27 of the 30 States Parties with significant number of mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control are party to the CRPD. The Committee encourages the remaining 3 States Parties – Eritrea, Tajikistan and South Sudan - to accede to the CRPD.
12. The Committee observed that the following 12 States Parties – Algeria, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand and Zimbabwe – reported having a national database with capacity to integrate data on mine victims or have taken steps to create/strengthen centralised databases, thus making progress in achieving the objectives of

Action #35 of the OAP. In accordance with Action #35 of the OAP, the Committee encourages all the States Parties implementing Victim Assistance to “establish or strengthen a centralised database that includes information on persons killed by mines as well as on persons injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and disability, and make this information available to relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing the needs of mine victims.”

13. The Committee observed that conducting national survey to identify mine victims, to understand their living conditions, needs and challenges has remained one of the most common and persistent challenges for several States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities. As in 2021, the Committee would like to call on the States Parties to increase efforts and partnerships in this regard and encourages the international community to enhance cooperation and assistance to respective States Parties with regards to data collection, consolidation of data and other aspects of Victim Assistance.
14. The Committee observed the following 14 States Parties - Algeria, Chile, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported on availability of emergency assistance and healthcare. The Committee noted that information provided by several of these States Parties also show that important challenges have yet to be addressed including the lack of timely first aid capacity in affected remote areas and/or a lack of equipment required for emergency response. The Committee notes that the provision of first aid or emergency response and medical care is essential to reduce fatalities among new casualties and to reduce the severity of injuries and calls for further national commitments and international cooperation in this regard.
15. The Committee observed that only 10 States Parties – Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand and Zimbabwe – provided updates on implementation of Action #37 with regards to establishing or strengthening national referral mechanism and directory of services. The Committee would welcome further information on both aspects of Action #37, namely developing/strengthening of national referral mechanism and developing/strengthening of national directory of services.
16. With all the 21 States Parties that provided updates on their Victim Assistance activities, reporting on availability of rehabilitation, mostly limited to physical rehabilitation services, the Committee appreciates the States Parties having invested significant efforts to provide rehabilitation services and some to integrate rehabilitation into their national public health systems or other national frameworks. The Committee also notes that while the degree and scale of rehabilitations services provided differs, majority of the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities have been reporting that the available rehabilitation services are insufficient to meet the increasing needs for rehabilitation.
17. The Committee observed that the key challenges reported in rehabilitation are in making rehabilitation services and facilities available in rural and remote areas due to the considerable costs of rehabilitation products and limited national capacity. In accordance with the Committee’s focus on rehabilitation in 2022, the Committee aims to draw attention to the persistent challenges expressed in the delivery of rehabilitation, to explore opportunities for a sustainable, affordable, equitable and accessible rehabilitation service and to raise awareness of possible opportunities for support to States Parties. The Committee recognized the important work in this regard carried out by the WHO and UNICEF, in particular with the first global report

on assistive technology published² by the WHO and UNICEF in 2022 which highlights the increasing need for assistive technology in humanitarian emergencies.

18. The Committee would like to draw attention to the multifaceted commitments of Action #38 with regards to rehabilitation, including the need to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of assistive devices, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. The Committee encourages States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities to report on allocation of sustainable resources to rehabilitation services and on mobilisation of partnerships, including by taking advantage of the assistance and guidance provided by the WHO upon request by its Member States.
19. The Committee observed that 13 States Parties – Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Croatia, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe - provided information on availability of psychological, psychosocial support most of which indicated that these services are available at public hospitals and open to everyone in need including mine victims. The Committee would welcome States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities providing further information on availability of peer-to-peer support and its integration into health systems. The Committee encourages other States Parties to report on their efforts in meeting the psychosocial needs of mine survivors, their affected family members and the family members of those that have been killed.
20. The Committee observed that 19 of the 21 States Parties - Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda and Zimbabwe - reported making progress in meeting the social and economic needs of mine survivors by providing various types of assistance such as vocational training, employment opportunities, pension, and improving national frameworks, consistent to efforts reported in previous years. The Committee welcomes the efforts and encourage the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities to continue reporting on their efforts to provide support to meet the social and economic needs of mine victims. The Committee would also draw attention to the importance of embedding efforts into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other relevant programmes such as reconstruction, poverty reduction, education, capacity development and universal health coverage frameworks.
21. The Committee observed that 11 States Parties – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda and Zimbabwe - provided information on efforts made with regards to safety and protection of mine survivors, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee encourages all States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities to report on efforts to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk and emergencies, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters and health crisis such as COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee invited States Parties to draw from the case studies³ the Committee presented at the 2020 Victim Assistance Experts Meeting in relation to implementation of Action #40 of the OAP.
22. The Committee observed that the following 15 States Parties – Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Nicaragua, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan,

² The first Global Report on Assistive Technology 2022 can be found on the WHO's website at <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240049451>

³ Case Studies: Ensuring the Safety and Protection of Mine Survivors in Situation of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies (2020), available on the Convention's website at: https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/MSP/18MSP/VA_Experts_Meeting/Ensuring_the_Safety_and_Protection_Paper-10_November.pdf

Tajikistan, Thailand Uganda and Zimbabwe – reported making progress in their efforts to ensure the inclusion and participation of mine survivors and their representative organisations in relevant policies and programmes. The Committee encourages States Parties that have a responsibility to assist mine victims, to report on their efforts to ensure “the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society, based on respect for human rights, gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination” in line with Action #41 of OAP.

23. The Committee noted that 10 States Parties - Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Jordan, Peru, Senegal, Thailand, Uganda and Zimbabwe – reported activities and implementing plans and policies that demonstrate national ownerships in implementation of Victim Assistance obligation, with only a few indicating allocation of national funds. The Committee encourages all the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities to report on efforts that strengthen national ownerships concerning implementation of Victim Assistance obligations, in accordance with Action #1 of the OAP.
24. The Committee observed that 13 States Parties – Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Jordan, Peru, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe – provided information on measures in place including through national laws and progress achieved with regards to consideration of gender, age, disability and/or other diversity dimensions in implementation of their Victim Assistance activities. The Committee also noted that most of information provided in this regard, focused on disaggregation of data by gender and age, whereas consideration of gender, age and disability is required by the OAP across mine action activities and in other relevant domains. The Committee encourages all States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities to reporting on their efforts to integrate gender and diversity in their mine action activities and other efforts as relevant.
25. The Committee observed that most of the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities that reported this year, have also shared information on challenges they have been encountering in providing assistance to mine victims. Challenges such as shortages of financial resources, absence of accurate and national data on mine victims or consolidation of available data into a centralised system can be seen among most common challenges that have persistent for several years, in addition to difficulties caused by COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee encourages both the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities, and the States Parties in a position to support, to scale up efforts to address these challenges as soon as possible.
26. The Committee reminds the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities requiring support, to reach out to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for technical support and advice in the implementation of their Victim Assistance and reporting commitments, including the OAP commitments.
27. The Committee draw the States Parties with Victim Assistance’s responsibilities to two tables annexed to this document. Annex I provides an overview of reporting on implementation of Actions #33 to #41 of the OAP, and annex II provides updates on casualties reported by the States Parties. The Committee invites the States Parties to provide further information or any correction on data included in the annex.

Annex I

Oslo Action Plan

Victim Assistance Reporting Status Information provided by States Parties in 2022 for the year 2021

States Parties		Submitted Article 7 Report in 2022	Victim Assistance Actions of the Oslo Action Plan								
			#33	#34	#35	#36	#37	#38	#39	#40	#41
1	Afghanistan										
2	Albania	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Algeria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Angola	✓									
5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Burundi										
7	Cambodia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
8	Chad										
9	Chile	✓	✓			✓		✓			
10	Colombia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Croatia	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
12	The Democratic Republic of the Congo	✓									
13	El Salvador										
14	Eritrea										
15	Ethiopia										
16	Guinea-Bissau	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
17	Iraq	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
18	Jordan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
19	Mozambique										
20	Nicaragua	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓
21	Peru	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
22	Senegal	✓	✓			✓		✓			
23	Serbia	✓									
24	Somalia										
25	South Sudan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Sri Lanka										
27	Sudan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Tajikistan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Thailand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
30	Türkiye	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
31	Uganda	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Ukraine										
33	Yemen	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			
34	Zimbabwe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Annex II.

Reported casualty in States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control, according to latest information submitted by the respective States Parties

States Parties	2021 casualties									Total of latest reported casualties for all times ⁴
	Women		Girls		Boys		Men		2021 total	
	injured	killed	Injured	killed	injured	killed	injured	killed		
Afghanistan										More than 35,300 ⁵
Albania									0	1,003
Algeria									0	7,248
Angola	2	1	1	2	4	4	2	2	18	9,314 ⁶
Bosnia and Herzegovina										1,760
Burundi										Approx. 6,000
Cambodia	1				11		32		44	Approx. 65,000
Chad										2,834
Colombia	7	2	7	0	16	2	108	10	152	12,144
Croatia									7	606
The Democratic Republic of the Congo									40	3,103
El Salvador										4,500
Eritrea										Approx. 5,750
Ethiopia										16,616 ⁷
Guinea-Bissau									10	Approx. 1,500
Iraq									45	34,088
Jordan	91				927				0	1,018 ⁸
Mozambique										Approx. 10,000 ⁹
Nicaragua										1,276
Peru	15				333				0	348 ¹⁰
Senegal									15	847
Serbia										1,123
Somalia										Approx. 1,300 ¹¹
South Sudan									38	5,145 ¹²
Sri Lanka										1,732 ¹³
Sudan	1	0	2	0	21	1	7	1	33	2,444

⁴ The figures are presented based on latest information the States Parties have provided through their Article 7 Reports or other means, such as through their updates at the Convention's meetings in their communication with the Committee on Victim Assistance. It is worth to note that the figures get adjusted frequently by the respective States Parties. The Committee welcomes updated information or corrections at any time.

⁵ Afghanistan has reported that as of 2018 a total of 350,000 war related victims were registered by the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled (MMD) out of which 34,000 of them are victims of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War. The total figure in the table includes the figure from information Afghanistan provided this year.

⁶ Angola has reported registering 9,314 this includes the 18 casualties reported for 2012.

⁷ Ethiopia has reported identifying 15,321 victims before 2002 and registering 1,295 victims between 2002 and 2004.

⁸ Disaggregated numbers show the total casualties for all years.

⁹ Mozambique has reported that through an upcoming statistical survey of persons with disabilities, disaggregated data on mine survivors will also be compiled.

¹⁰ Disaggregated numbers show the total casualties for all years.

¹¹ Somalia has reported the 1,300 registered victim is subject to verification as part of a National Mine Victim Survey which Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) plans to conduct, when funding is secured.

¹² South Sudan has reported 4,500 victims were recorded before 2011, and the figure is included in the total of 5,116 appears in the table.

¹³ Sri Lanka has reported that since 1985 a total of 1,732 individuals have been injured by anti-personnel mines or ERW.

Tajikistan							3	3	885
Thailand								0	799
Türkiye	3	0	1	1	4	1	25	2	37
Uganda								0	Approx. 2,500
Yemen								558	8,356 ¹⁴
Zimbabwe								3	272 ¹⁵

¹⁴ The figure shows a total of 3,854 reported for years until 2013, 2,359 reported for 2016, 2017 and 2018, 1,059 reported for 2019 plus 558 reported for 2021.

¹⁵ Zimbabwe has reported having a considerable number of mine victims. 272 of the victims have been registered as of 2021 and the identification of the rest of the victims to be completed, subject to the availability of resources.