

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Belgium (Chair), France, Iraq, and Sri Lanka)

Intersessional Meetings 20 – 22 June 2022

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY TAJIKISTAN

I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #22)

1. Tajikistan reported that in 2021 it addressed 13 mined areas measuring 725,447 square metres, including 59,427 square metres cancelled, 292,580 square metres reduced and 373,440 square metres cleared resulting in the destruction of 2,218 anti-personnel mines, 177 items of unexploded ordnance, and 293 small arms munitions. Tajikistan also reported that as a result of non-technical and technical surveys an additional 8 mined areas were identified measuring 693,542 square metres in the following regions; Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, Khatlon, Sughd and the Central Region.
2. Tajikistan reported that due to the security situation in Shamsiddin Shohin district of Khatlon region land release operations were suspended on 17 July 2021 and resources re-deployed to the Central Region.
3. The Committee observed that information provided by Tajikistan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2021 updated workplan. The Committee welcomed Tajikistan providing disaggregated information in accordance with land release methodology employed, using the Guide to reporting and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) (Action #8, Action #22).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, 22)

4. The Committee observed that Tajikistan had provided a high degree of clarity¹ on its remaining challenge (Action #18). Tajikistan reported a total of 220 mined areas measuring 11,816,470 square metres remaining to be addressed, including 138 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 7,338,977 square metres and 82 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 4,477,493 square metres, including 54 SHAs located on the Tajik-Uzbek border measuring 3,250,000 square metres (Action #22).
5. The Committee welcomed Tajikistan reporting its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, and type of contamination (Action #22).
6. Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States that have not yet done so will identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate

¹ "High degree of clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas (known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines), the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., "known" or "suspected"), information on the geographic location of each area.

baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources. The Committee observed that Tajikistan was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas (Action #18). The Committee welcomes updates on Tajikistan's efforts in this regard.

7. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to establish their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men in survey and clearance of mined areas, including collection of information during hazard surveys, and monthly briefing with local communities on demining operations, with records of the briefing kept as part of documentation (Action #18).

III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #6, #19, #20, #26)

8. The Committee observed that Tajikistan has in place an evidence-based, costed, and time-bound national strategy for the period 2021-2030, including an updated work plan for the period, 2021-2025, and an annual detailed and costed work plan for the period 2021-2022 (Action #2, #19). Tajikistan reported that it would address 15 mine fields in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous and Central Region measuring 1,500,872 square metres in 2022 (Action #20).
9. The Committee recalled that Tajikistan in its 2021 updated work plan reported that priority setting tools identified livelihood areas located close to villages to be prioritized for land release. Tajikistan also reported that mined areas with economic and infrastructure impact were identified to be prioritised in collaboration with the Government of Tajikistan, Border Forces and the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) (Action #20).
10. Tajikistan reported that Convention implementation activities were integrated into national development plans to 2030, and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development (Action #1, Action #6).
11. Tajikistan reported making national financial commitments to the implementation, including US \$46,096 to support humanitarian mine action and US \$480,000 in the form of in-kind assistance to facilitate the implementation of Tajikistan's obligations under the Convention (Action #1).
12. Tajikistan reported that gender is mainstreamed in all aspects of mine action programme based upon international and national guidelines and resolutions, covering the areas of management, mine risk education, victims assistance, and land release. Tajikistan also reported that since 2014 a female demining team continues demining operations (Action #3).
13. Tajikistan reported that currently four non-technical survey (NTS)/technical survey (TS) teams of the Union of Sappers of Tajikistan (UST) perform operations under the coordination of the TNMAC and that it is planned to enhance their operations with the manual demining with maximum coverage of all contaminated areas of the country (Action #26).

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)

14. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to keep National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) up to date in accordance with the latest IMAS, including regular updates to address new challenges and ensure use of best practices, including the publication of manuals, forms and guides in support of NMAS (Action #5).
15. Tajikistan reported that since 2019 it uses IMSMA Core as its national information management system that includes, QA/QC operational analysis, land release analysis, MRE reporting and Victim Assistance reporting. Tajikistan also reported that the IMSMA Core database is currently stored in the 'cloud' and to keep the database on a local server to ensure it is 'live' (Action #9).

16. Tajikistan reported on its steps to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including the update of the accreditation policy of mine action organisations, the development of a manual for the operation and maintenance of vehicles, the development of a monitoring form to control health and anti-epidemic requirements by humanitarian mine action organisations, and the update of reporting forms on cancellation, and training (Action #27).

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

17. The Committee recalled that in granting Tajikistan's request, the Fourth Review Conference requested Tajikistan to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Tajikistan on;

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Tajikistan's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period disaggregated by area cancelled, reduced and cleared and their impact on annual targets as given in Tajikistan's work plan;
- Updates regarding the identification, recruitment, training and deployment of an additional 90 deminers and support personnel, including information on the gender and diversity of newly recruited personnel in line with Tajikistan's "Gender and Diversity Mine Action Strategy";
- Updates regarding resource mobilisation efforts, including resources made available from Tajikistan's state budget and external financing received to support implementation efforts;
- Updated information on its full range of practical methods used to release land; including reporting outcomes concerning the feasibility and deployment of mechanical assets;
- Efforts to mitigate the impact of anti-personnel mines through mine risk education and reduction efforts as well as information on injuries and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, ensuring that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive taking into account the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
- Updates regarding the structure of Tajikistan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion

18. The Committee would welcome further information from Tajikistan regarding;

- Progress on the agreement between the Governments of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan regarding survey and clearance of areas on their common border, including information on the national institutions involved in the effort;

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)

19. Tajikistan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Tajikistan reported that warning signs in the language of the local population are installed in hazard areas. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported on the results achieved in delivering mine risk education and other risk educational programmes (MRE/R) including the methodologies used, the challenges faced, with information disaggregated by gender and age (Action #32).

20. Tajikistan reported that MRE/R is integrated into the National Mine Action Strategy, 2021-2030, and annual TMAC work plans. Tajikistan also reported that MRE/R is also integrated ongoing survey,

clearance and victim assistance activities. Tajikistan reported that while MRE/R is not yet included in the national education system, MRE activities were carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science in 27 target districts (Action#28).

21. Tajikistan reported on its efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes, (MRE/R) for all affected populations and groups at risk. To ensure that such programmes are developed on the basis of a needs assessment that they are tailored to the threat encountered by the population, and are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account Tajikistan reported that MRE is conducted on the basis of needs assessment and prioritisation, based on the location of settlements and important infrastructure close to or in hazard areas, evidence identified by local people, during non-technical survey, and based on information gathered by elders in the communities. Tajikistan also reported that MRE activities are conducted taking into account population groups, in accordance with at-risk activity. Tajikistan further reported that MRE plays a major role in supporting gender policy and promoting equitable access to safe behavior among the population, volunteers, community members and teachers (Action #29)

22. Tajikistan reported that MRE/R are prioritised on the location of settlements and important infrastructure to hazard areas based on information provided by people in communities, and that information is entered into TNMAC database for analysis and reporting (Action #30).

23. Tajikistan reported that it conducted regional training of trainers with school teachers in four regions; Central, Sughd, Khatlon, and Gorno-Badkshan Autonomous region to share MRE/R knowledge to schools and community members. Tajikistan also reported that when previously unknown mined areas are discovered, non-technical / technical survey teams conduct MRE sessions with local populations and install warning signs (Action #31).

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

24. The Committee observed that Tajikistan provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including the impact of insecurity, inaccessibility, hard to reach mountainous areas, climatic conditions and the need for additional funding and equipment.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker

Article 5 Implementation

Tajikistan

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#1	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
#2	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
#3	% affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#5	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						
#6	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						
#9	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#18	% affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP)						
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						
#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						
	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties						
#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities						

#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion						
#26	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans						
	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas						
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties						
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means						
MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant						
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						
	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs						
#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes						
#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered						
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results						

