

PRELIMINARY MID-TERM ASSESMENT

ALBANIA

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Algeria, Ecuador, Italy and Uganda)

Intersessional Meetings

20-22 June 2022

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Albania of updated information on its victim assistance activities.
2. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

Mine casualties

3. Albania did not report casualty in 2021. The Committee recalls that in 2019, Albania reported a total of 1,003 mine victims and that the data was disaggregated by age and gender.
4. The Committee would welcome an update - disaggregated by gender, age and disability - on all mine casualties registered in Albania.

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)

5. Albania reported that the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP) as the Ministry responsible for integration of victim assistance worked with relevant ministries and institutions in the framework of the implementation of the 2021 National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities.
6. The Committee welcomes Albania to report on place of victim assistance in the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities.
7. The Committee noted that following the completion of mine clearance, Albania has shifted the responsibility of victim assistance coordination to the MOHSP.

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

8. Albania reported that in 2021 a National Action Plan for Persons with Disability 2021-2025 was approved by the Government, in accordance with the Law (No. 93/2014) "On the Inclusion of and Access for People with Disabilities," which is aligned with Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD's) principles and definitions.
9. The Committee would welcome receiving an electronic copy of the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2025.

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

10. The Committee welcomes Albania to report on efforts made to remove barriers that may hinder participation and inclusion of mine victims in society.

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)

11. Albania reported that the MOHSP works in collaboration with relevant institutions, persons with disabilities and civil society organisations to implement victim assistance, and that the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities is developed in line with the CRPD.

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

12. The Committee welcomes Albania to provide information on the availability of, or plan to establish a national centralised database to consolidate and maintain information on mine victims and others, such as persons with disabilities, and to make information on mine victims available to relevant stakeholders.

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

13. Albania reported on availability of healthcare for persons with disabilities [including mine victims], provided by three hospitals in affected regions in Kukes, Has and Bajram Curri. Albania reported that the hospitals in Bajram Curri and Kukes have surgical capabilities and the hospital in Kukes was reconstructed in 2021.

14. Albania reported that severe cases requiring surgery and intensive care, patients [including mine victims] were transported to the National Trauma Centre in Tirana, usually by helicopter provided by the Government.

15. Albania also reported that in 2021 the Albanian Red Cross conducted the training on "Health in Emergency" on consideration of the diverse needs of persons with disabilities.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

16. The Committee would welcome information on development of national referral mechanism and national directory of services to facilitate mine victims' access to services.

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

17. Albania reported the Medical University of Tirana conducts a study program on physiotherapy through its Faculty of Medical Sciences.

18. Albania reported that the Government through the MOHSP provides 700 wheelchairs a year to persons with disabilities, in cooperation with Tirana Regional Council and Association for Disability Rights Foundation

19. The Committee would welcome further information on availability of prostheses, orthoses and other assistive devices to mine victims, including in rural and remote areas, and the information on mine victims that access such services.

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

20. Albania reported that psychosocial services has been provided to persons with disabilities and elderly by the Albanian Red Cross. The Committee noted that following the completion of mine clearance, Albania has shifted the responsibility of victim assistance coordination to the MOHSP.

21. The Committee would welcome further information on availability of peer-to-peer support, and its integration into health systems.

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

22. Albania reported that various services were provided to persons with disabilities including by organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Vision, Terre Des-Hommes and others.

23. The Committee welcomes Albania to provide further information on mine victims that were provided with socio-economic services in 2021.

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

24. Albania reported that during the COVID-19 pandemic, increased needs of persons with disabilities were addressed by the MOHSP.

25. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies.

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

26. Albania reported that persons with disabilities and other civil society organisations were consulted in drafting and developing the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities, and their needs were considered with specific measures included in the plan.

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

27. The Committee would welcome information on national commitments including allocation of financial resources by the Government of Albania for victim assistance implementation.

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

28. The Committee would welcome information on consideration of gender and diverse needs and experience of mine victims in relevant policies and programmes, including in the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities.

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

29. Albania reported several challenges facing its victim assistance activities, such as the followings:

- although persons with disabilities benefit from the coverage of medical insurance, but they encounter difficulties due to insufficient assistive technologies; and
- 61 municipalities have developed social plans, supported by UNDP, but the plans do not include comprehensive measures for persons with disabilities.

30. Albania indicated the need for community services and rehabilitation centres to be made available in particular in remote affected areas, where there is a lack of social services, such as in Kukes and Diber.

31. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community, including the Committee on Victim Assistance can support Albania to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Albania

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information request by the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						
	# States Parties that have national action plans in place containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound objectives and related indicators						<p>The Committee welcomes Albania to report on place of victim assistance in the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>The Committee welcomes Albania to report on efforts made to remove barriers that may hinder participation and inclusion of mine victims in society.</p> <p>The Committee would welcome receiving an electronic copy of the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2025.</p>
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks						
#35	# States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems						The Committee welcomes Albania to provide information on the availability of, or plan to establish a national centralised database to consolidate and maintain information on mine victims and others, such as persons with disabilities, and to make information on mine victims available to relevant stakeholders.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						The Committee would welcome an update - disaggregated by gender, age and disability - on all mine casualties registered in Albania.
#36	# States Parties reporting on efforts to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to mine accidents						The Committee welcomes information on progress made in providing first aid and ongoing medical care to mine victims in 2021.
#37	# States Parties that report having a national referral mechanism						The Committee would welcome information on availability of a national referral mechanism.
	# States Parties that report having a directory of services in place						The Committee would welcome information on development national directory of services.
#38	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive rehabilitation services						The Committee would welcome further information on availability of prostheses, orthoses and other assistive devices to mine victims, including in rural and remote areas, and the information on mine victims that access such services.
	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services						
	# States Parties that have established peer-to-peer services within their national healthcare system						The Committee would welcome further information on availability of peer-to-peer support, and its integration into health systems.
#39	# States Parties reporting on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims						The Committee welcomes Albania to provide further information on mine victims that were provided with socio-economic services in 2021.

#40	# States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans						The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies.
#41	# States Parties that report that they include victim representatives or their organizations in victim assistance planning at the national and local level						
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS							
#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						The Committee would welcome information on national commitments including allocation of financial resources by the Government of Albania for victim assistance implementation.
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
#3	# mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						The Committee would welcome information on consideration of gender and diverse needs and experience of mine victims in relevant policies and programmes, including in the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities.
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						The Committee would welcome information on how the international community including the Committee on Victim Assistance can support Albania to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						