

## PRELIMINARY MID-TERM ASSESMENT

### TAJIKISTAN

#### 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 Tajikistan of updated information on its victim assistance activities.
2. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

##### **Mine casualties**

3. Tajikistan reported 3 casualties 2021, including two persons injured and one person killed, that brings the total number of registered mine and explosive remnants of war casualties to 885, of which 535 have survived and 350 have been killed and approximately 30 percent of all casualties have been children.

##### **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)**

4. Tajikistan reported that the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre (NMAC) is the government's entity with responsibility to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including to coordinate victim assistance efforts with relevant national ministries and stakeholders. Tajikistan reported that NMAC leads a Victim Assistance Technical Working Group (VATWG), which includes representatives from all relevant ministries and other stakeholders and holds regular meetings in the capital and regions.
5. Tajikistan reported that the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MOHSP) provides tangible support to mine victims, such as rehabilitation and has taken measures to remove barriers to improve social inclusion of persons with disabilities and mine survivors.

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

6. Tajikistan reported that its national mine action strategy for 2021-2030 includes victim assistance with specific, measurable, realistic and time-bound objectives and the Strategy was being translated into English.
7. The Committee would welcome information on integration of victim assistance commitments into other existing plans, such as disability, health or social protection plans.

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

8. Tajikistan reported in February 2021 the government issued a decree (#52) to launch a national programme “Accessible Environment 2021-2025” to assist removing physical barriers faced by persons with disabilities including mine survivors. Tajikistan reported that the decree requires various government entities and other stakeholders to implement the programme and that the government’s Committee for Architecture and Construction is tasked to provide progress report annually by 20 December. Tajikistan reported that several meetings and trainings on implementation and follow up of the decree were carried out in 2021.

**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)**

9. The Committee recalls that in 2021 Tajikistan reported on the continued engagement of different sectors including with MOHSPP, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labour, Local Authorities, UN agencies, Red Crescent Society Tajikistan (RCST) and NGOs, including public organisations of persons with disabilities and landmine survivors, through their memberships to TNMAC’s VATWG.
10. While currently being a signatory to the CRPD, Tajikistan has made efforts to align efforts with provisions of the CRPD, including the Law on Social Services No. 359 of January 5, 2008, Law on Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities No. 675 of December 29, 2010, Law on Veterans No. 59 of April 7, 1995, Law on Public Procurement of Goods, Works and Services No. 168 of March 3, 2006, Law on Social Protection of Persons Affected by the Chernobyl Disaster 2020.

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

11. Tajikistan reported that more than 90 percent of accurate and reliable data collected by the ICRC and Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) have been included in the NMAC’s casualty database.
12. The Committee recalls that in 2021, Tajikistan reported that a centralised national disability database is in place and contains all disability related data including the number of all persons with disabilities categorised by severity of impairments. The report stated that the database does not include a separate category for “landmine survivors” instead they are categorized according to the degrees of their impairments and that it is maintained by the State Service of Medical and Social Expertise.
13. The Committee would welcome information on measures that ensure the inclusion of the mine/ERW survivors into the national centralised disability database.

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

14. The Committee recalls that in 2021, Tajikistan reported availability of first aid including in mine-affected communities, with support of volunteers of RCST and the Ministry of Defense at the request of NMAC. Tajikistan reported that all mine victims have received medical support and that during 2017 to 2021 capacity building on first aid and other aspects of assistance were provided to relevant locals. Tajikistan also reported that despite improvement in the quality of diagnosis and treatment of mine victims compared to previous years, there is a shortage of national capacity.

### **Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)**

15. The Committee recalls that in 2021 Tajikistan reported on the existence of a national referral mechanism and a comprehensive directory of services used to facilitate mine victims' access to services which is maintained by NMAC in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MOHSPP) with support of NGOs and public organizations of persons with disabilities and landmine survivors.

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

16. Tajikistan reported the availability of rehabilitation services in the capital and provinces, including the followings:

- Currently, under the MOHSPP there are 6 boarding houses, 2 rehabilitation centres for children with disabilities, 40 branches of home-based social services, 16 service centres for the elderly and disabilities, 16 day-care centres for children with disabilities and 4 medical sanatoriums for veterans of war which provide services to persons with disabilities and those affected by mines;
- The Prosthetic and Orthopaedic Centre in Dushanbe with branches in the cities of Kulab, Khorog and Khujand under the MOHSPP provides prostheses, orthoses and assistive devices to persons with disabilities and mine victim, and in 2021, 15 mine victims were provided with prostheses; and
- The Research Institute for Medical and Social Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities (NII EVTIN) provides medical and rehabilitation assistance to children and adults with disabilities, including mine victims. The Institute provides 2,500 persons with disabilities including mine/ERW victims with medical assistance every year.

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

17. Tajikistan reported counselling psychological services are available only in the capital and there are no more intensive psychotherapy programmes available, therefore, before the COVID-19 pandemic, NMAC had organized summer camps and seminars annually for mine victims, where they rested and were provided with free diagnostics and appropriate treatment an average of 40-50 mine/ERW victims, with a total of about 600 participants having benefited during 2005-2019. Tajikistan also reported that due to COVID-19 pandemic, no summer rehabilitation camp was organised in 2021, but mine victims continued to receive psychological support.

18. The Committee would welcome additional information on the availability of peer-to-peer support services, including in rural and remote affected areas.

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

19. Tajikistan reported that socio-economic support and legal assistance were available to mine victims on an equal basis with other persons with disabilities.

20. The Committee would welcome further information on the number of mine victims received socio-economic support in 2021, and other policy progress made in this regard.

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

21. The Committee recalls that in 2021 Tajikistan reported the inclusion of the needs of persons with disabilities including mine survivors into the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2019-2030. In 2022, Tajikistan reported efforts to ensure the safety of persons with disabilities including mine victims during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a national conference in December 2021 to discuss “Leadership and participation of people with disabilities in building an inclusive, accessible and sustainable world after COVID-19”.

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

22. Tajikistan reported that mine survivors and their representative organizations continue to participate in the work of the Victim Assistance Technical Working Group and in other relevant efforts and events.

**CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:**

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

23. The Committee would welcome information on financial commitments allocated to assist mine victims, from the reported amounts or other financial sources.

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

24. The Committee recalls that in previous years Tajikistan reported that women, girls, boys and men have equal opportunities to benefit from and contribute to mine action services, including victim assistance activities.

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

25. Tajikistan reported the following challenges facing its victim assistance efforts in 2021:

- COVID-19 pandemic prevented NMAC from organizing a summer rehabilitation camp for mine victims in 2021.
- Despite the improvement in the quality of diagnosis and treatment of mine victims, there is still a shortage of experienced specialists in the field of rehabilitation, advanced medical and diagnostic equipment and assistive devices; and
- Rural areas are still in great need of financial and technical support to improve the provision of emergency medical care to meet the ongoing needs of mine survivors.

26. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community and the Committee on Victim Assistance can be of further support to Tajikistan’s efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

**The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Victim Assistance**  
**Tajikistan**

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						The Committee would welcome information a copy of the plan that includes victim assistance commitments.
#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 Tajikistan to provide information on integration of the mine casualty data collected by the NMAC into the disability centralised database.
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						
#36	# States Parties reporting on efforts to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to mine accidents						
#37	# States Parties that report having a national referral mechanism						The Committee would welcome information on availability of referral mechanism and directory of services.
	# States Parties that report having a directory of services in place						The Committee would welcome information on availability directory of services.
#38	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive rehabilitation 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 welcomes Tajikistan to provide information on peer counselling and its integration into health systems.
#39	# States Parties reporting on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims						
#40	# States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans						
#41	# States Parties that report that they include victim representatives or their organizations in victim assistance planning at the national and local level						
<b>CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS</b>							
#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						The committee welcomes Tajikistan to provide information on financial commitments made in 2021 for victim assistance implementation
#3	# mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#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						