

**S1.** Dear Chair, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen! First of all, let me express our gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit and the Committee on Victim Assistance for organizing this event.

**S2.** With regards to Victim Assistance: we are implementing Tajikistan National Strategy on Humanitarian Mine Action for 2021-2030 in accordance with provisions of the Oslo Action Plan on Victim Assistance (actions 33 to 41). During reporting period, we have achieved noticeable progress and improvements in the area of coordination (Action 33), Data collection (Action 35), and Inclusion and effective Participation (Action 41). We have established good level of Coordination with the MHSPP and its structures, DPOs, survivors' org-s, ICRC&RCST, UN agencies, INGOs, all they are members of the VA TWG and thus, we are achieving multispectral efforts. Recently TNMAC actively cooperated with UNRCO and participated in the development of the “Glossary of Recommended Disability Terms and

Abbreviations” which is now inclusive of term “landmine and ERW survivors”. TNMAC continue provision of consultative and advisory support to NGOs of survivors “Taqdir”.

With regards to Action 41: in 2023, two Victim Assistance Technical Working Group meetings conducted in the Khujand and Bokhtar regional centers and celebration of the International Mine Action Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action and 20th Anniversary of HMA in Tajikistan gathered 28 survivors. It worth to note that above meetings facilitated face to face meetings of survivors with 20 representatives of social protection departments, their mutual communication. In the result 13 survivors receive correct and precise information about their entitlements and pensions. Social protection departments also receive information about survivors and their needs. Data collection (Action 35): unfortunately, on 8 May – 20-years old student was killed due to explosion of landmine when he was collecting mushrooms in the mountains area

close to his village. Thus, at present total number of casualties resulting from accidents with mines/ERW is 888: 351 killed and 537 injured by landmines/ERW. All this data is entered into IMSMA Core database and will be shared with partners by their request.

**S3. The main challenges** remain lack of funding for implementation of Victim Assistance activities in the field of economic reintegration of survivors in Tajikistan (Action 39), physical rehabilitation services (Action 38) and accessibility and removal of physical barriers (Government Decree # 52, 2021). Survivors pensions are not enough to cover their needs. Though during pandemic period Government provided financial support to vulnerable families, but it is still area of concern and there are still need for additional support for newly injured survivors.

**Among priorities - Physical rehabilitation** is one of the most crucial components of VA and need our profound attention and sustainable funding (OAP Action 38 ). Public provision of assistive products in Tajikistan is centralized under the State Enterprise Orthopaedic Plant (SEOP) run by the MoHSPP and its 3 regional branches. During 5 months of 2023 - 24 landmine survivors.

However, survivors living in the remote mine-affected areas are underserved.

Strengthening of the technical capacity of the SEOP is one of the important VA activities, which is included in the National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy of the RT. In order to address inaccessibility and provide outreach orthopedic services to landmine survivors living in remote mine-affected districts project proposal was developed and submitted to our main donor USDoS. We expect that 2 mobile orthopedic service teams will provide services close to survivors' places of living in rural areas.

Provision of PFA (Ac.38) – TNMAC is continue providing constant support and counselling when needed. At present TNMAC is closely working with OSCE which will provide support and organize Summer rehabilitation workshop for 40 survivors in August this year. The workshops programme will include psychological individual and group sessions, art therapy and sessions on Victim Assistance, Rights of Persons with Disabilities and progress in achieving Oslo Action Plan.

**S4.** During planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of VA projects, we always considering different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men in accordance with VA and disability provisions contained in OAP and CRPD (for example, 23 women participated in MA events this year).

**S5.** But despite of all our efforts, landmine survivors and victims' families still remain one of the most vulnerable group in the country.

The **main priorities for assistance** in the implementation of our State's victim assistance obligations are improving economic condition of landmine survivors, strengthening technical capacity of the SEOP, increasing capacity of organizations of landmine survivors and CRPD ratification by our country. Tajikistan is in need of financial and technical support in order to fulfill VA obligations contained in the Oslo Action Plan.

**S6.** Using this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of Tajikistan to express our gratitude to our donors US Department of State, OSCE, NPA, UN agencies, WHO and ICRC for their contribution to Victim Assistance and disability related activities in Tajikistan!

Thank you very much for your attention!

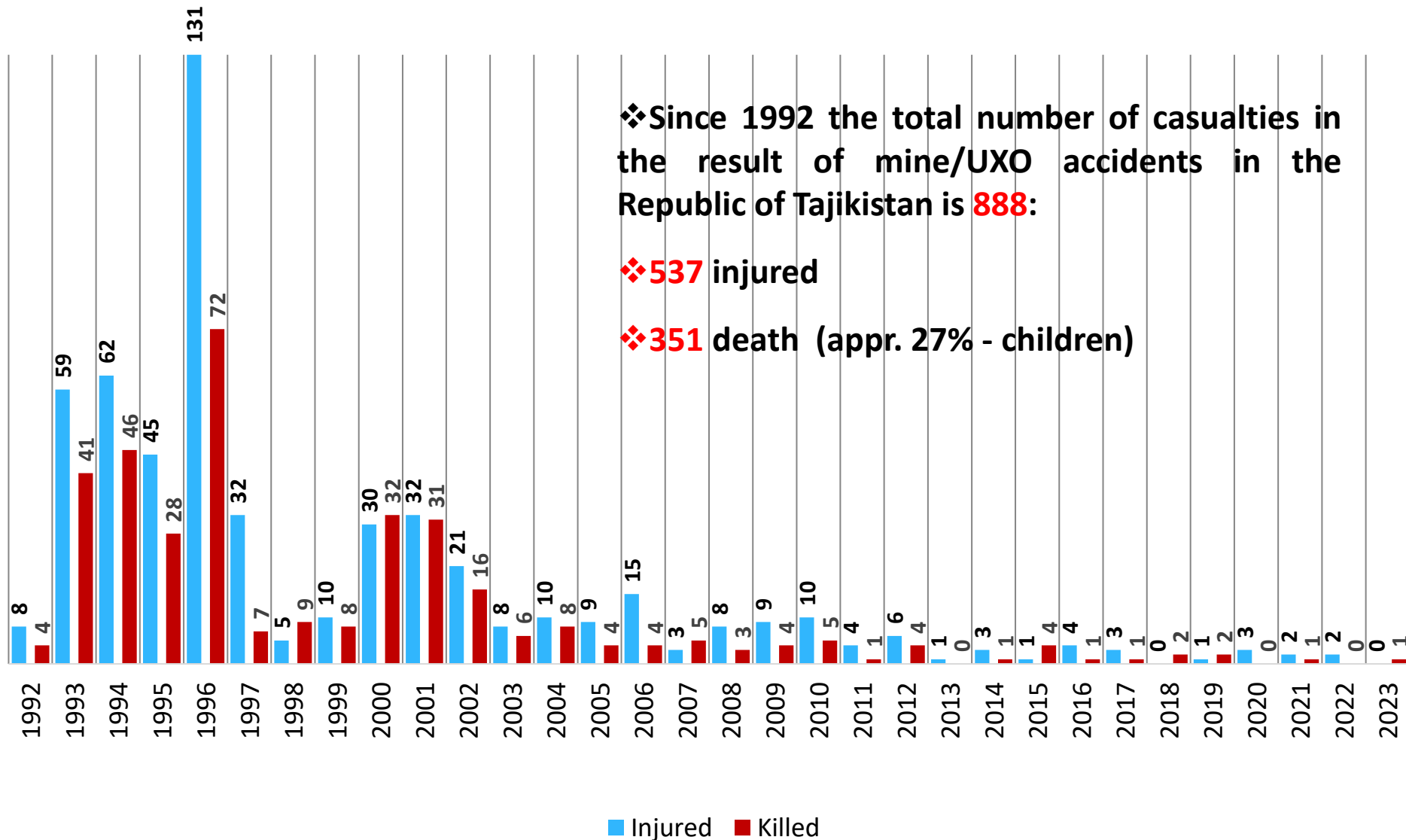


# **Mental health and psychosocial support for landmine victims in Tajikistan**

**AP Mine Ban Convention' Intersessional Meetings 2023  
Victim Assistance Thematic Session**

**Rey Khan Muminova, MD., PhD,  
Tajikistan National Mine Action Center  
Victim Assistance Officer**

# Victim Assistance in Tajikistan: background





# Challenges in the MHPSS

Lack of public awareness on mental health and mental illnesses

Lack of psychosocial rehabilitation services in mine-affected districts

Lack of structured program on MHPSS

Limited number of human resources (medical psychologists)

High prevalence of mental health disorders symptoms among people with disability

Lack of support to mental health, including governmental budget and donors support



# Tajikistan efforts to overcome challenges and provide MHPSS to landmine survivors

- to provide direct support to landmine survivors
- build the capacity of survivors
- strengthen the capacity of medical staff working in mine-affected districts and HMA paramedics
- Establish regional cooperation.





# Summer rehabilitation workshops





# Integration of MHPSS into primary healthcare in mine-affected districts

- ✓ Capacity-building training for doctors
- ✓ Round table on “Provision of Psycho-social support”
- ✓ Certification training on psychosocial support in crisis situations
- ✓ MHPSS incorporated in the university curriculum
- ✓ Publications
- ✓ MHPSS activities during COVID-19 pandemic



# Regional cooperation and piloting of peer-to-peer support





# Recommendations



- ✓ Early beginning and provision of MHPSS throughout all life
- ✓ Building capacity of medical personnel
- ✓ Incorporating MHPSS in the curriculum of psychology departments
- ✓ Integrating MHPSS into the community based primary health care
- ✓ Provision of family and community psycho-social support
- ✓ Provision of vocational training and employment
- ✓ Inclusion and effective participation



**Thank you for your attention!**