

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

### ALGERIA

#### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

##### COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Italy, Slovenia, Uganda (Chair) and Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings

19-21 June 2023

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

##### **Mine casualties**

3. Algeria reported 7 casualties in 2022, including 1 boy and 4 men killed and 2 men injured and a total of 7,250 mine and explosive remnants of war survivors, since the entry into force of the Convention for Algeria.
4. The Committee would welcome information disaggregated by gender, age and disability of all registered mine victims and other indirect victims.

##### **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. Algeria reported that the Inter-ministerial Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is the entity responsible for overseeing the integration of Victim Assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks.
6. The Committee recalls that Algeria had reported that the Ministry of Mojahedin and Rights Holders (MOMRH) is responsible for the implementation of victim assistance and works with other ministries and national agencies to integrate the needs of mine victims into broader frameworks.

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

7. Algeria reported that in addition to specific assistance provided to mine survivors, and that in accordance with Articles 32 and 72 of the Constitution, they have the right to benefit from services available to persons with disabilities.
8. The Committee recalls that Algeria had reported implementing plans and programmes that are inclusive of the needs of victims and that national budgets are allocated for implementation on an annual basis, including for pensions, social and health insurance, and other purposes to assist mine victims.

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

9. Algeria reported that the Law on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2002) requires all efforts to be provided in a non-discriminatory manner. The Committee recalls that Algeria also reported that a national Accessibility Committee founded in accordance with the Article 30 of the Law n° 02-09, was working to ensure accessibility of built environment; accessibility of infrastructure and means of transportation; and accessibility of means of communication and information.

10. The Committee would welcome an update on the work of the Accessibility Committee.

**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. Algeria reported that the ministries of Mujahideen, Health and National Solidarity, each in their respective capacity and mandate, continue to ensure the sustainability of State services to mine victims. Algeria reported progress in making multi-sectoral efforts, including through the work of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities and through the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

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

12. Algeria reported that the Inter-ministerial Committee has a database and that data on mine victims has been included in a disability database that is maintained by the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Women.

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

13. Algeria reported that first-aid is provided by the civil protection units to new casualties, and that mine victims benefit from public healthcare services available across the country, without discrimination. Algeria reported that, in addition, a specialised hospital provides healthcare services to persons with disabilities including mine survivors.

14. Also, Algeria had reported that in accordance with the Law on Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (2002), healthcare and rehabilitation services are available to mine victims and all persons with disabilities. Algeria also reported that medical care is provided free of charge, and that the MOMRH is working on an agreement with social security sector to ensure mine victims' access to private hospitals and by doing so to enable them to enjoy full insurance.

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

15. Algeria reported that a referral guide (or "Guide to assistance services in Algeria") is available and it includes list of all services available for mine victims and other persons with disabilities.

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

16. Algeria reported that mine survivors have access to rehabilitation services made available by the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities and Victims of the National Liberation Revolution in

Douera or one of its 6 branches (in Oran, Algiers-East, Ain-Temouchent , Naama, Guelma and Tebessa). They also benefit from the services and products made available by the National Office of Assistive Devices and Accessories for Disabled People (known as ONAAPH) which has 74 branches throughout the country.

17. Algeria reported 53 victims including 41 men and 12 women were provided with rehabilitation services in 2022.

18. The Committee recalls that Algeria had also reported on availability of physical rehabilitation services throughout the country providing prostheses, physiotherapy and assistive devices such as motorcycles, wheelchairs, hearing aids and other kinds of assistive products, and that through the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities and Victims of the Revolution of National Liberation. Algeria highlighted in its report the following services:

- production and assembly of prosthesis, other orthopaedic items, and necessary accessories;
- production and supply of assistive devices such as wheelchairs, hearing equipment and accessories for vision and dentures;
- medical follow-up by specialists;
- management of functional rehabilitation, physiotherapy and occupational therapy; and,
- provision of accommodation and food to beneficiaries coming from remote and rural areas.

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

19. Algeria reported that psychological support was available for everyone in need without discrimination, including for mine victims and that these services are provided by psychologists, social workers and the 275 Local Units.

20. Algeria further reported that associations of victims and persons with disabilities contributed to social inclusion of the victims by offering peer support.

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

21. Algeria reported that various types of mechanisms and measures are put in place to ensure the social and economic inclusion of mine victims in each municipality and that social support includes assistance for housing, employment and free transportation and discounts for some public services.

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

22. Algeria reported that the needs of mine victims are integrated into national measures in place to prevent and manage risks under the National Authority for Major Risks.

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

23. Algeria reported on efforts to enhance the participation and inclusion of associations of survivors and persons with disabilities through their inclusion in the design of national policies, awareness raising efforts and other activities and events as relevant.

#### **CROSS – CUTTING ACTIONS:**

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

24. The Committee would welcome information on allocation of national resources to assist mine victims.

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

25. Algeria reported that by virtue of its Constitution and in line with national legislations, the different needs and perspectives of the population including those of mine survivors are taken into account and that the government ensures considerations of gender and age. Also, Algeria reported that 2/3 of the Inter-ministerial members are women and that 30% of associations of mine action and victim assistance active in the field are led by women.

26. The Committee recalls that Algeria had reported that the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (2002) guarantees equality and prohibits any forms of discrimination based on disabilities, gender or age.

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

27. The Committee welcomes Algeria to share information on challenges encountered in addressing the needs and rights of mine victims, and how the international community could be of further support to Algeria's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

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

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested by the Committee
#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 an update on the work of the Accessibility Committee.
#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						
	# States Parties that disaggregate victim data by gender, age and disability						The Committee would welcome information disaggregated by gender, age and disability of all registered mine victims and other indirect victims.
#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						
	# States Parties that report having a directory of services in place						
#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						
#39	# States Parties reporting on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine victims						The Committee welcomes an update on progress made by the Accessibility Committee in 2021.

#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 would welcome information on allocation of national resources to assist mine victims.
#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					The Committee welcomes Algeria to share information on challenges encountered in addressing the needs and rights of mine victims, and how the international community could be of further support to Algeria's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.