

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina of updated information on its victim assistance activities.
2. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

Mine casualties

3. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported 1 new casualty in 2022, showing a decrease from 4 casualties reported in 2021. In total, Bosnia and Herzegovina reported 1,780 casualties due to anti-personnel mines and other explosive ordnances.
4. The Committee would welcome further information disaggregated by gender, age and disability and information on indirect victims, such as affected families and communities.

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. The Committee recalls that Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported that a Victim Assistance “Coordination Body” was in place to coordinate victim assistance efforts with relevant ministries, institutions and organisations, with the assistance provided by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC).
6. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made by the Victim Assistance Coordination Body to enhance the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and programmes.

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

7. The Committee recalls that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that a national action plan was being developed that will be implemented in addition to BHMIC’s annual work plan.
8. The Committee would welcome an update on status of the plan, its adoption and progress in its implementation.

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

9. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in removing barriers that may hinder full inclusion and participation of mine victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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)

10. The Committee recalls that Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported on inclusion of victim assistance into broader frameworks, such as medical care and social protection, and areas that would need to be improved including accessibility, employment, health, training and recovery, independent living and support to women and children with disabilities.

11. The Committee would welcome an update on progress achieved in the integration of mine victims' needs and rights into broader national frameworks including national frameworks related to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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

12. Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported that a centralised database on mine victims has existed since 1992 and is managed by BHMAC.

13. The Committee would welcome information on availability of a broader centralised national database, such as a database on issues related to disabilities and/or health injury surveillance, and information on the inclusion of mine victims into such database(s).

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

14. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in the provision of ongoing emergency medical care to mine victims.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

15. The Committee notes that Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported having a referral mechanism and directory of services in place.

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

16. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2022 a total of 10 individuals from Sarajevo, Trnovo, Tuzla, Vojkovići, and Bihać were assisted with prosthesis, with assistance provided by the U.S. to the Mine Detection Dogs Centre and that with assistance provided by Germany 16 prosthetics and 14 additional silicon liners were provided to persons in need in East Sarajevo, Pale, Doboj East, Tešanj, Maglaj.

17. The Committee would welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina sharing further information on integration of the rehabilitation needs of mine victims into broader national rehabilitation and public healthcare programmes and policies.

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

18. The Committee would welcome an update on the provision of psychosocial support, including peer to peer support to mine victims.

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

19. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on the following activities related to the provision of services to assist the economic empowerment of mine victims carried by the “Organization of amputees UDAS Republic of Srpska”:

- Under a project entitled “Greater Social Disability Inclusion” and with the support of The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republic of Srpska, 84 mine victims were provided support for job placements including support to start small businesses in agriculture and the provision of equipment such as machines, tools, greenhouses, milling machines, diggers, equipment for deep cleaning of cars, and furniture;
- 30 mine survivors from 17 townships were provided with training in beekeeping. The project was supported by ITF Slovenia, Beekeeping Academy of Slovenia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republic of Srpska;
- 10 mine victims provided with agricultural and other income-generating tools such as carpentry tools, machines, tools, beekeeping equipment, painting equipment, livestock, equipment for information technology sector, and equipment for car wash business;
- 20 mine victims were assisted with their housing constructions; and
- 40 mine victims in need were provided with food packages.

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

20. The Committee notes that in its previous report Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that there are measures in place for safety and protection of mine victims in situations of emergency. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in strengthening respective measures in this regard.

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

21. The Committee would welcome updated information on efforts made to enhance participation and inclusion by mine victims and their representative organisations.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

22. The Committee would welcome information on national financial commitments made in 2022 for victim assistance efforts.

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

23. The Committee recalls that Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported that gender, age and different needs of mine victims are considered, including in data collection. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in this regard in 2022.

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

24. The Committee welcomes Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide information on challenges faced in victim assistance and how the international community and the Committee on Victim Assistance can be of further support to Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities						The Committee would welcome information on efforts made by the Victim Assistance Coordination Body to enhance the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and programmes.
	# 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 status of the plan, its adoption and implementation. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in removing barriers that may hinder full inclusion and participation of mine victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks						The Committee would welcome an update on progress achieved in integration of mine victims' needs and rights into broader national frameworks including national frameworks related to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
#35	# States Parties that include victims of anti-personnel mines in disability data systems						The Committee would welcome information on availability of a broader centralised database, such as database on issues related to disabilities and/or health injury surveillance, and information on inclusion of mine victims data into such database(s).
	# 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						The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in provision of ongoing emergency medical care to mine victims.
#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						The Committee welcomes Bosnia and Herzegovina to share further information on integration of the rehabilitation needs of mine victims into broader national rehabilitation and public healthcare programmes and policies.

	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services						The Committee would welcome an update on provision of psychosocial support, including peer to peer support to mine victims.
	# 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						
#40	# States Parties that report integrating protection of mine survivors in their humanitarian response and preparedness plans						The Committee would welcome an update on progress made in strengthening respective measures in this regard.
#41	# States Parties that report that they include victim representatives or their organizations in victim assistance planning at the national and local level						The Committee would welcome an update on efforts made to enhance participation and inclusion by mine victims and their representative organisations.
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 financial commitments made in 2022 for victim assistance efforts.
	% 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 an update on progress made in this regard in 2022.
	# 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide information on challenges faced in victim assistance and how the international community and the Committee on Victim Assistance can be of further support to Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.