

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

THAILAND

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

Mine casualties

3. Thailand reported 1 casualty in 2022 and that a total of 728 mine victims registered, of which 54 are female and 674 are male. Thailand reported that improvements have been made to the accuracy of historical data collected on mine victims. Due to data improvements, the number of survivors reported in 2022 has been adjusted from 799 to 728.
4. The Committee appreciates Thailand's efforts in disaggregating the data provided by gender.
5. The Committee would welcome information on age and disability of the registered mine victims and further information on indirect mine 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)

6. Thailand reported that the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) is the authority in charge of national policies and assistance programmes for mine victims and that the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM) are responsible for providing emergency assistance and medical care, are also involved with relevant victim assistance measures.
7. Thailand reported applying a holistic and integrated approach on victim assistance, and in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) victim assistance is integrated into the broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks, including those related to disabilities.

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

8. The Committee recalls that Thailand had reported implementing the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan for Health Care System Development for Persons with Disabilities and the 2017-2021 National Development Plan for the Quality of Life of the Disabled to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

9. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to review and /or develop new plans that include victim assistance and respective commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.

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

10. Thailand reported making significant efforts to remove physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers, to enable mine victims to access services, including by placing emergency teams in affected areas to provide first aid and evacuate new mine casualties and by raising public awareness on the rights of mine victims.

11. Thailand also reported that efforts were made to ensure that mine victims, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups will not be denied their basic rights, regardless of their gender, age and disability, as well as their socio-economic, cultural or political backgrounds.

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)

12. Thailand reported taking a holistic and multi-sectoral approach, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and with necessary policy and legal framework in place, such as the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, in relation to health, education, employment development and poverty, with an emphasis on the rights of persons with disabilities.

13. Thailand reported efforts made by various national agencies contributing to victim assistance, that includes domains such as social protection, health, emergency and mine action among others.

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

14. Thailand reported on the availability of a national database, managed by the Department on Disability (DEP), consolidating information on persons with disabilities including mine survivors and information is disaggregated by types of impairments, gender, age, occupation, income and location of persons with disabilities including those whose impairments have been caused by mines. The database is managed by the DEP and information is made available online.

15. Thailand reported that the data is shared with relevant government agencies, such as the Ministry of Interior – for the purpose of distribution of disability allowance, the Ministry of Public Health – for medical treatment and rehabilitation services, and the Ministry of Labour – for job training and support for self-employment.

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

16. Thailand reported on the availability of an efficient emergency response programme, delivered by 1,467 emergency medical service agencies and emergency medical responders in mine contaminated provinces.

17. Thailand reported that in preparation for transportation in case of emergency, aeromedical evacuation and the referral system are available for critical patients free of charge, which helps to enhance chances of survival of patients in remote areas. This service is linked with ground transportation, i.e. ambulance services, in order to provide seamless care.

Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

18. Thailand reported on the availability of a referral system at hospitals to facilitate patients' access to appropriate treatment, including with support of 3,362 service centres active in 77 provinces across Thailand.

19. The Committee would welcome information on availability of a directory of services that facilitates referral and integration and inclusion of mine victims.

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

20. Thailand reported that mine victims that have acquired impairments and are registered with the DEP are entitled to rehabilitation services, expense for medical treatment, equipment cost and assistive devices for their physical, mental, emotional, social and behavioural rehabilitation, as well as for their intellectual and learning abilities, in accordance with the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Acts of 2007 and 2013.

21. Thailand also reported promoting accessibility to medical rights, in coordination with the MOH by establishing "One Stop Service" for Persons with Disabilities in hospitals to allow persons with disabilities register for disability ID cards and reviewing disability assessment and diagnosis guidelines.

22. The Committee would welcome information on the integration of rehabilitation into health systems.

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

23. The Committee would welcome information on progress made in the provision of psychological and psychological support as well as information on the availability of outreach rehabilitation and of occupational therapy, physiotherapy and peer to peer support.

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

24. Thailand reported on efforts made to meet the social and economic needs of mine victims, along with other persons with disabilities, by:

- Ensuring access to special and mainstream education;
- Providing vocational rehabilitation, services, labour protection, measures for employment opportunity, promotion of independent occupation, media services, technology facilities and any other assistance to support their work and occupation;
- Ensuring equal participation in social, economic and political activities in a full and efficient manner;
- Providing assistance to ensure that they have access to policies, plans, projects, activities, development, public services, products necessary for their livelihood, as well as legal assistance and provision of lawyers to represent them in legal cases;
- Ensuring access to information, communication, telecommunication services, information and communication technology, and media;
- Making sure they have access to sign language interpreters;

- Providing the right to bring any guiding animal, guiding tools or equipment or assistive devices on any vehicles or in public places, and right to access public facilities without any additional charges or fees;
- Raising awareness on the rights of mine victims;
- Providing welfare allowances; and
- Adjusting housing environment, as well as access to caregivers and other welfare services.

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

25. The Committee recalls that in 2021 Thailand reported implementing a Disaster Management Plan for Persons with Disabilities, and that personnel in Service Centres for Persons with Disabilities were trained to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in case of disaster, in line with the Action Plan for Disaster Management.

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

26. Thailand reported that the Social Development and Human Security Volunteers (SDHDV) has provided a platform to communities to participate in activities carried out by the government and that efforts were made to address social problems in the community, to enhance participation by the private sector and to increase community-based welfare.

27. The Committee would welcome information on participation of mine survivors or their representative organisations in the SDHDV and in activities undertaken by SDHDV in the course of 2022.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:

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

28. Thailand reiterated commitment to meet the needs of mine survivors in accordance with the relevant national policy and legal frameworks, in line with CRPD obligations.

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

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

30. Thailand reported taking a non-discriminatory approach in victim assistance to ensure mine survivors, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are provided with support regardless of their gender, age, disability, or socio-economic, cultural and political backgrounds.

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

31. The Committee would welcome information on challenges faced by Thailand in meeting the needs and rights of mine victims, and any support it may require from the international community, to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Victim Assistance
Thailand

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information request by the Committee
#33	# States Parties that have designated a government entity to coordinate victim assistance activities	█	█	█	█		The Committee would welcome an update on efforts made to review and /or develop a new plan that includes victim assistance and respective commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.
	# States Parties that have national action plans in place containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound objectives and related indicators	█	█	█			
#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			█	█		
#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 directory of services that facilitate referral and integration and inclusion of mine victims.
	# 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 would welcome information on integration of rehabilitation into health systems.
	# States Parties reporting on efforts to increase the availability of psychological and psychosocial support services	█	█				The Committee would welcome information on progress made in provision of psychological and psychological support – including peer to peer support - as well as information on availability of outreach rehabilitation and of occupational therapy, physiotherapy and peer to peer support.
	# 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		█	█			

#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 information on participation of mine survivors or their representative organisations in the SDHDV and in activities undertaken by SDHDV in the course of 2022.
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						
	% 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 national financial commitments for victim assistance efforts in 2022.
#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 would welcome information on challenges faced by Thailand in meeting the needs and rights of mine victims, and any support it may require from the international community, to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.