

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

YEMEN

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

Mine casualties

3. Yemen reported 279 new casualties in 2022 including 206 killed and 73 injured, which shows a decrease from the 558 casualties reported in 2021. Yemen indicated that the actual number of casualties in 2022 is 305 but that some casualties were not yet registered in the database, due to lack of birth date verification.
4. The Committee appreciates Yemen providing disaggregated data and encourages Yemen to include information on indirect victims such as family members of the 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 (Actions #1, #6 and #33)

5. Yemen reported that the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is responsible for pursuing the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks.

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

6. Yemen reported the Yemen Mine Action Coordination Centre (YMACC) was undertaking a process to align victim assistance efforts to methodologies used by YMACC. Yemen reported that the YMACC was conducting a survey on mine victims.

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

7. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made, including through the humanitarian emergency response, to enhance participation and inclusion of mine victims in relevant programmes and policies.

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)

8. Yemen reported on the creation of a joint committee with participation of the Ministry of Health and the National Mine Action Programme to oversee victim assistance, including by guiding implementing partners on the importance of data collection.
9. The Committee recalls that in 2022 Yemen reported that YEMAC seeks to engage with the Ministry of Health to ensure a sustainable and enabling environment in line with CRPD.

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

10. Yemen reported that data on mine victims were gathered by YMACC and that it seeks to rise the need for unification of the data in 2023.

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

11. Yemen reported that first-aid training is provided to volunteers in affected areas to support casualties in the absence of first responders. Yemen reported that the need for first aid or emergency response for victims of mines and explosive remnants of war is integrated into the policies and plans of relevant public institutions, such as the Ministry of Health.
12. The high level of fatalities among the new casualties in 2022 is a great concern and the Committee would welcome additional information on efforts to deliver first aid and other pre-hospital care to decrease fatalities.

13. Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)

14. Yemen reported that the national referral system and directory of services were lacking. The Committee would welcome information from Yemen on its efforts to develop a referral system and a national directory of services.

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

15. Yemen reported on availability of rehabilitation centres in the governorates of Aden, Hadramout, Taiz, and Marib, meeting the needs of survivors to some extent by providing physiotherapy and prosthetics, with the assistance of UNICEF and the King Salman Humanitarian and Relief Centre.

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

16. Yemen reported on the availability of limited forms of psychological and mental health support in capitals and cities of some of the governorates.
17. The Committee would welcome further information on progress made in the provision of psychosocial support and peer to peer support to mine victims.

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

18. Yemen reported that the Disability Law guarantees provision of social services to all persons with disabilities regardless of causes of impairments, and that some socio-economic services are provided to persons with disabilities by various agencies and organisations.

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

19. Yemen reported that affected communities are prioritised by mine action activities to reduce accidents and casualties.

20. The Committee would welcome information on plans and policies in place / or efforts to develop plans and policies, to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies.

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

21. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to improve the inclusion and participation of mine survivors and their representative organisations in relevant activities.

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

22. Yemen reported that a joint committee has been established to work with the Ministry of Health and other agencies and stakeholders to address challenges in victim assistance, including by drawing in more partners to take part in victim assistance activities in the country.

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

23. Yemen provided disaggregated casualty information on the numbers of girls, boys, women and men and indicated that the YMACC. The Committee recalls that Yemen had reported that the needs and experiences of girls, women, boys and men were taken into account by the mine action stakeholders.

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

24. Yemen reported that similar challenges as in previous years persist and hinder provisions of assistance to mine victims, and they are summarised as follows:

- increased areas of contamination and conflicts;
- lack of sufficient resources for victim assistance;
- difficulty to reach out to and support new increasing casualties in areas under conflicts; d) high rate of fatality among new casualties;
- the return of internationally displaced people (IDPs) to their contaminated lands;
- some casualties are not recorded; and
- the mine action programme needs around \$900,000 to address the needs of mine victims in 2023.

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker

Victim Assistance

Yemen

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 encourages Yemen to develop an action plan to effectively address victim assistance including by highlighting challenges and assistance required to overcome them.
	# 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 on efforts made, including through the humanitarian emergency response, to enhance participation and inclusion of mine victims in relevant programmes and policies.
#34	# States Parties that report that they include mine victims in relevant national policy and support frameworks				█		The Committee welcomes Yemen to report on integration of victim assistance into broader national frameworks, such as humanitarian emergency response.
#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	█	█	█	█		The high level of fatalities among the new casualties in 2022 is a great concern and the Committee would like to encourage Yemen to boost its efforts for provision and delivery of first aid and other pre-hospital care to decrease fatalities.
#37	# States Parties that report having a national referral mechanism						Yemen reported that national referral system and directory of services were lacking. The Committee would encourage Yemen to make effort in this regard.
	# 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				█		
#38	# States Parties that have established peer-to-peer services within their national healthcare system						The Committee would welcome further information on provision of psychosocial support and peer to peer support to mine victims, and progress in this regard in 2022.
#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 welcomes Yemen to provide information, including plan or policy that Yemen may have put into place or aim to do so, to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors during the conflicts and other situations of crisis.
#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 efforts made to improve the inclusion and participation of mine survivors and their representative organisations in relevant activities.
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								
#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								