

Dear Chair, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

1 Sl. I would like to express my gratitude to the Delegation of the European Union, the Government of Slovenia, and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the AP Mine Ban Convention for organizing Regional Conference and giving me the opportunity to present Tajikistan National updates on Victim Assistance implementation!

2 sl. During reporting period we continue implementing Tajikistan National Strategy on Humanitarian Mine Action for 2021-2030 which is in line with actions 33 to 41 of the Oslo Action Plan.

We have achieved noticeable progress and **improvements** in the area of Coordination (Action 33), Data collection (Action 35), Inclusion and effective Participation (Action 41), Psycho-social support (Action 38).

- Since its establishment in January 2014, Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) as the government entity has an authority for coordination and management of all mine action activities in Tajikistan, including victim assistance activities and it is designated Government entity, which continue to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks.

3 Sl. Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) is maintaining a centralized database IMSMA Core (Action 35) and is sharing information with relevant stakeholders upon their request to ensure a comprehensive response to address the diverse needs of mine victims. Due to successful EORE activities, no accidents happened this year. Since 1992 the total number of casualties resulting from accidents with mines/ERW is 890: 539 survivors and 351 fatalities.

Sl. With regards to coordination (Action 41) : Victim Assistance Technical Working Group (VA TWG) was established as a Coordination mechanism in Tajikistan in order to facilitate face to face meetings of survivors with representatives of social protection departments and ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed. In 2024, three VA TWG meetings conducted in the regional centers: Bokhtar, Khujand and Garm cities gathered 90 participants (59 men, 31 women) including 27 survivors.

- To monitor the progress of the implementation of the "National Action Plan for the Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities", the Interagency Working Group was created in 2021. TNMAC VA Officer is a member of this Working Group.

- In 2024, state institutions and public organizations continue working tirelessly towards implementation of this National action plan (NAP). On 16-17 July with the financial support of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe a meeting under leadership of Deputy of Minister of Health and Social Protection of Population Dr. Shodikhon Jamshed was organized in Khorog (GBAO). Meeting was devoted to implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) in the last year of its implementation.

- Regarding Inclusion and effective Participation (Action 41): Landmine survivors and their representative organizations always participate in the VA TWG meetings. In 2024, thirty-four landmine survivors participated in three VA TWG meetings. Five landmine survivors participated in the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action organized in stadium of Shamsiddin Shohin district.

We had established good Regional Cooperation with Afghanistan and Slovenia in the past.

5 SI. With regards to provision of psycho-social support (Action 38): with OSCE financial support, in August we organized summer rehabilitation workshop for 40 landmine/ERW survivors in the recreation area of the National Bank located on the shores of the Kairakum water reservoir, so called “Tajik Sea”. In addition to psychological rehabilitation, the summer rehabilitation workshop provided for participants educational sessions on VA, EORE and business start-up methodologies training.

More information will be provide tomorrow at the themtic paned on MHPSS.

6 SI. Let me turn to the main challenges:

Despite of this progress, we still have Lack of funding for implementation of Victim Assistance and disability related activities, especially in the area of economic reintegration of survivors (Action 39), physical rehabilitation (Action 38) and Accessibility and removal of physical barriers.

With regards to physical rehabilitation: in 2024, during 7 months 28 survivors were provided by free services in the National Orthopedic Centre in Dushanbe and its satellites in the regional centers. In the result, 11 survivors obtained prostheses (9 leg prosthesis, 3 hand prosthesis) and 2 survivors obtained 4 crutches; 15 survivors were provided by free repair of their assistive devices.

To build up Physical rehabilitation in Tajikistan 2 Tajik citizens continue study for single discipline (Prosthetist and Orthotist) in Cambodia.

Tajikistan is in need for high-quality functional prosthesis, not just cosmetic prosthesis, especially for young survivors (you may see in the photo ex-deminer in his painting visualized that a new hand grew like a new flower with leaves).

- With regards to Assistive Products: at present, WHO and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of population (MoHSPP) are working on the revision of the current Assistive Product List (APL) in the frame of the ATScale Project: drafting new Assistive Product List and developing technical specifications for each product.
- Tajikistan continue implementing the National Programme “Accessible environment 2021-2025”. The Committee on Architecture and Construction under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan annually, before December 20 is providing information on the progress of the program to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.
- There is gradual improvement of physical accessibility in Tajikistan. Since 2021, the MoHSPP in cooperation with the National Union of People with Disabilities and members of the Governmental WG continued monitoring the physical accessibility of buildings and structures at the regional and district levels. On 16-17 July with the financial support of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, Working Group conducted a monitoring of the accessibility of important buildings and constructions in Khorog. After monitoring recommendations were provided to Chief architect.

7 SI. Lessons learnt from implementation of Oslo Action Plan

During planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of VA projects we should always consider different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men.

Financial and technical support, Regional cooperation are crucial for implementation of VA Plans. Despite of all our efforts, Tajikistan still is in need of financial and technical support in order to fulfill all Victim Assistance obligations contained in the Oslo Action Plan and new coming Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP). The main priorities remain strengthening capacity for physical rehabilitation, economic condition and psychological well-being of landmine survivors, increasing capacity of organizations of landmine survivors and CRPD ratification by our country.

- Until the end of this year, we are planning:

a) to organize two more VA TWGs meetings in Khorog (GBAO) and Dushanbe with participation of representatives of the relevant ministries, UN agencies and partners.

b) in September we are planning conduct gender training to members of the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (TMAP) Gender and Diversity Working Group, which was re-established on 30 of May this year, to ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated into all MA initiatives and decision-making processes, including victim assistance.

Tajikistan is ready for Regional cooperation projects, we will be glad to share our experience and best practices.

Using this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of Tajikistan, I would like to thank our donors and partners for their contribution to Victim Assistance activities in Tajikistan and appeal for their continuous support! We also convey our deep gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit and the Committee on Victim Assistance! Thank you very much for your attention!