

**Agenda item 9.a – Victim Assistance
(Actions 30–39 of the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan)**

SLIDE-1:

Mr./Madam President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Turkish Mine Action Center, I would like to express our full commitment to the objectives of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and to the implementation of the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan, particularly Actions 30 to 39 concerning victim assistance.

SLIDE-2: Identification and Coordination

In 2024, ten mine and explosive ordnance victims were identified in Türkiye—four military personnel and six civilians, including one child and one woman. Two of them, both civilians, lost their lives.

In this slide, you can figure out the statistical numbers about the people who get the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and the number of explosive accidents and Mine/EO victims.

It is obvious that as the number of citizens receiving EORE training in risky areas increases, there is a tendency for the number of mine victims to decrease.

TURMAC collects and consolidates victim data in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Turkish General Staff, and the Gendarmerie General Command. Coordination with the Ministry of Interior ensures comprehensive national reporting on mine-and munition-related incidents.

Our work is guided by the National Action Plan on Disability Rights (2023–2025), which integrates the rights and needs of persons with disabilities—including mine victims—into national policies on health, education, employment and development.

SLIDE-3: Medical, Psychological, and Rehabilitation Support

Victim assistance in Türkiye covers emergency and ongoing healthcare, physical rehabilitation and psychological and social support.

There are currently 106 rehabilitation centres providing integrated medical and mental health services, including peer-to-peer support models within the public healthcare system.

Home care programs, community mental health centres, and the Ankara Gazi Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Hospital provide specialized rehabilitation to both veteran and civilian mine victims.

Assistive technologies—such as hearing aids, smart canes, screen readers, and stair-lift systems—have been integrated into the Disability Rights Action Plan. Training for rehabilitation professionals has also been expanded to improve service quality and accessibility.

SLIDE-4: Social and Economic Inclusion

Türkiye has adopted an inclusive approach to ensure the full participation of mine victims and other personnel with disabilities in social and economic life.

Mine victims benefit from social assistance, free access to public transport, tax exemptions, and disability pensions. The Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) provides vocational training, job placement services, and start-up grants of up to 400,000 TRY to promote self-employment. Public institutions are required to employ at least 3% disabled personnel, and students with disabilities receive additional support in university admission, scholarships, and dormitory placements.

The Ministry of Family and Social Services allocated 149.8 billion TRY, the Ministry of National Education 8 billion TRY, and the Ministry of Health significant additional funding for rehabilitation and disability-related services in 2024. Overall, the national budget dedicated to disability services accounts for approximately 2% of Türkiye's central government budget.

SLIDE-5: Protection, Accessibility, and Inclusion

Türkiye has integrated the safety and protection of mine survivors into its national emergency and disaster plans, ensuring coordination among ministries, armed forces, and humanitarian organizations.

Mine victims are included in humanitarian assistance, risk reduction, and preparedness programs through targeted identification, personnel training programmes on victim-centered methodologies, and active engagement of survivor organizations.

Efforts to remove physical, social, cultural, political, and communication barriers continue nationwide. The Turkish Disability Confederation and other NGOs are represented in national and local policy platforms, ensuring that survivors' voices are meaningfully heard and integrated in decision-making.

SLIDE-6: Conclusion

Mr. President, dear colleagues,

Türkiye's victim assistance approach is built upon the principle of "leaving no one behind." By integrating victim assistance into the broader disability framework, we ensure that mine victims live with dignity, equality, and opportunity.

Through strong national ownership, multisectoral coordination, and the participation of survivors and their representative organizations, we reaffirm our commitment to the humanitarian spirit of the Convention and to achieving a mine-free world.

Thank you, Mr./Madam President.